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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Santa Monica approves 260-unit housing project after developer scraps 'Jenga' design



Courtesy image

PROJECT: The 8-story mixed-use development at 1907-1933 Wilshire Boulevard will include 26 affordable housing units and approximately 21,500 square feet of commercial space above four levels of underground parking.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Architectural Review Board unanimously approved a 260-unit housing development Monday, Sept. 15, after the developer hired a new architect and completely redesigned the project, abandoning what board members called a problematic 'Jenga blocks' concept.

The 8-story mixed-use development at 1907-1933 Wilshire Boulevard will include 26 affordable housing units and approximately 21,500 square feet of commercial space above four levels of underground parking. The project represents one of the largest residential developments to gain approval in the city's Mixed-Use Boulevard district this year.

The developer, US 1931 Wilshire Owner LLC, was forced to return to the drawing board after the board rejected the original design in December 2024. Board members had criticized the initial proposal's block-like appearance, lack of street connectivity, and poor integration with surrounding buildings.

"I think the Jenga concept was for me very disconcerting — one of the most difficult proposals we've seen to kind of unravel," said Board member Kevin Daly during Monday's meeting. "I appreciate the way this has been taken on."

The revised design replaces the angular 'Jenga' aesthetic with a more traditional approach featuring gridded windows, projecting frames, and recessed upper floors clad in darker materials to reduce visual bulk. The new plan also

SEE **PROJECT** PAGE 11

Santa Monica Housing Pilot Program reaches capacity within days, planning commission seeks extension

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

A pilot program designed to jumpstart stalled housing construction in Santa Monica reached its 1,000-unit capacity within two days of launch, prompting city planners to seek an extension of the innovative initiative that offers developers unprecedented flexibility in meeting affordable housing requirements.

Six applications totaling 988 units were submitted immediately after the Off-Site Affordable Housing Pilot Program took effect on Aug.

SEE **HOUSING** PAGE 4

Two district schools place in top percentiles nationally while district ranks among California's best

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Two high schools in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District have earned spots among the nation's top-performing schools in separate national ranking reports released recently, with both schools showing significant improvement from the previous year.

Santa Monica High School placed 777th nationally, earning a spot in the top 5% of nearly 18,000 public schools evaluated by U.S. News & World Report's 2025 Best

SEE **RANKS** PAGE 6



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ABC ends Jimmy Kimmel's suspension and his show will return Tuesday

ABC will reinstate Jimmy Kimmel's late night show in the wake of criticism over his comments about the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, officials with the network said Monday.

"We have spent the last days having thoughtful conversations with Jimmy, and after those conversations, we reached the decision to return the show on Tuesday," said a statement from the network.

ABC suspended Kimmel indefinitely after comments he made about Kirk, who was killed Sept. 10, in a monologue. Kimmel said "many in MAGA land are working very hard to capitalize on the murder of Charlie Kirk" and that "the MAGA gang" was "desperately trying to characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them."

Kimmel has hosted "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" on ABC since 2003 and has been a fixture in television and comedy for even longer. He is also well known as a presenter, having hosted the Academy Awards four times.

Backlash to Kimmel's comments about Kirk was swift. Nexstar and Sinclair, two of ABC's largest affiliate owners, said they would be pulling "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" from their stations. Others, including several fellow comedians, came to his defense.

There was no immediate comment from Nexstar and Sinclair in response to messages from The Associated Press.

Andrew Kolvert, a spokesperson for Turning Point USA, the organization founded by Kirk and now headed by his widow, posted on X about Kimmel's reinstatement: "Disney and ABC caving and allowing Kimmel back on the air is not surprising, but it's their mistake to make. Nexstar and Sinclair do not have to make the same choice."

President Donald Trump, one of Kimmel's frequent targets, posted on social media that Kimmel's suspension was "great news for America." He also called for other late night hosts to be fired.

Kimmel was asked in an interview with Variety this past summer if he was worried that the administration would come after comedians. He expressed concern that a crackdown could be on the way.

"Well, you'd have to be naive not to worry a little bit," he said. "But that can't change what you're doing."

Kimmel's suspension arrived in a time when Trump and his administration have pursued threats, lawsuits and federal government pressure to try to exert more control over the media industry. Trump has reached settlements with ABC and CBS over their coverage.

Trump has also filed defamation lawsuits against The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times. Republicans in Congress stripped federal funding from NPR and PBS.

Brendan Carr, the head of the Federal Communications Commission, issued a warning prior to Kimmel's suspension that criticized Kimmel's remarks about the Kirk assassination.

"We can do this the easy way or the hard way," Carr said. "These companies can find ways to change conduct, to take action, frankly, on Kimmel, or there is going to be additional work for the FCC ahead."

Carr denied on Monday that he threatened to revoke ABC's local station licenses because of Kimmel's remarks.

"Jimmy Kimmel is in the situation he's in because of his ratings. Not because of anything that's happened at the federal government level," Carr said at the Concordia Annual Summit.

The suspension also happened at a time when the late night landscape is shifting. CBS announced the cancellation of Stephen Colbert's show over the summer

Kimmel's contract with The Walt Disney Co.-owned network had been set to expire in May 2026.

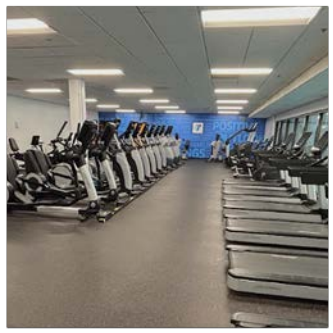
Word of the reinstatement came as hundreds of Hollywood and Broadway stars — including Robert De Niro, Ben Affleck, Jennifer Aniston, Selena Gomez, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep — urged Americans "fight to defend and preserve our constitutionally protected rights" in the wake of Jimmy Kimmel's suspension.

More than 430 movie, TV and stage stars as well as comedians, directors and writers added their names to an open letter Monday from the American Civil Liberties Union that argues it is "a dark moment for freedom of speech in our nation."

Also Monday, ABC's "The View" weighed in on the controversy after not raising it for two episodes after Kimmel was suspended. Co-host Whoopi Goldberg opened the show saying: "No one silences us" and she and her fellow hosts condemned Disney's decision.

