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For the Unhoused.

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JSX Approvals.



4 LA Council Expansion
Voters may decide.

5 Reform At Risk
In California politics.

Volume 25 Issue 78

MONDAY 3/9/26

smdp.com

TrueCar cuts 30% of workforce in major restructuring following return to private ownership

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

TrueCar, the digital automotive marketplace headquartered in Santa Monica, announced it is

eliminating 30% of its workforce effective immediately as part of a sweeping restructuring effort aimed at returning the historically unprofitable company to financial stability.

The layoffs, which local reports indicate affected fewer than 100 employees from a workforce of approximately 400, come just weeks

SEE **TRUECAR** PAGE 7

Santa Monica rents plunge as coastal market cools faster than the nation

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica rents fell sharply in recently, dropping 2.3% in a single month to post the steepest annual

decline among the 27 cities tracked in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, according to new data from Apartment List.

SEE **RENTS** PAGE 11

Council sends back Santa Monica Boulevard Safety Plan, demands stronger protections

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The City Council unanimously rejected a proposed safety plan for Santa Monica Boulevard at their last meeting, directing staff to return within 60 days with revisions that prioritize pedestrian and cyclist safety over vehicle throughput.

The Santa Monica Boulevard Safety Study, funded by a Caltrans grant, analyzed 10 years of crash data along the 2.4-mile corridor stretching from Ocean Avenue to Centinela Avenue. The study documented 435 injury crashes between 2015 and 2024, including one fatality and 30 severe injuries.

Council members said the proposal failed to align with the city's Vision Zero commitment to eliminate traffic deaths.

"Safety needs to take precedence in what we're seeing here," Mayor Caroline Torosis said. "I just, quite



City of Santa Monica

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 7

PLAN: The City Council has given staff two months to revise the plan in a way that prioritizes pedestrians and cyclists.

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Hope for the Unhoused

HOPE FOR THE UNHOUSED

Patricia Kusaba knows how easily stability can unravel — and how hard it can be to ask for help when it does. One of the first graduates of Santa Monica College's groundbreaking Homeless Service Work certificate program, she overcame mental health challenges and a loss of housing to aid others in navigating their own paths back to stability. For much of her life, Kusaba was a person others relied on. She studied literature, earned a teaching credential, and worked in the automotive and technology sectors of Silicon Valley. On the surface, her life reflected responsibility and momentum. Less visible was how fragile that stability could be, or how homelessness can exist quietly, even for people who appear functional and self-sufficient.

A LIFE OVERTURNED

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kusaba experienced a period of housing instability that forced her to live in her car. Only her dog, Nugget, was there to comfort her during those harsh times. "That dog," she says, "was my best friend."

Looking back, Kusaba describes those days as a turning point that led back to school and toward serving others. She was part of the first cohort to earn SMC's new certificate in homeless service work.

"I didn't even know working in the homeless sector was a career option," Kusaba says. "It wasn't something I saw growing up—but once I was introduced to it, I realized this is where I belong."

MOVING AROUND — AND AHEAD

Born in Chicago, Kusaba moved frequently as a child as her father worked to establish a Buddhist organization, SGI. Amid the upheaval, education was a constant. Many of those who shaped her life were educators, mentors and speakers who believed deeply in the power of words to change lives. So, teaching felt like a natural fit.

She earned her undergraduate degree in English from UC Berkeley and later completed a teaching credential at Cal State Long Beach. She also studied at Penn State, finishing the coursework for a graduate program before changing direction.

But high pressure, long hours and health challenges took their toll. When the pandemic struck, isolation and instability compounded those challenges. Kusaba describes this period as one she did not fully understand until she emerged from it. With the support of her fiancé, Richard Carballo, the right medical care and mental health services, she regained her footing.

Then a community health worker recognized that Kusaba's lived experience and empathy could become strengths. She urged Kusaba to apply for SMC's new Homeless Service Work certificate.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Still, Kusaba was nervous about entering the program. It had been years since she had been a student, and she worried she would not fit in. Instead, she found a learning environment defined by respect, credibility

SEE HOMELESS PAGE 8



Courtesy photo

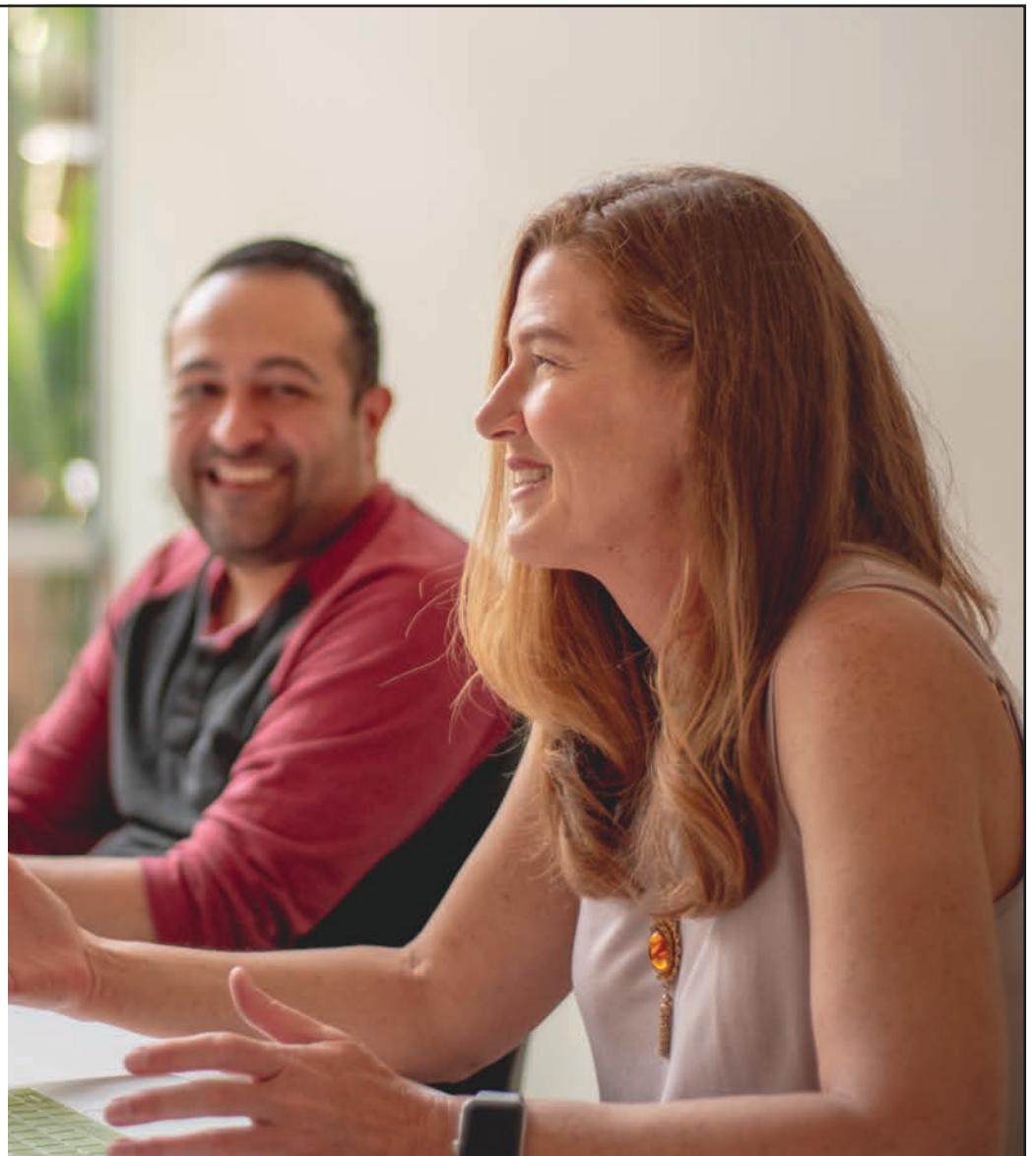
ADVOCATE: Patricia Kusaba is one of the first graduates from SMC's new program.

