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Black LA pioneer finally gets her due.

Volume 25 Issue 216

MONDAY 9/21/26

smdp.com

Palisades Recreation Center groundbreaking marks new phase in wildfire recovery



Photo Credit: Michelle Edgar

PACIFIC PALISADES: The more than \$50 million, philanthropically funded rebuild will restore a 17-acre community hub damaged in the January 2025 fire.

MICHELLE EDGAR

Special to the Daily Press

On the grounds where generations of children played and families gathered, city leaders and community partners broke ground Tuesday on a new Palisades Recreation Center — a more than \$50 million project intended to restore one of the neighborhood's central gathering places after the January 2025 wildfire.

The fully philanthropically funded project is the largest public-private partnership in the history of the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, according to project organizers. Construction is expected to take 14 to 16 months.

The groundbreaking brought together Mayor Karen Bass, Los Angeles City Councilmember Traci Park, Steadfast LA founder Rick Caruso, Los Angeles Lakers head coach and LA Strong Sports co-founder

JJ Redick, Recreation and Parks officials, designers and Palisades community leaders. Their message was that rebuilding the recreation center is about more than replacing damaged facilities: It is about restoring a place where neighborhood life can resume. "Today is about the Palisades community. Today is about hope," Bass said. "Rebuilding the Rec Center is a vital step — where families can come together, children can play and neighbors can connect. It's about restoring

places that bring people together and make a neighborhood feel like home."

Bass said the city could not have advanced the project alone, crediting the partnership among government, philanthropy, the private sector and community organizations. She called the groundbreaking a symbol of recovery and the city's commitment to the Palisades. "Not a day goes by that I don't think

SEE **PACIFIC PALISADES** PAGE 8

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SMMUSD unaudited actuals report shows \$6 million surplus, record reserve

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

“

We know that it is irresponsible to create programs around that money that we want to be sustainable. We cannot do that

- Jennifer Smith, Board member

”

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District ended the 2025-26 fiscal year in a stronger financial position than it had projected in June, closing the books with an unrestricted general fund balance about \$9.85 million higher than expected, according to a year-end report the school board approved Sept. 9.

The Board of Education voted 4-0 at a special meeting to accept the district's Unaudited Actual Financial Report, the annual accounting of revenues and expenditures that districts submit to the Los Angeles County Office of Education after their books are closed. The figures remain subject to an independent audit by the firm CWDL, which is scheduled to begin the week of Sept. 28.

The district had estimated in June that it would finish the year, which ended June 30, roughly \$3.7 million in the red. Instead its unrestricted general fund ending balance reached about \$68.6 million — the improvement driven by higher one-time revenues, lower-than-projected spending and other year-end adjustments.

But district officials were careful to frame the result as a balanced year-end position rather than a windfall, stressing that most of the money is already committed.

"While our year-end position is better than we projected in June, many of these funds are already designated to address future deficit spending and maintain appropriate reserves," Assistant Superintendent of Business Services and Chief Financial Officer Gerardo Cruz said. "We will continue to carefully manage our resources while protecting the programs, services and educational resources that support our students and families."

The district took in about \$6.1 million more revenue than projected. Roughly \$4 million came from one-time state property tax backfill and additional funding allocated by the State Education Budget Committee in connection with the January 2025 Palisades and Franklin fires. Other gains included about \$1.3 million more from the Measure R parcel tax, about \$954,000 more in lease and rental revenue and about \$1.6 million more in interest, partially offset by about \$186,000 less in sales tax revenue from the city of Santa Monica.

Because Santa Monica-Malibu is a "basic aid," or community-funded, district — funded chiefly by local property taxes rather than by student attendance — it does not receive state reimbursement based on enrollment, and Cruz cautioned that the wildfire money will not recur.

"We wouldn't want to tie these one-time revenues to anything, any expenditure that's reoccurring in the future," he told the board.

That concern drew extended discussion from board members, who pressed Cruz to more clearly separate recurring revenue from the periodic, one-time allocations the state directs to districts. Board member Jennifer Smith argued that such funds can distort the district's true financial picture.

"We know that it is irresponsible to create programs around that money that we want to be sustainable. We cannot do that," Smith said, asking whether the budget could better flag one-

time dollars. Cruz agreed, saying staff could "do a better job of making that connection." Smith called the change "enormously helpful."

Expenditures came in about \$3.6 million below projections, largely because budgeted costs came in under estimates or were not needed. That included about \$2.4 million in reduced consultant, legal and other operating costs, about \$820,000 in lower spending on supplies, textbooks and technology, and a \$700,000 transfer to deferred maintenance that was not needed this year and is expected to be used in 2026-27. The reductions were partially offset by about \$344,000 in higher salary and benefit costs — a far smaller variance than the multimillion-dollar misses of recent years, which Cruz cited as evidence of improved forecasting.

The district's Local General Fund Contribution rose about \$995,000, including roughly \$754,000 in added support for special education and about \$241,000 for the Routine Restricted Maintenance Account.

Officials emphasized that the ending balance does not represent money available for new ongoing commitments. The unrestricted general fund balance includes about \$7.3 million for the state-required reserve, funds set aside for projected deficit spending in future years, and about \$30.3 million toward a reserve of up to two months of operating expenses. The district said it aims to build toward a 33% reserve recommended for basic aid districts by School Services of California.

The district also continues to draw on restricted categorical and one-time block grant funding — including the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant and a state Student Support and Professional Development block grant — to cover allowable costs and relieve pressure on the unrestricted general fund. Those funds may be spent over multiple years under their respective spending plans.

A draft audit report is expected in November or December, with the final report anticipated for board consideration in December.

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Capital One workshop gives Santa Monica teens a hands-on lesson in managing money

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

With only 24% of U.S. teens possessing basic financial knowledge, a free workshop at the Capital One Café here set out to close that gap one imaginary budget at a time, pairing teenagers with their parents to practice the everyday decisions that shape a lifetime of money habits.

The interactive session, “Co-Piloting Financial Freedom,” brought families together Sept. 5 to spend, save and split a pretend monthly budget using real-world scenarios. The event, open to anyone regardless of where they bank, ran in two sittings, from 11 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 2 p.m.

