2 **Malibu Schools**
Emergency Generator Installations.

3 **No Tax On Tips**
Limited Benefits for Californians.

4 **New Study**
California's Prop. 36.

5 **LA Tech Week**
Major Street Festival.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 230 | TUESDAY 10/14/25 | smdp.com

Civic Auditorium revitalization proponents challenge City analysis of subsidy needs to reopen the facility



SMDP Photo

CIVIC: The Civic Auditorium has been closed for years and the debate over its future will return to Council tonight with a debate over extending negotiations to revitalize the property.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Revitalization Partners Group is disputing a city staff report that questions the financial viability of their proposed $360 million Civic Auditorium redevelopment, with representatives calling the analysis "wildly inaccurate" and insisting they are not seeking public subsidies.

"We never saw their math. They never asked us about the math. They never asked us to opine in any way about it, and it's bad math," said Tim Sexton of The Make Good Group, one of the consortium's partners. "Our team are the world experts in live entertainment. And we know the economics of this stuff better than anybody."

The Santa Monica City Council faces a critical decision Tuesday night on whether to extend negotiations with RPG after their six-month Exclusive Negotiation Agreement expired Oct. 8. Council members can choose to approve a six-month extension for continued negotiations, grant a three-month extension requiring accelerated analysis, or terminate the agreement and explore alternative redevelopment options.

Sexton strongly contested city staff's characterization that the project would require public funding, calling it "a mischaracterization in the staff report, just a fabrication, and it's a pretty big mischaracterization."

"We are not asking, and never have asked for a penny. We're not asking for any money from the city, nor any subsidy from the city," Sexton said.

SEE **CIVIC** PAGE 11



TAXES
ALL FORMS, ALL TYPES, ALL STATES
BACK TAXES • BOOKKEEPING • SMALL BUSINESS
SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
(310) 395-9922
100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1753 • Santa Monica 90401

Get the local news that matters to you!
Sign up for The CURRENT
SMDP's free daily newsletter for all your Santa Monica news & events!
POWERED BY smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

PHYSICAL THERAPYWORKS
MOST LOVED 2025 Santa Monica

Most Loved Winner
Physical Therapy Clinic
6 Years In A Row!
At PHYSICAL THERAPYWORKS
We don't just treat injuries,
we help you move forward.
29 years of helping patients feel their BEST!
Discover the PHYSICAL THERAPYWORKS Difference
Whether bouncing back from an injury or improving mobility and strength, we use proven techniques and innovative approaches to get you back to what you love -- stronger and more confident than before.
Ask about PTWorks+ !
719 Santa Monica Blvd. | (310) 260-9039 | physicaltherapyworks.com

Malibu schools complete emergency generator installations

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Malibu school officials have completed the first phase of emergency power installations across all four campuses, addressing a critical need highlighted by 22 days of school closures during the 2024 fire season.

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton announced that all Malibu campuses now have generators installed to provide backup power during outages, fulfilling a promise made at a previous board meeting. The work was completed by the end of September, just before the typical start of major fire season.

> All Malibu campuses now have generators installed to provide backup power in the event of an outage
>
> - Dr. Antonio Shelton, Superintendent

"All Malibu campuses now have generators installed to provide backup power in the event of an outage," Shelton reported. "This work included new automatic transfer systems at Malibu Elementary and Malibu High along with quick connect generator systems at Webster Elementary and the Malibu High Field Circuit."

The installations come after a devastating 2024 fire season that forced the district to close all or some Malibu school sites for 22 days due to fire evacuations, poor air quality from smoke, road closures and power outages. Many of the power outages resulted from Southern California Edison's Public Safety Power Shutoff events, which cut electricity during high wind conditions to prevent additional fires.

The district's Board of Education recently continued Emergency Resolution No. 25-05, which allows officials to bypass normal procurement procedures to expedite the power system installations. The emergency resolution was originally adopted on August 14, 2025, and will remain in effect until the work is complete.

Under normal circumstances, the district would be required to follow specific procurement steps for subcontractors under the design-build statute. However, emergency conditions allow the district to work directly with Schneider Electric Buildings Americas Inc. and subcontractor Ambient Electric Inc. to ensure installation by late September 2025.

The power outages and resulting school closures have drawn sharp criticism from the Malibu community, with parents and students expressing frustration over what they view as years of inadequate planning and delayed action by district leadership.

One student noted that last year, due to fires, students "missed many days of school due to lack of power at the school." Parents criticized the "length of time it took to get generators," with one parent saying they were surprised there were no generators available during recent outages, especially following previous fires including the Woolsey and Palisades fires.

Community members described bureaucratic obstacles that slowed progress. One parent claimed a district employee "ignored months of emails" regarding generator installations and incorrectly stated that necessary permits from air quality and city officials were not possible. The parent eventually contacted the agencies directly, who confirmed they would allow and facilitate generator installation.

The Parent Teacher Association stepped in to provide batteries and lighting for classrooms at a cost of $9,000, which one parent called "an embarrassment for the district," to prevent children from attending school in the dark.

Despite the generator installations, parents continue to express concerns about emergency planning and communication. One speaker acknowledged the presence of generators but noted there has been "no clear communications about what will be done differently to keep our kids safe next time" during power outages.

The community has called for a "clear playbook for emergencies" so families understand how they will be notified and how missed instructional days will be handled during events like road closures or fires.

Looking ahead, permanent generators for all four circuits are currently in production and expected to arrive in mid-November, with installation to follow. The district is also designing a longer-term solution: a solar farm and battery backup system for Malibu Middle and High Schools, with construction scheduled to begin in late fall 2026.

Southern California Edison has warned of potentially increased Public Safety Power Shutoff events in Malibu this year due to impacts from last year's fire season and continued high fire risk.

District staff have been trained to operate the new generator systems and are prepared to respond quickly during outages, officials said. The improvements aim to reduce or eliminate school closures caused solely by power outages, though other factors like fire evacuations and air quality issues remain outside the district's control.

maaz@smdp.com

Why ‘no tax on tips’ may have limited benefits for California workers



Photo by Adriana Heldiz, CalMatters

WORK: Waitress Daisy Marlene Montes Carranza works at El Rincon restaurant in the San Ysidro neighborhood of San Diego on April 16, 2024. Some economists say workers like Carranza may not get much benefit from the ‘no tax on tips’ change to the tax code.

No tax on tips, a campaign promise by President Donald Trump, is now part of the U.S. tax code, but experts across the political spectrum see limited benefits for California workers.

The Treasury Department and the IRS late last month released details of their proposed regulations around the new tax deduction, which Republicans included in their spending bill.

Under the provision, taxpayers who make less than $150,000 a year, or $300,000 if filing jointly, could deduct up to $25,000 in tips from their federal income taxes, regardless of whether they itemize their deductions. Among the nearly 70 occupations that qualify are restaurant servers, gig workers, barbers, cosmetologists and golf caddies. The deduction is effective starting this tax year and runs through 2028. The public can submit comments to the IRS until Oct. 22.

Workers and experts who spoke with CalMatters about no tax on tips had more questions than answers, because income tax outcomes can vary significantly depending on people’s circumstances. Are they single, married filing separately or married filing jointly? Do they have kids? Do they deduct mileage or other expenses? Experts also said the provision brings up issues of fairness: Some low-wage service workers will get deductions that workers with comparable wages in other industries won’t get.

“I would be hard-pressed to think of a stupider tax policy that’s become law,” said Brian Galle, a law professor at UC Berkeley whose focus includes taxes.

Galle said the provision makes taxes even more complicated. He also said it could lead some employers to cut workers’ pay “by the full amount of tax savings.”

Meanwhile, polls show consumers are tired of tipping, so they might stop doing so if they assume that all tipped workers will now be able to deduct their tips, Galle and other experts said.

In addition, for some workers the deduction may not be enough to offset the negative effects of other aspects of the Republicans’ spending bill.

“It’s a bit of a distraction from the overall bill and how disproportionately it’s helping rich folks at the expense of low-income folks,” said Kayla Kitson, senior policy fellow at the California Budget & Policy Center, a left-leaning think tank. “Many low-income tipped workers will likely be harmed by the cuts to health care and food assistance and the failure to extend enhanced premium tax credits.”

