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Volume 25 Issue 55

TUESDAY 2/3/26

smdp.com

College Board meets Tuesday to approve layoffs as SMC heads for fiscal cliff



SMDP Photo

COLLEGE: Santa Monica College is struggling with declining enrollment and changes to state funding that will empty its reserves by the next fiscal year.

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica College's Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday night to confront a deepening financial crisis that could result in the elimination of approximately 70 classified staff and management positions as the institution heads for a disastrous fiscal cliff.

The layoffs, announced by Superintendent/President Kathryn E. Jeffery, come as the college faces the prospect of depleting its reserves by 2026-27 despite already

implementing \$8.6 million in cuts for the 2025-26 academic year. Those earlier measures included a 5% reduction in class schedules and position eliminations through attrition, yet the college still confronts an additional \$10.1 million deficit in the current budget.

The financial pressures stem from a combination of declining enrollment and changes to state funding mechanisms that have frozen Santa Monica College's allocations even as expenses continue to rise.

Enrollment at the college has dropped

13% since 2018-19, falling from 19,501 to 17,089 full-time equivalent students. More significantly, changes to California's community college funding formula have placed Santa Monica College among 27 districts in "hold harmless" status. Starting in 2025-26, those colleges no longer receive annual cost-of-living increases, effectively freezing state funding while operational costs escalate.

The college's fund balance has plummeted from \$43.9 million in 2021-22 to a projected \$13.1 million by year's end, falling well below

the recommended 16.67% reserve level. Those reserves will be depleted putting the account into a negative balance by next fiscal year.

The Faculty Association has sharply criticized college leadership for the crisis, with union President Peter Morse placing blame on years of poor decision-making rather than external factors alone.

"I don't believe it had to end up in this place, and I think it's unfair that the responsibility

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Charity director accused of defrauding LAHSA pleads not guilty

A Westwood man who is the executive director of a Hyde Park-based charity that received public funding to provide housing and meals for people experiencing homelessness pleaded not guilty Monday to state charges alleging he defrauded the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority of more than \$5 million.

Alexander Soofer, 42, is charged with 11 felony counts of conflict of interest, five felony counts of forgery and two felony counts of offering false evidence, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. Prosecutors allege \$2 million of the LAHSA money went toward Soofer's properties or was accounted for through allegedly fraudulent invoices.

The conflict-of-interest charges stem from contracts between LAHSA and Abundant Blessings that expressly stated Soofer could not own the properties used to house homeless residents or subcontract with himself or family members with a financial interest in the properties or the companies providing services, according to the District Attorney's Office.

Prosecutors said the funds at issue were earmarked for programs including Youth Homelessness, Bridge Housing, Winter Shelter, Home Safe, Inside Safe and others.

Soofer is also accused of failing to provide shelter and nutritious meals under his contractual obligations and of submitting allegedly fake subcontractor invoices to LAHSA that used the names of real companies, according to the District Attorney's Office and court papers.

Soofer's next court date in the state case is March 9. He could face up to 17 years and six months in prison if convicted, prosecutors said.

Soofer is charged separately with wire fraud in a federal case and is set to be arraigned Feb. 26. Federal prosecutors said he could face up to 20 years in federal prison if convicted of that charge.

According to an affidavit filed with the federal complaint, Soofer is the executive director of Abundant Blessings and, through the charity, contracted with LAHSA to provide housing and meals for people who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The affidavit says that in some contracts Soofer agreed to house participants at sites he managed, and in others he expressed plans to house people at hotels or motels while providing three nutritious meals a day.

Federal prosecutors allege Soofer lied to LAHSA about how the charity's money was being used and instead misappropriated millions for himself, including by claiming payments were being made to third-party vendors for housing services while the money was actually diverted to his personal bank accounts. Prosecutors also allege he claimed to be leasing properties for homeless housing from third-party landlords at market rate, when he was instead paying himself above market rate.

In response to complaints and discrepancies in Soofer's billing documents, investigators conducted site visits and found the only food items being served at the sites were items such as ramen noodles, canned beans and breakfast bars, according to court papers.

Federal prosecutors allege Soofer pocketed at least \$10 million and used public money for a down payment on his Westwood home and upgrades, private schooling for his children, trips to Las Vegas, private jet travel and stays at luxury resorts from Hawaii to Florida. They also allege he used \$475,000 to purchase a vacation property in Greece by sending money to a Greek property developer.

"The only abundant blessings he gave were to himself," Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman said in a statement.

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Santa Monica approves \$3.5 million restorative justice program

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica City Council voted unanimously early last Wednesday to establish one of the nation's largest locally funded restorative justice programs, allocating \$3.5 million to address decades of historical harms caused by city actions against African American residents and other marginalized communities.

The 7-0 vote, which came shortly before 1 a.m. Wednesday, marks a significant shift from symbolic gestures to "funded action" in the city's four-year effort to reckon with its history of displacement, discrimination and exclusionary policies.

"This is the first time that we've ever actually moved forward in a meaningful way with resources," Mayor Caroline Torosis said during the meeting. "People have been asking me since I came on the council, what are you doing? Where are you? Are you putting meaningful resources behind this?"

66 We've heard repeatedly from the council the importance of not just articulating what we intend to do, but developing a programmatic framework to actually start addressing claims of historically rooted harm in the city

- Oliver Chi, City Manager

The program will be funded with one-time money received through a development agreement with the RAND Corporation, avoiding impact to the city's general operating budget. An additional \$2 million from RAND expected within three years could bring total funding to \$5.5 million, though the council deferred allocation of those future funds until the program's structure is more clearly defined.

The initiative represents a fundamental change in how Santa Monica addresses claims of historically rooted harm. City Manager Oliver Chi told the council the program

would establish a "mechanism through which those dollars can be invested" as it grows over time, encompassing both direct reparations and future-oriented programming.

"We've heard repeatedly from the council the importance of not just articulating what we intend to do, but developing a programmatic framework to actually start addressing claims of historically rooted harm in the city," Chi said in his presentation.

The council authorized staff to create a formal Restorative Justice Commission, appointed by the City Council, to develop program criteria, eligibility standards and oversight mechanisms. Staff anticipates the commission will be operational by March or April. The city will also hire an independent program administrator to support the commission's work and handle the logistics of a claims process.

