3 **Complicated Last Budget**
Newsom's presidential ambitions.

4 **California Oil Companies**
Rewriting refinery safety rules.

10 **Horoscope**
Plus Crossword.

11 **What's Up Westside**
Local events for the week.

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# A game of connection: how Jimmy Dunne's Bocce league became a Palisadian tradition



Courtesy photo

**COMMUNITY:** Bocce players have rebuilt their sense of community following the Palisades Fire.

**MICHELLE EDGAR**
Special to the Daily Press

One year after fire altered the physical and emotional landscape of Pacific Palisades, there's one place where the community is alive and well. On its bocce courts in their town park. The fire may have destroyed its beloved bocce courts, where over a thousand Palisadians had graced its league teams in the previous three years—but it didn't destroy Palisadians' need to be together.

Hosted by award-winning songwriter, author, and longtime Palisadian Jimmy Dunne, they set up a temporary bocce home on the lawn bowling courts at Douglas Park in Santa Monica. Palisadians came from all their displaced new locations—to be with each other. To hug each other.

"Bocce had so little to do with it for all of us," said Jimmy. "A player said to me after one of the games with tears in his eyes, 'Before, the bocce league was a lot of fun in my life. Now it's an anchor.'"

In the early summer, the bocce community defiantly leaned into the city to open the park and let them gather. Bill McGregor led the charge to restore the courts and landscaping. With hundreds attending a Grand Opening Town Party, along with inspiring words by Traci Park, Rick Caruso, and Honorary Mayor Ted McGinley, the leagues were back. Thirty-six teams, chock-full of happy Palisadians.

This past Sunday was the season's Championships, with bocce, awards and lunches for all Palisadians. A community returned to Veterans Gardens not to dwell in loss, but to move together. Bocce balls clicked across the courts. Neighbors lingered in conversation - a celebration of community in community through the love of bocce.

"Here we are playing on these courts with burned trees and homes as our backdrop," said Jimmy. "When you're on those courts, with all these amazing people, you just see it. What you see is what promise means. What giving means. What town means."

What the fires did not take, he reflected, was the character of the community itself. "The Palisadians are unique. They value integrity, trust, and belonging. What wasn't taken down was the people," said

SEE **BOCCE** PAGE 7

## Supervisors try to make their arcane budget process easier to understand

**MAAZ ALIN**
SMDP Staff Writer

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved sweeping reforms this month aimed at making the county's budget process more transparent and accessible to residents.

The changes, recommended by the Governance Reform Task Force, will affect budget hearings beginning with the fiscal year 2026-27 cycle. The task force unanimously approved the recommendations Dec. 10.

The reforms target six key

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 7

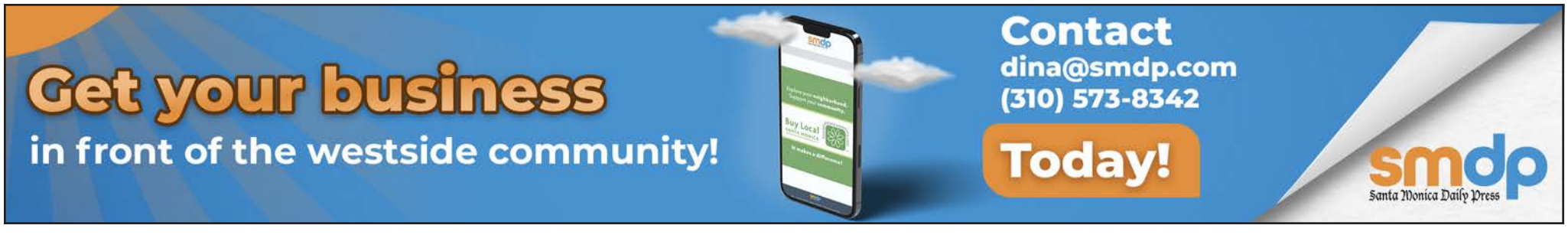
## Malibu Council extends PCH emergency, rejects storm drain bids, ends fire declaration

**MAAZ ALIN**
SMDP Staff Writer

The Malibu City Council tackled three emergency-related items pulled from its consent calendar last week, extending a highway safety emergency declaration, rejecting bids for a deteriorating storm drain project and terminating a fire-related emergency as conditions improved.

The council unanimously approved extending the local emergency declaration for Pacific Coast Highway, which has been in effect since November 2023

SEE **MALIBU** PAGE 8



# Rams shake off wild, late TD pass by Caleb Williams, beat Bears 20-17 in OT to reach NFC title game

Matthew Stafford and Sean McVay shot knowing glances at each other, then went to work on the drive that got the Los Angeles Rams one step away from the Super Bowl.

Stafford and the Rams survived an incredible throw by Caleb Williams that forced overtime, beating the Chicago Bears 20-17 on Sunday night to advance to the NFC championship game.

Harrison Mevis kicked a 42-yard field goal in OT after Kam Curl intercepted a deep pass by Williams on the Bears' first possession of the extra period. Stafford glanced at his coach prior to the winning drive, then completed three passes for first downs — including a 16-yarder to Puka Nacua to get the Rams into field-goal range.

"I looked right at Sean, he looked right at me," Stafford said. "And I'm like, 'Here we go.' That's what it's all about. What an unbelievable job by our defense today, getting us the ball over and over again. Whether it be fourth-down stops or turnovers, they were clutch and timely."

So was Mevis.

The "Thiccer Kicker," as he's known, ended the Bears' season. Teammates mobbed him while a crowd that was rocking earlier watched in near silence at the conclusion of a cold, snowy night.

The Rams (14-5) will visit NFC West rival Seattle next Sunday in their first trip to the conference championship game since the 2021 team won the Super Bowl. The Seahawks beat San Francisco 41-6 on Saturday.

"It was like, all right, the football gods are smiling on us," McVay said. "The weather had calmed down. There wasn't a lot of wind right there. ... I was really happy for him, and I was very confident that he would make that."

Los Angeles led 17-10 in the final minute of regulation and the Bears faced fourth-and-4 from the 14-yard line when Williams backpedaled to avoid the pass rush and heaved the ball to Cole Kmet for the tying touchdown with 18 seconds left. Although officially a 14-yard pass, the ball traveled 51.2 yards in the air, according to the NFL's Next Gen Stats.

Bears coach Ben Johnson thought about trying for a go-ahead 2-point conversion but decided to send out Cairo Santos for the extra point.

Williams threw for two touchdowns but was intercepted three times as the Bears (12-7) — who pulled off seven fourth-quarter comeback wins in Johnson's first season — came up short this time. They won the NFC North after finishing last in the division a year ago.

"Our guys are feeling it right now," Johnson said. "They all believed, man. They all believed that we could find a way to win each and every week. And so it's disappointing like that. I'm proud of the group. It's a special group."

## FIREWORKS IN THE FOURTH

Stafford led a 91-yard touchdown drive in the fourth quarter, with Kyren Williams scoring from the 5 to give the Rams a 17-10 lead with 8:50 remaining. Nacua kept the possession going on the previous play with a 2-yard run on fourth-and-5.

The Bears then drove to the 2, but Omar Speights broke up Williams' fourth-down pass to Luther Burden just inside the goal line.

