2 **Trump's Threat**
Targeting 'Radical Left'.

3 **Redistricting**
Trend Kick-started by Trump.

4 **Events**
Around Town.

5 **California Coastal Cleanup**
First Ever 'Trashure Hunt'.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Weapon detectors and restricted access work to cut violence on Los Angeles public transit lines

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Weapon detectors and additional barricades have increased security on Los Angeles public transportation lines recently but the suspension of a pilot program forcing riders to pay for use has prompted a surge in safety concerns.

The Metro Board will hear an update on efforts at their Sept. 18 meeting with information on several kinds of safety programs.

Metro's concealed weapons screening pilot has detected one firearm and multiple bladed objects at four rail stations during its initial phase from April through August 2025, according to a presentation to the agency's Operations, Safety, and Customer Experience Committee. The screenings lead to at least one arrest when an individual carrying an unloaded firearm at Vermont/Beverly station was brought to the attention of Los Angeles Police Department officers.

The weapons detection pilot, which uses pillar-type screening systems at 12 undisclosed station locations, found an average of two

SEE **METRO** PAGE 11



SMDP Photo

TRAINS: Metro has implemented several programs to increase safety on public transit.

Wildfire relief partnership delivers $80,000 in direct aid to LA County Workers

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

A partnership between the USC Credit Union Community Foundation and Los Angeles County has distributed $80,000 in emergency cash assistance to 80 workers impacted by the devastating Eaton and Pacific Palisades wildfires that struck the region in January.

The collaboration between the foundation, the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity and the county's America's Job Centers of California provided $1,000 payments to fire survivors for urgent needs including

SEE **RELIEF** PAGE 4

District Attorney working to revoke diversion program for suspect in race based attempted murder case

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office on Tuesday urged a state appellate court to overturn a Superior Court ruling that allowed a man accused of a violent, racially charged assault in Santa Monica to enter a mental health diversion program instead of standing trial.

Prosecutors argued that granting diversion to 27-year-old Job Uriah Taylor, who has been diagnosed with schizophrenia, poses a significant threat to public safety.

Deputy district attorneys told the court that Taylor's mental disorder manifests in "extreme violence," and that when off medication he has specifically targeted Black individuals. They contended that state diversion law bars its use in cases involving violent conduct, pointing to the severe brain injury suffered by 64-year-old Christian Hornburg in the March 2023 attack.

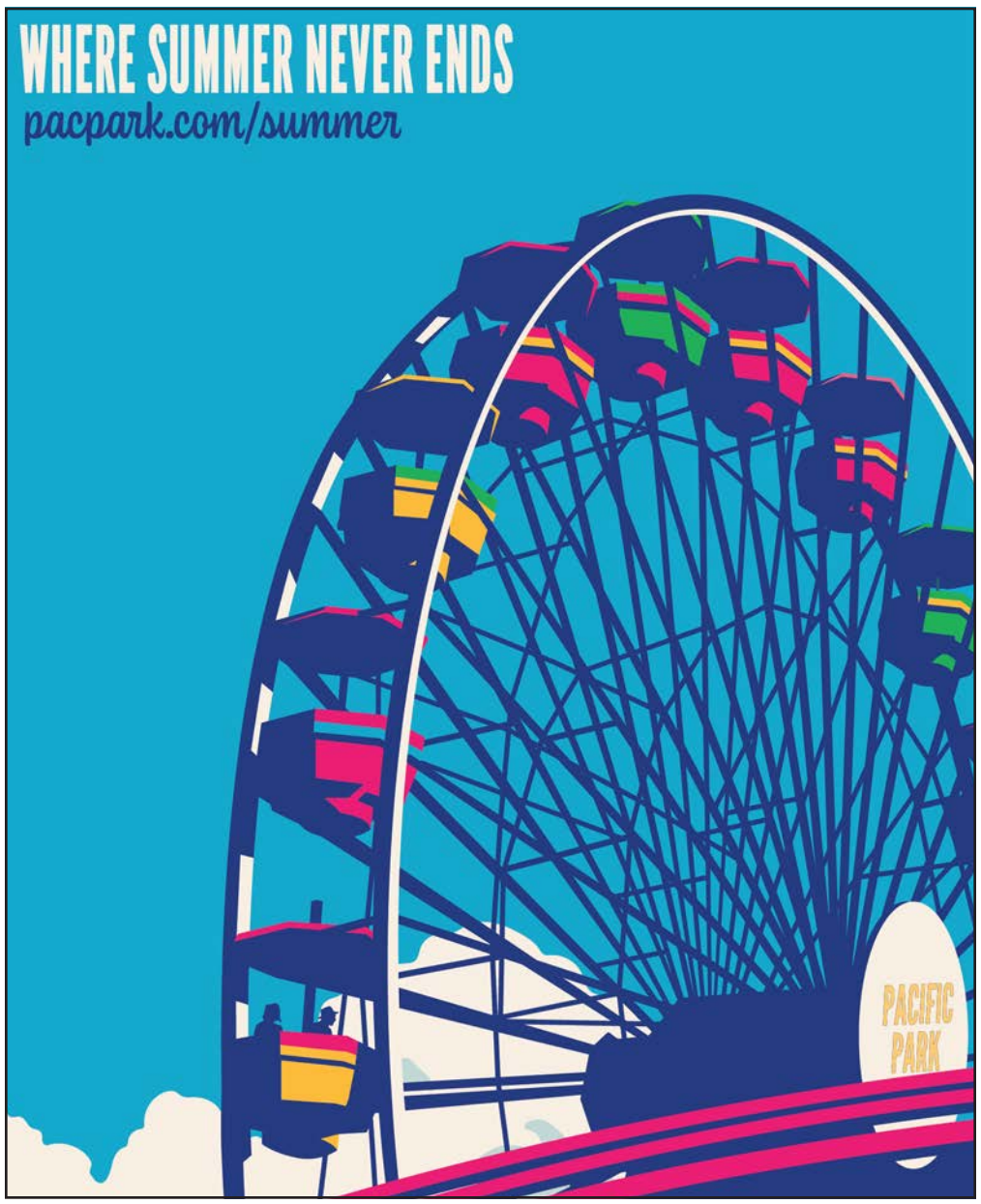
"This was not a locked facility,

SEE **COURT** PAGE 8



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Trump's threat to target 'radical left' after Kirk killing raises fears he's trying to silence foes

President Donald Trump is escalating threats to crack down on what he describes as the "radical left" following Charlie Kirk's assassination, stirring fears that his administration is trying to harness outrage over the killing to suppress political opposition.

Without establishing any link to last week's shooting, the Republican president and members of his administration have discussed classifying some groups as domestic terrorists, ordering racketeering investigations and revoking tax-exempt status for progressive nonprofits. The White House pointed to Indivisible, a progressive activist network, and the Open Society Foundations, founded by George Soros, as potential subjects of scrutiny.

Although administration officials insist that their focus is preventing violence, critics see an extension of Trump's campaign of retribution against his political enemies and an erosion of free speech rights. Any moves to weaken liberal groups could also shift the political landscape ahead of next year's midterm elections, which will determine control of Congress and statehouses across the country.

"The radical left has done tremendous damage to the country," Trump told reporters on Tuesday morning when leaving for a state visit to the United Kingdom. "But we're fixing it."

Trump has sometimes made similar threats without following through. But now there's renewed interest fueled by anger over the killing of Kirk, a conservative activist who was a prominent supporter of Trump and friends with many of his advisers.

More than 100 nonprofit leaders, representing organizations including the Ford Foundation, the Omidyar Network and the MacArthur Foundation, released a joint letter saying "we reject attempts to exploit political violence to mischaracterize our good work or restrict our fundamental freedoms."

"Attempts to silence speech, criminalize opposing viewpoints, and misrepresent and limit charitable giving undermine our democracy and harm all Americans," they wrote.

WHITE HOUSE BLAMES 'TERRORIST NETWORKS'

Authorities said they believe the suspect in Kirk's assassination acted alone, and they charged him with murder on Tuesday.

However, administration officials have repeatedly made sweeping statements about the need for broader investigations and punishments related to Kirk's death.

Attorney General Pam Bondi blamed "left-wing radicals" for the shooting and said "they will be held accountable." Stephen Miller, a top policy adviser, said there was an "organized campaign that led to this assassination."

Miller's comments came during a conversation with Vice President JD Vance, who was guest-hosting Kirk's talk show from his ceremonial office in the White House on Monday.

Miller said he was feeling "focused, righteous anger," and "we are going to channel all of the anger" as they work to "uproot and dismantle these terrorist networks" by using "every resource we have."

Vance blamed "crazies on the far left" for saying the White House would "go after constitutionally protected speech." Instead, he said, "We're going to go after the NGO network that foments, facilitates and engages in violence."

Asked for examples, the White House pointed to demonstrations where police officers and federal agents have been injured, as well as the distribution of goggles and face masks during protests over immigration enforcement in Los Angeles.

There was also a report that Indivisible offered to reimburse people who gathered at Tesla dealerships to oppose Elon Musk's leadership of the Department of Government Efficiency. Sometimes cars were later vandalized.