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inclusive culture that
celebrates the experience of
our students and faculty.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica airport: why JSX approvals require CEQA review



SMDP Photo

AIRPORT: Critics of the company say it should have been studied more.

JSX began scheduled flights from Santa Monica Airport to Las Vegas in December 2025 using 30-passenger turboprop aircraft. Service to Scottsdale was added in January 2026. The City of Santa Monica approved the JSX business permit and lease without CEQA review.

City Manager Oliver Chi recently stated that, to reach airport closure, the city must “carefully review and allow qualifying aviation uses” during the Airport’s remaining years of operation. Careful review is essential. Under California law, however, careful environmental evaluation has a defined name: CEQA — the California Environmental Quality Act.

This discussion is not about opposing the Great Park. It is not about preventing closure. And it is not about indiscriminately limiting airport operations. It is about careful environmental review for increased operational intensity — specifically scheduled passenger service on a 30 passenger regional aircraft.

The 2017 Consent Decree with the FAA requires the City to comply with federal grant assurances through 2028. One of those, FAA Grant Assurance 22 (Economic Nondiscrimination), requires fair and non-discriminatory treatment of similarly situated aeronautical users.

However, it does not mandate operational expansion, nor does it exempt discretionary City approvals from environmental review under state law.

The issue is not whether JSX is allowed to operate at Santa Monica Airport. The issue is that the City approved discretionary actions resulting in a shift

in airport operational intensity and surrounding impacts without studying foreseeable environmental effects or considering mitigation. That is exactly what CEQA is designed for.

Here are some of the key issues requiring further study: changes in use and intensity; accurate baseline conditions; cumulative impacts; ground-level effects; ground transportation and parking impacts associated with increased passenger activity; fueling and emissions assumptions; and whether existing emergency response resources were evaluated in light of increased passenger operations involving a 30-passenger aircraft within or outside the Airport fence.

Federal grant compliance and CEQA operate in parallel. If the City exercises discretion in approving new leases or operational changes, CEQA provides the framework for the careful review the City Manager describes.

The City’s draft framework for the future Great Park and its reaffirmation that Santa Monica Airport will close at the end of 2028 are both welcome steps. In the meantime, transparency and mitigation of airport impacts allowed by law strengthens public trust and welfare. As we move toward Airport closure and creation of the Great Park, adherence to both federal obligations and California environmental law should reinforce — not conflict with — that goal.

For more information contact: <https://www.lcdefense.org/>

Alan Levenson and Zina Josephs, Measure LC Defense



Weather

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 73.
Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.
Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 68.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/03/09	Mon	12:49 AM	4.52	H
2026/03/09	Mon	08:38 AM	1.00	L
2026/03/10	Tue	01:30 AM	4.26	H
2026/03/10	Tue	10:42 AM	0.98	L
2026/03/11	Wed	02:52 AM	4.03	H
2026/03/11	Wed	12:14 PM	0.66	L
2026/03/12	Thu	04:51 AM	4.09	H
2026/03/12	Thu	1:05 PM	0.27	L
2026/03/12	Thu	8:42 PM	3.25	H
2026/03/13	Fri	12:13 AM	2.90	L
2026/03/13	Fri	06:05 AM	4.40	H
2026/03/13	Fri	1:41 PM	-0.07	L
2026/03/13	Fri	8:37 PM	3.44	H
2026/03/14	Sat	01:01 AM	2.48	L
2026/03/14	Sat	06:57 AM	4.77	H
2026/03/14	Sat	2:09 PM	-0.34	L
2026/03/14	Sat	8:45 PM	3.69	H
2026/03/15	Sun	01:38 AM	2.00	L
2026/03/15	Sun	07:38 AM	5.10	H
2026/03/15	Sun	2:35 PM	-0.52	L
2026/03/15	Sun	8:58 PM	4.00	H
2026/03/16	Mon	02:13 AM	1.49	L
2026/03/16	Mon	08:15 AM	5.33	H
2026/03/16	Mon	3:00 PM	-0.59	L
2026/03/16	Mon	9:15 PM	4.36	H
2026/03/17	Tue	02:48 AM	0.97	L
2026/03/17	Tue	08:52 AM	5.40	H
2026/03/17	Tue	3:24 PM	-0.53	L
2026/03/17	Tue	9:36 PM	4.76	H
2026/03/18	Wed	03:26 AM	0.48	L
2026/03/18	Wed	09:29 AM	5.30	H
2026/03/18	Wed	3:49 PM	-0.32	L
2026/03/18	Wed	10:00 PM	5.14	H
2026/03/19	Thu	04:06 AM	0.05	L
2026/03/19	Thu	10:10 AM	5.01	H
2026/03/19	Thu	4:15 PM	0.02	L
2026/03/19	Thu	10:27 PM	5.46	H
2026/03/20	Fri	04:49 AM	-0.26	L