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer. Associated Press Media Writer David Bauder and writers Patrick Whittle and James Pollard contributed to this report.

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OPINION **UNMUTED**

Devan Sipher

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

911

Everything seems mostly the same. We rise each day. We praise the pristine weather in Santa Monica (or perhaps take it for granted). We work. We snack. We binge watch "The White Lotus." And we act as if everything's normal.

It's not normal to have armed soldiers on our nation's streets. It's not normal to cheer the assassinations of fellow citizens. And it's not normal for the President to vow vengeance on half of the country.

Even if it were possible to whistle past the grave national news and keep our eyes on our shimmering horizon, we couldn't avoid the tempestuous waves reaching our shore. Because it's also not normal for one of the wealthier communities in the world to be on the brink of bankruptcy.

Recently, Santa Monica announced "fiscal distress." The mayor requested the word "emergency" be deleted from the official municipal resolution, since it would trigger legal repercussions. City Manager Oliver Chi apologized for the word choice, but regardless of whether we call the resolution an emergency or merely a "crisis," it's a dire declaration.

However, it shouldn't be a surprising one, because we've been warned for some time of the fiscal disaster caused by the perfect storm of COVID after effects, disrupted retail, and the hundreds of millions of dollars in child molestation lawsuits. We've been partially living off our savings for years, as if everything will be fine. What Chi did with the resolution was send up a flare, saying things are not fine. Things are a little scary.

When people are scared, the first impulse is often to look for someone to blame, and some are holding the Council accountable. There's no question that council members make mistakes, but they also make less than minimum wage and are expected to understand the intricate details of everything from zoning ordinances to wastewater management. I'm as guilty as anyone of sometimes holding them to impossibly high standards, but none of them were even elected when these problems originated.

Other residents are pointing fingers at Chi and accusing him of destabilizing the situation. There have been a slew of resignations since his recent arrival, most notably from the trusted police chief, Ramón Batista, which has alarmed and agitated many in the community. Batista's leaked resignation letter implied demands had been made of him that violated "the letter of the law," which has left a shadow over the administration. But if Batista truly believed there was any malfeasance, as a by-the-book lawman, he would have been obligated to initiate an investigation, and he has not.

Meanwhile, Chi has been clear about his goals and accountable for his actions. "Each decision—from the appointment of new organizational leaders to the recognition of budgetary challenges—has been intentional," he stated in an email last week to city staff, which outlined his upcoming plan of action, focusing on public safety, clean streets, business development, affordable housing, and staff unity. He described a "period of realignment that will allow us to stabilize our organization and strengthen Santa Monica."

Whether or not he can accomplish his ambitious objectives remains to be seen, but with the federal government acting more like an adversary than a partner and the drastic drop in international tourism, there seems good reason for giving him some leeway. I'm not saying give him a free pass. With the city at a nadir, we need to be vigilant, but that's different than being paranoid.

We're living at a time when too many people believe they're victims, or at least believe someone is victimizing them, which becomes an excuse to lash out. To say things that shouldn't be said. Or maybe even to pull a trigger.

Last week was also the anniversary of 9/11, a day that proved we're not the only people prone to attacking those we blame for our problems. I remember standing on Fifth Avenue, gaping at the flaming chasm in the north tower only minutes before the building disintegrated. But the extraordinary thing about 9/11 is that although it was one of the worst days in American history, there was also something hopeful about it. We united in our grief—and in our determination to rebuild.

Can we do that today in Santa Monica? Can we use a lesser catastrophe as the catalyst to rise above grievances and focus on helping one another?

"No outside organization can solve the crises we face," Chi also wrote in his email. "Only we can rebuild our local economy, restore safety and trust in our community." He was speaking to city staff, but he could be speaking to all of us. We can't pretend things are normal. They're not. But we can resolve to fix them.

Devan Sipher can be reached at Unmuted.SMDP@gmail.com

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com



Weather

Tuesday: Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 77. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. Light west wind becoming west southwest 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 65.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2025/09/23	Tue	04:18 AM	1.13		L
2025/09/23	Tue	10:30 AM	5.47		H
2025/09/23	Tue	4:58 PM	0.70		L
2025/09/23	Tue	11:00 PM	4.45		H
2025/09/24	Wed	04:37 AM	1.57		L
2025/09/24	Wed	10:51 AM	5.45		H
2025/09/24	Wed	5:36 PM	0.73		L
2025/09/24	Wed	11:40 PM	3.97		H
2025/09/25	Thu	04:53 AM	2.01		L
2025/09/25	Thu	11:13 AM	5.35		H
2025/09/25	Thu	6:18 PM	0.86		L
2025/09/26	Fri	12:28 AM	3.48		H
2025/09/26	Fri	05:05 AM	2.40		L
2025/09/26	Fri	11:37 AM	5.18		H
2025/09/26	Fri	7:08 PM	1.07		L
2025/09/27	Sat	01:39 AM	3.05		H
2025/09/27	Sat	05:05 AM	2.74		L
2025/09/27	Sat	12:06 PM	4.95		H
2025/09/27	Sat	8:20 PM	1.26		L
2025/09/28	Sun	12:49 PM	4.69		H
2025/09/28	Sun	10:12 PM	1.25		L
2025/09/29	Mon	2:19 PM	4.46		H
2025/09/29	Mon	11:36 PM	0.97		L
2025/09/30	Tue	4:23 PM	4.53		H
2025/10/01	Wed	12:25 AM	0.62		L
2025/10/01	Wed	07:48 AM	3.87		H
2025/10/01	Wed	11:58 AM	3.24		L
2025/10/01	Wed	5:38 PM	4.85		H
2025/10/02	Thu	01:02 AM	0.31		L
2025/10/02	Thu	07:51 AM	4.15		H
2025/10/02	Thu	12:43 PM	2.69		L
2025/10/02	Thu	6:33 PM	5.20		H
2025/10/03	Fri	01:33 AM	0.09		L
2025/10/03	Fri	08:04 AM	4.52		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: 9/20
15 29 64 66 67
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 113 M

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 9/21
9 18 19 24 30

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 9/19
2 22 27 42 58
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 451 M

Daily 3
Draw Date: 9/21
EVENING: 6 2 7
Draw Date: 9/21
MIDDAY: 7 8 5

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 9/20
7 19 20 21 23
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 45 M

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 9/21
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:44.42

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 08/6/25 202516151The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Plot Luck 2000 Main St #310 Santa Monica, CA 90405 . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Brian Williamson 2000 Main St #310 Santa Monica, CA 90405 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CAThis is Business is Conducted: An Individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A Registrant / Corp/LLC Brian Williamson Title: Owner Brian Williamson . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 08/6/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

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City of Santa Monica

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

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COMMUNITY NEWS

MDR

Community Open House to Shape Marina del Rey's Future

The Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors is hosting a free community open house Saturday, Sept. 27, to gather input on making Marina del Rey more welcoming and accessible to all residents.

