

INSIDE**Westside Relevant!**

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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smdp.com

From Ash to Action: Steadfast LA, Samara, and supervisor Barger launch new model for fire recovery with first modular home installation in Altadena

MICHELLE EDGAR

Special to the Daily Press

Altadena became the proving ground for a new recovery model in Los Angeles County. In just 34 days from permit approval to installation, Steadfast LA and modular housing company Samara delivered the first permanent wildfire recovery home to the Rodriguez family, marking one of the fastest post fire housing installations in county history.

As part of that coordinated effort, nine Samara modular homes through Steadfast LA recovery initiative will go to nine families, eight in Altadena and one in Pacific Palisades. On installation day, the process unfolds with remarkable speed. After the foundation is prepared, the home arrives in three modular sections, is placed and secured within approximately eight hours, fully connected mechanically, structurally stabilized, and weather sealed, allowing families to step into a permanent, code compliant home.

In the middle of policy, permitting, and construction timelines, Rick Caruso said the heart of the work remains deeply personal.

"One of the most meaningful moments of my career is picking up the phone and calling a family to tell them they have a home," Caruso said, who attended alongside his two sons. "To be able to say, on behalf of Steadfast LA and the Caruso family, that you no longer have to worry about where you are going to live, that your children will sleep in their own beds again, that you can stay in the community you love; that is the kind of work that stays with you forever."

For Supervisor Kathryn Barger, the moment represented more than a ribbon cutting. It reflected



HOMES: Modular homes are helping people rebuild after the fires.

her broader vision to remove bureaucratic barriers, accelerate permitting, and rebuild communities as complete ecosystems, not just collections of homes.

"This is what public service is supposed to look like," Barger said. "We are laser focused on

lifting hurdles, creating pathways for families to return home, and making sure infrastructure, parks, utilities, and neighborhoods rise together. Recovery is not just about structures, it is about restoring

SEE HOUSING PAGE 7

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Volo sports is building the city's next social infrastructure through play

MICHELLE EDGAR

Special to the Daily Press

Los Angeles does not just need more gyms or more dating apps. It needs places to gather, move, compete, laugh, and belong through the power of sport.

Last week at Santa Monica Brew Works Volo Sports launched its Los Angeles platform, marking the company's expansion following its acquisition of Zog Sports and signaling a new era for adult recreational sports in the region.

With DJs, influencers, tailgate style activations, pop a shot competitions, custom jersey stations, and a packed Lakers versus Clippers

SEE VOLO PAGE 5



Michelle Edgar

RECREATIONAL: Santa Monica Brew Works Volo Sports launched its Los Angeles platform, marking the company's expansion following its acquisition of Zog Sports.

Dense Council meeting includes new restorative justice program and parks plan



SMDP Photo

PARKS: Council members will vote on adopting the 2025 Parks and Recreation Vision Plan.

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

Tuesday's meeting of the Santa Monica City Council is among the most consequential in recent memory with a jam packed agenda that includes sweeping initiatives

on parks expansion and restorative justice in a meeting that could reshape both the city's recreational landscape and approach to historical harms.

Council members will vote on

SEE PARKS PAGE 6

Feds drop effort to get trans patients' records from LA children's hospital

Transgender patients of Children's Hospital Los Angeles secured a win this week after the U.S. Department of Justice agreed to end its efforts to obtain personal and medical information of more than 3,000 young patients.

Last summer, the federal Justice Department announced that it sent subpoenas to more than 20 medical providers that offered gender-affirming care for minors. At the time, the department said it was doing so to investigate "healthcare fraud" and "false statements."

Seven families whose children have received gender-affirming services at Children's Hospital Los Angeles sued in November to quash the subpoena to protect their information.

The department never provided evidence of fraud, said Khadijah Silver, director of Gender Justice & Health Equity at Lawyers for Good Government, one of the firms representing families in the class action lawsuit. The hospital did not turn over the requested documents.

"It was basically a fishing expedition," Silver said. "Without any probable cause, they did not have the authority to be seeking medical information."

The DOJ and Children's Hospital Los Angeles did not immediately return requests for comment.

The department subpoena demanded the

“

This is one piece of a large, very important puzzle, but it does allow our clients to hold on to their basic legal right to medical privacy

— Khadijah Silver, director of Gender Justice & Health Equity at Lawyers for Good Government

”

hospital provide a large range of documents, including patient intake forms, insurance claims and "documents sufficient to identify each patient (by name, date of birth, social security number, address, and parent/guardian information) who was prescribed puberty blockers or hormone therapy," court documents show.

Under the agreement, filed in federal court Thursday, the Justice Department will withdraw requests for documents that identified patients or their families through 2029.

Attorneys representing patients and their families have moved to dismiss the case.

"This is one piece of a large, very important puzzle, but it does allow our clients to hold on to their basic legal right to medical privacy," Silver said.

The settlement unfolded the same week that a judge in Baltimore rejected the Trump administration's request to subpoena the same information from Children's National Hospital in Washington D.C.

The subpoena is not the only federal action that has targeted transgender patients and their providers.

Last year, the Trump administration issued an executive order that threatened to pull federal funding from medical institutions that provide gender-affirming care. Attorney General Rob Bonta filed a

lawsuit over the summer seeking to block the order.

The federal government has also issued orders that recognize only two biological sexes and prevent transgender girls and women from participating in women's sports. A third order threatens federal funds for schools that support transgender youth.

