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Businesses physically unharmed by Palisades fire are getting burned by ongoing economic troubles

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Palisades Fire didn't make it to Santa Monica but while the city was spared any physical damage, the repercussions from the blaze have become an ongoing disaster for local businesses.

Several restaurants have already announced closures prompted by the crisis and in interviews with the Daily Press, dozens of businesses said sales figures had cratered since the fires broke out in early January. For many, the toll on their stores was comparable to the early days of the Covid pandemic with some saying they were only able to stay afloat due to discounts in rent from their landlords or eating into savings.

While most businesses said they knew they'd lose some revenue for the days they were closed during the worst of the blaze, many said they were unprepared for the precipitous drop in customers that has spread far beyond the fire lines and lasted much longer than expected.

Santa Monica's beach businesses were among the hardest hit following the fire, with some reporting revenue drops of up to 90% as environmental concerns keep visitors away.

SEE **BUSINESS** PAGE 15



Photo by Ross Furukawa

ECONOMY: After almost closing once before, ZJ Boarding House is among the new wave of businesses closing in the post-wildfire economy.

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- Over almost 30 years, he sexually abused hundreds of boys and girls.
- Victims were often too scared or ashamed to tell their parents.
- Many victims have moved away and don't know they have a right to make a claim.
- Share this notice. There may still be time to file a claim.



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Samohi students take fury to City Hall for fiery Trump protest



Photo by Thomas Leffler

PROTEST: Samohi junior Ava De La Barreda was one of many students who voiced their concerns with the Donald Trump administration at City Hall on Thursday.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The sharp backlash to the early weeks of the second Donald Trump administration has been felt in Los Angeles, but perhaps no group has been more vocal than local students.

On Thursday, over 50 Samohi students made a beeline from campus to Santa Monica City Hall, staging a protest against the Trump administration's executive actions targeting the LGBTQ+ community, as well as standing firm with immigrants.

The walkout was also enacted by students at Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences, Malibu High School and Venice High School, among others. Samohi students planned the event for weeks, using the classroom of Feminist Literature teacher Elizabeth Waters to organize and create signage for the day.

Trump's rhetoric has been divisive across the nation, with the students' fury aimed at three subjects: Treatment of LGBTQ+ citizens, the status of Samohi as a safe haven for immigrants, and the potential freeze of federal funding towards school campuses that teach diversity studies.

"We started seeing the insane slew of executive orders that were just egregious, (and) I think it became pretty apparent that we wanted to do something," Samohi senior and event organizer Sarah Javerbaum said. "It was just so many violations on our environment, our communities, on people we love, on things we love and cherish. I think it was not really an option to not do anything."

A bevy of students took the megaphone on the City Hall steps to voice their displeasure with the administration, affirming their allegiance to the credo "trans lives are human lives." On Wednesday, Trump signed an executive order barring transgender women and girls from female sports, seen by the student contingent as yet another attack on gender issues.

The local higher education institution also took note of this order, with Santa Monica College Superintendent Kathryn Jeffery condemning the transgender sports ban on Thursday.

"SMC will continue to follow California law which allows transgender athletes to participate in sports ... (SMC) remains committed to standing strong as a beacon of equality and inclusivity for all students," Jeffery wrote.

In her feminist literature class, Waters focuses on gender and transgender issues, seeing firsthand the panic in her students as

SEE **PROTEST** PAGE 12

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New plans call for an 18-story building high-rise at 1437 6th Street



Ottinger Architects

BUILDING: Details have emerged on a new Downtown high-rise project.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

A recent presentation to the Santa Monica Architectural Review Board (ARB) offered a first look at updated renderings of a proposed high-rise development planned for 1437 6th Street in the city's downtown area. Once a former Builder's Remedy project, it is now being developed by Madison Realty Capital, a New York-based private equity firm.

The plans are for the construction of an eight-story building featuring 173 studio, one-, and two-bedroom apartments atop a two-level, 55-car subterranean parking garage. This mixed-use building would be located on the east side of 6th Street between Santa Monica Blvd and Broadway.

Santa Monica is seeing a nascent wave of projects refiled to take advantage of density bonuses. Under current rules, projects can double their density if they provide affordable and moderate rate units.

According to the staff report, the 18-story building high-rise would reach a maximum height of nearly 195 feet. The proposed development is being designed by Ottinger Architects and would include 26 units of deed-restricted affordable housing in exchange for state density bonus incentives granting relief from certain zoning standards.

Upon close inspection of the conceptual artwork images, it's possible to see that the building is, in essence, made up of two different vertical halves.

"The project proposes a tall building separated into two main forms that create a slender and elegant proportion. The two forms that compose the tower serve to create a dichotomy in both the project's contemporary design and narrative," reads the staff report summary. "One form features glass and undulating patterns while the other provides a solid white tower; the two forms are offset with a corridor of recessed glass. A sense of livability is enhanced with plentiful fenestrations, balconies, and open space, including a roof deck.

"The project is a single mass visually separated into two vertical forms that serve to create a duality in both the project's contemporary design and narrative. One form draws from the vernacular architecture of the surrounding neighborhood in rectangular white plaster and the second attached form reflects an abstract representation of nature with all glass."

The existing property at 1433 6th Street is eligible to be a Santa Monica landmark, but a demolition permit has passed the Landmarks Commission without issue.

According to the ARB's presentation, "While the project makes use of density that is beyond what is usually permitted in this neighborhood, the various types of amenities ensure that residents can enjoy a high quality of life without additional burden on surrounding infrastructure."

Santa Monica real estate firm NMS Properties had previously proposed redevelopment of the site with a smaller mixed-use building. However, in January 2024, NMS lost control of roughly 50% of its portfolio and turned it over to a group of lenders, including Madison Realty Capital.

Madison has since pursued redevelopment of several former NMS sites with high-rise buildings, including two other projects in Downtown Santa Monica, 601 Colorado (20 stories, 266 units, 40 affordable, 203 parking spaces) and 1435 5th Street (16 stories, 423 units, 64 affordable, 366 parking spaces).

scott.snowden@smdp.com



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **58.1**

FRIDAY
FAIR

SURF: Thigh to waist
2-3FT

Off-season S swell tops out through the day -- size best for long period focal points. Wind and conditions could be an issue most of the day, keeping overall quality down across the region as our second coastal storm of the week exits the region. Nice shot of SPAC swell peaks, and although it was better aimed at Central/S America, SoCal still gets a share. For North LA the forecast is waist to lully shoulder high waves.

SATURDAY
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: Thigh to waist
2-3FT

Decent/fun S swell continues. Better winds/weather due. Morning winds looking favorable for a nice start. West wind is an issue at exposed areas in the afternoon. The SPAC swell should spread around the region a touch better as the period comes down from Friday. For North LA that translates to more widespread waist-chest high surf with sets still in the shoulder high range for top spots.

Weather

Friday: Rain, mainly before 10am. High near 59. Southwest wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 47. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm.
Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 62. North northeast wind around 10 mph becoming west in the morning.
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/02/07	Fri	04:40 AM	5.47	H
2025/02/07	Fri	12:38 PM	-0.64	L
2025/02/07	Fri	7:41 PM	3.31	H
2025/02/07	Fri	11:26 PM	2.62	L
2025/02/08	Sat	05:46 AM	5.73	H
2025/02/08	Sat	1:25 PM	-1.04	L
2025/02/08	Sat	8:12 PM	3.61	H
2025/02/09	Sun	12:31 AM	2.35	L
2025/02/09	Sun	06:41 AM	5.98	H
2025/02/09	Sun	2:04 PM	-1.25	L
2025/02/09	Sun	8:40 PM	3.84	H
2025/02/10	Mon	01:20 AM	2.03	L
2025/02/10	Mon	07:27 AM	6.13	H
2025/02/10	Mon	2:39 PM	-1.29	L

Daily Lottery

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

Powerball
Draw Date: 2/5
19 27 30 50 62
Power#: 14
Jackpot: 133 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 2/4
14 24 31 53 54
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 94 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/5
15 20 30 36 46
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 23 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/5
6 18 33 35 36

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

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/5
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:40.83

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

Thomas Leffler
thomas@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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Santa Monica Daily Press

As California's fire season grows, state senators push for more year-round firefighters

Senate President Pro Tem Mike McGuire proposed Tuesday that state firefighters work year-round in place of the seasonal workforce the agency currently staffs for nine months each year. The increased duty for about 3,000 seasonal firefighters is estimated to cost at least $175 million.

