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Ex-MLB player found guilty.

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3rd Street Promenade.



Volume 25 Issue 59

MONDAY 2/9/26

smdp.com

Santa Monica sponsored law could turn the tide on coastal development

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur introduced legislation last week that would allow select coastal cities to bypass California Coastal Commission approval for housing projects, bike lanes and parking changes, marking a significant shift in how nearly 50-year-old coastal protection laws are applied in urban areas.

AB 1740 would permit cities designated as "urban multimodal communities" to locally approve housing developments and transportation improvements without individual coastal development permits. Zbur said the proposal preserves the commission's authority over projects that could harm sensitive coastal resources.

"The California Coastal Act is one of our state's most important environmental laws, and is critical to protecting coastal access and our treasured coastal resources," Zbur said. "However, in urbanized communities with robust public transit, current Coastal Commission standards must be modernized to achieve the important goals of the Coastal Act."

The bill, sponsored by the City of Santa Monica, Streets for All and Abundant Housing, comes as California prepares to host the



Matthew Hall

SEE DEVELOPMENT PAGE 8

COASTAL ZONE: A proposed law would eliminate the need for Coastal Commission permits in some areas.

SEE SMMUSD PAGE 6

School Board
considers safety
policy updates,
surveillance changes

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is revising decades-old safety policies to address modern security concerns, including restrictions on unauthorized recording and expanded use of surveillance cameras on campuses.

The Board of Education discussed proposed updates to visitor policies and campus security

SEE DUKES PAGE 7

Beloved 30-year-old
restaurant Duke's
Malibu reopening
end of Feb.

LILA VICTOR

Special to the Daily Press

When the Palisades Fire hit one year ago, Duke's Malibu was spared. But the restaurant's safety was short-lived; the mudslides in the wake of the post-fire storm caused damage throughout the building, resulting in a year-long closure while repairs were made. With hopes for a partial reopening in Aug. 2025 that were

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Ex-MLB player Yasiel Puig found guilty of obstruction and lying to federal officials

A jury has found former major league outfielder Yasiel Puig guilty of obstruction of justice and lying to federal officials investigating an illegal gambling operation, the U.S. Attorney's Office said Friday.

The verdict came after a multiweek trial that featured testimony from Major League Baseball officials and Donny Kadokawa, a Hawaii baseball coach that Puig placed bets through. Puig now faces up to 20 years in federal prison and is scheduled to be sentenced May 26.

Puig, 35, initially pled guilty to a felony charge of lying to federal agents investigating an illegal gambling operation. He acknowledged in an August 2022 plea agreement that he wracked up more than \$280,000 in losses over a few months in 2019 while wagering on tennis, football and basketball games through a third party who worked for an illegal gambling operation run by Wayne Nix, a former minor league baseball player.

Nix pled guilty in 2022 to conspiracy to operate an illegal gambling business and subscribing to a false tax return. He is still awaiting sentencing.

Authorities said Puig placed at least 900 bets through Nix-controlled betting websites and through a man who worked for Nix.

Prosecutors said that during a January 2022 interview with federal investigators, Puig denied knowing about the nature of his bets, who he was betting with, and the circumstances of paying his gambling debts.

But he changed his tune months later, announcing that he was switching his plea to not guilty because of "significant new evidence," according to a statement from his

attorneys in Los Angeles.

"I want to clear my name," Puig said in the statement. "I never should have agreed to plead guilty to a crime I did not commit."

The government argued that he intentionally misled the federal investigators. They played in court audio clips of Puig speaking English and brought expert witnesses to testify on Puig's cognitive abilities, the New York Times reported.

His attorneys said that Puig, who has a third-grade education, had untreated mental-health issues and did not have his own interpreter or criminal legal counsel with him during the interview with federal investigators where he purportedly lied.

Puig's former attorney Steven Gebelin testified that during the January 2022 interview, Puig tried to be helpful in answering the investigators' questions and the interpreter struggled with Puig's Spanish language dialect, according to the New York Times.

Puig batted .277 with 132 home runs and 415 RBIs while appearing in seven major league seasons, the first six with the Dodgers, where he earned an All-Star selection in 2014.

Dodgers broadcaster Vin Scully called Puig the "wild horse" for his on-field antics and talent at a young age, joining MLB at 22, a year after escaping his home country of Cuba.

He played for the Cincinnati Reds and the Cleveland Indians in 2019 before becoming a free agent. He then played in the Mexican League and last year he signed a one-year, \$1 million contact with South Korea's Kiwoom Heroes.

JAIMIE DING, Associated Press

THE MOST RELEVANT NEWS

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Los Angeles voters are moving ever leftward, shifting election politics in America's second-largest city

HOW LIBERAL IS LOS ANGELES?

That question is very much on the minds of political insiders and observers these days as the city turns to its municipal elections and makes important decisions about its future: how much to invest in public safety, how much to tax its wealthiest residents, how to treat those who live here but without formal immigration documents.

One trend is clear: Los Angeles leans ever further to the left, a phenomenon that has implications for this year's elections, which include a mayor's race along with campaigns for two other citywide offices and eight seats on the 15-member council that governs America's second-largest city.

Once the bulwark of conservative politics under the protection of a Republican business leadership and a Republican newspaper, LA has moved steadily leftward in recent decades. The days when Richard Riordan, a moderate Republican, could win the support of the electorate are far behind today's Los Angeles.

Some of that is evident in voter registration. When Riordan was elected in 1993, more than 30% of the city's registered voters were Republicans. Today, the number is somewhere around half that. As measured by voter registration, Los Angeles is significantly more Democratic — and less Republican — than New York City, which recently elected Democratic Socialist Zohran Mamdani as its mayor.

But voter registration is just a first cut at the question. Some of the evidence of LA's shifting political center is more localized and impressionistic.

RISING LIBERALISM

Always a city of neighborhoods, Los Angeles in recent years has seen the rise of more liberal activism in many of those communities, some of it owing to vastly improved outreach and voter contact work by the region's Democratic Socialists.

The result has been a surge in liberal representation on the City Council, where Democratic Socialists Eunisses Hernandez, Hugo Soto-Martinez and Nithya Raman anchor a council that is well to the left of many mainstream Democrats. Those members and a growing number of their colleagues are skeptical of spending more for police and are eager to find new sources of taxation that tap the wealthy. They're also committed to higher wages for working people and are fiercely protective of LA residents, regardless of immigration status.

That program, backed by grass-roots

organizing and sophisticated political leadership, has touched voters and made the left far more viable in local elections.

The political muscle of Los Angeles' rising liberal faction is demonstrated not just in the number of candidates who identify with the Democratic Socialists, but more broadly in the way it helps shape the policies and priorities of the city generally.

It was not long ago that support for increased LAPD spending was a unifying city objective. Conservatives favored the idea of stricter enforcement of the law, while liberals saw it as a way to pay for police reform and to empower its oversight. No more.

Although "defund the police" is a bygone slogan, the LAPD's critics are plentiful and are unwilling to acquiesce to once-routine budget requests to maintain or expand police ranks. The department today employs about 8,500 officers, well below peak staffing levels and far below the long-sought goal of 10,000. Nevertheless, Mayor Karen Bass's recent request for additional funding ran into opposition at the City Council.

The council ultimately approved a cut-down version of the mayor's request, but the compromise will barely allow the LAPD to hold its own against retirements and other attrition. Four council members — Hernandez, Soto-Martinez, Raman and Councilmember Ysabel Jurado — opposed even that.