Indivisible's leadership has said "political violence is a cancer on democracy" and said that their own organization has "been threatened by right-wingers all year."

NONPROFITS BRACE FOR IMPACT

Trump's executive actions have rattled nonprofit groups with attempts to limit their work or freeze federal funding, but more aggressive proposals to revoke tax-exempt status never materialized.

Now the mood has darkened as nonprofits recruit lawyers and bolster the security of their offices and staff.

"It's a heightened atmosphere in the wake of political violence, and organizations who fear they might be unjustly targeted in its wake are making sure that they are ready," said Lisa Gilbert, co-president of the government watchdog group Public Citizen.

Trump made retribution against political enemies a cornerstone of his comeback campaign, and he's mobilized the federal government to reshape law firms, universities and other traditionally independent institutions. He also ordered an investigation into ActBlue, an online liberal fundraising platform.

Some nonprofits expect the administration to focus on prominent funders like Soros, a liberal billionaire who has been a conservative target for years, to send a chill through the donor community.

Trump recently said Soros should face a racketeering investigation, though he didn't make any specific allegations. The Open Society Foundations condemned violence and Kirk's assassination in a statement and said "it is disgraceful to use this tragedy for political ends to dangerously divide Americans and attack the First Amendment."

Sen. Chris Murphy, a Democrat from Connecticut, wrote on social media that "the murder of Charlie Kirk could have united Americans to confront political violence" but "Trump and his anti-democratic radicals look

SEE **TRUMP** PAGE 11

What to know about the congressional redistricting trend kick-started by Trump

First came Texas, then California, then Missouri. President Donald Trump's call to redraw U.S. House districts ahead of the 2026 elections has led to a wave of political maneuvering among state-level Republicans and Democrats that continues to unfold across the country.

Politicians are reshaping congressional voting districts — a task typically done just once a decade, after each census — in an effort to give their parties' candidates an edge in next year's elections. The stakes are high because Democrats need to gain just three seats to wrest control of the House from Republicans, who are trying to buck a historical pattern of the president's party losing seats in midterm elections.

The redistricting efforts have triggered protests, petition drives, ad campaigns and lawsuits.

Here's what to know about the redistricting battle.

MISSOURI ACTIVISTS PUSH FOR REFERENDUM ON NEW US HOUSE MAP

Missouri became the latest state to take action when the Republican-led Legislature last week brushed aside Democratic objections and passed new U.S. House districts aimed at helping Republicans win seven of the state's eight districts, one more than they currently hold. Republicans are targeting Democratic Rep. Emanuel Cleaver by shifting portions of his Kansas City district into neighboring ones and stretching the remainder into rural Republican areas.

Republican Gov. Mike Kehoe has said he will sign the measure into law soon. Opponents already have begun gathering petition signatures seeking to force a statewide referendum on the new map. They have until Dec. 11 to submit around 110,000 valid signatures, which would put the map on hold until a public vote.

A referendum normally would occur in November 2026 — too late to use the districts in that same election. But state lawmakers could set an earlier referendum, potentially coinciding with April 7 municipal elections.

The new map already faces several lawsuits. One brought by the NAACP contends no "extraordinary occasion" existed for Kehoe to call lawmakers into session for redistricting. Two others brought by voters contend mid-decade redistricting isn't allowed under the Missouri Constitution.

CALIFORNIA BALLOT MEASURE ATTRACTS BIG-MONEY CAMPAIGNS

Californians are seeing a steady stream of TV and mail ads aimed at undecided voters in advance of a Nov. 4 referendum on new U.S. House districts. The proposal, backed by Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom and Democratic state lawmakers, is intended to help Democrats win five additional seats in California to offset Trump's moves in Texas to try to gain five Republican districts.

In one TV ad from Newsom, a narrator intones: "Save democracy." Newsom has largely presented the election as a referendum on Trump — who is widely unpopular in the state outside of his loyal conservative base — while avoiding technical discussions about reshaping districts. Teachers, nurses and other labor groups have been among the largest donors to Newsom's committee.

Opponents of the proposal, known as Proposition 50, warn in a rival ad that it represents "a direct attack on democracy" that would undercut the work of an independent commission previously approved by voters. The opposition campaign has received more than $30 million from Republican donor Charles Munger Jr., who also had spent tens of millions to support the original ballot initiative giving redistricting power to the independent commission. Former Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has spoken out against the revised districts.

Staging the statewide election is projected to cost taxpayers roughly $280 million.

TEXAS DELEGATION TO CONGRESS WILL HAVE SOME NEW FACES

The new Texas congressional map, passed by the Republican-led Legislature, quickly drew federal lawsuits and set off jockeying among both Democrats trying to hang on to their seats and Republicans trying to get to Congress.

The NAACP, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the League of United Latin American Citizens have all asked a federal court to block the new map as discriminatory against minority voters. A hearing is scheduled to begin Oct. 1 on whether the districts are legal and can go into effect.

The political fallout has been swift. Democrat Rep. Lloyd Doggett, 78, of Austin chose to retire after three decades in the House rather than face a primary against 36-year-old two-term Rep. Greg Casar, chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Casar's current district has been redrawn to favor Republicans.

In Houston, longtime Democratic Rep. Al Green has said he intends to run next year but hasn't said whether he will do so in his current redrawn district that now favors Republicans or try to move to a new, majority-Black district that currently lacks an incumbent.

In the Dallas area, Democratic Reps. Jasmine Crockett, Marc Veasey and Julie Johnson's current districts are being squeezed into two.

MORE STATES COULD REDRAW US HOUSE DISTRICTS IN COMING MONTHS

Pressure from Trump to redraw House districts has been mounting on Indiana Republicans. Gov. Mike Braun, a Republican, said Tuesday that a legislative session on redistricting probably will happen, and it could come as soon as November.

Ohio and Utah also could have new congressional maps by then.

A Utah judge last month struck down the House districts adopted after the 2020 census because the Republican-led Legislature circumvented an independent redistricting commission established by voters. The Legislature faces a Sept. 25 target to release a new proposal for public comment, with a final vote expected in October and court

SEE **REDISTRICT** PAGE 11



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **71.1**

THURSDAY — ***FAIR***
SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder

Not far off from Wed as SSW/S swell lingers. Clean AM conditions. Swell very slowly winds down throughout the day and the AM/PM windows probably won't feel all that different size-wise. Waist-chest high waves aren't too hard to find, still shoulder-head high for tops spots. Shape still struggles outside of the points without significant NW windswell running. Medium confidence on a clean start, but there is an outside chance at westerly onshores puffing up early.

FRIDAY — ***FAIR***
SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach

Decent size off mix of southerly swells. Could end up kinda fun if wind/weather cooperate. SSW/S Southern Hemi swell slowly winds down for knee-waist high surf, chest-high+ for far top spots. Still not much NW energy in the mix. Depending on what the remnants of Mario do, we could see a sizeable show of southerly windswell in the Bight, along with breezy southerly wind. GFS guidance has that mellowing mid-morning which would lead to a decent afternoon. Euro has lighter wind overall. Keeping an eye on it.

Weather

Thursday: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75.
Thursday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67.
Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 73.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 66.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/09/18	Thu	02:11 AM	-0.36	L
2025/09/18	Thu	08:40 AM	4.67	H
2025/09/18	Thu	1:58 PM	1.93	L
2025/09/18	Thu	7:56 PM	5.94	H
2025/09/19	Fri	02:44 AM	-0.26	L
2025/09/19	Fri	09:04 AM	4.92	H
2025/09/19	Fri	2:37 PM	1.50	L
2025/09/19	Fri	8:37 PM	5.87	H
2025/09/20	Sat	03:12 AM	-0.03	L
2025/09/20	Sat	09:27 AM	5.13	H
2025/09/20	Sat	3:14 PM	1.17	L
2025/09/20	Sat	9:14 PM	5.66	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: 9/15
14 15 32 42 49
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 81 M

Fantasy5 — Draw Date: 9/16
8 10 11 14 29

MEGA MILLIONS — Draw Date: 9/16
10 14 34 40 43
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 423 M

Daily 3 — Draw Date: 9/16
EVENING: 2 7 2
Draw Date: 9/16
MIDDAY: 6 4 0

SuperLotto Plus — Draw Date: 9/13
5 11 12 20 39
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 43 M

Daily Derby — Draw Date: 9/16
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:43.91

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

RELIEF

FROM PAGE 1

housing, healthcare and daily essentials. The program concluded July 30 with the distribution of final checks.

"Public partnerships give us the ability to extend our reach and serve more of our neighbors," said Dr. Rocio Flores, CEO of the USC Credit Union Community Foundation and Chief Social Impact Officer of USC Credit Union. "This initiative shows what's possible when resources are aligned toward a shared purpose."

The targeted relief effort emerged from the foundation's Southern California Wildfire Relief Fund, created in response to the January windstorms and wildfires that devastated communities across the region. The foundation partnered with the county's economic development department in May to leverage local job centers for outreach to affected workers.

Through the collaboration, wildfire survivors who lost homes, jobs or income received one-on-one application assistance to ensure aid reached those most in need. The county's West Los Angeles and East San Gabriel Valley job centers conducted targeted outreach to identify eligible recipients.

