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**2** Frustrating Year

For job seekers.

**3** Gov. Newsom

Final State of the State speech.

**4** Pier To Host

First Drive-in movie night.

**6** Lane Closure

On State Route 2.



Volume 25 Issue 39

**MONDAY 1/12/26**

**smdp.com**

## Bank of America grants \$1 million for Pacific Palisades YMCA reconstruction



Courtesy photos

**GRANT:** The facility burned in last year's fires but is being rebuilt thanks to donations.

Bank of America has committed \$1 million to rebuild the Lowe Family YMCA serving the Palisades-Malibu community, which was destroyed in the Los Angeles wildfires one year ago.

The grant marks the first and

largest corporate contribution to the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles' \$25 million capital campaign launched last summer. The organization plans to break ground this spring on two new resilient campuses to replace the

burned Via de la Paz facility.

As we mark the first anniversary of the devastating fires, we also celebrate the incredible progress of the YMCA's efforts to rebuild

SEE RECONSTRUCTION PAGE 7

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## LA County declares January 2026 human trafficking prevention month

**MAAZ ALIN**

SMDP Staff Writer

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved proclamations Tuesday declaring January 2026 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month, reaffirming the county's commitment to combating trafficking and supporting survivors.

The board approved separate but complementary motions from Chair and First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis and from Supervisors Janice Hahn and Lindsey P. Horvath, both emphasizing a shift toward survivor-centered, trauma-informed services.

"Human trafficking is a serious

violation of human rights that affects workers, children and families in communities across Los Angeles County, often out of sight and without victims knowing where to turn for help," Solis said. "This proclamation is about more than awareness. It is about strengthening prevention, improving coordination across County agencies and making sure survivors can access culturally competent, trauma-informed services that put their safety and dignity first."

The proclamations recognize National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, first established

SEE LA COUNTY PAGE 7

## City Hall scrambles to fix housing votes as new questions emerge over councilmember conflicts

**MATTHEW HALL**

Daily Press Editor

Officials are racing to ratify a series of housing-related votes from 2025 after state regulators determined Councilmember Jesse Zwick was conflicted on those decisions, while newly filed complaints allege other council members may have also violated ethics rules on a separate housing deal.

The City Council will consider

ratifying several housing production votes taken between August and September 2025 at its Jan. 13 meeting, following a December ruling by the California Fair Political Practices Commission that Zwick must recuse himself from such matters due to his employment with the Housing Action Coalition.

The ratification effort comes as residents have filed a formal complaint with the interim city

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 7

# Sluggish hiring closes out a frustrating year for job seekers though unemployment slips to 4.4%

Sluggish December hiring concluded a year of weak employment gains that have frustrated job seekers even though layoffs and unemployment remained low.

Employers added just 50,000 jobs last month, nearly unchanged from a downwardly revised figure of 56,000 in November, the Labor Department said Friday. The unemployment rate slipped to 4.4%, its first decline since June, from 4.5% in November, a figure also revised lower.

The data suggests a reluctance by businesses to add workers even as economic growth has picked up. Many companies hired aggressively after the pandemic and no longer need to fill more jobs. Others have held back due to widespread uncertainty caused by President Donald Trump's shifting tariff policies, elevated inflation, and the spread of artificial intelligence, which could alter or even replace some jobs.

Still, economists were encouraged by the lower unemployment rate, which had risen in the previous four straight reports. Weakening employment raised alarms at the Federal Reserve, which cut its key interest rate three times last year.

"The labor market looks to have stabilized, but at a slower pace of employment growth," Blerina Uruçi, chief economist at T. Rowe Price, said. "There is no urgency for the Fed to cut rates further, for now."

Some Federal Reserve officials are concerned that inflation hasn't improved

“  
The labor  
market looks to  
have stabilized,  
but at a  
slower pace of  
employment  
growth

- Blerina Uruçi, chief economist  
at T. Rowe Price

”  
since 2024 and remains above their target of 2% annual growth. They support keeping rates where they are to combat inflation. Others, however, have grown worried that

hiring has nearly ground to a halt and have supported lowering borrowing costs to spur spending and growth.

November's job gain was revised slightly lower, from 64,000 to 56,000, while October's now shows a much steeper drop, with a loss of 173,000 positions, down from previous estimates of a 105,000 decline. The government revises the jobs figures as it receives more survey responses from businesses.

Nearly all the jobs added in December were in the health care and restaurant and hotel industries. Health care added 38,500 jobs, while restaurants and hotels gained 47,000. Governments — mostly at the state and local level — added 13,000.

Manufacturing, construction and retail companies all shed jobs. Retailers cut 25,000 positions, a sign that holiday hiring has been weaker than previous years. Manufacturers have shed jobs every month since April, when Trump announced sweeping tariffs intended to boost manufacturing.

Wall Street and Washington are looking closely at Friday's report as it's the first clean reading on the labor market in three months. The government didn't issue a report in October because of the six-week government shutdown, and November's data was distorted by the closure, which lasted until Nov. 12.

Job gains have been subdued all year, particularly after April's "liberation day" tariff announcement by Trump. The economy gained just 584,000 jobs in 2025, sharply

lower than that more than 2 million added in 2024. It's the smallest annual gain since the COVID-19 pandemic decimated the job market in 2020. Outside of recessions, it's the smallest annual increase since 2003.

Still, Trump boasted on social media late Thursday that since January, all the new jobs have been in the private sector, while government jobs have declined. Yet his figures included December's jobs numbers as well as revisions to previous months, which the White House receives Thursday afternoon, before the figures are publicly released.

Trump's post on Truth Social said that 654,000 jobs were added by businesses since January, while government jobs declined 181,000, so it wouldn't have been immediately clear that the post had new information from December. But new jobs data are generally closely guarded since they can move financial markets.

The hiring slowdown reflects more than just a reluctance by companies to add jobs. With an aging population and a sharp drop in immigration, the economy doesn't need to create as many jobs as it has in the past to keep the unemployment rate steady. As a result, a gain of 50,000 jobs is not as clear a sign of weakness as it would have been in previous years.