WHAT WORKERS THINK

Dell Randle, a self-employed barber in Fairfield, a Bay Area suburb, thinks he could take advantage of the new deduction. But he doesn’t know how much in tips he will actually receive.

“It’s kind of hard, because everybody doesn’t tip,” he said. “It’s hit or miss, there’s no consistency. I might go a whole week without someone giving me a tip.”

Also, business has been slow since the pandemic’s onset five years ago, because

SEE **TIPS** PAGE 8



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.9**

TUESDAY
FAIR

SURF: 3-4ft
Waist to chest

Blend of swells but onshore wind and rain are an issue for conditions and water quality. The first heavy rain of the season looks likely - that’ll impact water quality across the board if it pans out. SSW swell continues and NW windswell drops out through the day. Will continue to see some modest S windswell mix in. Fresh NW swell mix builds through the afternoon/evening. Conditions look problematic with S/SSW wind in the morning shifting to the W through the day.

WEDNESDAY
FAIR

SURF: 2-3ft+
Thigh to stomach

Conditions clean up as jumbled swell mix backs down. Water quality issues likely post-rain. Still playful size early and conditions look to improve after a rugged stretch from Monday through Tuesday. NW swell mix will gradually back down through the day as modest to fun zone SSW swell holds steady for combo and summer exposures. Variable to locally light offshore wind in the morning will allow the conditions to try and clean up a bit. It’ll still be a bit raw but there will be some beachbreak options on the early high tide. Rising N trending NW wind likely by mid day.

Weather

Tuesday: Rain and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 64. South southwest wind around 15 mph.
Tuesday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers before 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 63. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 53.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/10/14	Tue	06:31 AM	4.02	H
2025/10/14	Tue	11:01 AM	3.17	L
2025/10/14	Tue	4:38 PM	5.03	H
2025/10/15	Wed	12:09 AM	0.00	L
2025/10/15	Wed	07:06 AM	4.41	H
2025/10/15	Wed	12:18 PM	2.58	L
2025/10/15	Wed	5:55 PM	5.06	H
2025/10/16	Thu	12:56 AM	0.04	L
2025/10/16	Thu	07:36 AM	4.76	H
2025/10/16	Thu	1:11 PM	1.97	L

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: 10/11
13 16 18 20 27
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 258 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/10
3 18 23 32 56
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 600 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 10/11
3 13 27 32 39
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 7 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/12
1 7 9 32 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 10/12
EVENING: 8 5 3
Draw Date: 10/12
MIDDAY: 4 3 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 10/12
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:48.30

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Devan Sipher,
Miles Warner.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Maaz Alin
maaz@smdp.com

LEGAL ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

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

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher’s Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you’re reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC
© 2023 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.

Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

SANTA MONICA RENT CONTROL BOARD
PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that at its regular meeting of October 9, 2025, the Santa Monica Rent Control Board adopted the following regulation:

- Regulation 3035(f): To limit the imposition of banked rent increases to no more than 10% of the monthly rent in any twelve-month period

This change will become effective by promulgation the day after publication in the newspaper.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4506 TRANSIT BUS BODY AND PAINT REPAIRS.
Submission Deadline is November 3, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

RFP: # 452 RECYCLABLE MATERIALS PROCESSING AND MARKETING SERVICES

- **Submission Deadline is, November 17, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

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.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4503 Auto Body Repairs, Maintenance Service & Upfitting for Light/Medium & Heavy-Duty Vehicles

Submission Deadline is November 12, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

California's Prop. 36 promised 'mass treatment' for defendants. A new study shows how it's going

It's been nearly a year since Californians overwhelmingly approved Proposition 36, a tough-on-crime measure providing what backers called "mass treatment" for those facing certain drug charges. But few defendants have found a clear path to recovery under the law, according to new data released by the state.

Prop. 36 gave prosecutors the ability to charge people convicted of various third-time drug offenses with a so-called treatment-mandated felony, which would give them a choice between behavioral health treatment or up to three years in jail or prison. If they accept, they would enter a guilty or no contest plea and begin treatment. Those who complete treatment have their charges dismissed.

In the first six months since the law took effect, roughly 9,000 people have been charged with a treatment-mandated felony, according to the first-of-its-kind report released this month by the state's Judicial Council. Nearly 15% — or 1,290 people — elected treatment.

So far, of the 771 people placed into treatment, 25 completed it.

The data reflects how different counties are using the law, with the highest number of treatment-mandated felonies charged in Orange County at 2,395. Kings and Napa counties each had one such charge.

San Diego County accounted for roughly one-third — or 427 of 1,290 — cases in which defendants chose to pursue treatment, but did not report how many were placed into treatment or completed it.

The report notes that this missing data contributes to "a substantial portion of the drop-off" in regards to the overall number of people who elected treatment but have not yet been placed.

Francine Byrne, director of criminal justice services at the Judicial Council, said counties are still figuring out how to implement the law — and in many jurisdictions, it can take people a while to opt-in to treatment as they move through the court process.

"It's not acceptable that so few people are actually going into treatment," said Jonathan Raven, an executive at the California District Attorneys Association, which supported the measure. "The goal of this ballot measure was to take that population of people who have a substance use disorder and get them help, find them a pathway out of the criminal justice system and dismiss their cases. And that doesn't seem to be what's happening across the state."

Raven said that district attorneys have been trying to implement Prop. 36 based on the will of the voters, but have been doing it "with one hand tied behind their back."

The measure did not include dedicated funding when voters passed it, which was one of the reasons why Gov. Gavin Newsom opposed the measure. Behavioral health experts have long sounded the alarm over the lack of behavioral health treatment and staffing across California, but proponents argued that Prop. 36 would be the great "forcing function" for the state to scale up treatment.

> "It's not acceptable that so few people are actually going into treatment
> - Jonathan Raven

Since the law passed, Republican and Democratic state lawmakers requested upwards of $600 million annually to implement it. Newsom and the Legislature ultimately approved a one-time state budget allocation of $100 million.

On top of that, Newsom last month announced that the state had awarded $127 million in grant funding to build more behavioral health treatment capacity. Those funds were made available through Proposition 47, a 2014 voter-approved measure that reduced the penalties for certain non-violent drug and property crimes and stipulated that the resulting savings would be used for, among other things, substance use disorder and mental health treatment.

None of that funding was available during the time period associated with the report, which looked at case counts between Dec. 18 and April 30.

Kate Chatfield, executive director of the California Public Defenders Association said the data proves that Prop. 36 "is a fail" — not because people are treatment resistant but because treatment is not available.

"There's no indication that anything will change," she said. "Meanwhile, proponents are spending precious county resources on prosecution and incarceration in local jails and saying — magically — some money will appear for treatment. Proponents are the ones preventing those resources from being spent on treatment."

Cayla Mihalovich, CalMatters California Local News Fellow

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

COMMUNITY NEWS

DTSM

Tech St. Santa Monica to Launch LA Tech Week with Major Street Festival

Tech St. Santa Monica officially launched LA Tech Week 2025 on Monday, Oct. 13, transforming Ocean Avenue and areas of Palisades Park into a showcase of innovation and entrepreneurship.

The outdoor celebration expands significantly from last year's inaugural street fair through a collaboration between the city of Santa Monica, Syndicate, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, Hustle Fund, Alumni Ventures, Santa Monica Chamber and Santa Monica Travel & Tourism.

The event united startups, venture capital firms, corporations, creators and residents to showcase the region's innovation ecosystem. Features include exhibits, robotics demonstrations, performances, a beer garden and community partners.

The event celebrated Santa Monica as both a cultural destination and innovation hub as the city marks its 150th anniversary. Santa Monica is part of Southern California's "Silicon Beach" and headquarters major companies including Snapchat, Headspace, GoodRx and Activision Blizzard.