"When disaster strikes, the role of government is not just to respond — it's to meet people where they are, with the support they need," said Kelly LoBianco, director of the LA County Department of Economic Opportunity. "Through this partnership with the USC Credit Union Community Foundation, we acted quickly, connected wildfire-impacted residents to trusted community resources, and delivered direct financial relief."

The $80,000 distribution represents part of a much larger regional recovery effort. Earlier this year, the county's economic opportunity department launched the LA Region Small Business and Worker Relief Funds, which have delivered more than $21.3 million in aid to over 1,441 businesses and 2,840 workers across the region.

An additional $3.5 million is currently being distributed to further support impacted businesses and workers through partnerships with public and philanthropic organizations including LA County, the State of California, LA Rises, the California Community Foundation, Wells Fargo, Annenberg Foundation, Hilton Foundation, Prologis and Fire Aid.

The Southern California Wildfire Relief Fund has raised $330,676 to date, with half of all contributions coming from peer credit unions — reflecting the credit union movement's core principle of "people helping people." The fund has provided $302,000 in emergency assistance to 302 households and individuals so far.

The January fires caused widespread destruction across Los Angeles County, forcing thousands of residents from their homes and destroying entire neighborhoods. The Eaton Fire burned through parts of Altadena and Pasadena, while the Pacific Palisades Fire devastated the affluent coastal community.

Recovery efforts continue across the region, with residents still grappling with housing displacement, job losses and property damage months after the blazes. The direct cash assistance model employed by the USC Credit Union partnership aimed to provide immediate relief while allowing recipients to focus on longer-term recovery planning.

Residents impacted by the Eaton and Pacific Palisades wildfires can continue accessing support services through their nearest America's Job Center location. The county maintains updated information on recovery and rebuilding efforts online.

The USC Credit Union Community Foundation operates as a certified 501(c)(3) charitable organization, guaranteeing that 100% of donations go directly to those impacted by disasters. Contributions to the Southern California Wildfire Relief Fund are tax-deductible.

County officials say the partnership model demonstrated in this initiative could serve as a template for future disaster response efforts, combining private foundation resources with government outreach capabilities to efficiently deliver aid to affected communities.

For more information on available services, residents can visit ajcc.lacounty.gov to find job center locations or access bit.ly/DEOWildfireResponse for wildfire recovery resources.

maaz@smdp.com

Classifieds

Lien

Notice is hereby given that under and pursuant to the California Civil Code section 1993; Section 6066 of the Government Code any other applicable CA Statutes, that the items of property listed below is believed to be abandoned by Rodney D. Croom, Glen Thomas, George H. Naeve and all other owners, occupants, partners, tenants and/or subtenants at address: 118 Nevada Street, El Segundo, CA 90245. Items will be sold at a Public Auction by George E. Renfro III, to be offered in bulk and or bulk lots at a competitive bid sale through an Online Auction Thursday, September 24th, 2025 at 10:00 am at 118 Nevada Street, El Segundo, CA 90245.Auction access via WWW.MEGAAUCTIONS.NETItems to be sold are to include but are not limited to:uPunch HN1500, LCD TVs, Desks, Chairs, Office Supplies, File Cabinets, Office Chairs, Coffee Tables, Décor, Apple Watch, Brio Water Dispensers, Folding Chairs, Trash Bins, Key Hanger, File Holders & Trays, ADAS Calibration Tool, Wall Clock, Mug, Monitors, Keyboards & Mice, Magic Chef Refrigerator, Wireless Router, Eero AP, Switch, Brother MFC MFC-L5850DW, HP MFP M277dw, Steel & Wood Cabinets (locked), Craftsman Drill, Shelving, PC's, Various Oils & Coolants, Booth Wall Coat, Tanks, Color Swatches, Plastic Boxes, First Aid Kits, Parts Boxes, Belts, Sealers & Adhesives, Rigid Vac HD090, SocalFilters PLYPNL-00006, Fire Extinguishers, SunBurst Roll, Buckets, Mop, Cleaning Supplies, Shovel, Valspar Refinish Universal Intermix System, Fillon Base Quick-Mix 150 Plus Machine, Containers of Paint Tint & Base, Red Devil 5410 Mixer, HP Computer, Compressed Gases, Power Cables, SnapNFlow Containers, Stir Sticks, Various Caps, Misc Parts, Welding Cart, Kuhn Power Pull, Strut Compressor, Folding Tables, SprayZone.net Crossfire Semi Down-Draft Spray Booth, Filters, Wrap Cart, Paint Stands, Air Hoses, Instafinish Spray Systems, Painters Pole, Pads, Astra MM18 18" Masker, Solvent Drums, Paint Booth Curtain System, Step Ladders, Mobile Cart, Lockers, Microwave, Kenmore Refrigerator, Infratech SRU-1615, Step Stool, Heavy Duty Jacks, Stinger Stands, Hankison HPRN125, Cen-Tech Charger, Chief EZ Liner 2 Frame Machine, Wire Racks, Floor Fans, Vacuum, Workout Bench, Ladder, Parts Frames, Pallet Rack, Canopy Shades, Bend Pak Lift, Industrial Compressors, Various Items Unsearched.

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

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Thai Fest, Douglas Day 2025, & Locals Night Returns

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes Thai Fest, Douglas Day 2025, & Locals Night Returns, and much more!

Pier Locals Night: Local's Night is back with a Reggae-themed evening offering live entertainment including a classic car show, youth activities, art exhibits, DJs, and several reggae performances. FREE. Thursday, Sept. 18, 3:30 - 10p.m. https://www.santamonicapier.org/localsnight

Paint & Sip at Sunset, Paired with Bottomless Bubbles: Enjoy a guided paint experience, bottomless bubbles, charcuterie & sunset views at Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows. Local artist Harmony Harris of Wandering Brushes will walk you through a painting activity while you sip bottomless bubbles and enjoy artisanal cheese and charcuterie. All levels are welcome, just bring your creativity. $50. 21+ Thursday, Sept. 18, 5:30 - 7:30p.m., 101 Wilshire Blvd. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paint-sip-at-sunset-tickets-1618800177909



Courtesy image

THAI: The food fest will be on the Pier.

Thai Fest by The Beach: Dive into authentic Thai flavors, enjoy the most vibrant of vibes, and experience cultural performances—all in one place all weekend. FREE. Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 20 & 21, 12 – 8:00p.m., Santa Monica Pier instagram.com/thaifestbythebeach

Douglas Day 2025: This community celebration honors the legacy of innovation at Santa Monica Airport and the heroic first responders of the 2025 LA wildfires, presented by the Spirit of Santa Monica. From thrilling aircraft and STEAM-powered discovery zones to live music, tasty bites, and hands-on fun for all ages, this event is your ticket to a day of inspiration, imagination, and aviation magic. Saturday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Santa Monica Airport https://www.spiritofsantamonica.org

LA Girls Book Club Beach Picnic: Bring your book, a blanket, and make a day of it (even if you didn't finish reading). Saturday, Sept. 20, 1p.m. https://partiful.com/e/MxQ5xTv3NfCLwBnO4Ux7

Gather & Grow: East Never Loses with Feminist Center for Creative Work: This biweekly series at Christine Emerson Reed Park invites families to enjoy hands-on artmaking, live music and interactive performances. Saturday, Sept. 20, 4p.m., 1130 Lincoln Blvd. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/east-never-loses-with-feminist-center-for-creative-work-tickets-1475437125159

Broadstage: The Reverend Shawn Amos Dance Party: This show opens the 2025/26 season by inviting everyone onto the dance floor! Join the joyful bluesman for a night of classic 1960s dance and rhythm & blues, plus favorites from his own catalogue—and as always, he has a few festive surprises waiting. If you have ever seen The Rev perform, you know that no two performances are alike—and you are guaranteed to be dancing. Saturday, Sept 20, 8p.m., 1310 11th St. https://broadstage.org/tickets-shows/calendar/the-reverend-shawn-amos-dance-party/

Mega Mahjong at the Park: Join East Never Loses, the Feminist Center for Creative Work (FCCW), and the City of Santa Monica Parks for an exciting event where you can play with giant lifesize mahjong tiles—a viral sensation sweeping across Asia. Saturday, Sept. 20, 4 - 7p.m., Christine Emerson Reed Park, 1133 7th St. https://www.santamonica.com/event/mega-mahjong-at-the-park/

Cinema Sundays at Sunset on the Promenade: ET: This summer, Third Street Promenade transforms into Santa Monica's most charming outdoor movie theater every weekend. Sunday, Sept. 21, 6 p.m., in front of the Apple Store, 1415 3rd Street Promenade https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cinema-sundays-at-sunset-tickets-1588204385069

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

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 8

COMMUNITY NEWS

California

California Coastal Cleanup Day Features First-Ever "Trashure Hunt" Sept. 20

California's largest annual volunteer event returns Saturday, Sept. 20, with more than 45,000 participants expected to remove trash from beaches and waterways at over 700 sites statewide during the 41st Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day.

The event, organized by the California Coastal Commission, runs from 9 a.m. to noon and includes participation from more than 50 California state parks and the Division of Boating and Waterways. Cleanup sites span coastal regions and inland waterways, including locations in the Sierra region.