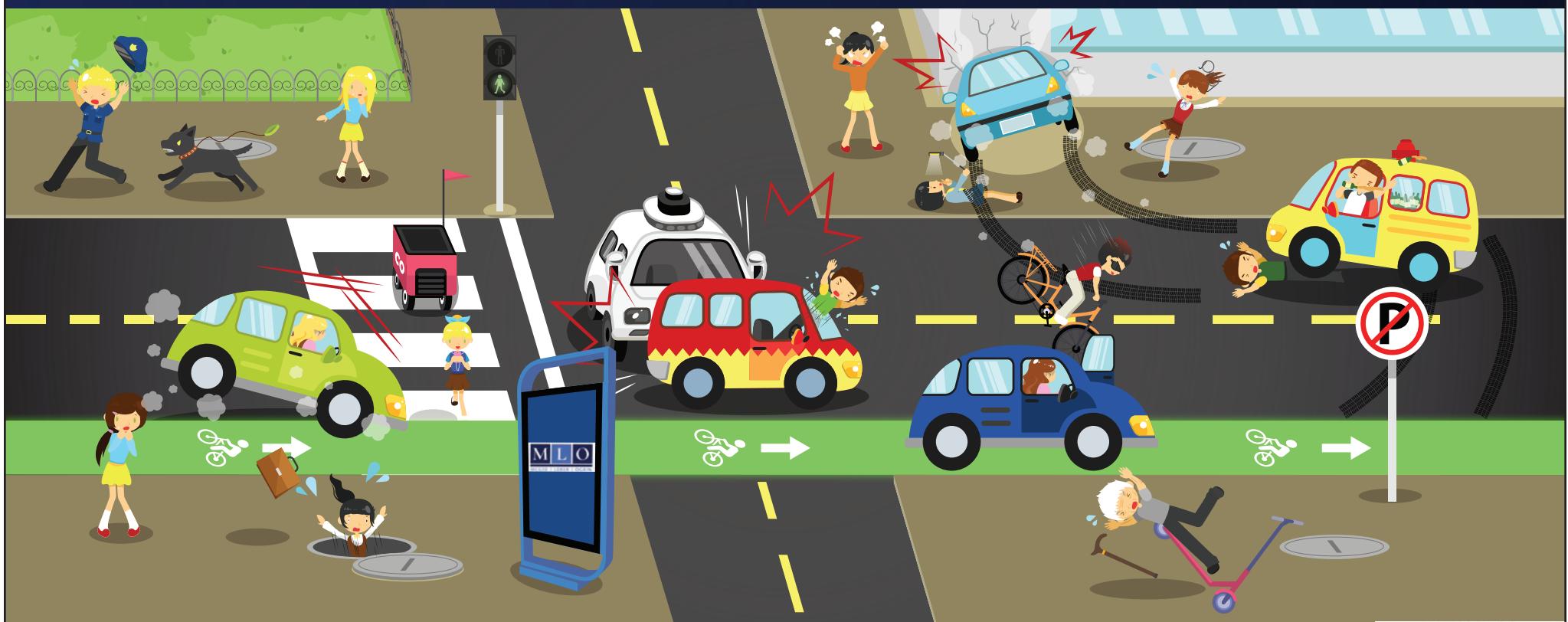
After federal actions escalated, Children's Hospital Los Angeles closed the doors to its Center for Transyouth Health and Development last July, leaving about 3,000 young patients in limbo. Other providers in the state have also scaled back gender-affirming services.

"The shutdown came despite efforts my office took over recent months to assure (Children's Hospital Los Angeles) that they were protected and required to provide gender-affirming care," Bonta said at the time.

Bonta's office has filed amicus briefs opposing the Trump administration's attempts to subpoena medical records of gender-affirming care at other hospitals including University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and Children's Hospital Colorado. Bonta did not intervene in the case settled this week.

By ANA B. IBARRA/CalMatters CalMatters

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Border Patrol commander Bovino and some agents expected to leave Minneapolis

A senior Border Patrol commander and some agents are expected to leave Minneapolis as early as Tuesday, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press, as President Donald Trump dispatched his border czar to Minnesota to take charge of much the administration's immigration enforcement efforts.

The departure of Border Patrol commander Greg Bovino, who has been at the center of the administration's aggressive enforcement surge in cities nationwide, marks a significant public shift in federal law enforcement posture amid mounting outrage over the fatal shooting of 37-year-old ICU nurse Alex Petti by Border Patrol agents.

The border czar, Tom Homan, will take charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations.

The person familiar with the matter was not authorized to publicly discuss details of the operation and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

Bovino's leadership of highly visible federal crackdowns, including operations that sparked mass demonstrations in Los Angeles, Chicago, Charlotte and Minneapolis, has drawn fierce criticism from local officials, civil rights advocates and congressional Democrats.

Criticism has increased around Bovino in the last few days after his public defense of the Petti shooting and disputed claims about the confrontation that led to his death.

In other developments, Trump declared that he was now on a "similar wavelength" as the governor following the second fatal shooting by federal immigration officers this month.

TRUMP HAS CALL WITH MINNESOTA GOVERNOR

Trump and Democratic Gov. Tim Walz spoke in a phone call and later offered comments that were a marked change from the critical statements they have exchanged in the past. Their conversation happened on the same day a federal judge heard arguments in a lawsuit aimed at halting the federal immigration enforcement surge in the state.

"We, actually, seemed to be on a similar wavelength," the president wrote in a social media post.

Walz, in a statement, said the call was "productive" and that impartial investigations into the shootings were needed. Trump said his administration was looking for "any and all" criminals the state has in their custody. Walz said the state Department of Corrections honors federal requests for people in its custody.

It was unclear whether the new tone would lead to changes. Attorneys for the administration, the state and the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul appeared Monday before U.S. District Judge Katherine Menendez, who is considering whether to grant requests to temporarily halt the immigration operation.

She said the case was a priority, though she issued no immediate ruling.

Lawyers for the state and the Twin Cities argued the situation on the street is so dire it requires the court to halt the federal

government's enforcement actions.

"If this is not stopped right here, right now, I don't think anybody who is seriously looking at this problem can have much faith in how our republic is going to go in the future," Minnesota Assistant Attorney General Brian Carter said.

JUDGE QUESTIONS GOVERNMENT'S MOTIVES

The judge questioned the government's motivation behind the crackdown and expressed skepticism about a letter recently sent by Attorney General Pam Bondi to Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. The letter asked the state to give the federal government access to voter rolls, to turn over state Medicaid and food assistance records, and to repeal sanctuary policies.

"I mean, is there no limit to what the executive can do under the guise of enforcing immigration law?" Menendez asked. She noted that the federal requests are the subject of litigation.

Brantley Mayers, a Justice Department attorney, said the government's goal is to enforce federal law. Mayers said one lawful action should not be used to discredit another lawful action.

"I don't see how the fact that we're also doing additional things that we are allowed to do, that the Constitution has vested us with doing, would in any way negate another piece of the same operation, the same surge," Mayers said.

Menendez questioned where the line was between violating the Constitution and the executive's power to enforce the law. She also asked whether she was being asked to decide between state and federal policies.

"That begins to feel very much like I am deciding which policy approach is best," she said.

At one point, while discussing the prospect of federal officers entering residences without a warrant, the judge expressed reluctance to decide issues not yet raised in a lawsuit before her.

"I can't be the global keeper of all things here. Like, presumably that will be litigated," she said to the state's attorney.

Menendez made it clear that she was struggling with how to rule because the case is so unusual, and there are few precedents.

"It's because this is important that I'm doing everything I can to get it right," she said.

The state of Minnesota and the cities sued the Department of Homeland Security earlier this month, five days after Renee Good was shot by an Immigration and Customs officer. The shooting of Alex Petti by a Border Patrol officer on Saturday added urgency to the case.

BORDER CZAR TO MINNESOTA

Trump posted Monday on social media that Homan would report directly to him.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Homan would be "the main point of contact on the ground in Minneapolis" during continued operations by federal immigration officers.

In court Monday, an attorney for the administration said about 2,000 Immigration



Surf report

WATER TEMP: 61.7

TUESDAY
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Still quite small but a slight uptick for summer points. Best as the predawn high tide comes down. WNW swell from Monday backs off as a little more SSW swell shows. It's not going to be much but should be fairly peaky west of Dume and offer enough push for the small wave gear at the summer points as the predawn high tide comes down. Light wind for a clean start. PM onshore wind looks manageable but adds texture.

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Another slow start. NW swell mix bumps up in the PM, better swell due on Thursday. The morning starts slow, then some fresh NW wind swell bumps up a bit through the afternoon. Low quality, but a little more size. Small SSW swell continues to limp in. A better round of mid to longer period WNW swell builds in (mainly after dark) for Thursday.