Daily Lottery

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

<p>Draw Date: 3/4 7 14 42 47 56 Power#: 6 Jackpot: 35 M</p>	<p>Draw Date: 3/5 3 17 18 27 35</p>
<p>Draw Date: 3/3 7 21 53 54 62 Mega#: 16 Jackpot: 496 M</p>	<p>Draw Date: 3/5 EVENING: 0 7 9 Draw Date: 3/5 MIDDAY: 4 2 6</p>
<p>Draw Date: 3/4 7 8 32 43 47 Mega#: 3 Jackpot: 8 M</p>	<p>Draw Date: 3/5 1st: 11 - Money Bags 2nd: 05 - California Classic 3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit Race Time: 1:49.62</p>

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Santa Monica Daily Press



**CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

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

Project Name

SP2779 General Contractor On-Call Public Works - Process Mechanical

Bids will only be accepted through the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL, OpenGov or <https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents.

The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via OpenGov immediately after bid close

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:

No Pre-Bid Job Walk required.

**PROJECT ESTIMATE: ANNUAL AMOUNT: \$50,000 to \$1,000,000
5-YEAR AMOUNT: up to \$5,000,000**

CONTRACT DAYS: 5-Year on-call agreement

LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: Not Applicable

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

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



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GUEST COMMENTARY

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Should Los Angeles' City Council get bigger for better representation? Let voters decide

An idea with a long history is bubbling its way back to the top of the policy pot in Los Angeles, and voters may — or may not — soon get a chance to decide it: Should the city be served by a larger council, one whose members serve significantly smaller districts?

It's a controversial notion, but one that voters at least deserve the right to consider.

Last week, the city's charter reform commission recommended that voters be allowed to consider expanding the City Council from the current 15 to 25 members. That's a significant step forward, though the council itself — which has often been an impediment to this idea — still has to clear the measure for the June ballot.

Council expansion has captured the attention of reformers for decades. Some argue that the city, long at the leading edge of American immigration and diversity, has outgrown its current setup.

That structure, with a mayor elected citywide and 15 council members, each representing districts, has existed for just over a century. The city charter established it in 1925, when the region's acquisition of a water supply spurred development of the San Fernando Valley and launched a decade of galloping growth.

Back then Los Angeles had about 600,000 residents and was overwhelmingly white. The city's mayor, George Cryer, was a Midwesterner and a Republican whose legacy included the construction of City Hall and the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. It was during his tenure that Los Angeles surpassed 1 million residents, many of them migrants from the South and Midwest.

What that meant was, in 1925, each member of the Los Angeles City Council represented about 40,000 people. The districts had some variety — some were wealthier than others — but less than a fifth of LA's residents were Latino and its Black population, though rising rapidly, still totaled less than 25,000 people.

Today's Los Angeles is home to about 4 million people. Its largest ethnic group is Latinos, who make up about half the city's residents. Blacks comprise 9% or so, and the city is, of course, home to immigrant communities from around the world.

A BIGGER COUNCIL FOR SMALLER DISTRICTS

Its politics are liberal to very liberal, and the current mayor's race is a contest between an African American woman, incumbent Karen Bass, and a South Asian woman, Councilmember Nithya Raman.

In short, Los Angeles has changed a lot since 1925. City Council, though, remains structurally unchanged — 15 members representing 15 districts. Whereas the districts once comprised 40,000 people, now they're home to some 265,000

people each.

If the council expanded to 25 members, each would represent 160,000 people.

Moves to expand the council have kicked around for decades. In the late 1990s, then-Mayor Richard Riordan launched an overhaul of the city charter, and though his goals were more about streamlining authority and strengthening the mayor's office, two commissions considering reforms took up council expansion as a means of improving representation.

Smaller districts, the thinking went, would mean more cohesive ones. The city's Korean-American community, for instance, might command one district. Or Filipino or Guatemalan residents, who have considerable populations but whose numbers are swamped by other groups in existing districts, might exert more authority in their areas.

Smaller districts would have other benefits, too.

Council members are part of a city legislature and vote on city ordinances and priorities, but they also act as administrators for constituents, interceding when residents run up against bureaucracy, lending assistance to residents trying to access city services or navigate city rules. Smaller districts could mean constituents would get more individualized attention.

Those assumptions have kept the idea of council expansion alive, but it's had significant opposition, too, starting with the council itself. Many members see the expansion idea as diluting their power, reducing them to smaller political figures.

Other critics worry that a larger council would be more expensive for taxpayers and not fundamentally more responsive to the public.

Still, Los Angeles is a standout among major cities. New York, with a larger population than LA, has a council of 51 members, each representing about 172,000 residents. Chicago, with a smaller population, has 50 alderpersons, each representing about 50,000 residents.

In California, San Francisco has 11 members representing a city of about 840,000 people, meaning each member represents a district of about 76,000 people — about a third the size of LA's. San Diego, the state's second-largest city with a population of 1.4 million, has nine council members, or one for every 155,000 people — again, districts smaller than Los Angeles would have even if it approves council expansion.

Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the law school at U.C. Berkeley and president of the Los Angeles charter reform commission back in the 1990s, has been around this issue for a long time. He is a

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Democratic angst and gerrymandering threaten California's political reforms

Turmoil within the California Democratic Party over this year's election for governor and fallout from the party's naked grab of congressional seats could have long-term effects, undoing two important political reforms — the top-two primary system and redistricting by an independent commission.