New this year, the cleanup will feature the world's largest scavenger hunt with special "trashure" items hidden at cleanup sites across the state. Volunteers who find these items can redeem them for valuable prizes.

California's event is part of the International Coastal Cleanup organized by the Ocean Conservancy. Last year, more than 47,000 volunteers removed over 400,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from waterways, beaches and lakes. Additionally, 40 boating facilities participated with 1,391 volunteers collecting 9,745 pounds of debris on land and from 95 kayaks, canoes and dinghies.

The cleanup provides educational experiences about environmental damage caused by trash, particularly single-use disposable plastics. According to past cleanup data, 75 percent of debris removed is plastic, which never completely biodegrades and can harm wildlife, leach toxins into the environment and enter the food chain.

Plastic debris can kill wildlife and introduce harmful substances into the food chain, affecting California's wildlife, economy and human health.

Volunteers can find cleanup locations using an interactive map provided by the California Coastal Commission. The commission encourages participants to check the website for updates and share experiences on social media using #coastalcleanupday.



Courtesy image

EVENT: Organized by the California Coastal Commission, runs from 9 a.m. to noon and includes participation from more than 50 California state parks and the Division of Boating and Waterways.

The California Coastal Commission maintains Facebook, Bluesky and Instagram accounts for statewide updates. The organization also provides information on making participation more environmentally friendly by reusing items from home.

To find your local cleanup site visit www.coastalcleanupday.org

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

DTSM

Library to Introduce Mexican Presence History Project

The Santa Monica Public Library will present an introduction to the Mexican Presence in Santa Monica Project on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The event takes place in the Main Library's Multipurpose Room at 601 Santa Monica Blvd. as part of Santa Monica's 150th anniversary celebration, highlighting Mexican American contributions to the city's founding and history.

Community members are documenting the rich cultural history, genealogy and influence of Mexican American families in Santa Monica through historic images, oral histories and primary resources. Attendees will see highlights from the collection in the library's Imagine Santa Monica local history database and learn how to contribute their family's story.

A meet-and-greet with light refreshments will follow the presentation.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit smpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/events.

The Main Library is wheelchair accessible and welcomes people of all abilities. Those needing special accommodations should call Library Administration at (310) 458-8600 at least one week prior to the event.

Secure bike parking is available, and visitors can ride the Big Blue Bus to the library. Plan trips at bigbluebus.com.

The Santa Monica Public Library serves as a community cornerstone, providing resources and services that inspire patrons while fostering literacy, lifelong learning and civic engagement with a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.



Courtesy photo

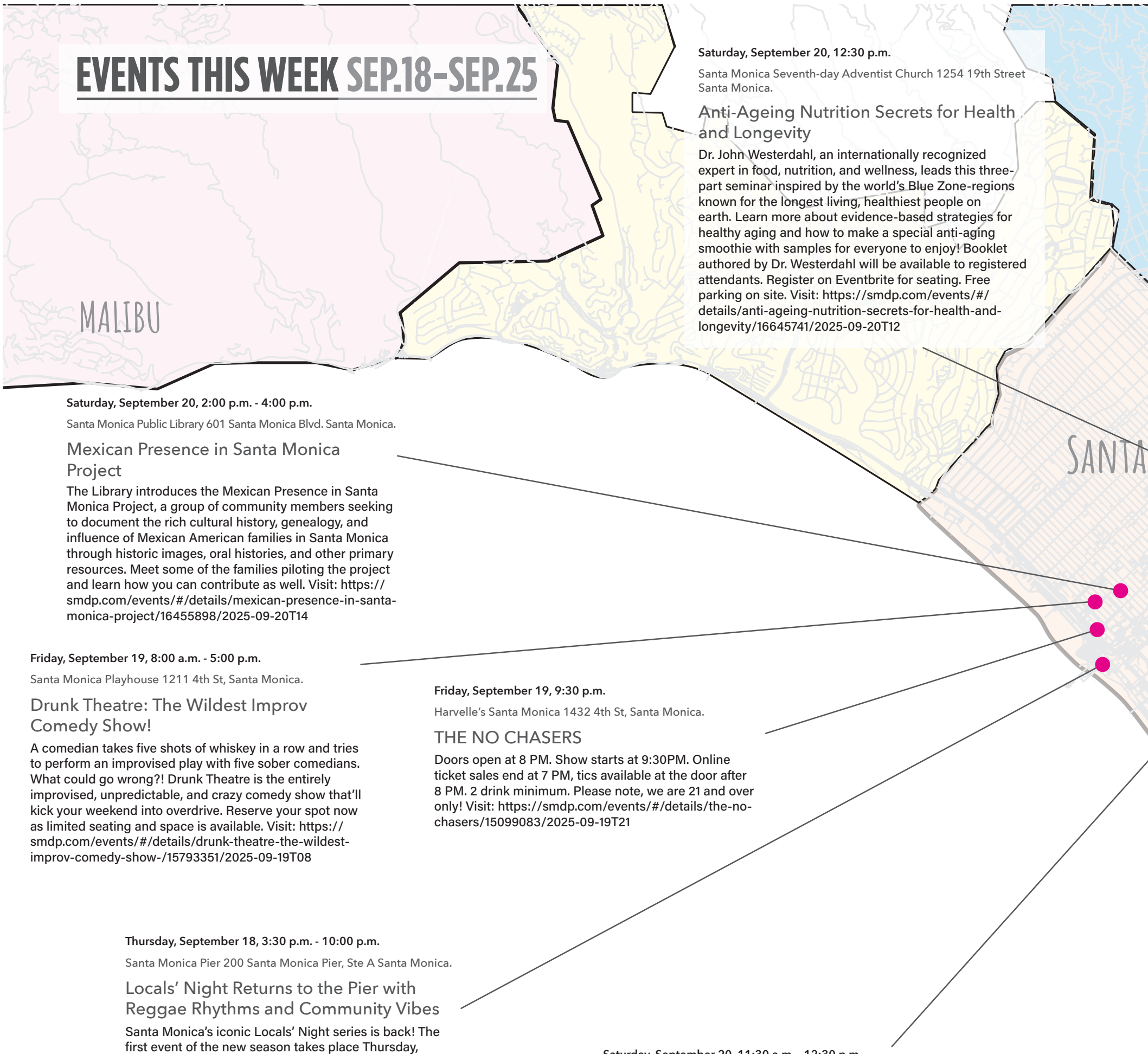
STORE: The El Retono was a community grocery store, operated by the J.C. Garcia family at 1809 Pennsylvania Ave., now Olympic Blvd.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

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EVENTS THIS WEEK SEP.18–SEP.25



Saturday, September 20, 12:30 p.m.

Santa Monica Seventh-day Adventist Church 1254 19th Street Santa Monica.

Anti-Ageing Nutrition Secrets for Health and Longevity

Dr. John Westerdahl, an internationally recognized expert in food, nutrition, and wellness, leads this three-part seminar inspired by the world's Blue Zone-regions known for the longest living, healthiest people on earth. Learn more about evidence-based strategies for healthy aging and how to make a special anti-aging smoothie with samples for everyone to enjoy! Booklet authored by Dr. Westerdahl will be available to registered attendants. Register on Eventbrite for seating. Free parking on site. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/anti-ageing-nutrition-secrets-for-health-and-longevity/16645741/2025-09-20T12

Saturday, September 20, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica.

Mexican Presence in Santa Monica Project

The Library introduces the Mexican Presence in Santa Monica Project, a group of community members seeking to document the rich cultural history, genealogy, and influence of Mexican American families in Santa Monica through historic images, oral histories, and other primary resources. Meet some of the families piloting the project and learn how you can contribute as well. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/mexican-presence-in-santa-monica-project/16455898/2025-09-20T14

Friday, September 19, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica.

Drunk Theatre: The Wildest Improv Comedy Show!

A comedian takes five shots of whiskey in a row and tries to perform an improvised play with five sober comedians. What could go wrong?! Drunk Theatre is the entirely improvised, unpredictable, and crazy comedy show that'll kick your weekend into overdrive. Reserve your spot now as limited seating and space is available. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/drunk-theatre-the-wildest-improv-comedy-show-/15793351/2025-09-19T08

Friday, September 19, 9:30 p.m.

Harvelle's Santa Monica 1432 4th St, Santa Monica.