Chicago got the ball back at midfield with just under two minutes remaining after Ethan Evans shanked a 33-yard punt, setting up Williams' heroics.

## OVERTIME GETS OFF TO SLOW START

In overtime, the Bears won the toss and deferred. They quickly got the ball back when the Rams went three-and-out. Los Angeles was forced to punt after Blake Corum got stopped for a 1-yard loss on third-and-1 at the 36.

Chicago took over at the 16. Williams kept the drive going with a 3-yard keeper on fourth-and-1 near midfield. But Curl picked off Williams' pass intended for DJ Moore two plays later.

Stafford was 20 of 42 for 258 yards and took four sacks. Nacua had 56 yards receiving after going for 111 in a wild-card win over Carolina, and Kyren Williams ran for 87 yards and two scores.

"I definitely didn't get into a great rhythm today, there's no question about that," said Stafford, who sprained the index finger on his throwing hand against the Panthers. "I had some opportunities in the pass game, just some things that made it tough. Obviously, I can be better. But playoff football is about winning the football game."

Caleb Williams completed 23 of 42 passes for 257 yards. Moore had a touchdown catch, and D'Andre Swift ran for 76 yards.

"In these moments you feel that you let your team down, you feel this and that," Williams said. "It's a good lesson learned for us, first time being in this situation for me and for us as a team. I'm excited for what's to come, but obviously going to go back and watch this and see how I can be better."

## INJURIES

Rams: CB Emmanuel Forbes Jr. (shoulder) was hurt in the first half.

Bears: TE Colston Loveland (concussion) exited late in regulation.

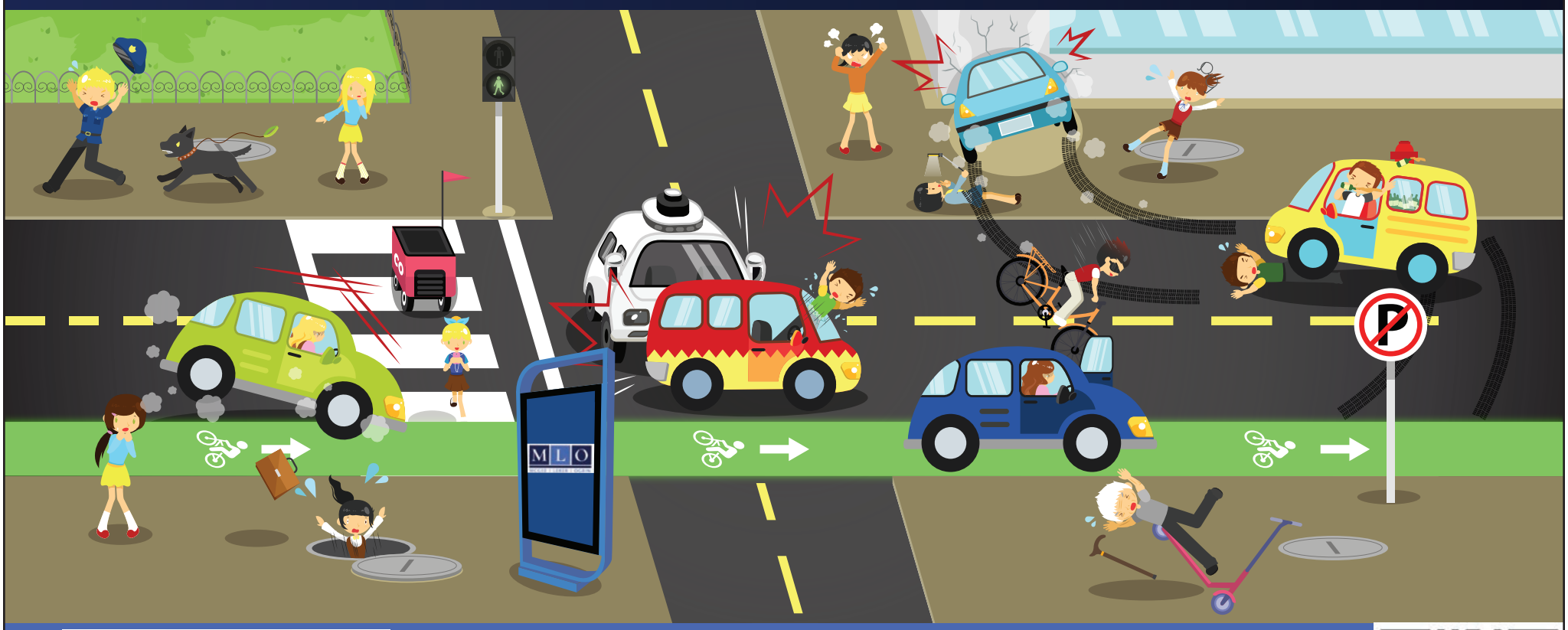
## UP NEXT

Rams: Los Angeles and Seattle split two close games in the regular season, with the home team winning each time.

Bears: Prepare for next season.

By ANDREW SELIGMAN AP Sports Writer


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## GUEST COMMENTARY

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# How Newsom's presidential ambitions complicate his last budget as California governor



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

**SACRAMENTO:** Gov. Gavin Newsom greets lawmakers prior to speaking during the State of the State address in the Assembly chamber at the state Capitol in Sacramento on Jan. 8, 2026.

As Gavin Newsom moves every-closer to declaring his presidential candidacy, everything he does in his last year as governor is rightfully being viewed through that political prism.

Newsom knows that being portrayed as a left-leaning cultural warrior from deeply blue California — a factor in sinking Kamala Harris's White House bid — is potentially fatal.

Thus, Newsom's final state budget takes on a new political meaning, and makes the always difficult process of weighing competing interests within the state even trickier than usual.

We saw that syndrome affect Jerry Brown, the last California governor to harbor serious presidential ambitions. In 1978, he opposed Proposition 13, the iconic tax cut ballot measure, but after its passage championed both a large state tax reduction and a spending limit ballot measure to realign himself with the tax cut movement.

Brown then tried to ride the anti-tax, spending-limit movement into the White House two years later — but failed miserably.

Back to Newsom.

His initial budget proposal, released last week, basically adopts the current spending plan, with a few tweaks that continue his ideological drift to the right. In hopes of producing a balanced budget, at least on paper, Newsom is cutting back on spending for social welfare and health care services and college scholarships.

Those steps alone are drawing criticism from many advocacy groups, but resistance is also heightened by his apparent unwillingness to fill in gaps caused by President Donald Trump's cutbacks in federal support.

The reaction from left-leaning advocates was summarized well in a critique by Chris Hoene, executive director of the California Budget and Policy Center, an umbrella group of organizations that lobby for public services, especially those for the poor.

"California's state budget is a reflection of our shared values and our responsibility to care for one another," Hoene said in a statement. "Unfortunately, the governor's 2026-27 spending plan balances the budget by dodging the harsh realities

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 11



## Surf report

WATER TEMP: **61.0**

TUESDAY
***POOR TO FAIR***

**SURF:** 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Small but still something to ride, especially for the bigger boards. Dawn tide window ok. WNW swell mix continues. Get to it either at dawn or wait out the high tide and hit it in the afternoon as onshore wind will stay mellow. Average breaks will be below waist high, top NW exposed spots west of Dume around waist high or a little larger on

WEDNESDAY
***FAIR***

**SURF:** 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Little bump in surf, early AM tide/wind window good. Small but long-boardable. WNW swell will pulse up a bit and there will even be a trickle of new SW energy. Still small but a little larger than previous days. The early morning tide push will have the cleanest conditions, but the afternoon window on the lower tide should see just mellow onshores.