And layoffs are still low, a sign firms aren't rapidly cutting jobs, as typically happens in a

SEE JOBS PAGE 8

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## GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Newsom touts his successes, swipes at Trump in final State of the State speech



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

**NEWSOM:** Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks during the State of the State address in the Assembly chamber at the state Capitol in Sacramento on Jan. 8, 2026.

California's constitution requires the governor to "report to the Legislature each calendar year on the condition of the state and may make recommendations."

For the past seven years, Gavin Newsom has reluctantly and minimally honored that command, usually eschewing the traditional January address to a joint legislative session in the Capitol.

But today, entering the final year of his governorship, he delivered a 64-minute, no-script paean to legislators that catalogued his achievements and portrayed the state as a model for the world, while interspersing harsh criticism of President Donald Trump as an autocrat who is undermining democracy.

Thus it was not only a celebratory swan song but a platform of sorts for Newsom's all-but-certain campaign to succeed Trump in 2028 — implying that a prosperous, inclusive and generous California could become a model for the nation should he occupy the White House.

Newsom only mentioned Trump by name twice, once while denouncing cutbacks in federal child care funds and near the end, excoriating his refusal to

send billions of dollars in relief for the deadly wildfires that swept through Los Angeles County exactly a year ago.

Newsom termed it "a complete failure to act" and added, "It's time for the president of the United States to act like the president of the United States."

During the speech, Newsom also dropped a few hints about what he wants to happen during his final year as governor — particularly about putting the state's finances in order. Ever since Newsom erroneously proclaimed in 2022 that the state had a \$97.5 billion surplus and he and the Legislature ramped up spending, the budget has been plagued with multibillion-dollar deficits that have been papered over with accounting gimmicks, off-the-books loans and transfers from emergency reserves.

The Legislature's budget advisor, Gabe Petek, has projected another \$18 billion deficit for 2026-27, perhaps growing to \$35 billion thereafter.

Newsom told legislators that his proposed budget, which will be unveiled



## Surf report WATER TEMP: 60.1

MONDAY  
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft  
Knee to thigh

Fresh round of WNW swell picking up through the day. Offshore AM winds. A new long-period WNW swell fills in through the day. Average breaks are in the waist high zone with winter focal points creeping up as the tide drops through the morning. Size peaks in the afternoon and shape favors the spots with structure on the low tide. At this point the call is for light offshore ENE winds in the morning, followed by a light+ W afternoon sea breeze.

TUESDAY  
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft  
Knee to thigh

Modest round of WNW swell hangs in through the day. Many spots best as AM high tide drops out. Rideable round of longer period WNW swell holds steady through the day. The early morning is slowed by a high tide, then look for many breaks to improve on the lower tide in the afternoon. At this point the call is for light offshore winds in the morning, followed by a light onshore sea breeze in the afternoon.

## Weather

**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 70.

**Monday Night:** Clear, with a low around 53.

**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 71.

**Tuesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 57.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2026/01/13	Tue	11:25 PM	2.72	L
2026/01/14	Wed	06:01 AM	5.26	H
2026/01/14	Wed	1:42 PM	-0.25	L
2026/01/14	Wed	8:32 PM	3.27	H
2026/01/15	Thu	12:15 AM	2.67	L
2026/01/15	Thu	06:41 AM	5.52	H
2026/01/15	Thu	2:13 PM	-0.55	L
2026/01/15	Thu	8:55 PM	3.39	H
2026/01/16	Fri	12:56 AM	2.53	L
2026/01/16	Fri	07:17 AM	5.76	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: 1/7  
15 28 57 58 63  
Power#: 23  
Jackpot: 124 M



Draw Date: 1/8  
2 15 19 24 36



Draw Date: 1/6  
9 39 47 58 68  
Mega#: 24  
Jackpot: 199 M



Draw Date: 1/8  
EVENING: 2 9 1  
Draw Date: 1/8  
MIDDAY: 1 9 4



Draw Date: 1/7  
6 16 17 27 42  
Mega#: 13  
Jackpot: 18 M



Draw Date: 1/8  
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George  
2nd: 07 - Eureka  
3rd: 11 - Money Bags  
Race Time: 1:41.51

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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.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Pier

## Santa Monica Pier to Host First Drive-In Movie Night

The Santa Monica Pier will host its first drive-in movie experience Jan. 15, featuring a screening of "Grease" as part of "Locals' Night" from 3:30 to 9:30 p.m.

A limited number of vehicles will be allowed onto the upper pier deck for the screening, with audio transmitted via a dedicated radio station for a retro drive-in experience. The movie begins at 6:30 p.m.

Vehicle arrivals are scheduled between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m., with early arrival recommended for optimal parking. Guests must remain in place for the full screening, with exits permitted after 8 p.m. Those without vehicles can bring blankets and chairs, with space available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Additional activities include a costume contest encouraging 1950s-inspired attire, live DJ sets featuring oldies and classic hits, a classic car club showcase, and SAMOHI Acapella performances from 6 to 6:30 p.m. Free popcorn will be available for the first 200 moviegoers, with bar service for guests 21 and older.

Family-friendly Books & Cookies Musical Storytime sessions will take place inside the Merry Go-Round Building at 3:30 and 4:30 p.m.

"We're recreating a classic California drive-in experience—only this time, it's on top of the Santa Monica Pier," said Jim Harris, executive director and historian of the Santa Monica Pier. "It's nostalgic, it's joyful, and it brings generations together in a way only the Pier can."

Space is limited and advance RSVP is required. Free tickets are available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/locals-night-drive-in-movie-at-the-pier-tickets-1980013059361?aff=odddtcreator>.

The event is presented by Pacific Park and made possible by the Santa Monica Pier Corporation, a non-profit not fully funded by the city. The pier is located at 200 Santa Monica Pier, Suite A, Santa Monica, CA 90401, and is accessible by rideshare, Metro, bus or bike.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Santa Monica Pier Corporation

**PIER:** Santa Monica Pier Revs Up The New Year With First-Ever Drive-In Movie Night.



## BID NOTICE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SMMUSD** invites sealed proposals for: BID #26.05 – District Office Exterior Paint Project. All proposals must be electronically submitted via Secure Bids at <https://www.colbisecurerbids.com/o/smmusd/BID2605> on or before: Thursday, February 5, 2026 2:00 P.M. BID forms and specifications may be obtained in the link provided within this notice.