The Marina del Rey For All Community Open House will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Earvin "Magic" Johnson Recreation Center, 12645 Wadsworth Ave., Los Angeles.

The event is designed to give residents, particularly those from inland neighborhoods historically excluded from Marina planning, the opportunity to share ideas and help shape the future of Los Angeles' marina.

Attendees can explore interactive stations, speak with community partners and learn about programs and opportunities available at the marina. Residents will be asked to share ideas on creating a marina that reflects the county's diverse populations.

The open house will feature free food, children's activities and raffles. Prizes include vouchers for free WaterBus rides and a new iPad. Attendees can also win totes filled with beach essentials and exclusive Marina del Rey experiences from the Marina del Rey Tourism Board.

The Marina del Rey For All initiative is led by the Department of Beaches and Harbors with support from Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell. The program aims to ensure all county residents can enjoy the publicly owned marina land for recreation and family activities.

The Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors manages Marina del Rey harbor and 23 miles of beaches along the county coastline, including Zuma, Malibu Surfrider, Venice and Manhattan beaches. For more info, visit https://www.mdr4all.org/.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

HOUSING

FROM PAGE 1

10, according to Rachel Kwok, environmental planner, who presented program results to the Planning Commission on Sept. 17.

"We received six applications in about two days. One or two days after the program was adopted and so that pretty much capped us out," Kwok told commissioners. The applications included 916 market-rate units and 102 affordable units, with five developers choosing off-site options and one opting to pay in-lieu fees.

Building permits for multifamily units have plummeted despite strong project approval rates in the city. While Santa Monica has approved more than 3,400 market-rate projects and 900 affordable units through streamlined processes, most remain unbuilt due to financial challenges including volatile construction costs, high interest rates and difficult financing conditions.

The pilot offers developers three options for meeting affordable housing obligations: constructing affordable units off-site with $150,000 per unit in gap financing, rehabilitating existing uninhabitable units, or paying in-lieu fees of $43 per square foot for apartments and $51 for condominiums.

The program's most significant incentive is a "double density bonus" structure that allows market-rate projects to retain their original density bonuses while transferred affordable units contribute to additional bonuses for off-site 100% affordable projects. This represents what Commissioner Jim D. Ries called "a big give" that helps explain developer interest.

Off-site affordable units cannot include studios and must carry 75-year deed restrictions, compared to the standard 55-year requirement. Developers have 48 months to begin off-site construction, with a possible 12-month extension.

Planning commissioners expressed unanimous support for the program while emphasizing the need for careful monitoring. Commissioner Leslie Lambert praised the initiative, saying she supported it "100%" and called it evidence of "amazing leadership and creativity on the part of the city council and staff."

However, commissioners stressed the importance of treating it as a pilot rather than a permanent solution. Commissioner Shawn Landres noted the program works as a targeted tool, suggesting it should be extended through the current housing element period with regular progress reviews.

The program intentionally limits participation to projects approved before Aug. 12 that haven't yet received building permits, representing roughly 40 projects totaling about 4,000 units. New projects are excluded to maintain political viability.

Lambert raised concerns about protecting in-lieu fees from being diverted to pay city debt, as has happened with housing trust funds elsewhere. However, staff confirmed such protection isn't possible under current structures.

Staff will return to the City Council on Sept. 30 with feedback from affordable housing providers and recommendations on potential program amendments or extensions. The Planning Commission voted to send a letter supporting continuation, with Chair Hamilton and Commissioner Lambert appointed to draft recommendations incorporating moderate-rate housing expansion possibilities and emphasis on equitable geographic distribution.

The program includes geographic restrictions, with off-site affordable units prohibited in the Pico neighborhood due to existing policies preventing concentration of affordable housing in that area.

One developer was able to pool multiple projects, with five of the six applications coming from the same entity who consolidated affordable units into two off-site properties.

The program expires Sept. 30 unless extended by the council.

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LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com


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RANKS

FROM PAGE 1

High Schools rankings. Malibu High School ranked 2,009th nationally, placing it in the top 11% of schools nationwide.

The rankings represent substantial improvement for both schools compared to 2024, when Malibu High ranked 573rd nationally and Santa Monica High placed 850th.

"We are honored that our high schools have been recognized among the best in the nation by the 2025 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools rankings," said SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton. "This recognition reflects the dedication of our educators, staff and administrators in preparing students for success in higher education and future careers."

The U.S. News rankings evaluated schools based on six factors: college readiness, reading and math proficiency, reading and math performance, underserved student performance, college curriculum breadth and graduation rates.

At the state level, Malibu High ranked 276th and Santa Monica High placed 102nd out of 2,586 California high schools. Within Los Angeles County, Malibu High earned the 132nd position while Santa Monica High ranked 41st.

The district's success extended beyond individual school performance. In a separate ranking by national academic service Niche, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District ranked seventh among Los Angeles County school districts and 18th in California out of 490 districts statewide.

The Niche rankings, based on rigorous analysis of key statistics and millions of

> We are honored that our high schools have been recognized among the best in the nation by the 2025 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools rankings
>
> - Dr. Antonio Shelton, SMMUSD Superintendent

reviews from students and parents using U.S. Department of Education data, considered factors including state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates, SAT and ACT scores, and teacher quality.