## Weather

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 72. North wind around 5 mph.
**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 54. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
**Wednesday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 67. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph in the afternoon.
**Wednesday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53.

| Date | Day | Time (LST/LDT) | Predicted | (ft)High/Low |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2026/01/20 | Tue | 03:20 AM | 1.94 | L |
| 2026/01/20 | Tue | 09:28 AM | 5.88 | H |
| 2026/01/20 | Tue | 4:37 PM | -0.78 | L |
| 2026/01/20 | Tue | 11:03 PM | 4.00 | H |
| 2026/01/21 | Wed | 04:02 AM | 1.86 | L |
| 2026/01/21 | Wed | 10:03 AM | 5.52 | H |
| 2026/01/21 | Wed | 5:05 PM | -0.49 | L |
| 2026/01/21 | Wed | 11:34 PM | 4.18 | H |
| 2026/01/22 | Thu | 04:50 AM | 1.79 | L |
| 2026/01/22 | Thu | 10:43 AM | 4.98 | H |
| 2026/01/22 | Thu | 5:33 PM | -0.07 | L |
| 2026/01/23 | Fri | 12:07 AM | 4.39 | H |
| 2026/01/23 | Fri | 05:46 AM | 1.73 | L |
| 2026/01/23 | Fri | 11:29 AM | 4.26 | H |
| 2026/01/23 | Fri | 6:00 PM | 0.46 | L |
| 2026/01/24 | Sat | 12:45 AM | 4.61 | H |
| 2026/01/24 | Sat | 06:57 AM | 1.63 | L |

## Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

**POWERBALL**
Draw Date: 1/17
5 8 27 49 57
Power#: 14
Jackpot: 193 M

**MEGA MILLIONS**
Draw Date: 1/16
2 22 33 42 67
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 250 M

**SuperLotto Plus**
Draw Date: 1/17
4 13 22 29 39
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 21 M

**Fantasy 5**
Draw Date: 1/18
16 18 19 31 37

**Daily 3**
Draw Date: 1/18
EVENING: 6 5 3
Draw Date: 1/18
MIDDAY: 1 4 9

**Daily Derby**
Draw Date: 1/18
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:40.00

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## DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025282547. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: JKGI, 2800 NEILSON WAY #703, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): DANIEL LEE COOK, 2800 NEILSON WAY #703, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. 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/ DANIEL LEE COOK, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/22/2025. 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 under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/30/2025, 01/06/2026, 01/13/2026, 01/20/2026

## DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025284275. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: REMA STUDIOS, 1017 OCEAN PARK BLVD APT 6, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): MARKO DUKIC, 1017 OCEAN PARK BLVD APT 6, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 03/2024. 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/ MARKO DUKIC, 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 under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/06/2025, 01/13/2025, 01/20/2025, 01/27/2025

## Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25NWCP00510. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk Ca 90650. Petition of Victoria Lynn Aziz for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Victoria Lynn Aziz filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Victoria Lynn Aziz to Victoria Lynn Perez. 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: 02/23/2026, Time: 8:30, Dept: L, Room: n/a. 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: NOV 03 2025. LEE W. TSAO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/13/2026, 01/20/2026, 01/27/2026, 02/03/2026

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## GUEST COMMENTARY

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# California shouldn't let oil companies rewrite refinery safety rules

In recent months, a string of refinery fires, chemical releases and other disasters has put Californians on edge. Yet California regulators are quietly proposing to weaken the state's safety rules in a secret deal with oil lobbyists — putting us all at greater risk.

On Jan. 15, regulators will hold a public hearing at the state's Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board meeting in Sacramento on changes to California's Process Safety Management regulations, an issue with life-or-death consequences for workers and nearby communities.

These regulations exist to keep people safe. After the 2012 Chevron refinery explosion in Richmond sent a massive fireball into the sky and sent thousands of residents to seek medical help, California strengthened its refinery safety rules.

The reforms established crucial safeguards: rigorous oversight of hazardous materials and processes, common-sense standards ensuring meaningful worker participation in safety processes and engineering reviews, and authority for workers to stop unsafe operations.

We represent communities living next to refineries and the workers who operate them. Together, we are sounding the alarm — California must not allow oil billionaires and their lobbyists to rewrite refinery safety rules.

Recent disasters at refineries across California — including major fires and explosions in Martinez, Benicia and El Segundo in 2025 alone — show that the risks remain serious and urgent.

As oil executives disinvest from maintenance at aging refineries, the risk of deadly disasters increases, making these regulations more important than ever.

Refinery disasters don't just affect workers and local communities. They impact Californians across the state when we fill up our tanks. Major accidents often disrupt fuel supplies, driving up gasoline prices.

The proposed OSHA changes stem from a settlement between state regulators and oil industry lobbyists — a secret deal crafted behind closed doors, excluding workers and frontline communities. The changes would erode critical safety protections and give oil companies more control over the rules meant to hold them accountable.

The most dangerous change targets a crucial aspect of refinery safety, employee participation.

The proposal would allow oil executives to handpick workers to participate in developing safety plans and conducting critical safety reviews. In practice, that means a worker who raises concerns about corroded pipes or unsafe chemical levels could be replaced with someone more willing to stay silent.

This defies common sense. Refinery workers are responsible for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of these facilities.

They know which metals are used in each process and how much acid or additives can be used. They know which chemicals corrode and rip holes through pipes. Their knowledge is essential to preventing disasters.

Other revisions would reduce oversight of hazardous chemicals, narrowing what companies are required to analyze and fix.

These dangerous and carcinogenic substances don't disappear just because we decide to look the other way. They remain on-site, threatening workers and surrounding neighborhoods.

Communities like Richmond and Carson are already deeply impacted by day-to-day refinery pollution. They experience elevated rates of asthma, cancer and other chronic illnesses. Explosions and toxic accidents exacerbate these risks.

The existing safety rules were built with worker input for a reason. Refinery workers want safe jobs. Refineries are inherently hazardous, and a single failure can mean severe injury or death. Workers must be able to select their own representatives who understand refining processes, prioritize environmental health and safety and who will not cave to corporate pressure.

Luckily, this deal can still be stopped. Governor Newsom's regulators should reject these industry-driven rollbacks and work openly with workers and residents.

The future of safety at California's refineries should be defined by public voices — not oil billionaires and their lobbyists.

Nick Plurkowski is president of United Steelworkers Local 5, representing workers at three Bay Area refineries. Marie Choi is strategy director at the Asian Pacific Environmental Network.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

# COMMUNITY NEWS

**SMMUSD**

## Students Displaced by Palisades Fire to Present Global Climate Action Livestream

Students from Palisades Charter High School and Santa Monica High School directly affected by the 2025 Palisades fire will present a global livestream Jan. 24 to recount the crisis, call for climate action and pressure fossil fuel companies to pay for damages caused by use of their products.

The panel will feature students from Palisades Charter High School, which has been closed for fire-damage remediation for a year, and neighboring Santa Monica High School. The schools previously united for a protest calling on officials to pass the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act, known as Make Polluters Pay, which has stalled.

