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Volume 25 Issue 70

WEDNESDAY 2/25/26

smdp.com

## School board votes to eliminate reading interventionist positions amid community outcry

**MAAZ ALIN**  
SMDP Staff Writer

Job cuts at the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District were approved, rejected and delayed last week as board members struggled to balance the needs of students with a multi-million dollar fiscal deficit.

The school board voted to eliminate its Language and Literacy Interventionist program Thursday night but modified the original proposal to retain four classroom teachers who had also been scheduled for layoffs. A separate item addressing the proposed layoff of 21 classified custodial staff members was continued to the board's March 3 regular meeting.

The board passed the amended resolution amid an outpouring of opposition from parents, teachers and students who argued the cuts would devastate reading support for the district's most vulnerable learners. The reductions, set to take effect in June 2026, are part of a broader effort to close an \$11 million structural budget deficit.

Several board members initially spoke out against any job cuts but eventually voted to eliminate the LLI positions after the teachers were

SEE SCHOOL PAGE 7

## Students send community Valentines to senior citizens



Athens Teitelbaum

**VALENTINES:** Local youth organized a community effort to support elderly residents last week.

Last week students from the Upper School Community Engagement Honors Society at Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences completed a student-led Valentine's Day card initiative benefiting residents at

Santa Monica Home & Care and Brookdale Ocean House.

The project provided personalized Valentine's cards to 40 assisted-living residents, with more than 60 cards created through a combination

of community submissions and student participation. Santa Monica residents contributed heartfelt messages through an online form,

SEE VALENTINES PAGE 3

## LA28 ticket registrations top 5 million with March deadline approaching

**MATTHEW HALL**  
Daily Press Editor

More than 5 million people from 194 countries have registered for a chance to purchase tickets to the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympic Games, organizers announced this week, with registration for the first ticket draw remaining open through March 18.

LA28 officials said the milestone was reached as the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games concluded, marking what they described as an unprecedented surge of global interest. The organizing committee reported an average of 100,000 new daily registrations since the process opened Jan. 14, when more than 1.5 million people signed up within the first 24 hours.

"As a historic Winter Games concludes, we celebrate the incredible athletes and achievements of so many," said Reynold Hoover, LA28 chief executive officer. "We are grateful for the millions of people who have expressed interest in joining us in LA in 2028 where more of these stories and dreams will come to life."

Registration is free and required to participate in the ticket draw. Interested fans can sign up at tickets.

SEE OLYMPICS PAGE 11

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# 1 in 10 Cal State students face homelessness. This emergency housing program helps

Nineteen hours after leaving Coachella Valley, Oscar Deleon Jr. stepped off a bus with four bags of clothes, \$800, admission to Chico State University, and no idea where he was going to live or work. All he knew was that he was taking his agriculture professor's advice from College of the Desert and transferring to a university to continue his education.

He checked into a hotel. Two days later, at orientation, he learned about the Rapid Rehousing program at Chico State. The program's community partner, True North Housing Alliance, a nonprofit that addresses homelessness in Butte County, paid for Deleon's hotel bill. The university transferred Deleon to student housing for the school year and helped him secure financial aid to cover most of the cost.

"When I needed somewhere to go, they were willing to help me out, no questions asked. 'Let's get you situated,' you know? You don't forget that kind of help," Deleon said.

Since the program launched in 2020, the College Focused Rapid Rehousing program has helped over 9,000 students facing housing insecurity or homelessness. Through partnering with local community-based organizations, Rapid Rehousing provides students with emergency housing, rental subsidies, case management and advising.

Rapid Rehousing operates at all 10 University of California campuses, 25 community colleges and 18 California State University campuses. Students in the program reported higher GPAs and improved mental health and nutrition, according to an evaluation of the program in 2025 by the Center for Equitable Higher Education at Cal State Long Beach. As of 2025, California spends \$31 million annually on Rapid Rehousing programs in higher education. The governor's proposed budget for 2026-27, released in January, also includes \$31 million.

## RAPID REHOUSING CAME TO THE RESCUE

Following the 2018 Camp Fire in Northern California, Butte County lost over a third of its housing stock, impacting students at Chico State.

"A whole town was lost of housing," said Emma Jewett, the senior basic needs case manager at Chico State. "Our students are often struggling to get housing and find sustainable housing as it is, because they don't have the qualifying factors, such as making three times the rent."

But students everywhere were having a hard time finding affordable housing. In 2018, 10.9% of 27,805 students surveyed across the Cal State system reported they had experienced homelessness in a Student Basic Needs survey commissioned by the chancellor's office. In a separate survey of California community college students, 19% of nearly 40,000 respondents had experienced homelessness between 2016 and 2018.

Meanwhile, off-campus housing costs across the state increased by more than 30% between 2018 and 2022, according to California Competes, a research organization focused on higher education and workforce issues.

In response, the state Legislature included

\$10 million for a rapid rehousing pilot program in the state Budget Act of 2019, with \$3.5 million going to UCs and \$6.5 million to Cal States. Universities applied within their systems to receive grants to participate.

Chico State was one of the Cal State campuses initially awarded funds in 2020, alongside Long Beach, Pomona, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, and San José. The state expanded the program to include Northridge in 2021. All UC campuses participated in the pilot as well.

## MOVING FROM KITCHEN TO GARAGE TO STUDENT HOUSING

Rapid Rehousing felt like a "support system," said Eli Reyneveld, a third-year communications major and soccer player at Sacramento State. He didn't always want to be a student athlete, but after playing soccer at Modesto Junior College, the opportunity presented itself. "I scored a lot of goals," he recalled.

When he received a Division I scholarship offer to cover his tuition at Sacramento State starting in spring 2024, he had just two days to accept. He worried whether he would be able to afford moving from his parents' house in Modesto.

"I wasn't ready to move anywhere, but I had to just take the jump," Reyneveld said.

At first, Reyneveld moved into a house with five guys on the soccer team. He slept in the kitchen and paid \$550 a month for his share of the rent.