The turmoil is over having nine Democratic candidates for governor, creating the possibility that two Republicans could finish one-two in the June 2 primary, thus resulting in a GOP governor being elected in November.

A recent Public Policy Institute of California poll of voters found that Republicans Steve Hilton (14%) and Chad Bianco (12%) are 1st and 3rd in support, with Katie Porter (13%) the leading Democrat, followed by Eric Swalwell (11%) and Tom Steyer (10%). The other six Democrats are all 5% or less.

Filing for the primary ballot closes this week, and Rusty Hicks, the Democratic state chairman, is publicly pleading for lower tier Democrats to drop out and thus reduce chances of a 1-2 GOP finish.

This week, in a public letter, Hicks said a 1-2 GOP primary outcome may be implausible, but "it is not impossible, and I know we are collectively committed to taking the steps required to avoid that possibility."

So far, none of the bottom six has volunteered to quit. The angst is likely to fuel efforts to do away with the top-two system and return to closed party primaries, thereby eliminating any possibility of a future backdoor Republican win.

Neither party liked the top-two system when it was proposed during a stalemate on the state budget in 2009. Republican Sen. Abel Maldonado, backed by then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, said he'd vote for the budget only if Democrats placed the top-two system on the ballot, arguing that it would reduce polarization.

Democrats caved and Proposition 14, creating the system, was approved by voters in 2010. Given their dislike of the top-two system in the first place and what happened this year, it's highly likely Democratic leaders will seek to eliminate it.

Leaders of both parties also disliked it when Charles Munger Jr., a wealthy Stanford University scientist, proposed

the state shift the redrawing of legislative and congressional districts away from the Legislature to an independent commission. Munger, backed by Schwarzenegger, contended it would end self-serving gerrymanders.

A Munger-financed ballot measure in 2008, Proposition 11, created the commission for legislative districts, and in 2010 Proposition 20 extended the commission to congressional districts. The commission drew new maps after the 2010 and 2020 censuses.

Last year, however, to counter a Texas effort to shift five congressional seats from Democrats to Republicans, Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed and voters passed Proposition 50. It gerrymanders California's 52 congressional districts to gain at least five Democratic seats this year.

Newsom said the gerrymander was needed to blunt President Donald Trump's efforts to skew the 2026 congressional election. Newsom promised that the radically revised districts would last for only three election cycles, and the commission system would return after the 2030 census.

BUT WILL IT?

Let's assume that the gerrymander gives Democrats five more California seats, creating a 48-4 partisan split. California is destined to lose at least four and perhaps five seats in total after the 2030 census, due to population stagnation. Nationally, blue states such as California and New York will lose congressional seats to faster-growing red states such as Florida and Texas.

Restoring the commission system could reduce Democratic ranks by as many as 10 seats, since the state's more conservative interior counties are outpacing the liberal coastal region in population growth.

For all of these reasons, California Democratic leaders will be under tremendous pressure from the national party — and the Democrats who won seats in 2026 — to minimize losses. They can only do that by eliminating the commission and returning redistricting power to a Democratic-controlled Legislature.

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

Santa Monica College Earns Black-Serving Institution Designation

Santa Monica College has been named one of 31 California Black-Serving Institutions, a first-of-its-kind designation recognizing institutions that demonstrate strong academic resources and support systems for Black students.

The state's Governing Board for Black-Serving Institutions announced the designation, which also went to UC Berkeley, CSU Northridge, Long Beach City College, Bakersfield College and Loyola Marymount University, among others.

SMC, already a Hispanic-Serving Institution, has maintained a 35-year streak as the top transfer college to the University of California system. The college transfers more African American and Latinx students to the UC than any other California community college.

The designation, created following SB 1348, is valid for five years. SMC enrolled 3,334 Black students during the 2024-2025 academic year.

"This year during Black History Month, Santa Monica College is particularly proud to celebrate being designated a Black-Serving Institution," said SMC Superintendent/President Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery.

The college's Black Collegians Program Umoja Community, established more than three decades ago, offers academic and career counseling, priority registration, a dedicated therapist, book vouchers and mentorship opportunities. Other programs supporting Black students include the Men of Color Action Network, the Student Equity Center and the Pan African Alliance.

"I am excited about this designation to expand the support to our Black student population," said Black Collegians Program Leader Sherri Bradford. "They deserve all that we can provide in terms of love and intentional services for them to be successful personally and academically."

For more information, visit smc.edu/BlackCollegians.



Amy Williams Photography / Santa Monica College

SMC: Santa Monica College students at the College's commencement in 2025.

“This year during Black History Month, Santa Monica College is particularly proud to celebrate being designated a Black-Serving Institution

- Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery, SMC Superintendent/President

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

West LA

Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem to Close Music at Westwood Season

Music at Westwood will present Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem on Friday, April 24, at 8 p.m. at Westwood Presbyterian Church as the final concert of this year's season.

Composed in 1984 in memory of Lloyd Webber's father, composer William Lloyd Webber, the Requiem premiered in February 1985 at St. Thomas Church in New York. The premiere and studio recording featured Plácido Domingo, Sarah Brightman and boy soprano Paul Miles-Kingston under the direction of Lorin Maazel. The album received the Grammy Award for Best Classical Contemporary Composition in 1986.

The traditional setting of the Latin Requiem Mass features the gentle duet "Pie Jesu," which became a hit in the UK. The concert will also feature choral works by composers Miklós Rózsa and William Ross.

Featured soloists are Devon Davidson, soprano; Raewyn Davidson, child soprano; and Elias Berezin, tenor. The WPC Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra will perform under music director Dan Redfeld.

The concert is free thanks to a special grant from the Musicians Trust Fund. Visit here for more info: <https://westwoodpres.org/>

Music at Westwood has presented sacred concert music at Westwood Presbyterian Church since 1997.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



westwoodpres.org

CONCERT: Music at Westwood presents Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem on April 24 for its season finale.

California

California Bill Would Require Advance Notice, Reasons for Insurance Nonrenewals

California state Sen. Ben Allen has introduced legislation that would require property insurers to give policyholders six months' notice before dropping their coverage and explain the specific reasons for doing so.

