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Volume 25 Issue 62

THURSDAY 2/12/26

smdp.com

Malibu Council defers mobile home rent control changes amid fierce opposition

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Malibu City Council voted Monday to defer proposed amendments to the city's mobile home park rent stabilization ordinance after overwhelming public opposition and a contentious

dispute between city staff and a newly reconstituted commission.

The decision came after more than 90% of the approximately 150 attendees packed City Hall specifically for the agenda item, with 41 residents signing up to

SEE MALIBU PAGE 8

Westside incumbents draw challengers in Los Angeles supervisor and council races

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Challengers have stepped forward to take on two Westside incumbents in 2026, with a Palisadian filing against Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath and two candidates

(a civil rights attorney and an entrepreneur) lining up against City Councilwoman Traci Park.

The early filings set the stage for contested races in two of the region's most closely watched seats, testing whether incumbents who took office in 2022 can hold on as voters weigh concerns over housing,

homelessness, public safety and emergency response.

Candidate filing opened this week for the June 2 primary in Los Angeles County's Third Supervisor District, and Horvath immediately drew a challenger.

SEE CANDIDATES PAGE 8

New Roads ready to continue revitalized baseball dominance



Courtesy photo

BASEBALL: New Roads School's varsity baseball team opens its season Feb. 17 against Providence High School at Clover Park, seeking a school-record fourth consecutive Coastal League championship.

The Jaguars are led by seniors Xavier Walker, the 2025 Coastal League MVP and undefeated pitcher in league play; Ellio LaPorta, a two-time league MVP in 2023 and 2024 who missed most of last season with a broken thumb; and center fielder Asamino Spong, who led the team in stolen bases.

The trio helped transform a program that went 1-41 over four years before their arrival into a dominant force with a 16-4 league record and three championships. Sophomore Matthew Linares, the league's MVP runner-up last season, returns as a two-way contributor, while seven juniors led by Santiago Jimenez and Sebastian Berumen add depth to the roster.

"This is by far the most talented, disciplined team I've ever coached," head coach Hector Zamora, a former New York Yankees prospect, said.

New Roads is a private K-12 school in Santa Monica serving approximately 525 students.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hospitals' opaque pricing is crushing California's small businesses

Small business owners are working hard to keep their doors open while offering employees quality benefits, but rising healthcare costs are making that harder every year.

One major driver of these costs is hospital pricing abuse, which often goes unnoticed but is devastating to California's small business communities.

Large hospital systems have used their market dominance to drive up the prices they charge commercial payers, often billing them more than three times what Medicare pays for the same care.

Those inflated costs fall squarely on the shoulders of small businesses and working families through higher premiums and lower take-home pay.

For many small business owners, offering health insurance is already one of their biggest expenses. Nearly half of small businesses in a survey by Small Business Majority say rising healthcare premiums place a major financial burden on their business. Two-thirds say it is at least a moderate burden.

When hospital bills keep rising, it becomes nearly impossible for small firms to continue providing coverage to their employees. While entrepreneurs want to do right by their workers and offer robust health benefits, they are often forced to make painful choices about wages, benefits and business growth as premiums skyrocket each year. These decisions don't just impact employees — when small businesses reduce benefits it can cost them top talent.

Rising hospital bills persist in part because hospitals block the transparency that drives competition and consumer choice. Hospitals often hide the true cost of care behind opaque billing practices and gag clauses that keep employers from seeing what they're actually paying.

And, according to Small Business Majority's research, as many as 58% of small business owners have had hidden "facility fees" tacked onto their hospital bills. These fees allow hospitals to charge more for the same services if they are provided in a facility owned by a hospital, instead of an independent clinic.

Meanwhile, hospitals across the state

have continued to consolidate and swallow up local providers, reducing competition and giving large systems unchecked power to dictate prices. Market consolidation through hospital mergers ultimately drives up healthcare costs for consumers — including small businesses.

According to RAND Health Care, hospital mergers have resulted in estimated price increases ranging from 3% to 65%.

With fewer competitors, healthcare costs rise without a corresponding increase in quality of care. In fact, consolidation can lead to a higher mortality rate and more major health setbacks.

Rural communities are particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of healthcare mergers, as they're more likely to experience larger-than-average price increases, often in outpatient services. Additionally, rural merged hospitals are more likely than rural independent hospitals to eliminate crucial services like maternal, neonatal and surgical care.

California's regulators are already playing a role in helping bring down prices. The California Office of Health Care Affordability was established in 2022 to lower hospital costs and promote greater transparency. It must not be deterred when hospitals refuse to lower prices or explain their pricing structure.

We also need to see action on the federal level. During his first term, the Trump administration issued rules intended to increase price transparency and bring down costs. This was a great start but clearly much more is needed to help make the cost of care more affordable for small businesses.

Small businesses are the heart of our economy, accounting for more than half of new jobs nationwide and employing 7 million Californians. But they can't thrive if healthcare costs keep rising. Addressing hospital pricing abuse is essential for keeping California's small businesses strong and ensuring every worker can access quality, affordable care.

Bianca Blomquist is the California director for the Small Business Majority

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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Troubled LA Mayor Karen Bass faces a re-election challenge from the city's left wing

The ever-changing array of political figures seeking to become California's next governor has a doppelganger in the game of musical political chairs being played in Los Angeles over electing a mayor.

In a sense, that should not be surprising because Los Angeles, population 3.9 million, is a microcosm of California and its multitude of daunting socioeconomic, cultural and political issues.

In fact, as I described in a chapter of a 2008 book, *The New Political Geography of California*, the rapid conversion of Los Angeles and environs from decades of semi-conservative political orientation into a blue bastion during the 1990s was a major factor in California's overall metamorphosis.

The end of the Cold War, which decimated Southern California's defense industry, surging immigration from Latin America and Asia, and the development of a strong union movement all contributed to the city's leftward drift.

Thus, the issues facing the next governor – such as high costs of housing, utilities and other necessities, homelessness, uncertain water supplies, lagging educational attainment, an epidemic of wildfires, insurance gaps and budget deficits – also afflict Los Angeles and its mayor.

The current mayor, former state legislator and congresswoman Karen Bass, has shown a remarkable tendency toward political self-destruction.