It felt far from a home. It was hard for Reyneveld to get enough sleep, and there were tensions among his housemates. He moved into a different house shared by more of his teammates, where he slept on a mattress in the garage for \$800 a month. A full night of rest was just as hard to get as the sound of cars never stopped.

Being a student athlete required Reyneveld to juggle school, traveling for games, training and maintaining a healthy diet. But his living conditions made it hard to eat and sleep consistently.

He avoided telling trainers and staff about his living situation, recalling being "too prideful to tell anybody," until his athletic performance deteriorated. By September 2024, his trainer pulled him aside at practice and Reyneveld told him everything.

That week, Reyneveld met with Basic Needs Center staff and, that night, he was transferred into a hotel that Rapid Rehousing fully covered. Three days later, he moved into student housing where he would pay just \$500 a month for five months, meals included.

"As soon as I got moved into a room, I think my coach and trainer could tell you, like, my performance is 180. I was a whole new player," Reyneveld said.

Reyneveld moved out of student housing in February into his own apartment, where Rapid Rehousing is now paying him \$200 a month for five months to help with his rent.

"I was about to turn down the scholarship to a D1 because I didn't have the necessary means to move, but I just took a risk and (it)

# Ex-LA fire chief sues the city over her firing after the Palisades Fire

The former Los Angeles fire chief has filed a lawsuit against the city, alleging that her ouster was part of an orchestrated effort to smear her conduct and decision-making so Mayor Karen Bass could avoid accountability for the most destructive wildfire in LA history.

Bass sacked Kristin Crowley a month after the January 2025 Palisades Fire, and her dismissal was followed by finger-pointing between the ex-chief and City Hall over the blaze's devastation and the fire department's funding. In March of that year, Crowley lost an appeal to the City Council to win back her job.

Crowley's lawsuit filed last week alleges that Bass spread misinformation to protect the mayor's political reputation following the fire. The mayor's office didn't immediately comment on the lawsuit. A message seeking comment was also sent to the LA City Attorney's office.

Crowley accuses the first-term Democrat of trying to distract from criticism over being in Africa for a presidential delegation when the blaze started, even though weather reports had warned of dangerous wildfire conditions in the days before she left.

Bass made statements to shift blame, "including falsely claiming that she was not aware of the nationally anticipated weather event, falsely claiming that the LAFD's

budget was not cut, and falsely claiming that LAFD's resources would have supported an additional 1,000 firefighters to fight the blaze," the lawsuit alleges.

"These false statements were not mistakes but part of a deliberate strategy to divert scrutiny from Bass' decisions and to avoid accountability," the lawsuit states.

In the filing, the former chief seeks unspecified economic and compensatory damages.

Bass fired Crowley on Feb. 21, 2025, six weeks after the LA fire started. She praised Crowley early on in the firefighting efforts, but she said she later learned that an additional 1,000 firefighters could have been deployed on the day the blaze ignited. Furthermore, she said Crowley rebuffed a request to prepare a report on the fires that is a critical part of investigations into what happened and why.

Crowley's legal filing disputes both those claims.

The Palisades Fire began Jan. 7 in heavy winds. It destroyed or damaged nearly 8,000 homes, businesses and other structures, and it killed at least 12 people in the Pacific Palisades, an affluent LA neighborhood. Another fire started that day in Altadena, a suburb east of LA, killing at least 17 people and destroying or damaging more than 10,000 homes or other buildings.

## VALENTINES

FROM PAGE 1

which students carefully transcribed into handwritten cards during a dedicated Honors Society meeting.

In addition, approximately 15 student volunteers participated in an on-campus card-making event held during lunch, where upper school students gathered to create additional handmade messages. The weeklong effort culminated in Valentine's Day deliveries to both facilities.

Student organizers extend their sincere thanks to the Santa Monica community members who took the time to submit messages. Their participation made it possible to ensure that every resident received a personal note,

demonstrating how small acts of kindness from across the city can come together to create a meaningful impact.

Staff members at the homes expressed strong appreciation for the gesture, noting that residents were deeply touched by the personalized notes and holiday treats included with each card. The initiative aimed to foster intergenerational connection and remind seniors that they remain valued members of the local community.

Organized entirely by student leaders, the project demonstrated how thoughtful planning and community collaboration can transform simple gestures into moments of genuine connection.

Submitted by Athens Teitelbaum



## Surf report WATER TEMP: 60.3

**WEDNESDAY** | SURF: 0-1ft  
**POOR TO FAIR** | Shin to knee

Surf off a notch with WNW swell easing. Winds stay on the lighter side for the morning. Old WNW swell leftovers from the Mon-Tue mix, for smaller waves mainly staying under waist high. Small wave gear kind of day for the big boards/small humans. Most spots get drained out around the mid day negative low tide. Winds stay light/variable in the morning, then light+ WNW sea breeze in the afternoon.

**THURSDAY** | SURF: 0-1ft  
**POOR TO FAIR** | Shin to knee

Weak waves off meager swell. Mainly light winds, most favorable in the morning. Remnant little WNW swell limping in with weak surf mainly thigh high or under, getting drained out by the mid day negative low tide. Light/variable winds in the morning, shift to a light+ W sea breeze for the afternoon.

## Weather

**Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 76. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest in the morning.

**Wednesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 56. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east northeast after midnight.

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 81. Calm wind becoming west around 5 mph in the afternoon.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 58.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/02/25	Wed	03:10 AM	5.10	H
2026/02/25	Wed	11:30 AM	-0.29	L
2026/02/25	Wed	7:02 PM	3.08	H
2026/02/25	Wed	10:06 PM	2.80	L
2026/02/26	Thu	04:35 AM	5.33	H
2026/02/26	Thu	12:27 PM	-0.79	L
2026/02/26	Thu	7:25 PM	3.48	H
2026/02/26	Thu	11:36 PM	2.45	L
2026/02/27	Fri	05:45 AM	5.67	H
2026/02/27	Fri	1:12 PM	-1.13	L
2026/02/27	Fri	7:51 PM	3.84	H
2026/02/28	Sat	12:36 AM	1.94	L
2026/02/28	Sat	06:41 AM	5.95	H
2026/02/28	Sat	1:50 PM	-1.28	L
2026/02/28	Sat	8:17 PM	4.18	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>

