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Blossom Vietnamese Noodle Shop serves up wine, poetry and community



Courtesy photo

RESTAURANT: Blossom and Friends opened next to the Blossom Vietnamese Noodle Restaurant about three years ago and serves coffee by day and wine by night.

SAM MULICK

After fleeing Vietnam as a child with his family, Duc Pham learned to cook by watching his mother prepare food for his eight siblings. His restaurant, Blossom A Vietnamese Noodle Shop, is now going on 23 years in Los Angeles and eight years at its Santa Monica location.

A lover of poetry, music, wine, people and food, Pham said that Blossom contains everything he would ever want to share with his dearest friends.

"What I want people to get from our restaurant is just hospitality. We want everybody to have a good time," Pham said. "I've been collecting music since age seven. So what you hear is my playlist. What you see are my selections that I've gone to wineries to taste and to bring back – my research. And that's just a beautiful life journey."

One key to maintaining the quality of his food, Pham said, is simplicity. By serving only about five main dishes, including pho, Vietnamese buns, salads and spring

SEE **BLOSSOM** PAGE 7

A 24 year old man in conjuction with the random stabbing of a restaurant employee

The Santa Monica Police Department has arrested a 24-year-old man in conjuction with the random stabbing of a restaurant employee Sunday afternoon near the pier.

The victim was eating his lunch when the suspect ran up behind him and stabbed him multiple times in the back before fleeing. The suspect is believed to be homeless.

Santa Monica, CA – On Sunday, August 31, 2025, at approximately 4:58 p.m., the Santa Monica Police Department responded to a report of an assault with a deadly weapon near 1615 Ocean Front Walk.

Responding officers located an adult male who had sustained non-life-threatening stab wounds. They provided medical aid until Santa Monica Fire Department personnel arrived and transported the victim to a local hospital.

The assault occurred at the top of a pedestrian staircase connecting Ocean Front Walk to Appian Way. The suspect approached, stabbed the victim multiple times, and fled on foot.

Following an extensive investigation, officers located and arrested Malvin Walker (DOB: May 25, 2001) on the evening of September 3rd in the 1800 block of Ocean Front Walk. Officers assigned to routine patrol recognized Walker and detained him without incident.

Walker was arrested in connection with the stabbing and is being charged with attempted murder (California Penal Code 664/187). He was also booked on unrelated charges, including felony vandalism (no bail) and a $51,000 warrant for battery.

At the time of this release, Walker remains in police custody.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or has information that may assist in the investigation is urged to contact Detective Isaac Reyes at isaac.reyes@santamonica.gov or the Santa Monica Police Watch Commander at 310-458-8427.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Santa Monica to face reality of fiscal crisis

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica City Council will consider declaring a state of fiscal distress today as the city grapples with massive legal settlements and ongoing budget deficits while simultaneously advancing ambitious climate and demographic policy initiatives.

The council is expected to adopt a resolution identifying 'local fiscal distress based on decreased revenue and increased liabilities,' citing the city's payment of over $229 million in sexual abuse settlements related to allegations against a former city employee from incidents that allegedly occurred 20 to 30 years ago.

The fiscal emergency declaration comes as the city faces additional claims from more than 180 claimants seeking several million dollars in damages related to the same former employee. The settlements have been funded largely through general fund reserves and by borrowing over $52 million from various city funds.

"The City has faced many fiscal challenges achieving its revenue, expenditures, and General Fund reserve targets during the past several years," according to city documents prepared by Acting City Attorney Heidi Von Tongeln.

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 7



GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California law silences abuse victims in court. The Legislature could finally change that

Thirty years ago, I did the bravest thing I could imagine: I asked for help.

I had survived years of childhood sexual abuse by my father, followed by a violently abusive marriage. For years my husband beat me, threatened me, forced me into isolation and even forced me to have an abortion.

I endured it and stayed quiet until I couldn't anymore. I had two daughters to protect.

When I confided in my brother and explained what was happening, I believed I was taking a first step toward freedom. I never expected my husband would be killed and that I would be charged with his death, accused of plotting to collect a life insurance payout.

I believed the truth would protect me, that if the courts knew about the years of abuse, they would understand. However, at trial I was barred from discussing the years of trauma, fear and violence. Antiquated laws meant my truth was silenced.

I was sentenced to life without parole.

This was not justice, but I am not alone. A Stanford University survey of women incarcerated in California for murder or manslaughter found nearly 75% had experienced intimate partner violence the year before their offense.

California law allows courts to ignore that context — even when a person's actions were the direct result of agony, coercion or desperation. Survivors often are punished without being able to tell their full story.

If Assembly Bill 938 passes, it would give survivors a chance to present evidence of abuse and trauma. This testimony isn't just a defense; it's a crucial part of the truth. It ensures that what came before a moment of crisis is not erased.

We've seen some progress in recent years. More survivors of human trafficking are getting a chance to clear their criminal records, which often resulted from their exploitation. That has made a difference: It has brought families together and

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 5



Adriana Heldiz, CalMatters

COURT: The witness stand of a courtroom at the San Diego Superior Court in downtown San Diego on Aug. 12, 2025.



Two DTSM board members sue city over board removals

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Two former board members of Downtown Santa Monica Inc. filed a lawsuit Friday against the city and its council, challenging the removal of six directors from the nonprofit that manages the downtown business district.

Leonid Pustilnikov and Jon Farzam filed the suit in Los Angeles Superior Court on Sept. 5, arguing the City Council violated the organization's bylaws and California nonprofit law when it removed the board members and installed interim appointees.

The legal challenge comes as Santa Monica grapples with mounting financial pressures. The City Council is scheduled to consider declaring a fiscal emergency at tomorrow's council meeting. If approved, the resolution would grant the city manager broad powers to address the crisis.

> "The City Council's abrupt decision was unnecessary and has created instability and disruption at DTSM"
> - Jon Farzam

The timing underscores broader instability at City Hall, where the city attorney, community development director, and police chief have all recently resigned.