## Santa Monica

## Santa Monica Appoints Aileen Reynolds as Housing, Human Services Director

The City of Santa Monica has appointed Aileen Reynolds as the next director of the Housing and Human Services Department.

Reynolds brings more than a decade of experience in affordable housing and housing policy. Most recently, she served as assistant commissioner of housing opportunity at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, where she oversaw a team of more than 75 employees dedicated to placing vulnerable New Yorkers into stable, secure housing. Under her leadership, the department achieved record-breaking outcomes, securing housing for more than 43,000 households.

Reynolds replaces outgoing director Heather Averick, who will remain with the city in a part-time role working on special projects in the City Manager's Office.

"Aileen rose to the top of a highly competitive national recruitment because she brings exceptional technical expertise paired with a deeply values-driven approach to leadership," City Manager Oliver Chi said. "She is a proven builder of systems that expand housing access, and just as importantly, she leads with an authentic humility."

Reynolds began her housing career as a project coordinator for a 500-plus-unit affordable housing development in the Bronx and has worked across multiple facets of affordable housing, including property management, housing marketing, and the development of equitable housing access policy. Her prior professional experience includes roles with the New York City Housing Development Corporation, Richman Property Services, and the Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fordham University.

As Santa Monica's director of housing and human services, Reynolds will oversee the Santa Monica Housing Authority and lead efforts to expand affordable housing opportunities citywide. Her responsibilities will also include directing programs, services, and funding for the city's Human Services Grants Program, as well as continuing implementation of the city's Homelessness Strategic Plan.

In addition, Reynolds will help lead execution of various elements of the city's Realignment Plan. This work will include partnering across departments to implement a vacant property registry and rent registry, advancing the city's Housing Element goals with a renewed focus on the Downtown core, and overseeing the replacement of the SAMOSHEL homeless shelter with a new housing-first system of care.

"I am thrilled to be joining the City of Santa Monica during this important period of realignment and revitalization," Reynolds said. "I look forward to working alongside the Housing and Human Services team and our citywide partners to advance programs and policies that serve the community with compassion and effectiveness."

Reynolds will join the city effective Jan. 12, with an annual salary of \$258,756.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

66

Aileen rose to the top of a highly competitive national recruitment because she brings exceptional technical expertise paired with a deeply values-driven approach to leadership

- Oliver Chi, City Manager



Courtesy photo

**AILEEN REYNOLDS:** Reynolds brings more than a decade of experience in affordable housing and housing policy.

## BID NOTICE



**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SMMUSD** invites sealed proposals for: BID #26.07 – Will Rogers Learning Community Roofing Retrofit. All proposals must be electronically submitted via Secure Bids at <https://www.colbisecurerbids.com/o/smmusd/BID2607> on or before: Thursday, February 19, 2026 2:00 P.M. BID forms and specifications may be obtained in the link provided within this notice.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Santa Monica

## City Council Selects Denise Anderson-Warren as Interim City Clerk

The Santa Monica City Council has selected retired City Clerk Denise Anderson-Warren to return in an interim capacity as the city launches a national recruitment for a permanent city clerk.

Anderson-Warren retired in 2023 after serving as city clerk for nearly eight years. She takes over from outgoing City Clerk Nikima Newsome, who resigned in December.

"We are very pleased that Denise has agreed to step in and serve as our Clerk in an interim capacity," Mayor Caroline Torosis said. "We are grateful for her willingness to return and support the City in this critical role."

The City Council has established an ad-hoc committee to oversee the national recruitment for a new city clerk, which will launch in the coming weeks.

Pending final approval of her contract by the City Council, Anderson-Warren will join the city effective Jan. 15, with a salary of \$119.13 per hour.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

We are very pleased  
that Denise has  
agreed to step in  
and serve as our  
Clerk in an interim  
capacity

- Caroline Torosis, Mayor

"



Courtesy photo

**DENISE ANDERSON-WARREN:** Anderson-Warren takes over from outgoing City Clerk Nikima Newsome, who resigned in December.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Los Angeles

#### Caltrans Announces Week of Lane Closures on State Route 2

Overnight lane closures and 24-hour parking restrictions will affect portions of State Route 2 in West Los Angeles and Echo Park from Jan. 12 to 18 as part of a multimodal infrastructure project.

Construction work for curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements will occur from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly, with parking restrictions remaining in effect around the clock.

In West Los Angeles, up to one lane in each direction of Santa Monica Boulevard between Wellesley Avenue and Brockton Avenue will close during overnight hours. No parking will be allowed in either direction along that stretch. Additional restrictions include no parking and no sidewalk access from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday along eastbound Santa Monica Boulevard at Wellesley Avenue for gas line relocation, with pedestrian detours available. Big Blue Bus stops on Wellesley Avenue will temporarily close, with service available at Centinela Avenue or Bundy Drive stops.

In Echo Park, up to two lanes in each direction of Alvarado Street between Sunset Boulevard and Montana Street will close overnight, with one-lane closures continuing from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. No parking will be allowed in either direction from Montrose Street to Montana Street. The LA Metro bus stop at southbound Alvarado and Montana will close temporarily, with alternative stops available at U.S. 101 and Alvarado Street or Sunset Boulevard and Alvarado Street.

Business driveways will remain accessible during construction. Signs will be posted in advance of parking restrictions.

The \$70.2 million project spans SR-2 from Centinela Avenue in Santa Monica to the SR-2 terminus in Echo Park, covering three segments totaling five miles. Once complete, the project will extend pavement life and enhance safety along multiple segments.

The schedule is subject to change due to weather or operational reasons. For current road conditions, visit <https://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/>. For project information, visit the project website at <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-7/district-7-projects>.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

The map illustrates the Santa Monica Boulevard Multimodal Project, which spans from Fall 2025 to Fall 2028. It shows the project segments in three main areas: WEST LOS ANGELES, HOLLYWOOD, and ECHO PARK. The segments are indicated by dashed lines on the map. The map also shows major highways like I-405, I-10, and I-101, as well as local streets like Centinela Avenue, Alvarado Street, and Glendale Boulevard. The map is titled "SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD MULTIMODAL PROJECT" and "FALL 2025 - FALL 2028".