"This recognition reflects the hard work of our students, the dedication of our staff, and the support of our families," Shelton said. "Together we have built a community that values academic excellence, creativity, and care for one another."

The district's teaching quality also received national recognition. Niche ranked SMMUSD 25th out of 743 California school districts as the best places to teach and 13th out of 674 for having the best teachers in the state.

Individual schools within the district performed strongly in the Niche evaluations as well. Santa Monica High School received an A+ rating and Malibu High School earned an A for their educational outcomes, a category that includes academic data such as SAT and ACT scores with special consideration for schools whose students attend highly-ranked colleges and universities.

Both high schools also received A ratings in academics, which encompasses proficiency in math and reading, graduation rates, and college enrollment rates. The comprehensive ranking formula also factors in facilities, safety, clubs, sports and other elements.

The district's middle schools—John Adams Middle School, Lincoln Middle School and SMASH—all received A or A+ grades from Niche, while all elementary schools in the district earned A+ or A ratings.

Both Santa Monica High and Malibu High maintain proficiency rates well above county and state averages and boast graduation rates in the mid-to-high 90th percentile range. The schools offer comprehensive college and career counseling, acclaimed visual and performing arts programs, and diverse academic curricula including Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM), Project-Based Learning, and Advanced Placement courses.

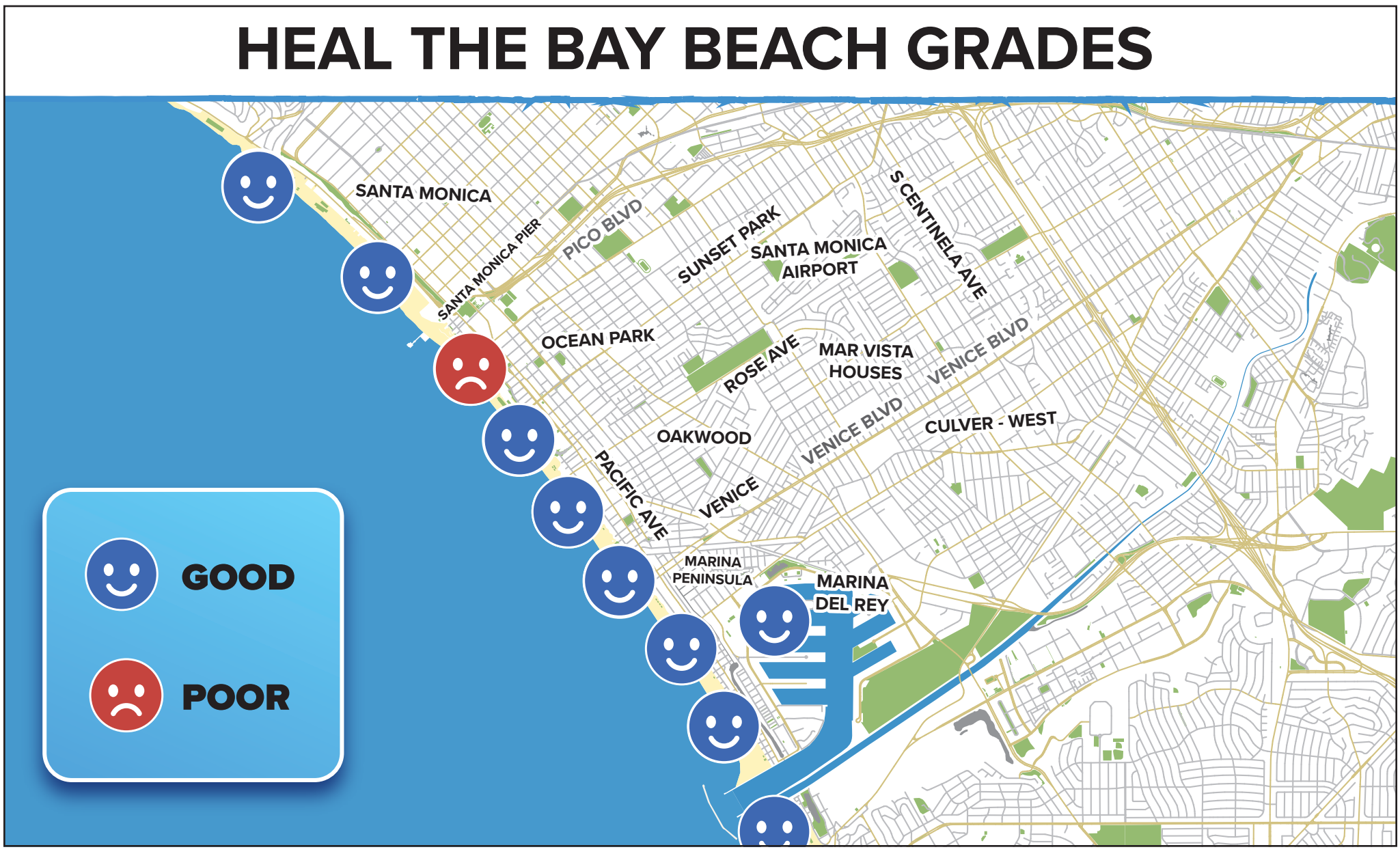
Santa Monica High also offers Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) programming, while both schools provide Career Technical Education opportunities.

> This recognition reflects the hard work of our students, the dedication of our staff, and the support of our families
>
> - Dr. Antonio Shelton, SMMUSD Superintendent

"As we celebrate this achievement, our focus remains on the future," Shelton said. "We will continue to remove barriers, cultivate belonging and curiosity, and empower every student to reach their highest potential."

The recognition comes as the district continues to serve students across Santa Monica and Malibu communities, with Olympic High School operating as an alternative school not included in these rankings.

maaz@smdp.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

Santa Monica College Plans Three Glass Pumpkin Sales to Support Art Programs

Santa Monica College will hold three glass pumpkin fundraising sales this fall to benefit the Art Department and community organizations.

The first sale will be held Saturday, Oct. 4, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Virginia Avenue Park during the Farmers Market Fall Festival. The park is located at 2200 Virginia Avenue at the corner of Pico and Cloverfield. Proceeds will benefit the SMC Art Department and Santa Monica Public Library Pico Branch.