"The City Council's abrupt decision was unnecessary and has created instability and disruption at DTSM," said Jon Farzam, one of the plaintiffs. "At a time when many downtown businesses are struggling to survive, downtown relies on steady leadership to keep the community safe, clean, and vibrant."

The dispute centers on events from July 29, when Downtown Santa Monica Inc. held an emergency meeting and amended its bylaws to require that city-appointed directors could only be removed "for cause." That same evening, the City Council voted to remove all six directors without citing specific reasons and later pressed the organization to install interim replacements according to the lawsuit.

"Downtown businesses already pay their share through assessments, and they deserve stability, not political disruption. This lawsuit is about restoring trust, making sure decisions are made fairly and with respect for the bylaws. DTSM's mission is to keep downtown clean, safe, and vibrant, and that gets harder when City Hall creates instability instead of accountability, " said Farzam.

Pustilnikov argued the removals were retaliatory, claiming directors had raised concerns about the city meeting its baseline service responsibilities.

"DTSM directors were raising concerns about the City meeting its baseline service responsibilities — obligations the City now admits it cannot afford," Pustilnikov said. "Instead of addressing the problem transparently, the City chose to remove directors and destabilize DTSM at a critical moment."

The lawsuit seeks to rescind the removals, reinstate the removed directors and establish that the city lacks authority to remove board members without cause.

The mass firing stemmed from a July 25 memo authored by Councilman Barry Snell, along with Councilmembers Dan Hall and Caroline Torosis, requesting the removal of all six city appointees. The memo cited "growing concerns regarding the lack of transparency and accountability" but provided vague justifications for the unprecedented action. Council members argued the board was too heavily weighted toward property and business owners and lacked representation from individuals not economically connected to the organization.

The removal followed the announcement that CEO Andrew Thomas would depart after failing to secure a $50,000 raise to his $250,000 salary. Mayor Lana Negrete was the sole city council opponent of the mass firing, questioning the emergency justification and comparing the action to authoritarian tactics. DTSM manages the downtown business improvement district with a $10 million annual budget, funded primarily by special assessments.

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that partners with the City of Santa Monica to manage the downtown business improvement district. It evolved from the former "Bayside District Corporation" and today oversees services like maintenance, hospitality ambassadors, marketing events (such as the annual ICE skating rink), and economic development programs in the city's central business district. DTSM operates under a services agreement to enhance downtown beyond baseline city services, with the mission of promoting economic vitality and community life in the area.

DTSM is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors structured to balance public and private stakeholder input. Six board members are appointed by the Santa Monica City Council, six are elected by the downtown property owners, and one seat is reserved for the Santa Monica City Manager (or their designee).

maaz@smdp.com



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

TUESDAY *FAIR*
SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh
Fresh fun-zone SSW/S swell moves in, along with some NW windswell. Light AM winds, best early. SSW/S Southern Hemi swell rolls in for the middle of the week, along with some secondary NW windswell, for knee-waist high waves at most spots, while better combo breaks get chest high peaks. Light early morning winds along with a favorable tide push. Moderate WNW winds for the afternoon.

WEDNESDAY *FAIR*
SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach
SSW swell tops out and there's enough NW windswell to help shape. Clean enough start. SSW swell bumps up a notch further and tops out, NW windswell also up in size a bit and setting up some peaks for the combo beachbreaks west of Dume. Surf runs waist-chest high for good breaks, peaks pushing shoulder high+ at combo magnets. A little lump/warble likely but wind looks pretty light for the morning, setting up a window to keep an eye on. Onshore flow builds in the afternoon but looks lighter than Tuesday.

Weather

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 72.
Tuesday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 63. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming south 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday: Patchy drizzle and fog before 11am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. Southeast wind 5 to 15 mph.
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
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

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: 9/6
11 23 44 61 62
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 20 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 9/5
6 14 36 58 62
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 358 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 9/6
1 14 18 20 32
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 41 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/7
3 9 12 23 26

Daily 3
Draw Date: 9/7
EVENING: 6 1 9
Draw Date: 9/7
MIDDAY: 9 7 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 9/7
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:47.46

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DTSM meeting short on topics and time



Matthew Hall

PROMENADE: Board's first meeting in August included only one agenda item beyond swearing in new members, and last week's "special meeting" followed the same pattern, lasting less than 30 minutes.

DEVAN SIPHER

It's not only the cast that's changed at the Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) board. There also seems to be less on their plate, or more specifically, there's less being reported to the public at their meetings.

There were more than a half dozen items addressed at the two-hour DTSM board meeting on July 24th, which was five days before the City Council fired and replaced six of the members, allegedly to increase the effectiveness of the group. However, at the newly constituted board's first meeting in August there was only one item on the agenda (other than the swearing in of the new members), and the same thing was true last week for a "special meeting," which, like the first, lasted less than half an hour.

Despite the ongoing challenges downtown, the sole item of business on the agendas was the executive search to replace Andew Thomas, the current chief executive officer, who is resigning. There was no staff report about other ongoing activities, and all DTSM staff were oddly absent from the most recent meeting with the exception of Thomas.

Chair Michele Aronson informed the board members that five proposals have been received from executive recruitment firms (with a sixth proposal anticipated), all of which were solicited after the Council's action. Aronson said that all of the firms have experience placing people in the public sector, but she clarified that none of them exclusively work with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) or Property-based Business Assessment Districts (PBADs). "That would be a pretty niche area," she said.

Newly appointed board member Elaine Polachek proposed forming a search committee, seemingly unaware that there already was one, but half of its members had been purged. Three new members were added: Sean Besser, Jonathan Gregory and Eric Sedman, in addition to the remaining members, Joshua Gilman, Stanley Iezman, and Aronson.

Sedman addressed the elephant in the room. "I don't know how many of the members who are currently here, placed on an interim basis. are going to be permanent," he said, referencing the fact that Council has stated they will be making long-term appointments this month to replace the temporary appointments. "I think those individuals would want to have input on this process."

Although the Council prioritized the executive search when overhauling the DTSM board, Sedman seemed to be pointing out that they also have somewhat stymied that endeavor. But that didn't prevent a robust discussion about the qualities that the current board members would like to see in candidates, including successful experience working with BIDs as well as knowledge of Santa Monica.