The program's catalyst was a settlement reached in late 2025 with descendants of Silas White regarding the Ebony Beach Club, a significant Black social institution that lost its leasehold interest following city condemnation proceedings in the late 1950s. That settlement included a \$350,000 payment and guaranteed White's descendants the ability to file claims under any future restorative justice program.

But council members emphasized the program extends far beyond any single case. According to a staff report, Santa Monica's initiative differs from most municipal reparations efforts nationwide, which typically address specific incidents, lack dedicated funding, or target only one aspect of historical harm.

A comparative analysis prepared by staff shows that while Los Angeles County paid \$20 million to one family for Bruce's Beach and Evanston, Illinois, allocated \$10 million from cannabis tax revenue for housing reparations, few jurisdictions have established general restorative justice programs capable of addressing multiple categories of historically rooted harms.

Council Member Lana Negrete stressed the importance of programming alongside any direct payments, drawing on her personal experience growing up in Santa Monica's housing projects.

"There's no dollar amount or reparation that will ever fill the gap with that, but we can empower people and give people the tools that created this, not just a generational wealth gap, but, you know, a gap in education and tools to survive in the world and be successful," Negrete said.

She suggested partnerships with major corporations to provide financial literacy courses, college application assistance, childcare subsidies and credit repair programs that could help the fund grow and sustain itself for years.

The program builds on work that began in 2022 when the city issued a formal apology to Santa Monica's African American residents. In 2025, the city established a Land Back and Reparations Task Force, which developed a "harms report" that Chi said would serve

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 8



Surf report

WATER TEMP: 61.0

TUESDAY
FAIRSURF: 2-3ft+
Thigh to stomach

Nice day of waves as WNW swell gradually backs down from Monday's peak, most size in the morning. The tide comes into play mid-morning, but the early tide push and afternoon low tide should provide nice waves for a range of spots. Size is down from Monday but there's still good energy, showing most size in the morning, then tapering off during the day. Wind looks light offshore in the morning, light NW sea breeze for the afternoon.

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO FAIRSURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Smaller surf off fading old swell. Light winds for nice conditions. Old WNW is down to leftovers, mainly running thigh to waist high. Later morning high tide slows the smaller surf. Winds looking light all day, offshore early morning, W sea breeze in the afternoon.

Weather

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 77. Calm wind becoming west southwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Tuesday Night: Clear, with a low around 60. North northeast wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 84. North northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 61.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/02/03	Tue	03:39 AM	1.22	L
2026/02/03	Tue	09:41 AM	5.99	H
2026/02/03	Tue	4:30 PM	-0.89	L
2026/02/03	Tue	10:53 PM	4.59	H
2026/02/04	Wed	04:25 AM	1.19	L
2026/02/04	Wed	10:22 AM	5.33	H
2026/02/04	Wed	5:00 PM	-0.32	L
2026/02/04	Wed	11:26 PM	4.64	H
2026/02/05	Thu	05:14 AM	1.24	L
2026/02/05	Thu	11:03 AM	4.55	H
2026/02/05	Thu	5:26 PM	0.32	L
2026/02/05	Thu	11:59 PM	4.63	H
2026/02/06	Fri	06:06 AM	1.34	L
2026/02/06	Fri	11:48 AM	3.73	H

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Draw Date: 1/31
2 8 14 40 63
Power#: 23
Jackpot: 65 M



Draw Date: 2/1
6 12 19 22 25



Draw Date: 1/30
11 34 36 43 63
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 323 M



Draw Date: 2/1
EVENING: 8 3 9
Draw Date: 2/1
MIDDAY: 5 8 4



Draw Date: 1/31
6 24 29 32 41
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 25 M



Draw Date: 2/1
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:46:76

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Devan Sipher,
Miles Warner.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Maaz Alin
maaz@smdp.com

LEGAL ADVERTISING
legal@smdp.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING
MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

2219A Main St Santa Monica,
CA 90405
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FAX (310) 576-9913



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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Classifieds

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Name Change

Name Change

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00499. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica CA 90401, Santa Monica Courthouse. Petition of Luanne Smith for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Luanne Smith filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Luanne Smith to Kathy Joy Smith. 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: 10/10/2025, 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: 10/10/2025. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 02/03/2026, 02/09/2026, 02/16/2026, 02/23/2026

DBA

DBA

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

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00012. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica CA 90401, Santa Monica Courthouse. Petition of Mary Lanciotti for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Mary Lanciotti filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Mary Lanciotti to Mary Allison Lana Lanciotti. 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: 02/28/2026, Time: 8:30 a.m., 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: NOV 03 2025. LEE W. TSAO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/13/2026, 01/20/2026, 01/27/2026, 02/03/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00039. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 9355 Burton Way, Beverly Hills, California 90210. Petition of Don Edward Reeve Jr. for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Don Edward Reeve Jr. filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Don Edward Reeve Jr. to Arius Edward Reeve. 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: 03/06/2026, Time: 8:30am 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: 01/23/2026. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/29/2026, 02/03/2026, 02/10/2026, 02/17/2026

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Coach Sean McVay and GM Les Snead agree to multiyear contract extensions with the Rams

Coach Sean McVay and general manager Les Snead agreed to multiyear contract extensions to stay with the Los Angeles Rams on Monday, extending their successful nine-year partnership.

And with his long-term future assured, McVay confirmed he also is optimistic about coming back next season with Matthew Stafford as his quarterback again.

The Rams are 92-57 in the regular season and 10-6 in the playoffs since Snead and owner Stan Kroenke hired a then-30-year-old McVay in 2017, one year after the franchise returned home from St. Louis. The Rams immediately ended a 12-year playoff absence with a seven-game improvement in McVay's debut season, and they reached the Super Bowl a year later before winning the franchise's second Super Bowl title in February 2022.

Los Angeles has racked up eight winning seasons, seven playoff berths and four NFC West titles in nine years under McVay, the youngest coach to reach the Super Bowl and to win it. McVay and Snead agreed to their current deals after their Super Bowl triumph four years ago, and the latest extensions were no surprise given the smooth nature of their partnership.