**POWERBALL**  
Draw Date: 2/23  
5 11 23 29 47  
Power#: 6  
Jackpot: 218 M

**Fantasy5**  
Draw Date: 2/23  
3 10 20 26 30

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Draw Date: 2/20  
15 40 48 58 63  
Mega#: 2  
Jackpot: 438 M

**Daily 3**  
Draw Date: 2/23  
EVENING: 5 2 1  
Draw Date: 2/23  
MIDDAY: 3 9 3

**SuperLotto**  
Draw Date: 2/21  
1 19 24 38 46  
Mega#: 3  
Jackpot: 31 M

**Daily Derby**  
Draw Date: 2/23  
1st: 10 - Solid Gold  
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot  
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush  
Race Time: 1:44.90

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Furniture	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

## DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026014070. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SKATERMADE, 994 OLD TOPANGA CYN. RD., TOPANGA, CA 90290, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): Bart Saric, 994 OLD TOPANGA CYN. RD., TOPANGA, CA 90290. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. 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/ Bart Saric, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/29/2025. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 02/04/2026, 02/11/2026, 02/18/2026, 02/25/2026

## DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026012668. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BLOOM CERAMICS, 1011 4TH STREET APT 211, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): BLOOM CLUB LA LLC, 1011 4TH STREET APT 211, 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 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/ ANSEL JEFFRIES, MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 1/20/2026. 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: 02/11/2026, 02/18/2026, 02/25/2026, 03/04/2026

## Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF Shirzad Abrams aka Shirzad A. Abrams Case No. 25STPB13954. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Shirzad Abrams aka Shirzad A. Abrams. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by David Heskiaoff, M.D in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that David Heskiaoff, M.D be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. A HEARING on the petition will be held on 03/06/2025 at 8:30 in Dept. 99 located at 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: Clark A. Braunstein, Braunstein & Braunstein, PC, 12400 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1080, Los Angeles CA 90025, 310-914-9999. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 02/18/2026, 02/25/2026, 03/04/2026

## Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00089. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica CA 90401. Petition of PENG DENG for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner PENG DENG filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: PENG DENG to LIAM PENG DENG. 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: 04/10/2026, Time: 8:30AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 02/23/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 02/25/2026, 03/04/2026, 03/11/2026, 03/18/2026

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# Warner Bros gets a new offer from Paramount in heated fight for the storied Hollywood studio

Warner Bros. Discovery says it's reviewing a new takeover offer from Paramount, but it continues to recommend a competing proposal from Netflix to its shareholders in the meantime.

Warner disclosed Tuesday that it had received a revised offer from Paramount after a seven-day window to renew talks with the Skydance-owned company elapsed Monday. Paramount confirmed it had submitted this proposal, but neither provided further details on the bid. The company was widely expected to have raised its offer.

A Warner Bros. Discovery buyout would reshape Hollywood and the wider media landscape — bringing HBO Max, cult-favorite titles like “Harry Potter” and, depending on who wins the Netflix v. Paramount tug-of-war, potentially even CNN under a new roof.

Paramount wants to acquire Warner Bros. in its entirety — including networks like CNN and Discovery — and went straight to shareholders with an all-cash, \$77.9 billion hostile offer just days after the Netflix deal was announced in December. Accounting for debt, that bid offered Warner stakeholders \$30 per share, amounting to an enterprise value of around \$108 billion.

Paramount maintained on Tuesday that its tender offer remains on the table while Warner evaluates its latest proposal.

Netflix only wants to buy Warner's studio and streaming business for \$72 billion in cash, or about \$83 billion including debt. Warner's board has repeatedly backed this deal — and on Tuesday maintained that its agreement with Netflix still stands.

A press contact for Netflix did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Warner shareholders are set to vote on the Netflix proposal on March 20.

If Warner's board changes course and deems Paramount's latest offer superior, Netflix would have a chance to match or revise its proposal, potentially setting the stage for a fresh bidding war. It could also choose to walk away.

Paramount, Warner and Netflix have spent the last couple of months in a heated back and forth over who has a stronger deal. But many lawmakers and entertainment trade groups have sounded the alarm along the way, warning that either buyout of all or parts of Warner's business would only further consolidate power in an industry already run by just a few major players. Critics say that could result in job losses, less diversity in filmmaking and potentially more headaches for consumers who are facing rising costs of

streaming subscriptions as is.

Combined, that raises tremendous antitrust concerns — and a Warner sale could come down to who gets the regulatory greenlight. The U.S. Department of Justice has already initiated reviews, and other countries are expected to do so.

Both Paramount and Netflix have argued that their proposals are good for consumers and the wider industry. And the companies have taken aim at each other publicly with regulatory arguments.

Paramount has pointed to Netflix's much larger market value. And it's argued that if the streaming giant acquires Warner, it would only give it more dominance in the subscription video on demand space. But Netflix is trying to convince regulators that it's up against broader video libraries, particularly Google's YouTube. Netflix has also said that since it doesn't currently have the same studios and film distribution that Warner does, it would preserve and grow those operations — whereas a Warner-Paramount merger would combine two of Hollywood's last five major studios, as well as theatrical channels and news networks.

Politics could also come into play. President Donald Trump previously made unprecedented suggestions about his involvement in seeing a deal through, before walking back those statements and maintaining that regulatory approval will be up to the Justice Department.

Trump has a close relationship with the billionaire Oracle founder Larry Ellison (the father of Paramount Skydance CEO David Ellison) who is heavily backing Paramount's bid to buy Warner. And the push to acquire Warner arrive just months after Skydance closed its own buyout of Paramount — in a contentious merger approved just weeks after the company agreed to pay the president \$16 million to settle a lawsuit over editing at Paramount's “60 Minutes” program on CBS. Under new ownership, CBS has seen significant editorial shifts, notably with the installation of Free Press founder Bari Weiss as editor-in-chief of CBS News. Critics say similar changes could happen at Warner's CNN if Paramount's bid is successful.