"This escalating crisis has stretched firefighters dangerously thin," McGuire said at a press conference in Sacramento, flanked by 21 other state senators and representatives from the union representing CalFire firefighters. "The threats to their health and safety along with the threats to local communities — they have never been greater."

McGuire's proposal is aimed at addressing California's growing fire season — which typically lasted from June to October in the 1990s but is now considered to be from May through December, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as CalFire.

The agency said it does not track how many fires occur outside of the extended fire season each year, but the CalFire website shows that two fires reported outside of the fire season in 2024, burning a total of 250 acres. No fires were reported on the website during the off-season in 2023. The extended season is driven in part by a hotter and drier climate according to research by civil and environmental engineers at the University of California, Irvine.

CalFire has about 6,100 permanent employees, in addition to the 3,000 seasonal firefighters who are typically laid off between January and March.

"For three months out of the year we downstaff one-third of our engines because of an inadequate way of staffing CalFire in today's world," Tim Edwards, president of the union representing CalFire firefighters, said at the press conference. "There is no fire season in California. Fires are year-round, as we just witnessed" in the Los Angeles area.

The rare January wildfires in Altadena and the Pacific Palisades killed 24 people and damaged about 16,000 homes and businesses. The state brought in firefighters from Portland and Houston, as well as from Canada and Mexico.



Photo by David McNew, Getty Images

FIRE: CalFire firefighters cut a fire line during an uncontrolled fire using hand tools and chain saws at the Hughes Fire in Castaic, on Jan. 22, 2025.

CalFire did not have a comment on McGuire's proposal. But Jesse Torres, a battalion chief and spokesperson for the agency, said that more staffing wouldn't necessarily help fight the Southern California fires due to the high winds that caused flames to spread quickly. He said a larger, year-round staff would allow more prevention work and allow firefighters to take time off.

Under McGuire's proposal, the seasonal firefighters would be transitioned to year-round employees, and the agency's 356 fire engines would be operational all year.

The governor vetoed a similar bill last year by Sen. Tim Grayson, a Democrat from Antioch. Newsom wrote that the state was already in the process of hiring 2,000 additional year-round firefighters because of staffing levels required in the Cal Fire union's most recent contract, and he wrote that state civil service laws would require the temporary firefighters to apply for the permanent positions.

Asked for comment on McGuire's proposal, the governor's office said it does not typically comment on pending legislation. McGuire said at the press conference that his new plan would address the governor's concerns around the legality of transitioning from seasonal to full-time by creating a new employee classification.

"We were moving at a pace that nature didn't wait on, and the wildfires didn't wait on," Grayson told CalMatters Monday about last year's bill. "We are learning that climate change continues its march forward at a pace that we must catch up to."

The office of Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas did not respond to a request for comment on the Senate proposal.

There's also the cost question: McGuire said the effort would be funded by the state's general fund and would require negotiations through the budget process.

The budget is not finalized until June, however – so McGuire said he hoped his plan could move more quickly.

"I think the vast majority of Californians would like to be able to see this investment yesterday," said McGuire, who represents the state's fire-prone North Coast from the Bay Area to the Oregon border.

McGuire's proposal is the latest in the Legislature's effort to help those impacted by the wildfires in Southern California.

The Assembly unveiled a wildfire-related package last month aimed at housing recovery, including a bill to pause most new building standards, one that would accelerate state housing permit reviews and another that would ease permitting in coastal areas for accessory dwelling units.

Last week, in an effort shepherded by the governor, the Legislature also approved $2.5 billion to state and local agencies to help them oversee recovery.

The Senate Republican Caucus, representing nine of the 40 state Senators, also unveiled its own wildfire-related proposals Tuesday. The GOP plan focused on water storage, tax credits to homeowners for efforts to fireproof their properties and longer sentences for fire-related crimes.

"While Senate Republicans are encouraged by the initial bipartisan nature of the Senate's response to the Los Angeles wildfires thus far, they remain wary of potential partisan pitfalls for this critical legislation as the plethora of past efforts have largely been blocked by legislative Democrats and the governor in years past," the caucus said in a statement.

By Sameea Kamal. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Proposals for:

Furniture Procurement for Citywide Usage
Project No. SP2307-2025

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from qualified and authorized furniture dealers interested in providing Steelcase systems furniture procurement, installation, and consulting services citywide on an as-needed basis for the Furniture Procurement for Citywide Usage Project.

The purpose of the RFP is to select up to two qualified and authorized Steelcase vendors to purchase and install new Steelcase systems furniture and to provide consulting services on an as-needed basis for City offices. Typical furniture procurement and consulting needs arise from office remodels, office reorganizations, and tenant improvement projects.

RFP questions to be submitted via OpenGov, no later than **2:30pm on February 20, 2025.**

Proposers shall upload RFP via OpenGov, no later than **2:30pm on March 6, 2025.**

RFP Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca.

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Newsom temporarily changes rent rules for some LA mansions in wake of fires



Photo by Eric Thayer, Getty Images

RULES: Gov. Gavin Newsom, right, tours the downtown business district of Pacific Palisades as the Palisades Fire continues to burn in Los Angeles on Jan. 8, 2025 in Los Angeles, California.

Good news if you happen to own a mansion in West Los Angeles.

The post-burn ban on major rent hikes across Los Angeles now includes a carve out for houses with four or more bedrooms in zip codes with stratospheric rents.

The regulatory tweak, included in a lengthy executive order issued by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Tuesday, comes in response to a chorus of criticism from landlords, up-market realtors and housing policy experts who claimed that the state's emergency prohibitions on rent "gouging" have been keeping some of the homes most proximate to Pacific Palisades off the market at the very time they are most needed.

As thousands of wildfire evacuees have scrambled for new places to live, Newsom, Attorney General Rob Bonta and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass have all repeatedly warned landlords against profiting off their desperation. Since Newsom's first emergency declaration, armies of online sleuths have popped up to sniff out illegal rent hikes on rental listing platforms.

State emergency declarations regularly prevent landlords from hiking the rent by more than 10%.

But for units that haven't been on the market for at least a year — and therefore lacking a baseline off of which to measure an "excessive" rent increase — the cap sets the rent at no higher than 60% above the area's "fair market rent." That figure is based on survey data analyzed by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

But in the city's most coveted zip codes, 60% over the fair market rate just doesn't cut it for many landlords and many of the would-be tenants are deep-pocketed enough to gladly pay the market rate, said Russell Grether, a Malibu real estate agent.

In the Malibu zip code of 90265, the rent cap on an off-market four-bedroom house works out to $8,912 per month. Grether said he would lease a property like that for $50,000.

"We have many clients who decided to not list their homes because they didn't want to put themselves at risk and so, in a way, it had sort of the opposite effect of the intended purpose," he said.

While Newsom eased up on one aspect of the cap with Tuesday's order, he tightened down on another. Some landlords have been getting around the state-set rent caps by entering lease agreements that exceeded one year. Now the rules apply to all rental agreements.

The rules are set to expire on March 8.

By Ben Christopher. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS
SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BID: 012125SF Stadium Bleacher Paint Project (east)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive up to, but not later than the below-stated date and time, sealed Bid Proposals for the Work of the Project generally described as: Stadium Bleacher Paint Project (east) in accordance with all bid documents, specifications, drawings, work plans and reports.

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the District bidding website at: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=13721#.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: 03/04/25 by 2:00pm

All Bid Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished by the District. Bid Proposals must conform with, and be responsive to, the Bid and Contract Documents, copies of which may be obtained from the District as set forth above.

Only Bid Proposals submitted to the District via the bidding website, prior to the date and time set forth shall be considered.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK: 02/10/25, 10:00am sharp. Meet outside the SMC Facilities Trailer at Receiving Parking Lot by bleachers 2121 16th St. Santa Monica CA 90405. Bidder attendance at Job Walk is mandatory. Sign-In required & late arrivals not permitted.

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $200,000.00

CONTRACT DAYS: 26 calendar days

LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: N/A

The Bidder is required to have at time of bid submission and throughout the duration of the project a CSLB B &/or C-33 license & CADIR registration and for all onsite CA Dept Public Health Lead Certification; Ongoing BLL Data, Respiratory Fit Test, Physician Written Opinion. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the District's Request for Bids.