Weather

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 71. North northeast wind around 5 mph becoming west in the afternoon.

Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 51. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 68. North wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 52.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/01/27	Tue	03:36 AM	5.35	H
2026/01/27	Tue	11:41 AM	0.02	L
2026/01/27	Tue	6:43 PM	2.81	H
2026/01/27	Tue	9:47 PM	2.53	L
2026/01/28	Wed	04:44 AM	5.72	H
2026/01/28	Wed	12:39 PM	-0.70	L
2026/01/28	Wed	7:34 PM	3.21	H
2026/01/28	Wed	11:15 PM	2.52	L
2026/01/29	Thu	05:47 AM	6.13	H
2026/01/29	Thu	1:26 PM	-1.26	L
2026/01/29	Thu	8:10 PM	3.56	H
2026/01/30	Fri	12:23 AM	2.28	L
2026/01/30	Fri	06:43 AM	6.49	H
2026/01/30	Fri	2:09 PM	-1.60	L
2026/01/30	Fri	8:42 PM	3.85	H

Daily Lottery

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



Draw Date: 1/24
2 16 35 61 63
Power#: 5
Jackpot: 30 M



Draw Date: 1/25
1 14 19 27 37



Draw Date: 1/23
30 42 49 53 66
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 285 M



Draw Date: 1/25
EVENING: 0 6 7
Draw Date: 1/25
MIDDAY: 2 8 9



Draw Date: 1/24
6 14 15 33 37
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 23 M



Draw Date: 1/25
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:43.32

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Name Change

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026012115. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: REDWOOD OUTDOORS, 30 NORTH GOULD ST STE 1918, SHERIDAN, WY 82801, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): RED ROCK OUTDOORS CO, 30 NORTH GOULD STREET STE 1918, SHERIDAN, WY 82801. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/2019. 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/ KILLIAN LANNEN, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/16/2026. 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: 01/27/2026, 02/03/2026, 02/10/2026, 02/17/2026

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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- RFP # 465 TRANSIT RIDERSHIP SOFTWARE FOR NTD REPORTING.
- Submission Deadline is March 3, 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://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>). There is no charge for the RFP package.

Los Angeles might tweak its 'mansion tax.' Here's why that matters for the rest of California

To save the City of Los Angeles' controversial "mansion tax" — and fend off the threat of fiscal calamity across the state — Angelenos need to re-write the law.

That's according to City Councilmember Nithya Raman who introduced a motion on Friday to put a mansion tax do-over on the June 2026 ballot. The council is scheduled to vote on the measure Tuesday.

The tax, known as Measure ULA, has stuck high-value real estate sales with supersized transfer taxes — 4% on sales of between \$5 million and \$10 million and 5.5% for anything higher — since it was passed by nearly 60% of local voters in 2022. All that revenue, \$1 billion and counting, is reserved for affordable housing development and upkeep and low-income tenant assistance.

The measure has fierce defenders, among them tenant rights groups and public sector unions.

Apartment developers hate it just as ferociously. Despite its moniker as a "mansion tax," the policy draws no distinction between single family compounds in Bel Air and large new apartment buildings constructed for renters.

In the years immediately following the enactment of ULA, multifamily property sales did see a steep drop compared to those in other cities around the county.

More recently, the fate of the Los Angeles mansion tax has become a statewide concern. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, a group that advocates for lower taxes in California, is gathering signatures to put a measure on California's November 2026 ballot that would, in part, sharply curtail the ability of more than two dozen cities to charge heightened transfer taxes like the one in Los Angeles.

If it passes, it would deal a multibillion dollar blow to municipal budgets in some of California's largest cities. But even if qualifies for the ballot and ultimately fails, opponents of the measure such as public sector unions and other allies of California Democrats would likely feel compelled to spend millions on electoral offense. A growing number of

Democratic lawmakers in the state capitol are eager to avoid either outcome. They hope that tinkering with Measure ULA will defang the anti-tax crusade statewide.

Hence Friday's proposal by Raman.

The motion calls for a local ballot measure that would make a series of tweaks to the original tax. The most significant would exempt apartments, condos, commercial and mixed-used projects from ULA's transfer tax for the first 15 years — removing what has come to be seen by many developers as an impediment on construction.

The motion would also change some of the rules about how money gathered by the measure can be spent.

At a council meeting on Friday, Raman described the proposed measure as an effort to "protect" the heart of the mansion tax.

"Multifamily and mixed-use housing production has slowed in the City of L.A., lenders are pulling back from the market entirely and there's multiple efforts to un-do ULA entirely — to take it away from us completely," she said, directing her message to the crowd of protesters who showed up to rally against any proposed changes to the tax. "There may be different ways of thinking about how we protect this going forward, but I stand here with you in deep agreement with the comments that you're making."

Opponents did not seem convinced.

"Measure ULA is working," said Joe Donlin, director of the United to House LA, a coalition of labor unions, affordable housing developers and private development skeptics that launched the initial ballot measure, said in a press release. "It's irresponsible to propose changes without even an analysis of how much it would cost. Why would we give 'The People's Billion' to the billionaires who already have so much?"

The council voted to circumvent the typical committee process and push the motion to a full and final vote at the Tuesday meeting, which begins at 10am.

Ben Christopher, CalMatters Housing Reporter



City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2840 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA APPROVING THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, AND TRIGILD IVL, AS COURT-APPOINTED RECEIVER FOR CERTAIN ASSETS OF MACERICH SMP, LP ("OWNER") TO ALLOW FOUR DIGITAL DISPLAYS AT THE SANTA MONICA PLACE MALL

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2840 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

On January 13, 2026, Council adopted Ordinance Number 2839 (CCS), establishing a digital display district to permit digital displays for off-premises advertising to be approved by development agreement. Ordinance Number 2840 authorizes a development agreement for the installation of four digital displays at the Santa Monica Place Mall.

The Ordinance will take effect thirty days after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211..

VOLO

FROM PAGE 1

watch party, the event felt less like a corporate launch and more like a community block party built around motion and connection. The celebration followed the company's acquisition of Zog Sports and marked Volo's largest West Coast market expansion.

Volo Sports saw a growing trend that cities need more spaces for real world connection, physical movement, and social belonging.

"This is intramurals for adults with a social part after, built around playing sports," said Giovanni Marcantoni, Founder & CEO Volo Sports. "It's a full-circle community, and we've set up everything from industry leagues to corporate B2B events. We want to be a great trusted partner of the community."

Volo Sports, the largest community focused adult recreational sports platform, is building what leadership describes as a full-circle community model; connecting youth development, adult leagues, post game social programming, corporate engagement, and partnerships with local organizations and public institutions.

In Los Angeles, Volo is targeting more than 15,000 adult league participants in the near term, with a long range vision of surpassing 100,000 active adult members across the region. At the same time, the company is launching an ambitious youth initiative aimed at enrolling more than 10,000 children into free or low cost sports programming.

To achieve this, Volo plans to partner directly with trusted local organizations including the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, and school districts, building after school leagues, weekend programs, and summer sports pipelines that prioritize access, consistency, and mentorship. The goal is not only participation, but long term habit building around movement, teamwork, and confidence.