Senate Bill 1301 would also prohibit insurers from nonrenewing a policy solely because a policyholder inquired about a claim, filed a claim that was not paid, or filed a claim that fell within their deductible.

California policyholders face the fourth highest rate of nonrenewals in the nation, according to a 2024 congressional investigation. The state's FAIR Plan, which serves as the insurer of last resort, has seen its total exposure increase by 230% since 2022.

Under the bill, policyholders would have the opportunity to make repairs or adjustments to their property to maintain coverage before a nonrenewal takes effect.

"Too many Californians are losing this critical support system without a proper explanation or opportunity to retain coverage, unnecessarily risking their livelihoods," Allen said. "SB 1301 will put an end to that."

The bill is sponsored by the Eaton Fire Survivors Network, which represents more than 10,000 survivors of the Palisades and Eaton fires.

"Right now, people are being dropped without warning or explanation, left scrambling and scared," said Joy Chen, the organization's executive director. "Californians deserve a fair chance to stay insured and protect the life we've built."

Consumer Watchdog is co-sponsoring the measure.

"Insurance companies have rules about what homes they cover but families losing coverage never get a chance to meet them," said Carmen Balber, the group's executive director. "SB 1301 gives consumers information they can act on to keep their policy, and a right to use their insurance without losing it."

The bill is expected to be heard in its respective policy committee in the coming weeks.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

frankly, did not totally feel that commitment in some of the trade-offs that were mentioned.”

The data revealed pedestrians are disproportionately affected by the most serious crashes, accounting for 29 percent of fatal and severe injury incidents despite representing only 11 percent of all crashes. Adults over 65 make up 23 percent of pedestrians involved in injury crashes.

Councilmember Dan Hall delivered pointed criticism of the proposal, citing his own experience living near the corridor.

“I used to live two buildings away from the intersection of Santa Monica and Yale, and one day I was working in my home office when I heard a crash so violent that the window to my office shook,” Hall said, describing a speeding driver who struck a palm tree and careened into a bus stop.

Hall said he would not vote to approve the plan as presented.

“If an improvement reduces the likelihood of someone being killed or seriously injured, but reduces vehicle throughput, we support that improvement,” he said. “No safety countermeasure will be eliminated because it worsens vehicular throughput.”

The council’s motion directs staff to incorporate several specific changes, including reducing lane widths to approximately 10 feet, exploring raised crosswalks at unsignalized intersections, moving all bus stops to far-side locations where feasible, and extending bus-only lanes in the downtown area.

Council members expressed particular concern about the Chelsea Avenue intersection near McKinley Elementary School. The original proposal placed a new pedestrian signal and median refuge island at that location in Phase 2, which could take up to 10 years to implement. The council directed staff to prioritize those improvements in Phase 1 and identify funding from the capital improvement budget if necessary.

“I wish it could be done today, because my kids are there right now,” said Carlos Hernandez, senior transportation planner, summarizing feedback he received from parents during community outreach.

The study found that 85th percentile speeds in the eastern portion of the corridor range from 35 to 49 miles per hour, well above the posted speed limit. Councilmember Jesse Zwick questioned why some lane widths remained above 12 feet despite previous council direction to narrow them.

Staff acknowledged that certain safety features were scaled back due to concerns about vehicle level of service. A proposed pedestrian scramble at 20th Street was replaced with protected left turns after simulations showed drivers might have to wait through multiple signal cycles.

Councilmember Natalya Zernitskaya referenced the book “There Are No Accidents by Jessie Singer,” noting the city should design streets with distracted users in mind.

“We can make roadways safer by designing them with the lowest common denominator user in mind,” she said, “to make sure that they don’t get a chance to make an inadvertent mistake that can hurt or kill someone.”

The total estimated cost for all proposed improvements is approximately \$11 million. Staff indicated Phase 1 improvements could be coordinated with planned repaving of the boulevard before the 2028 Olympic Games.

City Manager Oliver Chi said staff would synthesize the council’s feedback and could return sooner than 60 days with updated concepts while continuing design work on elements that received consensus support.

Multiple community organizations submitted comments on the proposal, with groups including Santa Monica Forward and Santa Monica Families for Safe Streets calling for stronger safety measures, while a local auto dealership owner requested further consultation about impacts to business access.

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TRUECAR

FROM PAGE 1

after founder Scott Painter completed a take-private transaction that removed the company from the Nasdaq stock exchange in January.

“This is the hardest part of being a leader,” Painter said in a statement. “We approached this thoughtfully and deliberately as a necessary step to refocus the company on its mission. As soon as I reacquired TrueCar, I personally met with every single team member to understand where the company is today so we can get on track to becoming a sustainable, mission-based company.”

The job cuts represent a significant blow to Santa Monica’s technology sector. TrueCar has been one of the city’s larger tech employers and a fixture in the local business community since its founding in 2005. The reduction comes as Santa Monica continues efforts to strengthen its economy following the pandemic, and raises questions about potential ripple effects on downtown commercial real estate demand.

TrueCar did not disclose severance terms or specify how many of the affected positions were based at its Santa Monica headquarters versus other locations.

Earlier this month, TrueCar announced it would discontinue three initiatives — TrueCar+, TrueCar Marketing Solutions, and TrueCar Wholesale Solutions — while exploring the sale or monetization of related intellectual property. The company said it would integrate select capabilities from those

programs into its core platform.

Company leadership framed the cuts as a necessary pivot away from what it characterized as an unsustainable growth-focused strategy.

“We are laser-focused on identifying opportunities to strengthen our product and company to ensure TrueCar is actively delivering meaningful value to customers and partners, right now,” Painter said.

The company said it is shifting from a “quantity-driven marketplace model to a quality-driven platform,” prioritizing clearer pricing information for consumers, stronger relationships with its network of certified dealers, and a more streamlined car-buying experience.

Despite the immediate contraction, TrueCar outlined ambitious long-term goals. The company said it expects to facilitate one million vehicle sales annually within a few years, which it projects would generate more than \$1 billion in annual revenue — roughly three times its current size.