But Trump has continued to publicly lash out at Paramount over editorial decisions at CBS' “60 Minutes.” The president also previously met with Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos, who he called a “fantastic man.”

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS AP Business Writer

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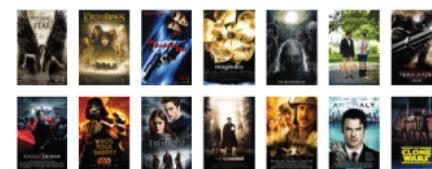
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# FARMERS MARKET

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

## March at the Market

### MARCH BLOG 2026

Celebrating everything green this month. Especially veggies! And who knew there was such a thing as green lavender! (Ask AZ Ranch) With springtime rains, market greens are especially sweet, tender and extraordinarily tasty from collards to kales and Swiss chard as well as dandelion greens, mustards and arugula. Not to mention the amazing fresh fragrant herbs to explore like parsley, cilantro, dill, mint, and more.

Join us for exciting events at both markets starting with a special event on March 1 at Main Street with guest food systems author, Nancy Matsumoto, plus the Laura Jean Music Academy and kid activities on the lawn and on March 7 it's the Pico Mini Spring Fest with music and activities for the kids!



Courtesy image

**GREENS:** It's a good time for herbs.

### March Events Calendar

- Pico**
- March 7** Mini Spring Festival  
DJ and the Greenleas  
Kigala Preschool – crafts for kids
  - March 14** GM Jazz  
Muse Global School – worm composting
  - March 21** East of Lincoln  
UC Master Gardeners
  - March 28** Megan Ukoh  
Main Street
- March 1** Cadre Scott – 10am-1pm  
Laura Jean Music Academy – 11am and noon  
Nancy Matsumoto – book signing and reading with Gonzales  
Siemens Family Farm organic almonds and heritage grains pop up  
My Gym kids' obstacle course  
Adventures with Doc JC
- March 8** GM Jazz Quartet – 10am-1pm
  - March 15** Triple B Band – 10am-1pm  
Soccer Stars – skills activities for kids  
LADPH Hands Only CPR
  - March 22** Megan Ukoh - 10am-1pm  
Councilmember Natalya Zernitskaya – kid crafting
  - March 29** Spring Equinox!!  
DJ and the Main Street Jam – 10am-1pm

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	<b>SPEEDWAY EXPRESS</b> 2555 Lincoln Blvd	<b>\$4.74</b>
	<b>CHEVRON</b> 1348 Pico Blvd	<b>\$5.09</b>
	<b>SHELL</b> 1866 Lincoln Blvd	<b>\$4.89</b>
	<b>ARCO</b> 332 Pico Blvd	<b>\$4.75</b>
	<b>CHEVRON</b> 1732 Lincoln Blvd	<b>\$4.83</b>
	<b>CHEVRON</b> 1819 Cloverfield Blvd	<b>\$4.67</b>
	<b>MOBIL</b> 731 Santa Monica Blvd	<b>\$4.89</b>
	<b>CHEVRON</b> 432 Wilshire Blvd	<b>\$4.99</b>
	<b>76</b> 1776 Cloverfield Blvd	<b>\$4.87</b>

\*Prices paying in card

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have risen 5.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.61/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 28.0 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 8.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 6.2 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$3.686 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at \$3.79/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$5.99/g, a difference of \$2.20/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$3.49/g while the highest was \$8.29/g, a difference of \$4.80/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.88/g today. The national average is up 2.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 19.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

## HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 2

ended up working out because people are helping me," he said.

### LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS HELP CAMPUSES ASSIST STUDENTS

All campuses with Rapid Rehousing partner with community organizations that connect students to case managers, housing assistance, and academic and mental health support.

Long-term case management makes a big difference, according to Jessica Wolin, a public health lecturer at San Francisco State, who led the Cal State Long Beach evaluation of the program.

"Our evaluation showed the more meaningful outcomes for students who are experiencing homelessness is through this longer term, higher touch, more holistic intervention," Wolin said. "And those needs are not met with (just) an emergency voucher."

At Sacramento State, all students in the Rapid Rehousing program pay \$500 per month toward their housing costs until they are ready for the next step. Other campuses, such as Chico State, determine students' costs based on what they can afford. On-campus teams also work with financial aid offices to incorporate emergency grants into students' aid packages.

Rapid Rehousing also teaches students about managing personal finances, understanding lease agreements, handling roommate conflicts, and planning for housing after graduation. Community partners work with students one semester prior to their graduation date to find housing they can afford or find relatives they can live with after graduation.

"Because these programs are (tied to enrollment), we have to make sure that we structure them so that students have some sense of urgency about the importance of working with us to find their next more permanent and stable housing that will be more long-term," said Sacramento State Campus Wellness Director Emily Tupper.

Since 2020, Chico State's Rapid Rehousing Program has provided over 600 students emergency shelter, transitional housing, or grants.

"A lot of students were thinking about dropping out of school and, after, they report that Rapid Rehousing has helped them stay in school," said Chico State Basic Needs Director Leah Slem. "Our program is a lifeline to these students who possibly would have dropped out had they not received this assistance."

When R.S., a student at Chico State who requested anonymity due to her international student status, first heard from her parents that they were on the verge of going bankrupt, she immediately went to the university's International Student and Scholar Services office. In less than a month, she moved out of her off-campus apartment into on-campus student housing, which has been fully covered since November 2024.

With the help of her case manager, R.S. was referred to work on campus at Chico State's Hungry Wildcat Food Pantry, which helped pay for her tuition.

International students often face unique challenges in college, Wolin said. In addition to not being able to access family support nearby, they are also not eligible for benefits like CalFresh.

"I was kind of going through a lot, but I didn't really reach out for anything until the

water almost got into my nose, and I'm like, 'Oh no, you know, if I don't help myself, who can help me?'" R.S. recalled. She urges all students to put themselves "out there" and to not be scared to ask for help.

Even with programs like Rapid Rehousing, housing insecurity still affects students across the state. As of April 2024, 1 in 5 community college students, 1 in 10 Cal State students and 1 in 20 UC students face homelessness, whereas 1 in 12 face homelessness in the general California population, according to California Competes.