At the center of the experience was a budgeting exercise built around a simple, repeatable rule of thumb. “During the budgeting exercise, parents and teens were challenged to successfully balance a \$200 budget, using the Three S’s framework (Save, Spend, Split), while navigating an ‘unexpected expense,’” said Matt Bosserman, vice president of retail experiences at Capital One.

Each teen worked from a board listing three to five types of expenses and their costs across the save, spend and split categories. After choosing two expenses from each category, participants were hit with a surprise cost — a \$10 fee to replace a lost student ID, for example — meant to mimic the financial curveballs of daily life. Teens filled out a worksheet to reflect on their choices, while parents followed a guide that helped them assess their child’s approach and offer constructive feedback, along with prompts to keep the conversation going.

For many teens, the surprise expense was the moment the lesson landed. Bosserman said the most common “aha” moments centered on budgeting trade-offs and handling real-world financial surprises, with a major realization coming when students grasped that “unexpected costs can happen at any time.” Families leaned in, he said, proposing their own emergency scenarios to guide practical conversations about balancing a budget when the unexpected strikes.

Teens also discovered the power of small, deliberate choices. They learned that making minor adjustments across one or two budget categories each month could free up money for larger, longer-term goals. Parents, meanwhile,

reported that the realistic scenarios gave their children a concrete sense of how money works and a noticeable boost in confidence.

Bosserman said the concepts were designed to travel beyond any single bank’s customers. Families “walked away with a better understanding of how to be more budget-minded,” he said, pointing to a lesson as ordinary as a night at the movies. The exercise showed, for example, how spending \$25 on movies in a given week or month can limit the ability to take part in other activities down the road.

Just as important, he said, parents left with a better sense of how to keep the financial literacy conversation alive — and how to frame it. They were given language meant to validate and encourage their teens rather than critique them, an approach aimed at building a strong financial foundation over time.

The crowd reflected a mix of the bank’s existing customers and newcomers. “We welcomed a balanced combination of regular, existing Capital One customers as well as new families visiting the Café from the wider community,” Bosserman said.

The workshop doubled as an introduction to products aimed at younger customers, including the company’s 360 Checking and MONEY Teen Checking accounts, which pair digital tools for teens with resources parents can use to reinforce good habits.

Bosserman signaled that more events like it are likely. “We’re always looking to host interactive events like our Co-Piloting Financial Freedom workshop,” he said. “Part of the Café experience centers on giving everyone opportunities to grow their financial skills and knowledge.”

That programming extends well beyond budgeting lessons. Each café location offers a local calendar that can include financial literacy workshops, fireside chats with financial experts, meet-and-greets with local leaders, reservable spaces for account holders 18 and older, and lighter fare such as movie nights, yoga and painting parties.

For the families who came to the Santa Monica café Sept. 5, though, the takeaway was more elementary: a first, low-pressure rehearsal for the real financial decisions still to come.

maaz@smdp.com



Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 72.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 65.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 73.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 65.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2026/09/21	Mon	01:19 AM	0.50	L
2026/09/21	Mon	08:12 AM	4.03	H
2026/09/21	Mon	12:54 PM	2.84	L
2026/09/21	Mon	6:44 PM	5.08	H
2026/09/22	Tue	01:49 AM	0.31	L
2026/09/22	Tue	08:23 AM	4.26	H
2026/09/22	Tue	1:28 PM	2.38	L
2026/09/22	Tue	7:25 PM	5.35	H
2026/09/23	Wed	02:14 AM	0.20	L
2026/09/23	Wed	08:37 AM	4.54	H
2026/09/23	Wed	2:01 PM	1.90	L
2026/09/23	Wed	8:01 PM	5.51	H
2026/09/24	Thu	02:38 AM	0.19	L
2026/09/24	Thu	08:54 AM	4.88	H
2026/09/24	Thu	2:34 PM	1.41	L
2026/09/24	Thu	8:37 PM	5.55	H
2026/09/25	Fri	03:01 AM	0.28	L
2026/09/25	Fri	09:13 AM	5.24	H
2026/09/25	Fri	3:09 PM	0.95	L
2026/09/25	Fri	9:13 PM	5.46	H
2026/09/26	Sat	03:25 AM	0.48	L
2026/09/26	Sat	09:35 AM	5.59	H
2026/09/26	Sat	3:47 PM	0.54	L
2026/09/26	Sat	9:51 PM	5.21	H
2026/09/27	Sun	03:49 AM	0.79	L
2026/09/27	Sun	10:00 AM	5.89	H
2026/09/27	Sun	4:28 PM	0.23	L
2026/09/27	Sun	10:33 PM	4.82	H
2026/09/28	Mon	04:15 AM	1.19	L
2026/09/28	Mon	10:29 AM	6.09	H
2026/09/28	Mon	5:13 PM	0.06	L
2026/09/28	Mon	11:21 PM	4.32	H
2026/09/29	Tue	04:41 AM	1.64	L
2026/09/29	Tue	11:01 AM	6.16	H
2026/09/29	Tue	6:05 PM	0.05	L
2026/09/30	Wed	12:20 AM	3.77	H
2026/09/30	Wed	05:09 AM	2.11	L
2026/09/30	Wed	11:40 AM	6.08	H



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 Draw Date: 9/16 2 21 24 25 64 Power#: 7 Jackpot: 298 M	 Draw Date: 9/17 3 9 11 16 19
 Draw Date: 9/15 27 36 43 57 58 Mega#: 16 Jackpot: 244 M	 Draw Date: 9/17 EVENING: 8 7 0 Draw Date: 9/17 MIDDAY: 6 4 9
 Draw Date: 9/16 26 28 33 35 41 Mega#: 16 Jackpot: 56 M	 Draw Date: 9/17 1st: 01 - Gold Rush 2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms 3rd: 05 - California Classic Race Time: 1:43.16

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Name change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00412. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Laura Elizabeth Young for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Laura Elizabeth Young filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Laura Elizabeth Young to Laura Elizabeth Montari-Young. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 2026-10-16, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 2026-08-24. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 09/21/2026, 09/28/2026, 10/05/2026, 10/12/2026

Name change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00439. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica 90401. Petition of Monte Kyle Kevin Field for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Monte Kyle Kevin Field filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Monte Kyle Kevin Field to Monte Kyle Kevin Grix. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 10/23/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 09/08/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 09/19/2026, 09/26/2026, 10/03/2026, 10/10/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00431. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Yiyun Kang for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Yiyun Kang filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Yiyun Kang to Ariel Liu. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 10/23/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 09/01/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 09/14/2026, 09/21/2026, 09/28/2026, 10/05/2026

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California’s future water supplies depend on the outcomes of four intertwined battles



Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

IRRIGATION: A row of sprinklers water a field of farmland outside of Mendota on March 3, 2023.