A year ago, Bass left for a junket to Africa with Los Angeles facing the threat of destructive wildfires that became horrendous reality. More recently, the Los Angeles Times revealed that a Los Angeles Fire Department report on the fires was watered down to protect officialdom from criticism and that Bass was complicit in the revisions.

Citing sources, Times reporters wrote that Bass "wanted key findings about the LAFD's actions removed or softened before the report was made public."

Those lapses of judgment should be fatal to Bass' re-election but one-by-one, potentially heavyweight opponents bowed out.

Initially, businessman Rick Caruso,

who had waged a credible campaign against Bass in 2022, seemed to be a likely candidate, sharply criticizing Bass on how she handled the city's worst-ever emergency. He weighed either challenging her or running for governor, but ultimately decided against both.

Austin Beutner, former superintendent of Los Angeles schools and one-time CEO of the Los Angeles Times, announced his candidacy and then dropped out, citing the recent death of his 22-year-old daughter.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath briefly considered dropping in after Caruso and Beutner dropped out, but demurred, seemingly giving Bass the luxury of re-election without a potentially potent opponent.

However, on Saturday, just three hours before the deadline, City Councilwoman Nithya Raman, declared her candidacy.

Raman, one of the council's most left leaning members, a progressive in the mold of New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani, had previously endorsed Bass when it appeared she would face a relatively conservative opponent. However, with the field almost clear, she decided to see if Los Angeles, the nation's second largest city, might go the way of Gotham.

"I have deep respect for Mayor Bass," Raman told the Los Angeles Times. "We've worked closely together on my biggest priorities and her biggest priorities, and there's significant alignment there. But over the last few months in particular, I've really begun to feel like unless we have some big changes in how we do things in Los Angeles, that the things we count on are not going to function anymore."

Given Bass' low standing in polls for her missteps on the firestorm, Raman poses a serious threat to the mayor's re-election and could compel the business community and critics such as Caruso and Beutner to help Bass fend off a challenge from the left.

The duel over the mayoralty of Los Angeles could surpass the campaign for governor to become the year's most interesting and important contest.

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist

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Surf report

WATER TEMP: 61.9

THURSDAY
FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Mellow mix of WNW and SSW swells on tap. Fun corners for the small wave gear, clean start. Lingering WNW swell leftovers to work with, mixing with a modest round of SSW swell. Not much size wise, but should be some fun peaks (cruisy lines at the points) for the bigger boards and grovelers while standout combo spots have enough push for a shortboard as the tide drops in the morning. AM window looks pretty clean at this point with manageable onshore lump in the afternoon - especially around some structure.

FRIDAY
FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Modest combo of swells. Rideable after the AM high tide drops a bit. Slow through the AM high tide, then trending rideable for the combo exposures and summer points as the tide drops through the morning. Lingering WNW swell blends with some new SSW swell energy for size in the waist high range at average breaks, focal points larger at times. Variable to light+ offshore flow in the morning builds from the WNW/ NW in the afternoon.

Weather

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 63. Light and variable wind becoming west 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 50.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 68.

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

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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

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: 2/9
6 19 22 28 48
Power#: 24
Jackpot: 126 M



Draw Date: 2/9
2 8 11 36 37



Draw Date: 2/6
13 21 25 52 62
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 366 M



Draw Date: 2/9
EVENING: 5 1 1
Draw Date: 2/9
MIDDAY: 1 1 9



Draw Date: 2/7
4 19 22 33 43
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 27 M



Draw Date: 2/9
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:44.53

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

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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DBA

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026015156. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LEGACY IN PROGRESS, 2801 OCEAN PARK BLVD #2419, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): ALICIA COLLINS, 2801 OCEAN PARK BLVD #2419, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 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/ Alicia Collins, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/21/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/29/2026, 02/05/2026, 02/12/2026, 02/19/2026, 02/26/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026020214. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: RAVENWOOD INTELLIGENCE COOPERATIVE, RAVENWOOD INTELLIGENCE, RAVENWOOD INTEL, RAVENWOOD, 100 WILSHIRE BLVD. SUITE 700, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): AI#ON B2026001784S. Registered Owner(s): RAVENWOOD INTELLIGENCE COOPERATIVE, INC., 100 WILSHIRE BLVD SUITE 700, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 02/2026. 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/ TRINEDY KRUSELL, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 2/5/2026. 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: 02/05/2026, 02/12/2026, 02/19/2026, 02/26/2026, 03/05/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026027651. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SARI-SARI SWEETIE, 1422 CALIFORNIA AVE UNIT 4, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): UBE BREAD LLC, 1422 CALIFORNIA AVE UNIT 4, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 02/2026. 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/ PHILIP M FIELDS, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 2/5/2026. 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: 02/12/2026, 02/19/2026, 02/26/2026, 03/05/2026

DBA

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. NC-120. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Emily Rene Biehl for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Emily Rene Biehl filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Emily Rene Biehl to Emily Rene Biehl Erbach. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not

be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 02/20/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 01/09/2026. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/30/2026, 02/06/2026, 02/12/2026, 02/18/2026

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AROUND TOWN

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Valentine's, Galentine's President's Day Weekend Happenings

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes Valentine's / Galentine's things to do, President's Day Weekend activities, ATTUNE: Sound + Light Experience at Tongva Park, Lunar New Years, Mini Renaissance Fair, Santa Monica Block Fest Vol III, and much more!



Courtesy photo

PIER: Pacific Park is celebrating Valentines Day.