TAXING THE RICH

Some of those same forces are at work in the debate over a "mansion tax," a favorite idea of the LA left. The tax, which voters approved in 2022, applies to multimillion dollar real estate transactions, adding a 4% levy to sales over \$5.1 million and 5% to properties over \$10.3 million (the thresholds are indexed, hence the unusual threshold numbers). The tax revenue goes for construction of affordable housing.

Taxing the rich is always good populist politics, but here it helped frame the city's changing politics. Bass, for instance, sought to exempt properties affected by the Palisades fire, as she worked to balance her support for affordable housing with her commitment to rebuilding from the fire.

The result has been more confusion than clarity, a testament to the challenges of managing a shifting electorate — especially in an election year.

The fight over the tax goes on, but its very persistence says something about



Weather

Monday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 71.

Monday Night: Cloudy, with a low around 57.

Tuesday: A chance of rain after 10am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 65.

Tuesday Night: A slight chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/02/09	Mon	02:07 AM	4.34	H
2026/02/09	Mon	10:49 AM	1.11	L
2026/02/10	Tue	03:24 AM	4.33	H
2026/02/10	Tue	12:02 PM	0.63	L
2026/02/11	Wed	04:40 AM	4.51	H
2026/02/11	Wed	12:47 PM	0.18	L
2026/02/11	Wed	8:14 PM	3.17	H
2026/02/11	Wed	11:20 PM	2.90	L
2026/02/12	Thu	05:39 AM	4.82	H
2026/02/12	Thu	1:21 PM	-0.21	L
2026/02/12	Thu	8:17 PM	3.33	H
2026/02/13	Fri	12:13 AM	2.64	L
2026/02/13	Fri	06:24 AM	5.18	H
2026/02/13	Fri	1:49 PM	-0.52	L
2026/02/13	Fri	8:28 PM	3.50	H
2026/02/14	Sat	12:52 AM	2.31	L
2026/02/14	Sat	07:02 AM	5.52	H
2026/02/14	Sat	2:16 PM	-0.76	L
2026/02/14	Sat	8:44 PM	3.68	H
2026/02/15	Sun	01:27 AM	1.97	L
2026/02/15	Sun	07:36 AM	5.78	H
2026/02/15	Sun	2:42 PM	-0.90	L
2026/02/15	Sun	9:02 PM	3.90	H
2026/02/16	Mon	02:01 AM	1.64	L
2026/02/16	Mon	08:09 AM	5.91	H
2026/02/16	Mon	3:07 PM	-0.94	L
2026/02/16	Mon	9:23 PM	4.15	H
2026/02/17	Tue	02:36 AM	1.33	L
2026/02/17	Tue	08:43 AM	5.85	H
2026/02/17	Tue	3:32 PM	-0.83	L
2026/02/17	Tue	9:47 PM	4.41	H
2026/02/18	Wed	03:15 AM	1.06	L
2026/02/18	Wed	09:18 AM	5.61	H
2026/02/18	Wed	3:58 PM	-0.58	L
2026/02/18	Wed	10:13 PM	4.68	H
2026/02/19	Thu	03:57 AM	0.84	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>



Draw Date: 2/4
27 29 30 37 58
Power#: 15
Jackpot: 102 M



Draw Date: 2/5
8 26 28 32 38



Draw Date: 2/3
5 11 22 25 69
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 346 M



Draw Date: 2/5
EVENING: 8 9 2
Draw Date: 2/5
MIDDAY: 8 9 6



Draw Date: 2/4
2 15 17 22 38
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 26 M



Draw Date: 2/5
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:41:77

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Santa Monica Daily Press



RFP NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SMMUSD invites sealed proposals for: RFP #26.09 – Property Management Services. All proposals must be electronically submitted via Secure Bids at <https://colbisecurebids.com/o/smmusd/RFP2609>. on or before: Thursday, March 5, 2026 2:00 P.M. BID forms and specifications may be obtained in the link provided within this notice.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Name Change

Name Change

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00638. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Lawrence James Goodman for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Lawrence James Goodman filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Lawrence James Goodman to Larry James Goodman. 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: 8:30 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: 12/12/2025. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/26/2026, 02/02/2026, 02/09/2026, 02/16/2026, 02/23/2026

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

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 Alison 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: 01/08/2026. 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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026015311. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LNW CREATIVE, 1148 9TH ST APT 19, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): LINDSAY WONG, 1148 9TH ST APT 19, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2026. 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/ LINDSAY WONG, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/22/2026. 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: 02/2/2026, 02/09/2026, 02/16/2026, 02/23/2026

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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California's once soaring population has hit a plateau. So will its national political clout

The federal Census Bureau annually announces new population numbers for the country and its 50 states based on calculations of how births, deaths and migration have changed the numbers from July 1 to June 30 of the previous year.

The state Department of Finance annually announces new California population numbers, based on its calculations of those same demographic factors during the same 12-month period.

The numbers often differ, and in past years differentials of a million persons or more have emerged from the two agencies' California calculations.

In December, the state agency declared that as of last July, California's population was 39.529 million, a gain of 19,200 since 2024. Although arithmetically insignificant, the tiny gain was hailed by officialdom and media as proof that California is no longer losing people.

Last month, the Census Bureau released its latest estimates, fixing California's population at 39.355 million, a decline of 9,465 souls from the previous year. It implies that California's slide, which began in the COVID-18 pandemic, is still happening, with a net loss of 200,394 residents since the 2020 census.

Although the 174,000 difference between the two numbers is relatively tiny, from a sociopolitical standpoint one shows growth while the other shows shrinkage. Thus California officialdom claims that predictions of the state's impending collapse are false, while its critics say California is still in decline.

There is, however, no doubt that California is, at best, at a population plateau — either gaining or losing very slowly after a 175-year history of sometimes stunning levels of population growth. During the 1980-90 decade, for example, the state's population soared by about 6 million people, a nearly 25% gain,

thanks to high levels of immigration and a lofty birth rate.

Its current stasis, whatever the exact numbers, reflects stagnant levels of foreign migration, a much lower birth rate and an ongoing net loss in state-to-state migration.

Hans Johnson and Eric McGhee, demographers for the Public Policy Institute of California, have charted that trend and in a recent report declare, "This migration, over the decades, has the power to reshape the state. From 2010 through 2024 (the year of the latest data) almost 10 million people moved from California to other states, while just over 7 million people moved to California from other parts of the country, according to the American Community Survey. In fact, according to Department of Finance estimates, the state has lost residents to other states every year since 2001."

PPIC found that most of those leaving the state are adults without college degrees. Texas is their top destination, and one could assume they are fleeing high living costs.

California is not alone in population stagnation or loss. New York and Illinois are two others and, overall, slow- or no-growth states tend to be politically blue, while the big gainers, such as Texas, Florida and the fastest grower, South Carolina, lean to the right.

The growth differential between red and blue states will likely bite the latter after the 2030 census, when the nation's 435 congressional seats are divvied up. Two new studies by reputable organizations project that California and other major blue states will lose a chunk of seats to fast-growing red states, based on the new Census Bureau data.

