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Draws record registration

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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One year after the fires, flexible funding helps local businesses reopen and rebuild

MICHELLE EDGAR
Special to the Daily Press

One year after the Eaton and Palisades fires reshaped large swaths of Los Angeles, the recovery of local restaurants has become a measure of how communities heal when disaster disrupts daily life. For many small business owners, rebuilding has been defined not only by physical damage, but by quieter and often less visible pressures, sudden drops in revenue, unexpected expenses, spoiled inventory, and payroll deadlines that arrive even when doors are forced to close.

In the months following the fires, DoorDash directed targeted support toward affected businesses through its Local Business Disaster Relief Fund, a national program designed to provide fast, flexible bridge funding in moments of

SEE **DOORDASH** PAGE 6



Michelle Edgar

DOORDASH: DoorDash Disaster Relief Fund grant recipients and local restaurant owners at May community gathering in Altadena.

Inside the policy shifts, investment tools, and public-private alliances accelerating DTLA's imminent transformation

MICHELLE EDGAR
Special to the Daily Press

Downtown Los Angeles is not being reshaped by vision statements alone. It is being transformed by a new generation of zoning reforms, financing mechanisms, adaptive reuse tools, and climate aligned legislation that are quietly redefining what is possible in the urban core.

At the Community Collective x Gensler DTLA convening, city planners, state leaders, economic development executives, and

SEE **DTLA** PAGE 7

Council expands affordable housing pilot program for off-site units

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The City Council voted 4-1 last Tuesday night to approve an expanded pilot program allowing developers to build affordable housing off-site rather than within their market-rate projects, clearing legal uncertainty created by a

SEE **HOUSING** PAGE 11







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California counties must jump through new hoops to get homelessness funds



Photo by Jungho Kim for CalMatters

SAN FRANCISCO: Linda Vazquez, 52, eats noodle soup outside of her tent on Cedar Street in San Francisco on Nov. 19, 2024. City workers tell Linda and other unhoused people to move on a regular basis during homeless sweeps and cleaning operations.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has threatened many times to withhold state homelessness funds from cities and counties that aren't doing enough to get people off the streets.

This year, those threats seem more real than ever.

Newsom's administration and the Legislature are adding new strings to that money, which they hope will help address one of the state's most obvious policy failures: Despite California's large recent investments in homelessness, encampments are still rampant on city streets. But cities and counties already are chafing under the tightening requirements, which they worry will make it harder to access crucial state funds without directly improving conditions on the street.

To access state Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention money, cities and counties are being pressured to enact a policy regulating homeless encampments that passes state muster – a potential challenge in a state where local jurisdictions' rules on encampments vary greatly, and many localities have no policy at all. The state also wants localities to get a "prohousing designation" – a special status awarded to places that go above and beyond to build housing. It's a distinction that only 60 of California's 541 cities and counties (home to just 15% of the state population) have achieved so far.

Newsom, the Legislature, local officials and other stakeholders likely will spend the next several months fighting about those terms, and hashing out the conditions for the $500 million in homelessness funding proposed in this year's budget.

Until those details are resolved, exactly what standard cities and counties will be held to – and what will happen to those that don't comply – is unclear. But one thing is clear: The state is done freely handing out cash.

Some counties are already feeling the heat. They report increased scrutiny as they apply for the homelessness funds already approved in the 2024-25 budget (which, thanks to lengthy bureaucratic delays, have just been made available.)

"They're holding the counties' feet to the fire," said Megan Van Sant, senior program manager with the Mendocino County Department of Social Services.

Newsom's administration and legislators in favor of the new accountability measures say cities and counties for too long have been scooping up state funds without proving that they're using them wisely. The new message to locals is clear, said Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva, a Democrat from La Palma in Orange County: "The state has been moving forward, not only with the investment in dollars, but also with legislation. Now it is your time to show that if you want these dollars…you have to show us what you're doing."

But the new requirements may make it more burdensome to access crucial homelessness funds.

"I worry that, one, we may leave more cities out," said Carolyn Coleman, executive director and CEO of the League of California Cities, "and, two, that we may cause delays in the ability to get more people housed sooner, which I think is the goal."

A TOUGHER APPLICATION PROCESS

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 8

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California families face life-or-death health care cuts. Billionaires can afford to pitch in

Doctors told us my grandson wouldn't live past three months, but they didn't know Elijah was capable of. Today he's 7 years old, stubborn as ever and fighting every day to prove them wrong.

Elijah was born with cerebral palsy. Caring for him is a full-time, all-hands-on-deck operation that includes in-home nurses, physical and occupational therapy, school support and a small pharmacy's worth of medications.

None of that care is optional. It's what keeps him alive, learning, laughing and giving me attitude.

It's only possible because of Medi-Cal. Now California's health care system — the system that keeps Elijah alive — is being pushed to the brink. With $100 billion a year in federal health care cuts barreling toward Americans, California is expected to lose about $30 billion a year in Medi-Cal funding.

Families like mine are living in a state of panic. Elijah's medications alone would run over $5,000 a month. That's not a "tough choice" for a working family — that's impossible.

And the emergency rooms we rely on when his seizures hit? They may not even be open.

This isn't a hypothetical threat. This is my reality. It's the reality of millions of Californians who depend on the care we've been promised.

This disaster is preventable. There's a simple, fair, no-nonsense solution on the table, the 2026 Billionaire Tax Act. I'm one of thousands of Californians fighting for it, as the campaign collects signatures to place the proposal on the ballot this year.

As a nursing assistant, union member and grandmother battling to keep a special needs child healthy, I don't have time for political games. I'm interested in what works, and this would work.

The measure would create a one-time, 5% emergency tax on Californians worth more than $1 billion. That's roughly 200 people, who together hold more than $2 trillion in wealth. The tax would be spread out over a five-year span.

And because of loopholes in tax law, most of that money may never be taxed at all.

This proposal would raise $100 billion for California. It would keep hospitals open, protect Medi-Cal, prevent layoffs of health care workers and keep 3.4 million Californians who are at risk insured.

In other words, it would keep my grandson and many others alive.

As for the billionaires, they honestly wouldn't even feel it.

I've heard some people say this tax is "punishing success." Give me a break. Working families already pay our share. We pay it every time we choose which bills to pay. Every time we work a double shift. Every time we sit in an ER praying that the lights stay on long enough to keep our kids breathing.

All we're asking is for the tiny group who benefit the most from California's economy, to pitch in one time to prevent a total health care collapse. That's not punishment. That's responsibility.

Voters from across the political spectrum support this. When your child or parent is sick, politics matter a whole lot less than their survival.