Since the earliest years of its history, California has been a political battlefield over divvying up the state’s water. The intensity of the multisided conflict, like water itself, ebbs and flows.

By happenstance, this is one of the more intense and climactic periods in the eternal competition over water. It’s driven by uncertainty over the effects of climate change on precipitation and by looming decisions on how to cope with those effects.

What happens on four intertwined fronts in the near future will determine how water will be managed and allocated in the coming decades. In no particular order:

COLORADO RIVER

Decades of conflict over allocating Colorado River water, involving not only California but other Western states, are coming to a head. Runoff from snow in the Rocky Mountains has been declining, and the two major reservoirs on the Colorado, Lakes Mead and Powell, have been shrinking and rapidly approaching operational failure. Federal authorities have been pressing the states involved to agree on how the shortages should be managed, but it’s been a stalemate.

California is less dependent than

Nevada and Arizona, which rely on the Colorado to serve their fast-growing urban centers. When the Bureau of Reclamation imposed some temporary operational rules recently, Nevada sued and Arizona is threatening to follow.

SITES RESERVOIR PROJECT

An off-stream reservoir on the west side of the Sacramento Valley to capture and store water during years of high precipitation has been proposed for decades. But with projections of decreased snowpacks due to climate change, the project, called Sites, has gained momentum in recent years.

Gov. Gavin Newsom wants to nail down the project before leaving office in four months. Last week, the administration’s Water Resources Control Board issued a draft water rights decision for Sites. The project needs permission to draw water from the Sacramento River before it can secure financing for the 1.5-million-acre-foot reservoir.

DELTA TUNNEL PROJECT

Newsom also wants to pin down another major project — a tunnel that would carry Sacramento River water

SEE GUEST COMMENTARY PAGE 8

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

From slavery to riches: A founding mother of Black Los Angeles finally gets her due

Earlier this month, the L.A. City Council voted to rename Pershing Square in honor of the often-overlooked founding mother of Black Los Angeles, Biddy Mason, who broke free from slavery and built a real estate empire before her death in 1891.

As the author of the first scholarly biography of Mason, I applaud the decision. Mason's story is also the story of Los Angeles' transformation from a slaveholding backwater to the modern metropolis we know today.

The decision to recast Pershing Square as Biddy Mason Park restores her to the heart of the city she helped build.

Born into bondage in Georgia in 1818, Mason survived one of the longest forced migrations in American history: first to Mississippi, then to Utah, and finally to the slaveholding colony of San Bernardino by 1851. She walked nearly that entire distance, a total of 3,000 miles or roughly 6 million steps.

Mason was one of hundreds of Black people hauled into California by white Southerners over the preceding half-decade.

Despite California's constitutional ban on slavery, Mason and others continued to labor in bondage. In San Bernardino, Mason worked her slaveholder's wheat fields, tended to his cattle, and delivered babies throughout the colony (while her enslaver collected her fees).

Black freedom-seekers sometimes sued for their emancipation, but lost nearly every case they tried. That is, until Mason and her allies were able to bring their case to trial in January 1856.

The presiding judge, Benjamin Hayes, was a former slaveholder who "appreciate[d] the kindly attachment that grows up between master and slave."

State law prohibited Mason from testifying against her enslaver, or any other white person. Yet when Judge Hayes interviewed her privately — a legal workaround to the ban on Black testimony — Mason's story convinced him to declare Mason, her three daughters and 10 other women and children "free forever."

The decision, on January 19, 1856, was the largest legal emancipation in the history of the American West and inspired other enslaved Black Californians to seek their freedom as well.

Mason began her post-emancipation career as a domestic worker, earning barely enough to sustain her family. Her prospects improved when John S. Griffin, one of the few doctors in the city, hired her as a nurse and midwife — skills she had honed over decades as an enslaved healer. She would go on to deliver hundreds of babies, including children of some of the city's most prominent citizens.

Mason channeled her modest savings into Los Angeles real estate. She purchased her first property at the southern fringes of the city, along Spring Street between 3rd

and 4th.

After a fire demolished the buildings she had erected there, she redeveloped the land, transforming the "Mason Block" into one of the most fashionable commercial properties in Los Angeles. Mason's Spring Street development made her into the 19th-century equivalent of a multi-millionaire.

During my research, I discovered that Mason owned another substantial plot of land to the southwest. In 1868, she purchased a site bordered by Olive, Grand, 6th, and 7th. Her extended family held multiple additional properties nearby, concentrated along Olive Street. The area around the square that now bears Mason's name was Black-owned.

Yet it's not what she accumulated, but rather what she gave away, that makes Mason so remarkable.

In 1869, she co-founded the First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles, the first Black church in Southern California, which now has a membership of nearly 20,000. She also bankrolled the first Black school in Los Angeles.

Thanks in large part to her pioneering work, Los Angeles boasted the highest proportion of Black homeowners of any American city by the early 20th century.

Mason's philanthropy knew no barriers. She visited prisoners, sheltered migrants and supplied victims of all backgrounds when floods overtook Los Angeles in 1884.

She provided medical care for Indigenous workers at a time when most Angelenos regarded Native Americans as disposable goods. And she rented her properties to Chinese businesses when other Los Angeles landlords blackballed Asian tenants.

But Mason remained largely unknown for more than a century.

Mason's memory endures in a splendid art installation: an 82-foot-concrete wall designed by artist Sheila Levrant de Bretteville at the site of Mason's former Spring Street homestead.