Terri Bromberg

EVENT: SMC will hold three fundraising Glass Pumpkin Sales this fall.

The second sale is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the SMC Quad on the main campus at 1900 Pico Blvd. during the Fall Transfer Fair. Proceeds will support the SMC Art Department.

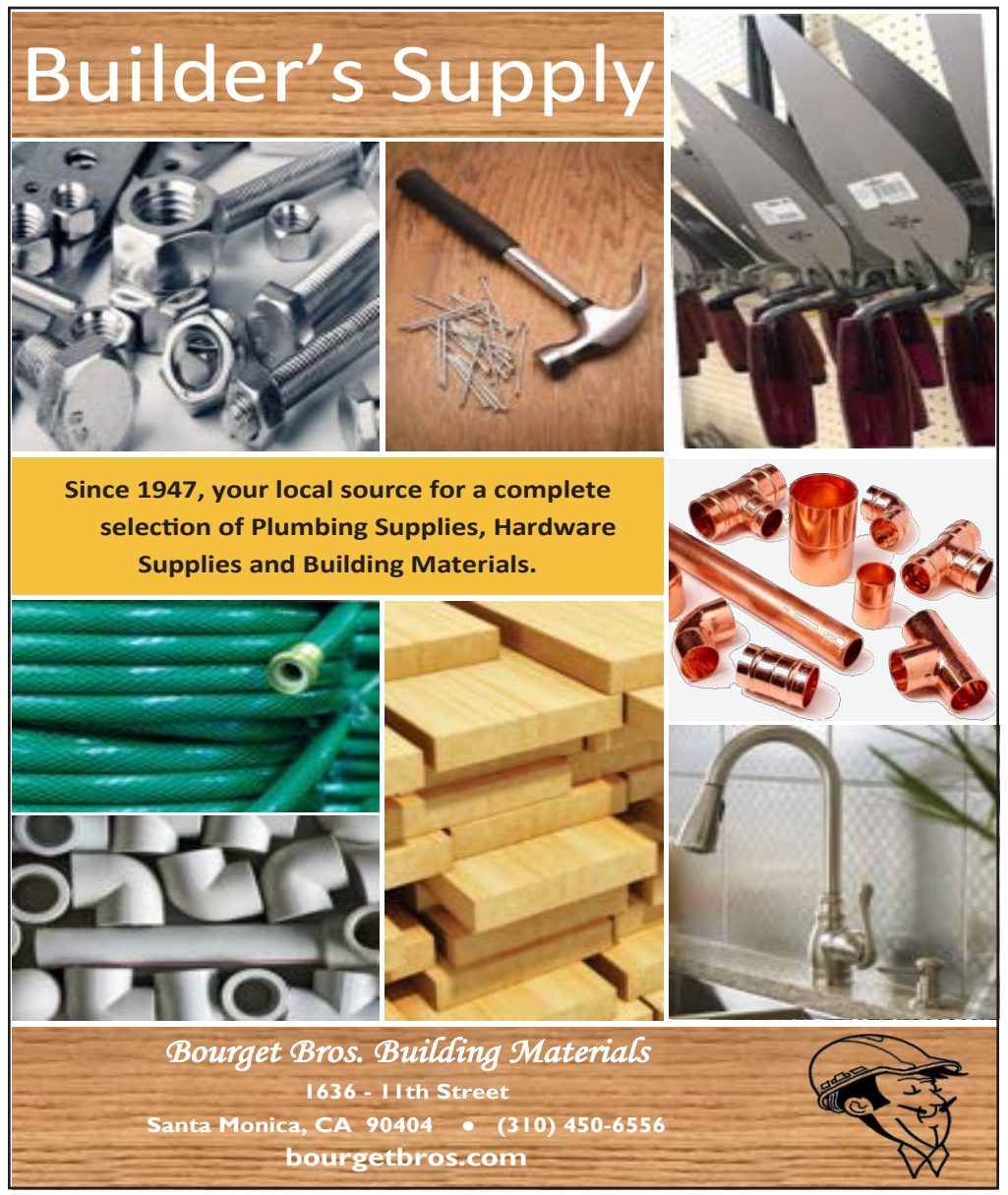
The third sale will take place Saturday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Palisades-Malibu YMCA's Simon Meadow at Temescal Gateway Park, located at 15601 Sunset Blvd. Proceeds will benefit the SMC Art Department, Palisades-Malibu YMCA and local artists.

The sales offer handcrafted glass pumpkins in various colors, styles and sizes. Each pumpkin is a unique work of art suitable for fall decorating and year-round gifts.

The Palisades-Malibu YMCA, established in 1844, is a community-focused nonprofit offering recreational programs and family activities for all ages.

For more information about the glass pumpkin sales, email Bromberg_Terri@smc.edu with "Glass Pumpkins" in the subject line. Information about the Mini Fall Festival is available at smgov.net/vap or by calling 310-458-8688. Details about Palisades-Malibu YMCA are available at ymcala.org/locations/palisades-malibu-ymca.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF





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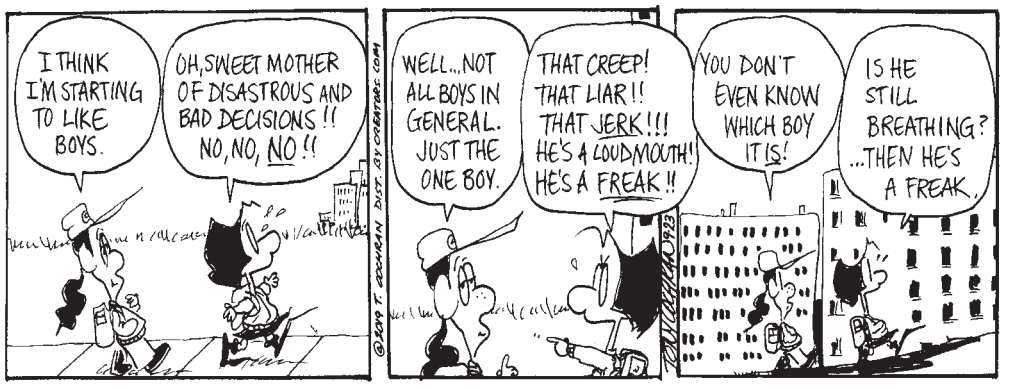
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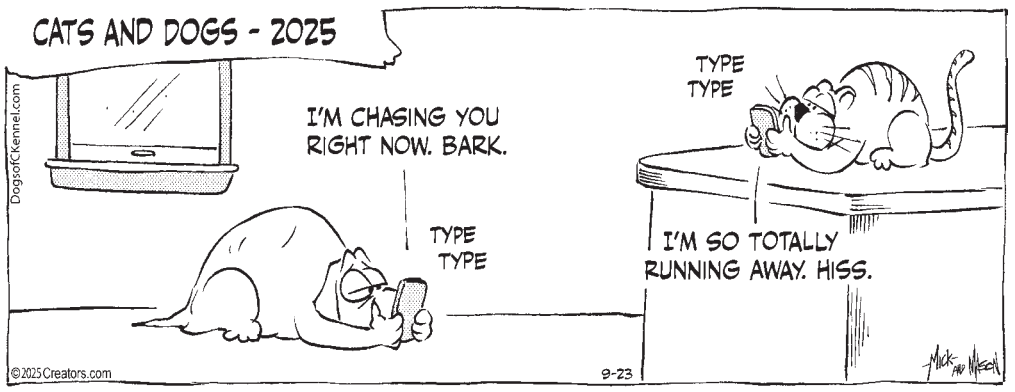
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



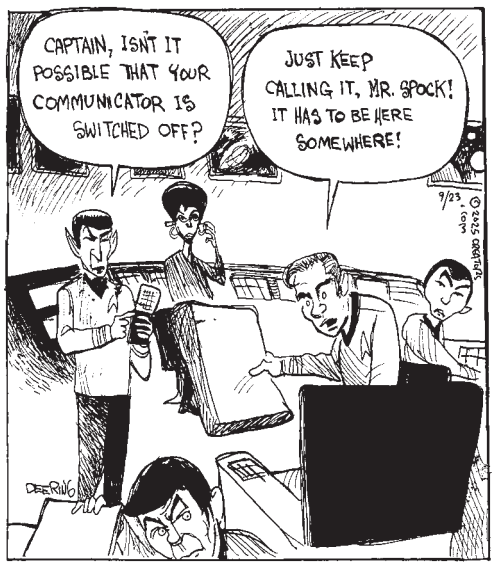
Heathcliff

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6707

Sixty years ago!

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

Aims	Dawn	Hope	Pix Magazine
Aldrin	Easy	Hunt	Playful
America	Elliott	Ideals	Rally
Askin	Events	Jobs	Roles
Benaud	Free	Johnny	Rose
Bodgie	Grow	O'Keefe	Seekers
Boom	Hair	Laver	Shake
Break	Happy	Love	Slang
Civil rights	Headband	Music	Success
Cool	Hippies	Nagle	Tunes
Court	Holt	Peace	Wigs

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 23)

Welcome to your Year of the Muse. You'll spark delight everywhere, inspiring others while becoming the artist of your own story. Your voice carries, your style commands, and your humor wins more than laughs. More highlights: an intoxicating romance, perfect timing on a property move, and entertainment that becomes opportunity. Sagittarius and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 12, 29, 33 and 50.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's a day to honor your inner disruptor. You're not a "rebel without a cause." Your purpose is as clear as your rebel heart is strong. You'll know exactly which rules to break, when to resist conformity and how to stir up the freedom energy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). With some people, when all is said and done, more is said than done. You know who fits the description, and you'll enjoy them for their conversation, but when you need results, like you do today, they won't make the list.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Decluttering narrows your options in the best way. With fewer distractions, you'll stay focused on the main goals. By clearing the noise, you'll avoid wasting energy deliberating over the things that, in the end, won't matter.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's the plight of many excellent leaders - much of what you do for the group goes unacknowledged. But "unacknowledged" doesn't mean unimportant. Keep going. It's about the work, and the credit might even be a detriment at this juncture.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). In relationships, too much of any one quality gets old. You prefer relationships that are like a meal with different flavors. A dash of sour (challenging), salty (direct), spicy (passionate) or bitter (realism) to keep things alive.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll question whether an obligation is real or self-imposed. Looking around, you'll notice how others handle the same thing. If you're doing more, ask yourself why. Your clarity about what's truly required will bring ease and freedom.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You will find yourself so focused on the work - and it's something necessary, fascinating and possibly fun - that you will be blissfully unaware of how others are experiencing you. They find you utterly extraordinary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Pushing for agreement can actually create tension or false harmony. Communities and relationships rarely thrive because everyone thinks alike. Let differences coexist. Others relax, drop defensiveness and reciprocate your respect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've a gift for synthesis today. Finding the link between different ideas and blending them will be your problem-solving trick. You'll take pieces that look unrelated and weave them into something cohesive, and even beautiful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People sense you like but don't need them, which will work well for you because it's an attractive look. Today, you hang back, wait and see or bow out gracefully until an offer gets sweeter.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Fresh experiences have your mind leaping into imagination. You're well aware of how the mind can also spin tales, overestimate, underestimate and distort reality. You're really good at using the gifts of creativity and recognizing the less helpful aspects.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be focused on one particular person and how to bring them happiness. Specific and personal kindness can be more powerful than a grand gesture or public display. A simple act will go straight to the heart.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