The ultra-wealthy and their lobbyists are already gearing up to fight this effort. They always do. They're loud, they're powerful and they're used to getting their way.

But I've got news for them: so am I. I've had to fight for Elijah since the day he was born. I've fought for my patients, my coworkers and my community for decades. I know how to stand my ground, and I know I'm not standing alone.

California is at the cliff's edge. We can either let the healthcare system fall, or we can pull together and pull it back.

by Josephine Rios. Josephine Rios is a nursing assistant at Kaiser Permanente.

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Surf report

WATER TEMP: **60.8**

WEDNESDAY
FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Little bump in surf, early AM tide/wind window good. Small but longboardable. 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.

THURSDAY
FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Easing but rideable surf for the small wave gear. Early tide push best. WNW swell mix trends down from the previous couple days. Better tide in the early morning (low'ish/incoming) and that should be the best time to find something rideable on the small wave gear.
Wind looks like it will stay light most of - if not all of-the day

Weather

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 65. Calm wind becoming south southwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. Calm wind.
Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers after 10am. Partly sunny, with a high near 63.
Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers before 10pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
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
2026/01/24	Sat	12:29 PM	3.46	H
2026/01/24	Sat	6:30 PM	1.06	L
2026/01/25	Sun	01:31 AM	4.83	H

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/19
5 28 34 37 55
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 209 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: 1/19
11 19 22 27 30

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/19
EVENING: 6 0 9
Draw Date: 1/19
MIDDAY: 6 8 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/19
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:46.18

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

RFP: # 470 Flexible Financial Assistance RFP

- **Submission Deadline is February 20th, 2026 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

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

Santa Monica Daily Press

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FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074

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Furniture	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00006. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Fang Shi for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Fang Shi filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Shiyuan Zhang to Simon Shiyuan Zhang. 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: 02/13/26, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. 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: 01/06/2026. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/14/2026, 01/21/2026, 01/28/2026, 02/04/2026

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00285. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of HARLOW DOVE COCKRELL for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner HARLOW DOVE COCKRELL filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: HARLOW DOVE COCKRELL to HARLOW DOVE. 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: 02/20/2026, Time: 08:30 AM, Dept: K. 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: 01/06/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/14/2026, 01/21/2026, 01/28/2026, 02/04/2026

Summons

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) Case No. 24SMCV03549. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: JASPER HUNTER. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: JESSICA HUNTER. 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, 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. The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney is: Melissa Fox, Esq., 100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 700, Santa Monica, CA 90401, (310) 555-1234. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/14/2026, 01/21/2026, 01/28/2026, 02/04/2026

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Homelessness crisis remains one of Newsom's biggest political liabilities



Photo by Fred Greaves for CalMatters

HOMELESS: A person walks past a homeless encampment along X Street under State Route 99 in Sacramento on Oct. 25, 2024.

While delivering his final State of the State address and proposing his final state budget last week, Gov. Gavin Newsom clearly sought to neutralize an issue that has haunted his political career for more than two decades and could torpedo his hopes of becoming president: homelessness.

First, a bit of history.

Just months after being elected mayor of San Francisco in 2004, Newsom unveiled a plan he said would clear city streets of homeless people in 10 years. Fourteen years later, while running for governor, Newsom declared that homelessness in San Francisco had "never been worse."

He said eradicating homelessness would be a high priority and promised to appoint a homeless "czar" who could cut through red tape and intergovernmental friction to get the job done. Later, when pressed by reporters over the czar pledge, he snapped, "You want to know who's the homeless czar? I'm the homeless czar in the state of California."

Despite that self-appointment and devoting almost all of his 2020 State of the State address to homelessness, the number of unhoused Californians continued to rise to record levels. As it did, Newsom began blaming local governments for not spending state homelessness grants effectively and threatened to withhold annual funding.

However, in 2024 State Auditor Grant Parks excoriated Newsom's own California Interagency Council on Homelessness for failing to effectively monitor and coordinate homelessness programs — even though the state had spent more than $20 billion during Newsom's governorship.

He later reorganized the council and last year it issued a glossy "Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness." Newsom hailed it as "not just a report of our investments, but a directive for continued accountability and action towards specific quantifiable goals."

It listed multiple things that should be done to alleviate the homelessness crisis, but never mentioned how its lofty goals should be achieved nor said anything about how the state's deficit-ridden budget would pay for them.

In last week's State of the State address, Newsom sang the political version of the World War II tune, "Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive," cataloguing his accomplishments during the last seven years, including progress toward eliminating homelessness.

"When I began as governor, there was no homeless plan, no mental health plan and certainly no housing plan," Newsom told legislators. "There was no accountability and little investment. The responsibility fell to cities and counties, with little interest from Sacramento."

Newsom ticked off the efforts he had made and bragged that, "Early data, just compiled, shows that the number of unsheltered homeless people in California dropped 9% in 2025," while

SEE **CRISIS** PAGE 8

COMMUNITY NEWS

California

Governor Newsom Reappoints Santa Monica Resident to State Athletic Commission

AnnMaria DeMars of Santa Monica has been reappointed to the State Athletic Commission, where she has served since 2022, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced.

DeMars has served as president at the Julia Group since 2008 and at 7 Generation Games since 2013. She previously was a partner at Spirit Lake Consulting from 2002 to 2008.

She is a member of the American Statistical Association, National Indian Education Association, Judo Black Belt Association and United States Judo Association. DeMars earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Minnesota and Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Arts degrees in Educational Psychology from the University of California, Riverside.

The position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is $100 per diem. DeMars is a Democrat.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

LA Country

LA County Mental Health Department Extends Fire Support Services Through June

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, in partnership with California Department of Health Care Services' CalHOPE Program, will continue providing mental health and supportive services through June 2026 for those displaced or affected by the Eaton and Palisades Fires.

The funding, provided through a SAMHSA Emergency Response Grant, targets those experiencing trauma and crisis, those with adjustment disorder due to fire-related losses or disruptions, and those needing mental health support during recovery.

"While the Eaton and Palisades wildfires took place a year ago, many people continue to experience disaster-related distress, and the anniversary of the wildfires may reactivate trauma tied to these devastating events," said LACDMH Director Lisa H. Wong.

The department will operate two walk-in centers offering individual and family counseling, crisis stabilization, support groups, case management, wellness activities and linkage to additional resources. The Eaton Fire Collaborative at 540 W. Woodbury Road, Altadena, and the Palisades Fire Collaborative at 15247 La Cruz Drive, Los Angeles, will initially be open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, with hours adjusted as needed.

Residents can call the LACDMH-run fire support line at (833) 659-0600 to speak with a mental health professional about challenges or concerns.