I visit often. Yet only rarely do I encounter anyone else at the site. Screened from street view, the memorial wall has become something of a metaphor for Mason's legacy writ large — inspiring yet sadly overlooked.

Rather than somehow diminishing the memorial, as some suggest, a renamed Pershing Square will bring much-needed attention to this hidden treasure of Spring Street. Together, the two sites will make visible the geography of early Black Los Angeles and the life of its principal architect.

By Kevin Waite. This commentary was adapted from an essay produced for Zócalo Public Square. Kevin Waite is a history professor at the University of Texas at Dallas and author of "The Boundless Biddy Mason: An Odyssey from Slavery to Freedom Across the American West."

GET IT DAILY...



City of
Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to the Downtown Community Plan (DCP) and Article 9 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code for Consistency with Existing State law and to Make other Minor changes, Corrections, and Clarifications

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to adopt amendments to the Downtown Community Plan (DCP) and Article 9 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code (Zoning Ordinance) for consistency with recent State law and to make other minor changes, corrections, and clarifications.

DATE/TIME: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT:

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

You may also comment in person at the City Council hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment in person.

Address your comments to:

City Clerk	
Re:	State Law Updates and Cleanups
VIA EMAIL:	councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL:	1685 Main Street, Room 102 Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please contact Rachel Kwok by e-mail at Rachel.Kwok@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 or (310) 917-6626 TDD at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Este es un aviso público sobre las nuevas regulaciones para desarrollos residenciales en Santa Mónica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov

COMMUNITY NEWS

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Santa Monica

Documentary ‘Beyond the Performance’ Follows Santa Monica Pier Street Performer

A new short documentary follows a young street performer through a day of shows on the Santa Monica Pier and his life beyond it.

“Beyond the Performance,” a 26-minute, 52-second film by director Valentine Di Marco, follows Jay, a 22-year-old street performer who has performed on the Santa Monica Pier since he was 18. The documentary spends a day with him, beginning with the performers’ spot lottery and following several shows on the Pier.

The film observes how Jay and his crew organize their performances, split their earnings and navigate the physical demands of the work. It later follows Jay to boxing training in Venice Beach, revealing another part of his life beyond the Pier.

The film is part of “What a Life,” an independent documentary series created and directed by Di Marco. The series explores the lives people build around the things that matter to them, using an observational approach rooted in everyday life. Most subjects are people Di Marco meets naturally, especially around Los Angeles, and each story develops through spending time with them rather than beginning with a predetermined narrative.

Filmed at the Santa Monica Pier and Venice Beach, “Beyond the Performance” is set for release Sept. 23, 2026.

More information is available at whatalifestories.com or on YouTube at [@whatalife.stories](https://www.youtube.com/@whatalife.stories).

SUBMITTED BY



Courtesy Image

FILM: Documentary “Beyond the Performance” follows a Santa Monica Pier street performer, releasing Sept. 23.

Los Angeles

Downtown LA Pair Charged with Possessing 42 Kilograms of Fentanyl, Small Alligator

A man and woman living in a luxury downtown Los Angeles apartment that investigators believe was a stash house have been arrested on allegations of possessing more than 42 kilograms of fentanyl, more than seven kilograms of cocaine, firearms, drug-making materials and a small alligator, the Justice Department announced.

Marvin Angelito, 27, and Susan Gonzalez, 26, were arrested Sept. 10 and charged with possession with intent to distribute fentanyl.

Both made their initial court appearances Monday in U.S. District Court in downtown Los Angeles. U.S. Magistrate Judge Karen L. Stevenson ordered Angelito detained and Gonzalez released on \$15,000 bond. Angelito’s arraignment is scheduled for Oct. 2 and Gonzalez’s for Oct. 9. No pleas were taken.

According to an affidavit filed with the complaint, the apartment was a known drug trafficking location. On Sept. 10, law enforcement executed a search warrant and seized about 42.6 kilograms (93.9 pounds) of fentanyl pills and powder, about one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of heroin and 7.2 kilograms (15.9 pounds) of cocaine, along with laboratory equipment including beakers, mixers, stirrers and torches, and a hydraulic press.

Officers also seized an AR-15 rifle with ammunition from a hallway closet, a gold-plated Desert Eagle .50-caliber pistol with ammunition from the kitchen counter, a police radio and a small alligator, which U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents took.

A criminal complaint contains only allegations, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty. If convicted, the defendants would face a statutory maximum sentence of life in federal prison.

The FBI New Haven Homeland Security Task Force, the FBI Los Angeles Regional Narcotics Suppression Program and the Drug Enforcement Administration are investigating. The case is part of the Homeland Security Task Force initiative established by Executive Order 14159. Assistant U.S. Attorney Lloyd Masson of the General Crimes Section is prosecuting.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunset Park

Juicy Ladies Opens New Santa Monica Location on Ocean Park Boulevard

Juicy Ladies, an organic cafe and juice bar, has opened its newest location at 2727 Ocean Park Blvd. in Santa Monica, bringing cold-pressed juices, specialty coffee and organic breakfast and lunch offerings to the Westside.

The Santa Monica location had been in development before the January 2025 Palisades Fire. Although the project was delayed after the fire, the cafe is now open.

“We are so grateful to open our doors in Santa Monica and become part of this incredible community,” said Magal Nagar, co-owner of Juicy Ladies. “This opening represents resilience, hope, and a true labor of love. We cannot wait to serve our neighbors, welcome familiar faces, and meet new members of the Westside community every day.”

The menu includes organic breakfast and lunch items such as acai bowls, protein-rich wraps, salads and entrees; cold-pressed juices and wellness shots; and specialty coffee and superfood drinks. The cafe offers dine-in and takeout.

Nagar said the team hopes to eventually return to its original Sunset Boulevard location in Pacific Palisades, which was disrupted by the fire. A reopening there depends on several factors, including the pace of neighborhood recovery, the return of local residents and businesses, insurance considerations and whether the customer base has sufficiently returned to support a sustainable reopening.

“Our hearts remain in Pacific Palisades,” Nagar said. “We miss our beautiful Sunset community immensely, and we sincerely hope to come back when the circumstances allow.”

