

2 Gavin Newsom  
Food Fraud Scandal.

3 Politicians Failed  
LA's wildfire survivors.



4 Around Town  
Polar Plunge, Shows, Bollywood & more  
5 LA Metro  
LA River Path Environmental Report.

Volume 25 Issue 37

THURSDAY 1/8/26

[smdp.com](http://smdp.com)

# One year later, the Palisades gathered – to remember, to reckon, and to rebuild



**MICHELLE EDGAR**  
Special to the Daily Press

On the morning of January 7, the American Legion hall in Pacific Palisades filled slowly and deliberately not with spectacle, but with people who had learned over the past year how to sit with grief together.

Neighbors embraced quietly. Families who had lost loved ones held roses. Veterans stood beneath flags that, for twelve months, had come to represent something deeper than patriotism - they marked safety, steadiness, and the first sign of order in the days after everything burned.

One year after the Palisades Fire, the community gathered not only to remember what was lost, but to bear witness to what carried them through — and to what still must be rebuilt.

In the earliest days after the fire, when streets were still closed and ash coated everything familiar, the American Legion became the first and only place to open its doors. What had been a neighborhood post transformed overnight into a lifeline.

Jim Craig remembers walking up

to the building uncertain of what remained, and being struck by what was still standing.

"The flag was still there," he said. "That's when we knew what this building needed to become."

Over the next year, the Legion became the bedrock of the Palisades, a place where people sat for hours with friends and strangers alike, crying together. It became a space for resources, information, paperwork, meals and just as critically, for hugs, tears, and human connection.

One moment defined that transformation. Early on, while Craig and others were planning next steps, a woman walked in off the street with her children. She asked to see the wall of past commanders, searching for a photograph from the 1950s. When she found it, she told her children it was the only remaining record of their grandfather's existence.

"The tears that came from that," Craig said, pausing, "that's when we understood what this place had become."

There are more than 10,460 families connected to the Palisades.

SEE PALISADES PAGE 11

**PROTEST:** Residents marked the anniversary of the Palisades fire with a protest.

Michelle Edgar

## Police arrest woman for allegedly killing her baby

**MATTHEW HALL**  
Daily Press Editor

A woman was in custody Tuesday after an infant died with significant injuries at a Santa Monica apartment, police said.

Santa Monica police were notified by UCLA Police at approximately 11:54 a.m. that an adult woman had been detained

on the UCLA campus after making statements indicating she had harmed her child and left the child inside an apartment in the 2000 block of Broadway, according to the Santa Monica Police Department.

Officers responded to the residence and found an infant with significant injuries. Santa Monica Fire Department personnel transported the child to a local

hospital, where the infant was pronounced dead.

The woman was taken into custody in connection with the incident and transported to Santa Monica Jail. The woman was taken into custody in connection with the child's death and booked into Santa Monica Jail on felony charges.

SEE ARREST PAGE 7

## Attorney for Rob Reiner's son resigns but says his client is not guilty of murder under state law

The high-profile private attorney for Nick Reiner was granted a request to be removed from his case Wednesday, but later told reporters that according to California law his client is not guilty of murder in the killing of his parents, Rob Reiner and Michele Singer Reiner.

"Circumstances beyond our control and more importantly

circumstances beyond Nick's control have dictated that, sadly, it's made it impossible to continue our representation of Nick," lawyer Alan Jackson said as he stood with his team outside a Los Angeles courthouse.

But, Jackson added, after weeks

SEE ROB REINER PAGE 8

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Santa Monica Daily Press

## GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

# Critics draw iffy link between Gavin Newsom's record and Minnesota's food fraud scandal

Last month, as required by law, State Auditor Grant Parks published an annual report on state programs and agencies that his office deems to be at "high risk" of costly inefficiency, waste or fraud.

The report reiterated concerns about seven situations, two of which have been on the list since 2007, including the bureaucracy's chronic inability to successfully employ information technology — embarrassing for a state that is the global center for digital tools.

Parks has added a new program in his latest overview, the Department of Social Service's food aid for poor families, once called food stamps but now known as CalFresh.

The federal government primarily finances supplemental food benefits, but the state's share is determined, in part, by its management, as indicated by its rate of error when determining people's eligibility.

President Donald Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill tightens the error rate thresholds. Thus, Parks notes, California's 11% error rate, if not improved, could

require the state to "spend about \$2 billion annually to maintain CalFresh benefits."

The most disturbing item on Parks' list is the continuing inability of the Employment Development Department to effectively manage unemployment insurance benefits, which first came to light during the COVID-19 pandemic. Billions of dollars in fraudulent benefit claims were approved, almost all of which came in a federally financed expansion of the program.

By happenstance, the high risk report was released just as a scandal was erupting in Minnesota over widespread fraud in a program meant to keep children fed during the pandemic.

Dozens of people, mostly in Minnesota's substantial Somali population, have been charged with looting the program by setting up companies that billed the state for supplying food that was never delivered.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, whom

SEE GUEST COMMENTARY PAGE 7



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

**NEWSOM:** Gov. Gavin Newsom discusses election rigging at the Capitol Annex in Sacramento on Aug. 21, 2025.



## YOUR 1-MINUTE GREEN BIN TIP

Consejo de un minuto para el bote verde



What goes in the green bin?  
¿Qué va en el bote verde?



Wooden cutlery along with food scraps are allowed in your green bin.

Los cubiertos de madera, junto con los restos de comida, están permitidos en el contenedor verde.



Questions? Email [zerowaste@santamonica.gov](mailto:zerowaste@santamonica.gov)  
Preguntas? Manda un correo a [zerowaste@santamonica.gov](mailto:zerowaste@santamonica.gov)

## GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Politicians failed LA's wildfire survivors. Voters must hold them accountable

Last January, immediately after the fires, there was a moment of optimism for the future of Los Angeles. Fire survivors, policymakers, philanthropists, CEOs and regular Angelenos came together to plan Los Angeles' recovery.

But today, 12 months later, the failed leadership of California politicians has set back recovery efforts.

I am a born and raised Angeleno, and like so many others after the fires, I wanted to help. My career leading mission-driven work led me to connect with Evan Spiegel, founder of Snapchat, and Miguel Santana, president of the California Community Foundation. They launched the Department of Angels, a nonprofit that supports LA wildfire survivors, elevating their leadership in the recovery process.

Today the group is one of many organizations dedicated to the recovery effort. But community-driven work can only accomplish so much. Recovery efforts for disasters of this scale require the government to lead.

Signs of the government's systemic failure to lead began emerging within months of the fires. Away from Los Angeles when the fires first ignited — on an international trip she had pledged not to take — Mayor Karen Bass began the recovery effort behind the 8-ball and has seemingly never recovered. She has openly feuded with critics of her performance, including the Palisades Fire recovery czar that she herself appointed.

At the county level, the board of supervisors still has not fixed the county's broken emergency notification system, a failure that likely contributed to many of the 19 deaths in the Eaton Fire.

And at the state level, Gov. Gavin Newsom jockeyed to be the central figure in the campaign for federal funding, but his rivalry with President Donald Trump has doomed the possibility of federal aid for Los Angeles.

The consequences have been devastating for survivors.

Today, more than 8 in 10 Altadena residents and 9 in 10 Palisades residents are still out of their homes. Thousands of houses that survived the flames remain unsafe or uninhabitable because of contamination. And only about 15% of the 10,000-plus destroyed homes have received rebuilding permits from LA city

or county.

In other words, a year later, the rebuilding process has barely begun.

Perhaps worst of all, no concrete steps have been taken to prevent future wildfires in the Los Angeles area, where conflagrations are all but guaranteed. If nothing changes about the government's approach, most survivors of January's fires will never return to their neighborhoods, and future fires will claim even more lives, homes and businesses.