THE NO CHASERS

Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. Please note, we are 21 and over only! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-no-chasers/15099083/2025-09-19T21

Thursday, September 18, 3:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

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

Locals' Night Returns to the Pier with Reggae Rhythms and Community Vibes

Santa Monica's iconic Locals' Night series is back! The first event of the new season takes place Thursday, September 18, 2025, from 3:30 to 10 p.m. at the Santa Monica Pier, featuring a lively reggae theme and a robust lineup of community-based entertainment, vendors, performances, and family activities. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/locals-night-returns-to-the-pier-with-reggae-rhythms-and-community-vibes/16853178/2025-09-18T15

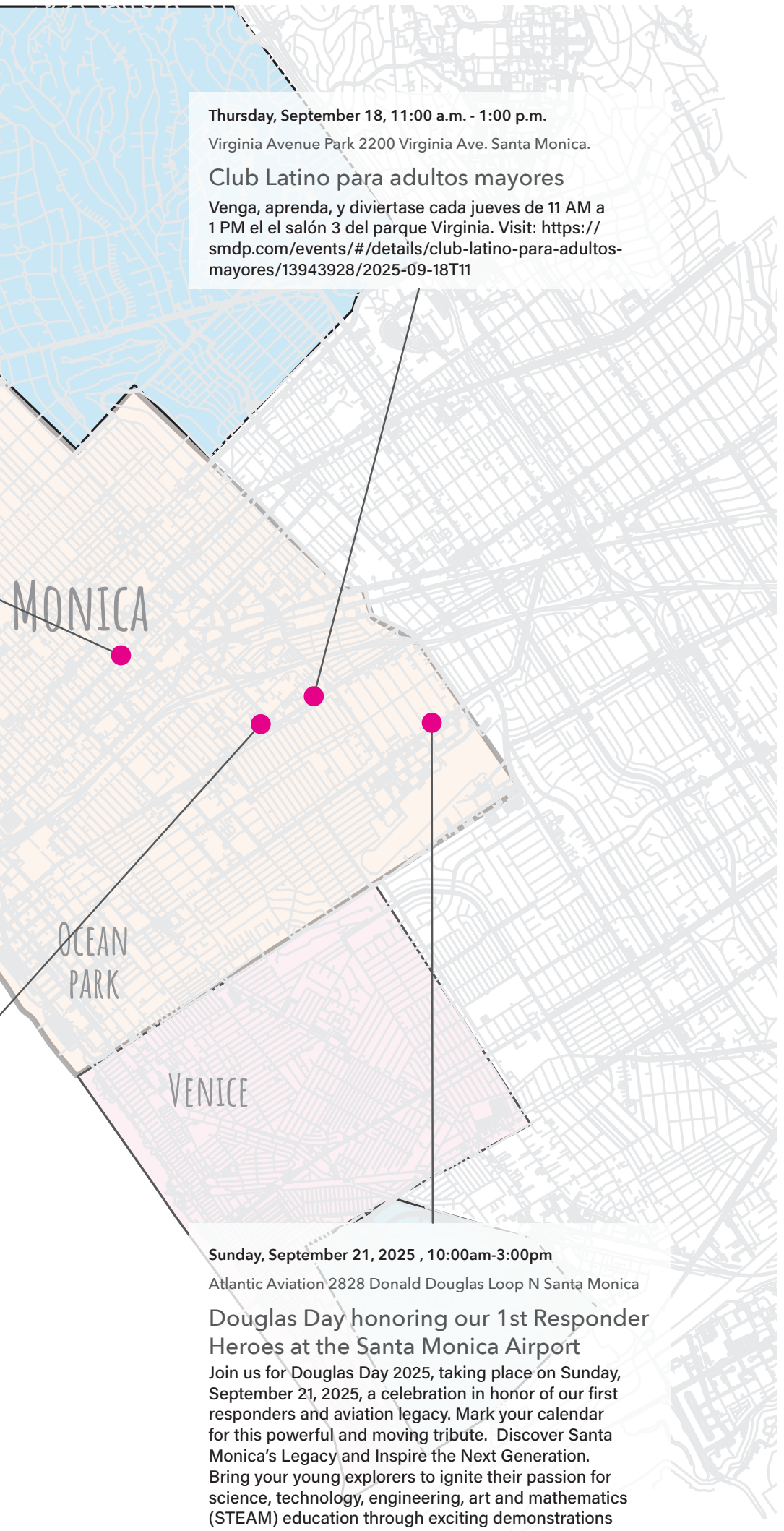
Saturday, September 20, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica.

I Am, Yo Soy Book Reading with Mirelle Ortega I Am, Yo Soy Book Reading with Mirelle Ortega

A special book reading celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Author/Illustrator Mirelle Ortega will read the book she illustrated with an interactive art demo to follow. For families. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/i-am-yo-soy-book-reading-with-mirelle-ortega/16455897/2025-09-20T11

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events



Thursday, September 18, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica.

Club Latino para adultos mayores

Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2025-09-18T11

Sunday, September 21, 2025 , 10:00am-3:00pm

Atlantic Aviation 2828 Donald Douglas Loop N Santa Monica

Douglas Day honoring our 1st Responder Heroes at the Santa Monica Airport

Join us for Douglas Day 2025, taking place on Sunday, September 21, 2025, a celebration in honor of our first responders and aviation legacy. Mark your calendar for this powerful and moving tribute. Discover Santa Monica's Legacy and Inspire the Next Generation. Bring your young explorers to ignite their passion for science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM) education through exciting demonstrations and interactive experiences. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/douglas-day-honoring-our-1st-responder-heroes-at-the-santa-monica-airport/16406360/2025-09-21T10



THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 18

COUNTERING TRUTH DECAY: A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 18th Street Arts Center (Olympic Campus) 1639 18th Street 18th Street Arts Center (Olympic Campus) Santa Monica. A community-led conversation about the impact of misinformation on local issues and what it can be done about it. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/countering-truth-decay-a-community-conversation/16644701/2025-09-18T17

MONTANA BRANCH BOOK GROUP

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Montana Branch Library 1704 Montana Ave. Santa Monica. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets in person at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at the Montana Branch Library. This book group discusses a mix of fiction and nonfiction titles, often on topics chosen from current events. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/montana-branch-book-group/14818668/2025-09-18T18

AN EVENING WITH BILL MCKIBBEN

9:15 p.m. The Ann and Jerry Moss Theater-New Roads School Herb Alpert Educational Village 3131 Olympic Blvd. The Ann and Jerry Moss Theater-New Roads School Santa Monica. A conversation with Bill McKibben, "Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization." $28.53. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/an-evening-with-bill-mckibben/16644529/2025-09-18T21

FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 19

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS AT THE SURFING FOX

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 120 Colorado Ave Santa Monica, CA. 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/14385252/2025-09-19T18

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 20

COASTAL CLEAN UP DAY 2025

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Heal the Bay Presents The 36th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day. Coastal Cleanup Day is the world's largest volunteer-driven environmental event, mobilizing millions of people across the world to protect our planet! In Los Angeles County, Heal the Bay proudly leads this monumental effort, organizing over 50 cleanup sites spanning our coasts, rivers, parks, and dive and kayak sites. Our amazing volunteers picked up more than 18,000 pounds of trash last year! Save the date on Saturday, September 20th, 2025, 9 am to noon, as we once again welcome more than 7,000 volunteers to help tackle Los Angeles's marine debris crisis! Please contact ccd@healthebay.org with any questions. Registration Coming Soon About Coastal Cleanup Day, LA County: Coastal Cleanup Day is an international day of action to protect our oceans, watersheds, and wildlife from trash and plastic pollution. In collaboration with the California Coastal Commission and the Ocean Conservancy, Heal the Bay has proudly been the Los Angeles County Coordinator of this event for the past 36 years. Choose one of the many clean up sites throughout the county. Whether you want to tidy up the mountains, better your neighborhood, or spruce up the beach, we've got you covered! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/coastal-clean-up-day-2025/16449375/2025-09-20T09

COMPOST GIVEAWAY AT CITY YARDS

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. City Yards 2500 Michigan Ave Santa Monica. Join us for Resource Recovery and Recycling's quarterly compost giveaway on September 20th, 2025, from 9:00am to 2:00pm at City Yards, 2500 Michigan Avenue. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/compost-giveaway-at-city-yards/14544561/2025-09-20T09

UC MASTER GARDENERS AT PICO FARMERS MARKET

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Visit with the UC Master Gardeners at the Saturday Pico Farmers Market. he booth is filled with free advice on how to care for plants, how to troubleshoot a gardening problem, and much more. Free seeds and seedlings are available on a limited basis. Market attendance is subject to change based on weather and holiday. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/uc-master-gardeners-at-pico-farmers-market/16517441/2025-09-20T10

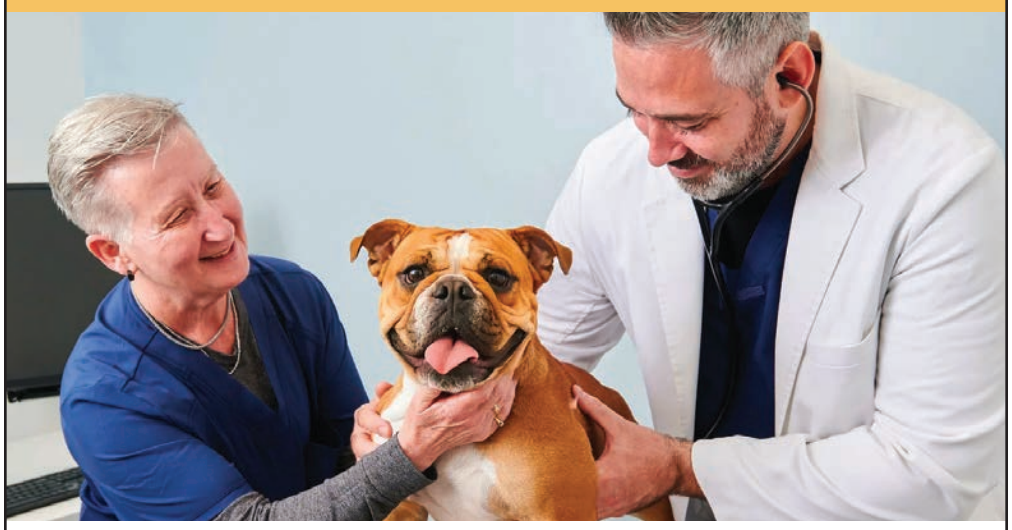
DISNEY ANIMATED FILMS

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. California Heritage Museum 2612 Main Street 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

To learn how to feature your upcoming event on the SMDP and various digital event calendars

Contact dina@smdp.com today!