"It means a lot," McVay said. "As you continue to accumulate experience, you just realize how fortunate I feel to work for such great ownership ... and our organization is special. Everything goes back to people. They make this special, and then to be able to do it in a city that you love, with a fan base that you're watching continue to grow, I just love it."

McVay turned 40 only last month, but he is now the second-longest-tenured coach in the NFL after the firings of John Harbaugh and Sean McDermott and the departure of Mike Tomlin. McVay got his job one month before San Francisco's Kyle Shanahan, McVay's good friend and former boss.

Snead has been the Rams' general manager since 2012 in St. Louis. While his teams didn't make the playoffs until McVay arrived, he built the foundation for McVay's success with a series of strong drafts headlined by Aaron Donald and Todd Gurley, and he orchestrated the Rams' trade up to get Jared Goff with the No. 1 overall pick in 2016.

McVay and Snead won a championship

in their first season after trading Goff for Stafford, and they're cautiously hopeful Stafford is sticking around to continue their five-year partnership for at least another season.

"If that's something that he wants to do, the answer is absolutely yes," McVay said. "He's going to take his time, talk with (his wife) Kelly and the girls and see what's best. But man, is he still playing at an incredible level. Our hope is that he does (return), but with respect to his timetable ... whenever he feels ready to make that announcement, we'll let him be able to do that."

Stafford, who turns 38 on Saturday, could be in the spotlight Thursday when the NFL MVP winner is announced. Stafford and New England's Drake Maye are the top two candidates for an award Stafford has never even come close to winning before this remarkable season, when he led the NFL with 4,707 yards passing and 46 touchdowns against just eight interceptions.

"I'm keeping my fingers crossed, like you guys, that he still wants to go play," McVay said. "He is the epitome of an igniter, but he's just this incredibly humble superstar that has the ability to make everybody feel better when you're around him."

McVay doesn't think Stafford "wants to let it drag on" before announcing his future. McVay didn't mention the distinct possibility that Stafford also will want a contract upgrade similar to what he received in the past two offseasons with the Rams.

After publicly flirting with an early departure from coaching a few years ago, McVay is now happy to cement his commitment to the Rams during a winter of NFL coaching upheaval — but he wasn't happy at all to make the announcement while he's on vacation instead of preparing for the Super Bowl.

The Rams went 12-5 and won two road playoff games to reach the NFC championship game this season, but they lost a 31-27 heartbreaker to the Seattle Seahawks.

"That game the other day probably hurt more than any loss I've ever been a part of," McVay said. "And it's because of the love for the team."

SEE RAMS PAGE 8



CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID # 4501 Towing and Roadside Services for Light, Medium and Heavy Vehicles and Components

Submission Deadline is February 26, 2026 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (<https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

Justice Department says it's taken down Epstein-related files that may have had victim information

The Justice Department said Monday that it had taken down several thousand documents and "media" that may have inadvertently included victim-identifying information since it began releasing the latest batch of documents related to disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein on Friday.

It blamed the release of sensitive information that drew an outcry from victims and their lawyers on mistakes that were "technical or human error."

In a letter to the New York judges overseeing the sex trafficking cases brought against Epstein and confidant Ghislaine Maxwell, U.S. Attorney Jay Clayton wrote that the department had taken down nearly all materials identified by victims or their lawyers, along with a "substantial number" of documents identified independently by the government.

Clayton, who is based in Manhattan, said the department has "iteratively revised its protocols for addressing flagging documents" after victims and their lawyers requested changes to the process for review and redaction of posted records.

He wrote that documents are promptly pulled down from the public website when victims flag a concern that something should be redacted. He said the concern is then evaluated before a redacted version of the document can be reposted, "ideally within 24 to 36 hours."

Also Monday, a section of the Justice Department's Epstein files website that had contained public court records from Epstein and Maxwell's criminal cases and civil lawsuits was no longer functioning.

A message seeking comment on the website issue was left for the Justice Department.

Deanna Paul, a defense lawyer at the trial of Tal, Oren and Alon Alexander, said the "government through its own conduct has destroyed the possibility of a fair trial in this case" after the names of the brothers were included in several documents released on Friday. The brothers have pleaded not guilty to drugging and raping multiple girls and women from 2008 to 2021.

"Every time we hear from a victim or their lawyer that they believe that their name was not properly redacted, we immediately rectified that. And the numbers we're talking about, just so the American people understand, we're talking about .001 percent of all the materials," Blanche said.

The effect of errors in the document redactions was highlighted Monday morning at a sex trafficking trial in New York federal court when lawyers for two high-end real estate brokers and their brother asked Judge Valerie E. Caproni for a mistrial because of documents that were made public without necessary redactions.

SEE EPSTEIN PAGE 8

66

Every time we hear from a victim or their lawyer that they believe that their name was not properly redacted, we immediately rectified that. And the numbers we're talking about, just so the American people understand, we're talking about .001 percent of all the materials

- Todd Blanche, Deputy Attorney General

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

LA County and LAEDC Release Wildfire Economic Impact Update

Los Angeles County officials released findings showing the January 2025 Eaton and Palisades wildfires continue to have severe but localized economic impacts, with rebuilding efforts expected to generate up to 209,000 job-years across multiple industries.

The Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity and the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation's Institute for Applied Economics presented their second quarterly update Jan. 21 during a public webinar examining the fires' ongoing economic effects.

The study, funded through California's Jobs First initiative, found employment losses between the second quarter of 2024 and second quarter of 2025 reached approximately 19% in the Eaton fire area and 26% in Palisades, compared to essentially flat employment countywide.

Job losses concentrated in locally serving and consumer-facing industries, including accommodation and food services, retail trade, administrative support, and arts and recreation, according to the analysis.

Total rebuilding activity is estimated to generate between 141,000 and 209,000 job-years over multiple years, with approximately 85% tied to direct construction employment. The Palisades fire area accounts for roughly two-thirds of total rebuilding labor demand.

One job-year equals one job created or sustained over one year, not necessarily unique workers, officials said.

As of mid-January, more than 2,800 rebuilding and repair permits had been issued, though only about one-fifth of damaged parcels had submitted permit applications for main residential structures.

Housing markets showed varied impacts by geography, with ZIP codes closest to the Palisades fire perimeter experiencing sustained rent increases, while Eaton-adjacent areas showed shorter-lived effects.