"It's important to find someone who gets us and is familiar with the community and the downtown," said board member Gleam Davis, "and maybe has some sense of the history."

However, Iezman suggested that the history of downtown Santa Monica could cut both ways for candidates, particularly the recent DTSM drama with the Council. "We're going to have to sell at the same time as we're buying," he said.

But Aronson said the recruiters had assured her it won't be a problem. She said they told her "The right person is going to be happy to take that challenge on."

devan@smdp.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

SACRAMENTO

Allen's insurance payment policy clears major legislative hurdle

Senate Bill 495, authored by Sen. Ben Allen, D-Pacific Palisades, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee, advancing legislation to increase upfront insurance payments for disaster victims.

The bill would require insurers to pay at least 60% of contents coverage, up to $350,000 upfront, before requiring policyholders to inventory lost items following a state emergency. Current law mandates 30% of coverage up to $250,000.

SB 495 would also extend the deadline for submitting proof of loss to at least 100 days during declared emergencies.

"Victims of major natural disasters, such as the recent LA Fires, have an ocean of logistics to sort through in order to get by from one day to the next," Allen said. "SB 495 recognizes this by better supporting policyholders through the tedious itemization process and providing greater flexibility for meeting deadlines."

The itemization process has been a top complaint among LA Fires survivors. The requirement has caused delays or reduced payments due to missing receipts or insufficient documentation while re-traumatizing victims.

"The last thing a disaster victim deserves is to be dragged through the mud by insurers, just to receive contents coverage payments that they have been dutifully paying premiums for month after month," Allen said.

The bill now advances to the Assembly floor for a vote in coming weeks.

> "Victims of major natural disasters, such as the recent LA Fires, have an ocean of logistics to sort through in order to get by from one day to the next"
> - Ben Allen, Sen.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

EDUCATION

School board to review 2024-25 financial report

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education will convene a special meeting Wednesday to review and adopt the district's unaudited financial report for the 2024-25 school year.

The meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the district office board room, located at 1717 4th Street in Santa Monica. The public may also attend virtually via Zoom.

The primary agenda item focuses on a presentation of the financial report, though additional items will be discussed. A closed session will precede the public meeting at 5 p.m.

The complete meeting agenda is available on the district website at https://www.smmusd.org/domain/2977.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District serves students across both coastal communities, operating elementary, middle and high schools in the region.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 2

reopened doors to jobs, housing and healing.

But many other survivors of trafficking, domestic violence, and child abuse are still denied relief because current law is too narrow. Their suffering is pushed aside. Their records follow them for life.

Abusers and traffickers often force their victims to commit crimes. They use illegal acts as tools of control and threats of exposure as a leash. This results in survivors facing lengthy prison sentences while the abuse they endured is left out of the courtroom entirely.

AB 938 would allow judges to hear about the years of psychological manipulation and impossible choices survivors have to make. It doesn't create loopholes; it creates fairness. It doesn't excuse harm; it acknowledges harm that was already done.

When survivors are believed and supported, they can do more than just survive. They heal. They raise families. They rebuild their communities. But that only happens when the justice system sees them as whole people with whole stories.

Though I was sentenced to die in prison, I was granted commutation in 2017. I came home to a world that had moved on without me. I'd missed my daughters' weddings and my grandchildren's births — moments I'll never get back.

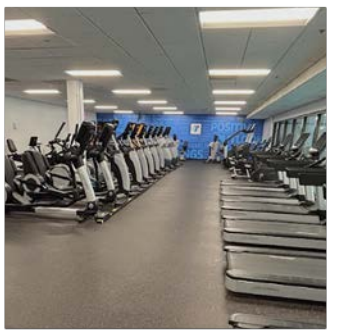
Yet I carried on and reconnected with my family. I'm building a life with the time I have left. I don't need pity. I needed a court that listened.

By Susan Bustamante. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

Four Physicians Receive Endowed Chairs at Providence Saint John's Health Center

Providence Saint John's Health Center honored four distinguished physicians during its second annual endowed chair investiture ceremony Sept. 3 at the Brentwood Country Club.

The ceremony recognized Leslie M. Kaplan, M.D., urologist, recipient of the Stanley H. Lucas Endowed Chair in Urology; Daniel F. Kelly, M.D., neurosurgeon, recipient of the Kathy and John Danhakl Endowed Chair in Neurosurgery; Courtney C.J. Voelker, M.D., Ph.D., neurotologist and otolaryngologist, recipient of the Singleton Endowed Chair in Neurotology; and Timothy G. Wilson, M.D., urologist and urologic oncologist, recipient of the Ensign-Alamo-Wilson Distinguished Endowed Chair in Urologic Oncology.

More than 160 guests attended the event, including donors, medical staff, hospital leadership and foundation trustees.

"Our endowed chair recipients have brought transformative academic-level research, clinical practice and results to our community hospital, profoundly changing lives for the better," said Michael Ricks, chief executive of Providence Saint John's Health Center and LA-Coastal Service Area.

Endowed chairs represent the highest honor Providence Saint John's bestows upon its physicians and are made possible through philanthropic support.

The ceremony also recognized the donors whose generosity made these endowments possible. The Stan Lucas Trust established the chair in urology in gratitude for care Lucas received at Providence Saint John's. Stanley Lucas was a UC Berkeley engineering graduate and lifelong entrepreneur who founded Lucas Automotive Engineering in 1957.

Kathy and John Danhakl endowed their chair, inspired by their personal experience with neurological disease. Their gift supports physicians like Kelly whose work is transforming how neurological conditions are understood and treated.

Cary and Will Singleton are longtime supporters of Providence Saint John's and founders of the Singleton Foundation for Financial Literacy & Entrepreneurship. This is their second endowed chair at the health center.

The Ensign Cancer Research Foundation, founded to carry forward the vision of Michael Ensign, established their chair in 2024 to honor Wilson's leadership in urologic oncology and robotic-assisted surgery. The foundation is led by President Tony Alamo, M.D., with trustees David Ensign and Eric Ensign.