County residents can also access 24/7 support by calling the Los Angeles County Help Line for Mental Health & Substance Use Services at (800) 854-7771; calling or texting the CalHOPE Warm Line at (833) 317-HOPE (4673); or calling or texting SAMHSA's Disaster Distress Helpline at (800) 985-5990.

Additional resources are available at https://dmh.lacounty.gov/disaster-resources.

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Los Angeles

LA28 Olympic Games Registration Draws Record 1.5 Million in First Day

Registration for the LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games ticket draw received more than 1.5 million entries in its first 24 hours, organizers announced.

The response represents unprecedented excitement for the games, which are still 2.5 years away and mark the earliest registration period for any Olympic Games. First-day registrations exceeded the combined totals of Tokyo, Paris and Milan based on their opening-day numbers.

> The Olympic Games returning to Los Angeles in 2028 is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to witness history
> - Casey Wasserman, LA28 Chairperson and President

Registrations came from fans in more than 150 countries.

"The Olympic Games returning to Los Angeles in 2028 is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to witness history," said LA28 Chairperson and President Casey Wasserman. "The spirit of the LA28 Games is now officially ignited around the world, and fans have already shown up in record-breaking numbers just one day into our ticket registration."

Fans worldwide can continue registering for the LA28 Ticket Draw through March 18. Full details are available in the press release at LA28.org.

The LA28 Games will bring the Olympic and Paralympic Games to Los Angeles in 2028, uniting more than 15,000 of the world's greatest athletes. Set against venues ranging from the Pacific Ocean to Hollywood stages to world-class arenas, Los Angeles will become the third city ever to host three Olympic Games, following 1932 and 1984. The city will also host its first Paralympic Games.

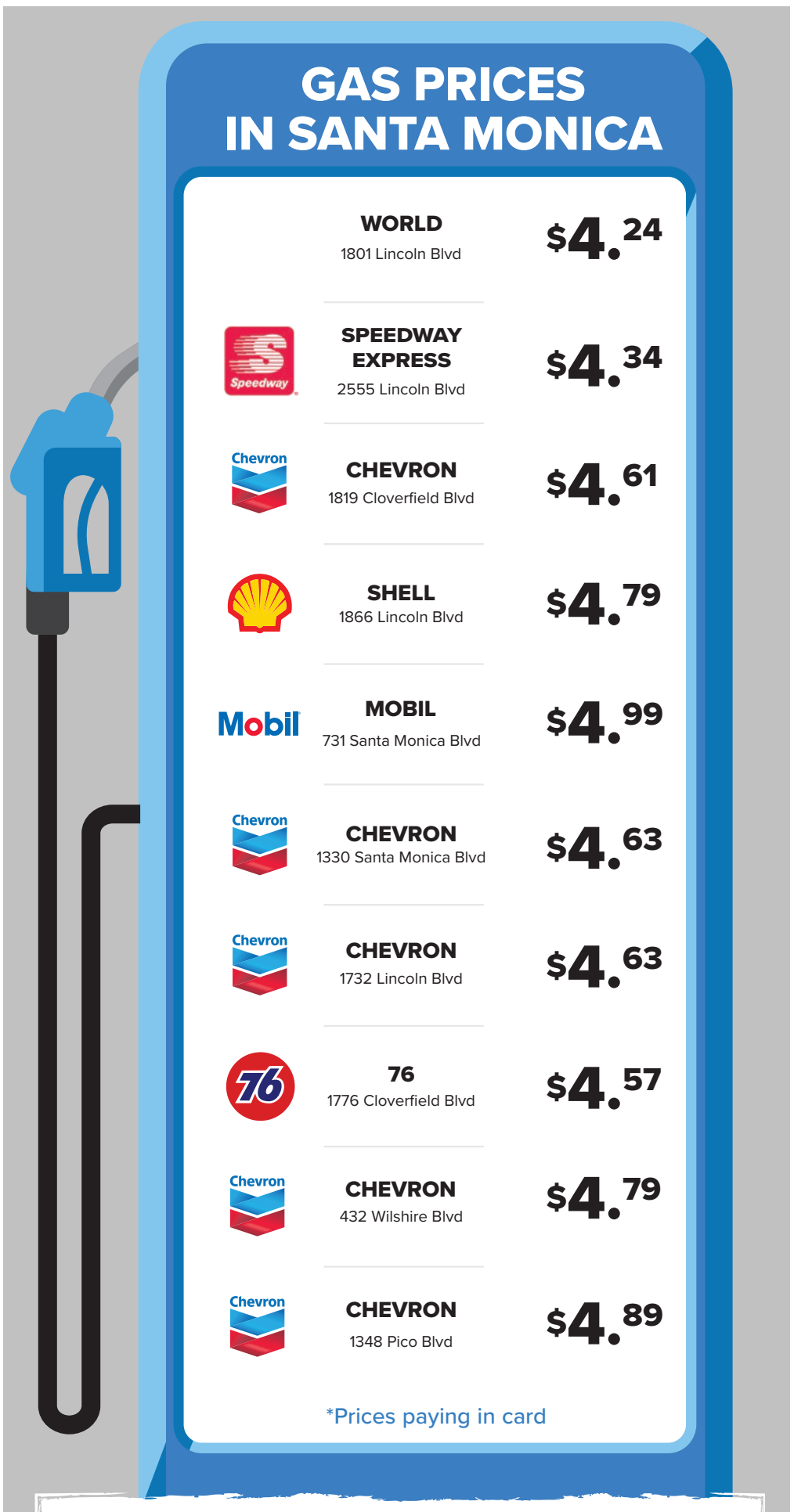
The LA28 Games will celebrate historic milestones, including becoming the first Olympic Games in history to feature more women athletes than men. New Olympic and Paralympic sports will debut, and the games will become the first since 1948 to not build any new permanent infrastructure.

LA28 operates as an independently funded, nonprofit organization and has built a foundation of commercial partnerships alongside licensing, hospitality and ticketing programs with support from the International Olympic Committee.

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Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 1.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.29/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 16.6 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 13.7 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 1.0 cents compared to a week ago and stands at $3.465 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.37/g yesterday while the most expensive was $5.49/g, a difference of $2.12/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was $2.49/g while the highest was $6.79/g, a difference of $4.30/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 3.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $2.76/g today. The national average is down 8.6 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 32.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

DOORDASH

FROM PAGE 1

crisis. Launched four years ago, the fund has distributed more than $2 million nationwide, with a significant investment directed toward Los Angeles following last year's wildfires. Recognizing LA as a critical market, DoorDash committed $200,000 in grants to approximately 20 local businesses impacted by the Eaton and Palisades fires.