Substitute Security- In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under this contract.

Post Dates: 01/31/25 & 02/07/25

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

FY24-25 Annual Paving Project
SP2699

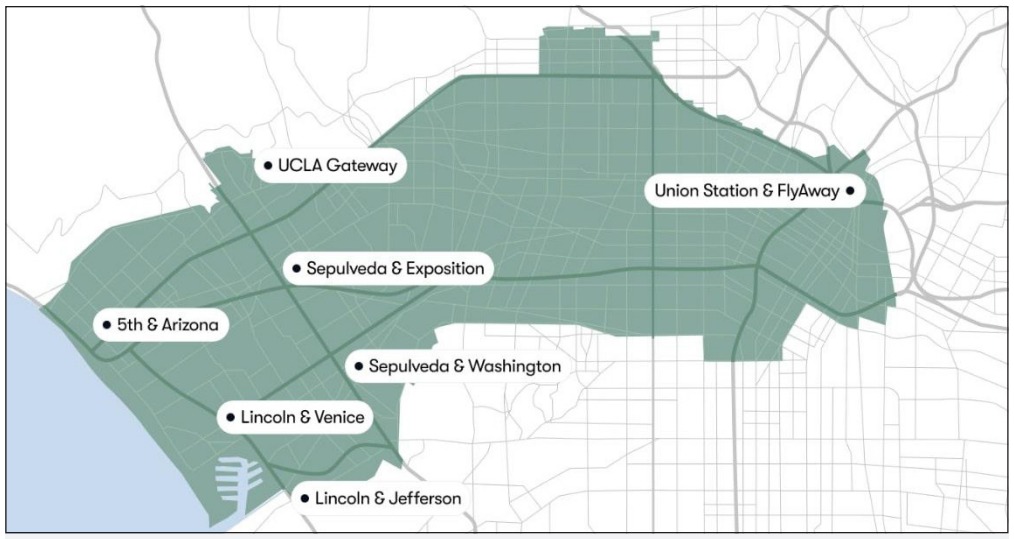
Bids will only be accepted through the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**, OpenGov or https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via OpenGov immediately after bid close time.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK: N/A
PROJECT ESTIMATE: $8,500,000
CONTRACT DAYS: 365 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $6,700 Per Calendar Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have a **Class A General Engineering Contractor** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

Waymo introduces transit credit program for trips to Big Blue Bus stops



Courtesy Graphic

TRANSIT: Waymo announced a transit credit pilot program for riders who travel to one of several Big Blue Bus stops.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

In the cutthroat rideshare industry, it's not typical to promote other modes of transportation, but Waymo has proven to be anything but typical during its Los Angeles rollout.

The autonomous rideshare company announced this week that it is launching a pilot transit credit program for Los Angeles riders, steering them toward public transportation options to get to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Through April 1, riders that take a Waymo to one of eight eligible transit stations en route to LAX will receive a $3 credit on future rides.

Eligible transit stations include Big Blue Bus locations at 5th & Arizona in Santa Monica, Lincoln & Venice in Venice and Sepulveda & Washington in Mar Vista. Credits can be used once per day, twice per week, and are automatically uploaded into an account. The Los Angeles pilot program comes after a successful similar program in San Francisco.

"Waymo wants to continue reinforcing that we want to be part of a multimodal transportation system," Waymo Los Angeles City Policy Manager Adam Lane said. "We hope to continue to be (a) first-mile, last-mile solution for public transit … as we're currently not serving LAX, we wanted to make sure that Waymo riders had a way to get to (and) from the airport."

The company made local transit agencies aware of the program in advance, a move that promotes public transit lines and a more affordable, energy-efficient means of transportation.

"We appreciate Waymo's continued commitment to expanding mobility access for communities in Santa Monica and West Los Angeles … we hope it helps make first-last mile connections with Big Blue Bus more seamless for those traveling to and from LAX, and encourages more people to experience our service as a safe, sustainable, and convenient alternative to driving," Santa Monica Department of Transportation Director Anuj Gupta said.

While the company could be selfish and shut out multimodal activities for business' sake, Lane said Waymo doesn't "view ourselves as a one size fits all solution," and it will take the collaboration with public transit to address traffic safety and emission issues.

Rolling out in Los Angeles over the past few months, Waymo has been in contact with LAX officials about potentially serving trips to and from the airport. Lane added that making over 200,000 trips to and from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix makes him "confident" the company can soon serve the air travel hub.

Since beginning in Los Angeles, Lane said the company continues to see high demand for the product, used for major attractions and daily activities alike. The autonomous vehicles have just begun freeway testing as well in the Santa Monica area, echoing how Waymo used the city as its initial Los Angeles testing ground.

thomas@smdp.com

To learn how to feature your upcoming event on the SMDP and various digital event calendars

Contact dina@smdp.com today!

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California faces its biggest call to action yet as climate-powered disasters worsen

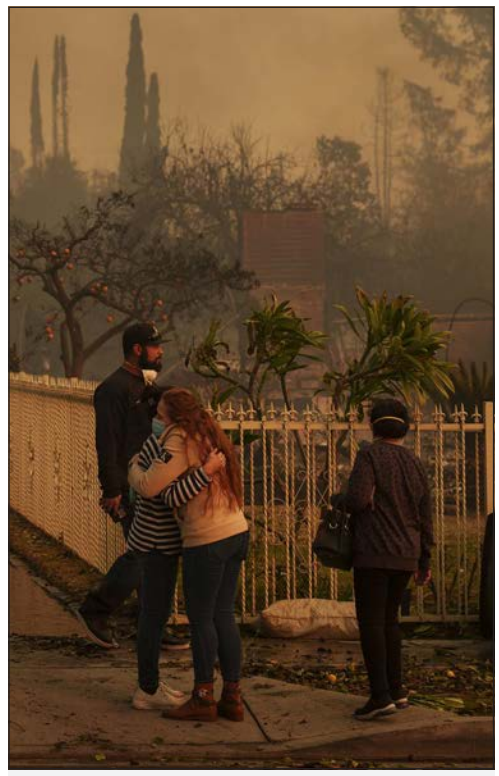


Photo by Jules Hotz for CalMatters

CLIMATE: A person who lost their home receives a hug in an Altadena neighborhood affected by the Eaton Fire on Jan. 8, 2025.

California can step up big when it wants to.

Three years ago, California received an 'A' on the California Environmental Scorecard, an annual tool to assess the state's environmental action, after making landmark investments in climate justice solutions and adopting sweeping policy wins across environmental sectors. In 2023 and 2024, California earned a 'B' for climate action — a period marked by big steps forward and some steps back.

With 2025 being ushered in by the most devastating natural disaster in U.S. history, and the Trump administration retreating from the Paris Climate Agreement, rescinding over 70 pro-environmental actions and attacking California's own conservation progress, this is California's big call to action.

As one of the world's largest economies, home to over 10% of Americans and the state that contributes over 14% of the nation's revenue, California has a unique and outsized responsibility to be a counterweight against federal attacks, step up internationally and trailblaze the next wave of big state action.

With five years left until 2030 deadlines to avert the worst impacts of climate change and four years of a hostile federal government ahead, we can't afford to pause globally or nationally on implementing solutions. What state leaders do at this moment will have both local and global implications on whether we make the changes necessary to protect the places and people we care about.

The main obstacle to government action at the scale this crisis demands are corporate polluters as one of the biggest financial spenders on elections and lobbying in California. The California Environmental Scorecard started tracking legislators that accept money from Big Oil at the turn of the decade.

Here's why this is important: In 2021, 65% percent of California legislators accepted direct money from oil companies, and in 2024 that number dropped to 51%. In 2024, the average score of Democrats who took oil money is 70%, and the average score of Democrats who didn't take oil money is 95%. The connection is crystal clear.

The inability of state leaders to resist the oil and gas lobby and transition to clean energy and resilience left Los Angeles — and so many other communities — more vulnerable to supercharged natural disasters. The emotional, health and economic impact will be felt for years, and generations, to come.

California cannot afford inaction. The cost is too great. Beyond the devastation Los Angeles and other communities are experiencing, the fossil-fueled climate crisis is creating an affordability crisis with rising energy rates, insurance costs and more.