Courtesy image

**CLOSURE:** In West Los Angeles, up to one lane in each direction of Santa Monica Boulevard between Wellesley Avenue and Brockton Avenue will close during overnight hours.

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**RECONSTRUCTION**

FROM PAGE 1

its destroyed Via de la Paz site and a nearby campus," said Raul Anaya, Bank of America president for Greater Los Angeles. "The wildfires destroyed so much – thousands of homes, businesses and communities – but it never destroyed L.A.'s spirit."

The new facilities will include the original Via de la Paz site and the nearby Simon Meadow site. The dual campus will expand programming for youth development, mental health services, emergency preparedness and multigenerational engagement, bringing additional services for working families and seniors.

Victor Dominguez, president and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles, emphasized the importance of corporate partnerships in the rebuilding process.

"Our corporate partners are critical to engaging our full communities in the rebuilding process," Dominguez said. "We will continue to help Palisades rebuild not just the buildings, but the community and connections that make it so special."

The Lowe Family YMCA has served the Palisades and Malibu area for more than 60 years. Following the fires, the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles mobilized through nearby centers and partner sites to deliver emergency childcare, case management and trauma-informed care to thousands of displaced residents. These services continue today.

In recognition of the bank's donation, the new Community Room at the Palisades Via De La Paz club will bear Bank of America's name.

The grant brings Bank of America's total philanthropic contributions for fire recovery to \$4.5 million. The bank recently announced \$10 million in zero-interest capital to three community development financial institutions for business and

**LA COUNTY**

FROM PAGE 1

in 2010, and acknowledge the continued prevalence of both labor and sex trafficking throughout the county. Trafficking often remains hidden due to fear, coercion, language barriers and limited public awareness, according to county officials.

Hahn emphasized the county's evolving approach to addressing human trafficking. "I'm proud that LA County continues to be a national leader in how we address human trafficking and exploitation by shifting away from law enforcement responses and punishment for those being trafficked, and instead toward recognizing the deep trauma survivors face and molding our approach to meet their needs," she said.

Horvath echoed the commitment to a public health framework. "In Los Angeles County, we are committed to a public health approach to addressing human trafficking by strengthening prevention efforts, supporting survivors, and addressing the conditions that increase vulnerability," she said.

Several county departments play roles in prevention and response, including the Departments of Children and Family Services and Public Health, the Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney's Office. The Office of Labor Equity conducts outreach and education to help workers recognize signs

“

## Our corporate partners are critical to engaging our full communities in the rebuilding process

- Victor Dominguez, president and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles

”

housing needs, and introduced a Rebuild Solution to help qualifying mortgage clients reconstruct their homes. The bank plans to rebuild its destroyed financial centers in Pacific Palisades and Altadena.

For more information on Bank of America's relief efforts, visit [BankofAmerica.com/LARebuild](http://BankofAmerica.com/LARebuild). To donate to the Lowe Family YMCA capital campaign, visit [YMCALA.org/give/](http://YMCALA.org/give/).

Edited by SMDP Staff

of exploitation and connect with available resources.

Chancee Martorell, founder and executive director of the Thai Community Development Center, praised the proclamation while noting the ongoing nature of the challenge. "The terror of modern-day slavery is not limited to one month out of the year. Tackling this issue requires long-term persistence, funding, awareness, and healing," Martorell said.

Solis noted that increased awareness and prevention efforts are especially critical as Los Angeles prepares to host major international events, including the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The proclamations build on previous board actions aimed at strengthening countywide responses, including efforts to assess service gaps, improve coordination among departments and enhance data-sharing strategies to better identify and assist victims.

The motions call for year-round promotion of the Office of Labor Equity's public awareness campaign and available county and non-county survivor-centered services, recognizing that addressing human trafficking requires sustained effort beyond a single month of recognition.

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

**COUNCIL**

FROM PAGE 1

attorney alleging that Zwick and two other council members — Mayor Caroline Torosis and Councilmember Natalya Zernitskaya — violated conflict-of-interest and ethics laws when they voted Dec. 17, 2024, to approve development agreements with Hollywood Community Housing Corporation.

"If Councilmember Zwick's housing votes require ratification due to employment-related conflicts, then votes affected by undisclosed ex parte communications, campaign contributions from direct beneficiaries and professional conflicts warrant equivalent scrutiny," the residents wrote in their Jan. 8 complaint.

The FPPC ruled Dec. 8 that Zwick is disqualified from participating in certain City Council decisions related to housing production under the commission's interpretation of the Political Reform Act and its "nexus test." The commission determined that while neither Zwick nor the Housing Action Coalition's financial interest in Santa Monica housing decisions met traditional criteria for materiality, city housing production decisions could benefit the advocacy organization.

Zwick accepted employment with the Housing Action Coalition on Aug. 18, 2025, and began work Sept. 8. Before accepting the position, he consulted with the City Attorney's Office and said he took steps to avoid conflicts, including ensuring Santa Monica was excluded from his professional portfolio and confirming the organization would cease advocacy activities in the city.

The city stated Zwick "acted transparently, ethically and in good faith" throughout the matter. The FPPC's advice is forward-looking only and did not find that Zwick acted improperly, violated the law or failed to disclose his employment.

However, city staff now recommends the council revoke on several housing-related actions taken between Aug. 12 and Sept. 30, 2025, "out of an abundance of caution" to remove doubt about those prior decisions.

The votes up for ratification include an Aug. 12 resolution directing the Planning Commission to initiate zoning amendments related to small lot subdivisions and duplexes, which passed 6-1 with Zwick seconding the motion; Sept. 9 approval of regulatory updates to high-rise building definitions and single-stairway provisions, which passed 6-1; and Sept. 30 adoption of the 2025 California Building Standards Code, which passed unanimously.

Staff also recommends repealing an emergency interim zoning ordinance adopted July 29, 2025, that permitted accessory dwelling units as part of certain projects. No projects have been submitted under those provisions.