Celebrate the year of the Fire Horse with Hong Kong-style mahjong at Edgemar: Mahjong Underground hosts pop-up events and play Hong Kong style mahjong and have players who can help teach as well as guide sheets. Thursday, Feb. 12, 7p.m. - 12:30a.m., 2435 Main St. instagram.com/p/DUJ7JcUj1Zg/

Volo Solo Cornhole Singles Mixer: This is designed to be a low-pressure, social alternative to dating apps - play a few games, meet new people, and see what happens. Friday, Feb. 13, 6 - 10p.m., Santa Monica Brew Works, 1920 Colorado Ave. volosports.com/d/cdd7c19e-79b4-44db-aed8-2f43e25a504c

AmEx x Fanatics Real Vintage Vault for NBA All-Star Weekend: Shop limited-edition vintage NBA pieces and memorabilia. Amex cardholders get special perks all weekend long like 10% off qualifying purchases. Friday and Saturday, 57 Windward Ave., Venice americanexpress.com/en-us/credit-cards/benefits/experiences/nba-all-star-game

AT&T Dunk Bus in Venice Beach: It's NBA All-Star Weekend in LA and you can show off your game and experience exciting activations and surprises at this pop-up. Friday - Sunday, 11a.m. - 6p.m., Venice Basketball Courts instagram.com/reels/DUjNvXZEglw

Mosaic Magic Valentine's Workshop: Get creative this with this hands-on mosaic workshop at Artime Barro, where you'll craft a beautiful piece to take home — ideal for a date or a Galentine's art adventure. Tickets include materials and guided instruction in a fun, festive setting. Saturday, Feb 14, 1p.m., 302 Pico Blvd. unation.com/event/mosaic-magic-valentines-workshop-63515629

Viceroy Valentine's and Galentine's Poolside Dining: For couples, private cabanas will feature a six-course candlelit tasting menu with an amuse-bouche, two

SEE AROUND TOWN PAGE 11

Housing advocates still waiting for state-ordered stair report

In the fall of 2023, the California Legislature tasked the state's fire safety regulators with writing a report that some housing affordability advocates say could make it easier to build bigger, airier and better lit apartment buildings in California's housing-strapped cities.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal was given until Jan. 1, 2026 to come up with a report on single-stair apartment buildings — a type of mid-sized multifamily development legal in much of the world, but effectively banned across most of North America.

More than a month later, single-stair advocates are still waiting on that report — though a draft version obtained by CalMatters hints that the office may be considering a modest change to the state building code.

“I know there’s been a real desire among politicians in California to change the state’s image as a slow moving state, but in this case I don’t see it”

- Stephen Smith, founder of the Center for Building in North America

“They were given a deadline,” said Stephen Smith, founder of the Center for Building in North America, which advocates for cost-reducing changes to building regulations.

That safety-minded code is meant to provide residents with multiple escape routes in the event of a fire. But it has also become a focal point of criticism among a growing number of housing advocates, architects and urbanists, who say it raises the costs of multifamily construction, limits where apartments can be built, pushes developers toward darkened studios and away from family-sized apartments and provides limited health and safety benefits.

“I know there’s been a real desire among politicians in California to change the state’s image as a slow moving state, but in this case I don’t see it,” said Smith, who was also a member of the working group of fire service professionals, building code experts and housing advocates tasked with writing the first draft of the report for the state Fire Marshal. The group’s last meeting was on November 4.

“This report is still under review and

we will publish the report as soon as it is approved for publication,” said Wes Maxey, CAL FIRE’s assistant deputy director of legislation, in an email. He would not say when the report is expected to be released or what the hold up is all about.

The state legislature regularly assigns research reports of this kind to various corners of the state bureaucracy — and, as CalMatters has reported before, the state bureaucracy regularly blows past its assigned deadlines.

But the single-stair analysis has garnered considerable interest outside of Sacramento.

Current rules in California (with the one, recent exception of Culver City) require apartment buildings higher than three stories to have at least two staircases connected by a hallway.

The Legislature was clearly interested in raising that height limit when it ordered the report in the first place.

“Many European countries allow buildings with single staircases and have better records on fire safety than the United States,” said Assemblymember Alex Lee, a Milpitas Democrat, urging a “yes” vote on his bill in the summer of 2023. “I believe having the Fire Marshal conduct the study will start the conversation about leveraging existing fire and emergency response technologies and strategies to maximize housing projects.”

Local fire marshals, fire chiefs and fire fighting unions have, by and large, opposed easing staircase requirements in the building code wherever they’ve been proposed.

The final report is likely to disappoint either those organized fire services, a politically powerful constituency, or “Yes In My Backyard” advocates that have found an ally in Gov. Gavin Newsom.

A draft version of the report circulated among stakeholders in late October included a half-hearted endorsement of a change to the state building code. If the State Fire Marshal recommends new policy, the draft reads, the change should only be from a three-story maximum up to four. Any new four story single-stair structures should also be restricted in size and abide by a number of other added safety-oriented restrictions, the report added.

Culver City, west of downtown Los Angeles, passed a single-stair ordinance last year to nix the second-stair requirement in certain apartment buildings up to six stories. Six stories is also the cut-off in the four other jurisdictions that go above three: New York City, Seattle, Honolulu and Portland, Oregon.

The draft report, which is not final, also went out of its way to emphasize “the near unanimous feedback from California Fire Departments who are opposed to permitting single-exit stairway construction ... greater than 3 stories.”

Whenever it is finalized and published, the report won’t have the force of law. But should state legislators opt to take up the issue in the future, its final recommendations are likely to carry weight with undecided lawmakers.

Ben Christopher, CalMatters Housing Reporter

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EVENTS THIS WEEK FEB.12 - FEB.19

PACIFIC PALISADES

SUSHI-MAKING CLASSES AT SOKO

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. Available every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday in March | 5PM - 6:30PM. \$114.00 — \$114 per ticket + tax. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sushi-making-classes-at-soko/17977012/2026-02-12T17>

Sounds of Santa Monica | Valentine's Day Edition

February 13th - 16th | Center Plaza, Level 1 Join us for free, live Valentine's Day-themed jazz music at Santa Monica Place, February 13-16 from 2-5 PM. Schedule: February 13 - Bryan Lazar February 14 - Scotty Bramer Trio February 15 - Jessica Vines February 16 - Roderick Chambers. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sounds-of-santa-monica-valentine-s-day-edition/18044902/2026-02-13T11>

LOVE IS IN THE AIR at LouLou

February 14 | LouLou , Level 3 LouLou Santa Monica set the mood for Valentine's Day with an intimate evening where Romance, Music, and Gastronomy met seamlessly, with Live Performances by DJ's @colbyofficial and @nelson.de.corseaux, joined by a special appearance from French Singer @melanytoujas_, creating a Soulful, Elegant atmosphere from the first note. Guests enjoy a specially designed Prix-Fixe Valentine's menu, celebrating Connection, Emotion, and Timeless Romance, The LouLo. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/love-is-in-the-air-at-loulou/18044903/2026-02-14T11>