As much as California leaders have done — to be clear, they have done a lot — there is so much more needed in the next few years. Taxpayers and ratepayers have been paying for the devastation and mitigation caused by oil and gas companies, and corporate polluters must finally pay their fair share.

California needs a polluters' fund to invest in using national infrastructure to help conserve landscapes and make communities more resilient, mitigating against catastrophic fires, scaling up clean energy, and electrifying our buildings and transportation. We need to pass robust insurance and utility reform. And agencies, like the California Air Resources Board and local Air Quality Management Districts, have the opportunity this year to phase out residential fossil appliances driving pollution and health impacts, while also reforming utility regulations.

Oil and gas pollution put the things we value at risk. We have a unique opportunity in a challenging time that we need to get right. This moment is California's big call to action. The vision and focus state leaders show right now will determine our reality today and in the future.

Mary Creasman is the CEO of California Environmental Voters. Mike Young is the executive director of California Environmental Voters. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

HOA HOMEFRONT

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Balcony Inspections Deadline has Passed - is YOUR HOA Compliant?

BY KELLY G. RICHARDSON, ESQ. CCAL

Civil Code Section 5551 requires a visual inspection of "exterior elevated elements" ("EEE's") by January 1, 2025. That deadline has expired, leaving a liability risk for unaware or otherwise noncompliant HOAs.

The statute arose from 2019's Senate Bill 326, sparked by the collapse of a dry rotted balcony which in 2015 killed six people in Berkeley. Apartment landlords are subject to a similar Health and Safety Code statute from SB 721, enacted in 2018.

Section 5551 applies to HOAs with buildings consisting of at least three attached units (so duplex-type condominiums are excluded), and only to areas which are the HOA's responsibility to maintain or repair. "EEE's" are defined as wood-supported elements over six feet above ground level which include walking surfaces and which extend out from the exterior walls of the building. So, in addition to balcony decks, wood-supported stairs and wood bridges connecting buildings could also be EEE's.

HOAs must every nine years obtain visual inspections of "EEE's" by either a licensed civil engineer, structural engineer, or architect. The inspection can be purely visual, so dismantling of building locations is not required. Inspectors will prepare a written report, and if an immediate threat to safety is discovered the inspector must notify both the HOA and the local building code enforcement authority.

Some HOAs where the only EEE's are balconies are amending their CC&Rs to reallocate balcony responsibility to individual homeowners. Other HOAs are hiring inspectors to comply with Section 5551. Still other HOAs are pursuing a more comprehensive inspection of the buildings and are making widespread repairs. However, unfortunately, many HOAs are violating Section 5551 despite four years' advance notice.

There is a persistent and completely false rumor that the Legislature passed a one-year postponement of Section 5551's deadline to 2026. What is true is that the SB 721 (not SB 326) deadline was extended by 2024's AB 2579, which amended only the Health and Safety Code regarding apartments. AB 2579 excluded HOAs – subpart "(n)" of that bill says "This section shall not apply to a common interest development, as defined in Section 4100 of the Civil Code" (Section 4100 is part of the Davis-Stirling Act). HOAs still are under Civil Section 5551 and its January 1, 2025 deadline.

Noncompliance is very dangerous, because the statute essentially creates a standard of care. What if, after failing to obtain the inspection required by Section 5551, an HOA has a failure of an EEE that might have been caught by that inspection? What if someone is injured in that failure? Could the HOA and its board be liable for negligence, or even reckless behavior?

Some HOAs may seek to excuse their lack of compliance by invoking financial hardship. However, just as with the rest of the Davis-Stirling Common Interest Development Act, the HOA's inability to pay is not an excuse from Section 5551's inspection requirements.

HOAs delaying compliance with Section 5551 are gambling. Is the risk of loss of insurance coverage, loss of immunity, punitive damages, and the risk of possibly avoidable injury to residents a gamble your HOA is willing to take?

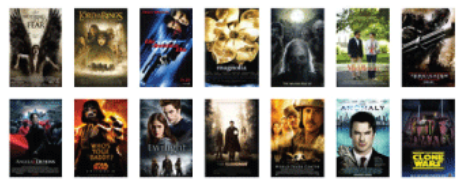
Condominium buyers and their Realtors® are starting to demand a copy of the EEE inspection report as a condition of the purchase – expect that to become more widespread.

Kelly G. Richardson, Esq. is a Fellow of the College of Community Association Lawyers and Partner of Richardson Ober LLP, a California law firm known for community association advice. Submit questions to Kelly@roattorneys.com. Past columns at www.HOAHomefront.com. All rights reserved®.

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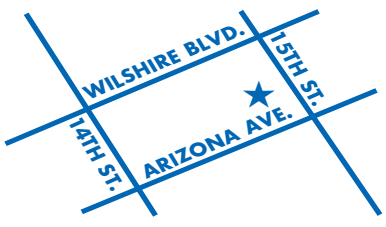
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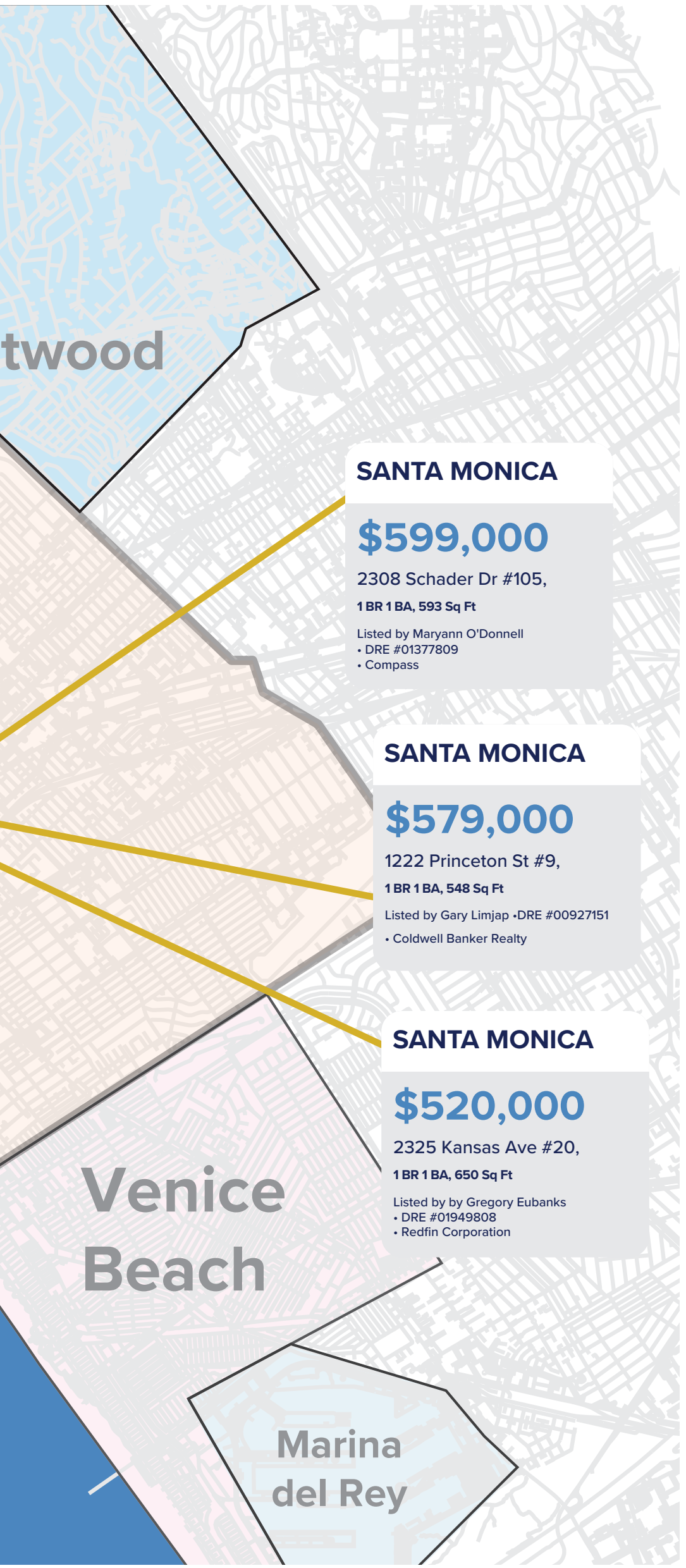
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Santa Monica Daily Press



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• Compass

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Los Angeles Wildfire Relief

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Our hearts go out to all affected by the Los Angeles wildfires. We understand that many residents are in transition, and we would like to help.