"We are urging lawmakers to bring back this critical legislation," said Maria Knierim, a Palisades Charter High senior who has moved seven times since losing her home to the fire. "We barely escaped alive. I saw my neighborhood disappear. Polluters must pay for their part in this."

> "We are urging lawmakers to bring back this critical legislation"
>
> - Maria Knierim, a Palisades Charter High senior

The students are collecting signatures on a petition urging elected officials to make polluters pay for their role in climate change.

Organizers include Fridays for Future, a student-led movement inspired by Greta Thunberg, and aligned groups including Climate Talks for Everyone, NAZCCA.org, Resilient Palisades, Climate Action Santa Monica and Third Act SoCal. They are urging youth and adults worldwide to hold watch gatherings for the livestream.

Palisades Charter High School students are expected to return to their campus by late January. They have been attending classes in a former department store less than a mile from Santa Monica High School.

What: Students Unite to Fight Climate Change, a global livestream panel by students displaced by the 2025 Pacific Palisades fire

When: Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, 11 a.m. PST

Where: Register for the livestream at https://www.fridaysforfuture.org or to organize a watch gathering at https://www.fridaysforfuture.org/watch-gatherings

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

**Los Angeles**

## Dodgers Announce Annual DodgerFest for Jan. 31

The Los Angeles Dodgers will host DodgerFest presented by Budweiser on Saturday, Jan. 31, at Dodger Stadium, featuring a 90-minute on-stage interview show with numerous players from the back-to-back 2024 and 2025 World Series championship teams.

The show will include past MVPs Mookie Betts, Freddie Freeman and Shohei Ohtani, along with Game 7 heroes Max Muncy, Miguel Rojas and Will Smith. Manager Dave Roberts and top executives Andrew Friedman and Brandon Gomes will discuss the team's bid for a three-peat in 2026.

A presale for My Dodger Members and Premium Clients begins Thursday, Jan. 15, at 10 a.m., with general public access opening Friday, Jan. 16, at 10 a.m. Special paid experiences go on presale to members Wednesday, Jan. 21, and to the public Thursday, Jan. 22. In addition to Field and Reserve Level seats, limited on-field seats directly in front of the stage will be offered.

Beginning at 12:30 p.m., Dodger announcers Joe Davis and Stephen Nelson will host the stage show. Prior to the show, DodgerFest will offer merchandise sales, food and drink concessions, and activations from Budweiser and partners including Cutwater, Estrella, Hakkaisan and UCLA Health.

The Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation will host its annual Yard Sale featuring jerseys, T-shirts, bobbleheads and more, plus its Mystery Bag fundraiser with autographed items. Proceeds support LADF's mission to improve education, health care, homelessness prevention and social justice.

VIP paid experiences from 9:20 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. include player meet-and-greets, a Stadium Club lunch with a Dodger star, clubhouse tours, a Vin Scully Press Box tour, a Jackie Robinson legacy tour and photo opportunities with the 2024 and 2025 World Series trophies.

Auto gates open at 8:30 a.m., with stadium entry beginning at 9 a.m. The event is subject to cancellation based on weather, with tickets to be refunded.

To purchase tickets, visit https://www.dodgers.com/dodgerfest.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

**SMC**

## SMC Emeritus Gallery Hosts Free Online Opening for Barbara Gordon Portrait Exhibition

The Santa Monica College Emeritus Art Gallery will present a free online exhibition showcasing painted portraits by artist and SMC Emeritus student Barbara Gordon beginning Jan. 22.

The exhibition opens Thursday, Jan. 22, with a free live Zoom Virtual Launch Event from 5 to 6:30 p.m. A link will go live at event time on the gallery's website.

Emeritus Gallery Curator Jesse Benson will host the opening reception featuring a discussion between Benson and Gordon about selected works.

> When I met Barbara, about a decade ago, it was immediately clear that she was seeking real connection with the subjects of her artwork
>
> - Jesse Benson, Emeritus Gallery Curator

"When I met Barbara, about a decade ago, it was immediately clear that she was seeking real connection with the subjects of her artwork," Benson said. "Over time her paintings have become increasingly focused and committed, as well as exponentially prolific."

The exhibition will present a significant selection of painted portraits of women and children showcasing Gordon's ability to connect with and empower her subjects.

"90% of what I do are portraits of women and children," Gordon said. "I gravitate toward photos of faces that have poignancy and depth. I went back to school about 15 years ago and graduated in Women's Studies, which fits with the type of subject I tend to choose."

To view the online exhibition anytime after 5 p.m. on Jan. 22, visit the gallery website and click the exhibition link, available 24 hours a day. The link takes viewers directly to the exhibition album on a Facebook page open to public viewing; a Facebook account is not necessary.

SMC's Emeritus program, founded in 1975 as a noncredit program to serve the lifelong learning interests of older adults, offers more than 120 noncredit adult education classes and special programs serving more than 3,000 students each year.

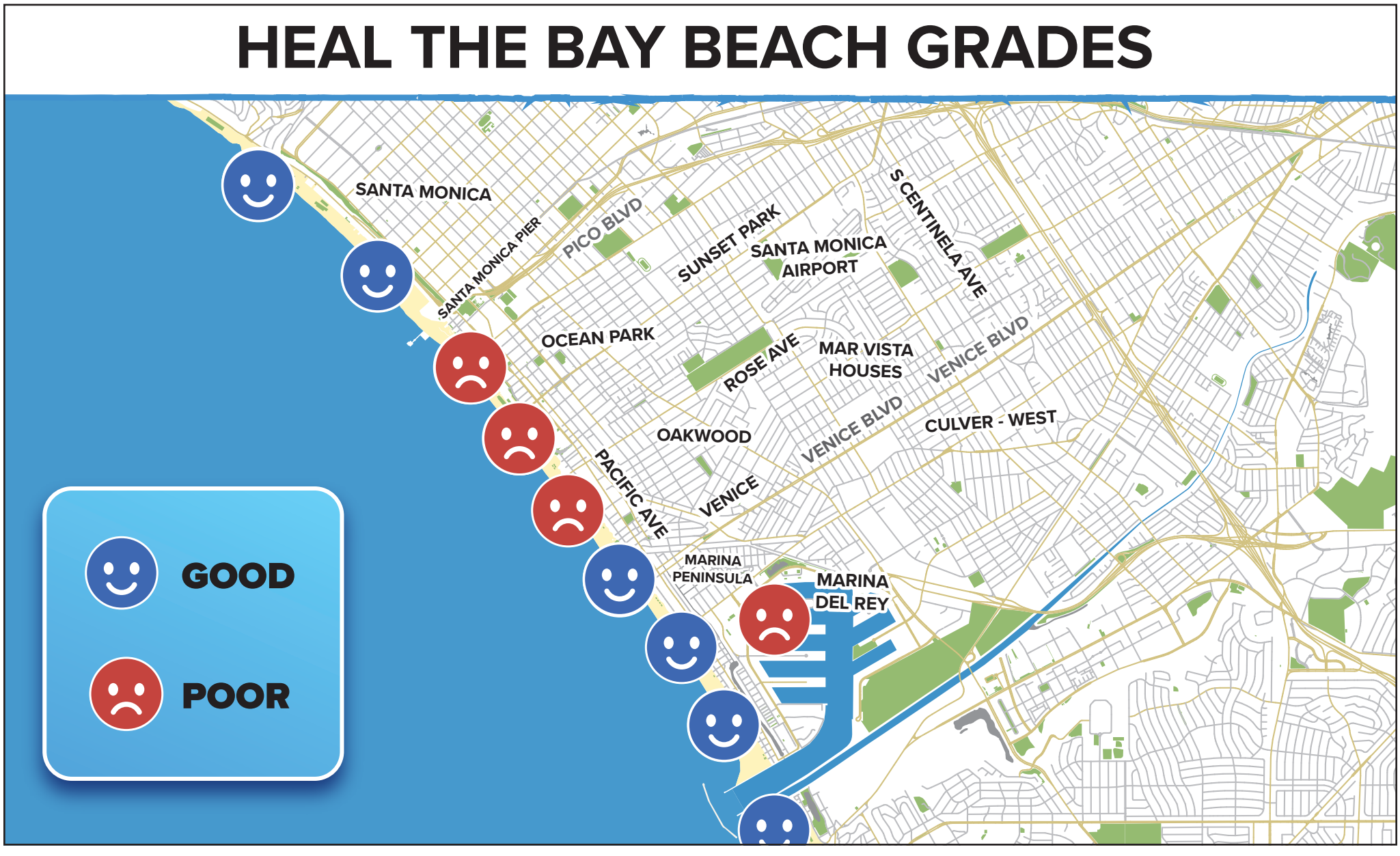
More information is available at https://www.smc.edu/emeritusgallery or by calling 310-434-4306.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy image