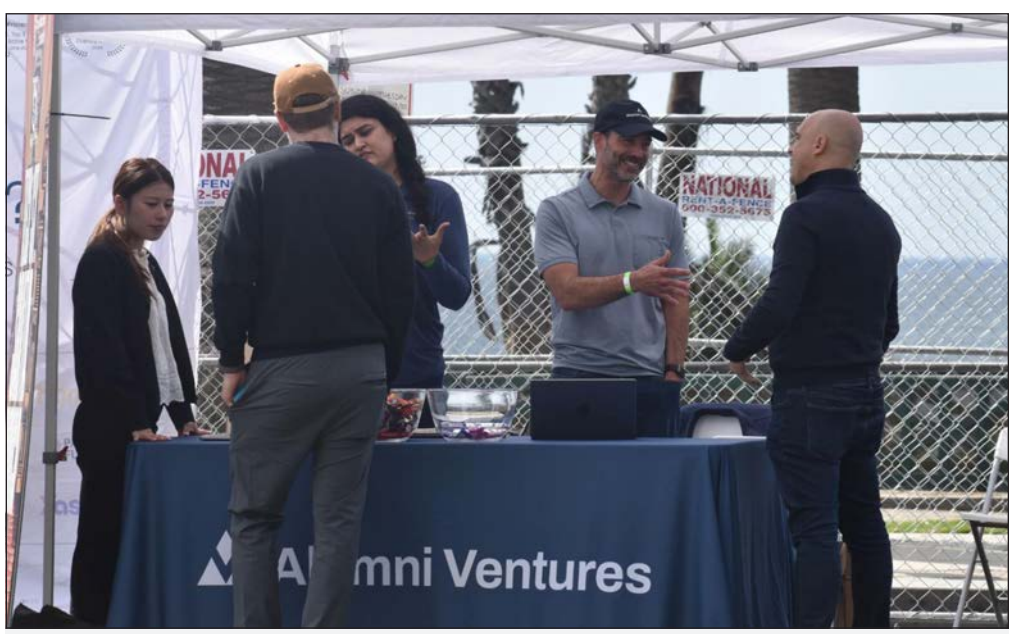
The city has incubated cutting-edge technologies including Coco food delivery, Bird Scooters, Happy Returns and Dollar Shave Club. Top venture capital firms such as Andreessen Horowitz, Clearstone Venture Partners and Upfront Ventures have chosen Santa Monica for their headquarters.

> "As Santa Monica celebrates its 150th anniversary, we honor not only our city's rich history but also its enduring role as a hub of innovation"
> - Mayor Lana Negrete

"As Santa Monica celebrates its 150th anniversary, we honor not only our city's rich history but also its enduring role as a hub of innovation," said Mayor Lana Negrete.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF





Matthew Hall

TECH: The streets were closed in Santa Monica for the event.

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
(BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)
YOUR CHOICE
If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge
DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!
WE OFFER UNIQUE SERVICES
*Nitrous Oxide available
*No interest payment plans
*Emergencies can be seen today
*Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$20 EXAM
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
OR
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$99 EXAM AND CLEANING
For New Patients
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
AND OF COURSE WE DO
• Invisalign • Periodontist on Staff • Oral Surgeon on Staff
• Cosmetics and Implants • Zoom bleaching • and more
SANTA MONICA FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. ALAN RUBENSTEIN
1260 15th ST. SUITE #703
(310) 736-2589
WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM
WILSHIRE BLVD.
15TH ST.
14TH ST.
ARIZONA AVE.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Promenade

Santa Monica Launches Gamified Mobile Pass for LA Tech Week

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism has launched a free mobile pass designed to help LA Tech Week attendees discover local businesses and attractions through a gamified experience.

The LA Tech Week Pass, developed in partnership with Bandwango, allows users to earn points and unlock special offers by visiting participating locations throughout the city. Rewards include custom keychains, pins, tote bags and water bottles.

"Santa Monica is where beachside culture meets innovation," said Misti Kerns, president and CEO of Santa Monica Travel & Tourism. "The LA Tech Week Pass turns that energy into a fun, trackable experience that rewards attendees for exploring our neighborhoods, businesses, and iconic landmarks."

> "Santa Monica is where beachside culture meets innovation"
> - Misti Kerns, president and CEO of Santa Monica Travel & Tourism

The pass features curated recommendations for restaurants, bars, shops, meeting spaces and attractions accessible from mobile phones. Offers include deals at hotels, restaurants, lounges, wellness spots, tours and shopping venues.

Tech Week attendees can sign up at explore.santamonica.com to receive the pass via SMS and email. Users check in at participating locations to unlock exclusive offers and earn points toward rewards.

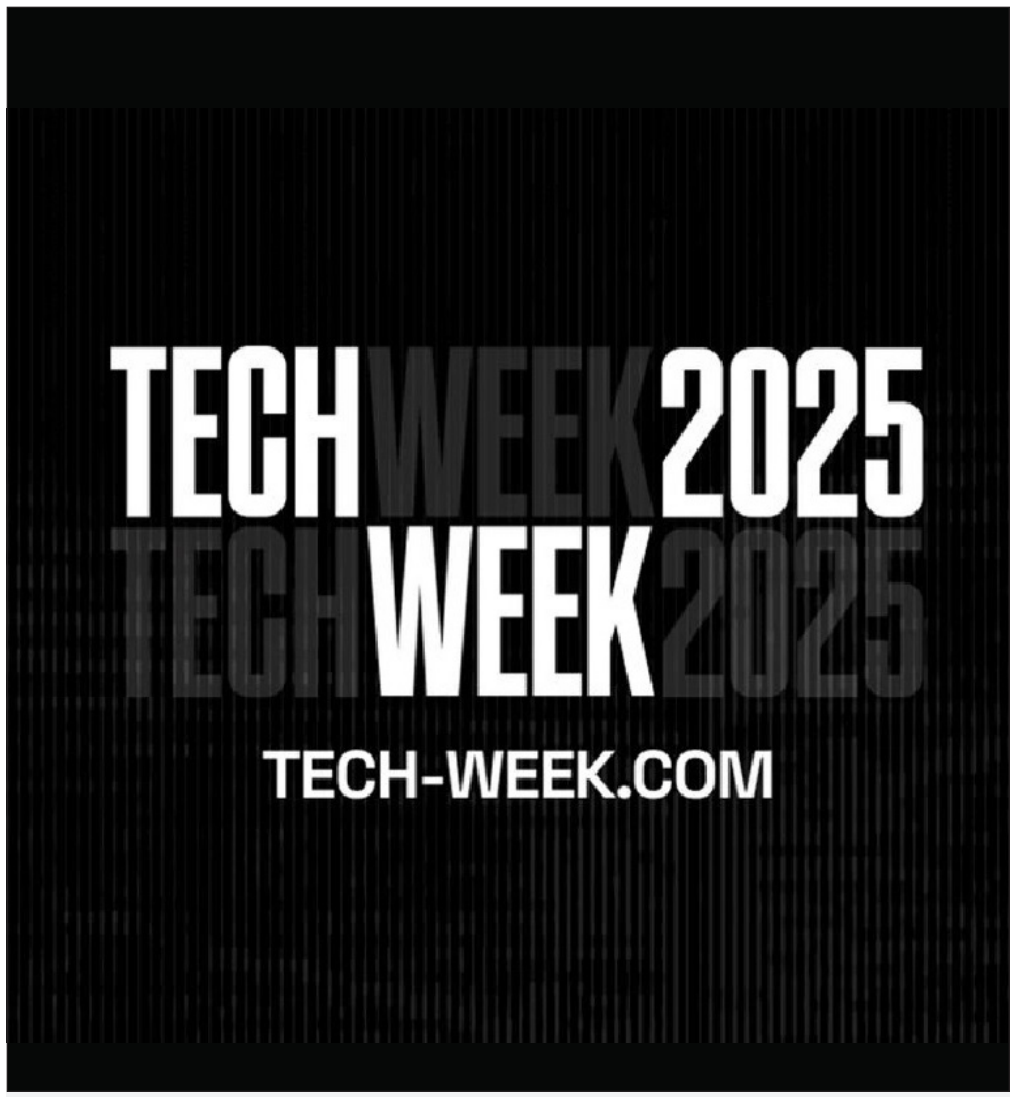
Santa Monica serves as a natural base for LA Tech Week participants due to its walkable neighborhoods, thriving arts scene and commitment to sustainability. The coastal city offers more than 40 hotels, the Santa Monica Pier, miles of beachfront, bike paths and the Third Street Promenade.