"After a disaster, small businesses often face immediate gaps in revenue or expenses they never planned for," said Sueli Shaw, DoorDash's Director of Impact. "That is why funding that is easy to access is of the utmost importance. The Disaster Relief Fund was created to address exactly that need."

> "After a disaster, small businesses often face immediate gaps in revenue or expenses they never planned for"
>
> - Sueli Shaw, DoorDash's Director of Impact

Unlike traditional recovery programs that narrowly define eligible expenses, the DoorDash fund is intentionally flexible. Grants can be used for payroll, rent, utilities, inventory replacement, or covering losses from food spoilage caused by power outages. Shaw said that flexibility reflects a central lesson DoorDash has learned through repeated disaster responses.

"What is consistently striking is the variety of needs local businesses face," Shaw said. "Every business is different, different clientele, different cuisine, different inventory and kitchen requirements. The needs they bring to funding vary just as much, and recovery support has to reflect that reality."

For some operators, the damage extended beyond what a grant could address, requiring insurance claims and long term structural repairs. Even in those cases, Shaw emphasized that short term bridge funding can play a decisive role in whether a business survives.

"Even when a business is dealing with much larger repair needs, bridge funding that helps maintain payroll or address spoilage can be the difference between staying operational and closing entirely," she said. "It allows owners to keep their teams employed and continue moving forward while navigating a much longer recovery process."

Last spring, DoorDash convened grant recipients and local stakeholders at a community gathering in Altadena, creating space for business owners to share what they experienced and how the funding supported their recovery. Among them was Amara Kitchen, where owner Paula Guasp used the grant to bridge operational gaps and keep her staff on payroll after the fires disrupted normal operations. Since reopening, the restaurant has emerged as both an employer and a community gathering place during recovery.

"These conversations matter," Shaw said. "We stay in touch with businesses that received funding last year because we want to understand the impact, not just immediately, but over time, as they rebuild and redefine what recovery looks like."

Palisades and Malibu grant recipients included Spruzzo Restaurant and Bar and OLLO.

Los Angeles holds particular significance for DoorDash, which views the region not only as a major market, but as a collection of deeply interconnected neighborhoods. That perspective has shaped the company's broader engagement, including its support for Assembly Bill 671, which went into effect at the start of the year and streamlines permitting for restaurants reopening after disasters.

"Speed matters after a crisis," Shaw said. "Delays can compound losses for small businesses. Policies that help shorten reopening timelines are a critical part of recovery."

While the Disaster Relief Fund initially focused on restaurants, DoorDash has expanded eligibility to include other small businesses such as retailers and florists, reflecting a broader understanding of how disasters affect local economies. Shaw said the company continues to evaluate grant size, application processes, and outreach channels to ensure businesses most in need are aware of available resources.

"Partnerships with public agencies and community organizations are essential," Shaw said. "Those relationships help ensure this support reaches the businesses that need it most, when they need it."

As climate related disasters become more frequent, DoorDash is continuing to refine its approach, balancing its role as a national platform with the need for local responsiveness.

"We know we need to do more," Shaw said. "That means continuing to iterate on this program, expanding who it serves, and remaining flexible as conditions change. Recovery is not a straight line. The most effective support adapts to where businesses actually are."

For Los Angeles restaurant owners still navigating the long tail of wildfire recovery, that adaptability has offered more than financial relief. It has provided a signal that their role as employers, gathering places, and cultural anchors is recognized and supported, even as rebuilding continues one decision at a time.

michelle@smdp.com

DTLA

FROM PAGE 1

private sector stakeholders outlined a coordinated framework that signals a turning point for Downtown Los Angeles ahead of the World Cup and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The message inside the room was consistent. For the first time in years, Los Angeles has both momentum and mechanisms.

One of the most consequential shifts discussed was Los Angeles' transition toward objective, by-right development standards through the citywide zoning code update and Downtown Community Plan framework. Kelly Farrell, Managing Director at Gensler, emphasized that this evolution is about execution, not rhetoric. Moving away from project-by-project discretionary approvals toward predictable development pathways sends a powerful signal to investors, designers, and institutional partners that the city is serious about speed, clarity, and long-term competitiveness.

For capital markets and developers, this shift reduces entitlement risk and shortens timelines. For the city, it introduces a more transparent and scalable approach to growth that can be applied consistently across neighborhoods.

Another major focus of the conversation was the expansion of Los Angeles' Adaptive Reuse Ordinance. Kevin Keller of the Los Angeles City Planning Department confirmed that the new rolling fifteen-year eligibility window dramatically expands the pool of buildings that qualify for conversion. Structures built as recently as 2011 can now be repositioned into housing, hospitality, or mixed-use projects, fundamentally changing the scale of opportunity in Downtown Los Angeles.

Participants described this update as a turning point. Adaptive reuse is no longer limited to historic structures. It is now positioned as a central economic development strategy capable of addressing vacancy, housing supply, and downtown activation at the same time.

Keller also emphasized that flexibility must be balanced with safety, noting that conversions will continue to meet modern seismic and fire standards to protect long term resilience. Public investment signals were also central to the discussion. Keller confirmed progress on the Los Angeles Convention Center modernization, a $2.7 billion expansion that will add approximately 700,000 square feet of new space. With environmental review complete and funding secured, the project stands as one of the clearest public commitments to Downtown Los Angeles' role as a global business and tourism hub.



Photo by Mich Gensler

DTLA: City planners, state leaders and private stakeholders outlined a framework signaling a turning point for Downtown Los Angeles ahead of 2028.

Discover LA Chief Marketing Officer Eileen Hanson noted that the Convention Center is not simply an events venue, but a catalyst for hotel demand, workforce opportunity, small business activity, and international trade engagement.

State level policy alignment further reinforced the momentum. Senator Ben Allen outlined several legislative tools now shaping Downtown's investment climate. Senate Bill 79 expands transit oriented housing development, allowing higher density residential growth near major rail and bus corridors, an advantage that directly benefits Downtown Los Angeles. Assembly Bill 529 established a statewide working group focused on reducing regulatory barriers to adaptive reuse and authorized new financing districts that allow cities to reinvest incremental tax revenue into conversion and revitalization projects.

Allen also highlighted expanded film and television tax credits, strengthening California's creative economy and reinforcing Downtown Los Angeles as a production and cultural anchor. Together, these policies create a bridge between housing production, commercial repositioning, workforce development, and cultural investment.

Another layer of the conversation centered on climate risk and insurance availability, an issue increasingly shaping urban investment decisions. As a candidate for California Insurance Commissioner, Allen emphasized the importance of transparency, consumer protection, and incentives for resilient construction and building retrofits. Participants discussed how hardened construction standards and climate resilient design can reduce systemic risk while improving long-term insurability for downtown assets.