**EVENT:** The exhibition opens Thursday, Jan. 22, with a free live Zoom Virtual Launch Event from 5 to 6:30 p.m.



## BOCCE

FROM PAGE 1

Dunne.

There was also a harder truth beneath the celebration. Dunne spoke candidly about the moment many residents realized that help was not always coming on the days of the fire. "When we were kids, we all had little fire trucks and told our whole lives that firefighters would always be there to save the day. They didn't show up," he said. "Then you realize we've got to do it on our own. Fortunately, in the Palisades, there are so many people standing up."

That resolve has taken shape through public-private partnerships and civic engagement. Dunne pointed to the role of organizations like Steadfast LA, the Palisades Recovery Coalition, Team Palisades, American Legion, and so many selfless individuals.

"Public-private partnerships are what move the needle. That's how you get things done, from underground utilities to real action."

Yet the heart of the day remained deeply personal.

For Dunne, the league's meaning crystallized in the story of Lorraine Colich. At ninety-six, Lorraine received the Martini Award (named after Mike Martini), a yearly honor given to the player who best embodies the spirit of the league. Holding the award in front of a sea of bocce players, she shared that she had lost her husband, her son, and most of her closest friends. Her health had declined. Loneliness had set in. She said that something came into her life that she never expected. Bocce. Bocce, she said, gave her a reason to leave the house, to belong, and to keep going.

That story now echoes through the league. Seniors in their seventies, eighties, and beyond have found connection through the simple roll of a ball. What looks like a game is, in practice, a lifeline.

Dunne joked that at Sunday's Championships, there was more hugging than bocce. But the embrace feels fitting. "What people expected today was a pervasive sadness," he said. "That's not what happened. Today was about looking around and seeing that the promise is right in front of our eyes. The people in this town are what's bringing this thing back."

Dunne sees the future heartbeat of the Palisades in young families, in parents and children, in the Scouts, Little League games, and our schools, churches, and synagogues. He also sees a responsibility to invest in what shapes a community's soul. As a songwriter, he spoke passionately about expanding music and art programs for local students and would love to do so at Pali High. "I can't tell you how much I believe in the importance and merit of the arts," he said. "Music was the greatest gift of my childhood. Being part of a group, playing an instrument—changed my life. I want to bring that same opportunity to our town's kids."

The bocce courts offered a simple truth: recovery is not only about rebuilding what was lost. It is about strengthening what remains. The Palisades will not be the same, Dunne acknowledged. But standing amid laughter, connection, and shared purpose, it is clear it may become something even stronger.

Sometimes the most enduring legacy begins with a ball rolling gently across a court, and a community choosing to gather again.

michelle@smdp.com

## BUDGET

FROM PAGE 1

areas: structured and consistent scheduling, transparency and public access to materials, accessible presentation materials, public education and engagement, performance evaluation, and long-term process considerations.

"Measure G was about giving people a real voice in County government and creating the transparency we urgently need," said Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath. "These recommendations reflect months of work by the Governance Reform Task Force and Public Budget Hearing Subcommittee."

Horvath said the changes will make budget hearings "easier to understand, more accessible, and more meaningful for residents and the Board."

The reforms come as counties nationwide face pressure to improve government transparency and public participation. Los Angeles County's budget process has long been criticized as difficult for ordinary residents to understand and engage with.

Supervisor Janice Hahn emphasized the connection between the reforms and Measure G, a governance initiative focused on making county government more democratic.

"County government can get stuck in its ways — especially when it comes to the budget," Hahn said. "So, the Government Reform Task Force has been focused on how we can demystify the budget and address things that have made the County budget process hard to understand and hard to get involved in."

She added: "If we don't get the budget right, we can't get our residents the services they depend on."

The task force conducted extensive research before making its recommendations, including reviewing all of last year's budget hearings, conducting internal and external surveys, researching budget best practices from other jurisdictions, and analyzing various proposals.

Many short-term recommendations can be implemented immediately for fiscal year 2026-27. These include improvements to scheduling, posting of materials, public comment procedures, presentation formats, accessibility features, and educational materials.

Longer-term recommendations will require additional planning and focus on evaluating departmental performance and potential structural reforms to the budget process itself.

Marcel Rodarte, chair of the Governance Reform Task Force, called the approved recommendations "the first step in reforming County governance by making the budget process more accessible to communities and stakeholders."

Rodarte, who was appointed by Hahn, said he expects more recommendations to follow.

County officials are encouraging community members to participate in upcoming budget hearings, which begin Feb. 12. The hearings represent an opportunity for residents to weigh in on how tax dollars are spent.

More information about the task force and future meetings is available at measureg.lacounty.gov.

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## MALIBU

FROM PAGE 1

following a series of fatal crashes. The declaration must be renewed every 60 days under state law or it automatically terminates.

"We're going to be in an emergency until Caltrans actually fixes it and we're no longer in an emergency," said Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Silverstein, who initially brought the PCH emergency declaration to the council after the deaths of four Pepperdine University students in October 2023.

The students were killed when a driver allegedly traveling more than 100 mph lost control and crashed into them as they walked along the highway.

According to data from the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System, 22 deadly crashes occurred on PCH in Malibu between 2018 and 2022, resulting in 23 deaths. The California Highway Patrol reports 49 fatalities along the stretch from 2012 to 2022.