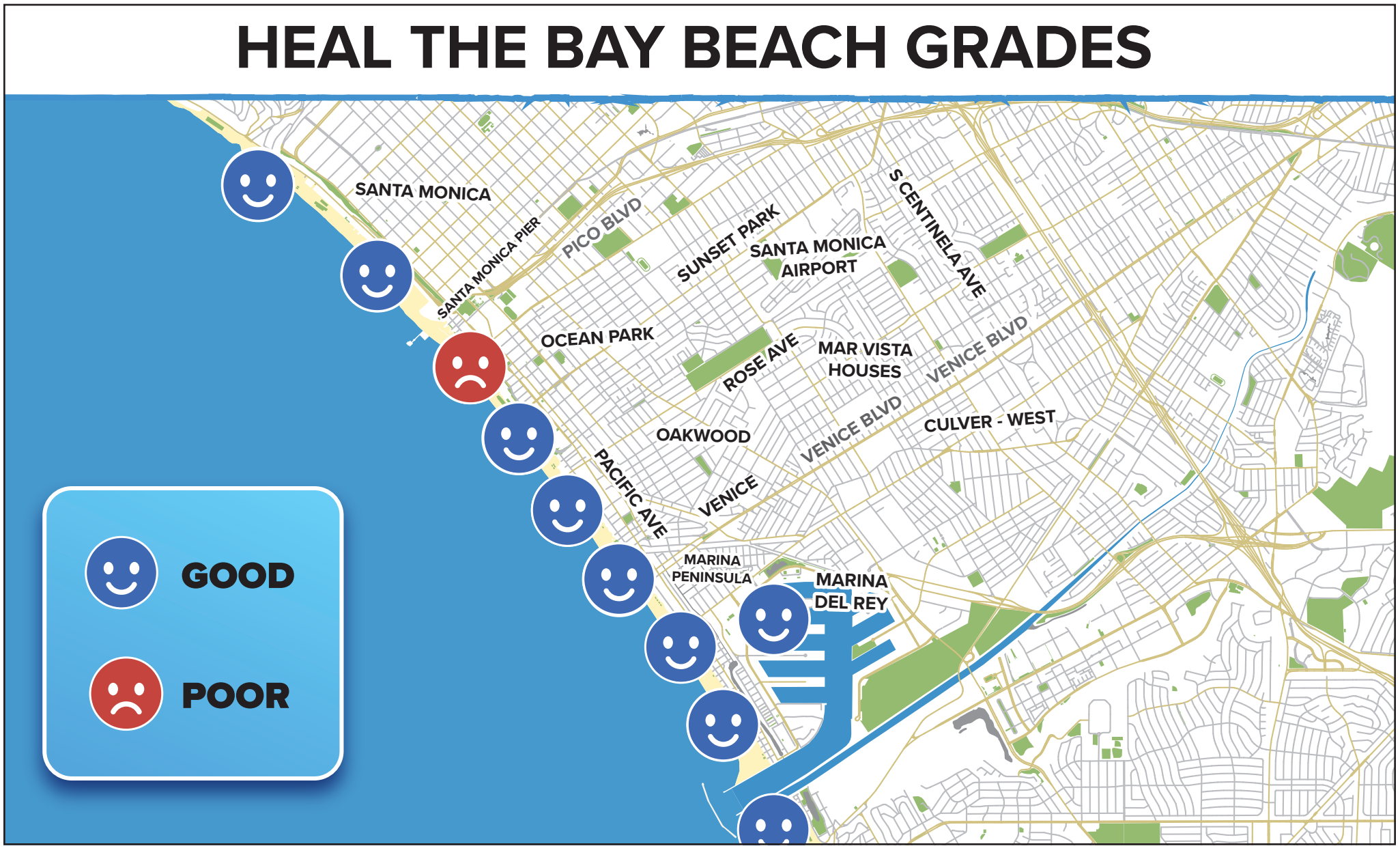
"These endowed chairs are made possible by visionary philanthropists whose generosity fuels discovery, healing and hope," said Sheryl A. Bourgeois, Ph.D., president and CEO of Saint John's Health Center Foundation.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy photo

CEREMONY: Pictured from left to right: Daniel F. Kelly, MD, Kathy and John Danhakl Endowed Chair in Neurosurgery; Leslie M. Kaplan, MD, Stanley H. Lucas Endowed Chair in Urology; Courtney C.J. Voelker, MD, PhD, Singleton Endowed Chair in Neurotology; Timothy G. Wilson, MD, Ensign-Alamo-Wilson Distinguished Endowed Chair in Urologic Oncology.



BLOSSOM

FROM PAGE 1

rolls, he said his kitchen is able to consistently deliver on guests' expectations. But more than anything, Pham said he challenges his staff to continuously learn and improve everyday no matter how repetitive the work becomes.

"It's a duty unto ourselves to stay abreast and keep it fresh everyday," he said. "See yourself serving yourself."

And one main way Pham hopes to show his guests hospitality is through Blossom's wine program. Around three years ago, Blossom expanded into the space next door to open Blossom and Friends – a Vietnamese cafe by day and a wine bar by night. Pham said he was initially inspired to expand the wine in his restaurant after seeing the way that food, wine and tea brought people together at his original downtown L.A. location.

"I remember I was on the wok and I was cooking, and we were busy, and customers were ordering beer," he said. "And I realized, 'Oh my god, what a beautiful thing. I can really get into learning about wine.' And then I was like, 'Wait a minute, I love tea. I can really get into tea.' So, all these things are just little treasures you pick up along the way, and it's just made life just so much more enjoyable and beautiful. So why would you not share that?"

Pham said he is proud to contribute to the diverse culinary landscape of Los Angeles, a place he has called home since 1992. To truly inspire and give the product the attention it deserves, Pham said he has taken his staff all around the world – to Paris and Napa Valley to learn about wine, to Noma in Copenhagen to eat at what is commonly considered the best restaurant in the world.