Torosis said the city received formal guidance from the Fair Political Practices Commission on four specific housing-related matters involving Zwick and staff have conducted a review.

"Based on that review, staff identified the full universe of housing-related items that could potentially fall within that identified period of time, and those items are being

brought back to the City Council on January 13 for reconsideration and revote," she said.

"I would also emphasize that the FPPC's advice is prospective and did not identify any violations related to past actions. The steps the City is taking are precautionary, and are intended to provide clarity, transparency, and finality. Of course, we will also continue to evaluate any additional concerns raised by the public consistent with applicable legal standards and established procedures."

The new complaint alleges additional ethical violations related to a December 2024 Hollywood Community Housing Corporation vote, which committed public land for 99 years and approximately \$13.5 million in Housing Trust Fund resources.

According to California Public Records Act responses included in the complaint, Zwick sent private emails to HCHC Executive Director Sarah Letts during active council proceedings. On June 25, 2024, while residents provided public comment opposing the project, Zwick emailed Letts from the dais stating that "30 mid-city neighbors are angrily denouncing the project and possessed with a lot of misinformation."

On Aug. 27, 2024, during an evening council meeting, Zwick asked Letts privately, "Is this the course of action you want to pursue, or would you prefer to stick to the original proposal?" Letts replied, "We are now fully behind this alternate proposal."

The residents argue these communications violated due process requirements for quasi-judicial proceedings, which prohibit ex parte communications unless disclosed on the record.

The complaint also alleges Mayor Torosis has an undisclosed professional conflict through her employment as senior policy director for Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell. HCHC's website identifies Mitchell's office as the government partner for multiple developments, and Torosis made no disclosure of any relationship with HCHC before moving to approve the Dec. 17 agreement, which Zwick seconded.

During the December meeting, Torosis remarked to Letts that she had "heard great things about you," indicating prior familiarity, according to the complaint.

Additionally, residents allege Zernitskaya violated the Levine Act by voting on the HCHC agreement less than 12 months after receiving \$400 in campaign contributions from John Maceri, CEO of The People Concern, which the staff report identifies as HCHC's designated supportive services provider.

Government Code Section 84308 prohibits officials from participating in proceedings involving parties who contributed more than \$250 within the preceding 12 months.

The complaint requests the city attorney investigate all three allegations, determine whether votes were legally compromised and, if violations are confirmed, declare the approval void and require a new vote with conflicted members recused.

The complaint also requests that the HCHC vote be added to the list of ratifications alongside other housing-related actions affected by Zwick's conflict.

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

**SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR**

## Santa Monica Daily Press

## Classifieds

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CLASSIFICATIONS	Pets	Apartments/Condos	Real Estate Loans	Attorney Services	Wealth and Success
Announcements	Boats	Rent	Storage Space	Business	Lost and Found
Creative	Jewelry	Houses for Rent	Vehicles for Sale	Opportunities	Personals
Employment	Wanted	Roommates	Massage	Yard Sales	Psychic
For Sale	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
Furniture	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

## Summons

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) Case No. 25STCV30883. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: RONALD S. BARAK, an individual; and DOES 1-100, inclusive. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: SPECIALIST ROOFING AND REPAIR, LLC, a California limited liability company, doing business as ROOF REPAIR SPECIALIST. NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le

entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is: Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney is: Hee J. Kim, LITIGATION, P.C., 527 W. 7th Street, Suite 935, Los Angeles, CA 90014. Tel: (424) 284-2401. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/05/2025, 01/05/2026, 01/12/2026, 01/19/2026

## Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25LBCP00494. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 275 Magnolia Avenue, Long Beach, California 90802. Petition of Ms. Opal VaNess LeatherWood Martin for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Ms. Opal VaNess LeatherWood Martin filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Opal VaNess LeatherWood Martin to Opal VaNess Diva LeatherWood Martin. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 02/04/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: 26. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 12/24/2025. Michael P. Vicencia, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/05/2026, 01/12/2026, 01/19/2026, 01/26/2026

## PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

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

## JOBS

FROM PAGE 2

recession. The "low-hire, low-fire" job market does mean workers have some job security, though it's become harder to find new work.

Ernesto Castro, 44, has applied for hundreds of jobs since leaving his last in May. Yet the Los Angeles resident has had just three initial interviews, and only one follow-up, after which he heard nothing.

With nearly a decade of experience providing customer support for software companies, Castro expected to find a new job pretty quickly as in the past.

"It's been awful," he said.

He worries that more companies are turning to artificial intelligence to help clients learn to use new software. He hears ads from tech companies that urge companies to slash workers like him in favor of AI. His contacts in the industry say that employees are increasingly reluctant to switch jobs amid all the uncertainty, which means fewer open jobs for others.

He is now looking into starting his own software company, and is also exploring project management roles.

Subdued hiring underscores a key conundrum surrounding the economy as it

enters 2026: Growth has picked up to healthy levels, yet hiring has weakened noticeably.

Most economists expect hiring will accelerate this year amid solid growth, and Trump's tax cut legislation is expected to produce large tax refunds this spring. Yet economists acknowledge there are other possibilities: Weak job gains could drag down future growth. Or the economy could keep expanding at a healthy clip, while automation and the spread of artificial intelligence reduces the need for more jobs.

Productivity, or output per hour worked, a measure of worker efficiency, has improved in the past three years and jumped nearly 5% in the July-September quarter. That means companies can produce more without adding jobs. Over time, it should also boost worker pay.

Even with such sluggish job gains, the economy has continued to expand, with growth reaching a 4.3% annual rate in last year's July-September quarter, the best in two years. Strong consumer spending helped drive the gain. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta forecasts that growth could slow to a still-solid 2.7% in the final three months of last year.

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

## GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

Friday, anticipates an additional \$42.3 billion in revenues, based on recent increases in tax payments. It will, he said, close the gap and provide money to restore reserves, pay down the state's pension debt and finance increases in some programs, including a jump in education support. The \$42.3 billion is expected over three years, a spokesman from his finance department later clarified.

Were the Legislature to embrace Newsom's rosy fiscal scenario, it would allow him to end his governorship a year hence with a budget that, at least on paper, would be in the black.