### FROM FORMERLY HOMELESS TO DOCTORAL DREAMS

The Cal State Long Beach evaluation of the Rapid Rehousing program at eight Cal States and two community colleges revealed how homelessness and housing insecurity disproportionately impacts certain student groups.

Of Cal State students, 4% identify as Black or African American, compared to 18.5% of Rapid Rehousing students. One-third of Cal State students are transfers, but transfers made up nearly half of Rapid Rehousing participants. Three-quarters of Rapid Rehousing students were first-generation, compared to a quarter systemwide. Foster youth made up 17% of the program, versus less than 1% of all students at Cal State.

Wolin said the findings reveal that "the program is reaching who they need to reach."

As a formerly incarcerated, first-generation and transfer student at Chico State, Deleon recalled how "even having an associate's (degree) was a big thing" for his family. He enrolled at College of the Desert to earn a 25-unit certificate in agriculture. On his first day, he recalled his professor telling him, "if you're here for the certificate, you may as well stay for the degree."

He completed his associate's degree in agriculture, delivered his class graduation speech, and got accepted by all five Cal State universities he applied to. But after he left a long-term relationship at the end of that school year, he found himself homeless and couch surfing.

At Chico State, Rapid Rehousing helped Deleon remain in student housing throughout the 2024-25 school year while he worked on campus at Project Rebound, a program that supports formerly incarcerated students. In June, he moved into a shared off-campus apartment.

This fall, Deleon will be starting a master's degree in agriculture at Chico State, and he hopes to later obtain a doctorate. If it weren't for Rapid Rehousing, he said he doesn't know if he would have had "the courage to stay in school."

Deleon just returned from his first plane ride and research trip in Puerto Rico, where he saw plantain, mango, coffee berry and pineapple farms. Agriculture is what led Deleon back to school, he recalled, but Rapid Rehousing kept him in it.

"I'm planting those seeds of getting a Ph.D. now," Deleon said. "(As) someone that's formerly incarcerated, messed up his life before he got it back together ... now that I have a second chance of getting my life right, look what I've done with it, with the opportunity I was given."

Khadeejah Khan is a contributor with the College Journalism Network, a collaboration between CalMatters and student journalists from across California. CalMatters higher education coverage is supported by a grant from the College Futures Foundation.

**SCHOOL**

FROM PAGE 1

removed from the debate.

“I think that as we move forward thinking about this program review and what it means in the months to come, I don’t want to make a mistake and I’m feeling very uneasy about this,” said board member Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein.

**“I think that as we move forward thinking about this program review and what it means in the months to come, I don’t want to make a mistake and I’m feeling very uneasy about this**

-Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, board member

The Language and Literacy Interventionists, known as LLIs, have provided supplemental pull-out reading instruction to fourth and fifth graders scoring in the lowest percentiles on state and district reading assessments. District officials argued the program has been rendered largely redundant by the recent adoption of a new phonics curriculum, updated English Language Development instruction and a broader shift toward delivering intervention support inside the general education classroom rather than in separate sessions.

Superintendent Antonio Shelton defended the restructuring as a product of rigorous program review and said the changes reflect an evolution in best practices for reading instruction.

“These evaluations are not about eliminating support,” Shelton told the board. “They’re about ensuring that the support we provide to students is effective, aligned and implemented with fidelity.”

But critics pushed back hard. Educators and parents argued that classroom teachers cannot realistically absorb the specialized, intensive work performed by LLIs on top of their existing responsibilities. Opponents

also took aim at a 2022 change in testing criteria that switched the district’s universal screener from the FastBridge assessment to the STAR assessment, which shifted the eligibility threshold for LLI services from the 25th percentile to the 10th percentile — dramatically shrinking the number of students who qualify.

Teachers pointed to a stark disconnect between the eligibility data and actual student performance. At one elementary school, nearly half of all students failed to meet state ELA benchmarks, yet only three students currently qualify for tier three LLI support under the revised criteria.

Several board members expressed unease with both the timeline and the lack of a comprehensive plan to replace what the LLIs currently provide. Board member Jennifer Smith said she was troubled by the absence of a clear vision for how the district would serve students once the positions were gone, saying she felt the restructuring had been haphazard and that the LLIs’ role had evolved without a coherent district-wide plan behind it. She added that she did not want the changes to result in students losing ground academically.

Board member Laurie Lieberman echoed those concerns, saying she could not support a decision of this magnitude without a fuller account of how the district’s entire reading intervention program would function going forward.

“I just don’t feel like we’re ready,” Lieberman said.

Board member Jon Kean acknowledged the community’s fears but urged colleagues to trust the superintendent’s programmatic review, noting the district had navigated a similar round of reading specialist restructuring three years earlier that ultimately preserved jobs.

“Taking action tonight does not foreclose anything,” Kean said. “It’s basically just saying we hear the superintendent, we hear our staff, that they believe this is a program that needs some adjustment.”

Board member Stacy Rouse, cautioned against characterizing the changes as a retreat from reading instruction, arguing the district has quietly been building a more robust, classroom-embedded approach for several years.

“When you hear ‘cutting reading,’ that sounds horrible,” Rouse said. “We’re really looking at redundancies and programs and growth, and we have been moving toward this for a while.”

The majority of the Board ultimately backed the LLI cuts with only Board President Alicia Mignano voting “no.”

LLI teachers whose positions are eliminated retain their status as permanent district employees and will be placed in classroom teaching assignments based on their credentials and seniority, displacing less senior teachers in those roles, according to Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Douglas Meza.