"We want kids to grow up seeing sports as part of daily life, not as something reserved for families with resources," said Marcantoni. "This is about equity of access and building healthier communities from the ground up."

Adult leagues will include kickball, volleyball, soccer, softball, and additional recreational formats designed to lower intimidation and increase participation. Volo is also exploring creative league formats that emphasize social play, including a potential skee ball league, blending competition with community building.

The company's growth reflects a broader cultural shift. Adults are increasingly seeking healthier alternatives to gym only routines and screen driven social platforms. Volo's intermodal model invites participants to play, stay, socialize, and build recurring relationships through movement.

Games turn into gatherings. Teams turn into friend groups. Venues turn into neighborhood anchors.

For cities like Santa Monica, the impact

extends beyond recreation. Partnerships with local businesses such as Santa Monica Brew Works generate consistent foot traffic, increased neighborhood spending, and repeat activation. Fields, gyms, and community spaces become hubs of health, commerce, and connection.

City leaders have taken notice viewing Volo as both a public wellness partner and an economic driver that supports small businesses while activating underutilized public infrastructure.

DJ Spider, whose career includes performances at the Golden Globes, Oscars, Grammys, Super Bowl events, and international tours, shared that his roots remain deeply tied to Santa Monica.

A Santa Monica native, Spider attended Lincoln Middle School and Santa Monica High School and now raises his own son in the local school system and knows first-hand the power of sports and soccer in his son's life. A lifelong soccer fan and advocate for active lifestyles, he described the Volo launch as personal.

"This is needed more than ever," Spider said. "With everything happening in this city and everything coming up on the global stage, we need spaces where people can move, connect, and be together in real life. I want to do more in my community."

After recently playing a DJ set on Third Street Promenade following Travis Barker's 5K, Spider sees a growing movement toward wellness driven cultural programming that blends music, fitness, and public space activation. Looking ahead to the FIFA World Cup and the LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games, he expressed interest in curating global DJ collaborations tied to major sporting moments, transforming Santa Monica's public spaces into cultural stages that celebrate movement, diversity, and international connection.

Beyond public leagues, Volo is expanding into corporate and industry focused programming. Customized leagues and team building events offer companies a healthier way to engage employees while supporting local venues and sports infrastructure. The company is also introducing low cost or free coaching resources to ensure skill development remains inclusive rather than exclusive.

Volo's leadership has made clear that Los Angeles is not simply another market, but a flagship city.

The long term vision includes over 100,000 adult participants, more than 10,000 youth athletes, partnerships with schools and community organizations, and a citywide network of leagues that treat play as essential civic infrastructure.

Volo is betting on something timeless; people still want to show up, move together, belong in community, and connect through the power of sport.

michelle@smdp.com

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PARKS

FROM PAGE 1

adopting the 2025 Parks and Recreation Vision Plan, approving revised plans for the Memorial Park Redevelopment and Expansion Project, and establishing one of the nation's largest locally funded restorative justice programs.

Public Works Director Rick Valte is recommending council approval of both parks items.

The vision plan updates the city's 1997 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and advances a "City as Habitat" vision that positions parks and open spaces as nourishing environments for people, plants, animals and programming.

Santa Monica's parks system currently includes 30 parks encompassing more than 144 acres. According to the 2016 Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, the city is classified as having "moderate" park need with 1.4 park acres per 1,000 residents.

The vision plan recommends targeting 5 park acres per 1,000 residents, which would require an additional 292 acres to meet National Recreation and Parks Association standards. The plan identifies the Santa Monica Airport Conversion Project as the largest parkland expansion opportunity in the city's 150-year history.

Community surveys conducted in spring 2025 showed 96% of respondents visit a park, arts or recreation facility annually—15% above the national average. The Recreation and Parks Commission voted 4-1 in August to recommend the 5 acres per 1,000 residents target.

The Memorial Park project would transform the 10.3-acre park and adjacent 2.9-acre former Fisher Lumber site into a 13.2-acre expanded community recreation facility. The expansion has been a city priority since inclusion in the 1997 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, with the former Fisher Lumber site purchased specifically for this purpose in 2004.

Key revisions to the original Memorial Park master plan include natural grass fields instead of artificial turf, an expanded surface parking lot with 142 spaces, and repositioning of future Field 5 to create more usable community space. The plan also incorporates a 2,800-square-foot off-leash dog run, fitness equipment, playground shade provisions and enhanced pedestrian access.

Construction costs for Memorial Park have risen significantly. Phase 1 is now estimated at \$34-40 million, up from \$25 million budgeted in 2025. Phase 2 costs increased to \$18-21 million from \$15 million. A potential Phase 0 underground stormwater harvesting tank would cost \$20-25 million.

LOCAL

Currently, only \$28 million of the projected \$73-86 million total cost is secured, including up to \$20 million from Santa Monica College pending final agreement and \$10 million for the stormwater component. The city has applied for \$21.75 million in grant funding.

The council will also vote on establishing a \$3.5 million restorative justice program designed to address historical harms caused by past city actions.

The program emerged from the city's settlement with the family of Silas White over the 1950s condemnation of the Ebony Beach Club, a Black social institution that lost its leasehold interest more than six decades ago. Rather than resolving that case alone, city officials developed a broader framework to address multiple instances of displacement and exclusionary policies.

"Through this reflective process, it is clear that while historical documentation and public dialogue are necessary, they are not sufficient without an institutionalized mechanism for equivalently meaningful responses," City Manager Oliver Chi wrote in a report to the council.

The proposed program would be funded initially with \$3.5 million from a development agreement with the RAND Corporation approved in mid-2025. An additional \$2 million could be allocated by mid-2028, bringing potential total funding to \$5.5 million.

If approved, the program would establish three key components: a dedicated Restorative Justice Fund, a new City Council-appointed Restorative Justice Commission to develop program criteria, and an independent administrator to manage the claims process.

A comparative analysis conducted by city staff found that few jurisdictions have established general restorative justice programs similar to Santa Monica's proposal. Santa Monica's proposed program differs by addressing multiple categories of historically rooted harms with substantial dedicated funding and formal governance structures. Based on the analysis, it would represent one of the largest locally funded restorative justice initiatives nationally when compared to programs limited by scope, population or funding.

The funding structure uses one-time, non-recurring revenue from the RAND transaction rather than ongoing operational budgets.

If the council approves the program Tuesday, staff anticipates creating the Restorative Justice Commission and engaging an administrator by March or April 2026.

The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at City Hall, 1685 Main St.

maaz@smdp.com

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.



California cities just saw their lowest homicide rates in decades. It's not clear why

For the second year in a row, Gov. Gavin Newsom is celebrating California's declining homicide rate while using it as a cudgel against his political foes.

"Your state's homicide rate is 117% higher than California's," he told a Missouri congressman who needed Newsom on social media last summer.

Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders caught his attention, too. "Your homicide rate is literally DOUBLE California's," he wrote on social media addressing her.