LA Tech Week is part of a national Tech Week series celebrating technology, startups and creative innovation. The Los Angeles event features a full week of programming designed to highlight the city's growing influence in technology, media and venture capital.

The mobile pass aims to connect tech conference attendees with Santa Monica's blend of small-town charm and big-city amenities while supporting local businesses during the week-long event.

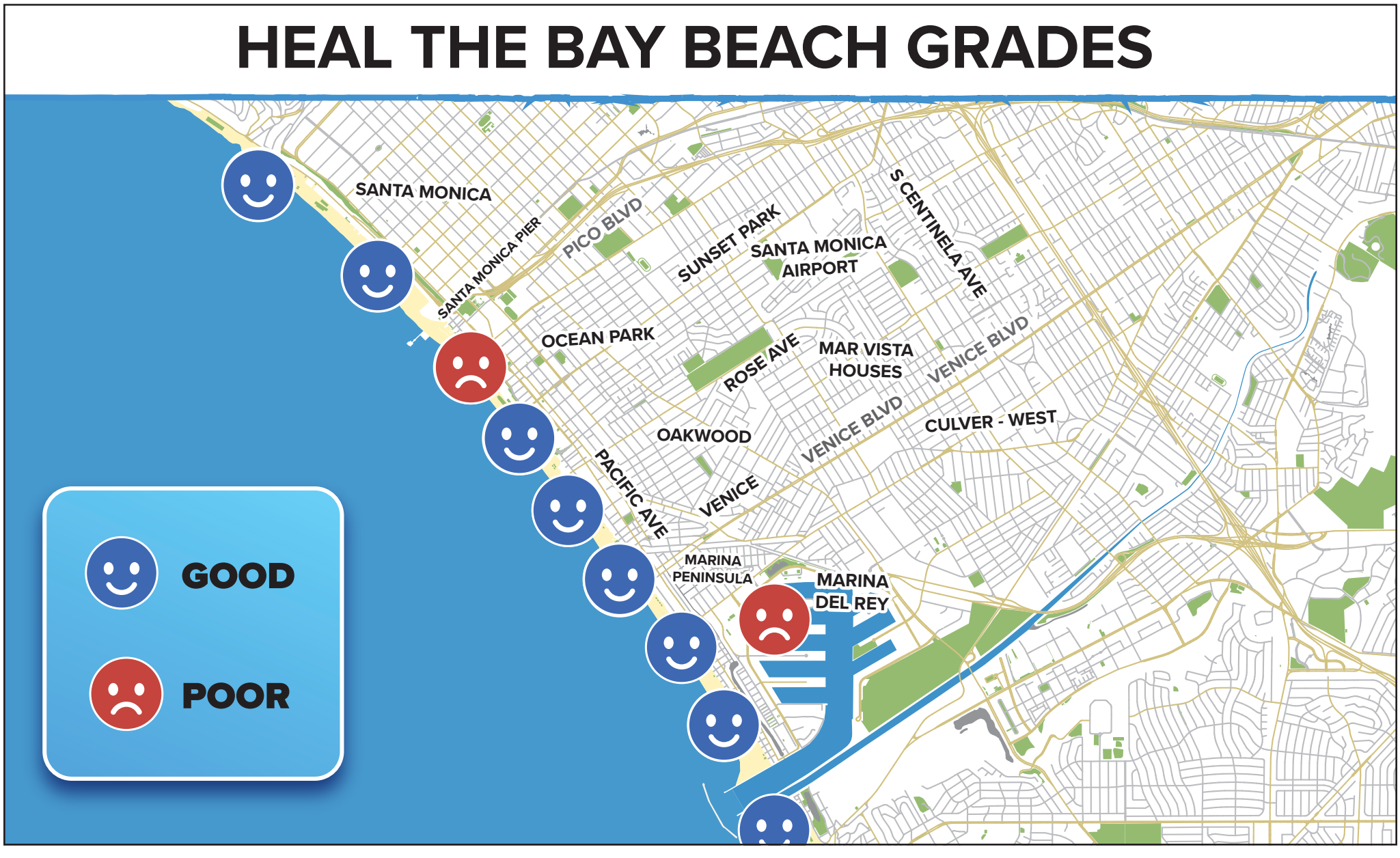
To sign up for the free LA Tech Week Pass, visit explore.santamonica.com.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



santamonica.com

PASS: Developed in partnership with Bandwango, allows users to earn points and unlock special offers by visiting participating locations throughout the city.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Venice

Experimental Film Festival PXL THIS Seeks Entries for 35th Year

One of Los Angeles' longest-running film festivals is accepting entries for its 35th annual showcase of experimental cinema shot with toy cameras.

PXL THIS 35, founded in 1990, continues its tradition of free, non-competitive screenings exclusively featuring films made with or emulating the Fisher-Price PXL-2000 camera. The festival will stream live via YouTube on Sunday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m. PST.

"Still NO entry fee," said founder Gerry Fialka. "Our free, non-competitive, non-commercial film fest returns this fall for its 35th run."

The festival accepts only films shot with the PXL-2000, a black-and-white video camera that records at 120x90 pixels and 15 frames per second onto standard audio cassettes. Fisher-Price produced approximately 400,000 cameras between 1987 and 1989.

"Our festival attracts both teens and seminal experimental filmmakers; both pros and the houseless," Fialka said. "I'd call it the most populist film festival ever."

> "Our festival attracts both teens and seminal experimental filmmakers; both pros and the houseless"
> - Gerry Fialka

The event has drawn Hollywood figures including Oliver Stone, Daryl Hannah and the late rock impresario Kim Fowley. Past participants include filmmakers Michael Almereyda, Lee Ranaldo, Chris Metzler, James and Sadie Benning, Joe Gibbons and Cecilia Dougherty.

Pixelvision technology has appeared in major films including Richard Linklater's "Slacker" (1990), Michael Almereyda's "Nadja" (1994) featuring David Lynch, and Almereyda's "Hamlet" (2000) with Ethan Hawke.

"Kids rejected PXL even as Fisher-Price made 400,000 cameras," Fialka said. "But its bargain price, low resolution, and high contrast inspired filmmakers."