Despite the gravity of these challenges, there are reasons for optimism. This year Californians have the opportunity to elect officials who can plot a better way forward, including a new governor and statewide insurance commissioner.

In Los Angeles, we will have elections for county supervisors, City Council, Congress, mayor and more.

What are candidates' plans for fire recovery?

The myriad candidates in the running need to present serious plans to address the failures of the first year of recovery. They must communicate clear ideas to address environmental toxins that remain, failed emergency response systems, future wildfire prevention and the painfully slow pace of permitting and rebuilding — among many other related issues.

Philanthropy can play a role, too, by organizing nonpartisan candidate forums for candidates to hear from survivors directly. In the first year of the fire recovery, LA's robust institutional philanthropies tried to help elected leaders behind the scenes. Looking ahead, philanthropies would be better served backing the public accountability work necessary for politicians to deliver on their promises.

The failures of the first year of wildfire recovery rests at the feet of politicians, but that does not mean that the many years of recovery work ahead are doomed. Survivors and regular Angelenos have the chance to hold elected officials accountable for their shortcomings and elect new ones who are up to the job.

L.A. fire survivors deserve a new set of leaders who'll have the courage to act and the solutions to rebuild Los Angeles.

Max Lubin is CEO of Kismet Research, an incubator for businesses and nonprofits.



## Surf report

WATER TEMP: 61.9

THURSDAY  
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft  
Knee to thigh

Up tick in WNW swell mix for a little more size at exposures. Winds looking mainly light+ onshore. Blend of fresh, mid to longer period WNW swell edges up, with more thigh to waist high waves for exposed spots. Light+ NW winds due much of the day.

FRIDAY  
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft  
Knee to thigh

Smaller surf off easing swell. Possible pick up in offshore winds. Fading WNW swell, along with a touch of S swell for knee-thigh-waist high waves. At this point the call is for primarily offshore NE winds through the day.



## Weather

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 61. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 63.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/01/08	Thu	01:10 AM	4.36	H
2026/01/08	Thu	06:44 AM	2.09	L
2026/01/08	Thu	12:19 PM	4.14	H
2026/01/08	Thu	6:57 PM	0.60	L
2026/01/09	Fri	01:58 AM	4.44	H
2026/01/09	Fri	08:13 AM	2.04	L
2026/01/09	Fri	1:26 PM	3.31	H
2026/01/09	Fri	7:32 PM	1.27	L
2026/01/10	Sat	02:49 AM	4.54	H
2026/01/10	Sat	10:02 AM	1.71	L
2026/01/10	Sat	3:14 PM	2.70	H
2026/01/10	Sat	8:12 PM	1.87	L
2026/01/11	Sun	03:41 AM	4.67	H
2026/01/11	Sun	11:27 AM	1.17	L
2026/01/11	Sun	5:38 PM	2.59	H
2026/01/11	Sun	9:10 PM	2.35	L
2026/01/12	Mon	04:31 AM	4.83	H
2026/01/12	Mon	12:25 PM	0.61	L
2026/01/12	Mon	7:23 PM	2.84	H
2026/01/12	Mon	10:23 PM	2.63	L
2026/01/13	Tue	05:18 AM	5.03	H
2026/01/13	Tue	1:07 PM	0.13	L
2026/01/13	Tue	8:06 PM	3.09	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>



Draw Date: 10/11  
22 24 40 52 64  
Power#: 10  
Jackpot: 20 M



Draw Date: 10/11  
20 23 26 31 33



Draw Date: 10/10  
3 8 17 46 63  
Mega#: 7  
Jackpot: 48 M



Draw Date: 10/12  
MIDDAY: 4 9 2  
Draw Date: 10/11  
EVENING: 3 1 3



Draw Date: 10/11  
17 30 36 38 39  
Mega#: 2  
Jackpot: 17 M



Draw Date: 10/11  
1st: 05 - California Classic  
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George  
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit  
Race Time: 1:40.30

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## CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

SP2764 General Contractor for On-Call Public Works Maintenance and Repair Services

Bids will only be accepted through the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**, OpenGov or <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via OpenGov immediately after bid close time.

### MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:

No Pre-Bid Job Walk required.

**PROJECT ESTIMATE: ANNUAL AMOUNT: \$50,000 to \$1,000,000**  
**5-YEAR AMOUNT: up to \$5,000,000**

**CONTRACT DAYS: 5-Year on-call agreement**

**LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: Not Applicable**

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>. The Contractor is required to have an **A** or **B** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.



## CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit electronic bids for the:

**Annenberg Community Beach House (ACBH) Pool Tile Replacement Phase 2 Project**  
**SP2687**

Bids will only be accepted through the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**, OpenGov Procurement or <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via OpenGov Procurement immediately after bid close time.

### MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:

Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 9:00am

415 Pacific Coast Highway, Santa Monica, CA 90402

**Paid Parking on the Premises (parking validation will not be provided)**

**PROJECT ESTIMATE: \$330,000.00 (including a \$30,000 allowance)**

**CONTRACT DAYS: 365 Calendar Days**

**LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: \$1,000 Per Calendar Day**

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>. The Contractor is required to have a **B-General Contractor and/or C-54 Ceramic and Mosaic Tile Contractor** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors with historical restoration experience are encouraged to apply and additional points may be awarded during evaluation. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

## SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

## AROUND TOWN

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

# Polar Plunge, Comedy Shows, Bollywood, & More!

**SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town**

**Candlelight: Film Scores & Hollywood Epics:** Part of the "Candlelight" series, but held at the newly renovated Regent Beachfront. A string quartet performs iconic music from films like Interstellar and Gladiator in a stunning, flicker-lit room overlooking the Pacific. Thursday, Jan. 8, 6:30p.m., Regent Santa Monica Beach, 1700 Ocean Ave. <https://feverup.com/m/496540>



Courtesy photo

**PLUNGE:** The event is this weekend.

**Comedy and Trivia Night at The Crow:** Are you a trivia nerd or just love comedy? Or even both?? Come flex your knowledge AND enjoy a fun showcase of some hilarious comics who also have some favorite trivia fun facts too. In between sets, our host will be asking the audience trivia questions. Thursday, Jan. 8, 8p.m., 2525 Michigan Ave. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/trivial-comedy-tickets-1919238166019>

**Ice at Santa Monica (Final Two Weeks)** : Time is skating by on ice and the final two weeks are your last chance to lace up by the beach. This pop-up rink brings cool vibes, twinkling lights, and après-skate treats to downtown Santa Monica — proof that winter fun doesn't need snow to shine. Whether you're gliding gracefully or just trying not to fall for it, go for a spin before it melts away. Now through Jan. 19, 1324 5th St. [iceatsantamonica.com](https://iceatsantamonica.com)

**Annual Polar Bear Plunge:** The annual Polar Bear Plunge is an opportunity for community members of all ages to dive into the new year and enjoy family-friendly activities with this fun Santa Monica tradition. After the invigorating ocean dip, participants can head to the Annenberg Community Beach House heated pool from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to warm up, enjoy a hot chocolate or take a photo with event mascot Pat the Polar Bear. Saturday, Jan. 10, Annenberg Community Beach House [santamonica.gov/events/4a4rq5j26pfbfrtrbpixrgmijnmr/202601101000](https://santamonica.gov/events/4a4rq5j26pfbfrtrbpixrgmijnmr/202601101000)

**An Evening of Symphonic Bollywood at Broadstage:** Orchestra Santa Monica presents a rare cultural performance where a full symphonic orchestra reimagines the high-energy music of Bollywood. This is a one-time performance that blends traditional Indian instruments with Western classical arrangements. Saturday, Jan. 10, 7:30p.m., 1310 11th St. [orchestrasantamonica.org/event/symphonic\\_bollywood](https://orchestrasantamonica.org/event/symphonic_bollywood)