What's been clear for the last three years is that homicides are down in Los Angeles and San Francisco — but also in Fresno, Oakland, Richmond and Lodi.

"California cities are seeing record-low homicide rates," Newsom said in his state of the state speech earlier this month. "Oakland, the lowest since 1967; LA, the lowest since 1966; and San Francisco, the lowest since 1954."

After a spike during the early days of the pandemic, homicides are in fact down nationwide.

The reason why is far less clear. To put it in the language of crime researchers, the answer is "multifactorial."

Magnus Lofstrom, policy director of criminal justice at nonpartisan think tank the Public Policy Institute of California, said the spike of homicides during the pandemic may have been the result of disruptions in government activities: Schools were shut down, people were out of work, community-based programs for violence prevention and many basic public services were put on pause, Lofstrom said.

The 2020 numbers were a shock. After years of decline, the homicide rate in California surged by 31% in 2020 to 5.5 homicides per 100,000 people. In 2021, it rose again, to about 6 per 100,000 people.

But that trend began to turn in 2022, when the number of homicides dropped by 7%, then in 2023 by 14% and in 2024 by another 12%. By the end of 2024, the homicide rate in California was down to 4.3 per 100,000 people.

California's population was about 20 million people the last time the state recorded such low homicide numbers, half of what it is today.

At the same time the homicide numbers were climbing, the percentage of cases cleared by police was falling. A police department's "clearance rate" compares the number of crimes reported to the number of arrests made.

Lofstrom said that the homicide clearance rate statewide was 64.7% in 2019, and that it had dropped to 54.6% in 2021 — though the rates can vary dramatically among police departments.

"What we see now in the data up to 2024 is that we're back up over 64% for homicide clearances," Lofstrom said.

HALF AS MANY HOMICIDES IN OAKLAND

Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee said homicides are down along with major gun crimes including robberies and assaults with firearms. Oakland's 67 homicides in 2025 were its lowest since 1967. It had 134

homicides in 2021.

In Los Angeles, homicides dropped by more than 18% to 230 in 2025, according to a Los Angeles Times analysis of LAPD data.

The numbers documenting the recent decline in homicide rates, and the earlier spike, come with a major asterisk: The way crime data is collected is inconsistent. Law enforcement agencies self-report to the FBI, which each year publishes data under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The California Department of Justice then produces statewide reports from those numbers.

But not every department reports its statistics. And among those that do, some don't report all their data — or report the information differently. For example, some jurisdictions only report crimes that lead to incarceration.

Homicide numbers in California are provided by the state Justice Department near the end of the fiscal year in June, so the most recent statistics are from 2024. The Justice Department declined to provide CalMatters with updated numbers through 2025.

The drop in homicide rates wasn't as pronounced in Orange and Orange and Ventura counties, which never experienced a significant pandemic spike, and Kern County, where the homicide rate maintains a stubborn hold as the state's highest.

NATIONWIDE DROP IN CRIME

A long-range look at crime statistics, particularly homicide data, shows that the 2020-21 crime rate nationally and in California was still a fraction of its highs in the early 1990s. Simply counting the year-over-year changes belies a larger truth: Crime throughout the 2020s has been down significantly compared to the rate 20 or 30 years ago.

As with the long-term homicide rate declines, the recent tapering in California is part of a nationwide trend. A report published Thursday by the Council on Criminal Justice, a nonpartisan Washington, D.C., think tank found that among 35 major cities nationwide, homicides dropped by 21% between 2024 and 2025.

When the FBI publishes its crime statistics later this year, Council on Criminal Justice researchers said in the report that the national homicide rate could drop to 4 per 100,000 people, which would be the lowest homicide rate ever on record.

Shani Buggs, an associate professor at UC Davis and public health researcher, said in the report that cities with major decreases in their homicide rate tended to spend federal pandemic funds on violence prevention and have police departments that focused on people with repeated allegations of violent crimes, helping them quickly resume pre-pandemic clearance rates.

"We do not have reliable, multi-sector data or comparable contextual information available across jurisdictions to definitively identify — now or perhaps ever — what drove these declines," Buggs said.

Nigel Duara, Cal Matters Justice Reporter

HOUSING

FROM PAGE 1

stability, dignity, and community."

The home installation also marked the first major public initiative led by Rick Caruso following his announcement that he would not pursue elected office. Instead, Caruso has doubled down on private sector leadership through Steadfast LA, the nonprofit he chairs that was created to accelerate wildfire recovery through public private partnerships.

"This is what the private sector can do when we act with urgency and purpose," Caruso said. "The real tragedy is not the fire itself, it is allowing families to remain displaced. Our mission is simple; get people home."

The modular home installed last week is 950-square-feet, permanently affixed, engineered to last more than 100 years, and fully equipped with energy efficient systems, modern insulation, and fire resistant materials. From foundation to fencing, garage to utilities, the entire home was gifted at no cost to the Rodriguez family, representing an investment valued between \$500,000 and \$600,000.

For Samara Co-founder and CEO Mike McNamara, the project reflects a vision years in the making. Originally founded as a research lab in 2016 exploring the future of housing, Samara formally launched in 2022 and has since grown to more than 250 employees designing homes built specifically for California's climate, regulations, and rebuilding needs.

"When the fires happened and more than 16,000 homes were lost, we asked ourselves how we could be of service," McNamara said. "It is one thing to build beautiful homes. It is another to bring families back to the

communities they love. That is the impact that matters."

Samara's model allows homes to be built off site while permits are processed, dramatically compressing rebuild timelines. The Altadena installation arrived in three modular sections and was placed on the foundation within hours. Mechanical systems were operational the same day.

The long term goal is to repeat this model across fire impacted communities, particularly for families rebuilding homes under 1,000-square-feet, where modular housing can move fastest through permitting.

"This first home sets the standard," McNamara said. "Planners now understand our process. Our hope is that future installations move even faster, giving families back months of their lives."

That speed is possible because of Steadfast LA's on the ground coordination. Working with county agencies, nonprofit partners, and financial sponsors including HomeAid OCLA, loanDepot, and Armanino, Steadfast LA created a vetting and delivery pipeline designed to ensure that 100 percent of donated funds go directly to families with no administrative leakage.

"This partnership works because everyone is focused on execution," McNamara said. "Steadfast knows the community. Rick has built organizations that get things done. Together we created a structure that delivers real outcomes."

For Supervisor Barger, the collaboration reflects a necessary shift in disaster recovery.

"Government cannot do this alone," she said. "Our role is to remove friction, expedite permits, waive fees where possible, and support partners who can move quickly. Families who have lived on these properties

for generations should not be punished by process."

Supervisor's Director of Altadena Recovery Anish Saraiya shared, "One of the greatest moments is seeing families find their forever home and getting back to community and Supervisor is laser focused on lifting all hurdles to create pathways for families to return home. Community recovery isn't just homes, it's parks, infrastructure," said Saraiya, adding that around 600 homes are under construction, 8 homes with certificates of occupancy, and over 1,300 permits approved and issued. Her office has created a dedicated Altadena Recovery team to coordinate rebuilding, infrastructure upgrades, and community stabilization.