Until then, the business invites former Palisades guests, Santa Monica neighbors and Westside visitors to the new cafe. Juicy Ladies is open daily at 2727 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica.

“We are so grateful to open our doors in Santa Monica and become part of this incredible community”

- Magal Nagar, co-owner of Juicy Ladies



Courtesy Image

SHOWTIME: Juicy Ladies opens organic cafe at 2727 Ocean Park Blvd. in Santa Monica after Palisades Fire delayed launch.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



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PACIFIC PALISADES

FROM PAGE 1

about the devastation of the fires," Bass said. "The pain it caused in the Palisades was felt across the city. That loss stays with me every single day."

The existing recreation center and surrounding park were severely damaged in the Palisades Fire. In April 2025, Steadfast LA, LA Strong Sports and the city formed a partnership to fund, redesign and rebuild the site. The groundbreaking follows the Aug. 15 reopening of Palisades Village, another visible milestone in a recovery that remains incomplete for many residents.

Park recalled visiting the area on Jan. 8, 2025, while the fire was still raging and seeing businesses, homes and much of the community already gone. "The Rec Center was always the heart of the Palisades," Park said. "Generations of kids played here. Families spent so many weekends here. Seeing this place on that day was heartbreaking, but today feels very different. Today, we are here to talk about what we are going to rebuild."

Park pointed to the reopening of Palisades Village, the return of schools and businesses and Friday night football at Palisades High School as signs of movement. "Everywhere I look, I see progress," she said.

The rebuilt 17-acre park and indoor recreation center, designed by Gensler and SWA Group, will include two indoor basketball courts, two indoor pickleball courts, an enlarged lobby and community rooms for parties, ceremonies and meetings.

Plans for the grounds call for a two-level playground built into the site's natural slope and connected by embankment slides, a new U10 soccer field, two lighted outdoor basketball courts and a central gathering area known as the Pali Hub. The design also includes terraced spectator seating, shaded seating pods, bocce courts, an enhanced Veterans Garden and improved access into

and out of the property.

For Redick and his wife, Chelsea, the project is personal. They co-founded LA Strong Sports with Charles and Jenna Jackson and Kylee Kilgore after the fires to help rebuild and expand sports and recreation facilities across Los Angeles. "The Pali Rec Center was a big part of why we chose to move here with our family," JJ and Chelsea Redick said in a statement. "We believe every community needs a place where individuals and families can play and compete, and rebuilding the Pali Rec Center is a big step for ours."

Caruso said the project reflects the principle behind Steadfast LA's recovery work. "When we formed Steadfast, we had a strong principle to live by, which is the comeback is always stronger than the setback," Caruso said. "Today represents that. The comeback here today means we'll have a better park, a more cohesive park with more facilities for kids and families, and more for seniors."

The collaboration has also involved Deputy Mayor of Strategic Partnerships Amanda Daflos, Recreation and Parks General Manager Jimmy Kim, project manager Freeman Group and Latham & Watkins, along with local organizations that helped shape the plans.

Andy Cohen, global co-chair of Gensler and a Steadfast LA board member, called the recreation center and park "the beating heart" of the community and said the goal was to honor that legacy while creating a place that will serve children and families for generations.

Bass said she hopes to return next year for the ribbon cutting. For a community still living with the physical and emotional consequences of the fire, this ceremony marked the moment one familiar piece of the Palisades moved from planning into construction.

michelle@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to improve deliveries to Southern California via the California Aqueduct. A conveyance of some kind has been proposed for more than 60 years but has never been able to clear political, legal and financial hurdles.

Advocates say the project would take pressure off the Delta, but it faces stiff opposition from environmental groups who contend it would worsen the Delta's environmental problems. Putting together a package of regulatory permission and financing from water agencies that would benefit has been a daunting, and so far elusive, goal.

IRRIGATION DIVERSIONS

While proposing the 45-mile-long tunnel to divert some Sacramento River water from flowing through the Delta, state water officials are simultaneously pressuring farmers to reduce their irrigation diversions to increase flows into

the Delta.

Supposedly, reductions would be voluntary, but the state is also working on mandatory cutbacks if not enough water is voluntarily offered. Last week, Westlands, the largest water district in the valley, pulled out of the voluntary negotiations, saying the state was moving toward coercion. If the state issues mandatory cutbacks, it would probably become a legal battle over whether the state can interfere with long-standing water rights.

The conflict is exacerbated by reductions in water farmers can draw from underground aquifers with wells. There are projections that reductions in water supply, could take as many as 900,000 acres of farmland out of production.

That possibility drove major agricultural interests to successfully press the Legislature last week to make it easier to remove farmland from open space preserves, to replace crops with solar power arrays.

By Dan Walters

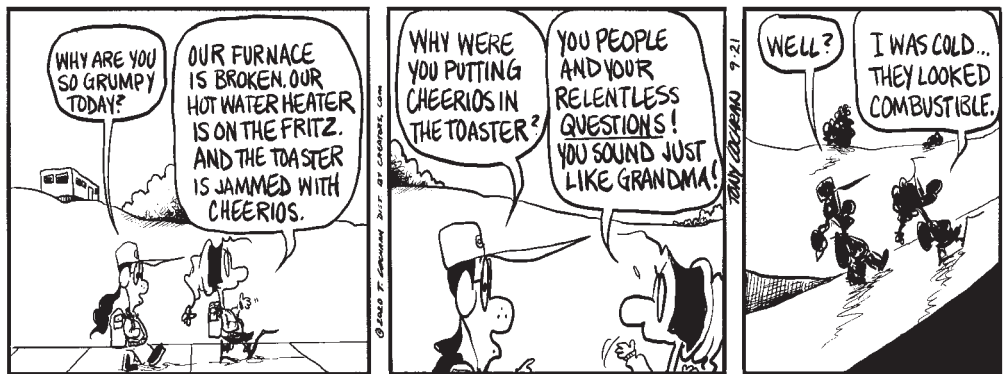
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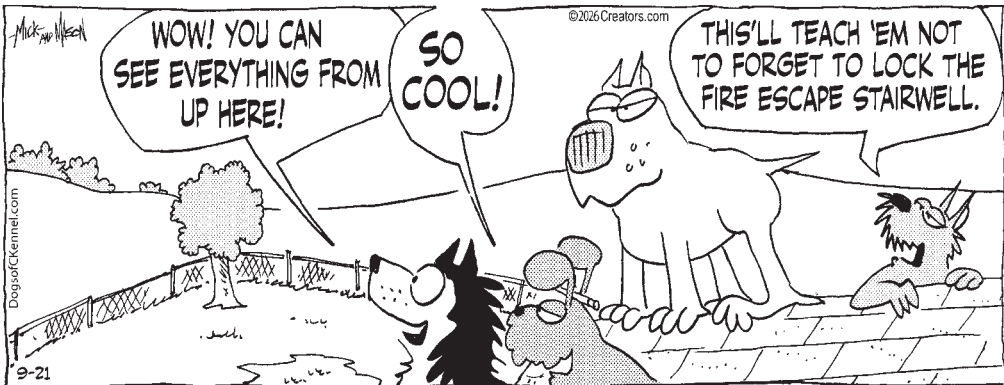
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