**Belly Laughs:** Enjoy a comedy show in a grocery store! Expect comedians from Netflix Is Joke, Don't Tell Comedy, HBO, and the Comedy Store. Located within the indoor patio of Fatty Market. Saturday, Jan. 10, 6:45p.m., 12210 Venice Blvd. [tickpick.com/organizer/event/belly-laughs-12243786](https://tickpick.com/organizer/event/belly-laughs-12243786)

**Venice Street Fair:** The fair will close 3rd Ave between Rose Ave and Sunset Ave for artists and small businesses. Sunday, Jan. 11, 9:30a.m. - 4:30p.m. [instagram.com/theartistfair](https://instagram.com/theartistfair)

**ONGOING:** Ice at Santa Monica (through Jan. 19); "Two Bit Circus" Pop-Up; Museum of Illusions;

### WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

**HomeState Grand Opening of SaMo Restaurant:** HomeState Santa Monica will celebrate its official grand opening on Saturday, Jan. 10, 720 Wilshire Blvd. [instagram.com/homestate](https://instagram.com/homestate)

**QiQi Cantonese and Cuban fusion Popup at Noun:** Drop everything for two nights of bold flavors + some natty wine, coffee, and matcha! Friday & Saturday, Jan. 9 & 10, 6-9p.m., 4065 Glencoe Ave., Marina Del Rey [instagram.com/p/DS5WgZ2D9p8/](https://instagram.com/p/DS5WgZ2D9p8/)

## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Los Angeles

## LA Metro Opens Public Comment Period for LA River Path Environmental Report

LA Metro has released the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the LA River Path project and opened a 47-day public comment period that runs through Feb. 2, 2026. The project would create a walking and bicycling path along the LA River between Elysian Valley and the City of Maywood, passing through downtown Los Angeles and Vernon.

The proposed path would close the longest remaining gap in the LA River trail system, creating a seamless 32-mile grade-separated corridor for safe walking and bicycling from the San Fernando Valley to Long Beach. The project would directly serve communities including Elysian Valley, Cypress Park, Lincoln Heights, Chinatown, downtown Los Angeles, the Arts District, the Industrial District, Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles and the cities of Vernon and Maywood.

"Projects like the LA River Path improve quality of life and provide mobility choices, foster connection and encourage more active lifestyles, all important goals as we look to build a transportation network worthy of a world-class city," said Fernando Dutra, Metro Board Chair and City of Whittier Council Member.

The project aims to transform the largely inaccessible LA River into a community resource while establishing new open space and expanding opportunities for safe active transportation. Approximately 76,000 Angelenos live within walking distance of the LA River, while about one million people live within biking distance. An estimated 17 percent of working-aged people who live within biking distance currently bike or take transit to work.

Capital cost estimates range from \$595 million for a 3.2-mile northern segment to \$688 million for a five-mile southern segment. A full 8-mile segment would cost approximately \$1 billion to \$1.2 billion, depending on the alternative selected.

The alternatives under study were shaped by extensive community input. Early feasibility concepts placed the path entirely along the LA River's west bank and mostly at the bottom of the channel. Current alternatives now include segments on both the west and east banks, linked by new bike and pedestrian-only bridges. Most equity-focused communities that would benefit from the project are located on the east bank.

Community feedback also influenced access points, key destinations and path width. In response to concerns that a 12-foot path would not safely accommodate both cyclists and pedestrians, the proposed width has been increased to 16 to 20 feet based on future demand forecasts.

Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins said the agency is working to ensure taxpayers get the best possible project through proactive community outreach.

With limited available space along the riverbank, all alternatives incorporate elevated, incised and top-of-bank segments. A bottom-of-the-channel alternative was considered but rejected because it failed to meet key goals for safety, access, sustainability and efficient mobility.

Metro will hold public hearings during the comment period:

Wednesday, Jan. 21: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Lincoln Heights Senior Center, 2323 Workman St, Los Angeles, CA 90031

Tuesday, Jan. 27: 6 to 8 p.m. at Maywood Center for Enriched Studies, 5800 King Ave, Maywood, CA 90270

Thursday, Jan. 29: 6 to 8 p.m. virtual via Zoom at [https://bit.ly/larp\\_deir](https://bit.ly/larp_deir) (Dial-in: 833 548 0276, Webinar ID: 833 2236 2142)

Saturday, Jan. 31: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez Senior High School, 1200 Plaza Del Sol E, Los Angeles, CA 90033

Live Spanish interpretation will be available at all public hearings. ADA accommodations and interpretation are available by calling 213-922-4710 at least 72 hours in advance.

Comments can be submitted at [metro.net/lariverpath](http://metro.net/lariverpath) or via email at [lariverpath@metro.net](mailto:lariverpath@metro.net) with "LA River Path – DEIR" in the subject line. Comments can also be mailed to Metro, One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-22-3, Los Angeles, CA 90012, or submitted by phone at 213-922-4004.

The project is partially funded by Measure M, the Los Angeles County sales tax approved by voters in 2016. Additional information is available at <https://www.metro.net/projects/lariverpath/>.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

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**METRO:** The project would provide a path for bicyclists and pedestrians.

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## EVENTS THIS WEEK JAN.8-JAN.15

Saturday, January 10, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Good Body Pilates Studio 3229 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica.

### Beginner Reformer Pilates at Good Body Pilates Studio

Start your Saturday feeling strong, centered, and energized with our Beginner Reformer Pilates Class at Good Body Pilates Studio, taught by expert instructor Kylie. This group class is perfect for those new to Pilates or anyone looking to reconnect with the fundamentals in a welcoming and supportive environment. No experience necessary! Located in the heart of Santa Monica on Pico Boulevard, right across from Trader Joe's, our boutique studio is surrounded by great local coffee shops and restaurants, making it the perfect place to kick off your weekend. Plenty of metered parking available on Pico Blvd, and both metered and free street parking available on Urban Ave. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/beginner-reformer-pilates-at-good-body-pilates-studio/16094481/2026-01-10T10>

Sunday, January 11, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

HomeState 720 Wilshire Boulevard #Suite 101 Santa Monica.

### Carb Loaders -1-Year Anniversary Run

Join our monthly 3-4 miles fun run . Expect great vibes, discover a new fun venue and meet the LA running community. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/carb-loaders-1-year-anniversary-run/17764744/2026-01-11T09>

Thursday, January 08, 12:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

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

### Ice at Santa Monica presented by Disney+ and Hulu

Get ready to experience The Ice Rink at Santa Monica Presented by Disney+ and Hulu, a winter adventure that combines the magic of the holiday season with the beauty of California's coastline. This seasonal ice rink fulfills dreams of gliding across a smooth-as-glass surface within four blocks of the Pacific Ocean. As the sun sets and paints the sky in breathtaking hues, the rink comes alive with sparkling lights and festive decorations, creating an atmosphere filled with enchantment and wonder. Whether you're a seasoned skater or just starting out, the sheer joy of Santa Monica ice skating in this paradise setting is an experience you won't want to miss. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/ice-at-santa-monica-presented-by-disney-and-hulu/17758168/2026-01-08T12>