The American Redistricting Project and Jonathon Vervas at Carnegie Mellon

SEE POPULATION PAGE 7



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 #4514 SEWER DIVERSION UNIT CLEANING AND HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

Submission Deadline is March 3rd, 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://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown Santa Monica

Block Party to Feature Live Music, DJs on Third Street Promenade

Downtown Santa Monica Inc., in partnership with Yappy Studios, will transform the Third Street Promenade into a free nightlife and music festival Saturday, February 14.

Santa Monica Block Fest Vol. III will begin at 5 p.m. and span all three blocks of the promenade — the 1200, 1300 and 1400 blocks. The event will feature live DJs, custom stages, pop-up bars and immersive nightlife programming with Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day-themed elements.

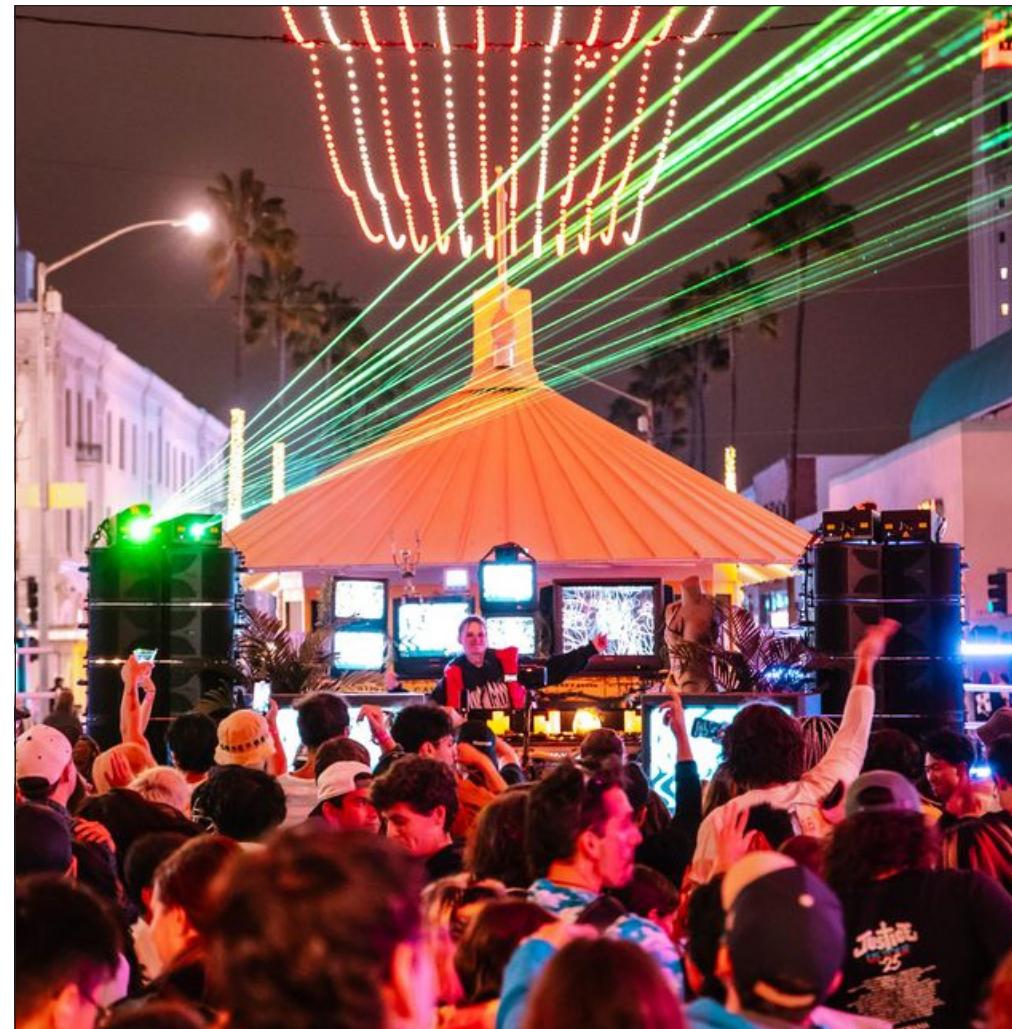
The festival reflects the continued evolution of the Promenade under Santa Monica's Entertainment Zone, a city-approved initiative designed to support outdoor drinking, activate nightlife programming, boost foot traffic and drive economic activity for local businesses.

The event will feature three dedicated stages hosted by Los Angeles-based music collectives: Beat Repeat on the 1200 block, Product Pluto on the 1300 block and Yappy Studios on the 1400 block. Programming will include lounges, themed activations and a diverse lineup spanning house music to vinyl sets.

Pop-up bars will operate throughout the Entertainment Zone during the festival.

For event updates, schedules and behind-the-scenes previews, visit DowntownSM.com or follow @DTSantaMonica on Instagram and Facebook, or @DowntownSantaMonica on TikTok.

EDITED BY SMPD STAFF



DTSM, Inc.

PARTY: Santa Monica Block Fest Vol. III will begin at 5 p.m. and span all three blocks of the promenade.

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SMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

regulations at its Feb. 5 meeting, with final action scheduled for Feb. 19. The changes reflect new state laws and evolving security practices that have transformed school safety protocols over the past three decades.

Chief Operations Officer Carey Upton presented the updates, which include revisions to Board Policy 1250 on visitors and Board Policy 3515 on campus security — documents that haven't been substantially updated since 2014 and 2009, respectively.

A key change would prohibit unauthorized audio and video recording on district property by visitors to "protect student and employee safety and minimize campus disruptions," according to policy documents.

Upton said the restriction addresses incidents where individuals have walked onto campuses and begun filming without permission.

"Some people have been doing this around the state and sort of walking on campus and starting to film," Upton told board members. Recording would still be permitted for educational purposes and at public events such as sporting events and theater performances.

The most extensive board discussion centered on the district's use of surveillance cameras, particularly regarding transparency about when cameras are monitored.

Current policy language states that signs shall inform visitors "that the equipment may or may not be actively monitored at any time" — wording that drew scrutiny from board member Laurie Lieberman.

"When I read that the first time, I was like, I mean, we all understand that we live in a time where way more so than any of us ever contemplated when we were younger, is sadly necessary, or it seems to be," Lieberman said. "But on the other hand, when you read these just open ended, What's the purpose?"

Upton explained that cameras are recording but not constantly monitored by staff.

"We do not have someone, anyone sitting watching cameras all day, observing, you know," Upton said. "However, at any given moment, if there was an incident, or if there's something going on, we might turn on those cameras and see what's happening at that time."

She cited an example of activating cameras to view a police action outside Grant Elementary School while coordinating with school administrators.

The district initially installed perimeter

cameras in 2017-2018, but has since expanded their use to include interior hallways. Upton said this approach helps monitor behavior and enables faster response during emergencies, particularly for law enforcement.

"Walking into spaces blind, if there is an incident, is not necessarily good for anyone," said Dr. Antonio Shelton, emphasizing partnerships with sheriff's department and city resource officers.

Access to camera footage is restricted to site administrators, classified directors, campus security personnel and campus resource officers from police. Release of footage to others requires either a specific police request or subpoena, particularly when students are visible.

Following board discussion, Upton agreed to add clarifying language to administrative regulations about camera usage and access protocols before bringing the item back for action.

The updated visitor policy shifts from permissive to required language, mandating that all non-students and non-staff register upon arrival and provide visible identification. The changes align with new visitor registration software being implemented at all sites.