TrueCar operates a digital platform that connects car buyers with a nationwide network of certified dealers. The company powers auto-buying programs for more than 250 brands and organizations, including Sam’s Club, AAA, and more than 100 credit unions. Because the company went private in January, there is no public stock price to reflect investor reaction to the layoffs.

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026033456. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ROCKEY LOAN TEAM, TEAM ROCKEY, 1700 NW GILMAN BOULEVARD, SUITE 300, ISSAQUAH, WA 98027, County of KING. Registered Owner(s): PRIORITY HOME LENDING, LLC, 1177 WEST LOOP SOUTH, SUITE 700, HOUSTON, TX 77027. 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 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/ CHRISTOPHER RICHARD LOPEZ, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 02/12/2026. 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: 03/02/2026, 03/09/2026, 03/16/2026, 03/23/2026

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HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 2

and compassion.

“The professors had real experience in the field,” she says. “They were professional but down to earth. That made a huge difference. I felt safe learning again.”

SMC’s Homeless Service Work curriculum prepares students to work in the homeless response system by combining classroom instruction with hands-on field experience. Students learn how funding flows through the system, how services are coordinated and how trust is built one relationship at a time. Just as important, they learn how to care for themselves while caring for others.

For Kusaba, one assignment in particular stood out. As part of a final project, students were asked to gather and organize resources related to homelessness. While others completed the task and moved on, Kusaba discovered something deeper.

“I realized how much I loved it,” she says. “Researching resources, organizing them, making them easier to access — it felt meaningful. Like something I could do every day and really help people.”

HOPE TOOLKIT

That realization sparked Kusaba’s creation of Hope Toolkit (hopetoolkit.org), an online resource to help people navigate housing, health and social services. Built initially from thousands of pages Kusaba collected and vetted herself, the site reflects her belief that access to information should not require insider knowledge or persistence bordering on desperation. “There’s a resource gap in society,” she says. “People shouldn’t have to beg for help or feel ashamed for needing it.”

Hope Toolkit is one way that Kusaba translates her education and lived experience into tangible impact. Another is her

continued involvement in the community. She interned at The People Concern as part of her studies and now volunteers with Housing Works, Harbor Interfaith and SHARE!, an organization that provides recovery support and same-day housing.

She is also involved with grassroots housing advocacy through RUN L.A., a coalition that advances housing initiatives and supports the passage of legislation in California. Through these connections, Kusaba continues to build the networks she encountered through SMC.

“The value of the program is learning from experts and meeting people who are actually making decisions,” she says. “Networking and mentorship open doors to real change.”

SMALL ACTS MATTER

While the toolkit is a big project, Kusaba believes that small gestures matter as well. “When you ignore someone who is homeless, you are ignoring your own humanity,” she says. “You don’t need to give money. Smiles are currency. Kindness reminds people of their humanity.”

She encourages others to start by doing whatever they can, whether volunteering for an hour a month, offering water or simply acknowledging someone who is often unseen. These moments, she says, can change how people see the world and their place in it.

Through the Homeless Service Work certificate program, Kusaba learned that effective support depends on communication, trust and teamwork. Systems matter, but relationships make them work. Everyone brings something valuable shaped by their own experiences.

“All of us have something to contribute,” she says. “What matters is how we treat each other.”

Article courtesy of Santa Monica College’s Public Information Office.

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

stalwart supporter of council expansion. I reached out to him this week to ask whether he still favors the idea, and he made it clear his view remains unchanged.

“Is it desirable to increase the size of the City Council? Unquestionably, the answer is yes,” Chemerinsky said. “More council districts means fewer constituents per council member.”

But Chemerinsky also has been around the politics of this issue. In 1999, when his commission and an appointed commission merged their work and produced a proposed city charter, the members of the panels were worried enough about how voters would respond to council expansion provisions that they broke those out as separate ballot measures: one that would have added six members to the existing body and one

that would have added 10.

They were right to be worried. Los Angeles voters adopted the main charter as written by Chemerinsky and his colleagues, but they rejected both council expansion options. As Chemerinsky recalled, the focus groups consulted by the charter reform commissions warned then that if council expansion “had been part of the overall charter proposal, it would have caused it to be defeated.”

Politics is framing. Some of the opposition may come down to how the question is presented. The same people who might vote against “expanding the City Council” might vote for “reducing the size of council districts.”

First, though, it will be up to the council to decide whether voters get that chance at all. It would be a shame to deny them the opportunity.

Jim Newton, CalMatters Contributor

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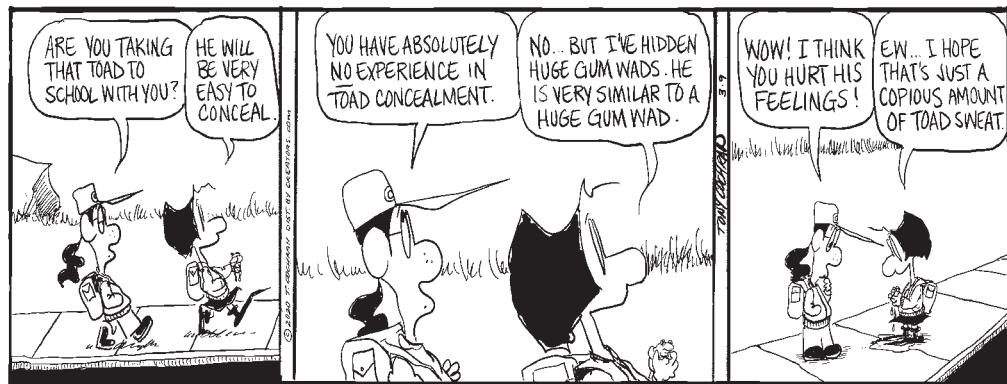
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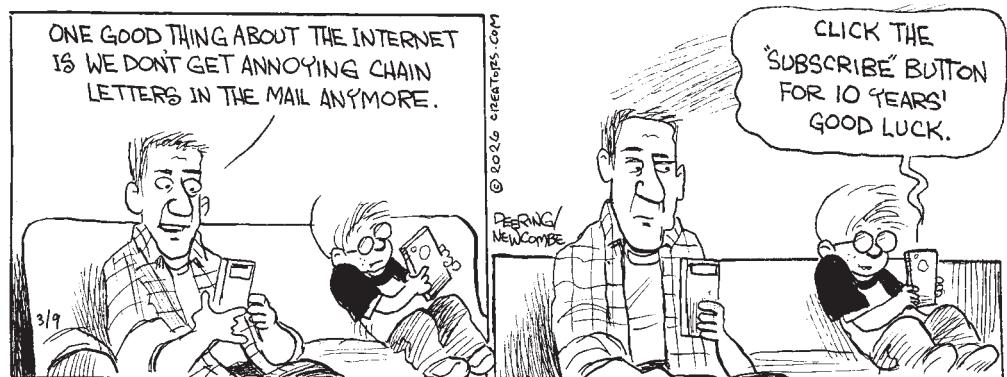
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By JOHN DEERING