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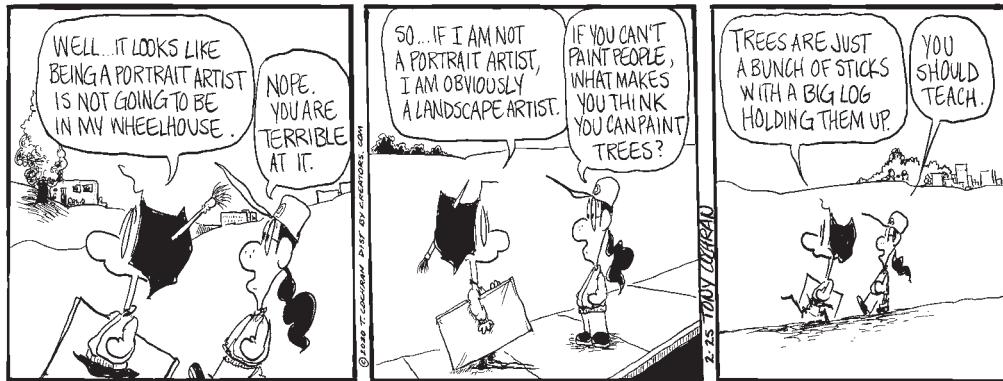
For more information on the contest, please contact:

**dina@smdp.com & maya@smdp.com**



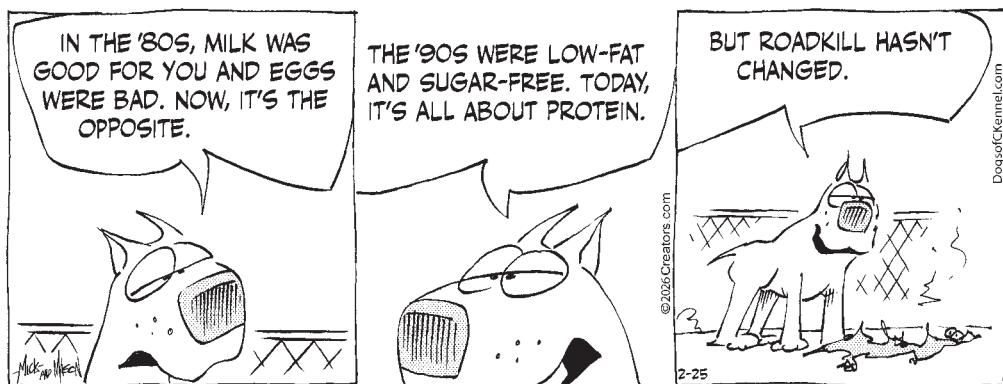
### Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



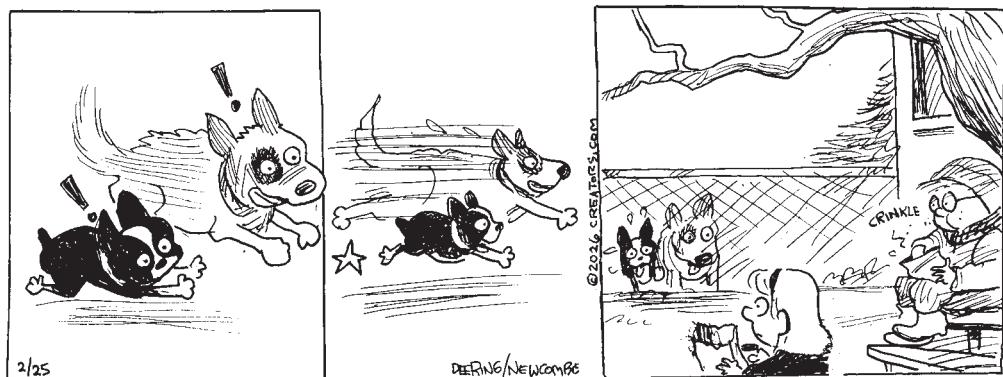
### Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



### Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



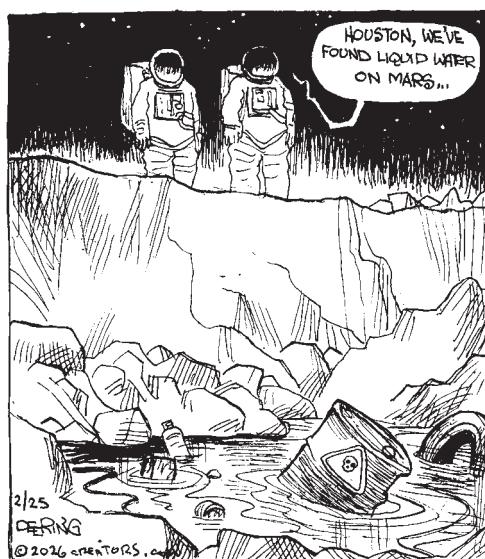
### Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



### 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 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6862

## High tea anyone?

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

- |            |              |         |
|------------|--------------|---------|
| A la carte | Doughnut     | Rapport |
| Attache    | Eclair       | Saute   |
| Bagel      | Flour        | Scones  |
| Bear       | Hotel        | Sherbet |
| Biscuits   | Icing        | Slice   |
| Buns       | Jams         | Snacks  |
| Cakes      | Lamb         | Sweet   |
| China      | Lasagne      | Teapot  |
| Cocoa      | Mousse       | Tins    |
| Cordial    | Pasta        | Toffees |
| Cream      | Pies         | Trays   |
| Croissants | Pizza        | Wine    |
| Dance      | Presentation |         |

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**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 24)**

Step into your Year of the Fire Heart, when your passions burn with purpose and fuel truly remarkable endeavors and relationships. You're able to create quickly, and you will bond with like minds to make the change you feel the world needs. Your kindness and insight attract your team. More highlights: Travel adventures, strong mentorship and a long-awaited financial breakthrough. Taurus and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 11, 19, 26 and 40.

**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Even when something is completely unfamiliar to you, you are still able to open your mind and heart to it because you're constantly looking for points of connection and relatability. This curiosity and courage will be your creative thriving.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You sense opportunity is here somewhere. Your intuition notices the signal - a conversation, a chance encounter, an emerging idea your conscious mind hasn't fully processed yet. Your mind is already tuning into something lucky.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Subtle energies in a room will affect the outcome. Invisible forces seal deals. Case in point: reputation. It's just a story, perhaps unrecorded, but powerful, nonetheless. It affects trust, which is also invisible but will make all the difference.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). The inner narration that helps you understand experiences can also interfere with your experience. When self-talk is repetitive and unhelpful, you may end up thinking about life more than being in it. You can quiet the noise with a calming practice.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). In the adventure movies, the hero is cracking jokes while swinging over pits of vipers. It's heroic to be lighthearted when the stakes are high. You've mastered the art of reading the room and sensing when to release the tension of a moment.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be successful because you notice what matters. You assume nothing. You don't underestimate the meek. You ask questions like, "What could go right or wrong?" You're attuned to what others overlook, neglect or don't detect at all.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Today, your detailed observations will be more useful than big-picture theorizing, especially in matters of communication. Instead of asking, "What's the story here?" try "What exactly was said? With what tone? What did I assume in response?"