Ron Frierson, Chairman of LAEDC, reinforced that safety, permitting speed, and regulatory efficiency now function as economic competitiveness tools. Capital, he noted, flows toward cities that offer predictability and confidence. Downtown Los Angeles' ability to modernize older building stock, streamline approvals, and maintain public safety will directly influence whether reinvestment momentum continues.

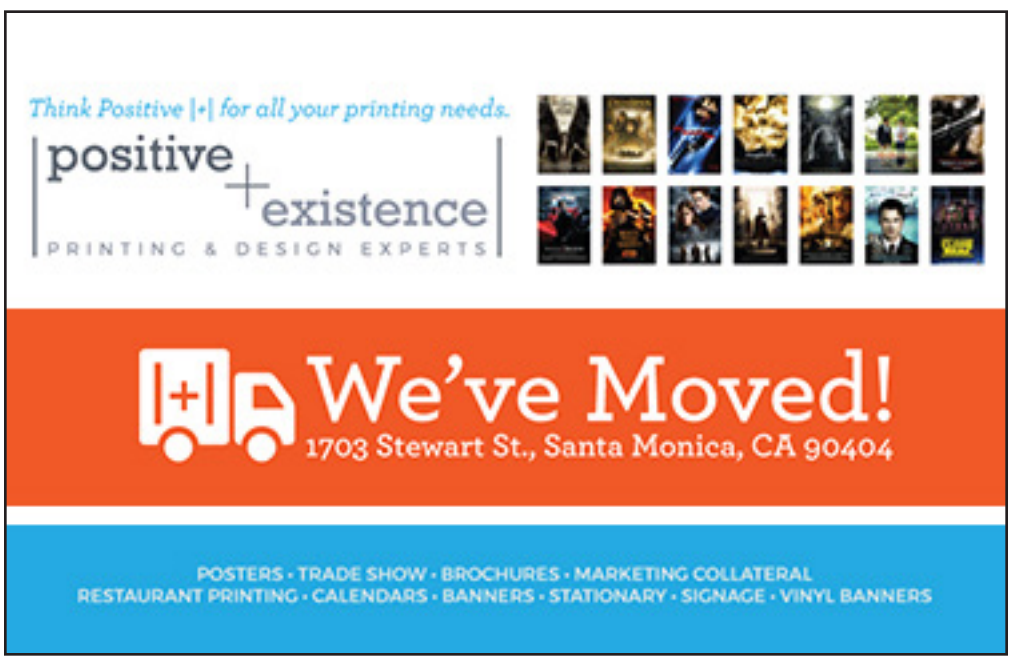
Taken together, the convening revealed what participants described as a new operating framework for Downtown Los Angeles. Objective zoning standards, expanded adaptive reuse eligibility, transit oriented housing incentives, financing districts, Convention Center modernization, creative economy support, and climate resilience alignment now exist simultaneously. The opportunity lies in coordinating these tools into measurable outcomes.

The strongest message of the evening was not about policy alone. It was about execution. Downtown Los Angeles now has the tools on the table. What happens next will depend on how quickly public agencies, developers, institutional partners, and community leaders move from awareness to action.

As Los Angeles prepares to welcome the world, DTLA's future is being built quietly through zoning codes, financing structures, and climate aligned legislation. Those details may not generate headlines. But they will determine what the world sees when it arrives.

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LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 2

Applying for state homelessness funds "absolutely" feels different now than it did last year, and the state is asking tougher questions, said Robert Ratner, director of Santa Cruz County's Housing for Health program.

Fortunately, the county just approved an encampment policy in September, and has started working on getting a pro-housing designation, he said. But the state still returned the county's application with plenty of notes.

"It has felt, at times, like the goal post keeps moving a little bit," Ratner said.

The county's application still hasn't been approved, but it seems to be getting close, Ratner said.

In Mendocino County, the state appears to be holding funds hostage until the county can explain its plans to pass an encampment ordinance, said Van Sant. The county board of supervisors is working on such an ordinance, though it hasn't come up for a vote yet.

But the state's requirement puts Van Sant and her team in an awkward position. As housing administrators, they have no say in any rules the county passes that regulate or prohibit encampments on local streets.

"I wanted to stay out of it," Van Sant said. "I still want to stay out of it. We're housing providers. We try to figure out how to provide people housing. We don't want to weigh in on enforcement. At all."

This year, the requirements may get even stricter. Under the current rules, the state seems to be satisfied as long as a city or county can show how it plans to get a prohousing designation or pass an encampment policy. In the next round of funding, local leaders worry the state will withhold funds unless cities and counties have actually achieved those benchmarks.

IT'S ALL ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY

At issue is the state Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention program, which provides the main source of state money cities and counties use to fight homelessness.

Though Newsom introduced the first round of funding, $650 million, as a "one-time" infusion of cash for local governments in 2019, it became a recurring feature of his administration's strategy to reduce homelessness over the next five years.

For four years in a row, the state awarded $1 billion a year to be divvied up between counties, big cities and federally-recognized regional homelessness funding groups known as Continuums of Care. Each round of funding was described as "one-time." Even so, at least a quarter of the money has gone to day-to-day operating programs, according to data collected by the state.

Last year, things changed. The budget lacked any extra cash for grant funds, and the state's main homelessness program received no new money. Instead, the Legislature committed to spend $500 million — a 50% reduction from the last round of funding — in the coming fiscal year contingent on "clear accountability requirements."

Those requirements for localities, spelled out in a follow-up budget bill signed into law last fall, include:

Having a state-approved housing plan, known as a housing element

Having a "Prohousing Designation" from state housing regulators

Having local encampment policy "consistent with administration guidance"

Ponying up some local funding to match the state contribution

Demonstrating "progress" and "results" on housing and homelessness metrics

These new demands didn't come out of left field. For several years now, "accountability" has been one of Newsom's favorite words when discussing homelessness funding. "People have just had it," he said in 2023. "We want to see these encampments cleaned up." He has repeatedly threatened to withhold funds, and has gradually ramped up the strings attached to homelessness dollars.

But the current list represents an especially stringent set of requirements for locals hoping for a cut of what has been one of the state's signature funding sources to combat homelessness.

Quirk-Silva noted that the current list of requirements is not final. She expects the administration to release additional legislative language in February. Legislators will fight over the details through the June budget deadline.

She expected particularly fierce pushback over any kind of "prohousing designation" requirement.

Revoking funds from areas of the state that lack such a designation would be "penalizing service providers for something that is outside of their control," said Monica Davalos, a policy analyst with the California Budget and Policy Center, a left-leaning think tank.