Tourism-related activity remained weakest in primary fire areas, particularly Palisades, while secondary areas showed clearer signs of normalization by late 2025.

"The economic impacts of the 2025 wildfires extend far beyond the burn areas, affecting workers, businesses, and housing markets across Los Angeles County," said Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, whose Third District includes affected areas.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger, representing the Fifth District, said she remains committed to streamlining processes and advocating for policies that protect residents and ease their path toward rebuilding.

The year-long study will continue through mid-2026, tracking recovery indicators including workforce demand, rebuilding progress, housing stability, tourism activity and broader economic conditions.

A full recording and presentation materials are available at <https://laedc.org/laedc-los-angeles-wildfires-economic-update-2/>. Information about resources for fire-impacted workers and businesses is available at <https://opportunity.lacounty.gov/how-we-help/emergency-resources/>. Immediate hiring opportunities are available at <https://opportunity.lacounty.gov/how-we-help/FireWorkforce>.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Santa Monica

Mayor Torosis Selected for National Fellowship on Urban Equity

Santa Monica Mayor Caroline Torosis has been selected as one of eight mayors nationwide to join the 2026 Just City Mayoral Fellowship, a national leadership program of the United States Conference of Mayors and the Just City Lab at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

The Fellowship will take place in a hybrid virtual and in-person format during Spring 2026.

The program supports mayors advancing equity-centered local projects during a time of rapid change and uncertainty. The 2026 cohort will focus on how cities can sustain a clear vision of equity, confront injustice and move real projects forward amid shifting resources, constraints and public expectations.

Over the semester-long program, mayors and senior staff will engage with national experts across architecture, urban planning, housing, public policy and design justice, using the Just City Index to examine how inequities are embedded in the social, economic and physical infrastructure of their cities.

A central theme of the 2026 Fellowship is reparative development, embedding justice and equity goals into efforts to repair historic disinvestment, restore neighborhood identity and ensure that revitalization creates opportunity without displacement. Fellows will explore how design, planning and public investment can be used as tools to heal past harm and build more inclusive cities.

Torosis was selected based on her leadership advancing equity through place-based policy and design. As Santa Monica enters a period of realignment and reinvestment, her work has focused on confronting historic displacement, protecting renters and workers, and ensuring that revitalization strengthens neighborhoods rather than pushes people out.

"Santa Monica has a proud progressive identity, but we also have a history we have to be honest about — one that includes exclusion, displacement and decisions that caused real harm," Torosis said. "This Fellowship comes at a critical moment for our city as we move from acknowledgment to action as we launch one of the largest municipal restorative justice programs in the country."

The 2026 Just City Mayoral Fellows are: Mayor Katrina Thompson of Broadview, Illinois; Mayor Barbara Buffaloe of Columbia, Missouri; Mayor Leonardo Williams of Durham, North Carolina; Mayor Mindy O'Neill of Fairbanks, Alaska; Mayor Travis Stovall of Gresham, Oregon; Mayor Sangeetha Rayapati of Moline, Illinois; Mayor Dominick Pangallo of Salem, Massachusetts; and Torosis.

The Just City Lab, led by architect and urban planner Toni L. Griffin, is housed at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. More information is available at usmayors.org and designforthejustcity.org.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press

editor@smdp.com

HEAL THE BAY BEACH GRADES



COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown

Santa Monica Place to Host Lunar New Year Celebration

Santa Monica Place will welcome the community to ring in Lunar New Year and usher in the Year of the Horse with a free, family-friendly celebration Saturday, Feb. 21, from 2-5 p.m., hosted by comedian Paul "PK" Kim.

The celebration features cultural performances, art and activities for all ages, set beneath red and gold lanterns that symbolize good fortune for the year ahead.

Guests will enjoy traditional Chinese lion dances by Bruce Wen and The Shaolin Entertainment Group, along with martial arts performances by LA Wushu Club, a Los Angeles-based group dedicated to traditional Chinese wushu. Additional event highlights include balloon artistry, live demonstrations by Chinese dough artist Chris Lee and Lunar New Year blessings offered by calligraphy artist Emmy Lam as a special keepsake.

Children can explore the Kids Craft Area, while live music performances provide entertainment throughout the afternoon.

Attendees will receive red envelope offers and promotions from participating retailers and restaurants. Visitors are also invited to share their hopes for the year ahead by hanging wishes on the cherry blossom Wishing Trees located in Center Plaza.

Cherry blossom Wishing Trees, lantern displays and red envelope promotions will be available from Feb. 12 to March 2.

LA Wushu Club martial arts performances will take place at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Lion dance performances are scheduled for 2:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Santa Monica Place is located at 395 Santa Monica Place, Santa Monica, at Broadway and Third Street Promenade. The celebration will take place on level one in Center Plaza.

Programming and event details are subject to change.

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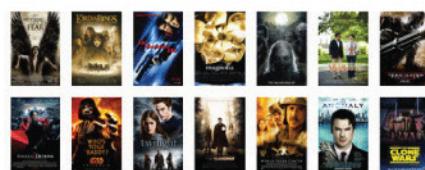


Santa Monica Place

MALL: The mall will host a Lunar New Year Celebration.

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COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 3

as the foundation for the new commission's work.

Torosis requested a presentation on that report before the council begins appointing commission members.

Council Member Ellis Raskin added a friendly amendment directing staff to explore how freeway lands — referring to Interstate 10, which displaced the historically Black Pico neighborhood — could be reused to promote restorative justice.

Several residents submitted written comments supporting the program. Rabbi Neil Comess-Daniels wrote that establishing the commission was "only fair and just."

RAMS

FROM PAGE 4

McVay said he usually watches the Super Bowl in years when the Rams aren't playing in it, but he's not sure whether he can stomach it this weekend: "I might punish myself. I don't know that I'll be tuning in for this one."

McVay confirmed he has hired Bubba Ventrone as his special teams coordinator following the late-season firing of Chase Blackburn, and Kyle Hoke will follow Ventrone from the Cleveland Browns as an assistant.

McVay hasn't decided who will become

EPSTEIN

FROM PAGE 5

mention the Alexander brothers "should have been properly redacted" and she said the documents had been withdrawn from public circulation.