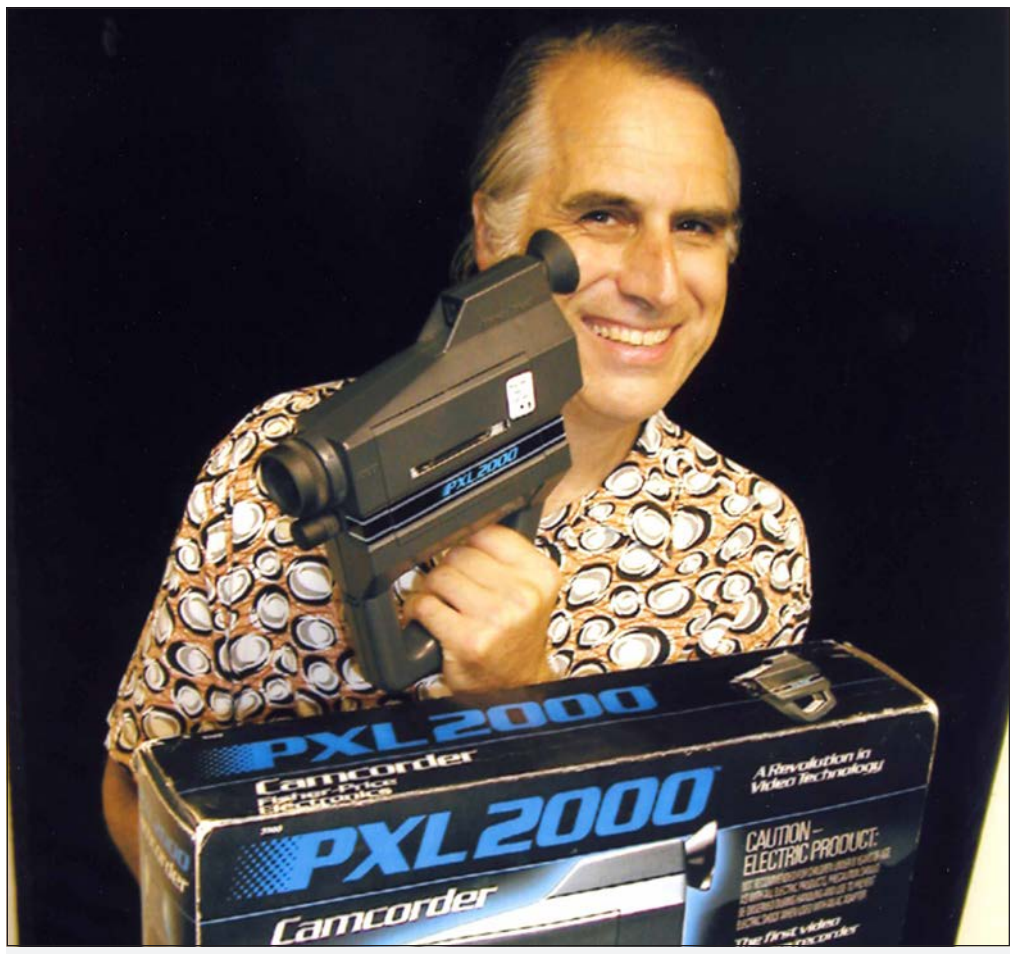
Contemporary artists merge Pixelvision with cell phones and live streaming, creating what Fialka calls "electronic folk art" and "lo-fi hi-jinx."

The festival ranks among Los Angeles' oldest film festivals, predating many established events. Fialka previously programmed the Ann Arbor Film Co-op and Ann Arbor 8mm Film Festival before founding PXL THIS.

Academic recognition has grown around PXL films, with an archive housed at UC Santa Barbara documenting the festival's cultural impact.

The deadline for entries is Wednesday, Oct. 22. Filmmakers can submit via email to pfsuzy@aol.com.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

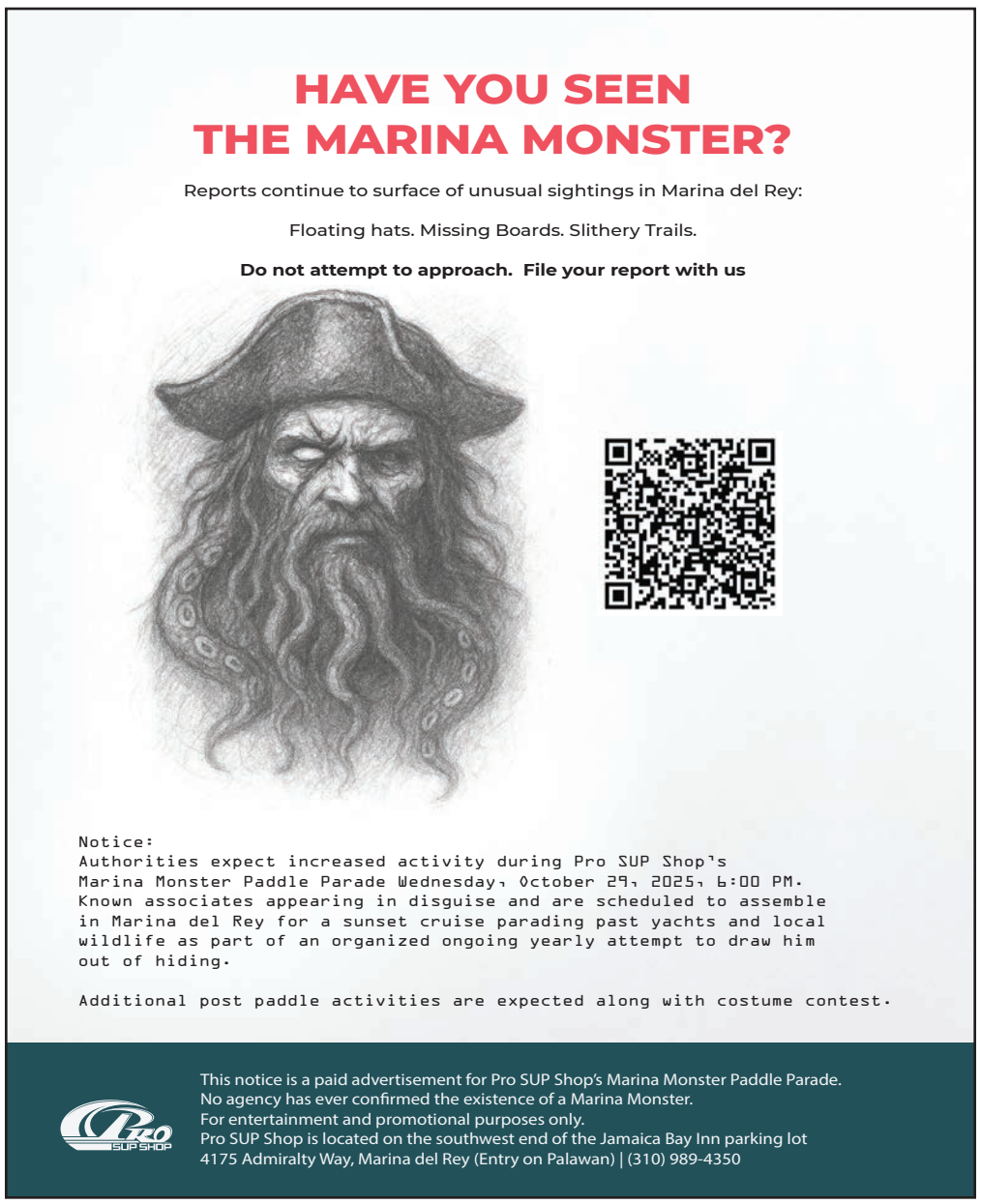


Alfred Benjamin

LIVESTREAM: The festival will stream live via YouTube on Sunday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m. PST.







TIPS

FROM PAGE 3

lots of new barbers have oversaturated the market since then, he said. Data from the state confirms that: Barbers licenses issued this fiscal year totaled 42,958, a 33% increase from fiscal year 2019-20. Business has been especially bad in the past several months, Randle said.

"The benefit of this (deduction) will depend on how good business is," he said. "Business is slow, so I can't count on something that's not there."

That's in line with a Yale Budget Lab analysis that not taxing tips may not benefit more than a third of tipped workers because they do not make enough to owe income tax in the first place.

Elsewhere in the Bay Area, Crissie Brown said she makes about $95,000 to $100,000 a year from being a server at two different restaurants in Alameda. She said she'll probably have to hire a tax preparer to see if she could benefit from the new deduction, but she's skeptical because she doesn't believe the Trump administration is "looking out for the working class at all."

"With the economy, I still live pretty poorly," Brown said. "I can't even afford to pay what I owe (in taxes) now." She said keeping tips tax-free "sounds good, but I have a feeling it will bite us" in the end.

Only tips that are given voluntarily by customers will count toward the deduction. That means restaurant servers will not be able to deduct service charges that some restaurants automatically apply to diners' checks.

California food service workers' reliance on tips vary. In September, 27% of bartenders' income came from tips, according to payment-processing company Square, which analyzed payroll data from more than 100,000 employees. Full-service restaurant workers' tips made up about 17% of their income last month, just like cafe workers. For workers at quick-service restaurants where there is no table service, tips were about 11% of their income.

Trump said he got the idea for no tax on tips from a Nevada restaurant server who complained about taxes she had to pay on tips. The union that represents Las Vegas food and hospitality workers is mostly supportive of the new deduction, though it has some complaints about the details.

As for gig workers, they might see uneven benefits from the new deduction, said Sergio Avedian, a ride-hailing driver in Los Angeles and a contributor at the gig-work blog Rideshare Guy.