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AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

Sunset Sessions (through 10/31)

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Soso Club Presents: Kombucha, But Make It Flirty & 30+: Enjoy a Kombucha singles mixer at Juneshine. Your ticket includes access to a private 30+ singles-only party w/ an open bar (includes beer + wine), mingling and activities. 2914 Main St. https://www.instagram.com/p/DOPMO6jEgYV/

Baked SoCal, Manifold Bakery, and Anomaly Coffee PopUp Bakery: They are joining forces for a one-day pop-up. 🥧 Saturday, Sept. 20, 10a.m. - Sell Out, 12813 Venice Blvd. https://www.instagram.com/p/DOeQaa_kqZ2/

Monica Cafe Opens Downtown: Everything looks soooo fresh here, from the espresso tonic to all the dishes made with ingredients 100% sourced from the farmer's market. 508 Santa Monica Blvd. https://www.instagram.com/monicacafe.la/

Breakfast by Salts Cure Listed #1 on LA TImes' Best Pancakes in LA List:"I almost hesitate to call these pancakes, and in fact, the official name on the menu is "Oatmeal Griddle Cakes." Made from a base of oat flour and cinnamon sugar, these thin-yet-hearty griddle cakes taste like a deeply gooey, slightly underbaked oatmeal cookie. There is absolutely no maple syrup or syrup of any kind available, but you won't need any if you are careful to get the scoops of cinnamon molasses butter into every nook and cranny." 🥞714 Montana Ave. https://www.latimes.com/california/newsletter/2025-09-14/where-to-find-great-pancakes-in-los-angeles

Hermanito Opens Downtown: The Mexican-Japanese fusion restaurant opened at the former Swingers location at 802 Broadway. Originally founded by co-owner Amal Flores, the restaurant brings together a tapestry of Los Angeles cultures by blending Mexican and Japanese cuisine. 🌮🍣https://smdp.com/lifestyle/food/hermanito-brings-japanese-mexican-fusion-neighborhood-ambiance-to-satna-monica/

Jon + Vinny's and Sidecar Donuts Collab: Fans can vote for one of two limited-edition donuts in the Flavor Showdown to decide which one deserves a spot on the daily menu. Try Hazelnut Mocha Crunch from 9/17 - 9/21 and cast your winning vote by 9/22. 631 Wilshire Blvd. https://www.instagram.com/p/DOWg5jxkj0c/

Further Afield: LA Smorgasburg: Fresh Picks Beer Fest: The first-ever "Beer Fest" edition of Smorgasburg, featuring a large selection of craft & hop-centric beers, local breweries, food vendors & live DJs. Sunday, Sept. 21, ROW DTLA, 777 S. Alameda St. https://la.smorgasburg.com/calendar

Looking Ahead: The Other Art Fair (9/25-28); Oktoberfest on the Promenade (9/27); Montana Ave. Art Walk (9/27); Tech St. Santa Monica (10/13); 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: Thai Fest, Douglas Day 2025, & Locals Night Returns

COURT

FROM PAGE 1

and the very nature of this crime underscores the danger he poses to the public," prosecutors argued, noting Taylor had been released from a psychiatric hospital shortly before the incident.

Defense attorneys countered that the appellate court should deny the prosecution's request, stressing that Los Angeles Superior Court judges regularly weigh evidence and make legally sound determinations in diversion cases. They said Judge Lana Kim's March ruling was supported by substantial evidence.

"This is not a unique case," defense counsel said. "The trial court carefully considered the evidence and applied the law as written."

Presiding Justice Frances Rothschild and Justice Elizabeth Grimes pressed both sides on the limits of judicial discretion. Justice Laurie Zelon Benson pointed out that the trial court never explicitly found Taylor would not be a risk to public safety, remarking, "The court said you cannot predict the future. That's troubling."

Benson also questioned why Taylor's medical records were not turned over to prosecutors during trial, despite repeated requests. "That's unusual," she said.

The justices highlighted concerns about Taylor's history of refusing medication, with Benson noting, "The violence that brings us here today involved your client being off his meds. That's not irrelevant."

During oral arguments, the DA's office disclosed that Taylor engaged in violent behavior toward cellmates even while he was in custody and receiving treatment

Defense attorneys responded that Taylor had asked to remain hospitalized before the episode, suggesting systemic shortcomings contributed to his release.

The appellate panel will now weigh whether Judge Kim's ruling aligned with the limits of California's mental health diversion statute, which allows defendants to avoid criminal conviction if they complete court-approved treatment plans.

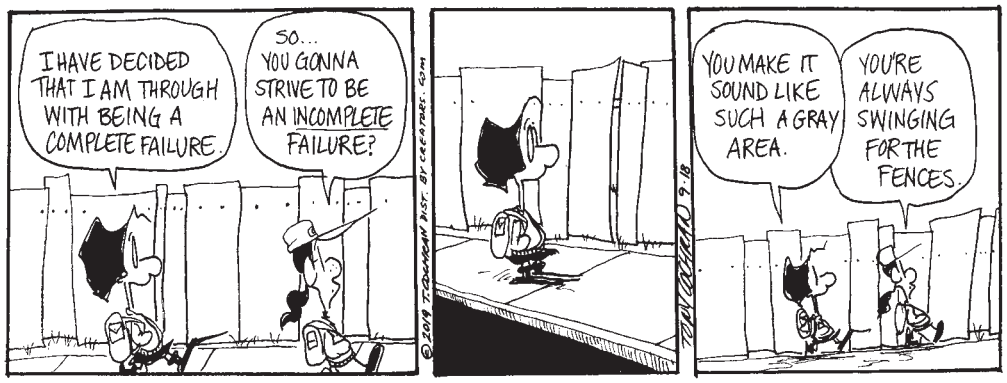
The case has drawn intense scrutiny because of the seriousness of the attack. Hornburg, who was left permanently disabled, now lives in a long-term care facility and has publicly criticized the court system for sidelining victims' voices.

District Attorney Nathan Hochman has called the diversion decision "a miscarriage of justice." A ruling from the appellate court could set important precedent for how judges across Los Angeles apply diversion in cases involving violent offenders.

Published in partnership with the Westside Current.

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



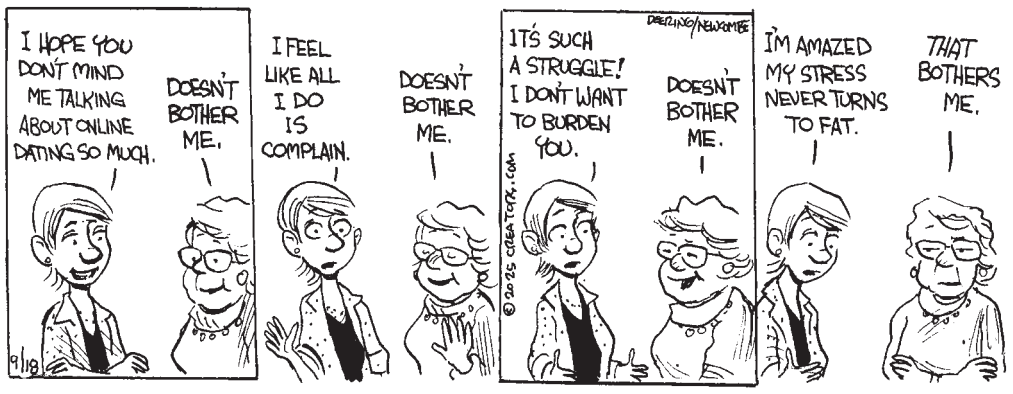
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE WAS BORN UNDER A WANDERING STAR."

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 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6702

Ferry from Circular Quay

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

Airport	Choppy	Music	Surf
Awards	Cosmopolitan	Notes	Swim
Baritone	Crowded	Rose Bay	Tenor
Blue	Design	Saga	The Rocks
Boat	Drama	Sails	Tour
Bridge	Duet	Seats	Windy
Busy	Elation	Snapper	Wonder
Cahill	Encore	Island	Zoos
Calm	Fish	Solo	
Canoe	Formal	Song	
Champagne	Harmony	Steps	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 18)

Welcome to your Year of The Guardian. You're proactive, protective and political. You look a few moves down the line, and you think about what everyone might need or want, what problems could come into play, and how to solve them if (or before) that happens. You're a gift to the group, and oh, how they'll see and celebrate you. More highlights: Sagittarius and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 16, 8, 19, 2 and 4.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't settle for surface politeness. You go all in, warm and welcoming to everyone you meet. This generosity of spirit becomes its own kind of power and earns you allies everywhere you turn.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In the era of deepfakes, most people are learning that not everything conveyed in a believable way is true. You'll ask the right questions today. The question is not, "How plausible is this?" Rather it's: "Who benefits from me believing this?"