As she spoke, Espinosa also gave an update on the general release of Epstein-related documents by the Justice Department, saying that the remaining documents to be released were "primarily related to civil litigation" that might require a judge's approval to be made

while longtime resident Michele Wittig urged the city to ensure implementation includes "inclusive community truth-telling, acknowledging wrongs, taking reparative actions, making restitution and achieving reconciliation."

The program remains open-ended regarding how funds will ultimately be distributed. Chi told the council that determination would be made by the commission as it develops the overall program framework.

"All of that we envision will be part of the work that the commission undertakes in developing an overall program that would be administered," Chi said.

maaz@smdp.com

his fifth offensive coordinator in Los Angeles after Mike LaFleur left to become the Arizona Cardinals' head coach, but he acknowledges the Rams have "internal candidates."

Los Angeles pass game coordinator Nate Scheelhaase is a rising star who interviewed for several head coaching opportunities over the past month. All four of McVay's former offensive coordinators are current NFL head coaches, as is former Rams quarterbacks coach Zac Taylor.

GREG BEACHAM. Beacham is a sports writer in California. Associated Press

public..

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press. The AP is reviewing the documents released by the Justice Department in collaboration with journalists from CBS, NBC, MS NOW and CNBC. Journalists from each newsroom are working together to examine the files and share information about what is in them. Each outlet is responsible for its own independent news coverage of the documents

SMC

FROM PAGE 1

for others actions have fallen on you," Morse said to the staff facing unemployment in a video response to Jeffery's announcement.

Morse noted the potential layoffs continue a pattern of cuts that have already eliminated over 250 part-time faculty positions through reductions to classes, counseling and library hours, even as full-time faculty have resigned or retired without replacement.

"Yes, of course, there have been some external factors that have made balancing the college's budget challenging, but few, if any, were unforeseeable, and certainly none were insurmountable," Morse said. "Local choices, inaction and the inability to see the employees of the college as true partners in crafting solutions led the college here."

The Faculty Association had proposed numerous cost-saving ideas over the years, Morse said, but faced reluctance from administration to discuss creative approaches to increasing revenue or decreasing costs. Only recently has the district shown interest in negotiating with the union.

One recent collaboration allowed full-time faculty to defer their pay for winter assignments, resulting in nearly \$500,000 in savings despite an already reduced winter session schedule with slashed classes and minimal counseling hours.

Morse particularly criticized the decision to cut class sections, calling it "terribly wrong" and counterproductive to the college's recovery.

"For years, many of us have tried to raise the alarm about enrollment, advocating for action on revenue-generating and cost-saving ideas, but to no avail," Morse said. "Now everyone can see that cutting class access to classes was terribly wrong. It didn't save us. It didn't help us recover from the trials of COVID. Instead, it led to thousands of students being turned away, hundreds of faculty being laid off, and now could possibly lead to dozens of classified colleagues."

Enrollment has been in freefall at the school since the pandemic. At the college's January board meeting, Vice President Teresita Rodriguez presented troubling enrollment figures that showed the downward trend continuing and worsening.

As of that morning, winter enrollment headcount was down 5.33% from the previous winter, with credit full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment down 5.93% and non-resident FTE down 14.81%.

Spring semester projections appeared even more dire. Total headcount for spring was down 6.29%, credit FTE down 9.93%, and non-resident enrollment down 6.90%. Rodriguez noted the college was particularly concerned about non-resident numbers, as applications from international students for spring were down approximately 40%.

The enrollment figures represented a stark departure from the college's Strategic Enrollment Management plan projections from several years ago, which had anticipated year-over-year growth of 3% in credit enrollment, 5% in non-credit, and 5% in non-resident enrollment.

By the time of the adopted budget, those projections had been revised to 0% growth in credit enrollment, 2.74% growth in non-credit, and a 7.03% decline in non-resident enrollment. The actual trends were tracking worse than even those reduced expectations.

Dr. Tania Acosta outlined several strategies the college is employing to reverse the enrollment decline.

The college has prioritized its Discover

SMC series, which brings high school students to campus to familiarize them with the institution. Nine schools were confirmed for participation, with additional schools still being solicited.

Following a spring focus group with college staff, institutional research personnel and feeder high school counselors, the college identified needs for more intentional outreach to Black and Latinx students and better support for students facing financial concerns. The college responded by creating targeted affinity postings and ensuring open lab hours to assist students with federal financial aid applications and California Dream Act applications.

The college is also participating in five national college fairs and two local fairs, and has developed a two-pronged international recruitment approach focused on strengthening established markets while expanding into emerging markets. Despite ongoing geopolitical challenges, the international team planned outreach trips to Vietnam, Brazil, Turkey, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates.

The college initiated a three-call outreach model in January, with student services departments contacting approximately 1,700 identified students. More than 55% have been contacted, with 24% answering phone calls, 20% enrolling, and 191 making progress through the registration process.

Student services departments including the Welcome Center and counseling have extended their hours beyond 4 p.m. to provide more flexible customer service, joining Admissions and Records and financial aid, which already offered year-round extended hours.

When asked how Santa Monica College's enrollment compared to other institutions, staff acknowledged difficulty in making accurate comparisons. While some sister colleges reported enrollment increases of more than 10%, they suggested those numbers might be inflated by institutions not properly clearing rosters or addressing fraudulent enrollment.

Rodriguez noted that while community colleges typically see enrollment increases during economic downturns, current trends don't entirely follow that historical pattern.

"Higher education is in crisis," Rodriguez said, citing published articles and anecdotal reports from students. "A lot of people are questioning the value of education. So there's a whole lot of people who just aren't going anywhere."

International recruitment faces particular challenges due to federal policies. Rodriguez noted that the United States is no longer considered as welcoming to international students, making recruitment difficult regardless of advertising quality.

"We have public leaders on television saying we don't want you here," she said, adding that the college must maintain its international presence to avoid losing additional market share and position itself for when conditions improve.

While the college is facing dire straits, Morse urged faculty to resist rumors, noting that the college is not facing a state takeover, cannot unilaterally decrease faculty wages or remove contractual guarantees, and is not slating academic programs for elimination.