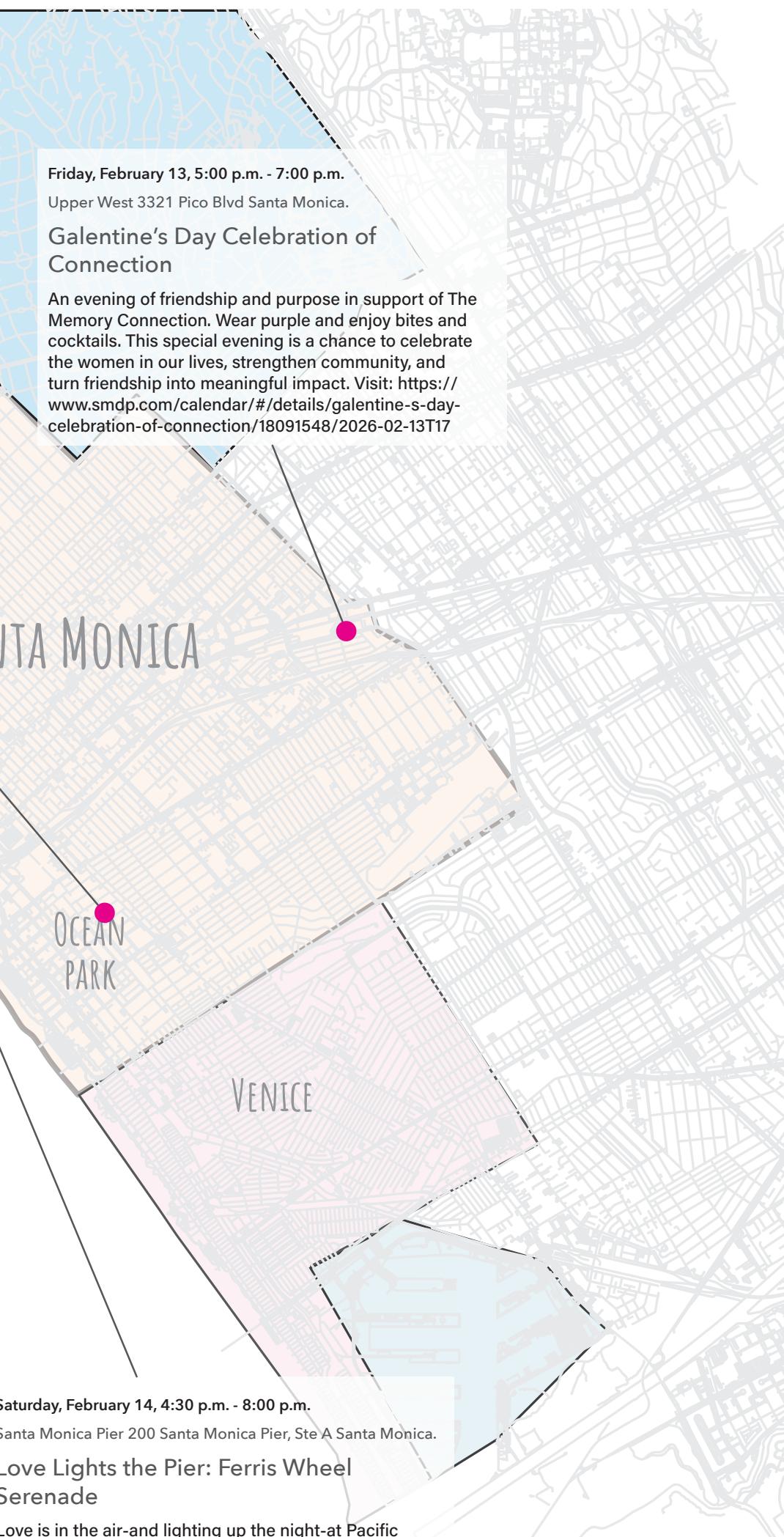
Anti-Valentines Day Party at the Shore Hotel

Join us for an Anti-Valentine's Day poolside takeover powered by Luna Nueva Tequila, equal parts chaotic, flirty, and fun. What's going down: Live DJs Luna Nueva Tequila Tasting Photobooth Specialty Luna Nueva cocktails Contests with giveaways • Tickets: FREE with RSVP | \$20 at the door For Cabana Rental, e-mail sales@shorehotel.com. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/anti-valentines-day-party-at-the-shore-hotel/18091546/2026-02-13T15>

Red Tent Global: Celebrating Sisterhood | Women Evolving Together

Activate your feminine energy in Sisterhood as Red Tent Global launches into the world! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/red-tent-global-celebrating-sisterhood-women-evolving-together/18001693/2026-02-15T14>

Check out more events at: [smdp.com/events](https://www.smdp.com/events)



Friday, February 13, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Upper West 3321 Pico Blvd Santa Monica.

Galentine's Day Celebration of Connection

An evening of friendship and purpose in support of The Memory Connection. Wear purple and enjoy bites and cocktails. This special evening is a chance to celebrate the women in our lives, strengthen community, and turn friendship into meaningful impact. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/galentine-s-day-celebration-of-connection/18091548/2026-02-13T17>

SANTA MONICA

OCEAN PARK

VENICE

Saturday, February 14, 4:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica.