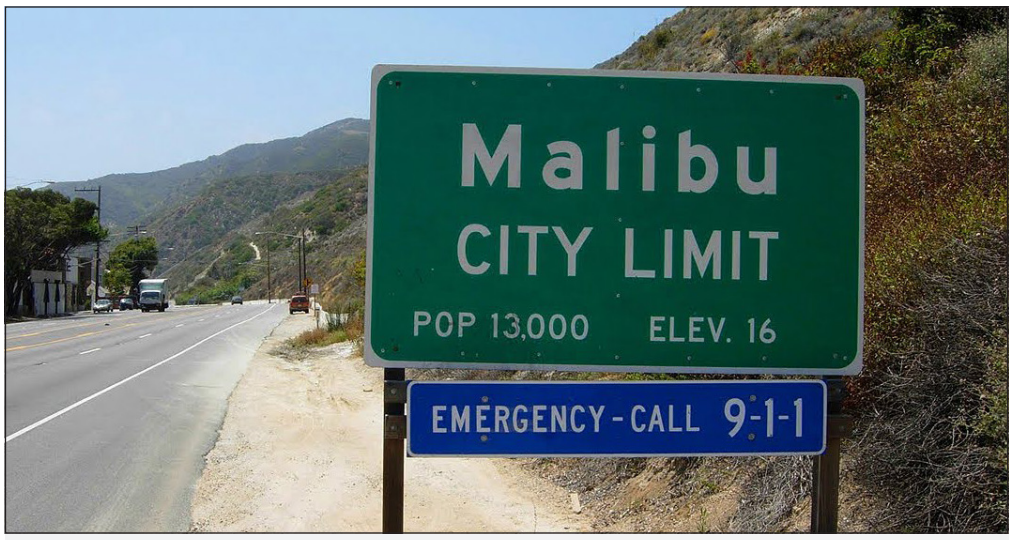
Councilmember Haylynn Conrad questioned whether the city would remain in a perpetual state of emergency regarding the highway.

"At what point do we feel that it's not dangerous anymore?" Conrad asked. "Maybe it's two years without death."

City staff clarified that while the emergency declaration grants additional powers, including expanded spending authority for the city manager, it does not impact development projects related to PCH improvements.

The highway, which serves as Malibu's main thoroughfare, is managed and maintained by the California Department of Transportation. The posted speed limit ranges from 45 to 55 mph through the city.

"Since we don't have the power to fix it ourselves, and since the emergency does continue until it's fixed, and since, unfortunately, the law requires us to reaffirm this every 60 days, it's going to have to just keep appearing on our consent calendar," Silverstein said.




SMDP Photo

**MALIBU:** City Council tackled three emergency-related items pulled from its consent calendar last week.

In a separate action, the council voted to reject all bids for the Encinal Canyon Road storm drain repair project after discovering the 60-inch corrugated metal pipe had deteriorated far worse than initially assessed.

Councilmember Doug Stewart pulled the item to question whether the city faced an immediate safety risk.

City staff revealed that preliminary construction inspections found an offset joint approximately 15 feet into the pipe, reducing vertical clearance to about 40 inches. Another section showed severe deformity, leaving only 41 inches of clearance.

"We got a serious problem on Encinal Canyon with this storm drain pipe," Stewart said. "I just want to know what kind of risk are we taking."

Staff assured the council the pipe remains serviceable and should withstand upcoming storms, despite requiring more extensive repairs than originally planned. The deterioration means the city can no longer use the planned spiral-wound polyvinyl chloride liner and will need to excavate and replace sections of the pipe.

Four bids had been received for the project, with apparent low bidder The Adjul Corporation submitting a price of $377,825. The project will now be redesigned and rebid.

"I just want to know if we have a safety issue here," Stewart said. "If we get on it quickly, we can solve it."

The council also voted to allow a fire-related emergency declaration to expire naturally after determining that weather conditions had improved sufficiently to meet termination criteria.

The emergency was declared Sept. 29, 2025, when live fuel moisture dropped to 63% for Santa Monica Mountains chamise vegetation. The declaration allowed expedited removal of homeless encampments in very high fire hazard severity zones.

Silverstein initially questioned whether ending the emergency was premature given the time of year and historical fire patterns, but Public Safety Director Susan Duenas said the city had "far exceeded" the termination criteria.

As of late November, live fuel moisture had risen to 98%, and Malibu had received 7.72 inches of rain, well above the 2-inch minimum threshold. No fire weather watches or red flag warnings were active or forecast.

"The whole point of an emergency is that you don't just declare them for any reason," Duenas said, noting that consistent application of criteria protects the city's credibility and guards against accusations of civil rights violations.

Rather than vote to terminate the declaration, the council opted to take no action, allowing it to lapse on its scheduled expiration date of Jan. 23.

Duenas assured council members that staff would continue daily encampment removal operations and could quickly reinstate the emergency declaration if conditions deteriorated.

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City of Santa Monica

Holiday Tree Collection

December 26th – January 31st

Here's how you can prepare your natural tree for a second life as mulch and compost:

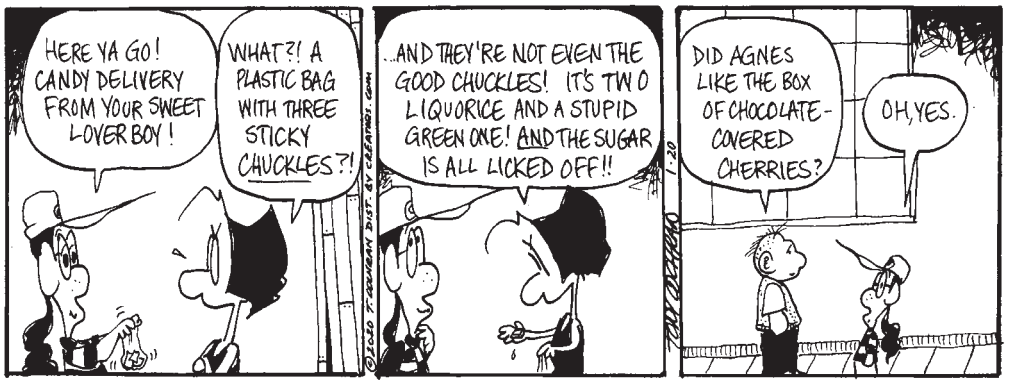
- Remove all decorations such as tinsel, lights, and stands.
- Place your tree curbside or in the alley next to your waste containers for automatic pick-up between Dec. 26th and Jan. 31st. Do not leave trees in parking lots or parks. No 311 request required.

Please note that flocked trees (trees with synthetic snow) cannot be turned into compost and mulch due to the synthetic materials used in the artificial snow and will be collected as trash. If you purchase a natural tree, we encourage you to not apply flocking.