SMC meetings and agendas are available online at <https://admin.smc.edu/administration/governance/board-of-trustees/meetings.php>.

editor@smdp.com

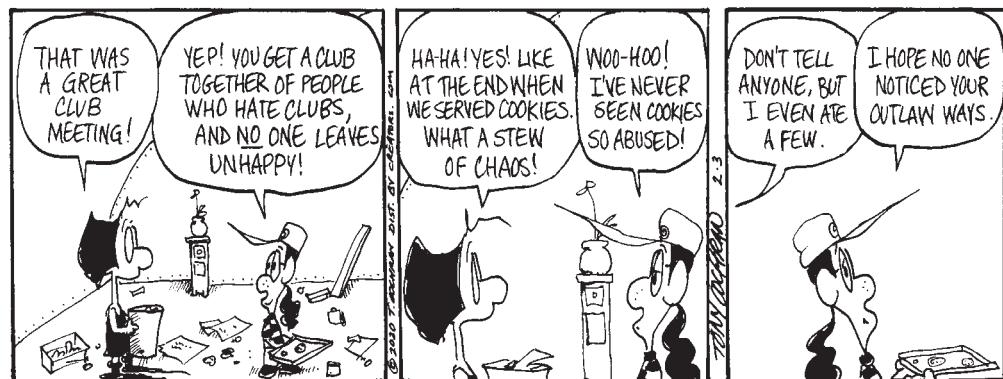


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By TONY COCHRAN

Dogs of C-Kennel



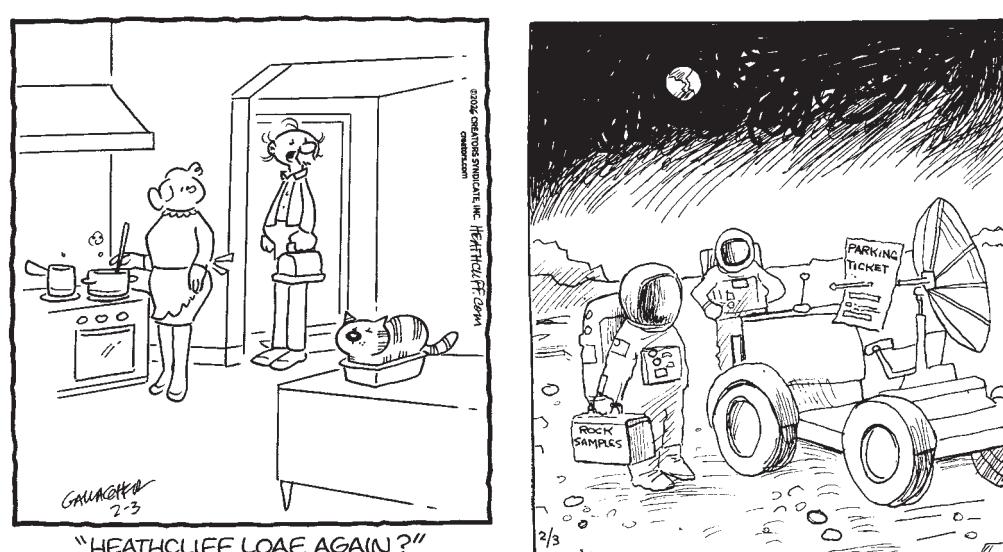
By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

Zack Hill



By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Heathcliff



By PETER GALLAGHER

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

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 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6840

Heads up



Ascot	Comb	Hairpin	Silk
Aussie	Covering	Headscarf	Sun hat
Baseball	Cowboy	Hood	Topi
Beret	Curl	Kepi	Toquilla
Boater	Derby	Liner	straw
Bolero	Dupatta	Lock	Toyo
Bonnet	Fedora	Mitre	Veil
Brim	Felt	Peak	Visor
Bucket	Flat	Peci	Wigs
Busby	Flower	Raffia	Wool
Caps	Golf	Shawl	Yarmulke

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 3)

PUZZLES

It's your Year of Magical Inclusion. You extend a sense of belonging to all, and love fills your world in unforeseen ways. Because you stay openhearted and accommodating to that which is outside your preferences, you end up, in a roundabout way, getting exactly what you want. More highlights: Career acceleration, a new revenue stream and joyful productivity that makes work feel like a privilege. Cancer and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 3, 10, 8 and 41.



HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Though naive, it's human nature to assume others want the same things we want when that's often not the case. Imagining the motivations, preferences and proclivities of those around you makes cooperation easier and misunderstandings less likely.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The importance of an interesting private life will be highlighted today. It's essential to your vitality and creative expression. You can have it all: curiosity, inner theater, private jokes and so much to feed your imagination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Remember when you felt so overwhelmed you wondered how to get through it? Now you're asking better questions: How else could my life be arranged? What needs to end and what needs to start?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Not everyone has to get with your program for you to feel good about what you're doing. You readily accept that you're not in control of everything, and you enjoy seeing the various approaches people take when they feel free to explore.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be sorting out responsibilities, figuring out where they lie and deciding who will take on which job. If you accidentally take on more than you intended to, it will work to your benefit.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It will benefit you to aim higher than usual because what's usually good enough just won't do. So, dig a little deeper, give a little more and you'll quickly find yourself ahead of the game. Note which little things make a big difference.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's weird when people want you to want things you don't want. It's also easy to get tricked in this regard and think that you like and believe what's popular. Belonging is a basic human need, but you shouldn't have to sell yourself short to do it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll absorb more energy than usual from nearby influences. If you're not around the people, ideas, values and aesthetics you would like to have, leave. Go where there's inspiration and aspiration in abundance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A new relationship is forming. You don't need to get this right so much as get it honest. You can never fail in relationships because you either build a bond or you learn from what didn't work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Some of your past actions are good to repeat, and others, not so much. That's life. Why waste time judging some other version of you? You're always doing the best you can with what you have.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your hands are on the wheel. You live your choices through work, creativity, restraint, tenderness, humor and truth-telling. You show up. You experiment. You recommit. It's more than a mindset. It's a practice, and a winning one at that.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Worry is the bad kind of stress - the kind that wears on your immune system. Physical exercise, relaxation, a new plan - all relieve the tension and put you on a healthier track. Whatever way you choose, you'll successfully move through this.