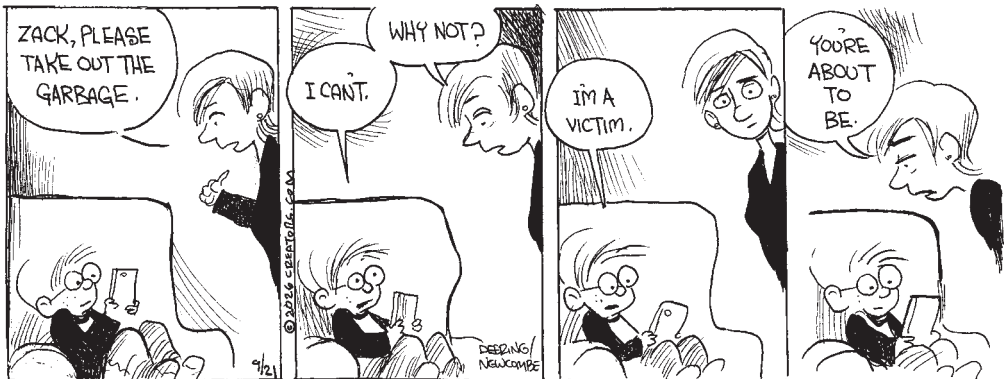
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



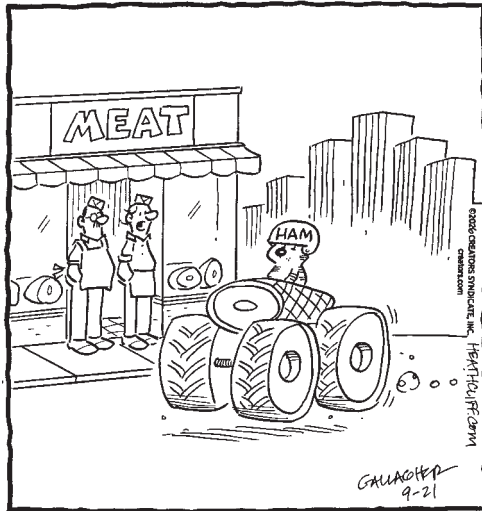
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 7070

Insect invasion

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

Aphids	Flea	Louse	Roach
Appendage	Fruit	Maggot	Scarab
Bite	Gnat	Midge	Species
Bugs	Grub	Minuscule	Thorax
Cercus	Hatch	Moth	Thrips
Cocoon	Head	Nest	Trap
Crops	Hive	Painful	Type
Disease	Honey	Pond skater	Walk
Earth	Indefatigable	Praying	Wasp
Eggs	Larva	mantis	
Entomologist	Legs	Pupa	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

A long tedious process

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 21)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Peace, to you, begins with saying the thing everyone has been circling. Someone has to be brave enough to name the problem, and that someone is you. You also take the first step toward repair. Direct conversation beats a cold war every time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When people are upset or tired, their needs can become rather basic. You demonstrate peace by providing those basics with the kind of care that makes life more livable. Maybe it's an extra chair, a full plate, a cooler room or just giving people the space they need for their temper to settle.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You help people get along by finding words that help each person understand the other. You might ask a smart question, share a fact, make a joke or look at the problem in a new way. Suddenly, everything gets easier to solve.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Peace is personal to you. You notice who has eaten, who has been left out and who needs a ride. Your instinct is to gather people under the same roof, or at least make sure everyone leaves with a piece of pie.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your peacekeeping gift is generous attention. You see who deserves credit, who needs to feel welcome and who has been sitting silently through the whole show. You prevent resentment before it starts. You invite everyone to the light.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You demonstrate peace through small acts of order. You return the call, find the missing detail, restock the thing everyone needs and make a plan people can follow. When you address the practical problem, much of the conflict dissolves.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your instinct is to get everyone a fair hearing, including (maybe especially) the person who is hardest to like. You sense when the terms are lopsided. You've a talent for helping people come to an agreement people can live with and still feel respected by.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You make peace by refusing a fake peace. If you think someone has a vibe with you, you'd rather invite them to talk it out than try to build a friendship over a sinkhole. Your honesty makes real repair possible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Peace looks like widened horizons to you. You point out the larger world, the stranger idea, the faraway place where people solve this sort of thing another way. Perspective restores proportion, humor and room to move.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Respect for others starts with self-respect. And part of the way you earn your own regard is to keep your word. It's also how you demonstrate peace. Schedules, budgets, clear rules -it's the reliability of these structures that let people relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Inclusion - you're all about it. You demonstrate peace by making room for the person who is outside the circle. You care about making the group fair. Your best contribution is a rule, idea or invitation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You demonstrate peace through mercy. The rough behavior of others is often covering up hurt, insecurity or fear. You're slow to take offense. You're too busy trying to see what's underneath. You change the conversation; they lower their guard.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Bath powder ingredient
- 5 Droop
- 8 ___ in time (right before the deadline)
- 12 Strong smell
- 13 Applaud
- 15 Our planet
- 16 Nothing, in Spanish
- 17 Italy's capital, in Italy
- 18 Have a heated discussion
- 19 Tool for whipping yolks and whites
- 21 Stockholm resident
- 22 Two-person playground plank
- 23 Wedding cake level
- 25 Strike with a palm
- 28 Sales staffers
- 32 Choose by voting
- 36 Swampy ground
- 38 Forbidden thing
- 39 Facts and figures
- 40 Dwelt (in)
- 41 "Treble" symbol on music
- 42 Tapped thing on a smartphone
- 43 Revered celebrity
- 44 Piece of paper
- 45 Voices above basses
- 47 Keyboarding mistake, for short
- 49 Small squares of butter
- 51 Puts into law
- 56 Found a sum
- 59 Tool for wine bottles
- 62 Gym's steam room
- 63 Creme-filled cookie
- 64 "That's funny!"