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What separates the workers from the stars is that the stars don't wait for stage directions. They write their own parts. They figure out ways to keep relevant. Stay in the habit of sharpening your craft, because when the opportunity shows up, you'll be so prepared, you'll own it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). This problem has been living in your head so long it ought to be paying you rent. You're working on it even when you don't realize it. This is your process. The right people see it and admire the way you think.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The day is wrapped in emotional complexity and contradictory vibes - excited but patient, cautious yet hopeful. This tension signals growth, proof that you're pushing into new territory. Out of the mix, a steadier and wiser direction begins to emerge.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're funny and quick today, and someone sharp will join in. You occasionally undercut your own sweetness with a kind of twisted whimsy that speaks to those who share the sensibility. Together you make your own private little bubble of fun.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Stress makes your body lock up, which narrows your thinking. If you pause, breathe and relax, your mind will open again. From that calm place, you'll see multiple options and can choose the best path forward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The weirdness in a person is raw material. The polished version is something, too. One doesn't cancel the other; they feed each other. That contrast is strength. Don't be afraid to bring all sides of you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Today highlights another case of addition by subtraction. Maybe you get rid of a step or two by automating or delegating. Maybe you clear material items and let things come together better than ever.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In some ways, you are always in a state of flux, though you feel it more acutely on a day like today when the changes are either rapid or drastic, making it hard to keep your balance through the passage. But off-balance equals gloriously alive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Every feeling belongs, even frustration, hope, determination, anticipation, relief... all signs you've poured yourself fully into the work. You'll step out of this sweat and grit into the satisfaction of completion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Most people have no clue what they look like in motion. That's why catching yourself on video or in the mirror can feel so shocking, like meeting a stranger who happens to be you. Today brings a leap in self-awareness.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

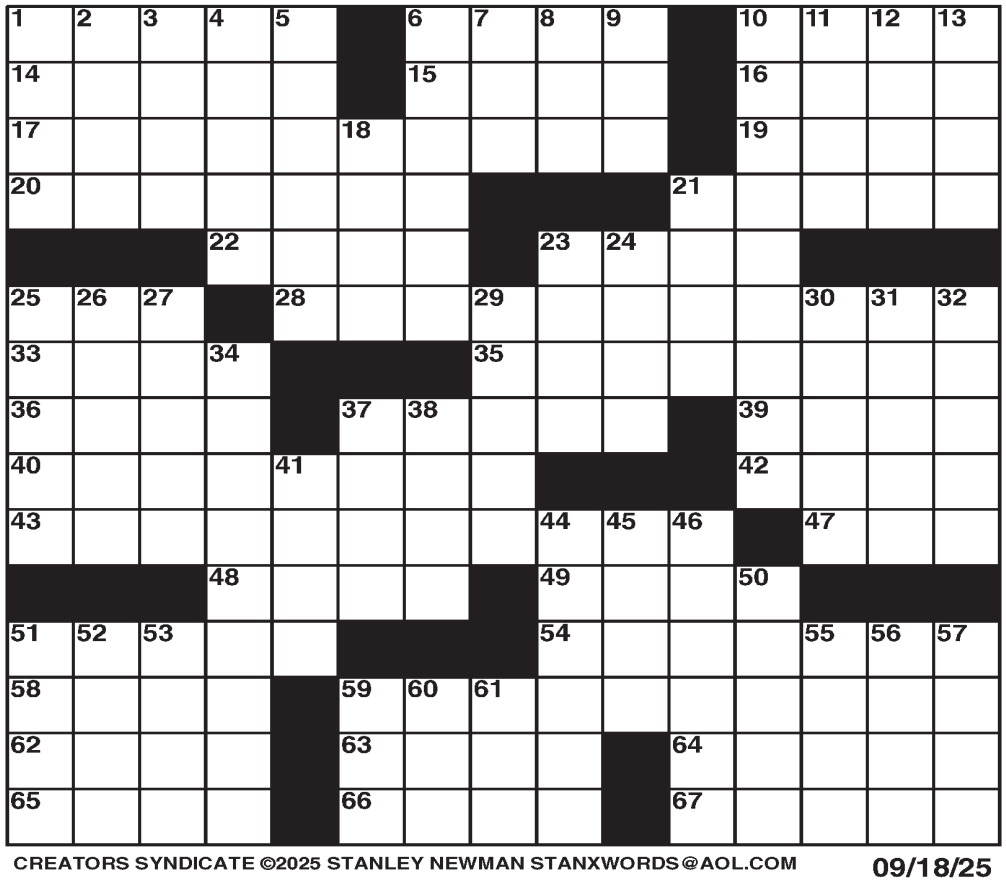
EMINENT GEOGRAPHY by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Novelist Zola
6 Gardener's purchase
10 Fellow
14 Bouquet favorite
15 Hawaiian spot
16 Name meaning "born again"
17 Montana city
19 Takes in
20 About 10 minutes of a silent film
21 Odds, for instance
22 Fictional submariner
23 Respectful term of address
25 Freeway lane letters
28 Kentucky national park
33 Without __ (riskily)
35 Riffled (through)
36 Uncommon: Lat.
37 Looks intently
39 Sunflower St.
40 Victorian prime minister
42 "Small" suffix
43 Ford Presidential Museum city
47 Night sch. course
48 Alpo alternative
49 Well-groomed
51 Hiccup, for instance
54 Makes reference (to)
58 Dash device
59 Island near the US/Russia border
62 Treater's term
63 Diva's delivery
64 Frat letter
65 Do some gardening
66 Tons
67 NL East player

DOWN

1 Consequently
2 Poetic time
3 "So that's how it is!"
4 Pick up
5 Regard highly
6 Haifa hello
7 Service station stock
8 Poorly
9 __ Alamos
10 Rich dessert
11 Track prelim
12 Opposed to, at first
13 Argentine money
18 Homeland Security org.
21 Former Chicago mayor Emanuel
23 Pouty look
24 Kiosk conveniences
25 What gardening begins with
26 Broadcasting now
27 "...and vice __"
29 Former USPS mascot
30 Geode mineral
31 Blows off steam
32 Henry Ford II's father
34 Lost luster
37 Idea's initiation
38 "Sorry to say..."
41 Genesis fellow
44 This time tomorrow
45 Small food store
46 Western set
50 Informal abdomen
51 Put away
52 Piece of a greenhouse
53 High point
55 Believe to be
56 Minor advantage
57 Governmental headquarters
59 "Just like that!"
60 Long-term investment
61 Card game exclamation



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TRUMP

FROM PAGE 2

to be readying a campaign to destroy dissent."

White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson said "it is disingenuous and false for Democrats to say administration actions are about political speech." She said the goal is to "target those committing criminal acts and hold them accountable."

REPUBLICANS BACK TRUMP'S CALLS FOR INVESTIGATIONS

Trump's concerns about political violence are noticeably partisan. He described people who rioted at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, as "hostages" and "patriots," and he pardoned 1,500 of them on his first day back in the Oval Office. He also mocked House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi after an attack on her husband.

When Trump condemned Kirk's killing in a video message last week, he mentioned several examples of "radical left political violence" but ignored attacks on Democrats.

Asked on Monday about the killing of Minnesota state Rep. Melissa Hortman over the summer, Trump said "I'm not familiar" with the case.

"Trump shrugs at right-wing political violence," said Ezra Levin, the co-executive director of Indivisible, in a newsletter.

Some conservative commentators have cheered on a potential crackdown. Laura Loomer, a conspiracy theorist with a long record of bigoted comments, said "let's shut the left down." She also said that she wants Trump "to be the 'dictator' the left thinks he is."

Katie Miller, the wife of Stephen Miller and a former administration spokeswoman, asked Bondi whether there would be "more law enforcement going after these groups" and "putting cuffs on people."

"We will absolutely target you, go after you, if you are targeting anyone with hate speech," Bondi said. "And that's across the aisle."

Her comments sparked a backlash from across the political spectrum, since even hate speech is generally considered to be protected under the First Amendment. Bondi was more circumspect on social media on Tuesday morning, saying they would focus on "hate speech that crosses the line into threats of violence."

Trump is getting more support from Republicans in Congress. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and others proposed legislation that would enable the Justice Department to use racketeering laws, originally envisioned to combat organized crime, to prosecute violent protesters and the groups that support them.

Rep. Chip Roy of Texas wants the House to create a special committee to investigate the nonprofit groups, saying "we must follow the money to identify the perpetrators of the coordinated anti-American assaults being carried out against us."

By CHRIS MEGERIAN, LISA MASCARO and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press. Associated Press writer Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

REDISTRICT

FROM PAGE 3

approval of a new map in November.