Love Lights the Pier: Ferris Wheel Serenade

Love is in the air-and lighting up the night-at Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier, as the iconic amusement park invites couples, families, and friends to celebrate Valentine's Day with "Love Lights the Pier," a festive, feel-good celebration running February 1-15. Ferris Wheel Serenade - Romantic live DJ performances adjacent to the world-famous Ferris wheel sets the mood on Saturday, February 14 from 4:30-8 p.m. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/love-lights-the-pier-ferris-wheel-serenade/18091552/2026-02-14T16>



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

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 14

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK/PICO BOULEVARD FARMERS MARKET

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave Santa Monica Virginia Avenue Park Santa Monica. The family market in the heart of the Pico neighborhood's Virginia Avenue Park! 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, delicious foods, live music and more. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/virginia-avenue-park-pico-boulevard-farmers-market/16090226/2026-02-14T08>

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - SATURDAY MARKET

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Santa Monica Farmers Market - Arizona Ave and 3rd Street Arizona Ave and 3rd Street Santa Monica. Santa Monica Farmers Markets create thriving, vibrant communities that are inclusive, connected, and diverse by promoting the prosperity of California farmers and small food businesses, preservation of the agricultural arts and sustainable food systems. The Saturday Downtown Farmers Market is open from 8:00am to 1:00pm, year-round and operates rain or shine. May be closed for selected holidays. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-saturday-market/13357377/2026-02-14T08>

CANDIDATES

FROM PAGE 1

Tonia Arey filed to run against Horvath, saying the Pacific Palisades fire and its aftermath were a breaking point — not just because of the devastation, but because of what she called irresponsible and negligent handling by those in power. Arey pointed to Malibu businesses still struggling to recover, contaminated beaches strewn with debris and Calabasas being turned into a dumping ground for toxic waste, saying it didn't happen by accident but was allowed to happen and approved by the current district supervisor.

Horvath is seeking a second term representing a sprawling district that covers large stretches of the San Fernando Valley and runs along the coast from Santa Monica to Malibu. She was first elected in 2022 and is eligible for up to three consecutive four-year terms under county rules.

No Los Angeles County supervisor has lost a reelection bid and Horvath is widely expected to pursue the new voter approved county chief executive position that will be created in 2028.

The filing window runs through March 6. To get on the ballot, candidates must submit nomination papers with 20 to 40 valid signatures from district voters and pay a filing fee of roughly \$2,447, or offset that fee by collecting signatures during a designated period that closed in early February.

The county race is nonpartisan. If no candidate wins a majority in the June primary, the top two advance to a Nov. 3 runoff.

Countywide, filing also opened for an open First District seat, with Supervisor Hilda Solis barred from running again due to term limits. The June ballot will also include a sheriff's race and other countywide offices.

In Los Angeles City Council District 11, the candidate field is set after the filing window closed at noon Saturday.

Park filed to seek a second term representing communities including Brentwood, Del Rey, Mar Vista, Pacific Palisades, Palms, Sawtelle

and Venice. Civil rights attorney Faizah Malik and entrepreneur Jeremy Wineberg, a Pacific Palisades resident, filed paperwork to challenge her.

Candidates must now file nominating petitions by March 4 to qualify for the ballot. The city charter offers two paths: pay a \$300 filing fee and submit petitions with at least 500 valid signatures from district voters, or forego the fee by gathering at least 1,000 valid signatures.

Like the county race, city elections are nonpartisan. A candidate who wins more than 50% in the June 2 primary is elected outright; otherwise the top two advance to the November runoff.

District 11 encompasses a large portion of the Westside, stretching from Pacific Palisades down the coast to Los Angeles International Airport and inland to areas including Westchester and West Los Angeles. The district has seen intense debate over homelessness, particularly in Venice, along with development and quality-of-life concerns.

Park won the seat in 2022 and is finishing her first of a possible three four-year terms. Candidates were required to establish residency in the district by Jan. 3.

Across the city, the filing deadline also set the field in other odd-numbered council districts. Two open-seat contests emerged: District 3, where Bob Blumenfield is term-limited and five candidates filed, and District 9, where Curren Price is term-limited and 12 candidates entered the race. Price, 75, is facing public corruption charges, has pleaded not guilty and is scheduled to be arraigned March 13.

Other incumbents filed to run again, including Eunisses Hernandez in District 1, Katy Yaroslavsky in District 5, Monica Rodriguez in District 7, Hugo Soto-Martinez in District 13 and Tim McOske in District 15, with challengers filing in each district.

editor@smdp.com



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MALIBU

FROM PAGE 1

speak in person and many more submitting emails opposing the proposed changes.

66 I think it's fair to say that we maybe got two or three emails at most in support of this proposal and everyone else and there were many, many of them were opposed

- Bruce Silverstein, Mayor

"I think it's fair to say that we maybe got two or three emails at most in support of this proposal and everyone else and there were many, many of them were opposed," Mayor Bruce Silverstein said.

The controversy centered on conflicting proposals to update the city's Mobile Home Rent Ordinance, originally adopted in 1991 and amended in 1994 following federal litigation. City staff presented amendments intended to modernize language while maintaining the core rent control framework, including Consumer Price Index caps of 2% to 5% and 15% vacancy increases.

However, the Mobile Home Rent Stabilization Commission — dormant from 2008 to 2025 — had spent months developing its own sweeping changes that staff argued went far beyond the commission's authority.

Council members and staff countered that the commission, designed as a quasi-judicial body to hear rent disputes, had overstepped by drafting legislative regulations.

"They commenced to draft their own changes to regulations and the mobile home ordinance," said Councilmember Doug Stewart. "Heavy emphasis on regulations even though the staff and the city attorney advised them that they were outside their authority and were even violating the Brown Act."

Residents from Point Dume Club and

Paradise Cove mobile home parks delivered a unified message: leave the current system alone.

"If it isn't broken why are we fixing it," one resident stated, echoing a sentiment repeated throughout the evening.

In a rare alignment, park owners agreed with residents. Representatives for both Paradise Cove and Point Dume Club (operated by Hometown America) opposed any amendments, with their attorneys warning that adopting the commission's changes could invite litigation over unconstitutional property takings.

Much of the public comment focused on California Assembly Bill 768, pending state legislation that many feared would strip local rent control protections. While council members clarified they cannot control state law, they acknowledged residents' concerns.

"There is a state law proposal that we do not have control over," Silverstein said. "We can oppose it until we're blue in the face, but as of right now it passed the assembly with flying colors."

AB 768 initially proposed exempting mobile homes not occupied by owners for at least 30 consecutive days from rent stabilization. The bill was amended in January 2026 to cover "permanent housing" under rent stabilization while exempting only seasonal vacation homes and short-term rentals. As of Jan. 20, the bill passed the Assembly and moved to the Senate.

Council members criticized both the commission's process and the rushed timeline.

"What have we done here? I mean this is the absolute worst thing that can happen from a city council or from any city government where we're forcing people to make economic decisions in a fear setting," Stewart said.

Councilmember Steve Uhring warned that amending the ordinance could eliminate existing statute of limitations protections, opening the city to lawsuits from park owners.