"For drivers, who often rely on tips to offset low base pay, this could feel like an immediate raise," Avedian said. But he added that the new deduction may not benefit drivers much because he thinks only 15% to 20% of Uber and Lyft riders tip. He said the deduction could be more beneficial for food-delivery drivers, such as those who deliver for DoorDash, while it would probably not help Amazon Flex workers who don't typically get tips.

More than 53% of food-delivery drivers' income is from tips, according to 2024 data from Gridwise Analytics, which is based on information from more than 260,000 drivers. Tips made up only about 10% of ride-hailing drivers' pay, while for couriers who deliver packages that number was less than 4%.

Avedian also said gig workers have to pay self-employment tax, so that could eat into any benefit of the new tip deduction — again, if the workers qualify for it at all, depending on their income.

Almost 40% of taxi and ride-hailing drivers nationwide are on Medicaid or receive health care subsidies, according to Center for American Progress, a left-leaning think tank. In California, those drivers could be among the more than 1 million people expected to lose Medi-Cal coverage under new work-hour requirements in the Republican spending bill.

FAIRNESS AND OTHER ISSUES

The uneven effect of the deduction will apply to other industries, according to analyses by the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, and American Action Forum, a right-leaning think tank. Both think tanks criticized no tax on tips during the 2024 presidential election, when both Trump and former Vice President Kamala Harris proposed it. They said it has "no other redeeming quality" and that only some low-wage workers will get the tax deduction.

Another way the deduction is unfair is that it has a marriage penalty, said Andrew Gradman, a tax lawyer in Los Angeles County.

"If two tipped workers are married, they can only claim $25,000, while a single person would get to claim $25,000," he said.

Another possible problem: Because the new deduction introduces even more complexity to tax law, some workers risk committing tax fraud or being accused of it, Gradman said.

If someone works for an institutional employer, "they're going to have accountants who will do the heavy lifting," he said, and that could help taxpayers know whether they qualify for the deduction. "If you get your paycheck from Patreon or whatever, it's gonna be burdensome."

Levi Sumagaysay, CalMatters Economy Reporter



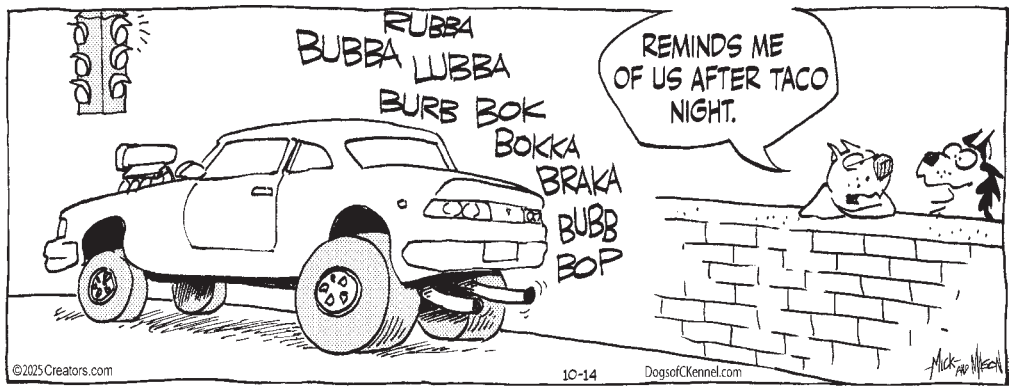
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



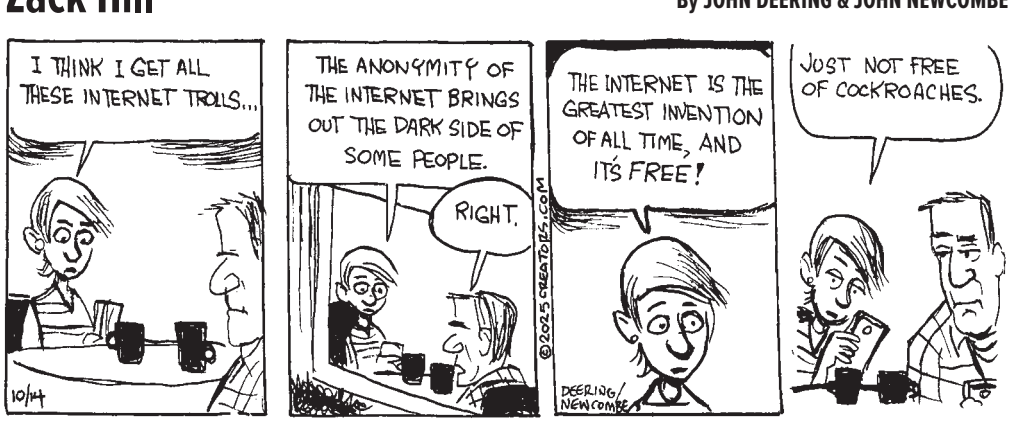
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



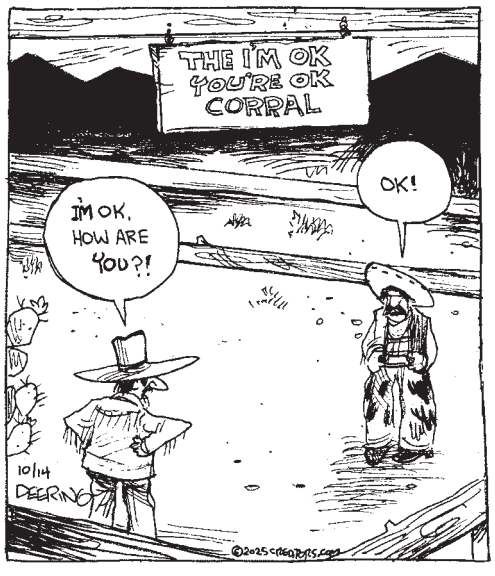
Heathcliff

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6728

Animal diversity

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

Aardvark
Addax
Alpaca
Amphibian
Apes
Baboon
Barn
Bear
Bison
Cats
Coati
Deer
Donkey
Eagles
Emus
Exit
Feed
Ferret
Fish
Food
Frog
Geese
Gibbon
Gnus
Goanna
Hyena
Iguana
Impala
Joey
Kite
Lions
Llama
Mink
Mole
Nimble
Open
Parrot
Puma
Rabbit
Rhinoceros
Rodent
Sheep
Snake
Swans
Tame
Tapir
Taronga
Vixen
Water
Whale
Zebra

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Predestination or free will?

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 14)

Welcome to your Year of Acknowledgments Galore! For your work, your powers of attraction, for the way you give your heart, for your community service ... It feels strange to be so celebrated, but let the world love you. You're due. More highlights: Physical thriving, routines that set you up for optimum vitality, mindset and mood, and seeing the new places that inspire and invigorate. Aquarius and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 18, 3, 33, 12 and 28.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Innovation isn't always a thunderclap. Sometimes it's a gentle sound that grows louder as you listen. Ideas come. Keep track. You're so brilliant now, with your finger on the pulse of the world. This is the beginning of something important.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your gift today is receptivity. The moments you absorb - the tone of a song, the warmth of a smile - nourish you more than you realize. Let yourself be moved. It fuels tomorrow's generosity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's OK to do the easy thing, and today it will be more productive than anything that feels like forced striving. You'll enjoy an activity that seems, on the surface, to be difficult. But this is not about nose-to-the-grindstone work. It's about puzzles and creative engagement.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your effort to put something lovely into the world will be rewarded, especially if you focus on the softer aspects of humanity. Humans connect in frailty more often than in strength - a tendency that lifts all of humanity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The marvel isn't far away or grand - it's right in front of you. You've trained your eye and spirit to notice. Awareness isn't given, it's cultivated. You have a well-tuned eye and open heart, and you'll touch infinity in everyday life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A friend's news stirs something like jealousy, but not quite that. You don't want what they have. You want the freedom it implies. To control your time, voice and vision without obligation pulling at you - that's the craving to serve.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Follow your interest, your comfort, your pleasure - even if it's only a glance at a photo, a sentence of a book or the curl of steam from tea. Those sensorial gifts gather into experience that vibrates, making you notice you are so alive.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've had periods of being bored, asleep, myopic just like everyone else. But life shook you awake, forced you to see more, and now that awareness has you turning the ordinary into the extraordinary today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Adventure doesn't always mean travel. Curiosity is enough today. Ask a new question, try a new recipe, follow a different path on your walk, and the change of scenery refreshes your spirit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're brilliant! But too many ideas can scatter your focus. Capture them in one place - a notebook, a voice memo - and keep moving. Collect now, sort later. You'll thank yourself for creating a treasure chest of gems.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). How you know you're too comfortable? You're bored more than curious, set on "autopilot" as you do things without asking why. If the scene feels safe, flat and uninteresting, you'll jolt yourself awake by doing the opposite of what's expected.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll have no trouble making money. Keeping it is trickier. Ad-free environments help with this. Why make yourself vulnerable to marketers who will make you feel like you need things you didn't even know about before you saw the ad?