After 23 years in the business, Pham said he still looks forward each day to the challenges of restaurant work, and still enjoys pitching in by washing dishes. On one August afternoon, he spoke about his excitement of picking up the finest quality tea he could find and driving it over to his restaurant for his customers to enjoy.

"I only serve and sell what I myself would enjoy," he said.

Blossom A Vietnamese Noodle Shop is located at 2821 Ocean Park Blvd. Blossom and Friends is located next door.

editor@smdp.com

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

"The City's current financial situation has been exacerbated by uncertain revenues and increasing costs and liabilities."

The city's general fund reserves now stand at only 61% of pre-pandemic levels, following a 26.8% decline in revenue during fiscal year 2020-21. The city responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by cutting its budget by 23.9% and eliminating 299 permanent and 122 temporary positions.

The current fiscal year 2025-26 budget projects $484.3 million in expenditures against $473.5 million in expected revenue, creating a structural deficit the city anticipates will continue for several years.

Despite the fiscal challenges, the council will also consider two major policy initiatives that could significantly impact the city's future.

The council will vote on introducing a Building Performance Standards ordinance targeting existing buildings over 20,000 square feet — approximately 762 buildings across the city. The measure aims to reduce carbon emissions by up to 14.5% citywide by requiring these buildings to meet energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction targets every five years.

"Existing buildings make up most of the City's building stock and generate approximately 33% of total annual carbon emissions," according to Public Works Director Rick Valte. "Targeting this sector could cut building-related emissions by up to 44%."

The ordinance would establish a trajectory toward net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, with interim performance targets beginning in 2031 for buildings over 50,000 square feet and 2036 for smaller covered buildings.

Buildings would need to report annual energy use and meet targets through energy efficiency improvements, electrification upgrades, or alternative compliance pathways. The city plans to finalize specific performance targets and enforcement provisions through administrative regulations before the June 1, 2026 effective date.

The council will also approve a three-year Aging and Disability Action Plan addressing the needs of nearly 20% of residents who are over age 65. More than one-third of residents are age 55 or older, with disabilities affecting 42% of adults ages 75 and above.

The plan, funded by a California Department of Aging grant, was developed with input from a 16-member advisory committee and extensive community engagement. Nearly 70% of survey respondents rated Santa Monica as age- and disability-friendly, but identified pressing needs in housing stability, mobility, and access to information services.

"These local trends reflect statewide changes: by 2030, one in four Californians will be an older adult," according to Housing and Human Services Director Heather Averick.

The plan establishes five priority areas: improving mobility and public spaces, strengthening community connections, coordinating multilingual communication, expanding affordable housing, and enhancing emergency preparedness for vulnerable populations.

Implementation will begin in early 2026 with cross-departmental collaboration led by the Housing and Human Services Department. The city will use existing resources strategically while seeking additional internal and external funding.

The council will also ratify its ongoing homelessness emergency proclamation, which has been renewed every 60 days since February 2023. The declaration allows the city to access additional county, state and federal resources while streamlining certain city processes to address the regional homelessness crisis.

Additionally, the council will award a $1.1 million contract to Dudek for environmental impact report preparation related to upgrading the city's four water storage reservoirs and enhancing the Arcadia Water Treatment Plant.

The City Council meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. today at Santa Monica City Hall, with agenda items available for public review on the city's website.

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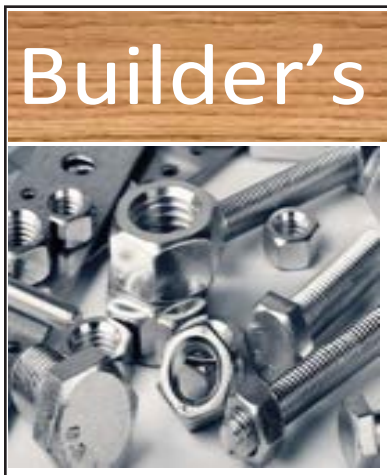
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

- **RFP # 462 MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSESSMENT PARTNER**
- **Submission Deadline Is October 1, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

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

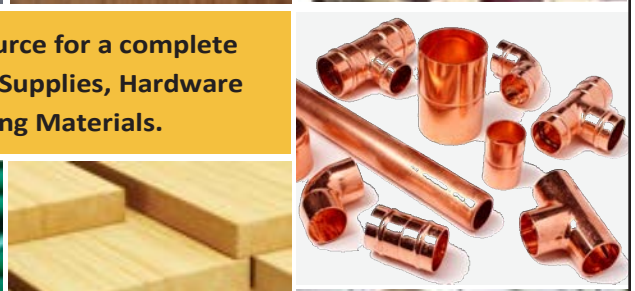
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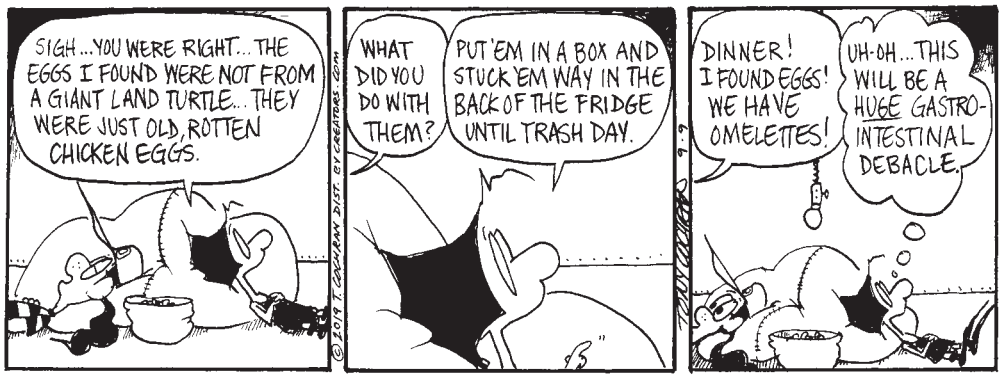


Dr. Tsui, an independent licensed Doctor of Optometry, brings over a decade of clinical experience in personalized eyecare - including 10+ years in New York City as an associate clinician with the MOSCOT Eyecare team.