The emotional center of Thursday's installation belonged to the Rodriguez family.

Rosalina Rodriguez, 71, who raised her family in the neighborhood, watched as the home that once stood on her property was replaced by a modern, resilient structure. Her daughter Beverly Rodriguez, an engineering educator and community mentor, described the moment as "Christmas arriving early."

"This home means safety, stability, and dignity," Beverly said. "My mother has given so much to this community. To see her smile again is everything."

The Rodriguez family has long been active in youth mentorship programs and engineering education initiatives in Altadena, helping guide local students toward careers in architecture and technology. Beverly, who teaches at John Muir High School brought around 20 ACE Mentor Program of America students in the architecture, engineering program to experience first-hand to learn from this example.

As Los Angeles confronts a future shaped

by climate resilience and housing innovation, the Altadena installation offers a working blueprint. Faster permitting. Smarter construction. Public and private alignment. Direct community impact.

Barger emphasized that rebuilding is not only about construction speed but about removing financial and institutional barriers that keep families stuck in limbo. "My focus is making sure people who want to rebuild can actually do so," she said. "That means accelerating permits, waiving fees where possible, and helping families navigate insurance and SBA loans that were never designed for disasters of this scale. Many residents have lived on these properties for 30, 40, even 50 years. They are not developers. This process is intimidating, confusing, and emotionally overwhelming. Our job in government is to meet this moment with urgency and compassion, to clear pathways, not create obstacles, and to make sure rebuilding happens in a way that is safer, more fire resilient, and financially sustainable for the long term."

"This is the future of recovery," Supervisor Barger said. "And we are just getting started."

When asked about his recent announcement not to pursue public office, Caruso reinforced that the decision was rooted in family and long-term service. "I always do what is in the best interest of my family," he said. "I have more energy than ever and a lot to put into public enterprise and there are big plans ahead. You are going to be seeing a lot of me." He emphasized that Steadfast LA represents the kind of work he intends to lead; action driven, community-focused, and built on public private partnerships.

michelle@smdp.com



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



Saint John's
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Providence

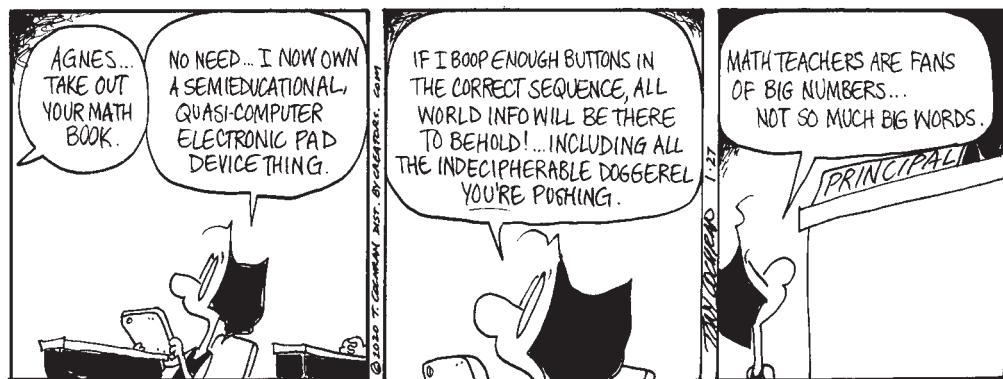
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Agnes



By TONY COCHRAN

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6833

Gold fever



Dogs of C-Kennel



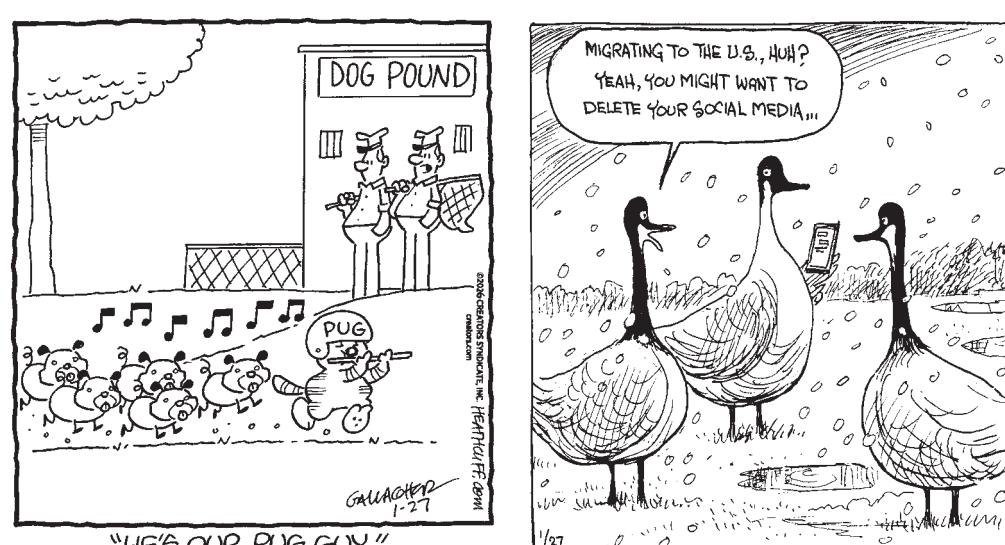
By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

Zack Hill



By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Heathcliff



By PETER GALLAGHER

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

Adit	Dust	Lucky	Reef
Axes	Eureka	Market	Relax
Californian	Fever	Metal	Rich
hat	Find	Mia mia	Share
Camps	Frenzy	Mining	Sink
Claim	General	Mutton	Sluice
Cradle	Grant	Nugget	Stockade
Dagworth	Geologist	Ophir	Tibooburra
Digs	Hope	Pans	Vein
Donkey	Lalor	Permit	Water
Dream	Lode	Pick	Wheel

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Many attractions to see



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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 27)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're not trying to make a memory, but you'll make one anyway. In fact, you can assume others will remember today for years to come. So, what experience would you like to create? You'll steer it well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The "curiosity gap" describes when someone sees enough to know there's more, and their attention and motivation increase. Cliffhangers, teasers, unfinished stories and gradual self-disclosure all work on this principle, and you will, too, as you let conversations slowly unfold.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Unruly emotions bubble to the surface. Instead of trying to squash them down, find a way to express them, whether with games, exercise or art. When you get it out, someone will meet you with insight you couldn't get on your own.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Motivation is like skin care -- a ritual that needs daily repetition. How can you keep yourself motivated? Add a muse, a deadline, a pep talk, a reward system -- anything to keep it compelling to return to and easy to repeat.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you want something so much, you're always going for it, even without realizing it. Things come together in an exciting way now, the result of moves you've been making toward your goal over the course of many months.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sticking with only the people you know is boring for everyone. You keep the social swirl lively by extending invitations widely, including new energy and creating an atmosphere of openness and kindness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Keep marching forward. Don't inch, don't tiptoe, don't run. March. The steady, measured, determined gait will not only get you there, it will make it easy for others to follow. People rarely march alone. You will be joined.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're on a roll. Stay focused on what's going great in your life and the great happenings will just keep coming. This momentum will continue to build until it's interrupted. The trick is to guard against interruption.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It feels like you're either using every moment or the moments are using you. Whichever way it goes, the result is the same; life is action-packed. You'll have tangible products to show for your effort.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your belief in fundamental human equality and strong aversion to arrogance will come into play. Humility is strength, not weakness. The low stance is the high road. Once again, being grounded will lead to a better outcome than dominance or superiority.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Improvements happen all around you, which is no coincidence, since you're the one improving things. You feel most like yourself when helping solve a problem. And when there's no problem? That's when you take what's fine and make it sublime.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are skilled at the art of making people look good, introducing them in a flattering way and saying the things that make people feel seen and respected. You'll use this talent well today.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD



Newsday Crossword

"THE" CITIES by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 ___ Allan Poe
6 Rooster or ram
10 Without any guarantee
14 Get very angry
15 Pants-pressing appliance
16 Hoofbeat sound
17 Just like me
18 Julius Caesar garment
19 Ballet skirt
20 Midwest's "The Motor City"
23 NFL six-pointers
24 Prefix meaning "against"
25 "So long"
28 Yale student
30 Post office purchases
35 With 46-Across, Southwest's "The Atomic City"
39 Extra car tire
40 Compel to leave
41 Odometer reading
43 Door to leave through
44 Muscle spasm
46 See 35-Across
48 Enters, as a password
50 Table tennis barrier
51 Guys
52 Harbor boats
55 ___ Vegas, NV
57 Midwest's "The Windy City"
65 Went by car or bus
66 Wise mentor
67 Singer Ronstadt
68 Prayer-ending word
69 Adam's first

residence

70 Florida Disney theme

park

71 What vegans don't eat

72 Zesty flavor

73 Fishing line holders

DOWN

1 Old-fashioned "Oh, my!"

2 Medicine portion

3 Walking pace

4 Take ___ (disassemble)

5 Makeover, as a kitchen

6 Catcher's glove

7 Pleasant scent

8 Gain online access

9 Makes into law

10 Beginning of a play

11 Fake coin

12 Slightest trace

13 Twirled

21 Koran reader's faith

22 Count of website visitors

25 Keep from happening

26 "___ welcome!"

27 Newspaper opinion piece

29 "Sign me up!"

31 Mountaintop

32 Wise adage

33 What something costs

34 Not to be talked out of

36 24-hr. cash sources

37 Spanish cheer

38 Darned, as a sock

42 Sense that detects scents

45 Bread with a pocket

47 Online merchant

49 Chunk of gold ore

53 Dutch cheese

54 Ambulance signal

56 Take potshots (at)

57 Study hard

58 Residence

59 Creative notion

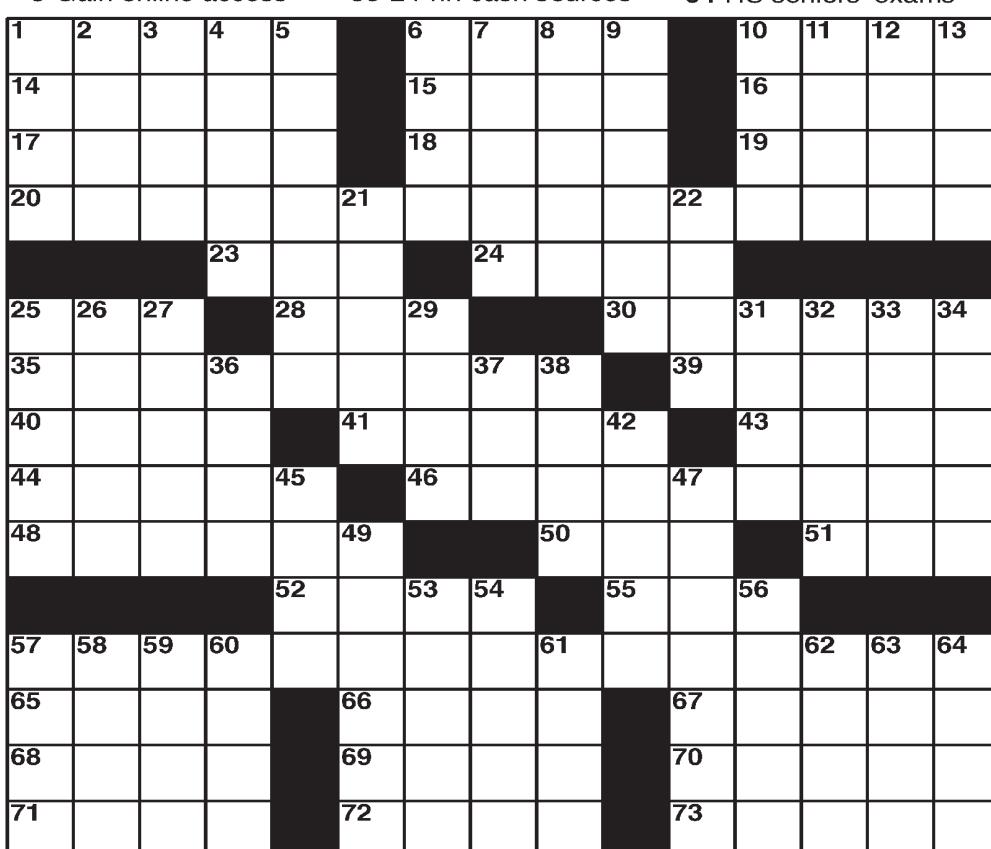
60 Fraction of a nickel

61 Organ for breathing

62 "___ upon a time..."

63 Much-admired celebrity

64 HS seniors' exams



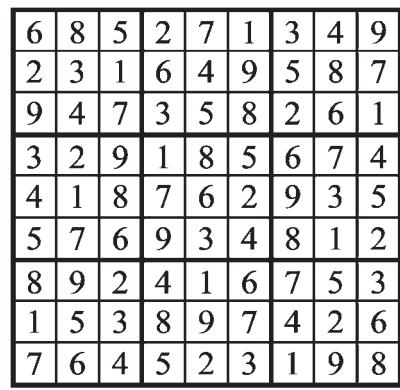
CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2026 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

01/27/26

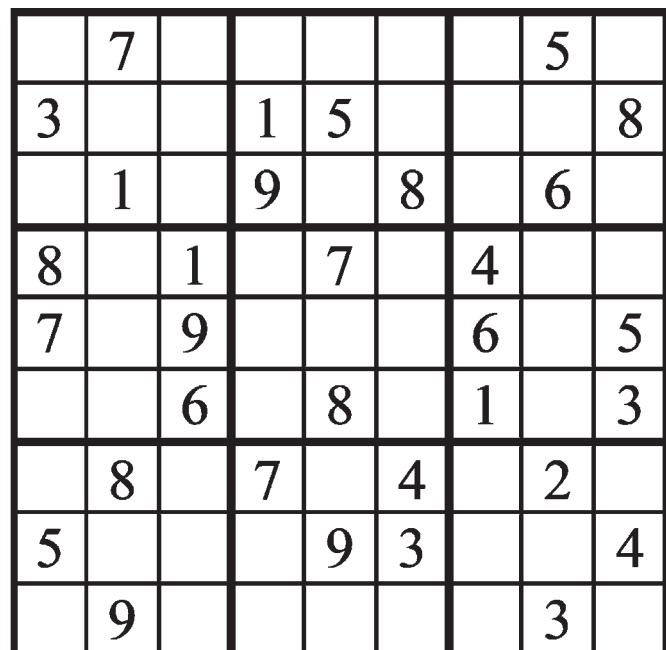
MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORD! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

Sudoku

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'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.