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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6874

Nightly news

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

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|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Arts | Designer | Item | Sean |
| Bank | Digital | Jobs | Nicholls |
| Beat | Enus | Laws | Sections |
| Births | Extra | Local | Sell |
| Care | Family | News | Star |
| Clues | Filming | Op-ed | Style |
| Column | Fine | Poet | Theft |
| Concerns | Fire | Proof | Trial |
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| Crew | Hero | Rush | |
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 9)

Welcome to your Year of Velvet Horizons. What first appears to be a side step becomes a secret staircase; you climb easily, each small step guided by instincts that feel almost clairvoyant. More highlights: A practical choice turns lucrative. You grow more articulate and precise with words that shape a venture or philosophy others will gladly fund. Your personal life is rich in depth, laughter, steadiness and whimsy, too. Scorpio and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 18, 33, 9 and 21.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your job goes smoothly when customers, clients, colleagues and bosses all agree on the nature of the task at hand. Figure out where they're at so you can build the bridge that gets everyone on the same page.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Today is a tasting platter of delights. Happiness in small doses is the luckiest kind because you can savor it in real time. Enjoyment and brevity go hand in hand. Pleasures in excess become pains.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Those who lean too far back are as likely to fall as those who lean too far forward. As for you, you'd rather see what you're getting into. It gives you more options, more chances for grace and a richer experience in general.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The self-talk you practiced to support yourself is now a part of your inner world - a habit of mind that helps friends, too, as words of encouragement are readily accessible to you. Being good to yourself is being good to others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Does it feel as though you've been miscast? Like a high school production where some child is going to have to play "Grandpa," we don't always get the option to work within our natural type. And yet, here you are - brilliant anyway.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Someone is ready to grow and you're ready to help. You're an excellent teacher and will be so happy to once again contribute to another person's learning process. Do not doubt that your input will shape destiny in some way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're open, but discerning. Today, you'll enjoy the show and still see the strings. Being entertained requires trust. Spotting a lie requires self-respect. You can do both at once, which highlights your social intelligence.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The story convention of romantic comedies: two characters can't stand each other, except for the fact that they are actually in love. Real love tends toward fewer fireworks, more warmth. Less clever hostility, more comfort.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Some give their trust sparingly, but you won't take it personally. They have their reasons and you don't need to know what those reasons are to practice patience, tolerance and respect for other people's timing. In the end, respect wins out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In the same way people just back from their vacation can need a vacation from vacation, you may need a break from taking a break, or some work that gets you out of work - and your need will be met.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). To admit what you don't know takes humility, wisdom and self-esteem. Thinking you are only as good as what you know is a trap - a small, sad cage. So ... what's outside it?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You sense there may be more available to you and you're absolutely right. Demonstrate good stewardship of what you have and you'll attract the right attention and seed a growing curiosity about how it might evolve.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Remove wrinkles from clothes
- 5 Pet adoption group: Abbr.
- 9 Building's corridors
- 14 Voice-amplifying device, for short
- 15 Typical Jordanian
- 16 Approximately
- 17 Rodent with sharp quills
- 19 Cross home plate
- 20 Facts and figures, for short
- 21 Grain storage towers
- 23 Use a needle and thread
- 24 Throat-clearing sound
- 26 Mystery novel's hints
- 28 Got angry
- 31 Most recent
- 33 Yale student
- 34 Business competitor
- 36 Farmer's ground
- 39 Valentine flower with thorns
- 43 Examine by touch
- 44 Extra car tire
- 45 Midmorning hour
- 46 Pops, as balloons
- 49 Needed to scratch
- 51 Juliet's love
- 52 Animal with antlers
- 53 "However..."
- 54 Banish
- 57 ___ Arabia (Mideast nation)
- 61 Adds to the poker pot
- 63 Fastener with a guard to cover the point
- 65 Unravel, as a mystery
- 66 Was untruthful
- 67 Unpleasant aroma
- 68 Leg joints

69 Makes a mistake

70 "___ of your business!"

DOWN

- 1 Mischievous kids
- 2 Very funny person
- 3 Gumbo vegetable
- 4 Flower liquid collected by bees
- 5 Maple tree fluid
- 6 Spectrum-showing crystal
- 7 "What ___ do for you?"
- 8 Adam's second son
- 9 Big inconvenience
- 10 Alphabet beginning
- 11 Molar a dentist can tighten
- 12 Entices
- 13 Slow-cooker beefy

meal

18 Theater greeters

22 Trick-or-treat month: Abbr.

25 Modify, as writing

27 Russia, on old maps

28 ___-addressed stamped envelope

29 Burn-soothing plant

30 Champagne container

31 Night-table lights

32 ___ mater (former school)

35 "Bulletproof" garment

37 "That's clear now"

38 Give temporarily

40 In a sad mood

41 Great Lake near Niagara Falls

DON'T GET STUCK by Guilherme Gilioli Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

42 Loathe a lot

47 ___ Pieces (snack brand)

48 Chicago White ___ (baseball team)

50 Tot's coloring stick

51 Talk nonstop

52 Delay for a while

53 Lie in the sun

55 Dot of land in an ocean

56 Wild animal's home

58 Off-the-neck hairstyle

59 Pop singer Celine

60 Concerning, in a memo

62 New Year's ___ (annual party day)

64 Magazine execs: Abbr.

Sudoku

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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.