MOSCOT SANTA MONICA - 1531 MONTANA AVENUE SANTA MONICA, CA 90403
MONDAY - SATURDAY: 10AM - 6PM / SUNDAY: 12 - 6PM

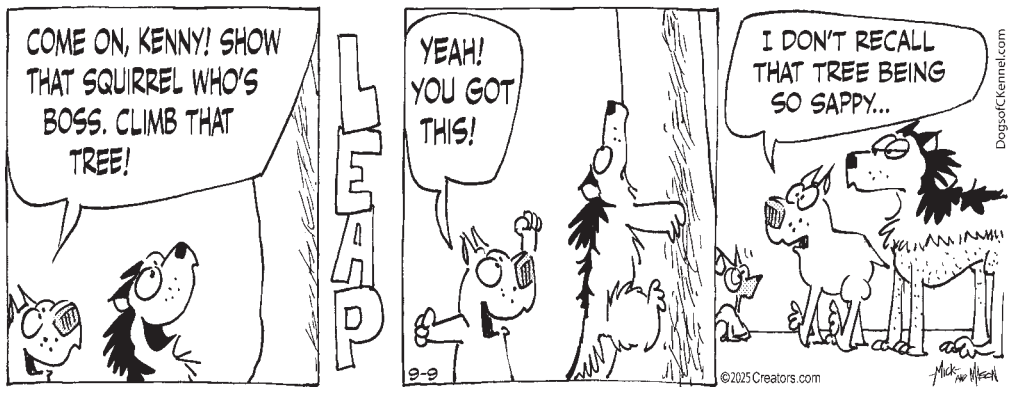
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



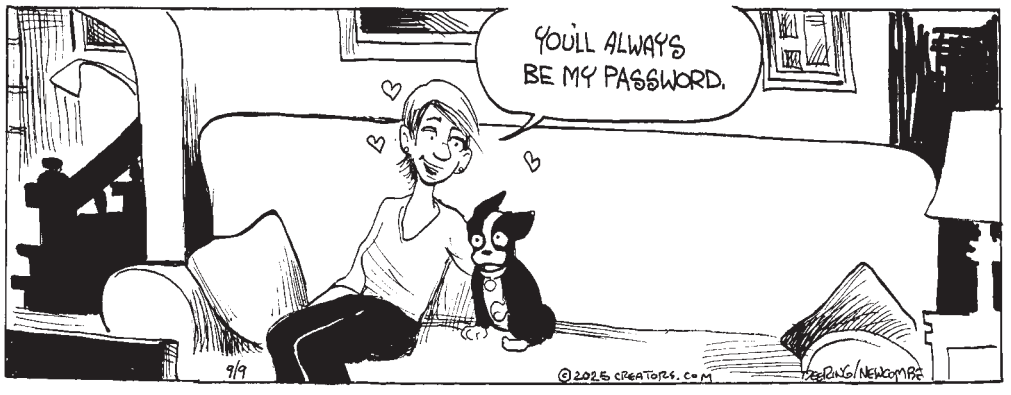
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE COMES HERE TO THINK."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6693

Ski season

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

Accident	Cosy	Hole	Pies	Spills
Ankle	Damp	Huts	Rugs	Stew
Blue	Dangerous	Legs	Runs	Tissues
Bogs	Dark	Lone	Scarf	Toddy
Break	Drop	Melt	Selwyn	Urge
Bullocks	Edges	Murray	Slalom	Warmth
Flat	Fens	Neve	Sled	Winter
Caps	Fresh	Nordic	Slope	Wool
Coat	Geehi	NSW	Slush	
Cold	Grey	Numb	Sneeze	
Cross	Hats	Omeo	Soccer	
country	Hire	Paths	Soup	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 9)

Welcome to a Year of Golden Exchange. You'll be paid well for exactly the kind of care you're most inclined to give. You'll encourage the discouraged, see the unseen, energize the inert, and reclaim the appreciation you so generously give. More highlights: A long-delayed personal wish comes true. Physical vitality grows through a new practice. You find time for a trip that feeds your spirit. Pisces and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 30, 28, 15 and 6.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your niche interest is more relatable than you think, but people just don't totally know about it or understand it yet. You'll build the bridge in the way you approach the conversation - informative and passionate. People will want to know more.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Here comes a wave of confidence. It's not because someone makes you feel like a star. No, your confidence is born of simply knowing yourself, what you do best, what you need and what you can deliver like no one else.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll swing like a pendulum between two good options. And if you don't grab one or the other, you'll end up in a solitary middle zone, which is not a bad place to be either, so you really can't lose today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Relationships teach you what no formal training ever could. An experience with someone shifts how you see yourself and the world, unlocking instincts and wisdom that change how you move through everything that follows.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll accept a responsibility, and it will feel like coming home - no awkwardness, just following your natural inclinations and getting things done. It's almost like you've been in this role before.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A simple favor snowballs into something more delightful than you planned. Helping opens a window, and in comes a rush of fresh energy, new introductions and a sense that life really is conspiring on your behalf.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's purpose in going off-purpose today, or perhaps not having one at all. To be guided by instinct is to have the best guide there is today, and you'll follow your whimsy to exactly what you most need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Love is accompanying someone through their personal metamorphoses - honoring each version without trying to drag them back to a past self. You will continually meet your love where they are, not where they used to be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Instead of imagining what could go wrong, your brain starts paying attention to what's happening right now. You'll break work into microtasks, and ticking off the first one can make you feel calmer and more in control.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You can like who you are and still want to change, maybe just for the adventure of it. You needn't feel like you're stuck in being any certain way. Identity is a city you can redesign and rebuild to your heart's content.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). "Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing," advised Ben Franklin. Today you'll do both. You'll make stories happen, whether with daring action or a turn of phrase.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're sharp and playful today, and the ones who are game will notice the gleam in your eye and lean in, ready for whatever you say next. The moment to pitch, persuade or plant an idea is right now.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