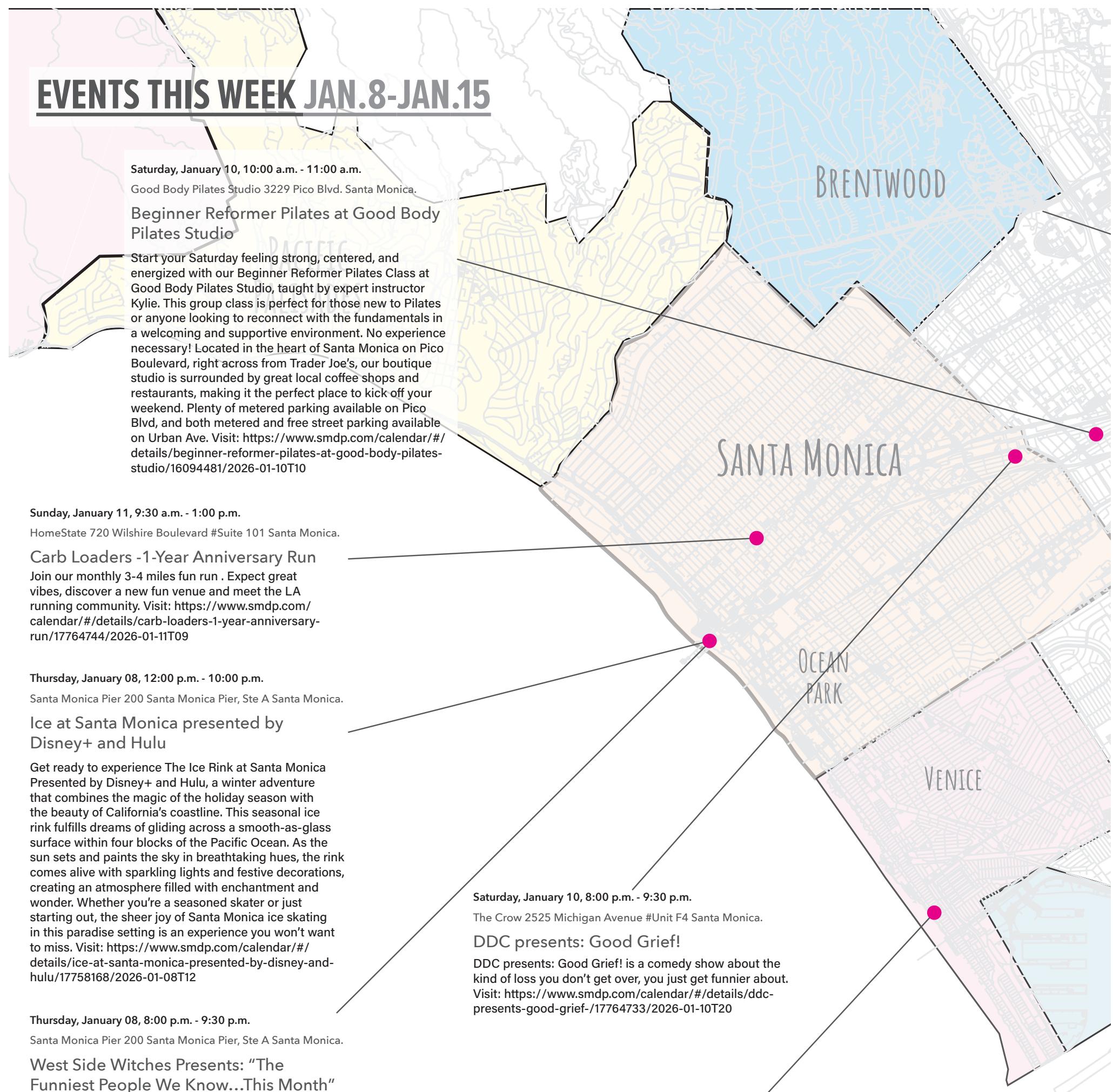
Thursday, January 08, 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

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

### West Side Witches Presents: "The Funniest People We Know...This Month"

Witches aren't just here for spooky season - summoning laughs is a year-round responsibility. The coven is back with another night of laughter, chaos, and comedy magic! Join us as we conjure up LA's funniest comics. Expect killer jokes, mischievous energy, and a lineup so good it might just hex your ex. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/west-side-witches-presents-the-funniest-people-we-know-this-month-/17758958/2026-01-08T20>

MAP



Friday, January 09, 2026

101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 info@venicewhaler.com Does not apply on holidays.

### DJ Set Fridays at The Whaler

Special guest DJ Jack Schwartz & Friends spinning every Friday Night! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/dj-set-fridays-at-the-whaler/17408732/2026-01-09T00>

Check out  
more events at:  
[smdp.com/events](https://www.smdp.com/events)

**ARREST**

FROM PAGE 1

While police did not initially identify the suspect, court records report her as 24-year-old Carmen Anita Degregg being held on a \$2 million bond.

SMPD has said it will provide updates when appropriate on the case and witnesses reported officers carried bags of evidence out of the apartment from a second-floor

**GUEST COMMENTARY**

FROM PAGE 2

Kamala Harris chose as her running mate in her campaign for president in 2024, felt the political fallout from the scandal — generated mostly in right-leaning media outlets — and this week dropped his bid for re-election.

Meanwhile, those same outlets — blogs, podcasts and YouTube videos — have been making an accusatory connection between the Minnesota scandal and the Parks report, suggesting the report proves the same kind of fraud was even more rampant in California and laying the blame on Gov. Gavin Newsom, who's a likely 2028 candidate for president.

This week, Steve Hilton, a Republican candidate for California governor, and Herb Morgan, a Republican running for state controller, cited the Parks report, their own research and tips from whistleblowers in a broad assertion, dubbed "CALIFRAUDIA," that "California's exposure to fraud, waste, and abuse across major state programs is likely to reach \$250 billion," adding that it "underscores the urgent need for formal investigation and audit, as a matter of basic fiscal responsibility."

However, the allegations of widespread

**AROUND TOWN**

FROM PAGE 4

**Top 10 Burgers List:** Pasjoli tops the list, along with Heavy Handed, Wally's and more. <https://www.instagram.com/p/DS5nY8ckm6b/>

**Holy Basil Santa Monica Opening:** Partners and chefs Wedchayan "Deau" Arpapornnopparat and Tongkamal "Joy" Yuen have expanded Holy Basil with a new Santa Monica location. Staying true to their Bangkok and Central Thai street-food roots, the menu will feature dishes like beef tataki, bangkok crab fried rice, pad kee mao moo krob, and rad na mee krob. Joy's signature non-alcoholic program will feature beverages such as the Hibiscus Agave Oolong and the Dragonfruit Rosemary. 2828 Santa Monica Blvd. [https://www.instagram.com/holybasil\\_la](https://www.instagram.com/holybasil_la)

**Jeni's Brings the World of Bridgerton to Ice Cream:** In celebration of the upcoming fourth season of the popular series, Jeni's is offering two limited-edition flavors designed to transport you to the ton. Queen Charlotte Sponge Cake is available starting Jan. 15, featuring a Victoria sponge with the lushness of Princess Cake, bright berries, soft sponge, and custard notes coming together in a confection worthy of Her Majesty herself, and tinted lavender at her behest. And Earl Grey Crème Brûlée is available starting Feb. 12 with fragrant Earl Grey steeped into a silky custard base and finished with burnt-sugar candies that echo the crackle of a freshly torched crème brûlée. 64 Windward Ave., Venice [jenis.com](https://jenis.com)

**Dry January at Zinque:** Zinque is hosting a weeklong cocktail competition at various locations. Stop by yours to vote for one of three killer mocktails to become the city-wide winner. 1440 Lincoln Blvd., Venice <https://www.instagram.com/zinque>

**Further Afield:** LA Art Show: "The Most Comprehensive International Contemporary Art Show in America" is back with more than 180,000 square feet of exhibition space, including domestic and international galleries. Wednesday - Sunday, Jan. 7 - 10, Downtown LA Convention Center [www.laartshow.com](http://www.laartshow.com)

**Looking Ahead:** DineLA Restaurant Week (1/23 – 2/6); SaMo Symphony Annual MLK Concert (1/17); Frieze LA Art Show (2/26 - 3/1); DineLA Restaurant Week

apartment over the course of several hours.