We are accepting gently used wheeled luggage donations through our A Case For Giving Event at the below locations, and donors will receive up to $100 OFF A NEW BRIGGS & RILEY BAG.
If you have a wheeled bag to donate or need a bag, please call the store for more information.

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395 Santa Monica Place, Suite 242, Santa Monica
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818-784-1355

H SAVINAR LUGGAGE
10730 Washington Blvd, Culver City
323-938-2501

LA, We ♥ You.

Pardee Properties' Gift to the Community

Help support families displaced by the wildfires that have left many in our community without homes, facing unimaginable challenges. **We've launched a NO COST home matchmaking program to connect those who NEED homes with those who can PROVIDE homes.** These are not MLS listings, but places offered by generous neighbors & friends.

How You Can Help

Have a home or rental to offer?
If you have a rental, guest house, or vacant property that could temporarily house a displaced family, please scan the QR code below to fill out our intake form.

Need housing?
If you or someone you know has been displaced, we're here to help.

What You Should Know

Completely Free
No fees or commissions—this is a 100% NO COST community initiative.

Real Impact
We've already matched 60+ families and are working tirelessly to assist more. Every home offered makes a difference for a family in need.

To fill out our intake form and join this critical effort, scan this QR code
OR Visit pardeeproperties.com/connect

Thank you for your compassion and generosity,
Tami Pardee & the Pardee Properties Team

PARDEE PROPERTIES

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FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 7

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Annex, Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. Haven Neighborhood Services, in partnership with Virginia Avenue Park and Santa Monica Public Library, presents Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program assistance. The VITA Grant program is an IRS initiative that supports free tax preparation services for the underserved. Please bring the following documents: Physical photo ID, original SSN/ITIN card, 2024 W-2 or 1099 forms, bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit. To schedule an appointment, call 310-458-8688 or email vap@santamonica.gov.

POLITICS & LUNCH
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Shutters on the Beach, 1 Pico Blvd. A politics and lunch event featuring Mayor Lana Negrete and "'A Vision for the City.'" Presented by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. $50 for Chamber members, $100 for non-members, for more information contact Judy.kruger@smchamber.com.

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 8

RUMMAGE SALE
8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Santa Monica Elks Lodge, 1040 Pico Blvd. Multi-family sale, don't miss out on great items. Selling a selection of used, but not abused, items including home decor, books, clothing, household appliances, dishes, electronics, pet supplies and more. Indoor sale with plenty of free parking and hot coffee. For more information, contact Gloria Steck at 310-452-3557 or Gloriakiddsteck@yahoo.com.

WOMEN'S HEART SYMPOSIUM
8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Hotel Casa Del Mar, 1910 Ocean Way. Join to learn more about women's heart disease, risk prevention, healthy lifestyle habits, medical advances and more. The day will include speakers, presentations, gifts, delicious food and fun. Tickets $75, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/12th-annual-womens-heart-symposium-in-person-tickets-1115586050909.

GROWING HERBS SUCCESSFULLY
9 - 11 a.m. Main Street Community Garden, 2318 Main St. Join for a special workshop by Stephen Reid, UC Master Gardener and certified herbalist on growing herbs successfully. He will focus on tips and techniques to grow herbs, how to grow herbs in small spaces and containers, and how to start from seeds vs. small plants. He will also discuss using herbs for general wellness and their unique medicinal properties focusing on Nettles, Calendula and Rosemary. Limited seating, please bring a chair or blanket.

MINI VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Join Virginia Avenue Park for an unforgettable Valentine's celebration. Families are invited to unleash their creativity at the Valentine's Day craft booth, snap fun and festive photos at the Photo Booth, and browse unique, hand-crafted treasures at the SMC Valentine's Glass sale.

PROJECT SAVE OUR SURF BEACH CLEAN UP
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Santa Monica Beach Tower 26, 2559 Ocean Front Walk. Join Project Save Our Surf for a fun afternoon of music and refreshments cleaning the beach. Buckets and gloves will also be provided for the cleanup. Connect with others in Los Angeles working to support our environment. To RSVP, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/project-save-our-surf-beach-clean-up-tickets-1146542662969.

WRITERS BLOC PRESENTS RICK STEVES
4 p.m. John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center, 1630 Pearl St. Rick Steves will discuss his book "'On The Hippie Trail"' and discuss the concept of travel as a political act, about the need to get out of our comfort zones and talk to people who live where we travel. Tickets $25, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/writers-bloc-presents-rick-steves-tickets-1077700082959.

AN EVENING OF MOZART, BRAHMS & BEETHOVEN
6:30 - 9:30 p.m. The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage, 1310 11th St. Immerse yourself in the timeless beauty of Mozart, Brahms and Beethoven at a special musical soiree. Features Violinist Andrew Sords and Cellist John Walz. Kick off the evening with an exclusive wine tasting and delectable small bites provided by the Los Angeles Chapter of the Entrepreneurs' Organization. Tickets $38, $25 for students and seniors. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-of-mozart-brahms-beethoven-tickets-1093681072529.

ALEICHEM SHOLOM
7 - 8:20 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. This joyous and poignant musical, back for a limited engagement after a three-year sell-out run, follows the life of the beloved Yiddish storyteller as he spins tales of his loves and losses, fame and failures, his travels, travails and the tremendous optimism that kept him going against all odds. Tickets $19.50-$35, free for first responders. To purchase, visit: https://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/aleichem-sholom.html.

SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 9

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY AT HOLEY MOLEY
3:30 p.m. Holey Moley, 1315 3rd Street Promenade. Swing by Holey Moley this Super Bowl Sunday for the ultimate viewing experience, including $20 beer buckets and 2 pounds of delicious wings for $40. Witness all the action on the screens while Holey Moley takes care of the rest.

MONDAY | FEBRUARY 10

SANTA MONICA ARTS COMMISSION
6:30 - 8 p.m. Ruskin Group Theatre Bungalow 10, 2800 Airport Ave. City art and culture programs are guided by the 9-member Santa Monica Arts Commission, which was formally established in 1982 to ensure a regular and ongoing assessment of art programs in the City. Appointed by the Santa Monica City Council, Arts Commissioners advise the Council on matters of policy, and strive to encourage the flow of art into the City and stimulate art activity here.

LANDMARKS COMMISSION
7 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. Established in 1975, the mission of the Landmarks Commission is "To protect improvements and areas which represent the City's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history; safeguard the City's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage; and promote the use of landmarks and historic districts for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people."

TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 11

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB
10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Patio Room, Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Come learn and have fun each week with something new like exercise, talking with friends, learning, guest presenters and health & wellness. For more information, call 310-458-8688.

TUESDAY TALES
10:30 - 11 a.m. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St. This fun and engaging weekly series features stories, songs and rhymes and travels to a different library location each week. Free tickets are available at 10:15 a.m. For ages 2-5.

ART BANK UNVEILING
4 - 5 p.m. Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. Join artist Gary Tyler for the unveiling of "In Memoriam of an Ashanti Warrior, 1996." This textile work wad completed in 2024 and acquired for the municipal Art Bank with the support of Frieze Los Angeles.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
5:30 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. 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: Housing Authority, Parking Authority, Public Financing, Redevelopment Successor Agency, Audit Subcommittee.

LIBRARY LOVERS MONTH TRIVIA NIGHT
6 - 7 p.m. Solidarity Restaurant, 1414 Lincoln Blvd. Celebrate Library Lovers' Month and flex your literary knowledge with a trivia contest. Compete individually or as a team to win prizes and show your love for your local library.

WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 12

COMPUTER BASICS
10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Computer Training Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Join for a free hands-on introduction to using email to send messages, files and photos.

SIMPLE STRATEGIES TO PREVENT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
1 - 2 p.m. Virtual. Conversations around body safety should happen in every family and can be done with ease and without fear or discomfort. Come discover how you can start this conversation with your child today. To register, visit: https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4p37ye0tx7x8156869h449vp-wk/202502121300.

COOKIES & CARD CRAFTING FOR KIDS
3:30 - 5 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Make a Valentine's card for your loved ones and decorate cookies. All materials provided. For ages 2-10.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB
4:30 - 6 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Join the adventure for one-shot sessions with characters you have created or pick-up a readymade character for the day's journey. All materials provided. Ages 9-14.