However, recent history implies that Newsom's projected revenue windfall should be viewed with skepticism. His Department of Finance quietly acknowledged later that his 2022 claim of a \$97.5 billion surplus was based on a \$165 billion overstatement of revenues over four years.

All in all, it was arguably the most cogent address that Newsom has delivered as governor, even if it ignored, downplayed

or rationalized some of California's most vexing issues, such as the nation's highest rates of homelessness, unemployment, poverty and living costs, not to mention the budget deficit.

It was clearly aimed, Newsom suggested, at refuting a "California derangement syndrome" that sees the state as a hellhole of crime and squalor, with taxes and regulations that suffocate business and drive people to other states.

It's a clever play on the "Trump derangement syndrome" that those on the political right often tout. Wordplay notwithstanding, if and when Newsom makes his presidential ambitions official his most daunting factor will be simply that he's from California.

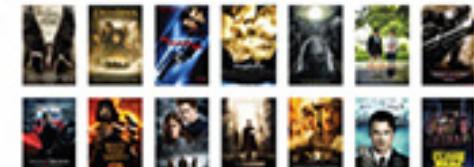
Reality lies somewhere between the exalted view of California that Newsom peddles, claiming "we simply have no peer," and the dystopian image that dominates right wing media.

Someone once observed that truth is the first casualty of war. By the same token, reality only rarely drives political campaigns.

Dan Walters CalMatters Columnist

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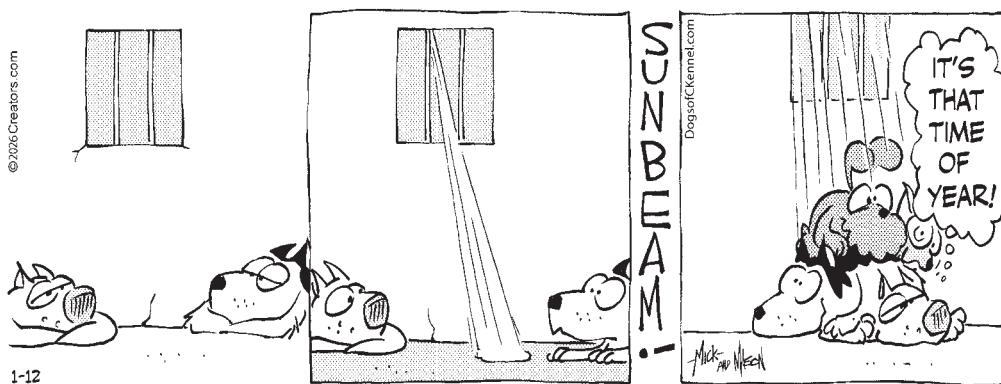
## Agnes



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



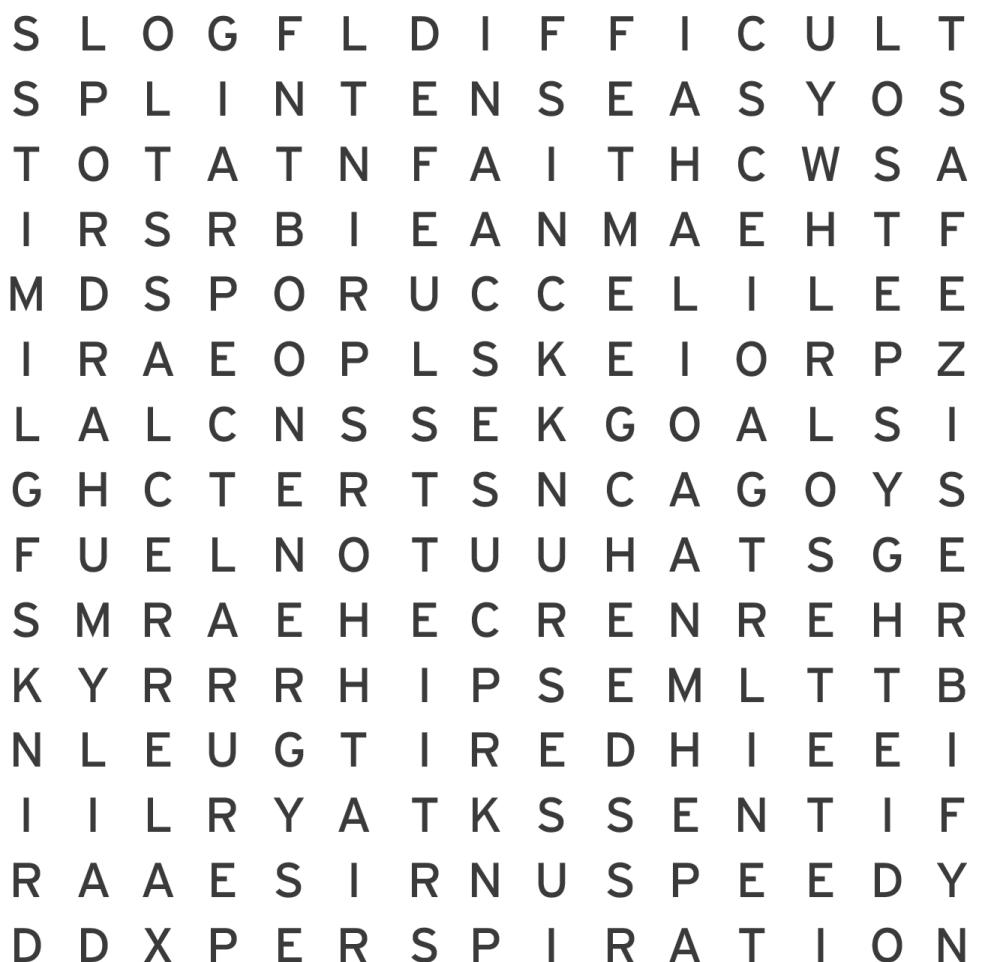
"I NEED YOU TO BE HONEST WITH ME!"