Board members questioned retention policies for visitor logs. The new software allows indefinite storage, but officials acknowledged they need to develop formal retention policies aligned with California requirements for school district records.

Registered sex offenders would be required to request written permission from principals before entering campus, with principals reporting such requests to the superintendent.

The campus security policy updates reflect several 2024 state laws, including requirements for interior door locks in rooms with five or more occupants and procedures for active shooter drills.

The policy also incorporates the Department of Homeland Security's "Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management in Practice" guide and authorizes the board to discuss security threats in closed session.

Board member Jennifer Smith requested a timeline showing which schools have completed surveillance system installations, as the rollout remains in progress across the district's 18 sites.

The updated policies will be shared with school safety committees at individual sites. Following board approval on Feb. 19, the district's online policy manual will be updated and management teams notified of the changes.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS****Citywide****Students Launch Valentine's Card Drive for Santa Monica Senior Residents**

Students from the Upper School Community Service Honors Society at Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences are organizing a Valentine's Day card drive for senior residents living in assisted care homes in Santa Monica. The project will deliver handwritten Valentine's messages to 40 residents across Santa Monica Home & Care and Brookdale Ocean House, helping ensure that each resident receives a personal note of kindness this holiday.

Santa Monica community members are invited to participate by submitting their name, mailing address, and a short Valentine's message through an online form. Student volunteers will carefully handwrite each message into a card and distribute them to residents. Participation is completely free, and each card sent will include a small goodie bag for the senior resident receiving it.

The goal of the project is to build intergenerational connection and brighten the day of local seniors through simple, thoughtful gestures. Organizers hope the initiative encourages community members to share warmth and encouragement with residents who may otherwise receive few holiday messages.

A link and QR to participate is provided to participate.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeAlefFvNhCTPr2zezsZN9KQI1zrbDKe7YkeAPLw-xPN6Fx7Kw/viewform?usp=publish-editor>



SUBMITTED BY ATHENS TEITELBAUM

LOS ANGELES

FROM PAGE 3

the city's leftward drift. It's inconceivable that Mayor Riordan, for instance, would have supported the mansion tax and hard to imagine voters 20 years ago approving it. Riordan lived in Brentwood in a home that would have qualified for the surcharge, and the emphasis of much of the city's politics in those days was on safety and job creation, rather than equity or government-backed affordable housing.

There are many reasons for the leftward shift, and not all of them are specific to Los Angeles. The nation's economic inequality continues to expand, and the plight of those left out of economic growth grows increasingly dire and visible in big cities, where opulence and poverty live side by side.

That's inescapable in modern Los Angeles, with its grand homes, flashy boutiques and grinding homelessness.

TRUMP AND THE ELECTION YEAR

The local left also has clearly thrived in the era of President Donald Trump. The president, who is fond of denigrating Los Angeles and California, is reviled in Los Angeles. His influence has radicalized liberals, making them willing to vote for new Congressional maps — Los Angeles County favored last year's Prop. 50 by a staggering 74% to 25% — and rise to the defense of undocumented migrants.

More purely political changes have contributed as well. Los Angeles in 2015 switched its election schedule from voting in odd-numbered years to coinciding with the gubernatorial and presidential election cycles.

That's been a change with mixed results, but one clear consequence has been to broaden the participants in city elections. An electorate once dominated by homeowners and wealthier interests now increasingly includes lower-income voters and renters, whose interests tend to pull the city toward programs such as rent control and away from priorities such as forceful police protection.

And so 2026 is a notable election year for Los Angeles.

One marker of the cycle spinning up came this week, as Mayor Bass held the first of two State of the City addresses to present her view of where the city stands at this moment.

The gathering was illustrative in many ways: Held near the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in one of the city's most Black and Brown communities, it anchored Bass among some of her most loyal supporters. The location also highlighted Los Angeles' role as host of the World Cup and, in 2028, the Summer Olympics. In a gesture toward civic unity, Bass' presentation even featured performances by the marching bands of UCLA and USC.

THE STATE OF THE CITY

The audience's response to Bass' remarks also said something. She was politely applauded when she highlighted the city's historic progress against crime: Los Angeles had 230 homicides last year, the lowest number since the 1960s and a startling change from the 1990s, when it tallied more than 1,000 homicides several years in a row.

The audience cheered Bass's promises to encourage affordability and her record at confronting street homelessness, which has modestly declined for two consecutive years — small steps but at least steps in the right direction.

The day's biggest cheers, however, came when Bass struck her most strident tones. Denouncing Trump's ICE raids and the "devastating losses of life" caused by its agents, Bass urged her audience to stand up to Washington.

"Staying silent or minimizing what is happening is not an option," she said. "This senseless death, lawlessness and violence must end. And so must the presence of ICE in Los Angeles."

The audience leapt to its feet at that, giving literal voice to the fact that in today's Los Angeles, defiance of Trump and Washington are acts of popular politics, not extremism.

Jim Newton, CalMatters Contributor

COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

PCH Off-Ramp to Close for Pier Bridge Construction

The Moomat Ahiko Way off-ramp from southbound Pacific Coast Highway will close for two weeks starting Monday as part of the Pier Bridge Replacement Project, city officials announced Wednesday.

Construction crews will close the off-ramp from Feb. 9 through Feb. 27 to build the foundation for a temporary pedestrian bridge. The pedestrian bridge will ensure continued access to the Santa Monica Pier during the pier bridge reconstruction.

Motorists traveling to the area should allow extra travel time and use alternate routes during the closure period. A map of suggested detours is available online at <https://www.santamonica.gov/programs/pier-bridge-improvements>.

From southbound PCH, drivers can turn left on California Incline, then right to access Ocean Avenue. Alternatively, they can continue to northbound Interstate 10, exit at Lincoln Avenue and turn left, then turn left on Colorado Avenue to access Ocean Avenue.

Pier restaurants, shops, entertainment, parking and visitor access will remain open throughout the construction period.

The Pier Bridge Replacement Project began in December 2025 with mobilization and vehicle ramp work. The temporary pedestrian bridge construction phase runs from February through June 2026. Demolition of the existing bridge is scheduled for June through September 2026.

Foundation and pile work will take place from July through December 2026, followed by new bridge construction from October 2026 through August 2027. Cleanup and parking lot restoration will occur from June through September 2027, with project completion anticipated in December 2027.

Construction schedules are subject to change. For project updates, including construction alerts, visit [santamonica.gov/pierbridge](https://www.santamonica.gov/pierbridge).

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Santa Monica

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism Announces New Board Leadership

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism recently announced the appointment of its updated 2026 Board of Directors Executive Committee.

The new leadership includes Chairman Charlie Lopez-Quintana, vice president and managing director of ETC Hotels; Vice Chair Jeff Klocke, CEO of Pacific Park; Treasurer Simon Fricker, general manager of Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows; and Secretary Karen Ginsberg, Santa Monica resident.

Lopez-Quintana, who recently served as vice chair on the organization's 2024-25 Board of Directors Executive Committee, brings more than 25 years of hospitality leadership with a focus on luxury guest experiences. Since 2021, he has served as vice president and managing director of ETC Hotels, parent company of iconic Santa Monica properties Shutters on the Beach and Hotel Casa del Mar.