Newsday Crossword

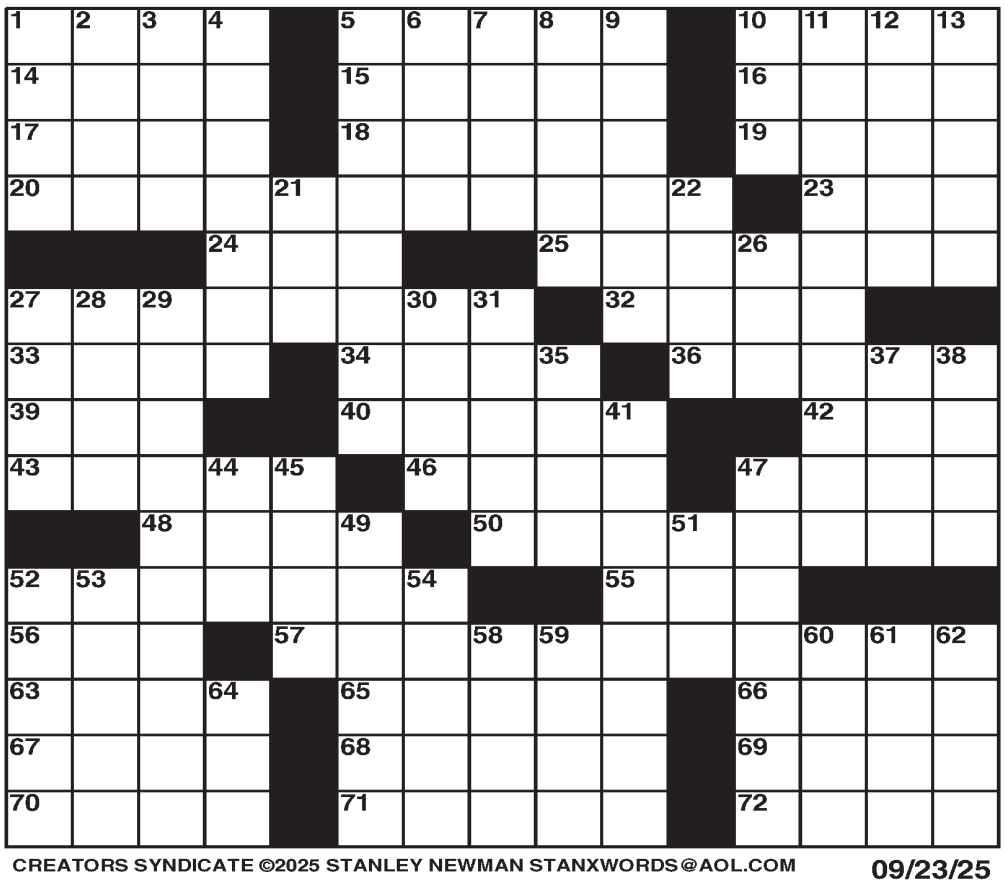
CARD QUARTET by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Papa Bear's partner
5 Easygoing personality
10 "Shoo!"
14 No longer new
15 "Speed it up!"
16 Fly alone
17 Monetary penalty
18 Love, in Italian
19 Give off, as steam
20 Fake colorless gem
23 Day before a holiday
24 Snakelike fish
25 Well-__ (desirably varied)
27 Learn-to-draw course
32 Suspicious (of)
33 Skewed view
34 Have to have
36 Sneaker strings
39 Deer family member
40 Discourage
42 Swimmer's distance unit
43 Adolescents
46 Mountain lion
47 Happy cat's sound
48 Perform a tune
50 "It could happen"
52 French exclamation of approval
55 Weed-chopping tool
56 Feel regret for
57 Small shovel for turning soil
63 Wild guess
65 Steered a vehicle
66 On a road trip
67 Fairy tale meanie
68 Voicemail sounds
69 __ of the above ("other" category)
70 Brief memo
71 People with debts
72 Vehicle on snow

DOWN

1 Winter covering for an ear
2 India's continent
3 List of options
4 Madison Avenue bigwigs
5 Bangkok's country
6 Southern Arizona city
7 High school dance
8 Mistake
9 "So long!"
10 U-turn from NNW
11 Where a joke teller performs
12 __ and kicking (robust)
13 Lugged along
21 State bordering Md.
22 Two-purpose
26 Hunters' org.
27 Help with a crime
28 Make angry
29 Feels encouraged
30 Ooze (through)
31 Arrange for
35 Showroom model, for short
37 __ Grey tea
38 Agile
41 Impulsive nature
44 Zilch
45 Minor obstacle
47 What crusty desserts are baked in
49 "My pleasure!"
51 Ship's distress signal
52 Movie legend Welles
53 Money spent
54 Archer's missile
58 Over and __ with (completed)
59 At any time
60 Army truant: Abbr.
61 Person from Copenhagen
62 Observed closely
64 Spellers' contest



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09/23/25

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica Place

Gourmandise School Launches Kitchen Club for Kids

The Gourmandise School at Santa Monica Place will offer Kitchen Club, a new cooking series for children ages 8-13, running Mondays from Oct. 13 through Nov. 17.

The afterschool program teaches real-world kitchen skills in a hands-on environment. Each week introduces a new theme, including Bake Sale Bests, Breakfast Pastries, Halloween Treats and French Macarons. Students work in pairs to practice cooking basics, build confidence and create recipes from scratch before taking their creations home.

The program aims to provide a creative and confidence-building outlet that incorporates math, science and teamwork skills beyond traditional classroom learning.

The school also offers seasonal Parent & Child classes featuring Halloween Cookies, Thanksgiving Meal and Holiday Cookies for family bonding opportunities.

For more info, visit https://thegourmandiseschool.com/.



Courtesy photo

SCHOOL: Kitchen Club, a new cooking series for children ages 8-13, running Mondays from Oct. 13 through Nov. 17.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

PROJECT

FROM PAGE 1

creates more open courtyards and improves natural light access throughout the building.

The 85-foot-tall building will consolidate three parcels between 19th and 20th streets on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard. Vehicle access will be provided from the rear alley, while the ground floor will feature commercial tenants facing Wilshire Boulevard and four residential units.

Associate Planner Shira Moch told the board that the redesign addressed key concerns raised during the initial review, including the need for greater building porosity, better street-level design, and improved integration with neighboring properties.

The revised project follows a clear architectural hierarchy that begins at street level and scales upward. The ground level features a gridded window system designed to create depth and visual interest, while upper floors are set back with darker materials to reduce the building's perceived scale.

Vice Chair Craig A. Hamilton expressed support for the project, calling it "significantly better" than the original proposal. Multiple board members praised the developer's decision to hire a new architectural team rather than make minor modifications to the rejected design.