San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan wishes the state would focus on more concrete measures of success, such as the number of people housed using state dollars, instead of things like a "prohousing" stamp.

"We're making this way too complicated," he said.

by Marisa Kendall and Ben Christopher

CRISIS

FROM PAGE 4

"the nation saw an 18.1% overall increase in homelessness. Our investments are paying off."

He could not, however, resist another jab at local officials, saying he is "providing counties what they've been asking for: the predictable funding for housing and substance abuse treatment. No more excuses — it's time to bring people off the streets, out of encampments, into housing, into treatment. Counties need to do their job."

County officials took umbrage. The California State Association of Counties, in a statement, complained that Newsom's budget shifts the financial burden for several health and welfare programs to county governments and fails to protect them from federal reductions.

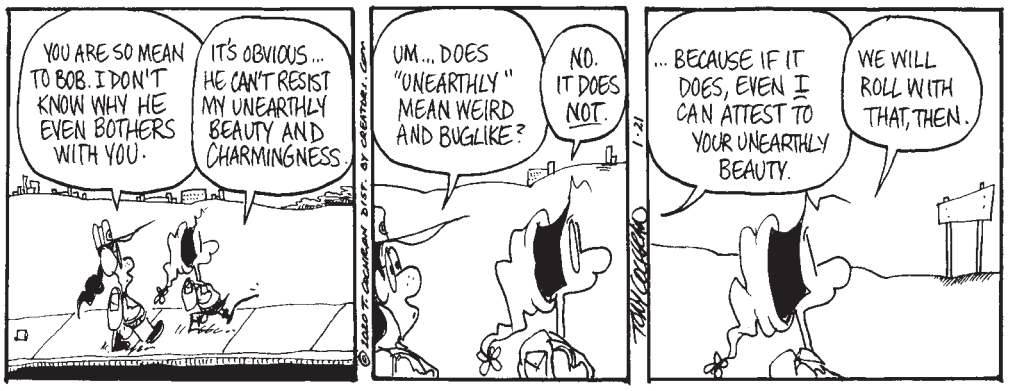
The organization also cited the new budget's omission of an annual bloc grant for homeless programs, and the administration's stalling the delivery of cash from a past allocation, "which was approved by the Legislature 18 months ago."

While Newsom cites a 9% drop in homelessness, if true it would be from a base of nearly 200,000 Californians without homes. There are still plenty of squalid encampments to be videotaped and featured on ads attacking a potential presidential candidate named Newsom two years hence.

Dan Walters, Opinion Columnist

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



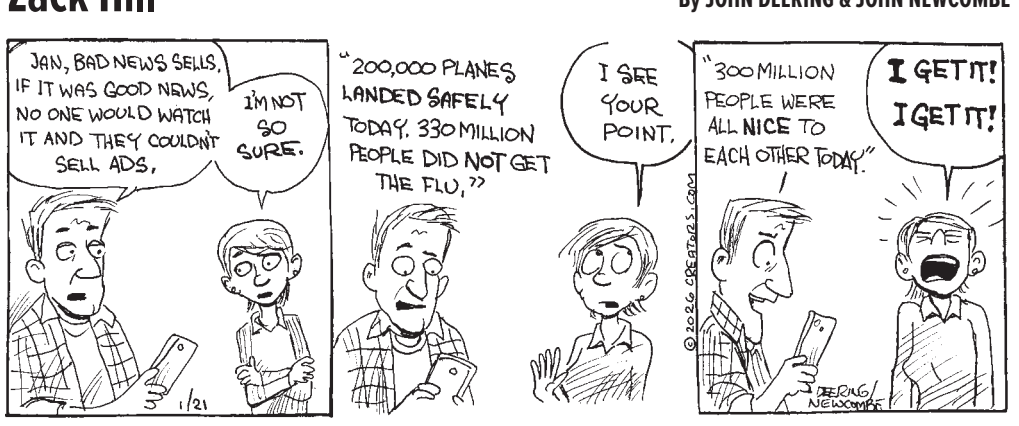
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THERE GOES A REAL GUM GUY."

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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6827

Selling our stuff

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

Anchor	Craft	Griller	Sell
Antique	Crowd	Haggle	Sign
Atlas	Deal	Hats	Skis
Axes	Dirt	Jugs	Space
Bags	Door	Junk	Table
Beds	Dust	Kettle	Tent
Bike	Early	Quilt	Toys
Books	Empty	Rake	Tyres
Burner	Ferns	Rubbish	Value
Cabinet	Find	Sale	Wool
Chair	Fridge	Saturday	
Cheap	Funds	Sausage	
Coat	Gate	sizzle	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 21)

Welcome to your Year of the Evolving Love Story. People, places and projects receive your enthusiasm and heart, and wonderful feelings boomerang back to you, sending you sailing on clouds. More highlights: You'll lead where you once followed. You'll cash in on what's been growing in value for years. A problem is fixed once and for all, freeing your time and energy. Aries and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 17, 32, 20, 18 and 25.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You honor someone by giving them a gift that shows you were listening to who they are, what they like and what they need. Bonus: You're also paying attention to who they were and where they're headed. Witnessing means more than you could know.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Today feels like a pop quiz from the universe. The lesson arrives as if guided by fate. Something you experienced or learned in the past becomes relevant again, and you can apply it here. Trust that you have the skills, insight and perspective to ace this.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Some people play every game like it is a long game, and those are the ones you want on your side. The gracious and the generous may lose a play or two, but they always win in the end. The real prize is integrity.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The ability to read a room comes to those who have been in many rooms and been many people, too. You'll do your best with it today and keep getting better with time and experience.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). No, you're not making it up. The things filling your day are actually necessary to your current role. Although, you might consider whether your ideal role is something else entirely, and thus worthy of a different routine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Playfulness happens when there is room for it. If a person can be playful, even when the situation is serious, it's because their psyche is expansive, their emotional range as wide as a field. This is who you are today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What if the thing you've been avoiding is exactly the thing that changes everything for the better? Instead of seeing it as a chore, see it as a gamble. Once upon a time, something you almost didn't do opened a world to you, and it's about to happen again.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Intensity is so easy for you to create, wield and deal with. That's why you're fascinated by restraint. You observe, and life opens to you. You press or pry, and it closes. What matters will surface in its own time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're in a friendly mood today. The more inclusive you are, the more people you'll know. The more people you know, the easier it is to connect with the person who will help you solve a problem.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Knowing what's good for you and getting more of it is wonderful. What's less wonderful is finding out that what you like isn't all that good for you. Luckily, in today's case, substitutions abound.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are always pros and cons to consider. For instance, taller people have farther to fall, the richer have more to lose and the powerful few at the top are vulnerable to being conquered by the power of many at the bottom. You'll look at all sides of an issue today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your work will get the attention it deserves. You may not know exactly what to make of the feedback, but things are still settling in. For now, it's very good just to get the exposure.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