"2026 marks an inspiring moment for Santa Monica as the city steps into the global spotlight," Lopez-Quintana said. "With historic events such as the Route 66 Centennial, the upcoming FIFA World Cup and planning for Super Bowl LVI in 2027 and the 2028 Olympic Games, we are uniquely positioned to welcome new audiences, drive meaningful economic impact and showcase the exceptional experiences that define our seaside city."

Lopez-Quintana first joined the board in 2022 and held hospitality leadership positions at Terranea Resort and two Ritz-Carlton properties before joining ETC Hotels.

"Charlie has played a transformative role during his time on SMTT's Board," said Misti Kerns, president and CEO of SMTT. "I am confident his leadership and expertise will help us showcase Santa Monica's unique experiences in this pivotal year for our city."

Klocke has served on the board since 2019 and brings more than 30 years of industry experience. He is CEO of Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier, the West Coast's only amusement park on a pier.

Fricker was appointed by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce in 2025 and brings over two decades of international boutique-luxury hotel experience. Ginsberg, a longtime Santa Monica resident, spent 25 years employed with the city, most recently as director of community and cultural services before retiring in 2020. As a city council appointee, she has been part of SMTT's board since 2022 and previously served as treasurer on the 2024-25 Executive Committee.

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DUKES

FROM PAGE 1

dashed by permitting and material delays, Duke's Malibu now plans to be fully open by the end of Feb. with a 30-year celebration slated for the summer.

Practically on the beach, Duke's Malibu is slightly removed from Pacific Coast Highway because of its large parking lot. "Anytime there's a disaster, it becomes an evacuation area for people," says General Manager Jimmy Chavez. In this case, it was an ideal size and location for firefighters and first responders to convene while the fire raged.

Over a month after the fire was contained, Duke's Malibu had nearly finished smoke remediation and was planning its reopening when the storm struck. When there are heavy rains, "Las Flores Canyon Road becomes a river, which runs right into our parking lot," Chavez explains. "This [mudslide] hit everything. It just wiped out the entire annex building on the side." The damage was significant. It took two months to remove the mud and everything from electrical to plumbing to flooring needed to be replaced. But Chavez takes a positive view. "We've lost a calendar year in sales, but we gain a brand new restaurant on the other side," he says.

"All of our restaurant is covered in koa, which is a really rare hardwood that's indigenous to Hawaii. We were able to preserve all of it: taking it off by hand, getting it milled, refinished, putting it back up by hand," comments Chavez. Although insurance didn't allow them to make changes to the building's structure, the team is upgrading the interior for more efficient service and operations, as well as adding elevated seating to ensure that guests have more access to pristine window views.

Mudslides are a prominent issue for the restaurant, which has attempted various preventative tactics over the years. With this latest round of construction, they're working on improved measures to protect the building.

"There's a ton of history where we're sitting. People have been coming here and celebrating and grieving and first dates and all those things for a very long time. We just want to keep that going. And the community wants that too," says Chavez.

The location has seen a handful of restaurants come and go since 1915, but Duke's Malibu arrived in 1996 and has remained a beloved fixture in the community. Chavez, who joined the team 24 years ago, has weathered many storms with the restaurant and nearby residents. Natural disasters are "one of those things about living in this area that you expect," he says. "The people that have been here for generations are resilient."

Duke's Malibu will initially reopen with limited hours and menus with hopes to slowly

POPULATION

FROM PAGE 4

University both see California losing four of its 52 seats, Texas gaining four and Florida getting either two or four.

The shift of congressional seats, of course, also shifts presidential electoral votes, meaning Republican candidates'

return to full food offerings and opening times. As for updated menu pricing, "tariffs,

There's a ton of history where we're sitting. People have been coming here and celebrating and grieving and first dates and all those things for a very long time. We just want to keep that going. And the community wants that too

- Jimmy Chavez, General Manager

different international relations in seafood, wine imports, liquor – that is having a direct impact on cost of goods, not necessarily what the disasters meant to us or any costs incurred," says Chavez. "That's not gonna affect our menu pricing." He is also hopeful that some of the former employees, particularly those that had been there for upwards of 10 years, will return.

At the end of January, the team prepared to reopen by performing a traditional Hawaiian blessing. Led by a Kahu, or spiritual leader, they "expelled bad energy and brought good energy in, brought the aloha in," Chavez explains. "That felt really special. It felt like a really big step forward, like we're right there and we're getting ready."

Duke's Malibu is located at 21150 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, CA 90265 and will be open with limited days and hours at the end of Feb.

First published by the Westside Current

prospects will improve and those of Democrats will decline after 2030.

There's an old saying that demographics are destiny. What's happening now underscores that truism.

Dan Walters, Opinion Columnist

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Summons

SUMMONS(CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 24SMCV03059NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): CIERRA MASON, an individual; E&S RING MANAGEMENT CORP, a California Corporation; and DOES 1 TO 50YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Victoria Torres, an individualNOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case;AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia

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DEVELOPMENT

FROM PAGE 1

2026 FIFA World Cup and 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, events expected to draw massive crowds to coastal areas.

Under the legislation, qualifying cities could approve housing developments without Coastal Commission permits if projects meet specific criteria. Mixed-income housing would be exempt from commission review when located in areas designated for multifamily housing in local general plans, provided projects are not within 300 feet of beaches, on wetlands or in environmentally sensitive habitat areas.

The legislation references existing housing code for mixed-income households as projects dedicating at least 7% of units to extremely low-income residents, 10% to very low-income households or 13% to lower-income residents. Projects with 10 or fewer units on sites smaller than one acre would also qualify if developed at a minimum density of 10 units per acre.

All affordable units would be subject to recorded deed restrictions for 55 years for rentals and 45 years for ownership units.

The bill would also exempt interior and exterior renovations of existing buildings that don't expand footprints by more than 150%, as well as projects combining or dividing existing structures.

"Instead of enhancing public access, current standards often put needless barriers in front of housing, bike lanes, and other projects that achieve climate goals and pose no risk to sensitive coastal resources," Zbur said. "This bill modernizes coastal standards in transit-rich, urban areas and allows the Coastal Commission to focus its attention where it matters most—on protecting our beaches, sensitive habitats and coastal ecosystems."

The California Coastal Commission, an independent state agency established in 1972 and made permanent by the 1976 Coastal Act, regulates development along the state's 1,100-mile coastline through land-use planning and permitting. A Coastal Development Permit is required for most construction or land alteration within coastal zones, issued by local governments with certified Local Coastal Programs or the commission itself to evaluate impacts on public access, environment and coastal hazards.

Current coastal permitting practices, according to Zbur, can "impede statewide climate, transportation, and land use policies and discourage the use of transit, walking, and bicycling as primary or significant modes of coastal access."

Zbur's legislation would eliminate coastal development permit requirements for Class I, Class II or Class IV bicycle facilities installed within state highway rights-of-way, provided projects don't eliminate existing public coastal accessways.

In qualifying cities, local governments could add bike lanes, bus lanes and other multimodal transportation improvements without commission approval. The bill would also permit roadway reconfigurations, including removal or relocation of on-street parking to accommodate cycling infrastructure.

"For far too long, common sense improvements like bike lanes, sidewalks, bus lanes, or outdoor dining have been held back by the Coastal Commission's strict interpretation of coastal access, meaning exclusively driving to the beach," said Michael Schneider, founder and CEO of Streets For All. "This bill modernizes that approach and returns local control to cities that have spent the time and resources to build out multimodal infrastructure, and wish to expand upon it."