- 65 ___ circle (closest friends)
- 66 Walk through water
- 67 Hardly ___ (rarely)
- 68 Fortune-teller
- 69 ___ Angeles, CA
- 70 Appear to be

DOWN

- 1 Shades of color
- 2 Wise maxim
- 3 Inn for skiers
- 4 Lobster's cousins
- 5 Hard-to-read handwriting
- 6 Frequently, informally
- 7 Checkers or Monopoly
- 8 Tool for twisting off tight lids

- 9 Strong desire
- 10 Small earring
- 11 "My country, 'tis of ___"
- 14 Job for a performer
- 15 Art studio stand
- 20 Toward the sunrise
- 24 Topped, as cupcakes
- 26 In a group of
- 27 Turn on one foot
- 29 ___ model (person to emulate)
- 30 Leg joint
- 31 Cushiony
- 32 Modify, as a manuscript
- 33 Shoestring
- 34 Elite English prep school
- 35 Tool for metal tuna

KITCHEN DRAWER by Guilherme Gilioli
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- containers
- 37 Depend (on)
- 40 Shopper's handwritten paper
- 44 Boys in a family
- 46 Trooper's speed detector
- 48 Orange ___ (teas)
- 50 Garbage-filled barge
- 52 Has sore muscles
- 53 Desire strongly
- 54 Giggling sound
- 55 Bunch of bees
- 56 Without a warranty
- 57 Great ___ (large dog)
- 58 Sand hill
- 60 Spoken aloud
- 61 Decorate in a new style

1	2	3	4		5	6	7			8	9	10	11	
12					13			14		15				
16					17					18				
19				20						21				
22								23	24					
				25		26	27		28			29	30	31
32	33	34	35			36		37			38			
39					40						41			
42					43					44				
45				46			47		48					
			49			50			51		52	53	54	55
56	57	58				59	60	61						
62						63					64			
65						66					67			
68							69				70			

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



MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 21

MISHKON TEPHILO - YOM KIPPUR FAMILY SERVICE

10:00 a.m. - 11:20 a.m. 352 Westminster Ave Venice. A family-focused Yom Kippur service using music, song, and story to make the holiday meaningful for children and parents together. Description Family Services place our little ones at the heart of the experience. Through music, song, and story, we'll introduce the meaning of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in a way children can connect with and enjoy. This is not a drop-off but rather a whole-family experience that we hope will be meaningful for everyone. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mishkon-tephilo-yom-kippur-family-service/19903095/2026-09-21T10>

FALL EQUINOX YOGA & SOUND BATH

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Lifeguard Tower 26 2600 Ocean Front Walk Santa Monica. There is a particular kind of beauty in the beginning of fall. Summer carries an outward energy. Longer days. Vacations. Travel. Time outside. More spontaneity. We often do things in summer that we don't make room for during the rest of the year. And then September arrives. School has begun. Schedules return. The light starts to change. There is still plenty to do, but the energy feels different. We begin to settle in. For thousands of years, the autumn season has been connected to the harvest - gathering what has grown, enjoying the fruits of our labor and preserving what will nourish us through the colder months ahead. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/fall-equinox-yoga-sound-bath/19895918/2026-09-21T17>

HIGH HOLIDAYS AT THE BEACH

6:35 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Shul on the Beach 505 Ocean Front Walk Venice. High Holiday services at the beach with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur gatherings, meaningful prayer, and a warm community. Reserve seats and RSVP for dinner. Description Join Shul on the Beach for the High Holidays and experience meaningful services, inspiring prayer, and a warm, welcoming community as we celebrate Rosh Hashanah and observe Yom Kippur. Reserve your seats for High Holiday Services and RSVP for Rosh Hashanah Dinner today! \$150.00 to \$250.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/high-holidays-at-the-beach/19760156/2026-09-21T18>

LATE NIGHT HAPPY HOUR AT MARELLE - NIGHT CAP MENU

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Marelle at Sandbourne Santa Monica 1740 Ocean Ave Santa Monica. Marelle will be launching a late-night happy hour menu called 'Night Cap' starting Monday, April 6th. Guests can order from this menu exclusively at Marelle, bar and bar lounge only. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/late-night-happy-hour-at-marelle-night-cap-menu/18409321/2026-08-03T2>

TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 22

LADIES GOLF CLINIC

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Four Wood Golf 828 Pico Blvd,

Suite 5 Santa Monica. Join us every Tuesday from 9:30–11:00 AM for a relaxed, social golf experience designed for women of all skill levels. Whether you're picking up a club for the first time or looking to build confidence in your game, Matchas & Mulligans is all about learning, connecting, and having fun in a welcoming, pressure-free environment. Led by our in-house golf pros, you'll learn new skills each session. Blend of light instruction with a social atmosphere — the ladies' clinic is perfect for improving your skills while meeting like-minded golfers. \$60.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/ladies-golf-clinic/19572527/2026-09-15T09>

ACRYLIC/OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP TUESDAY

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Paint Lab 1453 14th St Santa Monica. A workshop for painters of any level to work on their own acrylic or oil projects with individual guidance from an instructor. In this workshop each student will work on their own project with guidance from an instructor. \$61.60. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/acrylic-oil-painting-workshop-tuesday/19429773/2026-09-22T13>