The Los Angeles County Medical Examiner will determine the cause and manner of death.

Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division are investigating the case. Based on preliminary information, the incident appears to be isolated with no ongoing threat to the community, police said.

[editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

**THURSDAY | JANUARY 8****CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES**

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Cada semana será algo nuevo: Ejercicio, Hablando con amigos, Aprendizaje, Presentadores Invitados, Salud y Bienestar. Hay comida para los adultos mayores que participan durante las dos horas. Para más información llame al (310) 458-8688. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/drunk-theatre-the-wildest-improv-comedy-show-/15793351/2026-01-09T08T11>

**CANDLELIGHT SANTA MONICA: FILM SCORES AND HOLLYWOOD EPICS**

6:30 p.m. Regent Santa Monica Beach 1700 Ocean Ave Santa Monica. Candlelight concerts bring the magic of a live, multi-sensory musical experience to awe-inspiring locations like never seen before in Los Angeles. Get your tickets now to discover the music of Film Scores and Hollywood Epics at Regent Santa Monica Beach under the gentle glow of candlelight. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/candlelight-santa-monica-film-scores-and-hollywood-epics/17758761/2026-01-08T11>

**RENT CONTROL BOARD MEETING**

7:00 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main Street Santa Monica. The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/rent-control-board-meeting/13406661/2026-01-08T19>

**WESTSIDE WITCHES PRESENTS: NEW YEAR, SAME YOU**

8:00 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. Mi's West Side Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd Street Santa Monica. Witches aren't just here for spooky season — summoning laughs is a year-round responsibility. The coven is back with another night of laughter, chaos, and comedy magic! Join host Brenna McNamara and Sabrina Kennelly as we conjure up LA's funniest comics including Phil Morris, Kelly Farmer, Boo Milligan, Jenny Burnett, Danny Hackin and Ryan the Cable Viewer. \$20.00 —21+ event. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/westside-witches-presents-new-year-same-you/17744622/2026-01-08T20>

**FOOTBALL SHOWINGS AT THE WHALER!**

101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 [info@venicewhaler.com](mailto:info@venicewhaler.com) Does not apply on holidays Santa Monica. Enjoy food & drink specials during every football game! The Whaler shows every college and nfl game on all tvs every week all season! (Sound is only on if that is the only game playing). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/football-showings-at-the-whaler-/17408731/2026-01-08T00>

**FRIDAY | JANUARY 9****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://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/drunk-theatre-the-wildest-improv-comedy-show-/15793351/2026-01-09T08T08T11>

**BRUNCH FRIDAYS WITH LIVE MUSIC IN OUR GARDEN PATIO!**

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tiamo Kitchen & Venue 2700 Colorado Ave Santa Monica Our newly launched Brunch Fridays just got vibey-er! Every week enjoy great eats, summer libations, and a featured music artist on our beautiful garden patio! So come toast to summer with our uniquely crafted brunch menu including our Turmeric Spiced Cloud Egg dish, Smoked Gouda Scramble with Smashed Ube, Vietnamese French Toast, along with Mama An classics such as Famous Garlic Noodles, Shaken Beef, and Seafood Egg Fried Rice! And of course, it wouldn't be brunch without bottomless mimosas & summer punch bowls, so grab your brunch crew and enjoy the fair along the beautiful backdrop of Al fresco dining. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/brunch-fridays-with-live-music-in-our-garden-patio-/14639006/2026-01-09T11>

**APRÈS CHALET**

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Regent Santa Monica Beach 1700 Ocean Ave Santa Monica. Après Chalet is a pop-up that transforms seaside cabanas into LA's chicest winter retreat. Each private cabana holds its own holiday ritual: a curated s'mores kit, a warm welcome cocktail, and the crackle of fire from a glowing firepit reserved exclusively for your group. Winter-white decor and twinkling lights frame the scene, as live music drifts through the salt air and a dedicated fireside mixologist creates enchanting, seasonal cocktails. \$55.00 to \$125.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/apres-chalet/17758170/2026-01-09T16>

**SATURDAY | JANUARY 10****VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK/PICO BOULEVARD FARMERS MARKET**

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave Santa Monica Virginia Avenue Park Santa Monica. The family market in the heart of the Pico neighborhood's Virginia Avenue Park! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/virginia-avenue-park-pico-boulevard-farmers-market/16090226/2026-01-10T08>

**FRANCIS KLEIN TRUNK SHOW AT MONTANA EYES**

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Montana Eyes 718 Montana Avenue Santa Monica. Jennifer Butler will choose the perfect eyewear frames for you. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/francis-klein-trunk-show-at-montana-eyes/17764702/2026-01-10T10>

**ROB REINER**

FROM PAGE 1

of investigation, "what we've learned, and you can take this to the bank, is that pursuant to the laws of this state, pursuant to the law of California, Nick Reiner is not guilty of murder. Print that."

Jackson would not specify what he meant and took no questions at the brief news conference.

He spoke after a hearing where Nick Reiner was supposed to be arraigned and enter a plea to two charges of first-degree murder. Instead, after meeting with the Judge Theresa McGonigle in chambers, Jackson was replaced by a public defender and Reiner's plea hearing was postponed to Feb. 23.

Alan Jackson can't say why he has to quit case

Jackson said that for legal and ethical reasons, he could not reveal why he had to leave the case. He first appeared in court representing Reiner at a hearing a few days after the beloved actor-director and his wife of 36 years were found dead with stab wounds in their home in the upscale Brentwood section of Los Angeles. Jackson did not say how he was hired — or who hired him. Generally, defendants use public defenders when they can't pay for a private attorney.

Jackson has become one of the most prominent defense attorneys in the nation in recent years after defending clients including Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey and Karen Read at her intensely followed trials in Massachusetts.

After the judge granted Jackson's request to leave the case, Deputy Public Defender

“

# The Public Defender's Office recognizes what an unimaginable tragedy this is for the Reiner family and the Los Angeles community

- Ricardo D. Garcia, Deputy Public Defender

”

Kimberly Greene took over as Reiner's attorney.

“The Public Defender's Office recognizes

**NEWS**

what an unimaginable tragedy this is for the Reiner family and the Los Angeles community," Deputy Public Defender Ricardo D. Garcia said in a rare public statement on a case from the office. "Our hearts go out to the Reiner family as they navigate this difficult time. We ask for your patience and compassion as the case moves through the legal process."

Nick Reiner appears in jail clothes, without suicide prevention smock

During Wednesday's hearing, Reiner stood behind glass in a custody area of the courtroom wearing brown jail garb and with his hair shaved. Two deputies stood behind him. Jackson and his team stood in front of him on the other side of the glass. At one point, Reiner stood on his tiptoes to peer over the lawyers' heads to look at the audience. He spoke only to agree to the delayed arraignment.

McGonigle approved the use of cameras inside the courtroom but said pictures could not be taken of the defendant. At Wednesday's hearing, Reiner did not wear the suicide prevention smock he had on at his initial court appearance on Dec. 17.

Reiner, 32, the third of Rob Reiner's four children, has been held without bail since his arrest hours after his parents were found dead on Dec. 14.

A Reiner family spokesperson said in a statement after Wednesday's hearing that "They have the utmost trust in the legal process and will not comment further on matters related to the legal proceedings."

Jackson says he 'dropped everything' to represent Reiner

Jackson, a former LA County prosecutor, had given no indication of the plans for his defense.

He said he that just hours after the bodies were discovered and Nick Reiner was arrested, he and his team got a call about representing him. He did not say who called him.