Questions? Email zerowaste@santamonica.gov

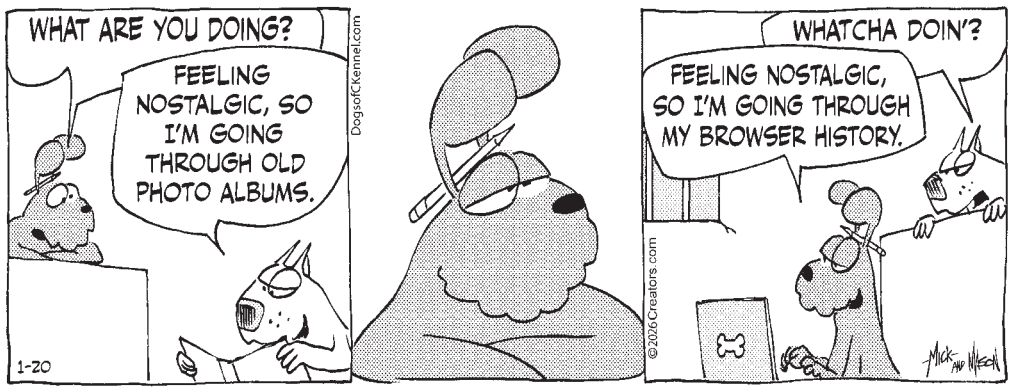
## Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN




## Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



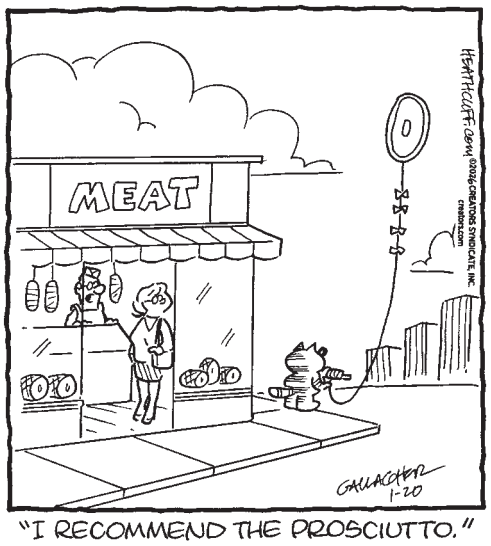

## Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE




## Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER




"I RECOMMEND THE PROSCIUTTO."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6826

## Games night

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

Aces
Amuse
Aria
Bass
Battleship
Bingo
Blue
Board
Brainteaser
Call
Catan
Chat
Chocolate wheel
Clap
Cough
Darts
Dibs
Doze
Faro
Fear
Fish
Game
Hold
Home
Idea
Instructions
Keno
Kits
Land
Letters
Limit
Logic
Lone
Lose
Luck
Ludo
Odds
Pawn
Poker
Pool
Popular
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Risk
Score
Short
Snap
Suit
System
Table
Target
Triple

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## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 20)

Life buzzes with fresh experiences in this Year of Firsts - some are on your list, and many drop out of the blue to delight you beyond anything you could have planned. Close relationships are your treasure. More highlights: You'll break ground and pour the foundation for a project you'll keep building on for years. You'll be proud of how you earn money, and you'll have adventures in foreign territory. Leo and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 10, 31, 8 and 21.

## HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've been a bit detached, which has served you well. Think of it as protection. But today, nothing feels stormy or overwhelming. The emotional climate is gentle enough to set your defenses down and experience things more directly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The majority won't get it, and that's actually a good thing. Relish your moment. Originality makes the world go round. Better to be truly seen as yourself by one person than to blend into the background.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your high standards aren't just about turning in good work or making lifestyle choices. You extend your expectations to matters of character and attitude. You seek the company of those who are considerate, fair and compassionate, like you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Even though you know intellectually that feelings are neutral - not wrong, not right, just information - you still judge yourself for having certain emotions. Instead of analyzing your process, just give yourself credit for having one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The one you care for could get attention from different directions, but there is no care quite like yours, and this will become increasingly obvious. Let it be a source of pride to you. You will keep the relationship in balance by never forgetting the value of your love.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Achievements will magically spill over from one domain to another because the way progress is made stays consistent. Skills grow through sequencing, patience and repetition. Break it into manageable pieces and build them one at a time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Scorekeeping turns giving and receiving into an accounting job instead of a spiritual or pleasurable gesture. Share without worrying about who gave what. The real benefit happens inside your heart as you give.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll gather insight and construct a few stronger boundaries, not to keep people or experiences out of your life but to protect yourself from their effects the way a wetsuit allows the diver to explore depths.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are loyal to the ones who are loyal to you. You are also loyal to the ones who are not loyal to you. Because to you, loyalty is a value, and the rules do not change when circumstances do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's hard enough to resist the influence you can feel. But what about the influence that is so much a part of the culture, you don't even notice it? Awareness keeps you in charge. Ask, "What am I missing?"

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People react well when they understand the full scope of the situation. Many just don't have the experience to know the layers and depths in play. This is why it's important to have the right mentor. Such a person is coming into your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). We change. We are changed by one another. To interact with someone is to change them, and to change yourself. Today, you make extra efforts to be sure people are lighter, brighter and better for knowing you.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

## 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

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

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

## Newsday Crossword

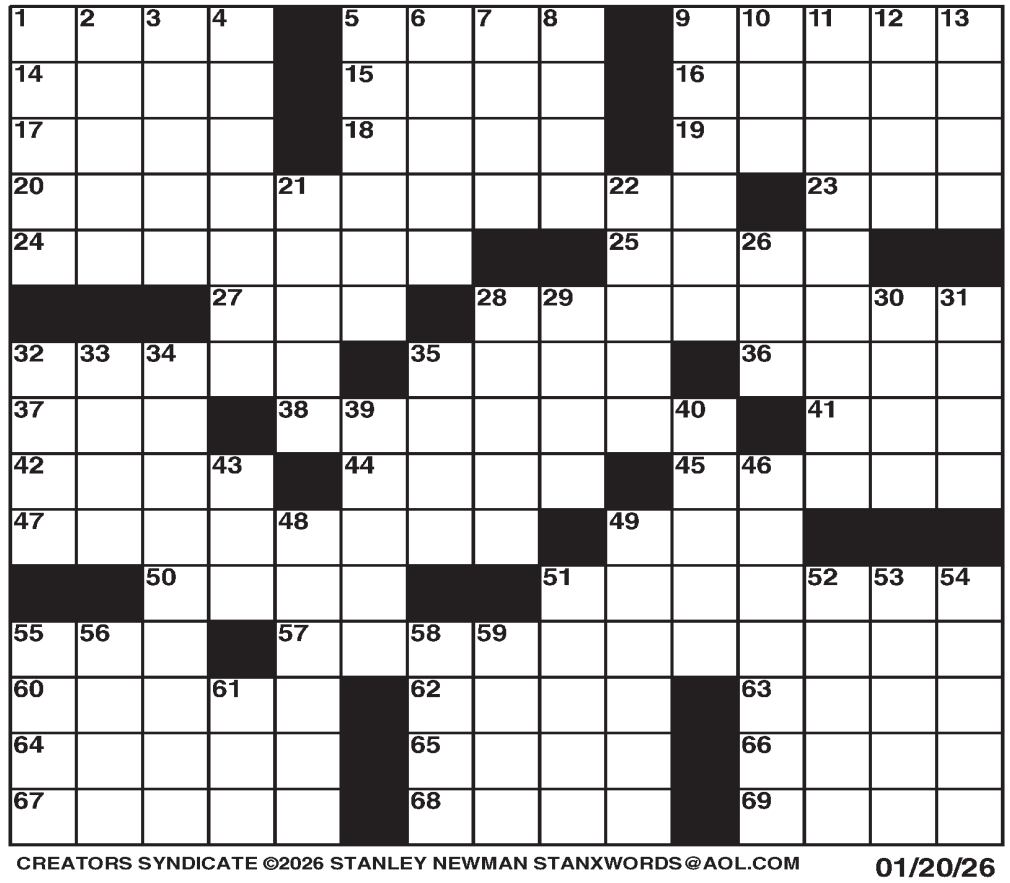
**BEAMLIKE BUNCH** by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