ELEMENTARY ART STUDIO 3:30-4:20PM

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Open to all skill levels, sparking creativity through drawing, color work, collage, and mixed-media techniques. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/elementary-art-studio-3-30-4-20pm/18825639/2026-09-15T15>

LA SINGLES - STAND UP LOVERS - MILLENNIALS AND GEN Z SPEED DATING

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. A millennial and Gen Z speed-dating event for singles who love stand-up comedy, offering a low-pressure way to meet in person. La Singles - Millennials and Gen Z - Meet someone amazing the modern way! \$0.00 to \$55.17. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/la-singles-stand-up-lovers-millennials-and-gen-z-speed-dating/19783864/2026-09-22T19>

AN EVENING WITH KE HUY QUAN

8:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. Bezdek Center for the Performing Arts at Cross Roads School 1736 22nd Street .Santa Monica. An evening with actor Ke Huy Quan discussing his memoir 'Never Say Die'. An Evening with Ke Huy Quan discussing his memoir, "Never Say Die". \$56.05 to \$67.07. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/an-evening-with-ke-huy-quan/19545960/2026-09-22T20>

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 23

COMMUNAL GARDENING @ ISHIHARA PARK

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Ishihara Park 2909 Exposition Blvd Santa Monica. A free drop-in community garden program where gardeners of all levels can learn hands-on skills and help tend a shared learning garden. Communal Garden Program Work Days @ Ishihara Park Learning Garden - Mondays and Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m. - 11:00

a.m. | Free Come get your hands dirty in the Communal Garden Program at Ishihara Park Learning Garden, a communal spot to learn and acquire gardening skills. Seasoned as well as new gardeners of all ages are welcome. Free drop in activity, no reservation needed. Visit the Ishihara Park Learning Garden site for More Information. Subject to cancellation due to weather. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/communal-gardening-ishihara-park/18461167/2026-09-23T09>

VIOLA FLORAL BLOOM BAR

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Third Street Promenade (between Arizona and Santa Monica Blvd). In partnership with Downtown Santa Monica, Viola Floral is hosting the Bloom Bar, an immersive workshop on the Third Street Promenade during the Santa Monica Farmers Market. Viola Floral will show participants how to create a gorgeous, seasonal hand-tied bouquet they can take home! Tickets are \$75 per person. All levels welcome. Please note: Tickets are transferable. Plan to arrive 10-15 minutes early. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/viola-floral-bloom-bar/19781347/2026-09-16T09>

MOBILE COMMUNITY MEDITATION CENTER - GUIDED MEDITATION

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Santa Monica. Please join Mobile Community Meditation Center aka Buddhist Boondockers Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10 am for a 45 minute fully guided mindfulness meditation - on the grass, under the shade of the trees, with a stunning view of the sparkling ocean. Whether you're new to meditation or a seasoned practitioner, everyone is welcomed. Bring your own chair or cushion and try to arrive 5 minutes early and be ready to enjoy a truly peaceful moment as we relax, be present and make new friends; giving ourselves the love and attention we deserve by quieting our minds, finding peace and creating community. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mobile-community-meditation-center-guided-meditation/19479748/2026-09-16T10>

LAUGH FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Wise and Healthy Aging 1527 4th Street Santa Monica. Kim Selbert, Certified Laughter Yoga Leader and Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist will facilitate this class. We all need more laughter in our lives, right? Through clapping, guided breathing and gentle movement with music, we will learn how to reduce stress, become more energetic and playful and connect positively with other seniors. It's easy, fun and very uplifting. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/laugh-for-the-health-of-it/19300395/2026-09-16T11>

JAZZ A GO GO AT LOULOU SANTA MONICA

7:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica Pl #300 Santa Monica. JAZZ A GO GO at LouLou Santa Monica- Every Wednesday · From 7 PM till late - Live Jazz that turns into a Vibe. Music you Feel. People you Meet. Amazing Food. Nights that Flow. JAZZ A GO GO (@jazzagogonight) by Loulou Santa Monica, Gilles

Signature & Gilles Los Angeles - curated by the creator of @jazzeclectica Every Wednesday · From 7 PM till late. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/jazz-a-go-go-at-loulou-santa-monica/18476815/2026-09-23T19>

THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 24

LOW IMPACT GROUP EXERCISE CLASS

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. American Legion Ronald Reagan - Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades. Power up your Thursday with our free, low-impact group exercise classes — open to all members of the Legion Family, designed for every fitness level, and held from 11:00am to 12:00pm at Palisades Post 283. Come move, recharge, and feel great heading into the rest of your day! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-09-17T11>

LOUNGE NIGHT

5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. American Legion Ronald Reagan - Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades. Monthly lounge night with appetizers and drink specials at American Legion Post 283. \$10 entry donated to veterans nonprofit. Join us in the bar lounge from 5 to 10 p.m. generally on the fourth Thursday of the month for appetizers, drink specials and great conversation! Please register so we know how much food to prepare. \$10 entry to the event will be donated to a veterans nonprofit effort. Food will be served from 6 to 7 p.m. while supplies last. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/lounge-night/18566930/2026-09-24T17>

NALU VIDA - LIVE JAZZ EVERY THURSDAY

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 352 Westminster Ave Venice. Open mic every Thursday 6p-8p Come on down to Hama. The world is waiting! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/nalu-vida-live-jazz-every-thursday/18526607/2026-09-17T18>

ANTIGONE: IN THE LANGUAGE OF KINGS

8:00 p.m. The Getty Villa 17985 E Pacific Coast Hwy Pacific Palisades. Set in the vibrant world of pre-conquest Tenochtitlan, Mexico, this powerful reimagining of a classic tragedy confronts themes of loyalty, familial duty, and the clash between divine law and state edict. Weaving in pre-Hispanic music and poetry, this timeless story brings Aztec mythology to life in a rich historical tapestry that resonates across cultures, pitting love and defiance against tyranny. Adapted from Sophocles by Evelina Fernández Directed by José Luis Valenzuela Co-produced by Latino Theater Company. \$30.00 to \$45.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/antigone-in-the-language-of-kings/19316057/2026-09-17T20>

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