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

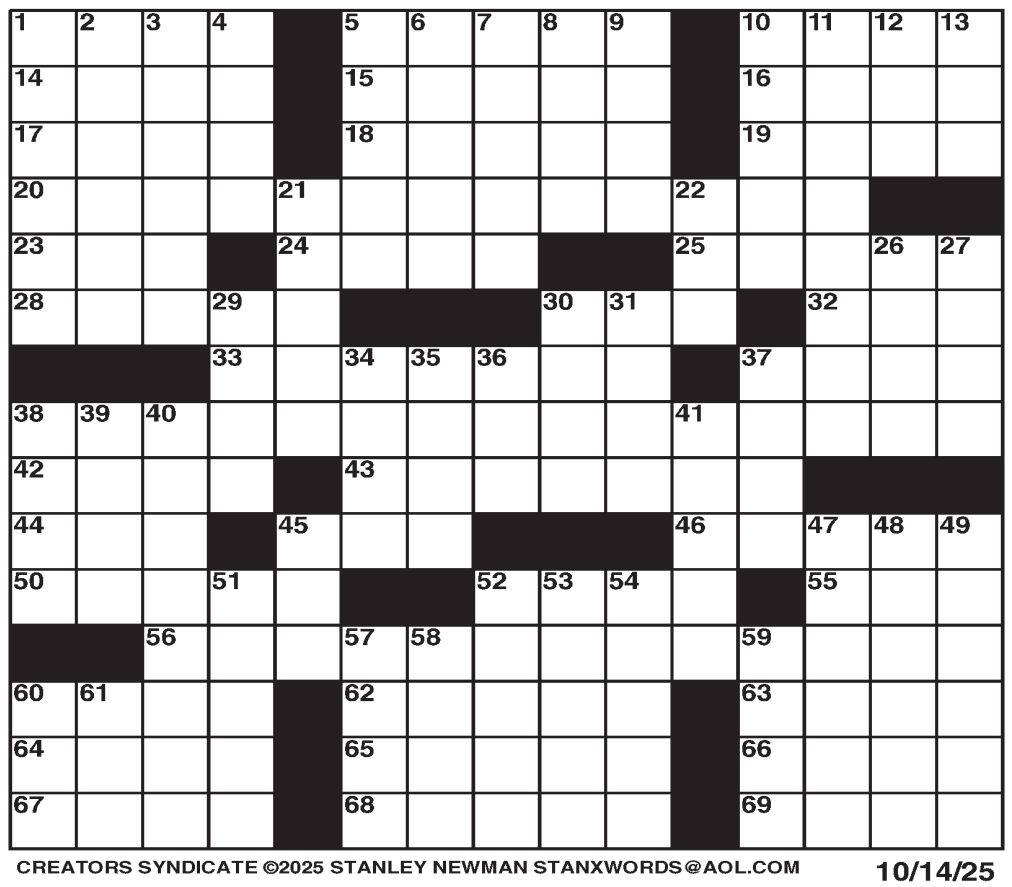
WE'RE SO BRIGHT by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Boulder or pebble
5 Drain blockages
10 Initials on an invitation
14 Phone app image
15 Get tangled up
16 "Put a lid __!"
17 Editor's removal mark
18 Convention venue
19 Floor-washing tools
20 Rave from a critic
23 Extremely long time
24 Fractions of a mile
25 Not __ (mediocre)
28 Flair for fashion
30 Sink, as the sun
32 "__ you kidding?"
33 Spray can
37 Whole bunch (of)
38 Impressive presentation
42 Sailor's greeting
43 As you like it, in recipes
44 Guys
45 Organ for hearing
46 Revered celebrities
50 Mascara stain
52 Eve's first home
55 Use oars
56 Champagne, for example
60 "Halt!"
62 Make into law
63 Went on horseback
64 McCartney or Revere
65 Discourage from doing
66 Very often
67 Poker pot starter
68 Disreputable, as a bar
69 Pigsties

DOWN

1 Mountain chains
2 Spotted wildcat
3 Any of America's "original 13"
4 Was sure of
5 Construction site lifter
6 Size above Medium
7 In plain sight
8 Bit of heredity
9 Eastern European
10 Juliet's love
11 White wintertime missile
12 Bigwig celebrity, for short
13 Fractions of a qt.
21 "In my opinion..."
22 Suffix for violin or novel
26 Neighborhood
27 Moist, as morning grass
29 Not wanting to work
30 Ginger ale or root beer
31 Yale students
34 Tequila cocktail, for short
35 __ about (approximately)
36 Police dept. rank
37 Moved fast
38 River barriers
39 Throat-clearing sound
40 Loses concentration
41 Bee attack
45 Historical period
47 Black-and-orange bird
48 Big Ben's city
49 Candies and cookies
51 Cider fruit
52 Fill with joy
53 Chopped into small cubes
54 Contest submission
57 Crimson and scarlet
58 Joint above a shin
59 Prepare gifts
60 Resort with saunas
61 Light brown color



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2025 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

10/14/25

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

CIVIC

FROM PAGE 1

Critics of the RPG deal are advocating for the contract to be canceled and new ideas considered as the city struggles with a pending fiscal crisis.

"The Civic Auditorium could become a modern, flexible concert venue suited for the 21st century," said an email from advocacy group Santa Monica Forward who have solicited letters opposing the RPG deal. "It could house a convention center or meeting space that addresses Santa Monica's shortage of such facilities. The site could support hotel development that takes advantage of its prime downtown location. Or it could accommodate mixed-use development including housing to help address our housing shortage. Through a competitive process, Santa Monica can discover which use (or combination of uses) best serves the community and generates the greatest public benefit."

RPG proposes converting the historic venue into an immersive digital and holographic theater with capacity between 2,800 to 3,300 seats, plus 14,000 square feet of new retail and restaurant space. The design envisions preserving historic elements while relocating parking and creating new green space on the former courthouse lot.

City staff's independent analysis suggests the project appears economically questionable without substantial public subsidy, showing negative returns even under optimistic scenarios with 200 shows annually. The report also says the city hasn't received full information about the project.

"Of note, through multiple meetings and discussions with the City, RPG has not provided a formal project concept that can be shared publicly," said the staff report. "While RPG has released a proposal for the Civic to the public, they have asked that the plans that were shared with staff remain confidential."

However, RPG representatives say they have responded to every city request for information and have been working to resolve any questions or concerns.

The Santa Monica Civic Auditorium has been closed since 2013 due to seismic safety concerns, ending a storied run that began when the venue opened in 1958. During its operational years, the auditorium established itself as a cultural cornerstone, hosting the Academy Awards from 1961 to 1968 and welcoming legendary musical acts including Pink Floyd, the Rolling Stones and Elton John.

Despite its cultural significance, previous attempts to find a development partner proved unsuccessful. Earlier redevelopment efforts in 2010-2012 and 2018-2019 failed to materialize, and the city currently lacks the necessary budget and staff to independently reopen the facility. In 2022, the property was declared surplus under the Surplus Land Act, a prerequisite step before leasing or selling civic property.