LITERARY LOUNGE
6:15 - 7:30 p.m. Tutoring Center, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Discover the joy of social reading at the Literary Lounge; a space for bibliophiles to bond over books, with music and refreshments. Bring your own book or choose one from a collection of staff favorites.

WICKS & WINE
6:30 - 9 p.m. AJA Vineyards, 1417 2nd St. Join for a fun evening of candle making and wine tasting. Unleash your creativity as you craft your own custom scented candle, sip on some delicious wines and socialize with friends. Tickets $65, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wicks-wine-at-aja-vineyards-tickets-1218666055979.

AN EVENING WITH DUCKHORN VINEYARDS
7 - 9 p.m. Marina Del Rey Hotel, 13534 Bali Way, Marina del Rey. This Valentine's season, treat yourself (and maybe someone special) to an unforgettable evening featuring the world-renowned Duckhorn Portfolio. Ticket includes welcome glass of Sparkling Rose and a three-course dinner paired with Duckhorn wines. Tickets $75, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-duckhorn-vineyards-at-marina-del-rey-hotel-tickets-1092815463469.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

Summons

Summons (Citación Judicial) SUM 100Case No: 24SMCV02567NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO ALDEMANDADO): PATRICK MCCANEY, an individual;JENNIFER MCCANEY, an individual; B.M., a minor;and Does1 to 20, Inclusive,YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁDEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):SAVANAH KOUSNETZ, an individual,NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decideagainst you without your being heard unless yourespond within 30 days. Read the information below.You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summonsand legal papers are served on you to file a writtenresponse at this court and have a copy served on thecross-complaint. A letter or phone call will not protectyou. Your written response must be in proper legalform if you want the court to hear your case. Theremay be a court form that you can use for yourresponse. You can find these court forms and moreinformation at the California Courts Online Self-HelpCenter (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your countylaw library, or the courthouse nearest you. If youcannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a feewaiver form. If you do not file your response on time,you may lose the case by default, and your wages,money, and property may be taken without furtherwarning from the court.There are other legal requirements. You may want tocall an attorney right away. If you do not know anattorney, you may want to call an attorney referralservice. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may beeligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legalservices program. You can locate these nonprofitgroups at the California Legal Services Website(www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California CourtsOnline Self-Help Center(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting yourlocal court or county bar association. NOTE: Thecourt has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs onany settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 ormore in a civil case. The court's lien must be paidbefore the court will dismiss the case.¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentrode 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sinescuchar su versión. Lea la información acontinuación.Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que leentreguen esta citación y papeles legales parapresentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte yhacer que se entregue una copia alcontrademandante. Una carta o una llamadatelefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escritotiene que estar en el formato legal correcto si deseaque procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible quehaya un formulario que usted pueda usar para surespuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de lacorte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de lasCortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en labiblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que lequede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota depresentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le déun formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si nopresenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el casopor incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar susueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable quellame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce aun abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión aabogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, esposible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtenerservicios legales gratuitos de un programa deservicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrarestos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web deCalifornia Legal Services,(www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayudade las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) oponiéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio deabogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tienederecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentospor imponer un gravamen sobre cualquierrecuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibidamediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje enun caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar elgravamen de la corte antes de que la corte puedadesechar el caso. The name and address of the court is (El Nombre ydirección de la Corte es): Superior Court of California,County of Los Angeles, Santa Monica Courthouse1725 Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90401The name, address, and telephone number ofcross-complaint attorney, or cross-complaint withoutan attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número deteléfono del abogado del demandante, o deldemandante que no tiene abogado, es):Shawn Gleizer , Impact Attorneys, P.C., 15303Ventura Blvd., Suite 1650 Sherman Oaks, CA 91403.Tel: 818-350-2349. Date (fecha) 05/30/2024 David WSlayton executive officer Clerk, by (Secretario), J.Hernandez Deputy (adjunto) STATEMENT OF DAMAGES(Personal Injury or Wrongful Death) Civ 050Case No: 24PSCV00443Attorney for Miao YangATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY(Name and Address):Michael E. Israel, Esq. [SBN 263946] Tel Phone 626-317-0033Demidchik Law Firm, P.C.17800 Castleton Street, Suite 605City of Industry, CA 91748SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OFSTREET ADDRESS:MAILING ADDRESS: 400 Civic Center PlazaCITY AND ZIP CODE: Pomona, 91766BRANCH NAME: Pomona Courthouse SouthPLAINTIFF: Miao YangDEFENDANT: Lin MA and Sheng GuoSTATEMENT OF DAMAGES(Personal Injury or Wrongful Death)To (name of one defendant only): Lin MaPlaintiff (name of one plaintiff only):Miao Yangseeks damages in the above-entitled action, as follows:1. General damages AMOUNT a. Pain, suffering, and inconvenience. $ 1,000,000.00 b. Emotional distress.$ 500,000.00 c. Loss of consortium.$ d. Loss of society andcompanionship (wrongful death actions only) .$ e. Other (specify) $f. Other (specify) $g. Continued on Attachment 1.g.2. Special damagesa. Medical expenses (to date) .$ b. Futuremedical expenses (present value) .$ 200,000.00 d. Loss of future earningcapacity (present value) .$ f. Funeral expenses (wrongfuldeath actions only) . $ g. Future contributions (present value) (wrongful death actions only) . $ h. Value of personal service, advice, or training(wrongful death actions only) .$ i. Other (specify) $j. Other (specify) $k. Continued on Attachment 2.k.3. Punitive damages: Plaintiff reserves the right to seek punitive damages in the amount of (specify).. $ 1,000,000.00when pursuing a judgment in the suit filed against you. Date: 11/5/2024(TYPE OR PRINT NAME) MICHAEL E ISRAEL(SIGNATURE OF PLAINTIFF OR ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF) MICHAEL E ISRAELPROOF OF SERVICE(After having the other party served as described below, with any of the documents identified in item 1, have theperson who servedThe documents complete this Proof of Service. Plaintiff cannot serve these papers.)1. I served thea. Statement of Damagesc. by servingOTHER SERVED BY PUBLICATION2. Manner of service (check proper box):f. Other (specify code section):SERVED BY PUBLICATION

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

PROTEST

FROM PAGE 2

Trump stepped back into office last month. Waters, along with Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association President Claudia Bautista-Nicholas, coordinated with city officials and the office of Mayor Lana Negrete to make sure it was a safe, yet effective, endeavor.

"They felt really powerless, really scared, but also really motivated to make their voices heard," Waters said. "I could see that motivation in my class, but it really came from the students saying we want to do something, we want to walk out, we want to protest what's happening."

And protest they did, making a call to action that it's the student's "right and privilege" to participate. Once at City Hall, there were profanity-laced tirades and calls and responses that were responded with bigger cheers every time.

Choosing City Hall for the protest, Javerbaum said it was important to bring a "list of demands" including wanting local resolutions defending LGBTQ+ students in schools and preventing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from detaining students.

"We wanted to be able to communicate to our immediate constituents of our city (and) say this is what we stand for, this is our opinion on the current political climate, and we want you to protect our rights as your constituents," Samohi senior and organizer Elliott Ho added.

SMMUSD officials have been actively listening to students' concerns, particularly committing to the district as a safe haven after the Trump administration moved to rescind ICE's "sensitive locations" policy. The policy prevents immigration enforcement actions in or around locations such as schools.

"The change to the policy does not overrule a child's constitutional right to an education," SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton wrote this past week. "It also does not overrule state constitutional protections. A lawfully executed court order is required for access … SMMUSD will continue to be the welcoming school district to all students in the neighborhoods we serve."

On Thursday, nearly 40 members of the Roosevelt Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association approved a letter calling on SMMUSD to provide comprehensive staff training on how to support undocumented students and their families, and to create a culture of "celebration and support" for students of different backgrounds.

"Our schools must be more than safe zones in name - they must be places where students know, without question, that they belong and that we stand by them," Roosevelt PTA Legislation Chair Amy Wiwuga wrote. "As a district that prides itself on equity, inclusion and excellence, we have a responsibility to meet this moment with both compassion and action."

The high attendance of the protest was a surprise to another organizer, senior Kayman Mangan, who said she received initial backlash from some students who thought it was a "symbolic act of protest" that wouldn't make immediate change.