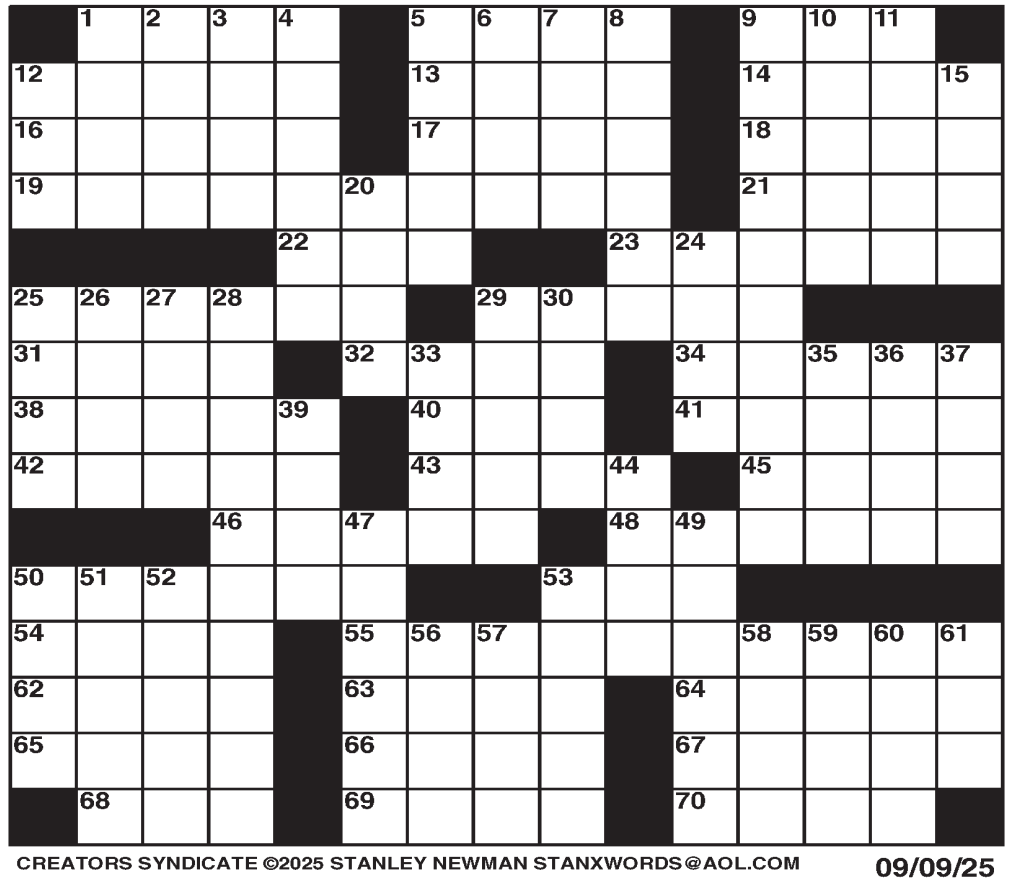
FOUR IN FAVOR by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Largest of the Three Bears
5 Have some gum
9 Laptops that aren't Apples: Abbr.
12 Gossipy story
13 Angelic light
14 Make angry
16 Knight's metal suit
17 In addition
18 Pizzeria appliance
19 Not allowed
21 Made a knot with
22 Movers' vehicle
23 Chooses by ballot
25 Triangles and circles
29 Has an elegant meal
31 Rain heavily
32 Revise writing
34 Chair without a back
38 Money in Spain and France
40 Eden woman
41 Bring out a meal
42 Box for shipping fruit
43 Light on a table
45 Coral ridge
46 Desert spot with water
48 Distribute into groups
50 Royal palace
53 Take a chair
54 Merely
55 Sticking out
62 Break sharply
63 Ordered for takeout
64 Stingy person
65 Reusable grocery bag
66 Be entitled to
67 Not as colorful
68 "Certainly"
69 Oak or fir
70 Vehicle on snow

DOWN

1 Sound of a happy cat
2 Bullets or cannonballs
3 Winnie-the-__
4 Reach one's destination
5 Neckwear jewelry
6 Sentry's "Stop!"
7 Otherwise
8 Made of oak or fir
9 People marching against something
10 Of municipalities
11 Winter precipitation
12 Sharp door knock
15 Concludes
20 Bottom of a statue
24 Not as much
25 Blueprint detail, for short
26 Day fraction
27 Subtle glow
28 Preliminary working models
29 Female opera stars
30 Collector's __ (prized belonging)
33 Neighborhood food shop
35 Triple-decker cookie
36 Above
37 Went on one's way
39 Emblem "of approval"
44 Twosome
47 44-Down + 5
49 Remnants of axed forests
50 Price paid
51 Be a pest to
52 List of candidates
53 Boulder or pebble
56 Lion's comment
57 Fairy tale fiend
58 Face of a clock
59 Land amid water
60 Requirement
61 Canine's warning sound



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09/09/25

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



TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 9

WALKING MEDITATION
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Los Angeles. 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. Everyone is welcome to join whether new to meditation or with many years of experience. Please remember to bring sand shoes if you prefer not to walk barefoot, sunscreen, a hat, a jacket if it's cold and water. Tho there's a dog in the photo, unfortunately dogs are not permitted on the beach. Looking forward to meeting and meditating with you all. please feel free to reach out with any concerns or questions and please arrive 5 minutes early and check schedule for any changes or cancellations. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/walking-meditation/16206460/2025-09-09T10

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/14853634/2025-09-09T10

COMEDY CLASSES FOR KIDS! LEARN STAND UP, IMPROV, AND SKETCH COMEDY!
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. The Crow 2525 Michigan Avenue #Unit F4 Santa Monica. Got a real joker in the family? A kiddo who loves entertaining? Through these classes they'll grow their confidence through comedy! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/comedy-classes-for-kids-learn-stand-up-improv-and-sketch-comedy-/16456247/2025-09-09T16

TECH & TASKS
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica. Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes and more. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tech-tasks/16225799/2025-09-09T16