In March 2025, the City Council unanimously approved the Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with RPG. The consortium includes several entertainment and real estate heavyweights: Geyser Holdings, led by Russell Geyser, who has overseen more than $1 billion in commercial real estate syndications; The Make Good Group, led by Sexton and known for sustainability expertise; The Azoff Company, led by former Ticketmaster and Live Nation CEO Irving Azoff; Oak View Group, headed by Tim Leiweke, who redeveloped Seattle's Key Arena into Amazon's Climate Pledge Arena; and Live Nation, a Fortune 500 company specializing in live entertainment.

The deal nearly collapsed when negotiations stalled over the holidays and January 2025 fires destroyed the homes of two RPG principals. Several RPG leaders shifted focus to organizing FireAid, a benefit concert that raised over $100 million for fire relief and some of its members are still trying to find new places to live. However, Sexton said they are committed to the work.

Sexton emphasized the team's personal connection to the venue and questioned why the city would terminate negotiations when no alternative exists.

"That's where we did some of our earliest and most famous shows," Sexton said. "One of the most famous ever, of course, is the Eagles live album, which was recorded in Santa Monica Civic."

He called the consortium's assembled expertise rare and valuable.

"This array of people in RPG doesn't grow on trees, you know, to have this group of people all together wanting to save the Santa Monica Civic, and not only save it, but make it an important 21st Century destination for not only West Side citizens and the citizens of Santa Monica, but for people all over the world," Sexton said.

editor@smdp.com





TUESDAY | OCTOBER 14

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/13799967/2025-10-14T17

AN EVENING WITH WERNER HERZOG

8:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. The Ann and Jerry Moss Theater-New Roads School Herb Alpert Educational Village 3131 Olympic Blvd. Santa Monica. The Ann and Jerry Moss Theater-New Roads School Herb Alpert Educational Village 3131 Olympic Blvd. Santa Monica. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/an-evening-with-werner-herzog/16644619/2025-10-14T20

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/16004734/2025-10-07T22

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 15

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. $17.00 to $185.00. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/cinehaus-movie-nights/16585124/2025-10-15T19

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 16

GETTING THE HOMELESS HOME

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Jonathan Club in Santa Monica 850 Palisades Beach Rd Santa Monica. Come together with us to make a true difference. This event is about empowering people and creating pathways to end homelessness. Visit: Come together with us to make a true difference. This event is about empowering people and creating pathways to end homelessness. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/getting-the-homeless-home/16991463/2025-10-16T18

WAGS & WITCHES

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Fairmont Miramar - Hotel & Bungalows Fairmont Miramar - Hotel & Bungalows 101 Wilshire Boulevard Santa Monica. Join us for a howling good time at our annual Wags & Witches doggy celebration! Sip on spooky Tito's Vodka cocktails, show off your most creative Halloween looks, and take part in our spirited Costume Contest with prizes for the best dressed. Grand Prize: An overnight stay at Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows. Thursday, October 16 | 6PM – 8PM | Miramar Gardens. Complimentary event for hotel guests & local community. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/wags-witches/16969433/2025-10-16T18

MONTANA BRANCH BOOK GROUP

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Montana Branch Library 1704 Montana Ave. Santa Monica. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets in person at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at the Montana Branch Library. This book group discusses a mix of fiction and nonfiction titles, often on topics chosen from current events. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/montana-branch-book-group/14818668/2025-10-16T18

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 17

DRUNK THEATRE: THE WILDEST IMPROV COMEDY SHOW!

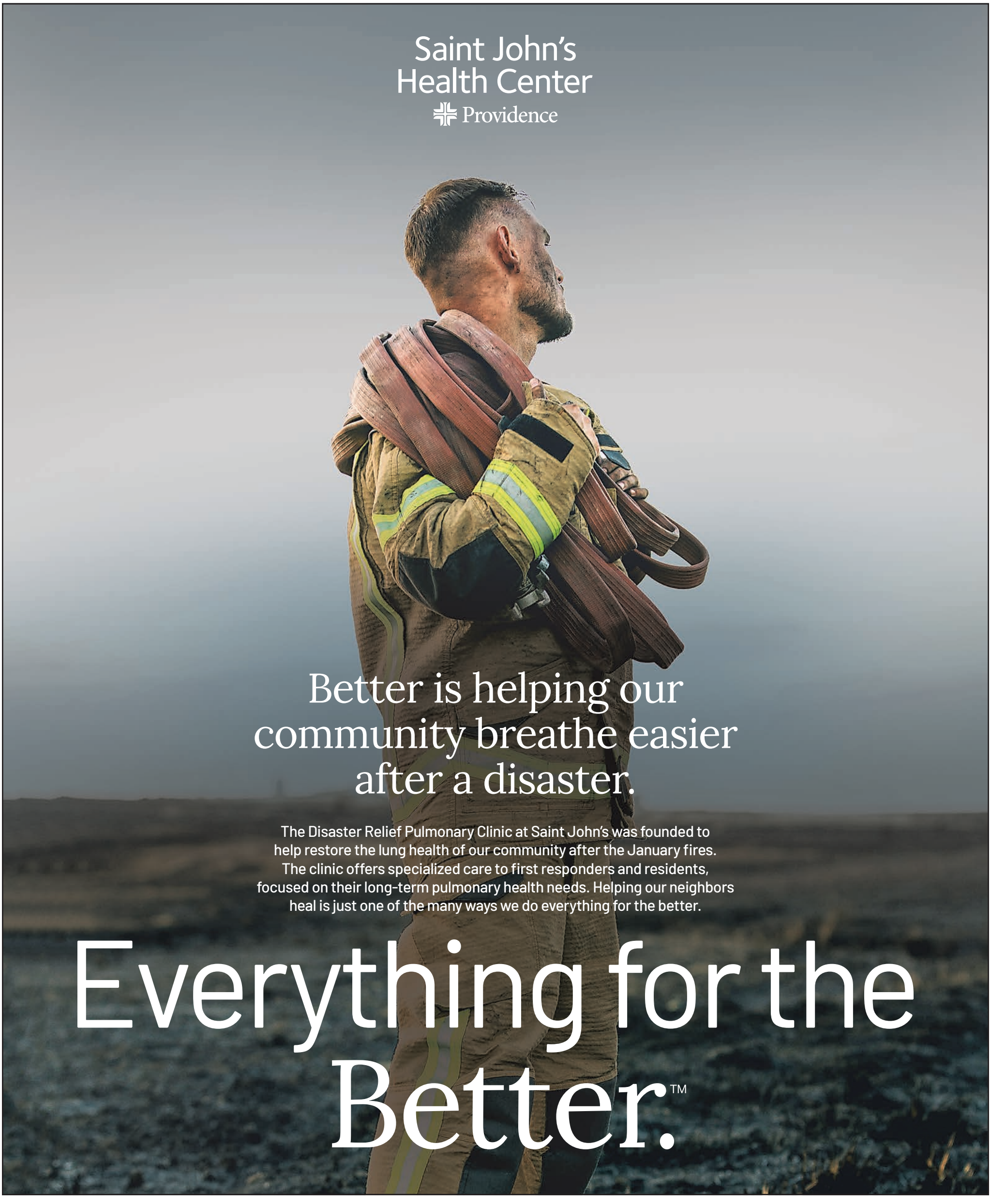
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica. A comedian takes five shots of whiskey in a row and tries to perform an improvised play with five sober comedians. What could go wrong?! Drunk Theatre is the entirely improvised, unpredictable, and crazy comedy show that'll kick your weekend into overdrive. Reserve your spot now as limited seating and space is available. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/drunk-theatre-the-wildest-improv-comedy-show-/15793351/2025-10-17T08

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/14385252/2025-10-17T18

Saint John's Health Center

Providence



Better is helping our community breathe easier after a disaster.

The Disaster Relief Pulmonary Clinic at Saint John's was founded to help restore the lung health of our community after the January fires. The clinic offers specialized care to first responders and residents, focused on their long-term pulmonary health needs. Helping our neighbors heal is just one of the many ways we do everything for the better.

Everything for the Better.™