"I'm constantly surrounded by ignorant fools who do nothing but sit on their ass and think oh, I'm just one person, so I can't do anything, and that is just the opposite of the truth … seeing everyone out here today was really epic and awesome, and I can't believe we got this many people," Mangan said.

Javerbaum agreed, saying that "apathy is the killer of all progress." With speaker after speaker taking to the megaphone, the Samohi contingent proved it was anything but apathetic.

"It was really moving to me … I'm so proud of their ability to speak in front of a crowd, their ability to make their beliefs heard," Waters said. "As an English teacher, it's like a dream come true to watch students using their voice to advocate for what they believe in."

thomas@smdp.com





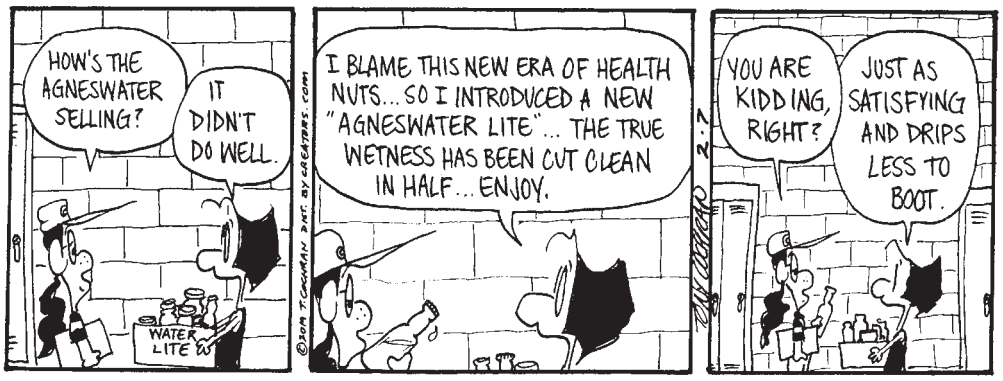


Photo by Thomas Leffler

PROTEST: Samohi students walked out of class Thursday, taking to City Hall to stage a protest against the Donald Trump administration's actions.

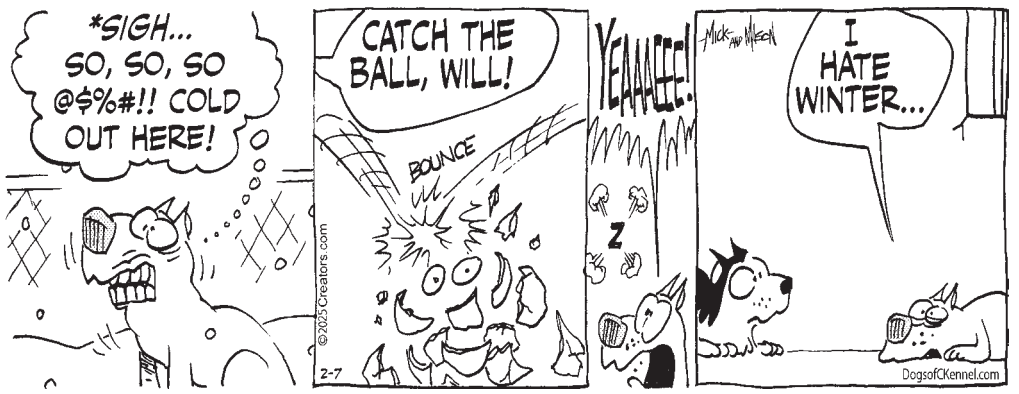
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE CAN ALWAYS SPOT A CAT PERSON."

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 6479

Wool growers

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

Ache	Expert	Layer	Tails
Averages	Fine	Pays	Thirsty
Bale	Fleece	Pedigree	Tired
Bench	Flock	Pests	Tough
Buck	Grass	Press	Waste
Burrs	Guns	Price	Wool
Clip	Hands	Rams	Work
Combs	Harsh	Rouseabout	Yards
Count	Hogget	Smoko	Yield
Dags	Horses	Snakes	
Dogs	Hungry	Squatter	
Ewes	Kelpie	Stamina	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
It's in here somewhere

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 7)

You'll count yourself among the fortunate with this year's perfect recipe, which balances thrills with comforts, adventures with contentment. You won't have to plan this because when you go heart-first into endeavors the landscape magically aligns to support the whole of you. More highlights: You'll work to make a difference with a small group. You'll have restraint and good timing in finance, and you'll exchange cherished words in sacred settings. Leo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 14, 37, 50 and 42.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Wanting what everyone wants, what's socially acceptable and what's popular don't always lead to happiness. To notice your own preferences is an act of love. Bring your attention to the nuances that light you up, as these are paths to joy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Relationships that inspire, uplift and energize you are your fuel. Set a boundary around draining connections while deepening bonds that feel nourishing. Reflect weekly: Did this connection feed my soul or drain it?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Today represents a meaningful turning point for you, both in your decisions and in how you're reckoning with your past and your potential. It's no small thing to come to the new day with clarity and resolve.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You know when your energy is peak and when it's likely to wane. Structure your day so the most vibrant hours go to meaningful purposes, not the ones that merely fulfill your sense of duty or financial bottom line. You deserve to get the best of you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Leadership is a learning process. Listen, then guide. The more you understand about your people and your goal, the better you'll be at delivering all to the finish line. Humility is the secret sauce of inspiration.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're drawn to the idea of decluttering -- not just physical possessions but emotional and logistical "noise." A mantra like "Clear, calm, creative" will guide your decisions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Take a moment to ground yourself before work, interactions or decisions. Use cues like deep breaths or small rituals to reset. Your whimsical, intimate style depends on being fully present.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Making an impression is important to you, and it keeps you striving to leave your mark. Just know that trying or giving too much isn't necessary today. Sweet, effortless connection is where it's at.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). What if it's not about being universally liked, but deeply understood by a few? You deserve relationships that feel mutual and enriching. Maybe it's also about creating space for the people who can hold and cherish that fountain of ideas you are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In the same way that engineers and architects collaborate with gravity by designing structures that account for its pull, you will cooperate with indifferent forces and thrive because you quickly accept and incorporate that which cannot be changed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). In everything you do, you'll masterfully blend the practical with the soulful. This is most noticeably part of your keystone habits, which will have a positive effect on many facets of your life at once.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Every commitment comes with a price. Your time is too valuable to obligate yourself with joyless tasks. You might not be entirely clear on what you want right now, and that's OK. Knowing what you don't want is just as helpful to your navigation system.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