The approval comes with several conditions that must be addressed before construction begins. The developer must find an alternative support system for a prominent architectural frame, increase the number of sun-shade fins on the building's exterior, and enlarge trees planned for the second-floor courtyard.

Board members also required modifications to how metal panels wrap around corners of the building and adjustments to balcony proportions on the rear elevation.

The landscaping plan drew scrutiny from Board Member Qianyu Li, who worried about tree placement and size in courtyard areas. "From day one, probably the size elevation won't be able to be as pretty as what you rendered in your elevation," Li said, referring to small trees currently planned for key viewing areas.

The board required larger trees and additional plantings to better support the building's appearance from Wilshire Boulevard. The project must also address uplighting for landscaping that could disturb residents on upper floors.

The development represents a significant addition to Santa Monica's housing stock amid ongoing statewide pressure to increase residential construction. Under California's Housing Accountability Act, the city has limited ability to reject projects that meet objective zoning standards, though the architectural review board retains authority over design elements.

The original application was submitted in August 2024, with administrative approval granted in July 2025. The project site currently contains existing structures that have already received demolition permits.

The redesign was handled by Tai Architecture, which replaced the original design team after the December rejection. The new architects used the board's previous comments as guidance for developing the revised approach.

The contemporary building design emphasizes outdoor space, natural light, and ventilation through consistent architectural language. Materials include various shades of plaster, corrugated and flat metal panels, smooth concrete, masonry blocks, composite wood, and brass and steel accents with ceramic tile highlights.

Seven existing Washington Robusta street trees will be preserved as part of the landscape plan, which emphasizes drought-tolerant California native species throughout the development.

Board members expressed satisfaction with the developer's willingness to start over completely rather than make incremental changes. The dramatic redesign approach was viewed as demonstrating serious commitment to addressing the board's concerns.

Construction timelines were not announced, though the approval expires if building permits are not obtained within 24 months. The project still requires final plan review and building permit approval before construction can begin.

maaz@smdp.com



TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 23

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2025-09-16T10

TECH & TASKS
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica. Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes and more. Assistance provided on a drop-in, first arrive. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tech-tasks/16225799/2025-09-16T16

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
5:30 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/city-council-meeting/13799967/2025-09-23T17

TUESDAY OPEN MIC
10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. The best open mic in Los Angeles! The Tuesday Open Mic is a weekly open mic. Hop onstage and perform your best 3 minutes! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tuesday-open-mic/16004734/2025-09-16T22

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 24

CLIMATE & OUR COAST WORKSHOP
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Heal the Bay Main Office 1444 9th St Santa Monica. An award-winning, hands-on experience designed to help you master the science behind climate change. In just three hours, you'll gain a clear understanding of the impacts on our coast. This unique workshop offers: Interactive Learning: Quickly grasp the complexities of climate change through an engaging, collaborative process. Trusted Science: Grounded in the IPCC reports that inform global leaders. Collaborative Experience: Work with fellow participants to uncover intricate connections, reflect on emotional impacts, share perspectives, and brainstorm actionable solutions. Inspiration and Empowerment: Leave feeling inspired and ready to make a positive impact. Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your understanding and contribute to meaningful change. Register now and be part of the solution. When: August 27 & September 24, 6 pm – 9 pm. Where: Heal the Bay HQ, 1444 9th St., Santa Monica, 90401. Cost: Free. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/climate-our-coast-workshop/16594068/2025-09-24T18

STOP TRYING!: THE LIFE-TRANSFORMING POWER OF TRYING LESS AND DOING MORE
6:30 p.m. Brentwood Country Mart 225 26th Street, Suite #33 Santa Monica. If you're struggling to get things done or meet your goals, the problem isn't that you're not trying hard enough, it's that you're trying in the first place. When it comes to getting stuff done, we fall short more often than we like to admit. This can leave us feeling frustrated and ashamed, because despite trying our very best we can't seem to meet our goals. Why? The surprising answer is ingeniously outlined in Stop Trying!: The Life-Transforming Power of Trying Less and Doing More—an evolutionary guide that evokes the revelatory force of The Five-Second Rule and the sublime practicality of The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up. Put simply, it turns out that trying is just an illusion for doing. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/stop-trying-the-life-transforming-power-of-trying-less-and-doing-more/16583974/2025-09-24T18

CINEHAUS MOVIE NIGHTS
7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. The Eden Hotel 1301 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica. CineHaus presents: Sunset Screenings at The Eden Step into old Hollywood charm as CineHaus transforms the courtyard of The Eden Hotel into a dreamy open-air cinema. Grab a cocktail or a hot drink, settle under the stars, and lose yourself in iconic films the way they were meant to be seen — together. From hot popcorn and candy to s'mores, we've got everything you need for the perfect movie night. Cozy, timeless, unforgettable — only at CineHaus. Dates vary — check our lineup! Doors 7:30 PM | Movie 8:00 PM | Tickets - buytickets.at/cinehaus | First-come seating Drinks, snacks, s'mores & good vibes every time. Bottle service inquiries: nikita@nolongernetwork.com Gift certificates: tickettailor.com/events/cinehaus/store. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/cinehaus-movie-nights/16585124/2025-09-24T19

THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 25

MOON HOOCH
8:00 p.m. The Venice West 1717 Lincoln Blvd, Venice. $55.47. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/moon-hooch/16443986/2025-09-25T20

FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 26

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS AT THE SURFING FOX
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 120 Colorado Ave. Santa Monica. Erinn Alissa performs acoustic folk pop with her guitar Friday nights at The Surfing Fox. Enjoy a night of live music, tasty bites, and Foxtails! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/live-music-fridays-at-the-surfing-fox/14385252/2025-09-26T18

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS AT PICO BRANCH LIBRARY
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica. Enjoy light refreshments, connect with neighbors, and learn about SMPL's Community Mapping initiative! Share your feedback through a brief survey or join a guided discussion with library staff. Your input will help us map our library's future. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/community-conversations-at-pico-branch-library/16220810/2025-09-27T10

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Campus Events 2025/26

FALL & WINTER



Photo by Ed Gandara

Exciting events happening at SMC!

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

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

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

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

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