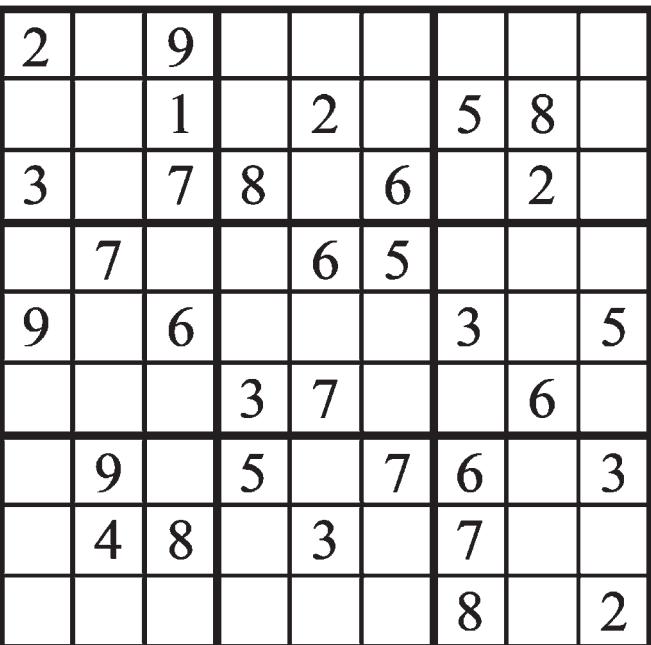
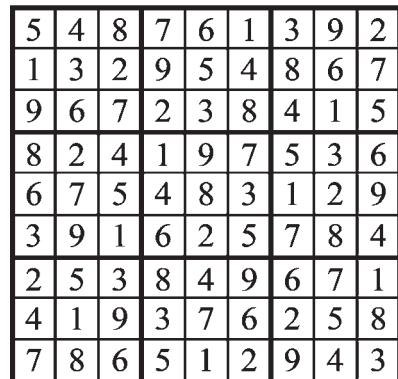
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD



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.



Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Vacuum cleaner tube
5 Minor argument
9 Very gradual
13 Person walking in the woods
14 "Bye-bye!"
15 Birthday party dessert
16 "My concern is..."
17 Skirt-pressing appliance
18 Land measure
19 Rest taken around 10 a.m.
22 Lab maze runners
23 Install, as carpeting
24 Bold and loud
28 Any precious stone
29 Ocean w. of Oregon
32 Sushi grain
33 Fairy tale opening
36 Thin soup
38 Rest taken around 2 p.m.
41 Skiing surface
42 Blueprint detail, for short
43 Z __ "zebra"
44 __ Majesty (queenly title)
45 Cubes in a cold drink
47 Facet of an issue
49 Long __ (far in the past)
50 Small horse
52 Rest taken at day's end
60 Concerning, in a memo
61 Pirate's plunder
62 Oven's countdown device

63 A __ in the right direction

64 "Small" suffix for kitchen
65 Poet Dickinson or Post of etiquette
66 Trumpet sound
67 Entryway
68 Yoga pads

DOWN

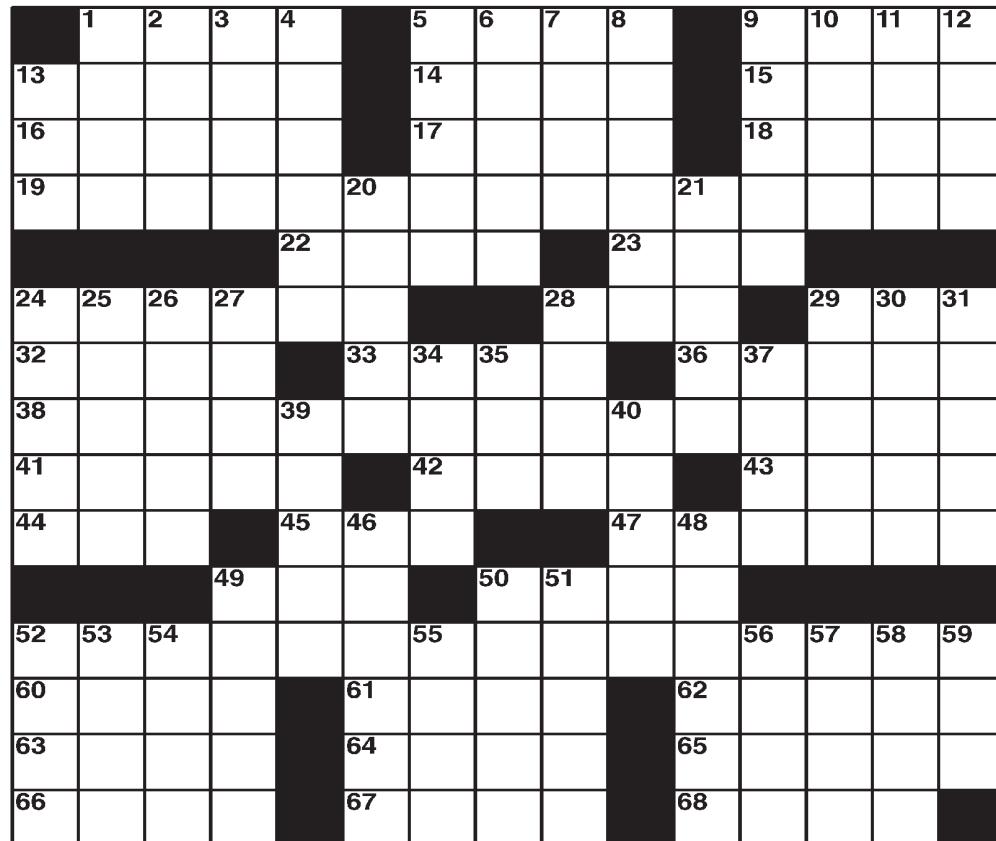
1 Machine for playing records
2 Gave approval for
3 Line of stitching
4 Mistakes
5 Tour of duty
6 French capital
7 Like __ of bricks (very heavily)

8 Hair snarl

9 Frightening
10 Shoe's string
11 Gumbo veggie
12 Sunday to Saturday
13 That gentleman
20 Silklike synthetic fabric
21 Disney toon deer
24 Lacking tact
25 Hunter's weapon
26 Person playing a part
27 Trickle in or out
28 Bit of DNA
29 Sheriff's pursuit group
30 House's upper storage level
31 Repetitive shout
34 Aroma detector