"We dropped everything," Jackson said. "For the last three weeks, we have devoted literally every waking hour to protecting Nick and his interests. We've investigated this matter top to bottom, back to front."

He said they remain "deeply, deeply committed" to him and said, "We're not just convinced; we know that the legal process will reveal the true facts."

Rob Reiner, 78, and Michele Singer Reiner, 70, were killed early on the morning of Dec. 14, and they were found in the late afternoon, authorities said. The LA County Medical Examiner said in initial findings that they died from "multiple sharp force injuries," but released no other details, and police have said nothing about possible motives.

Prosecutors have said they have not yet decided whether to seek the death penalty for Nick Reiner.

Rob Reiner was a prolific director whose work included some of the most memorable and endlessly watchable movies of the 1980s and '90s. His credits included "This is Spinal Tap," "Stand By Me," "A Few Good Men," and "When Harry Met Sally," during whose production he met Michele Singer, a photographer, and married her soon after.

A decade ago, Nick Reiner publicly discussed his struggles with addiction and mental health after making a movie with his father, "Being Charlie," that was very loosely based on their lives.

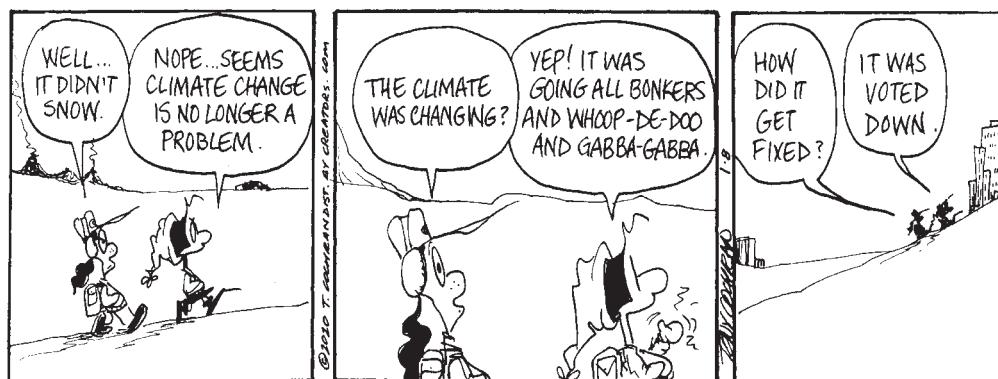
By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

# A learning community that never stands down.

Our resilience is rooted in an inclusive culture that celebrates the experience of our students and faculty.



## Agnes



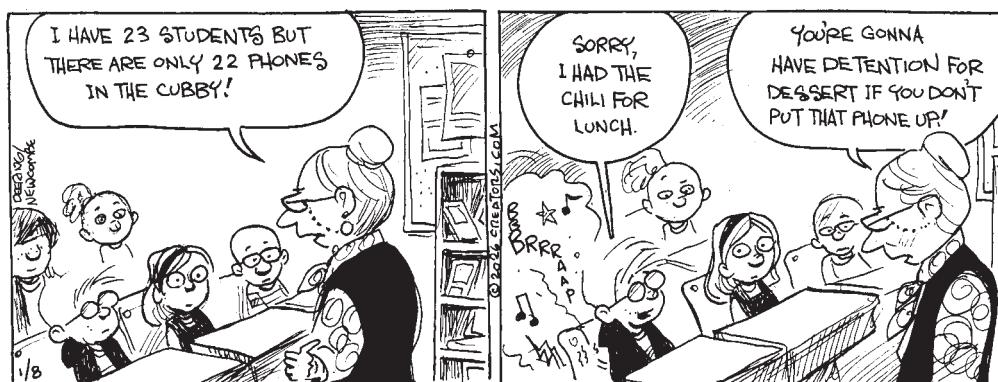
By TONY COCHRAN

## Dogs of C-Kennel



By MICK &amp; MASON MASTROIANNI &amp; JOHNNY HART

## Zack Hill



By JOHN DEERING &amp; JOHN NEWCOMBE

## Heathcliff



By PETER GALLAGHER

## Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

## FIND THE WORDS

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6814

## Market fresh



Aloe	Cos	Jams	Skis
Apparel	Craft	Jeans	Soap
Arts	Dill	Junk	Space
Atlas	Doors	Leek	Spend
Axes	Eggs	Neighbourly	Tangerine
Basil	Ferns	Okra	Tasty
Beet	Figs	Onion	Teas
Blackcurrant	Find	Pear	Tomato
Books	Flute	Photographs	Tools
Carpet	Fruit	Pies	Tyres
Cash	Games	Plum	
Chips	Grow	Produce	
City	Hats	Sage	
Corn	Healthy	Shoes	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Trick or treat goodies



## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 8)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Like attracts like. When you walk into a room, you'll gravitate toward people whose energy matches yours - and they'll gravitate toward you. Expect quick connections, inside jokes with strangers and an easy sense of belonging.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's a paradox in creative energy. Self-expression doesn't drain you; it feeds you - because the energy isn't coming from you but through you. Even though it looks like you're "giving out" energy, the act of self-expression actually replenishes you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It feels unnatural to you to prioritize yourself, but do it anyway. Otherwise, you won't have anything to give. There's a lot of need around you, and you can help, but only if you put your own needs first so you're full and strong.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When life feels too ordinary, but you don't have the means to upgrade your circumstances, you can still upgrade your attention. Ordinary things get interesting when you look at them from different angles. Curiosity is the cheapest form of reinvention.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Self-discovery is the theme. There's no sense worrying about saying, doing or dressing "wrong." Wrong compared to what? You're creating yourself as you go. And as actors and writers know, there are no mistakes in character creation, only choices.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A future that looks exactly like today is the easiest to imagine, but also the least likely to occur. Life is always moving. So use today to tilt things in the direction you want. Even a 1-degree shift now can land you somewhere entirely new.



## HOROSCOPES

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Go where you're attracted and something interesting occurs. You'll discover new abilities in yourself. When there's nothing attractive around, leave. Seek more interesting environments to avoid letting these unrealized talents remain dormant inside you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your filters are thinner today. You might share what you didn't intend to, but don't worry too much. This is the truth that could set you free, or at least teach you who is safe to tell the truth to.

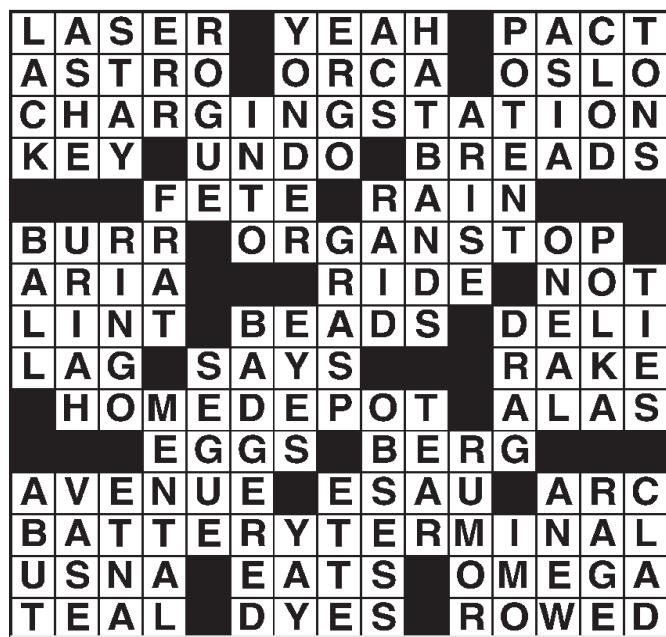
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). We need different mirrors to know ourselves. A mirror can show you your face and a diary can show you your mind, but what can show you how others experience you? A truthful insight from an outside observer will help.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've leveled up your skills, and it's evident in the way you make quick work of a task that once intimidated you. And your confidence is so understated that you'll disarm people and bring them to your team.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's the way everyone does it, and the way that actually makes life easier. The second one takes a little figuring out, but once you're past the learning curve, it's smooth sailing: harder at first, easier ever-after.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Today you'll witness an inconspicuous kind of morality hiding inside ordinary choices. Evil can be understood simply as any decision that pulls you away from your values, while good is whatever moves you closer.

## SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD



## Newsday Crossword

GRAINY by Adam Simpson  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
[www.stanxwords.com](http://www.stanxwords.com)

## ACROSS

1 Too fluent  
5 Name hidden in "woolgathering"  
9 Course with greens  
14 Cooler brand named for a monster  
15 Trattoria staple  
16 Keep entertained  
17 Soybeans in soup  
18 Waffle brand  
19 Italian peak  
20 Two-notes-at-a-time vocal artist  
23 Matches  
26 Staked sum  
27 Larynx-lungs link  
29 Interactive demo, in brief  
30 Warming by simmering  
32 Emperor of yore  
36 Wonder-ful feeling  
37 Fussing  
38 What a toaster might hold  
39 35mm purchases  
41 With great disdain  
45 Rapid, in brand names  
47 Dostoevsky contemporary  
48 Pretty much all things  
50 Party with a piñata  
51 Martian extremities  
55 Tennis great Agassi  
56 Aloha Stadium locale  
57 Just OK

## 61 Tears up

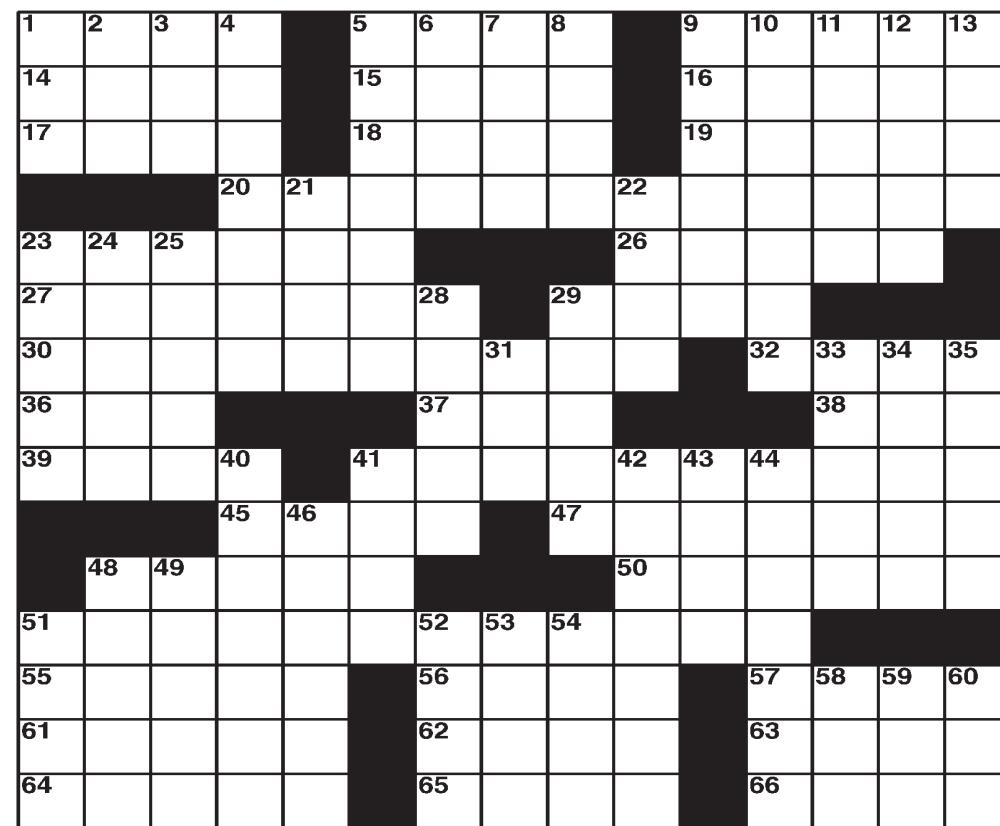
62 Pecanlike  
63 Expression of surprise  
64 Bring to bear  
65 Didn't toss  
66 Ready to eat

## 8 Much

9 Seuss character  
10 In our group  
11 Desperate move  
12 Daisy cousin  
13 A buck or two  
21 Little laugh  
22 Large swallow  
23 Pages and pages of places  
24 Talk angrily  
25 Less cultured  
28 Sharp as \_\_  
29 Sound of disdain  
31 Words from a witness  
33 Goes no further  
34 Ration out  
35 Informal welcome

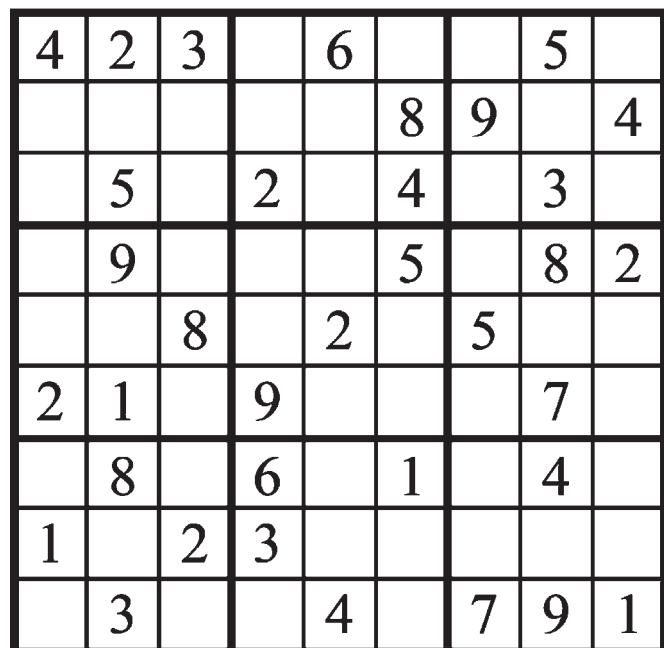
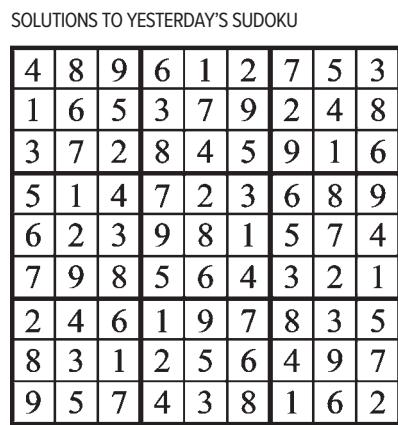
## 40 Not as cool

41 "Ciertamente!"  
42 Insurance category  
43 Sassy  
44 Employs as  
46 Turbulence  
48 OTC at the pharmacy  
49 Nostalgic number  
51 Betray nervousness  
52 Omelet maker  
53 Roof border  
54 Roughen from the cold  
58 Sashimi fish  
59 Little pest  
60 Grain not hidden in the four longest answers



## 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.



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

## PALISADES

FROM PAGE 1

Every one of them carries a different version of trauma. The mission that emerged inside the Legion was simple but immense: help each family find a path from loss to triumph.

Around them stood the quiet infrastructure of recovery — engineers, National Guard units, LAPD officers, donors, public officials — what Craig described as “millions of dollars of love,” coordinated without hierarchy, each group functioning in its own lane.