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
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28	29	30					31	32						
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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								66					67	
68								69					70	

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RENTS

FROM PAGE 1

The median rent in the city now stands at \$2,318, with one-bedroom units averaging \$2,194 and two-bedroom apartments coming in at \$2,630. The year-over-year decline has accelerated to 7.5% — more than double the 3.8% annual drop recorded last month — signaling that the market’s downward trajectory is quickening rather than stabilizing.

The drop represents a significant acceleration from February, when rents fell 0.5% month-over-month. The overall median at that time stood at \$2,388, meaning renters are now paying roughly \$70 less per month than they were just weeks ago. One-bedroom units dropped from \$2,261 to \$2,194 over the same period, while two-bedroom apartments fell from \$2,710 to \$2,630.

Two months into 2026, rents in Santa Monica have declined 2.3% year-to-date — a stark reversal from the same period last year, when rents had climbed 1.0% between January and February 2025.

The Apartment List conclusion that rent is declining is in line with other services that track rentals although there are wide swings in numbers with companies reporting the year on year change as essentially flat at the low end and plummeting by as much as 12% at the high end.

A MARKET AT A PREMIUM, DESPITE THE SLIDE

Even with the sustained decline, Santa Monica remains one of the pricier rental markets in the region. The city’s current median of \$2,318 sits 7% above the metro-wide median of \$2,167, and various other data sources peg Santa Monica’s asking rents even higher. Zumper and RentCafe, which track listing prices on active units and large buildings respectively, place the city’s median between \$3,500 and \$3,653 — a range that reflects methodological differences rather than contradictory market conditions.

LOS ANGELES METRO RENTS HIT FOUR-YEAR LOWS

Santa Monica’s softening reflects broader regional trends, though the city’s decline outpaces the metro as a whole. The Los

Angeles metro median rent fell to \$2,167 per month in December 2025, its lowest level since January 2022, according to Apartment List. Metro-wide annual rent growth stands at negative 1.2% — well above Santa Monica’s 7.5% decline but still indicative of a cooling market.

Several forces are driving the regional slowdown with more housing units coming online at the same time as the regional population has declined. Nearly 40% of rental listings on Zillow now include at least one concession such as a free month’s rent or reduced deposit, meaning effective rents are often lower than advertised asking prices.

“Renters are operating in a very different environment than they were just a few years ago,” said Orphe Divounguy, senior economist at Zillow. “When supply expands and vacancies rise, property managers have to adjust on both price and terms. Concessions are near record highs, keeping rent growth modest and creating meaningful opportunities for renters.”

The January 2025 wildfires, which destroyed more than 12,000 structures and displaced roughly 180,000 people, did not produce the sustained region-wide rent spikes many had anticipated. An Apartment List analysis found rents in fire-adjacent cities actually fell 0.8% over 2025, as the metro’s scale, new supply and weak job growth absorbed displacement demand.

CALIFORNIA TRENDS DIVERGE BY REGION

At the state level, the picture is more mixed. California rents rose 0.5% over the past year — modest growth that nevertheless outpaces the national average, where rents fell 1.5% annually and vacancy hit a record 7.4% in February 2026.

The statewide figures, however, obscure a sharp north-south divide. San Francisco has emerged as the nation’s hottest rental market, with one-bedroom rents climbing more than 15% year-over-year fueled by AI industry hiring and return-to-office mandates. San Jose has followed a similar trajectory. Los Angeles, San Diego and Sacramento all posted annual declines in the range of 3% to 4%.

maaz@smdp.com



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6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! 6pm-Close. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2026-03-02T18>

KARAOKE MONDAYS AT THE WHALER

101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 info@venicewhaler.com Does not apply on holidays Santa Monica. Monday night karaoke at Whale. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/karaoke-mondays-at-the-whaler/17408730/2026-03-02T00>

TUESDAY | MARCH 10

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room at Virginia Avenue Park. Each week there will be something new: Exercise, Talking with Friends, Learning, Guest Presenters, Health & Wellness! For more information call (310) 458-8688. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2026-03-03T10>

WOMEN'S TENNIS - LA MISSION COLLEGE

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Ocean View Park 2701 Barnard Way Santa Monica. Matches held at Ocean View Park. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/women-s-tennis-la-mission-college/18044851/2026-03-10T13>

SUSHI-MAKING CLASS AT SOKO SUSHI

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows 101 Wilshire Boulevard Santa Monica. Veteran Sushi Chef Masa Shimakawa leads a beginner-friendly, hands-on sushi-making class, guiding guests through the refined techniques that honor sushi’s centuries-old traditions using some of the city’s freshest fish and ingredients to craft their own authentic rolls under Chef Masa’s expert instruction. The 90-minute experience begins with a sparkling sake welcome, followed by miso soup and a crisp house salad, before guests roll up their sleeves to create classic salmon, yellowtail, crab, and tuna rolls, transforming the intimate sushi counter into an interactive and memorable celebration. Soko’s sushi-making classes will take place every Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday throughout March. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sushi-making-class-at-soko-sushi/18102584/2026-03-03T17>

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

5:30 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro

Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/city-council-meeting/13799967/2026-03-10T17>

8PM FREE “ROXY’S GOT BALLS” BINGO TUESDAYS @ TINY’S HI-DIVE IN LOS ANGELES!

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Tiny’s Hi-Dive 12012 West Pico Boulevard Los Angeles. 8pm TUESDAYS “Roxy’s Got Balls!” Drag Queen BINGO is LIVE & FREE at Tiny’s Hi-Dive in Los Angeles w/ Roxy Wood! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/8pm-free-roxy-s-got-balls-bingo-tuesdays-tiny-s-hi-dive-in-los-angeles-/14857154/2026-03-03T20>

TUESDAY OPEN MIC

10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. The best open mic in Los Angeles! The Tuesday Open Mic is a weekly open mic. Hop onstage and perform your best 3 minutes! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/tuesday-open-mic/16004734/2026-03-03T22>

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 11

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/16206460/2026-03-04T08>

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/12382446/2026-03-04T08>



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