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Today features an easy pursuit. You hold on loosely and enjoy the process. You don't care so much as to get your pride involved. You leave room for fortunate coincidences because you are relaxed.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Giving a solid performance takes much more work than people realize. It will take dozens of hours to deliver what's expected and dozens more to make it look effortless. You aim to please, and you're right on target.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You will limit your unintentional words or movements to render your intentional expressions more discernible and charismatic. Your tweaks of communication keep your message uncluttered, clear, powerful and easily understood.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you give your word, you're good for it. You follow through on even the most casual of suggestions. The size of the commitment doesn't matter. You deliver on it because you despise flakiness in anyone, yourself included.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). The sun smiles on you with an opportunity to strike up the band. Begin a project, launch what you've been working on or start the conversation that will mark the relationship's beginning. Your confidence kicks in from the get-go.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

P	R	I	M		P	E	T	A		S	A	L	T					
E	A	S	E		A	V	I	D		A	L	O	H	A				
S	C	A	N		R	E	E	D		L	E	G	A	L				
T	E	A		V	A	N	I	L	L	A	C	O	N	E				
O	R	C	H	I	D		N	E	A	R								
				I	D	E	A			M	Y	S	T	I	C			
A	S	I	C	E		J	A	M	B		E	A	R	L				
C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	S		S	U	N	D	A	E		
T	T	U		O	R	E	S			P	I	A	N	O				
S	N	A	P	A	T				A	M	S	O						
						U	S	E	S		A	E	R	I	A	L		
B	A	N	A	N	A	S	P	L	I	T		G	P	A				
B	L	A	S	T		S	A	I	L		S	L	A	T				
S	I	N	A	I		A	C	M	E		S	O	R	T				
						T	A	P	E		Y	E	A	R				
															N	O	T	E

**Newsday Crossword**

**GET-TOGETHERS** by Prasanna Keshava  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Highest poker pairs
- 5 Tree's tiny branch
- 9 Deduce logically
- 14 Elegant party
- 15 Flapjack restaurant chain
- 16 Unravel, as mystery
- 17 Spoken, as an exam
- 18 "So long!"
- 19 Online commerce
- 20 Session of all UN members
- 23 \_\_\_ in a million (rare)
- 24 Fruit-filled dessert
- 25 Off-script remarks
- 29 "Darn it!"
- 31 Adversary
- 34 Northernmost New England state
- 35 Worm on a fishhook
- 36 Tailless cat
- 37 Session with reporters asking questions
- 40 Allowed to borrow
- 41 Speed contest
- 42 Run up, as costs
- 43 Double-curve letter
- 44 Behind schedule
- 45 "In spite of that..."
- 46 More than just moist
- 47 Part of TGIF
- 48 Session in an office room
- 57 Fairway golf clubs
- 58 California Cabernet region
- 59 Revered celebrity

- 60 Concur in opinion
- 61 Very long time
- 62 Nation north of Chile
- 63 Bird feeder morsels
- 64 Nearly colorless
- 65 Identical

**DOWN**

- 1 Extremely eager
- 2 Part of TLC
- 3 Personal flair
- 4 "Half-off" event
- 5 Giants of industry
- 6 Largest ocean mammal
- 7 Tiniest bit
- 8 College transcript nos.

- 9 "Understood"
- 10 Claim of innocence
- 11 Exerciser's excess weight
- 12 Diabolical
- 13 Depend (on)
- 21 Judges' garb
- 22 Sudden influx
- 25 More than enough
- 26 Acts boldly
- 27 Bank's legal claims
- 28 Tech sch.
- 29 Waltz or rumba
- 30 Teeming (with)
- 31 Highly decorated
- 32 Perfectly timed
- 33 Apply, as effort
- 35 Kayak or canoe

- 36 Darn with thread
- 38 Fruit box
- 39 Wash suds from
- 44 Camera attachments
- 45 Drill sergeant's order
- 46 \_\_\_ and dined (entertained)
- 47 Push into action
- 48 Influence unfairly
- 49 Strongly suggest
- 50 Achy or annoyed
- 51 Coat button alternative
- 52 Lengthy tale
- 53 Pointers
- 54 Creative spark
- 55 Typical behavior
- 56 Adhesive in a bottle

**Sudoku**

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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.

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13		
14					15					16						
17					18					19						
20					21					22						
					23					24						
25	26	27	28					29	30				31	32	33	
34							35						36			
37							38						39			
40							41						42			
43							44						45			
							46						47			
48	49	50						51	52				53	54	55	56
57								58					59			
60								61					62			
63								64					65			

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## OLYMPICS

FROM PAGE 1

la28.org. Fans must complete registration by March 18 to be eligible for Drop 1, the first round of ticket sales scheduled for April 9-19. Those with qualifying local postal codes may also be eligible for an LA and Oklahoma City locals presale running April 2-6.

Registered fans will receive email notification of their assigned time slots between March 31 and April 7. Ticket inventory and pricing will vary by sport, session and venue, with single tickets starting at \$28. Fans who do not reach the 12-ticket maximum through one drop will automatically be entered into subsequent draws. Additional ticket drops are planned as the Games approach.

Hospitality packages, available through LA28's official hospitality provider On Location, are also open for deposit. Packages begin with a fully refundable \$500 deposit at [hospitality.la28.org](https://hospitality.la28.org), with priority access to premium experiences ahead of the general public sale in April. Paralympic Games ticket sales are scheduled to begin in 2027.

Packages can include food and beverage, priority access to venues, the reserved seats and private and shared lounges. They can also include opportunities like meet and greets with athletes, entertainment or access to private events.