AB 1740 would grant qualifying cities broad authority over parking regulations without Coastal Commission oversight. Local governments could add or remove parking spaces, establish maximum and minimum parking ratios, determine on-street and off-street parking rates, and manage pricing structures and time limits.

The legislation would also exempt installation of accessible walkways, pay stations, signage and electric vehicle chargers in public facilities from permit requirements.

Cities could implement residential preferential parking zones and other parking management tools without commission review, addressing what the bill characterizes as delays that undermine cooperative planning between state and local agencies.

The measure notes that "rigid, parking-centric access assumptions embedded in legacy coastal permitting practices" often conflict with modern transportation and climate policies.

To qualify as urban multimodal communities, cities must demonstrate they have at least one high-quality transit corridor or transit priority area with stops in the coastal access zone, defined as the coastal zone plus areas within one-quarter mile of it.

Cities must also maintain Class I, Class II or Class IV bicycle facilities in the coastal access zone and have adopted plans with targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fatal and severe injury crashes, including climate action and local road safety plans.

Qualifying cities would submit documentation to the state Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, which would have 30 days to review submissions for completeness. If the office doesn't respond within that timeframe, cities' designations would be deemed approved. Cities would need to recertify every three years.

"Santa Monica is rebuilding, and we need modern tools that match how people access the coast today," said Santa Monica Mayor Caroline Torosis. "With the World Cup, the Olympics, and other major events coming to our region, this bill helps focus the Coastal Commission on protecting sensitive coastal resources, while giving transit-rich cities the flexibility to move faster on housing, transportation, and public space."

The legislation would exempt short-term and recurring community events lasting 12 months or less from permit requirements, provided they don't permanently alter land use or access and aren't located on or within 100 feet of wetlands or environmentally sensitive habitat areas.

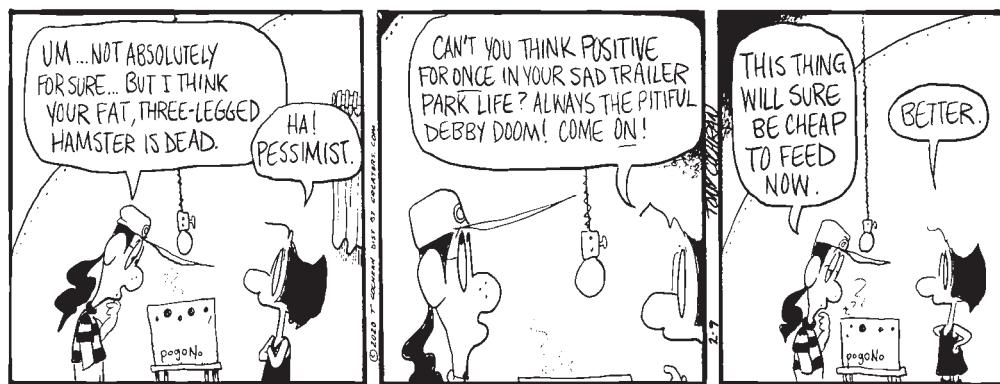
Outdoor dining meeting other local and state requirements would also be exempt, addressing what the bill describes as commercial vacancy challenges and the need for "timely tenant improvements and temporary activations to revitalize coastal business districts."

Zbur said the bill preserves California Coastal Commission jurisdiction over development that could adversely affect coastal resources. Projects between the sea and the first public road paralleling the coast, within 300 feet of beaches, on or near wetlands, or in environmentally sensitive habitat areas would remain subject to full commission review.

"Streamlining multi-family housing approvals in existing urbanized areas along California's coast will both address our housing crisis and increase access to our amazing coastal resources," said Azeen Khanmalek, executive director of Abundant Housing LA. "That's why we are so excited to co-sponsor AB 1740."

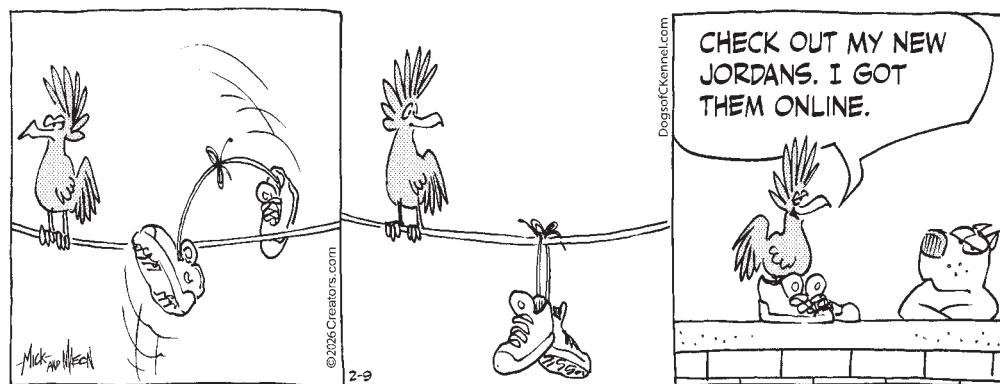
The bill will be heard in the policy committee later this session.

Agnes



By TONY COCHRAN

Dogs of C-Kennel



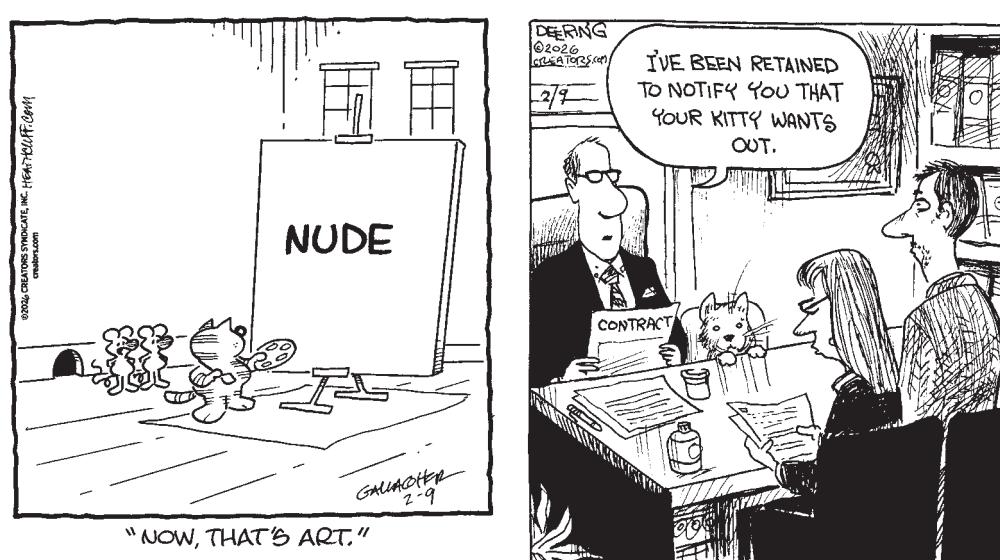
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Strange Brew

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

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A medical emergency



Acid	Cast	Hand	Pale	Television
Acute	Coma	Head	Pans	Toes
Aides	Concerned	Idle	Public	Tube
Airway	Cooks	Iron	Pulse	Ulna
Arms	Cost	Knee	Recovery	Wait
Baby	Doctor	Life	Relief	Ward
Back	Doses	Limbs	Rest	Well
Beds	Drip	Lint	Ribs	X-ray
Bite	Drug	Mend	Room	
Broken	Duty	Newborn	Sick	
Capsule	Error	Onset	Tape	
Care	Form	Painkiller	Tear	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 9)

The theme of your year: love shows up. Consistently, yet sometimes surprisingly, in forms you recognize and new ones you learn, even some you invent in a beautiful co-creation. Whether familiar or friendly, passionate or sweet, giving yourself over to relationships will be a pleasure. More highlights: the freedom to plan further ahead than before and opportunities to teach, guide or profit from what comes easily to you. Cancer and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 14, 26, 35 and 41.



HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Today, you'll gravitate toward people who nudge you forward, inspire you to work harder and catalyze your becoming. They might not be the nicest or easiest to be around, but that's not what matters now because you're in a phase of growth, not comfort.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's simple emotional math today: Positive emotions give you energy, and negative emotions drain energy. You can't choose your feelings, but you can put yourself in the mindset and environment most conducive to feeling good.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're thinking a lot about how to make your daily life work better, and one solution keeps coming to mind. In theory, it could work. The only way to tell is to apply it. Test your idea in tiny, low-risk ways first.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Some challenges unravel slowly if you tease them apart, strand by strand. Today's are better approached as the landscaper does, snipping, cutting and mowing right through. Keep moving until it's beautiful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There are seasons when it's best to say yes to every invite, opportunity and offer, and there are times like now when more discretion is called for. You've paid your dues and can hold out for your specific preferences and vision.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Countless similar moments blur together, but when something brings up a feeling in you, a memory is born, too. Someone who is emotionally available can turn ordinary moments into a vivid experience. Their access to feeling invites your own.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your social intuition will serve you well. You'll sense when someone is telling the truth and when they aren't. You can build on what's real. It's safe to leave the rest alone. Falsehoods tend to collapse under their own weight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's a strong balance: feeling liberated from the need to own more, yet still committed to tending what's already yours. The care you put into your things today saves you time and money later. Bonus: Someone is watching with respect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Someone has you guarding your heart. But how do you protect something as invisible and volatile as a feeling? Today, it may be impossible to stay ahead of it. But if you agree to feel whatever comes up, it's you who will be ahead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Everyone knows you're responsible, but it would actually be irresponsible to carry everything at once. Know your limits. A pause strengthens the foundation you've built. Even small rests renew your energy and focus.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People get in sync with your ideas, feelings and rhythms. It's as though there's a drum line following you around, adding power, excitement and a steady beat that you and everyone around you can move to.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). People don't have to be "on" to be accepted by you. They sense it, and this unspoken permission to relax and be themselves somehow still inspires people to impress you. It's funny how comfort rouses vitality and excitement.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD



Newsday Crossword

DURATIONS by Guilherme Gilioli
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 ___ year (year with a February 29th)
5 True statement
9 Wide belt
13 Snakelike fishes
14 Rebound of a sound
15 Wood-shaping machine
16 Square footage
17 Dry as a desert
18 Bowling center
19 How long a minute is
22 Hot beverage group with a pot, saucers, etc.

23 Go by, as time

27 Donkey
29 Broad urban street: Abbr.

30 Had a meal

31 Fireplace residues

35 "My treat"

37 TV host Seacrest

38 How long a day is

41 Notified

42 Grains in granola

43 Containing nothing

44 Sharp anger

45 School kids' vehicle

46 Letter after kay

48 Bleep out

50 Northernmost state

55 How long a year is

59 Seaweed

62 Roof overhang

63 Overcast sky's color

64 Get on a plane

65 A ___ "apple"

66 Skywalker of Star Wars

67 Otherwise
68 ___-tip pen
69 Radiate, as light

DOWN

1 Minimum amount
2 Scary and weird
3 Voice of Amazon devices
4 HS juniors' exams
5 Lavish meals
6 Farmland measure
7 Fashionable
8 Chore list heading
9 Taco chip dip
10 Ocean east of America: Abbr.

11 That woman

12 Attention-getting shout

15 Soup-serving utensil

20 Dough-rising agent

21 "When pigs fly!"

24 Settle a debt

25 Begin

26 ___-weeny (tiny)

28 Living room seats

29 Keep entertained

31 Upper-level storage room

32 Took an oath in court

33 Actress Mirren or Hunt

34 Conclusion

36 "Ready or ___, here..."

37 Computer's CD-___

drive

39 "___ welcome!"

40 Phone call greeting

45 Responded to applause

47 Express regret for

49 Unblinking look

51 Journalistic slant

52 Play guitar chords

53 Army uniform color

54 So far

56 Piece of lettuce

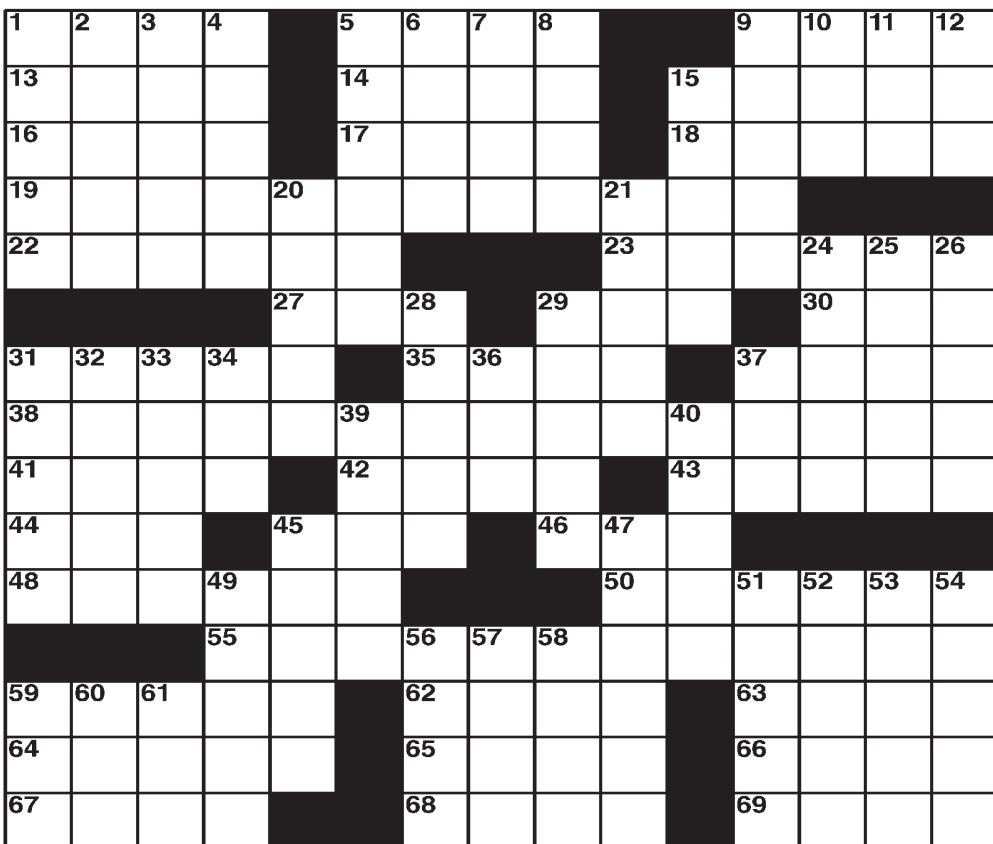
57 Container for flowers

58 Villainous

59 Lincoln nickname

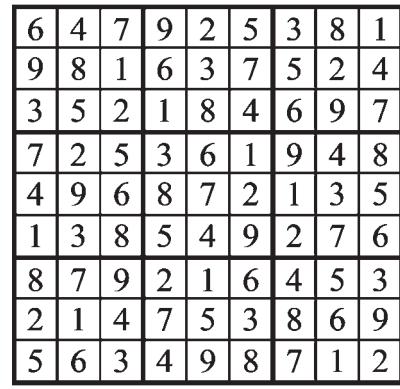
60 Text message "Very funny!"