**1** Chimps and gorillas
**5** Number in a spreadsheet
**9** Sounds scared
**14** Valentine sentiment
**15** Large brass instrument
**16** Sneeze sound
**17** Ballerina's bend
**18** *Jeopardy's* __ Trebek Stage
**19** Thundery weather
**20** Goalie's implement
**23** Tiny
**24** New York's Waldorf __ Hotel
**25** In this place
**27** Big coffee dispenser
**28** Evaluation standards
**32** "We're __ See the Wizard"
**35** Environmental sci.
**36** Word on a gift tag
**37** "My lips __ sealed"
**38** Pasta squares stuffed with meat
**41** Have debts
**42** __ bar (serve drinks)
**44** Tenant's payment
**45** Four-door car
**47** Protecting fully
**49** Completely
**50** Self-images
**51** Aspire to
**55** Police officer
**57** Metaphor for a thing you wouldn't want to touch something with
**60** Approximately
**62** Class reunion attendee
**63** Any carbonated soft drink
**64** Sheriff's pursuit group
**65** Large plateau
**66** Revise, as writing
**67** Not to be talked out of
**68** Former couples
**69** Bottles of coloring

**DOWN**

**1** First Greek letter
**2** Casual short-sleeve shirts
**3** Oust from a residence
**4** Try to find
**5** Remain at home
**6** Oklahoma city
**7** Aid and __ (assist in a crime)
**8** Auto with a meter
**9** Plumber's round rubber sealer
**10** Opening __ (variety show starter)
**11** Holder for a curtain over a bathtub
**12** Read closely (over)
**13** __ of the time (now and then)
**21** Wrong move
**22** Coldness in the air
**26** Basketball official
**28** Including on an email
**29** Cheer for a team
**30** The Hawkeye State
**31** Prayer's end
**32** Feedbag grains
**33** At no cost
**34** Vertical support for an outdoor barrier
**35** __ so (nevertheless)
**39** Crop up
**40** Speck of land in the ocean
**43** Shoveled into
**46** Passed, as time
**48** __ to the core (evil)
**49** Fragrances
**51** Extinguish, as a flame
**52** Prone to sulking
**53** Tune from long ago
**54** Daring deeds
**55** Baseball hats
**56** Slender woodwind
**58** HELLO MY __ IS (tag phrase)
**59** Show off your biceps
**61** GI show sponsor



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01/20/26

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

## GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

of the Republican megabill, H.R. 1, and maintains state cuts to vital public supports, like Medi-Cal, enacted as part of the current-year budget.

"Governor Newsom's reluctance to propose meaningful revenue solutions to help blunt the harm of federal cuts undermines his posture to counter the Trump administration."

Some budget critics want new taxes to both cover the state's deficits and offset federal reductions. To fill those gaps, any new levies would need to generate somewhere around $30 billion a year.

"That means taking on corporations and billionaires, raising revenue instead of slashing budgets, and building a stronger California every step of the way," the Legislature's Progressive Caucus said in response to Newsom's budget proposal.

Both of Newsom's predecessors, Brown and Arnold Schwarzenegger, supported new taxes to close multibillion-dollar shortfalls. However, Newsom has repeatedly rejected any broad tax increases to close deficits.

Unions and other left-leaning groups are sponsoring two potential ballot measures to raise taxes. One would continue and expand a temporary tax hike on high-income Californians that Brown sponsored after returning to the governorship in 2011. The other proposal would levy a 5% tax on wealth of the state's billionaires.

Newsom has promised that when he revises the budget in May, just a few weeks before it must be enacted, he will both balance it for the next fiscal year and attack the huge deficits that will linger after his governorship ends. The chances of doing that without new taxes of some kind are — to put it mildly — almost nil.

If Newsom continues to reduce spending on services for the poor and resist new taxes, his lame-duck status could draw unaccustomed resistance in the Legislature. Likewise, his presidential hopes might face opposition from progressive groups both in California and states that are important to a 2028 campaign.

As both governor and likely presidential candidate, Newsom is snared in a political trap of his own making.

Dan Walters, Opinion Columnist

GET IT DAILY...

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## TUESDAY | JANUARY 20

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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

**BOOKS & BAGELS - VENICE LIBRARY BOOK CLUB**
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Venice. Join us the third Tuesday of each month for bagels, coffee and tea. We will have a thoughtful discussion of the current selection and discuss other great things we've been reading. Copies available at the front desk. Plus you get bagels, coffee & tea provided by the Friends of Venice Library! Join for a lively discussion of that month's fiction or non-fiction book pick. New members welcome! Copies of the books are available at the circulation desk. Venice Branch Library (LAPL), 501 South Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291 Schedule: June 18: Poverty, by America, Matthew Desmond July 16: Vaster Wilds, Lauren Groff? August 20: Last American Man, Elizabeth Gilbert? September 17: Hello Beautiful, Ann Napalitano? October 15: On Animals, Susan Orlean? November 19: Quiet American, Graham Greene?? Generously funded by Friends of Venice Library. Join them today to show your support for the library: For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event.Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/books-bagels-venice-library-book-club/14548474/2026-01-20T12

**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 21

**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

**FREE WALK-IN LEGAL CLINIC**
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Santa Monica residents can meet one on one with a lawyer from Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles for help with HOUSING issues. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/free-walk-in-legal-clinic/13906563/2026-01-21T16

## THURSDAY | JANUARY 22

**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/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2026-01-08T11

**OAKWOOD ROOTS FARMERS AND WELLNESS MARKET**
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 685 Westminster Ave Venice. Oakwood Roots Venice Farmers' and Wellness Market is a hub for local foods, wellness classes, and holistic healing. We are dedicated to fostering a strong community, supporting local businesses, and advocating for sustainable practices. Join us in creating a healthier and more connected neighborhood. This is part of a larger effort to revitalize the abandoned parking lots across the street from the park into a community hub, in partnership with Community Corporation of Santa Monica and Hoopbus. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/oakwood-roots-farmers-and-wellness-market/14548473/2026-01-22T11

**ADVANCED FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP**
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Viola Floral Studios 1639 11th St. Suite 162 Santa Monica. Join us for a one-of-a-kind advanced workshop where we will build on your existing skills and design an asymmetrical arrangement featuring the best stems of the season (in a custom vase). We'll use advanced techniques; prior floral experience or workshop attendance is encouraged. Viola Floral Studio: 1639 11th St. Suite 162, Santa Monica. Convenient parking in the back of the building. Please note that all workshops are non-refundable, but if something comes up, feel free to send a friend in your place — flower joy is always transferable. We'll be starting promptly at 3pm, so plan to arrive by 2:45pm to settle in, sip something refreshing, and get ready to bloom. Kit Included. Everything is taken care of by our amazing team, including fresh flowers, vases, floral shears, and guided instructions to create one stunning floral arrangement. Expect to leave with a breathtaking arrangement crafted by your own hands, enriched with newfound knowledge of florals and design. Light bites and bubbly will be provided! Following your purchase, our team will be in touch to coordinate the next steps. $185.00. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/advanced-flower-arranging-workshop/17600698/2026-01-22T18


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