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/13799967/2025-09-09T17

NIGHTS AND WEEKENDS: RECIPES THAT MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME - A COOKBOOK
6:30 p.m. Brentwood Country Mart 225 26th Street, Suite #33 Santa Monica. Known for entertaining friends and family at her 100-acre farm in Catskill, New York (followers regularly tune in to her "Cooking for Friends" Instagram series), Alexis was unexpectedly thrust into a full-time caretaker role a few years ago, which shifted her perspective on how to get interesting yet quick dinners on the table. Alexis was inspired to write her second book, Nights & Weekends, guided by the desire to nourish quickly after a long day, and host more leisurely on the weekends. The book features more than 100 new recipes that are both practical and inspiring, and it is divided into two sections: Nights, dishes to cook on busy weeknights less than 40 minutes, Weekends, meals to make when you have more time on your hands. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/nights-and-weekends-recipes-that-make-the-most-of-your-time-a-cookbook/16582629/2025-09-09T18

THE NO CHASERS
9:30 p.m. Harvelle's Santa Monica 1432 4th St, Santa Monica. EVERY TUESDAY THE NO CHASERS. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-no-chasers/15099083/2025-09-09T21

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 10

UNLIKELY COLLABORATORS SPARK SALON WITH MICHAEL NORTON, PHD
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 1520 2nd St. Santa Monica 1520 2nd St. Santa Monica. Attendance is complimentary. Registration is required. From pregame traditions to team-building exercises, rituals are intertwined in every facet of our lives. Harvard Business School professor Michael Norton, author of The Ritual Effect, shows that rituals play a role in our everyday lives: from building connections to helping us leave work behind at the end of the day. We can transform our unconscious habits into conscious productivity—and rise to challenges and opportunities like never before. Named one of WIRED's 50 People Who Will Change the World, Michael demonstrates the power of rituals in our teams, our workplaces, our families, and even our marriages. Each in person attendee will receive a complimentary copy of Michael Norton's book, The Ritual Effect. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/unlikely-collaborators-spark-salon-with-michael-norton-phd/16628830/2025-09-10T11

DISNEY ANIMATED FILMS
11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. California Heritage Museum 2612 Main Street Santa Monica. Disney Animated Films showcases more than 100 original works of art from the production of Disney's most cherished animated classics including Bambi, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Peter Pan, Lady and the Tramp and more. We offer visitors an intimate glimpse behind the scenes of filmmaking history. All artwork is generously on loan from the prestigious Mark Hilbert Collection. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/disney-animated-films/16449187/2025-09-10T11

CINEHAUS MOVIE NIGHTS
7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. The Eden Hotel 1301 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica. Step into old Hollywood charm as CineHaus transforms the courtyard of The Eden Hotel into a dreamy open-air cinema. Grab a cocktail or a hot drink, settle under the stars, and lose yourself in iconic films the way they were meant to be seen — together. From hot popcorn and candy to s'mores, we've got everything you need for the perfect movie night. Cozy, timeless, unforgettable — only at CineHaus. Dates vary — check our lineup! Doors 7:30 PM | Movie 8:00 PM | Tickets - buytickets.at/cinehaus | First-come seating. Drinks, snacks, s'mores & good vibes every time. Bottle service inquiries: nikita@nolongernetwork.com Gift certificates: tickettailor.com/events/cinehaus/store. $17.00 to $185.00. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/cinehaus-movie-nights/16585124/2025-09-10T19

ORIGINAL UNDERSTUDIES
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Mi's Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A Third Street Promenade Santa Monica. The Bear Supply Hour is now Original Understudies. The same high energy comedy that was once named one of "The 100 Best Things in Comedy" by The Comedy Bureau, is now joined by a cast of both fresh and veteran comedians in fast-paced sketch and long form improv. Every show features special guests creating a high-octane, freakishly entertaining, one-of-a-kind improvised spectacle. $11.49. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/original-understudies/15018109/2025-09-10T20

NAVIGATING MEDICARE TOGETHER: A, B, C'S AND D'S OF MEDICARE
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Navigating Medicare Together: A, B, C's and D's of Medicare Are you new to Medicare? Do you have questions about your loved one's Medicare benefits? In this presentation, the Center for... Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/navigating-medicare-together-a-b-c-s-and-d-s-of-medicare/16465434/2025-09-11T13

THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 11

NAVIGATING MEDICARE TOGETHER: A, B, C'S AND D'S OF MEDICARE
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Navigating Medicare Together: A, B, C's and D's of Medicare Are you new to Medicare? Do you have questions about your loved one's Medicare benefits? In this presentation, the Center. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/navigating-medicare-together-a-b-c-s-and-d-s-of-medicare/16465434/2025-09-11T13

RENT CONTROL BOARD MEETING
7:00 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main Street Santa Monica. The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/rent-control-board-meeting/13406661/2025-09-11T19

DEBBIE GIBSON WITH WIL WHEATON
9:15 p.m. Herb Alpert Educational Village 3131 Olympic Blvd. Santa Monica. 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. Debbie Gibson is an award-winning singer-songwriter and Broadway actress with over sixteen million album sales worldwide and eleven US Top 40 singles. Now releasing new music through her own Stargirl Records label, she has also starred in several independent and TV movies, some of which she's created and executive produced. A philanthropist involved in numerous charitable endeavors, Debbie wrote this memoir while touring to celebrate the thirty-fifth anniversary of her multi-platinum Electric Youth album and Lost in Your Eyes single simultaneously hitting #1 on the Billboard charts. $56.05. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/debbie-gibson-with-wil-wheaton/16644469/2025-09-11T21

FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 12

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. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/guided-mindfulness-meditation/16169673/2025-09-12T10

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Campus Events 2025/26

FALL & WINTER



Photo by Ed Gandara

Exciting events happening at SMC!

Santa Monica College has a lively lineup of events scheduled, so mark your calendar!

- **Art Shows**
- **Dance Performances & Master Classes**
- **Intercollegiate Athletic Competitions**
- **Music Concerts**
- **Planetarium Shows**
- ***Santa Monica Review* Issue Launch Party**
- **Theatre Arts Performances**
- **And Much More!**

Visit **smc.edu/events** for more information.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

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