Councilwoman Traci Park spoke to the American Legion’s role not as a temporary shelter, but as a civic anchor when residents needed one most. “In the days after the fire, this became more than a building,” Park said. “It became a home base — a place where people could walk in without an appointment, without a form, without knowing what came next, and simply be met with help.”

Park emphasized that recovery in the Palisades has never been about a single agency or leader, but about showing up consistently over time. “What I’ve witnessed here is a community that refused to wait for permission to take care of one another,” she said. “Neighbors organized. Veterans opened their doors. Volunteers filled the gaps when systems were overwhelmed. That kind of response doesn’t happen everywhere, and it deserves to be honored.”

She noted that while visible progress is underway, the responsibility of leadership does not end with anniversaries. “One year later, the work isn’t finished,” Park said. “Families are still navigating insurance, rebuilding, displacement, and grief. Our obligation mine included is to stay present, to listen, and to make sure recovery happens with transparency, care, and urgency.”

For Cindy Kirven, a Palisades resident since 1982, that sense of humanity mattered as much as any formal assistance. She recalled the moment she first realized the scale of her loss — not through flames, but through absence.

“You don’t think of yourself as a disaster victim,” she said. “But suddenly you don’t have a broom, a hammer, extension cords — things you don’t think about until they’re gone.”

Inside the Legion, she encountered something unexpected. Relief organizations lined the hall. Volunteers sat face-to-face with survivors. Someone reached across the table, took her hand, said a prayer, and handed her a gift card.

“It wasn’t transactional,” Kirven said. “It was human.”

As insurance disputes mounted and mortgage processes grew adversarial, the Legion remained a place of trust. Survivors met with SBA representatives at desks instead of call centers. They cried openly. They were helped without being reduced to claims numbers.

Inside the hall that morning, the names of 12 people who lost their lives in the fire were read aloud. Eight families were present. Roses were placed in the front row — one for each life lost.

Children were spoken of those who lost not only homes, but schools and childhoods. Seniors were acknowledged residents who arrived decades ago when the Palisades was still forming, who paid \$30,000 for lots in the 1950s and 1960s and now face rebuilding without access to loans. Many of them, Craig noted, carried the beauty of the Palisades for generations.

What emerged was not a story of one leader, but of many — Team Palisades, recovery

coalitions, social groups, neighbors holding hands, offering psychological support, helping each other navigate both grief and logistics. Already, more than 30 homes are under construction.

The flag, Craig said, became a central symbol. As a veteran, he described returning from missions and seeing the flag at the gate — the sign that you are home, that you are safe. When flags were placed at entry points to the Palisades, residents saw the red, white, and blue before they saw smoke and ash.

Messages poured in, pleading that the flags remain.

“They helped people keep their tears away,” Craig said.

Faith leaders spoke of what was lost beyond structures — the routines, support systems, and sense of belonging that anchor daily life.

Rabbi Zushe Cunin described how the Chabad Jewish Community Center temporarily relocated to Santa Monica’s Franklin campus and Broadway, alongside the Persian synagogue, while its Palisades home is restored.

“Our roots here were never broken,” he said. “Our people were displaced.”

Students with special needs were among those most deeply affected, losing access to public school resource rooms and community networks. Until families can return, Cunin said, the commitment is to support them wherever they are — with compassion and understanding for trauma that lingers long after flames are extinguished.

Father Liam Kidney of Corpus Christi Parish echoed that message — that rebuilding is about restoring presence, not just places.

State Senator Ben Allen, now running for California Insurance Commissioner, called the American Legion a model of community-centered recovery.

“Community spaces like this are more than buildings,” Allen said. “They’re where neighbors gather, share strength, and rebuild not just homes, but hope.”

Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin reflected on the dual weight of the anniversary — grief and progress intertwined.

“If you drive through the Palisades and see how many homes are being rebuilt, it’s heartwarming,” she said. “But today also reminds us what a terrible tragedy this was — and why we can’t stop showing up a year, two years, or three years from now.”

Her office has assisted hundreds of residents navigating insurance disputes, permitting delays, and recovery roadblocks, securing \$4 million in state funding to help accelerate permitting. Insurance reform — particularly around the FAIR Plan and smoke damage — remains the most frequent concern residents raise.

Later in the day, the focus moved outdoors. Flags that had flown throughout the year were formally retired and rededicated. A color guard led a procession accompanied by bagpipes — the sound carrying through streets now marked by rebuilding.

The procession concluded at Palisades Village Green, a gathering place built and sustained through the care and commitment of the Palisades Lions Club. For decades, the Green has been where the Palisades comes together, and on this day it once again served its purpose: a place to remember, to heal, and to recommit.

“This past year tested us beyond measure,” speakers reflected. Yet where systems fell short, compassion stepped forward.

Community leaders including Jessica Rogers and Sharon Kilbride were recognized for holding space when it mattered most — restoring trust, guiding neighbors through

uncertainty, and helping the community find its footing during its most difficult season.

Kilbride’s presence carried the weight of continuity. Her family roots stretch back more than 200 years in Pacific Palisades and Malibu, making her a sixth-generation member of the historic Marquez family. In her work supporting vulnerable populations and serving as a liaison, her leadership has been defined by stewardship — quiet, persistent service grounded in care for place and people.

As part of the ceremony, a healing dance was offered in partnership with Global Empowerment Mission. Through movement and song, the performance honored grief held in the body and affirmed resilience — a reminder that healing is both collective and deeply personal.

The ceremony concluded with the ringing of the bells.

They sounded three times — once in remembrance of each life lost, once in honor of families forever changed, and once as a call to duty.

Wreaths were presented. A moment of silence followed.

Through the Abramson Foundation, twelve native trees — live oaks and sycamores — have now been planted in Temescal Canyon, creating a living memorial. The foundation also supports TreePeople’s partnership with Los Angeles Unified School District, extending restoration into school communities impacted by the fire.

“We’ve seen the impossible made real,”

Rogers said. “And learned what impossible truly means.”

Just blocks away, a protest unfolded, where 12 speakers voiced continued frustration with insurance, rebuilding timelines, and accountability. Among them was Spencer Pratt, who announced running for mayor — underscoring how deeply the fire has reshaped civic engagement and political discourse.

Grammy- and Emmy-winning songwriter Jimmy Dunne said what surprised him most was not sorrow — but belief.

“People came expecting sadness,” Dunne said. “But instead, we looked around and realized the promise is right in front of us. The people of this town are what’s bringing it back.”

He pointed to public-private partnerships, including the work of Steadfast LA, as the engine of real progress.

“It won’t be the same,” Dunne said. “It will be better.”

As the sun set on a day of remembrance, protest, prayer, music, and resolve, one truth became unmistakable.

What the fire took was immense — homes, history, and lives. What it did not take was the will of a community determined to rebuild — together.

Under a newly raised flag, the Palisades stood united.

Together, it will heal, rebuild and become one of the greatest disaster recovery stories ever told — through belief in what’s possible.

## Santa Monica Daily Press

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## DBA

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2025284255. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SUNNY

KIDS PEDIATRICS, 903 14TH STREET, SANTA

MONICA, CA 90403, County of Los Angeles.

Registered Owner(s): CINDY TSUCHING

HSU, 903 14TH STREET, SANTA MONICA,

CA 90403. This business is conducted by:

an Individual. The registrant commenced

to transact business under the fictitious

business name or names listed above on

12/2025. I declare that all information

in this statement is true and correct.

(A registrant who declares as true any

material matter pursuant to Section 17913

of the Business and Professions Code that

the registrant knows to be false is guilty of

a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not

to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)).

/s/ CINDY TSUCHING HSU, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/24/2025.

NOTICE: This Fictitious 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 before that time. The filing of this

statement does not of itself authorize the

use in this state of a Fictitious Business

Name in violation of the rights of another

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