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6818

## Tough workout



Ache	Drop	Help	Perspiration	Steps
Arms	Easy	Hips	Posture	Stretch
Ball	Energy	Intense	Push	Sunrise
City	Face	Keen	Relax	Time
Class	Fast	Keto	Run	Tired
Cool	Fibre	Lean	Rural	Towel
Core	Fitness	Legs	Size	Tracksuit
Daily	Fuel	Limits	Slog	Yoga
Diet	Goals	Mind	Speedy	
Difficult	Hard	Neck	Sport	
Drinks	Hats	Pain	Stairs	

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Santa Monica Daily Press



## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 12)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). No need to stare into the mist and wait for answers to materialize because you already see the future you want, and it's crystal clear. Making it real will involve many steps, and the first one can start anywhere. Pick a step, any step, and then watch what happens next.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're so good at planning right now, why stop at designing your own experience? Other people would gladly pay you for a winning plan. Your true genius is in tailoring the blueprint to the resources available.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Instead of counting the number of tasks on your list today, count the number on someone else's list. Thinking about the duties or the leisure of others will give you the perspective that helps you nestle into your own groove, glad that it's yours.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Someone who gave you a treasure may now want it back. As always, you're inclined to do what is fair, not what is easy. And anyway, the best things cannot be returned even if you wanted to: time, love and the truth.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People say there are no bad questions. Still, some questions move you forward faster than others. You'll skip the fluff and flattery and zero in on the precise details at the heart of the matter. This frees up progress.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have been known to overcome physical discomfort by framing it as the price of fitness, fashion or responsibility. Similarly, you will endure a degree of injury to the ego in the name of love, harmony and emotional maturity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your habits may feel a bit boring to you today, only because familiarity has dulled your emotional response. Spending time with someone who has a completely different style will stir the energy, and you'll do the same for them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're not meant to stick with everything you try. It's so relatable to outgrow interests, clothes and even relationships. But now it's time to focus on what you keep carrying forward year after year - the gold of your character that everyone else sees, too.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Be wary of grandiosity. When the pendulum swings the other way, grandiosity turns into something else - usually absence - as a person realizes there's no way they can make good on delusion-based promises.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're brimming with creative potential today, and there are multiple ways to apply it. Decide what most needs your clever fix, your beautiful twist or your inventive hand. Then get to work, and in two hours things are already different.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're like a reporter for a highly reputable publication that thoroughly checks the facts. Every bit of information that comes your way warrants further investigation. Reserve all conclusions for the final edit.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Somehow, it is socially acceptable to feel sorry for others, why not yourself? Microdoses of self-directed pity and sympathy just acknowledge the injustice of an experience and give you a foundation to push off from.

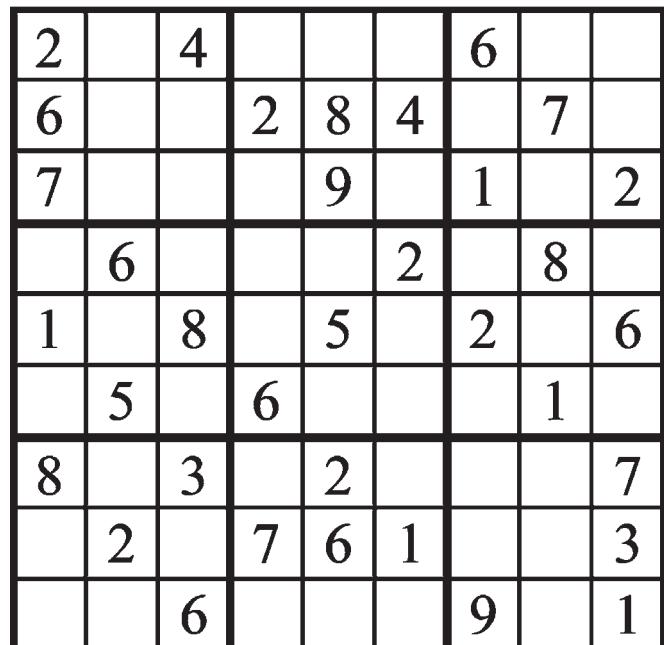
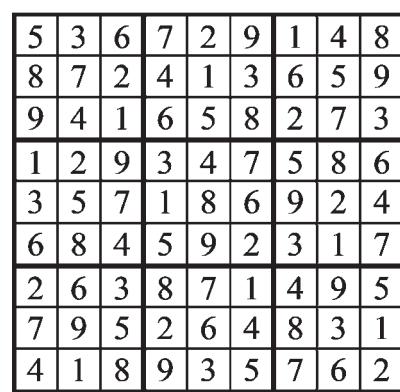
## SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD



## 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



## Newsday Crossword

## ACROSS

1 Zeus and Athena  
5 Store's lower-price event  
9 Parking lot slot  
14 Pizzeria appliance  
15 Power cord's end  
16 Christmas song  
17 Tra \_\_\_ (singing syllables)  
18 "Tickle Me" Muppet  
19 Hoops great Shaquille  
20 Beach footwear  
23 Elevation: Abbr.  
24 Coffee alternative  
25 Voices below altos  
29 Resort with mineral springs  
31 Wide belt  
35 Squad of best players  
36 Central Florida city  
38 Life story, in brief  
39 Hoopsters' footwear  
42 Ignited  
43 Plant's underground parts  
44 Inn for skiers  
45 Otherwise  
47 Scale's second notes  
48 Wigwam relatives  
49 Navigation technology: Abbr.  
51 "\_\_\_ we having fun yet?"  
52 Footwear with pajamas  
61 Ram of the zodiac  
62 At the summit of  
63 Hawaiian feast