Mayor Silverstein noted the process had gone "off the rails" by bypassing the council's ad hoc committee.

The council ultimately passed three motions: directing the ad hoc committee to advocate against AB 768, removing the ordinance amendments from the calendar and referring the matter back to the ad hoc committee for further study with public input, and rescinding all regulations enacted by the commission after June 1, 2025.

"Usually this city takes it too slow, I hear complaints, but now we're going too fast. So let's slow it down, take our time," said Councilmember Haylynn Conrad.

The mobile home parks provide affordable housing for dozens of families in one of California's most expensive coastal communities, where rent control has been in place for more than three decades.

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Zack Hill



By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Heathcliff



By PETER GALLAGHER

Strange Brew



By JOHN DEERING

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Essential insects



Ants	Eggs	Lice	Silverfish
Aphids	Flea	Louse	Stonefly
Bite	Flies	Maggot	Thrips
Borer	Gnat	Metamorphosis	Trap
Bugs	Grubs	Mosquito	Type
Bumblebee	Head	Moth	Walk
Caterpillar	Hive	Nest	Wasp
Cercus	Horse	Painful	Weevil
Chrysalis	Katydid	Pupa	Yellow
Disease	Lacewing	Roach	Jacket
Earwig	Legs	Scarab	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Famous landmarks



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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 12)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Maintenance is a kind of listening. Tighten the loose screw, clear the small pile, straighten the edge. These modest gestures calm the nervous system, signaling that it's all in order, and when it's not, it's OK. Falling apart is the first sign of coming together.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's strong psychological evidence that willpower is a limited resource. Willpower gets scarce when you're already using so much to get through a tense situation or a demanding day. Self-discipline is made easier in an otherwise stress-free day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Every relationship has a story, and today you'll be making it a more interesting one with your sense of play. Of course it means tapping into your creativity and daring. It's better to be messy and silly than too regimented, literal or serious.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're avoiding mistakes for a reason. The consequences are real. Just "valuing effort" doesn't pay bills or fix problems. Because you're serious about doing a good job, you'll put safeguards in place that make it impossible not to.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Being a "driven" person is easy when you simply accept your drives. It's when you ignore or disapprove of them that motivation wanes. What's standing between you and what you naturally want to do? A judgement? A fear? Grapple with and dismantle it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're open-minded, flexible, amenable... and you still should try to get your way. Sometimes your way is just better. Today is one of those times when all will benefit when you politely advocate for it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If people were stars, there's one who is your North Star right now and you keep moving toward the light, constant and bright. Yes, there is still a distance between you, but what's a few light-years among friends?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A bit of envy in the mix will be lucky for you because you're naturally competitive, so the idea that someone else is winning the very thing you're interested in will give you the energy to think smarter and move faster to make things happen for yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You want people to be comfortable around you, but not so relaxed that they are also complacent, inconsiderate or greedy. There's a balance to be struck between warmth and power, and it can be addressed sartorially.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The temptation of making a "bad" choice isn't really about morality or a failure of discipline, so much as needs. Comfort, relief, connection, excitement, rest, reassurance - all are valid reasons to act. Understand the need and behaviors are easier to manage.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The focus you choose is the picture. What you don't focus on may as well be absent entirely. Your world features the people, things and ideas you flow your attention to. As you witness the world, you also make it.

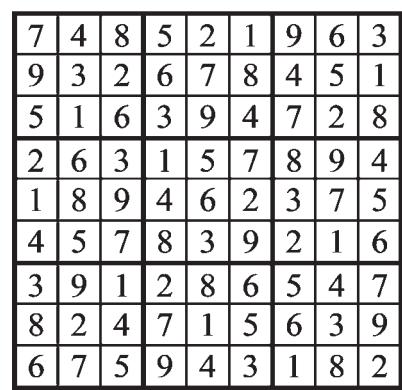
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Only say yes when you're genuinely excited about the offering or see a definite benefit to responding like you are. Keep focusing on the upside of extra responsibility and it will stop feeling like a chore and start feeling like choice, and maybe even a little fun.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD



Sudoku

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU



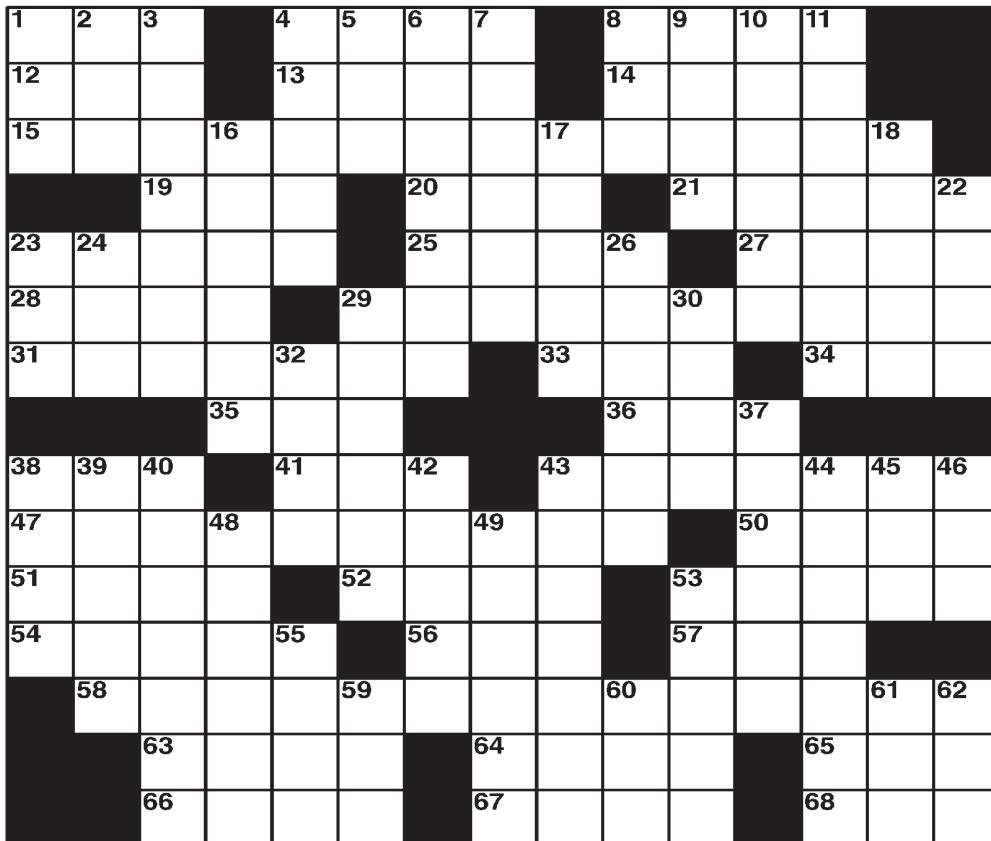
Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