DAY OF REST by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

35 Police officer
37 Harvest, as crops
39 Be a monarch
40 Reads, as bar codes
46 All wound up, as a 1-Across
48 Orderly method
49 Skillful
50 Camera creation
51 Furry river swimmer
52 Main point
53 In the know about
54 Black-and-white cookie
55 Attend
56 Capital of Peru
57 Give off, as light
58 Snakelike fishes
59 Be overly interested



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2026 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

02/03/26

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



TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 3

TEA TIME WITH TRANSFER: LEARN MORE ABOUT CALGETC

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Student Services Center Transfer Lounge (SSC 230). Tea Time with Transfer provides a supportive and welcoming space to help students achieve their transfer dreams! Over a cup of tea, students can access valuable information about transfer resources, explore opportunities, and receive personalized guidance and insights to navigate their transfer journey. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/tea-time-with-transfer-learn-more-about-calgetc/17839306/2026-02-03T10>

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>

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-14857154/2026-02-03T20>

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/16004734/2026-01-13T11>

WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 4

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

COOL THINGS TO DO

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>

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>

THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 5

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>

BOOK RELEASE FOR THE INVASION OF PANTOMIME BY TIM XONNELLY

7:30 p.m. Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd. Venice. Please join us to celebrate the release of SoCal/Berkeley poet Tim Xonnelly's new book, The Invasion of Pantomime. In these poems, Xonnelly reflects upon the surreal quality of the COVID pandemic and entering his seventh decade in an increasingly repressive and violent culture in works replete with dream imagery and queer pride. Also reading will be acclaimed authors antmen pimentel mendoza (My Boyfriend Apocalypse) and Roberto F Santiago (Like Sugar). Of The Invasion of Pantomime, Kirk Read says, "Tim

Xonnelly's voice is reassuring. No matter how much technocracy encroaches, there are poets wandering the aisles of Costco or navigating the world of online hookups.... All is not lost. There are still poets being poets. This collection is tender and weird and utterly endearing." Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/book-release-for-the-invasion-of-pantomime-by-tim-xonnelly/17913859/2026-02-05T19>

CHASING MONARCHS

7:30 p.m. Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center 1310 11th St Santa Monica. Fifty years after the startling discovery that monarch butterflies spend winters in the forests of Mexico, photographer and National Geographic Explorer Jaime Rojo reveals this winged wonder of the insect world in new ways with never-before-seen visuals. Tag along with conservationists and citizen scientists who are helping this species avoid catastrophic threats, all through Jaime's beautiful photos and videos. \$125.00 to \$1,000.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/chasing-monarchs/16112586/2026-02-05T19>

TRAKTR RECORDS PRESENTS

8:30 p.m. Harvelle's Santa Monica 1432 4th St, Santa Monica. With JAKAI, MOKAY, P.O.P., JTAPP and AUXIN. Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 8:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. Please note, we are 21 and over only! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/traktr-records-presents/17821024/2026-02-05T20>

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 6

NEW EXHIBITION AT THE HISTORY MUSEUM CELEBRATES FOOD & FAMILY

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Santa Monica History Museum 1350 Seventh Street Santa Monica. Explore the evolution of African American and intercultural food traditions in Southern California, tracing the impact of the Great Migration and global immigration on Santa Monica's culinary landscape. Through the lens of shared meals, recipes, and community gatherings, the exhibition examines how food fosters a sense of belonging, connection, and cultural continuity. Drawn from the archives of the Quinn Research Center and the Santa Monica History Museum, Food & Family features photographs, oral histories, cookbooks, utensils, maps, and other materials that reveal how everyday cooking helped define home and identity for generations of Santa Monica residents. Opening Reception 2pm-4pm on January 24 includes free admission. \$0.00 to \$5.00Free for Children, Students, Seniors, SNAP/EBT card holders. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/new-exhibition-at-the-history-museum-celebrates-food-family/17896821/2026-02-06T11>

DATE NIGHT FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Viola Floral Studios 1639 11th St. Suite 162 Santa Monica. Celebrate Valentine's Day early! Say goodbye to 'What should we do?

on date night! Strengthen your bond by crafting a stunning flower arrangement together. Surprise each other with your creativity and appreciation for beauty in this romantic in-person workshop. Ideal for new couples getting to know each other or those seeking fresh date night ideas. Limited to 8 couples; price is per couple. Level: Beginner. 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 6pm, so plan to arrive by 5:45pm 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 a stunning floral arrangement. Expect to leave with a flower masterpiece crafted by your own hands, enriched with newfound knowledge of florals and design. \$225.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/date-night-flower-arranging-workshop/17600940/2026-02-06T18>

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 7

REED PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN & MILES MEMORIAL PLAYHOUSE OPEN HOUSE

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Reed Park Community Garden, 1130 Lincoln Blvd, Santa Monica, 90403. This fabulous place was activated in July of 2025 and is becoming a community destination once again. Come see what it is all about. Celebrate 50 Years of Santa Monica Community Gardens. Start some seeds, tour the pollinator garden, investigate a worm bin, create a pressed flower card and learn how to become a volunteer and help out at this garden or at the wonderful community events. Tour the Historic Miles Memorial Playhouse with the Santa Monica Conservancy. Meet Miles Playhouse Class Instructors and discover new arts and culture offerings starting this year. Sip a cup of coffee, grab a snack, and meet your neighbors. We hope to see you there. To keep track of numbers to expect, please RSVP HERE. More details at [Santamonica.gov/events](https://www.santamonica.gov/events)

DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Hosteling Intl. 1436 2nd Street Santa Monica. Join the Santa Monica Conservancy's Downtown Walking Tour. Discover downtown Santa Monica's architectural gems, history, and culture. From Art Deco to Victorian and Romanesque Revival, you'll explore the various styles that fill the streets of Santa Monica. Explore downtown's diverse architectural heritage, including Bay Cities Guaranty Building, El Miro Theater, Georgian Hotel, Gussie Moran House, Keller Block and more! The Downtown Walking Tour is FREE for Conservancy members, FREE for guests staying at Hostelling International, and \$10 for the general public. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-walking-tour/15830816/2026-02-07T10>



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