## 64 Very funny folks

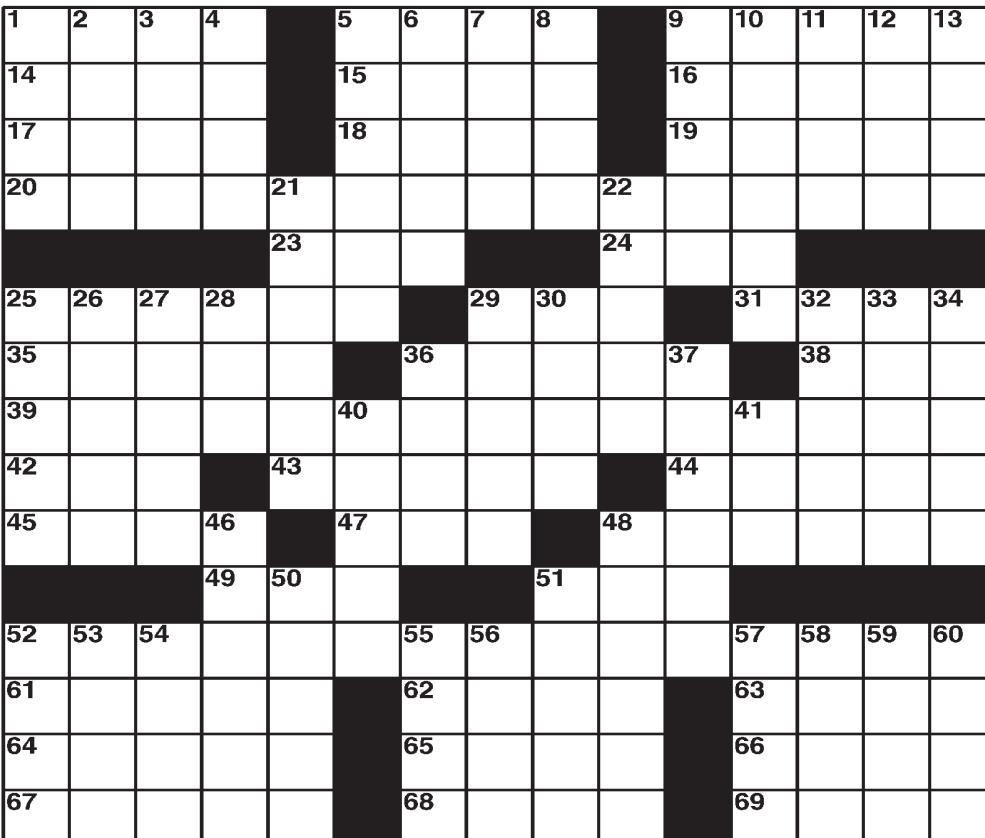
bears  
65 Nevada city  
66 Dry as a desert  
67 Sight or hearing  
68 Went rapidly  
69 Signals "OK" silently

11 Neighborhood  
12 Fuel for old furnaces  
13 Right-angle shapes  
21 Person growing crops  
22 In any way  
25 Furniture with chairs around it

## DOWN

1 18-hole sport  
2 Egg shape  
3 Sandwich shop  
4 Break suddenly  
5 Witch's hexes  
6 Parcel out  
7 Sugar cube  
8 Swelled heads  
9 British pastry  
10 Black-and-white  
26 Online commerce  
27 Birds' homes in trees  
28 Acorn producer  
29 Shoos away  
30 Good buddies  
32 "Humble" home  
33 Prolonged attack  
34 Fire hydrant attachments  
36 Woodwind instrument

ON YOUR FEET by Guilherme Gilioli  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com



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01/12/26

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)

# What's up Westside

## COOL THINGS TO DO

### MONDAY | JANUARY 12

#### PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! 6pm-Close. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2026-01-12T18>

#### KARAOKE MONDAYS 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. Monday night karaoke at Whaler! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/karaoke-mondays-at-the-whaler/17408730/2026-01-12T00>

### TUESDAY | JANUARY 13

#### WALKING MEDITATION

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Los Angeles. Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. We'll meet Tuesday's and Thursdays at 8 am at lifeguard tower 28 (paid parking available in the Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South) After some basic instructions we'll walk silently together for approximately 50 minutes on the shoreline at a natural leisurely pace from tower 28 towards the Santa Monica Pier and back. Everyone is always welcomed to join whether new to meditation or with many years of experience. Looking forward to meeting and meditating with you all. Please feel free to reach out with any concerns or questions and please arrive 5 minutes early. Don't forget to check schedule for any changes or cancellations. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/walking-meditation/16206460/2026-01-13T08>

#### COFFEE CONNECTION

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. The Shore Hotel 1515 Ocean Ave. Santa Monica. Coffee Connection networking event. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/coffee-connection/17476327/2026-01-13T09>

#### 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 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room at Virginia Avenue Park. Each week there will be something new: Exercise, Talking with Friends, Learning, Guest Presenters, Health & Wellness! For more information call (310) 458-8688. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/>

[calendar/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2026-01-13T10](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2026-01-13T10)

#### 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://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/city-council-meeting/13799967/2026-01-13T17>

#### 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://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/tuesday-open-mic/16004734/2026-01-13T22>

### WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 14

#### DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - WEDNESDAY MARKET

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica Arizona Avenue (Between 4th & Ocean) Santa Monica. One of the largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! 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, and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/12382446/2026-01-14T08>

#### STAR STORIES WITH PAM

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. STAR Stories With Pam Children are invited to share the joy of storytelling and reading with our special STAR volunteer, Pam. Come three times and take home a free book. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/star-stories-with-pam/15607289/2026-01-14T12>

#### FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY: YOGA FOR EVERYONE!

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Venice. Through body awareness, movement, and breath, you will be guided on how to bring your body, mind, and spirit back into balance for overall well-being. All levels are welcome. Generously funded by Friends of Venice Library. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/friends-of-venice-library-yoga-for-everyone/17751141/2026-01-14T12>

#### SCOT NERY'S BOOBETRAP

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa

Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. WORLD-CLASS AND INGENIOUSLY STUPID. "The #1 show in Los Angeles."

- TripAdvisor Since launching in 2015, Scot Nery's Boobietrap has destroyed audiences at hundreds of sold-out performances in Los Angeles and around the West Coast. An underground entertainment phenomenon, Boobietrap shines as a proof of concept for just how incredible live performance can be. The exquisitely-curated experience serves up one life-changing moment after another, blowing minds and rebuilding them in real time. "The best variety show in the world." Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/scot-nery-s-boobietrap/17758957/2026-01-14T18>

15T15

#### 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 16

#### 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/15793351/2026-01-09T08>

#### 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>

**GET IT  
DAILY...**





City of  
Santa  
Monica

# Keep cans and bottles out of the landfill



**Recycle your cans and bottles for a cash refund  
at a recycling center or put them in your blue bin.**