Ohio's constitution requires new House districts because the ones adopted after the 2020 census didn't have sufficient bipartisan support. If bipartisan consensus remains elusive, Republican lawmakers in November could adopt revised districts without need of any Democratic votes.

Elected leaders in other states also are considering mid-decade redistricting, including Republicans in Florida and Kansas and Democrats in Maryland and New York.

NEW GERRYMANDERING COULD DISRUPT NATIONAL POLITICAL EQUILIBRIUM

The push to redraw districts for partisan advantage — a process known as gerrymandering — is unfolding during a time of unusual political balance in Congress.

The 220-215 House majority that Republicans won over Democrats in the 2024 elections aligns almost perfectly with the share of the vote the two parties received in districts across the U.S., according to a recent Associated Press analysis.

Although Democrats and Republicans each benefited from the way districts were drawn in particular states, those advantages essentially canceled each other out. When adding results from all states, the AP's analysis showed that Democrats nationwide won just a fraction of a seat more than expected last year. Because congressional seats aren't allotted by fractions, the net result was that each party's share of House seats corresponded with their share of the votes.

By DAVID A. LIEB, MICHAEL R. BLOOD and JIM VERTUNO Associated Press

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METRO

FROM PAGE 1

to six bladed objects per shift at the four stations tested. Secondary screening averaged 12 to 15 seconds per person, with stations processing between 404 and 711 passengers per shift.

The weapons detection pilot was expanded earlier this year following unanimous support for enhanced safety measures in response to rising violent crime on the transit system. In February, the board directed testing of weapons detection technology on buses and integration of brandished firearm detection through video analytics.

Metro's weapons detection pilot for buses remains in development, with vendor demonstrations held in July showing installation options for both 60-foot articulated and 40-foot standard buses. The agency continues discussions on IT requirements and hardware installation needs.

The multi-layered safety approach also includes new taller faregates that have significantly reduced fare evasion and security incidents. Seven stations now feature the enhanced barriers, with Hollywood/Western station showing a 68% increase in valid entries year-over-year, Vermont/Santa Monica up 64%, and Wilshire/Vermont up 35%. Security incidents reported through Metro's Transit Watch app dropped 24% on the B Line and 20% on the A Line in the week following faregate installation.

However, Metro's TAP-to-Exit pilot program at North Hollywood and Union stations was suspended in April at the request of the Los Angeles City Fire Department, leading to immediate consequences. Union Station saw a 116% increase in reported security incidents, while North Hollywood experienced a 67% spike. LAPD crime data showed increased narcotics activity on the B Line, and fare revenue dropped nearly $35,000 in the first month across both stations. Metro said it's working with the fire department to restore the program as soon as possible.

The safety initiatives come as Metro continues grappling with a crisis that began during the COVID-19 pandemic. Crimes on Metro properties jumped 54.7% between 2020 and 2023, with violent crime reports up 25% in 2021 despite lower ridership. The system recorded five homicides in 2021 compared to one in 2019.

Several high-profile attacks have underscored the system's safety challenges. In April 2024, 67-year-old security guard Mirna Soza Arauz was fatally stabbed on a Red Line train while commuting home from work. The suspect had previously been banned from Metro for assaulting a passenger, highlighting enforcement gaps. In the same month, a bus driver in Willowbrook was stabbed by a passenger, and a 70-year-old passenger was stabbed during an argument on a Silver Lake bus.

Transit operators have borne the brunt of violence, with 168 assaults on Metro bus and train operators reported in 2023. Hundreds of operators staged a sick-out in April 2024 to protest unsafe working conditions following a series of attacks.

The system also became a focal point for the region's drug overdose crisis, with 21 people dying on Metro buses and trains in the first months of 2023, mostly from apparent overdoses.

Metro has responded with multiple strategies beyond technology solutions. The agency deployed 300 Transit Ambassadors in early 2023 to provide customer assistance and connect vulnerable individuals with services. A survey found 63% of riders felt safer seeing ambassadors on the system.

The authority is also building an internal Transit Community Safety Department to supplement contracted law enforcement from LAPD, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and Long Beach Police. Metro has hired dozens of new transit security officers and installed plexiglass safety barriers around drivers in every bus.

Environmental improvements include the Smart Restroom pilot program, which has installed Throne Bathrooms at 20 locations across the system, including in Santa Monica. The automated facilities have served nearly 370,000 users while maintaining a 4-out-of-5-star cleanliness rating. Custodial teams report 45% fewer urination and defecation cleanups in elevators where the bathrooms are installed, with Chatsworth station seeing a nearly 100% reduction in defecation incidents.

The Elevator Open-Door pilot program now operates at all 57 eligible elevators at newer stations, allowing doors to remain open longer for easier access. No problems have been reported by persons with disabilities, while ambassadors note improved access for parents with strollers and customers with bicycles.

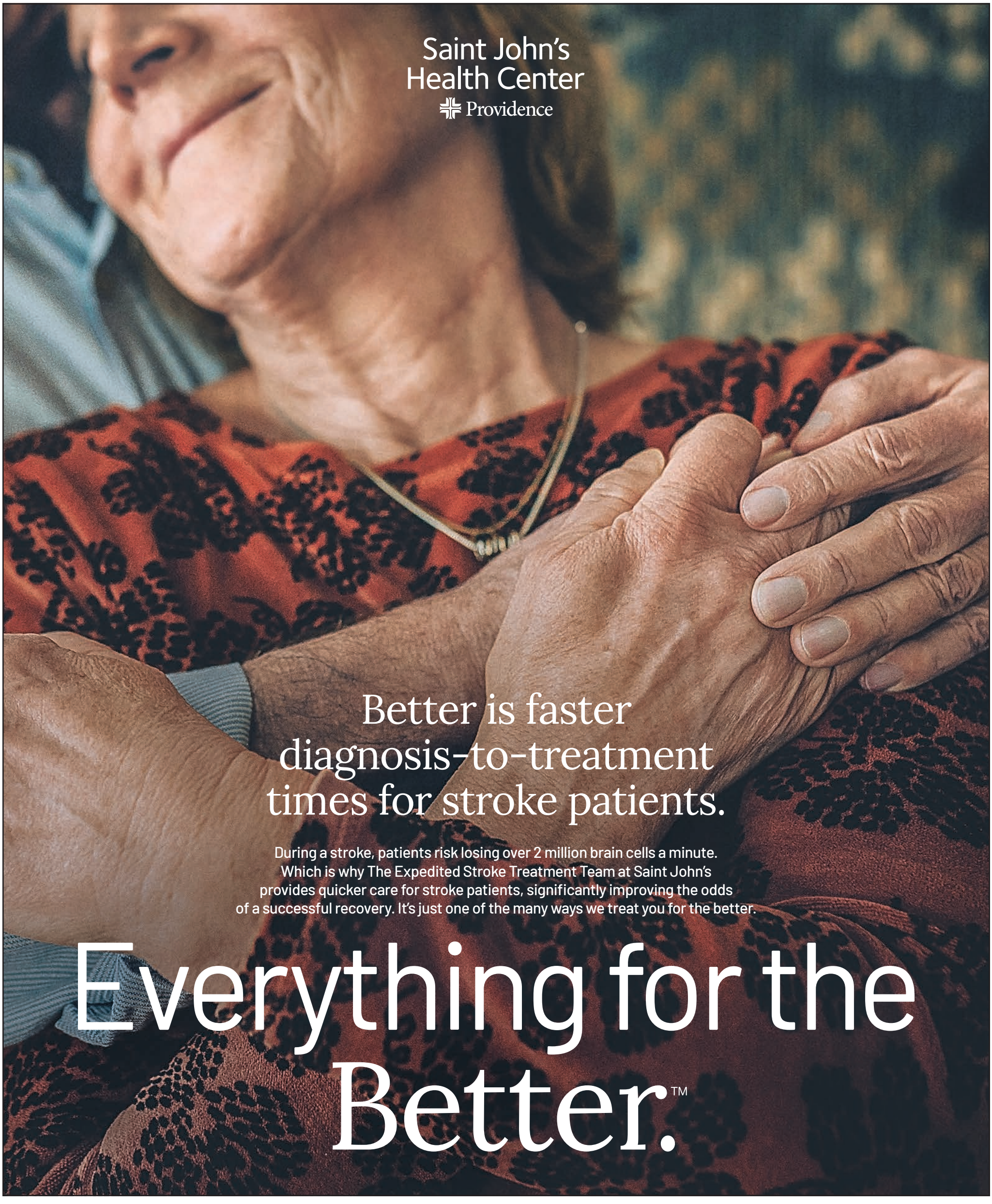
Recent data show some improvement in safety statistics. Metro reported assaults down 66% year-over-year and violent crimes dropped 28% in spring 2025 compared to the previous year. Ridership has rebounded by more than 50% from pandemic lows, which officials say improves safety through increased natural surveillance.

However, even with recent improvements, violent crime levels in 2024 remained dramatically higher than pre-2020 levels.

State lawmakers have also responded with Assembly Bill 394, which expands penalties for assaulting transit employees and empowers courts to issue system-wide prohibition orders. California now requires the state's 10 largest transit agencies to collect data on harassment incidents affecting riders.

editor@smdp.com

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