Newsday Crossword

ON TRACK by Adam Simpson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Came upon 57 Islamic festival 7 Hi-fi system 38 Hand holders
4 Austrian topography 58 ...on rails 8 SAT takers 39 Artist Haring
8 "Away with you!" 63 Teléfono MNO 9 Salon service 40 Court order
12 Bungle something 64 Bowl game org. 10 Moon shot program 42 Easy basket
13 Underlying cause 65 Non-__ (food label) 11 Poorly founded 43 Great regard
14 Skip it 66 Wimbledon airer 16 Mall business 44 Dressing in a kit
15 ...on top 67 Texted "Ta-ta!" 17 Boys of Barcelona 45 French article
19 Super Mario Bros. 68 Erode 18 Was awful at 46 Home projects dept.
console 22 Whirling water 49 Fix permanently
20 NL West team 1 Verbal shrug 23 Ultimate objective 53 Bullion, for example
21 Slender wineglass 2 Important span 24 Calypso kin 55 Kitchen mixer setting
23 Invite for 3 Unimportant 26 Postproduction VIP 59 W-2 ID
25 Prefix for diction 4 Juvenile rebuttal 29 Word of caution 60 Diary page
27 Overamplified 5 Salmon serving 30 Managed care grps. 61 "___ little confused..."
28 Major bookcase 6 Safe to drink 32 Shade of blue 62 Contraction
seller 37 Diary, essentially candidate



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02/12/26

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

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

glasses of champagne, dedicated service, rose petals, a rose bouquet centerpiece and Valentine's décor. A curated wine pairing is available for an additional fee. The package costs \$400 for two guests. For Galentine's Day, groups of up to eight can reserve cabanas with a curated cheese board, tabletop s'mores, a bottle of rosé or bubbles, a build-your-own bouquet activity and romance-themed table topic cards. Packages range from \$230 for couch seating to \$300 for larger cabanas, with options including TVs, dedicated servers and group games. 1819 Ocean Ave. instagram.com/viceroy

Mini Renaissance Fair: Enjoy a morning of fun and community featuring art and activities for kids, Pico business booths, and community information. Enjoy the photo booth to capture your look—and don't forget to wear your costume! Come dressed in your best Renaissance or creative attire and celebrate with family, friends, and neighbors at this festive event. Saturday, Feb. 14, 9a.m. - 12p.m., Virginia Avenue Park, 200 Virginia Ave. <https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4y9qnv492b4zx3d7ny87xysm3/202602140900>

SaMo Conservancy Main Street Walk: Join street historian Mark Gorman for a Main St. walking tour to discover the cultural and architectural evolution of this vibrant Ocean Park hub, including Frank Gehry's mark on Edgemar and more well-researched stories. Walk-ins welcome but registrations encouraged. \$10. Saturday, Feb. 14, 10:30a.m. <https://smc.givecloud.co/items/msw>

Valentine's Day "Cupid's Concourse" Car Event: Car enthusiasts and the LA community can come together at goodboybob Coffee Roasters to enjoy 70+ vehicles, coffee and matcha, and brand pop-ups. Free. Saturday, Feb 14, 11a.m. - 1p.m., 2058 Broadway goodboybob.com

ATTUNE: Sound + Light Experience at Tongva Park: Santa Monica is one of ten sites across LA County hosting this synchronized public art experience featuring live sound performances and light installations. Bring a blanket and enjoy a creative Valentine's Day evening under the sky. Each location is a hub and reflection of the neighborhood and is intended to be a gathering for local communities across the county. Saturday, Feb. 14, 4:30 - 7:30p.m. nowartpublic.com/attune

Santa Monica Block Fest Vol III: 3 stages. 3 blocks. 3 collectives. Valentine's Day + Mardi Gras = LOVE Santa Monica Block Fest returns for its biggest edition yet, transforming the Promenade into a music festival across all three blocks. Volume III features a diverse DJ lineup (house, tech house, and vinyl), full production, custom stage designs, pop-up bars throughout the EZSM zone, VIP lounges, and local vendors. Text "block" to 310-882-7842 for tickets! Free. Saturday, Feb. 14, 5p.m. - 12a.m., 3rd Street Promenade <https://posh.vip/e/santa-monica-block-fest-vol-iii>

Wheel You Be Mine? Valentine Kidical Mass Bike Ride: Join a fun, family friendly bike ride for kids of all ages through the Bergamot Area First/Last Mile Improvements Project. Kick things off with a brief bike-handling refresher and safety tips, plus bagels, juice, and coffee, then roll out for a guided ride highlighting new street design features, treatments, and how to use them confidently. Sunday, Feb. 15, 9a.m. - 12p.m., Meet at Ishihara Park 2909 Exposition Blvd. (between the picnic tables and the playground) instagram.com/p/DUgu3kvEknf

Locals' Night: Jazz Night: Locals' Night is bringing the rhythm with BroadStage's Jazz Night featuring phenomenal alumni from Stanley Clarke's Artist Residency program. Enjoy serious grooves to celebrate Black History Month, while Offhand Wine Bar keeps the vibe smooth with perfectly paired selections. Thursday, Feb. 19, 3:30 - 10 p.m., Santa Monica Pier santamonicapier.org/jazznight

ONGOING: "Two Bit Circus" Pop-Up; Museum of Illusions; The CUBE VR; Splatter Studio

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

AJA Vineyards Toast to Love: 2 for \$60 Wine Flight Special: Enjoy a Valentine's date night, Galentine's plans, or treating yourself (because self-love counts too) deal whether you're stopping by before dinner, lingering over a glass, or picking up bottles to take home. 1417 2nd St. ajavineyards.com/visitus