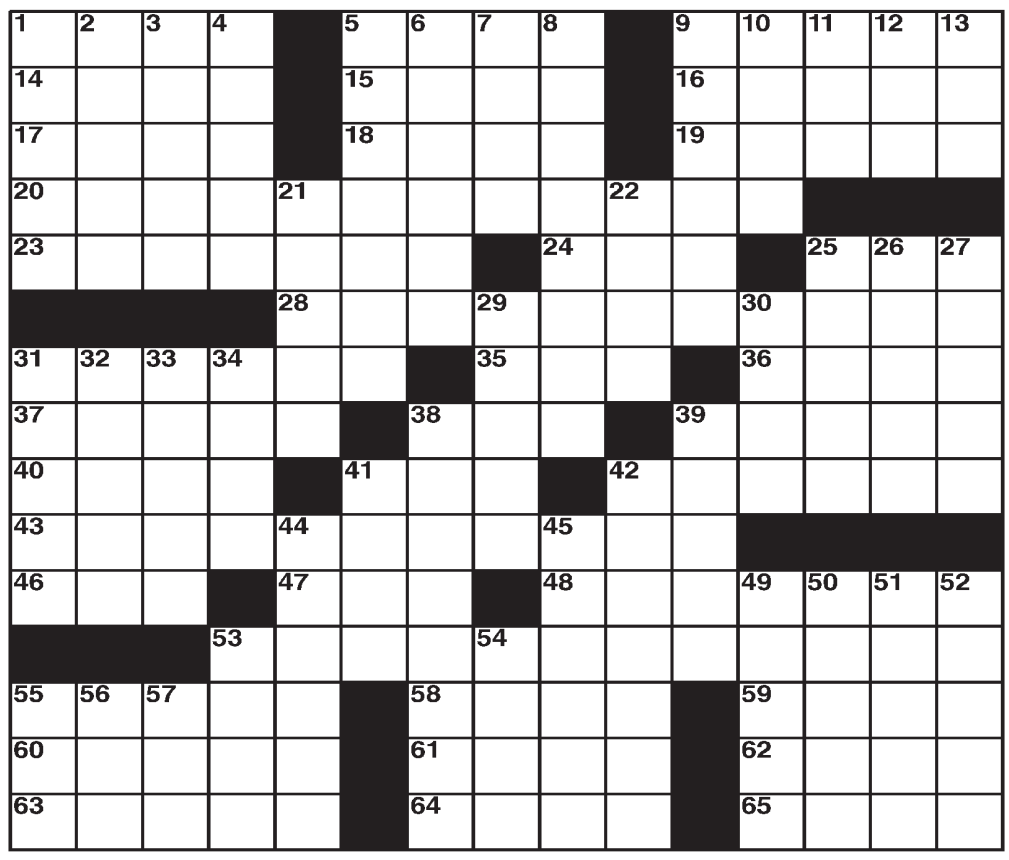
IT'S COLD OUTSIDE by Carolyn Stewart
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Bubble mailer feature
5 Staff communication
9 Isn't consistent
14 Temporary calm
15 *Paradise Lost* locale
16 Summon forth
17 Its home field is the Rose Bowl
18 Go for the gold
19 "Inviting Intelligence" group
20 Rodeo regular
23 Shove off
24 Bit produced by a smoke alarm
25 Message to squad cars
28 Source of family funds
31 Stop on the London-Paris train
35 Hi-__ monitor
36 Landmark near Catania
37 About-face
38 Relief
39 Quarters, for example
40 Knock down
41 Stein filler
42 Prep-school events
43 Network, for instance
46 Go astray
47 *Breaking Bad* network
48 Light green
53 Trooper's device
55 Got to it
58 Stir up
59 Metaphor for a promotion
60 *Oz the Great and Powerful* director
61 Detail often drawn by Degas
62 Bear observed at night
63 Come after
64 Detroit River destination
65 Beheld

DOWN

1 Blunders
2 Monetary gain
3 Parcel out
4 Thinks ahead
5 They're bound to hold recollections
6 Nutritive
7 Diet-book page
8 Partisan
9 Person from Mocha
10 Wrapped up
11 Distant, in verse
12 Green-lights
13 Vast amount
21 Lincoln's birthplace
22 Hauls in
25 Ludicrous
26 Cylinders under sauce
27 Orchestral section
29 Source of the Golden Fleece
30 Vibrant, as crayon colors
31 Reins in
32 Game brand before Nintendo
33 Manila's island
34 Field of study
38 Ordered separately
39 December elevator music
41 Crowning point
42 Cheapen
44 "Rats!"
45 Gauguin hangout
49 Hannah Montana portrayer
50 Sky shade
51 Impenetrable
52 Bach played it
53 Ole Miss rival
54 Promotional trip
55 What surrounds the four longest answers
56 __ Claire, WI
57 Bar supply



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02/07/25

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

BUSINESS

FROM PAGE 1

Richard Chacker, owner of Perry's on the Beach, said his business has been operating at just 20% of normal levels since the fire, with some days dropping as low as 10% of typical revenue. His sales are based almost entirely on nearby residents as visitor dollars have simply disappeared.

"If we did not have the locals, we would not be in business right now. We are so marginalized now that it is scary, scary, scary. Never, ever before has it been like this, this bad," Chacker said.

In some ways, the impact on Perry's was more severe than many other businesses as the company operates locations north of the Pier that were inaccessible due to road closures and the need of emergency services to use the parking lots.

However, much of Chacker's experience is indicative of larger trends: air quality concerns have torpedoed outdoor dining (the City of Santa Monica is responding with waived fees), mass cancellations of organized trips has crippled tourism businesses (Perry's alone lost nearly $90,000 in canceled events for February and the relocation of the Genesis golf tournament from nearby Riviera Country Club has impacted local hotels) and pre-existing concerns over the city's economy have exploded into a full-blown crisis for some retailers.

"We want people to know we're open for business, and we need your business," Chacker said. "Santa Monica didn't get burned out. We're here to help our neighbors, and that's what we're doing in every way we possibly can."

Montana Ave. has also seen losses as a direct result of the fires. As the economic area closest to the Palisades, much of its customer base has simply disappeared post-fire.

David Kianmahd with the Montana Ave. Merchants Association said businesses along the street have absolutely felt the loss of Palisadian shoppers. While some remaining Palisades residents are now shopping on Montana due to the loss of their local businesses, there are far less of them compared to the number of customers who have been displaced from their homes. Of those who are still shopping, Kianmahd said they have other choices on the Westside that are just more attractive than Santa Monica.

"But a lot of those people actually just moved away, moved out of the Westside so it feels dire," he said.

Kianmahd operates his Montana business, Divine Vintage, alongside Jennifer Rush and both also work at Blue Plate Taco on Ocean. He said business owners are working to create a welcoming space for anyone, fire evacuee or local, but ongoing issues around homelessness, safety and the cost of doing business make it difficult for Santa Monica to compete with other nearby retail zones.

"Myself and the owner Jenny of Divine Vintage and wine bar on Montana, we work so hard to turn that, like 800 square feet into, like, a little magical place where people can kind of escape and come and, you know, find cool wines and find cool vintage pieces," he said. "And we're spending a ton of money on redoing our back patio area to give people a safe outdoor space where they can really enjoy nice weather without being in a parklet where there's a risk. I've had transients do some crazy things, so it's a safer space back there. So it's such a huge effort and such a huge lift on the business owners to keep business going. And we do it because we love people. We do it because we'd love to create a special time for people, but when the climate is difficult to do business in, it just becomes more and more of a ride, and it becomes harder to make those special moments for people."

Santa Monica's Economic Development Director Jennifer Taylor said the City has seen the problems and is working to support local businesses.

The city is waiving February outdoor dining license fees, a move that will cost approximately $80,000 in municipal revenue.

"We are waiving all outdoor dining monthly license fees for the month of February, just recognizing that so many of our restaurants, they're not doing as well as they were hoping to," she said. "They really need the outdoor space. Customers want to use it, especially now that the air has gotten so much better, and the air quality is generally safe, but recognizing to that many of them weren't able to use it."

In announcing the waiver, Mayor Lana Negrete said it's part of a larger effort.

"The city is committed to supporting our local businesses, and as a small business owner, I understand first hand how a disaster can reverberate across a business community," she said. "Waiving outdoor dining fees this month can provide much needed relief as we recover, and I encourage everyone to support our local restaurants, shops, hotels and businesses and enjoy everything our beautiful city has to offer."

There are also resources available at the Chamber of Commerce on Main Street who are hosting the Small Business Administration.

"So that's a tremendous resource for our businesses, so that they can go in and talk one on one with a business advisor about financial support," said Taylor. "It's mainly loans for the most part, but there are resources available, particularly also for our businesses, even though they weren't directly impacted by the fires in ways that the Palisades or Altadena businesses were but they're definitely feeling impacts because of the fire."

Taylor said tourism officials are working to counter international perceptions that Santa Monica itself burned, as some travelers have canceled spring break reservations and there are some silver linings, including displaced businesses from fire-affected areas relocating to Santa Monica. Sweet Laurel bakery, previously on Sunset Boulevard, has already opened a new location on Pico Boulevard and several schools are relocating to Santa Monica.

"We're fielding other inquiries from businesses and there's a lot of word of mouth to our existing businesses who know of folks who might be looking for places," she said. "So anyone who needs help, they can contact our economic development team so we can try and see how we can help support them here in our community."

More information for businesses is available online at https://www.santamonica.gov/business-resources-for-palisades-fire.

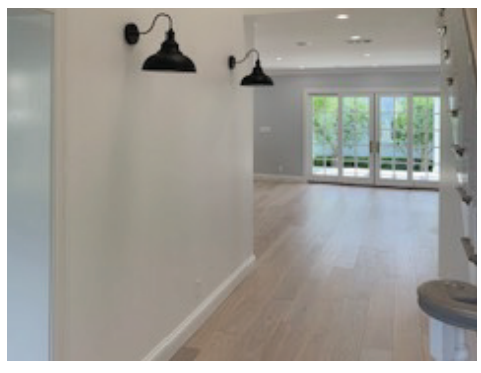
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For more information on the contest contact: dina@smdp.com | 310.573.8342