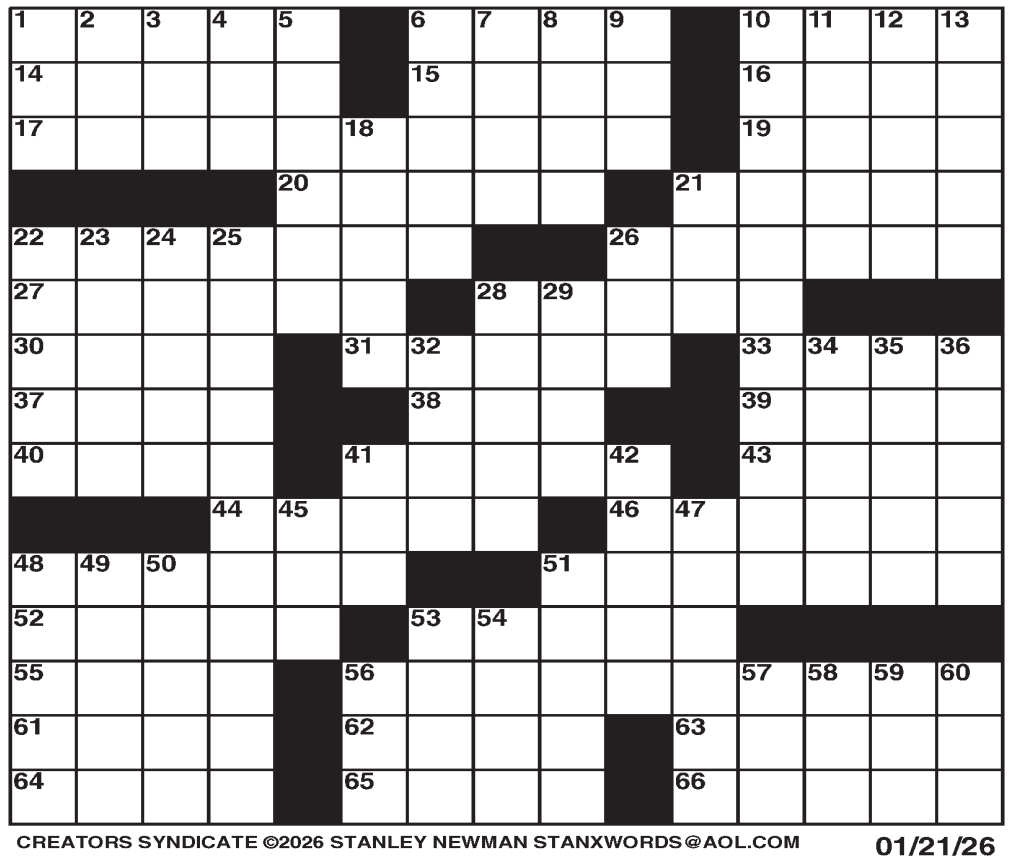
ANIMAL PROTECTION by Guilherme Gilioli
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Stately house
6 Resorts with hot springs
10 Astaire or Flintstone
14 Chicago airport
15 Folded Tex-Mex food
16 Very hard to find
17 Workers' pay ranges
19 Novelist O'Brien or Ferber
20 Slipped up
21 Slow-moving animal in a shell
22 Sheet-fastening device
26 Confidential matter
27 Bike's foot levers
28 Slow-moving, tree-dwelling mammal
30 Per item, informally
31 Already in use
33 50%
37 "It's a __ formality"
38 Three, on a sundial
39 Spoken aloud
40 Crystal ball gazer
41 "Super!"
43 Formal ceremony
44 Hunts, as a lion, with "on"
46 Highly decorated
48 Zigzag ski race
51 Collects in bulk
52 "Dear sir or __..."
53 Lawyers' assignments
55 Help in wrongdoing
56 Parts of novels visible on a shelf
61 Part for an actor
62 Vampire novelist Rice
63 Lloyd Webber musical
64 Three, in Spain
65 Oboe accessory
66 "Blowin' in the Wind" composer

DOWN

1 Cut the grass
2 "I get it now!"
3 Pester persistently
4 Mineral that's mined
5 Offer used goods
6 Ringo of the Beatles
7 Nearly colorless
8 Scored 100% on
9 Ship's distress signal
10 Coiled brass instruments
11 Airplane-tracking device
12 Bert's *Sesame Street* buddy
13 Handed out poker cards
18 Wave's top
21 "On your mark, get __..."
22 Sends junk email to
23 Old West tent dwelling
24 Really love
25 Disposable picnic dishes
26 Boy in the family
28 Birds fly through them
29 *Star Wars* princess
32 Well-ventilated
34 Diva's solos
35 Espresso with milk
36 Runs away from
41 Emerald or ruby
42 Hefty volumes
45 CD-__ drive
47 Spoke hoarsely
48 Intelligent
49 Parts and __ (repair bill lines)
50 British singing star
51 Posed a query
53 Edible ice cream holder
54 Top-tier
56 Common butter shape
57 Wall-climbing plant
58 Nothing
59 Incoming plane stat: Abbr.
60 __ Juan, PR



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HOUSING

FROM PAGE 1

conflict of interest involving Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Zwick.

The vote addressed two components: reaffirming the original 1,000-unit pilot program approved last August, and expanding it to roughly 3,000 additional units in already-approved projects that have stalled due to challenging economic conditions.

The revote was prompted by a California Fair Political Practices Commission ruling in December that Zwick was disqualified from participating in housing production decisions due to his employment with the Housing Action Coalition. The FPPC does not issue opinions on past actions by statute, and did not find that Zwick acted improperly, violated the law, or failed to disclose his employment. However, city staff recommended the revote "out of an abundance of caution" to ensure the legislation stands on firm legal ground.

Zwick was not present during the reading.

> “We need more housing. We need more affordable housing, and this is going to unstick some of those units”
>
> - Caroline Torosis, Mayor

Councilmember Lana Negrete cast the sole no vote, while Councilmember Barry Snell recused himself because his spouse is CEO of a nonprofit located on property owned by a pilot program participant.

The program aims to "unstick" housing projects that received city approval but have not moved forward due to high interest rates, construction costs and other market challenges. By allowing developers to convert formerly inclusionary affordable units into market-rate units and build affordable housing separately, proponents say the program improves project economics while ultimately delivering more affordable units.