Din Tai Fung Lunar New Year Celebration: Starting Feb. 10, dine-in and takeout guests will receive a red envelope with a gift of a Soy Noodle Salad on their next visit. A few lucky guests will have the chance to find a Golden Ticket, granting VIP reservation concierge access to any Din Tai Fung North America location for a year. 395 Santa Monica Place dtf.com/en-us/locations/santa-monica

Holy Basil and Meet Fresh Collab: The special collaboration features exclusive menu items, with 100% of net profits donated to the Southern Smoke Foundation, a nonprofit supporting food and beverage workers through emergency relief, mental health services, and financial assistance. The menu balances aromatic pandan and coconut, floral hibiscus green tea with chewy textures, and a savory-sweet salted egg twist inspired by Holy Basil's signature flavor profile. Feb. 17 through March 3, 2828 Santa Monica Blvd. instagram.com/holybasil_la

Buffalo Club Valentine's Dinner Party: Enjoy an intimate and elevated Valentine's

dinner experience with a special multi-course menu and hand-crafted cocktails in its lush garden courtyard or historic supper club dining room. Known for its classic American cuisine and atmosphere that blends romantic candlelight with lively vibes, this event is perfect for couples or a chic Galentine's evening with friends. Saturday, Feb. 14, 1520 Olympic Blvd. buffaloclub.com/about-3

Terrazza at Hotel Casa del Mar: Soak in the romance by the sea and start with refined appetizers like beef tartare and Bluefin tuna crudo, savor entrées including pan-seared seabass and prime filet mignon, and end the evening with decadent desserts, especially the Chocolate Lovers Cake. \$150/person. Saturday, Feb. 14, 1910 Ocean Way hotelcasadelmar.com/dining/terrazza

Citrin Valentine's Prix-Fixe Dinner: This Michelin-starred favorite by Chef Josiah Citrin is offering a special multi-course Valentine's prix-fixe menu.. Choose from romantic early-week seating with a refined three-course menu, or indulge in a lavish seven-course experience on Valentine's Day itself with rich seasonal ingredients and decadent desserts. Friday, Feb. 13 & Sunday, Feb. 15 — \$175 per person; Saturday, Feb. 14 — \$350 per person, 1104 Wilshire Blvd. citrinandmelisse.com/valentines-day

Valentine's / Galentine's at Cobi's: Enjoy an intimate candlelit Valentine's celebration with an elevated menu of starters, curries, and decadent desserts that make for a memorable date night or heart-felt dinner with friends. Saturday, Feb. 14, 5p.m., 2104 Main St. resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/cobis/events/valentines-day-at-cobis-2026-02-14

Crudo e Nudo Valentine's Venus Tasting Menu: They are "featuring more species of local fish than you'd find on most omakase menus around town." Expect Chef/Owner Brian Bornemann's greatest hits, like plenty of local Caviar and Uni, 4 Seasonal Crudo (including gorgeous Baja Pink Scallops served whole in the shell), a luxurious Lobster Gnocchi and a comforting Cioppino. Saturday, Feb. 14, 2724 Main St. crudoenudo.com

Fia Valentines: In addition to the full menu, they have Valentine's Day specials available Feb 12-15 that include winter citrus, burrata, hazelnuts, arugula, honey and sherry vinaigrette Santa Barbara uni, caviar, bucatini, stinging nettle Wagyu denver steak, pommes puree, pink peppercorn, rosalba Love bites, plate of petit fours. 2454 Wilshire Blvd. <https://www.opentable.com/r/fia-santa-monica>

Fia Steak Valentines: Enjoy a 4 course prix-fixe menu with options such as kusshi oysters w/ caviar, salade rouge, surf & turf, and petits fours. 2458 Wilshire Blvd. [opentable.com/r/fia-steak-santa-monica](https://www.opentable.com/r/fia-steak-santa-monica)

Gladstone's Valentines: Nothing beats a Valentine's Day date by the beach, with the sound of the waves crashing. On Saturday, Feb. 14, it will serve up a swoon worthy, four-course prix fixe dinner designed for date night perfection. Think ultra-fresh seafood and California-coastal flavors - all best enjoyed against one of Southern California's most iconic oceanfront views.

Lunetta Valentine's Week: Leading up to Valentine's Day, Lunetta will offer a special Taste of Valentine's tasting menu, designed for guests looking to celebrate early or enjoy a more relaxed midweek date night. And on V-Day, expect an elevated prix fixe dinner beginning with an indulgent amuse and followed by refined starters, mains, and dessert choices designed for a romantic evening. Saturday, Feb. 14, 2424 Pico Blvd. instagram.com/lunettasm

The Surfing Fox at The Pierside "No Labels, Just Love Weekend": A feel-good celebration of love in all forms. Friends, partners, chosen family, and community. Programming includes Valentine's dinner specials, Galentine's brunch with live music and shareable plates, and evening live music for the love birds. Valentine's Weekend (Fri-Mon) thesurfingfoxsm.com/events/no-labels-just-love-weekend

Valentine's Weekend at Wally's: They are offering special brunch and dinner menus all weekend. 214 Wilshire Blvd. wallywine.com/events

Wally's Tasting Series - Roses + Reds: Enjoy a Valentine's tasting experience celebrating the perfect pairing of romantic rosés and bold reds. Discover a curated selection of exceptional bottles, complemented by cheese and charcuterie, Perigord black truffle deviled eggs, and spicy salami pizza from the Wally's menu. Plus, enjoy 10% off featured products during the event. 214 Wilshire Blvd. <https://www.opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=1020850&restref=1020850&experienceId=638762>

Further Afield: 36th Annual Mardi Gras Takes Over The Original Farmers Market: The free, family- and pet-friendly event features live brass and Zydeco bands, Cajun favorites like gumbo and beignets, kids' activities, and the highly anticipated Mutti Gras Pet Parade & Costume Contest, where pets compete for king and queen honors. Feb. 14 - 17 farmersmarketla.com/events

Looking Ahead: Lunar New Year at Santa Monica Place (2/21); Frieze LA Art Show (2/26 - 3/1)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Valentine's / President's Day Weekend Happenings



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