ICE

FROM PAGE 3

and Customs Enforcement officers were on ground, along with at least 1,000 Border Patrol officers.

The lawsuit asks the judge to order a reduction in the number of federal law enforcement officers and agents in Minnesota back to the level before the surge and to limit the scope of the enforcement operation.

OTHER STATE IMPLICATIONS

The case has implications for other states that have been or could become targets of ramped-up federal immigration enforcement operations. Attorneys general from 19 states plus the District of Columbia, led by California, filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting Minnesota.

"If left unchecked, the federal government will no doubt be emboldened to continue its unlawful conduct in Minnesota and to repeat it elsewhere," the attorneys general wrote.

Menendez ruled in a separate case on Jan. 16 that federal officers in Minnesota cannot detain or tear gas peaceful protesters who are not obstructing authorities, including people who follow and observe agents.

An appeals court temporarily suspended that ruling three days before Saturday's shooting. But the plaintiffs in that case, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota, asked the appeals court late Saturday for an emergency order lifting the stay in light of Pretti's killing.

The Justice Department argued in a reply filed Sunday that the stay should remain in place, calling the injunction unworkable and overly broad.

In yet another case, a different federal

judge, Eric Tostrud, issued an order late Saturday blocking the Trump administration from "destroying or altering evidence" related to Saturday's shooting. Democratic Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison and Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty asked for the order to try to preserve evidence collected by federal officials that state authorities have not yet been able to inspect.

A hearing in that case is scheduled for Monday afternoon in federal court in St. Paul.

PROTESTERS TARGET HOTEL

On Sunday night, protesters targeted a Minneapolis hotel where federal agents were believed to be staying, blocking a major avenue on the edge of the University of Minnesota campus.

A freelance photographer working for The Associated Press saw smashed glass in the hotel lobby, as well as graffiti with obscenities and threats directed at ICE.

A Minneapolis police officer was inside the hotel and tried to provide aid to a federal agent who was injured. More officers from local and state agencies planned to move in to "deescalate the situation, and make arrests," Minneapolis police said Monday in a statement.

But as they began to reach the scene and arrested two people, federal agents arrived and "deployed chemical munitions," the police statement said. A DHS spokesperson said a statement on the situation would be provided later Monday.

By STEVE KAROWSKI and MIKE BALSAMO Associated Press. Balsamo reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Jack Brook in Minneapolis and Mike Catlaine in Trenton, New Jersey, contributed to this report.



TUESDAY | JANUARY 27

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room at Virginia Avenue Park. Each week there will be something new: Exercise, Talking with Friends, Learning, Guest Presenters, Health & Wellness! For more information call (310) 458-8688. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2026-01-13T10>

WALK-IN TUTORING WITH LAURIE

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Walk-In Tutoring With Laurie Walk-in tutoring is available for any adult who needs help with internet searches, filling out forms, English conversation, reading, writing, resumes, and applications, studying for. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/walk-in-tutoring-with-laurie/17128550/2026-01-27T14>

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

5:30 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/city-council-meeting/13799967/2026-01-27T11>

MOOD & MINDFULNESS FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Viola Floral Studios 1639 11th St. Suite 162 Santa Monica. Slow down and savor the season. This wellness-forward workshop blends floral arranging with mindful practices to create soothing, intentional designs in warm autumn tones. Perfect for those wanting to take a break from the hustle of the holiday season, or simply enjoy the wellness benefits of flowers in a tranquil setting. Ten percent of the ticket price will be donated to the Fondle Project. The Fondle Project is a nonprofit dedicated to empowering women through breast health awareness, self-advocacy, and direct support for breast cancer patients. Through engaging events and resources, we inspire women to "know their normal" and prioritize their wellness every day. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mood-mindfulness-flower-arranging-workshop/17600684/2026-01-27T18>

CONFessions of a VOTING REFORMER - A TALK WITH THE EQUAL VOTE COALITION

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. UnUrban Coffee House 3301 Pico Boulevard Santa Monica. A conversation on election reform with Sara Wolk, Executive Director of the Equal Vote Coalition. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/confessions-of-a-voting-reformer-a-talk-with-the-equal-vote-coalition/17765011/2026-01-27T19>

8PM FREE "ROXY'S GOT BALLS" BINGO TUESDAYS @ TINY'S HI-DIVE IN LOS ANGELES!

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Tiny's Hi-Dive 12012 West Pico Boulevard Los Angeles. 8pm TUESDAYS "Roxy's Got Balls!" Drag Queen BINGO is LIVE & FREE at Tiny's Hi-Dive in Los Angeles w/ Roxy Wood! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/8pm-free-roxy-s-got-balls-bingo-tuesdays-tiny-s-hi-dive-in-los-angeles-14857154/2026-01-27T20>

www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/8pm-free-roxy-s-got-balls-bingo-tuesdays-tiny-s-hi-dive-in-los-angeles-14857154/2026-01-27T20

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 28

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>

FLORAL DESIGN 101 MASTERCLASS

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Viola Floral Studios 1639 11th St. Suite 162 Santa Monica. Calling all budding florists, event planners and creatives/hobbyists! Join us for a Floral Design 101 Masterclass! This comprehensive one-day workshop blends hands-on floral design with foundational skills, perfect for beginners or those looking to refine their craft, grow their hosting toolkit, or explore a career as a florist. This comprehensive one-day workshop blends hands-on floral design with foundational skills, perfect for beginners or those looking to refine their craft, grow their hosting toolkit, or explore a career as a florist. Space is limited to 8 people, and early booking is encouraged. Choose from two dates above. What to Expect: Master the art of flower design: you'll design two arrangements to keep and receive personalized feedback. Learn the essential tools and design techniques for professional floral design, including the use of floral tape, wire and Oasis foam. \$575.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/floral-design-101-masterclass/17600937/2026-01-28T09>

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!

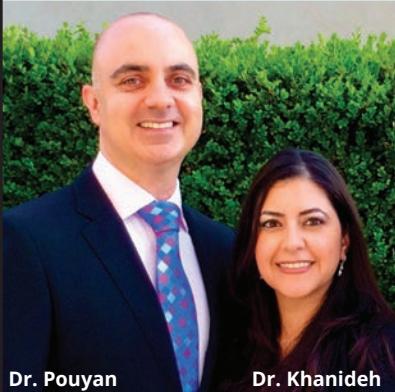
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Venice. Through body awareness, movement, and breath, you will be guided on how to bring your body, mind, and spirit back into balance for overall well-being. All levels are welcome. Generously funded by Friends of Venice Library. Visit: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



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