"We need more housing. We need more affordable housing, and this is going to unstick some of those units," Mayor Caroline Torosis said. "Really proud to innovate on this when local jurisdictions around the county and the state are having such a hard time really getting those affordable units built."

Councilmember Dan Hall thanked colleagues "who brought this compromise forward through a lot of stakeholder engagement and community organization engagement."

The city received six applications for the initial pilot program shortly after its August approval, totaling 1,018 units. Five projects containing more than 900 units came from a single developer, Cypress Equity Investments. One developer representative told the council the pilot would allow projects to move forward and generate substantial transfer tax revenue when sold.

For the program expansion, the council imposed significantly stronger requirements than the original pilot. The gap financing amount—money deposited in escrow to help fund off-site affordable projects—increased from $150,000 to $160,000 per unit, indexed annually to construction costs.

A new "community benefit payment" requires developers to pay 5% of a project's sale price to the city for affordable housing purposes. This provision protects against potential repeal or reduction of Measure GS, the city's real estate transfer tax, which has faced ongoing challenges.

The expansion also includes strict enforceable milestones for off-site construction. Developers must submit entitlement applications for off-site projects before receiving building permits for market-rate developments, and submit construction plans before receiving certificates of occupancy. Off-site affordable construction must commence within 48 months of market-rate building permits, or the city can acquire the off-site property and retain the escrowed funds.

The ordinance includes a right of first refusal giving the city the first opportunity to purchase off-site affordable properties before they can be sold to third parties.

Public comment reflected sharp divisions over the program. Supporters argued it would revive "over 100 affordable units" that were previously stalled. Critics viewed the timeline as "too long while market-rate housing is prioritized" and questioned whether the program gives excessive concessions to developers.

Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, a prominent advocacy organization, submitted detailed written comments raising concerns about financial and timing risks to the city. While supporting the concept of a pilot program with appropriate safeguards, SMRR argued the original $150,000 gap financing was insufficient based on recent affordable housing construction costs, and warned that delays in building off-site projects could leave the city bearing unexpected costs.

The group calculated that recent city-funded affordable projects show gap financing needs of approximately $242,000 per unit, significantly higher than the pilot's requirements even with the increase to $160,000.

Community Development Director Jing Yeo told the council the program establishes requirements for 75-year affordability covenants and mandates that approved nonprofits own and operate the off-site projects. All off-site properties must be deemed environmentally sound by the city manager.

The ordinance was introduced for first reading last Tuesday and will return for final adoption at a future council meeting.

maaz@smdp.com



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

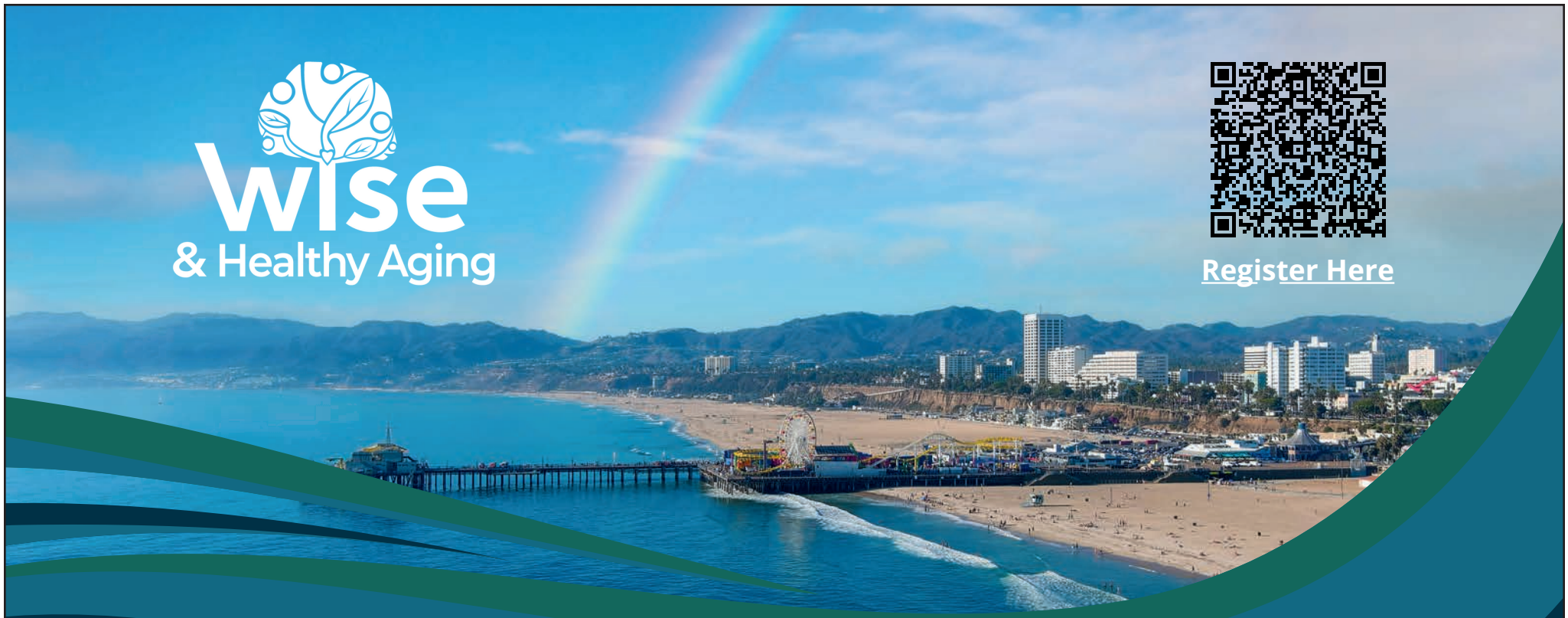
FOOTBALL SHOWINGS AT THE WHALER!

101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 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 23

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



Wise & Healthy Aging

Register Here

FIRE RELIEF POP-UP

RECOVERY TAKES TIME. WE CAN HELP.

FEBRUARY 18, 2026
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
1527 4th St., Santa Monica

LUNCH PROVIDED!

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REGISTER NOW

Event Giveaways

Basic Necessities
We can purchase basic household items, clothing, personal items, durable medical equipment or pay a one-time bill

Personal Grooming
Gift certificates for haircuts and nail care from local Palisades businesses

Transportation and Groceries
Gift cards for: local transportation on Uber or groceries at Vons or Trader Joes

Membership at The Club
Free membership at The Club (Senior Activity Center at WISE)

You'll also learn about other WISE services to help you on your recovery journey & enjoy an art project sponsored by the Palisades Community Renewal Center!

CALL (310) 394-9871
1527 4th Street, (Rm 103-105) Santa Monica, CA 90401
wiseandhealthyaging.org