The 2028 Los Angeles Olympics will be the third time the city has hosted the Summer Games, following editions in 1932 and 1984. The Games of the XXXIV Olympiad are scheduled to open July 14, 2028, with competition running through July 30. The Paralympic Games follow Aug. 15-27.

Los Angeles was awarded the 2028 Games by the International Olympic Committee at its September 2017 session in Lima, Peru, in an unprecedented dual-award decision that simultaneously granted Paris the 2024 Games. LA had originally bid for 2024 but agreed to accept the later date in exchange for approximately \$1.8 billion in IOC financial support. The decision made Los Angeles the third city in history to host three Summer Olympics, joining London and Paris.

A defining feature of the LA28 Games is its no-new-permanent-venues approach —

the first Olympics since the 1948 London Games to build no new permanent facilities. The plan relies on more than 40 existing venues across the greater Los Angeles region, supplemented by temporary structures designed for maximum recyclability.

SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, home of the NFL's Rams and Chargers, will co-host the opening ceremony and serve as the swimming venue. Organizers say it will be the largest Olympic swimming venue ever at 38,000 seats. The LA Memorial Coliseum, the only venue to have hosted events at three Olympic Games, will stage track and field and the closing ceremony. The Intuit Dome will host basketball, the Rose Bowl will host soccer finals, and the UCLA campus will serve as the athletes village for approximately 15,000 competitors.

In a break from tradition, events will also extend beyond Southern California. Oklahoma City will host softball and canoe slalom, while soccer preliminary matches will be played across six U.S. cities, including New York, Nashville, Columbus, St. Louis, San José and San Diego.

The 2028 program spans 36 sports and approximately 351 medal events, with five new or returning disciplines: cricket, making its first Olympic appearance since 1900; flag football; lacrosse; squash; and baseball/softball.

LA28 operates as a privately funded nonprofit with a projected \$7.15 billion budget drawn from corporate sponsorships, IOC contributions, ticketing and hospitality revenue. Organizers reported surpassing \$2 billion in domestic sponsorship commitments by late 2025. A regional economic study projects between \$13.6 billion and \$17.6 billion in economic impact across the Southern California region from 2024 through 2029.

The organizing committee has also launched a volunteer program, with more than 215,000 people expressing interest. Applications for Games-time volunteer roles are expected to open later this year at the LA28 volunteer page.

[editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)



## WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 25

### BEACH WALK MEDITATION

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Santa Monica Lifeguard Tower 24 2400 Ocean Front Walk Los Angeles. Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. Developing mindfulness doesn't have to happen in a quiet room without any distracting sights or sounds. In fact we can develop our mindfulness while out in nature; feeling the warmth of the sun on our backs and the cool ocean splashing around our feet. Let's practice meditation in motion while creating a potent wellness experience that enhances mental clarity, alertness, and overall well-being. We'll meet Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 am at lifeguard tower 24 - see a red, yellow, blue, orange, white FLAG. After some basic instructions we'll walk silently together for approximately 45 minutes on the shoreline at a natural pace from tower 24 towards the Santa Monica Pier and back. Free—Donations are accepted. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/beach-walk-meditation/16206460/2026-02-25T08>

### 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/12382446/2026-02-25T08>

### FLORAL DESIGN 101 MASTERCLASS

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Viola Floral Studios 1639 11th St. Suite 162 Santa Monica. Calling all budding florists, event planners and creatives/hobbyists! Join us for a Floral Design 101 Masterclass! This comprehensive one-day workshop blends hands-on floral design with foundational skills, perfect for beginners or those looking to refine their craft, grow their hosting toolkit, or explore a career as a florist. This comprehensive one-day workshop blends hands-on floral design with foundational skills, perfect for beginners or those looking to refine their craft, grow their hosting toolkit, or explore a career as a florist. Space is limited to 8 people, and early booking is encouraged. Choose from two dates above. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/floral-design-101-masterclass/17600937/2026-02-25T09>

### 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-/17751141/2026-02-25T12>

[yoga-for-everyone-/17751141/2026-02-25T12](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wine-wednesday-at-the-whaler/16952883/2026-02-25T00)

### WINE WEDNESDAY AT THE WHALER

101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 [info@venicewhaler.com](mailto: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/16952883/2026-02-25T00>

## THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 26

### FRIEZE LOS ANGELES

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. Frieze Los Angeles returns to Santa Monica Airport from February 26 - March 1, 2026! Discover art from emerging stars to acclaimed icons, curated sections, ambitious programming, delicious food pop-ups, and more. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/frieze-los-angeles/17921206/2026-02-26T10>

### CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviértase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM en 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/13943928/2026-02-26T11>

### OAKWOOD ROOTS FARMERS AND WELLNESS MARKET

11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 685 Westminster Ave Venice. Oakwood Roots Venice Farmers' and Wellness Market is a hub for local foods, wellness classes, and holistic healing. We are dedicated to fostering a strong community, supporting local businesses, and advocating for sustainable practices. Join us in creating a healthier and more connected neighborhood. This is part of a larger effort to revitalize the abandoned parking lots across the street from the park into a community hub, in partnership with Community Corporation of Santa Monica and Hoopbus. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/oakwood-roots-farmers-and-wellness-market/14548473/2026-02-26T11>

### NAOMI HUTCHINSON - DANCING WELL: EMBODYING WELLNESS THROUGH MOVEMENT AND MINDFULNESS

12:30 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. Room 216 Core Performance Center, SMC Main Campus, 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Naomi Hutchinson will lead an immersive wellness masterclass designed to help dancers explore the intersection of physical, emotional, and mental well-being through the lens of their artistry. Participants are invited to experience dance as a healing art that not only refines technique, but also nourishes the whole self. Through a blend of somatic and yoga-inspired movement, guided breathwork, meditation, and reflective discussion, dancers will learn how to connect their life experiences to their creative expression, build body awareness, and develop sustainable practices for balance and longevity in their craft. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/naomi-hutchinson-dancing-well-embodiment-wellness-through-movement-t-and-mindfulness/18044837/2026-02-26T12>



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