61 Auto fuel

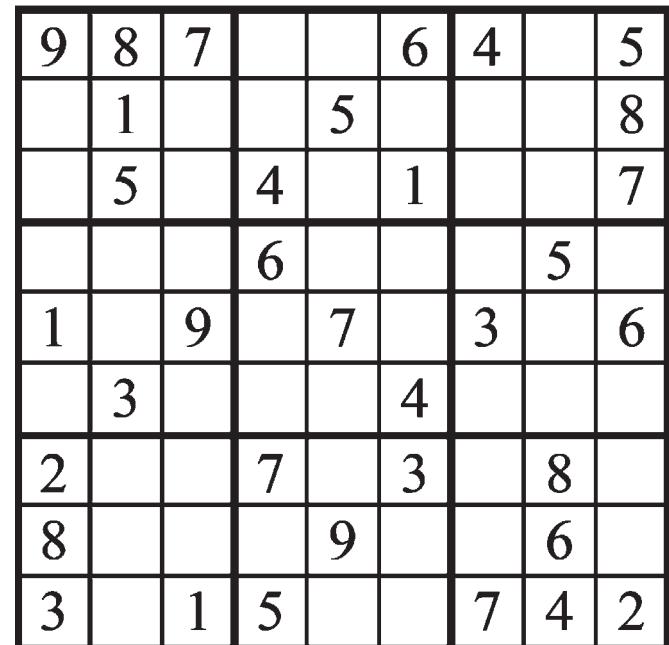


Sudoku

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.



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

What's up Westside

COOL THINGS TO DO

MONDAY | FEBRUARY 9

STRONGER TOGETHER: NURTURING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. St. Monica Catholic Community, Grand Pavilion 725 California Avenue Santa Monica. Providence Saint John's Health Center and St. Monica Catholic Community warmly invite you to join us for an evening of healing and hope, one year after the fires that tested our faith and resilience. Learn from clinical and spiritual experts who will offer guidance, support and resources for continued recovery. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/stronger-together-nurturing-mind-body-and-spirit/18020354/2026-02-09T18>

PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! 6pm-Close. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2026-02-09T18>

TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 10

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/14853634/2026-02-10T10>

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/17128550/2026-02-10T14>

SUSHI-MAKING CLASSES AT SOKO

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Fairmont Miramar - Soko Sushi 101 Wilshire Blvd Santa Monica. This February, discover the art of sushi at Soko with a new hands-on sushi-making class led by Chef Masa Shimakawa. This 90-minute, beginner-friendly experience begins with a sparkling sake welcome drink followed by guided instruction on crafting classic salmon, yellowtail, crab, and tuna rolls. Perfect for couples, best friends, or anyone looking to elevate their Valentine's Day celebration with a playful twist on the traditional dinner date. \$114.00 - \$114 per ticket + tax. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sushi-making-classes-at-soko/17977012/2026-02-10T17>

[com/calendar/#/details/sushi-making-classes-at-soko/17977012/2026-02-10T17](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sushi-making-classes-at-soko/17977012/2026-02-10T17)

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

5:30 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/city-council-meeting/13799967/2026-02-10T17>

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-/14857154/2026-02-10T20>

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/16004734/2026-02-10T22>

WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 11

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - WEDNESDAY MARKET

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica Arizona Avenue (Between 4th & Ocean) Santa Monica. One of the largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/12382446/2026-02-11T08>

STAR STORIES WITH PAM

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. STAR Stories With Pam Children are invited to share the joy of storytelling and reading with our special STAR volunteer, Pam. Come three times and take home a free book. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/star-stories-with-pam/15607289/2026-02-11T12>

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-/17751141/2026-02-11T12>

WINE WEDNESDAY AT THE WHALER

101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 info@venicewhaler.com Does not apply on holidays Santa Monica. \$15 wine flights & half off bottles of wine all day every Wednesday! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wine-wednesday-at-the-whaler/16952883/2026-02-11T00>

THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 12

AUTHOR TALK WITH DR. LINDSEY STEWART

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Feminist philosopher Dr. Lindsey Stewart's book, The Conjuring of America: Mojos, Mermaids, Medicine, and 400 Years of Black Women's Magic, tells the stories of Negro Mammies of slavery; the Voodoo Queens and Blues Women of Reconstruction; and the Granny Midwives and textile weavers of the Jim Crow era. These women, in secrecy and subterfuge, courageously and devotedly continued their practices and worship for centuries and passed down their traditions. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/author-talk-with-dr-lindsey-stewart/17839310/2026-02-12T11>

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/13943928/2026-02-12T11>

REBUILD COMMITTEE - SANTA MONICA & PALIBU CHAMBER

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Rebuild Committee - Santa Monica & Palibu Chamber Must be a Member to attend - either a member of Santa Monica Chamber or Palibu Chamber. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/rebuild-committee-santa-monica-palibu-chamber/15499169/2026-03-12T15>

RENT CONTROL BOARD MEETING

7:00 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main Street

Santa Monica. The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/rent-control-board-meeting/13406661/2026-02-12T19>

WESTSIDE WITCHES PRESENTS: CLUB CUPID

7:45 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. West Side Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. Join your favorite Witches of love for a night filled with matchmaking, laughs from your favorite comics, and ice breaker activities. Who knows, you might meet the one! \$20.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/westside-witches-presents-club-cupid/17939422/2026-02-12T19>

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 13

BRUNCH FRIDAYS WITH LIVE MUSIC IN OUR GARDEN PATIO!

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tiato Kitchen & Venue 2700 Colorado Ave Santa Monica. Our newly launched Brunch Fridays just got vibey-er! Every week enjoy great eats, summer libations, and a featured music artist on our beautiful garden patio! So come toast to summer with our uniquely crafted brunch menu including our Turmeric Spiced Cloud Egg dish, Smoked Gouda Scramble with Smashed Ube, Vietnamese French Toast, along with Mama An classics such as Famous Garlic Noodles, Shaken Beef, and Seafood Egg Fried Rice! And of course, it wouldn't be brunch without bottomless mimosas & summer punch bowls, so grab your brunch crew and enjoy the fair along the beautiful backdrop of Al fresco dining. RESERVE NOW. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/brunch-fridays-with-live-music-in-our-garden-patio-/14639006/2026-02-13T11>

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. \$0.00 to \$5.00 Free for Children, Students, Seniors, SNAP/EBT card holders. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/new-exhibition-at-the-history-museum-celebrates-food-family/17896821/2026-02-13T11>



THE MOST LOVED CONTEST IS NOW LIVE!

Voting runs

February 9th - March 13th!

- Free for Santa Monica businesses to participate.
 - Powered by real community votes.
 - Citywide recognition across print & digital.

For more information on the contest, please contact:

dina@smdp.com & maya@smdp.com

