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Top contender?

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Volume 25 Issue 88

MONDAY 3/23/26

smdp.com

League of Women Voters honors Santa Monica leaders at 2026 Yellow Rose Awards



Michelle Edgar

AWARDS: A group of local women were recognized by the League of Women Voters at their award ceremony last week.

MICHELLE EDGAR
Special to the Daily Press

The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica used its 2026 Yellow Rose Awards on Wednesday night to honor women whose work has shaped civic life, sustainability, and

community care in Santa Monica, while delivering a clear message about the urgency of protecting democracy.

Held at Brookdale Ocean House during Women's History Month, the event recognized former Mayor Gleam Davis, Growing Hope

Gardens founder Carolyn Day, and former League president Angela Scott, with a fourth honoree, Dr. Monika White, also slated for recognition.

League President Maria Rodriguez framed the evening as both a celebration and a call to

action. "Our honorees represent the very best of Santa Monica; women who have spent decades building a more resilient and equitable future for all of us," Rodriguez said.

At the same time, she emphasized

SEE YELLOW ROSE PAGE 11

Realignment plan drops serious crime by 12.5% as focus evolves to economics

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica City Council will meet Tuesday to consider an update to the city's Realignment Plan, reviewing significant public safety gains and voting on a package of new economic development

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 7

Malibu Council approves Bluffs Park Snack Shack design amid budget concerns

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The City Council unanimously approved preliminary designs for a new snack shack and park enhancement project at Malibu Bluffs Park on March 9, greenlighting \$425,000 for planning and permitting while acknowledging the city lacks the

SEE MALIBU PAGE 6

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Does California's race for governor finally have a leader? Swalwell sees attacks from left and right

There is finally a breakaway leader in California's crowded race for governor, at least by one measure: Eric Swalwell is just about everyone's favorite target.

In a wide-open contest ahead of a June primary, a burst of negative publicity aimed at the Democratic U.S. House member suggests that Swalwell's leading rivals see him gaining momentum in a race that has been overshadowed by international wars, turmoil in Washington and soaring gas prices.

To listen to his competitors, he has a no-show job in Congress, he might not live in California and he's a sympathizer with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which staged immigration raids across Los Angeles that led to violent protests. His campaign disputes those claims.

"Whoever's head starts to stick up higher than the rest, the other candidates pick up their mallets and start to knock them back down," said Democratic consultant Roger Salazar, who is not involved in the contest.

With high-profile endorsements from Democratic U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff and the influential Service Employees International Union California — paired with favorable polling — other campaigns ramped up attacks in an apparent effort to blunt any Swalwell gains. In a race that has yet to capture the public's attention, marquee endorsements can move votes.

"It's like a kids' soccer game — people move with the pack," Salazar added.

RESIDENCY QUESTIONS SHAKE UP

“

Whoever's head starts to stick up higher than the rest, the other candidates pick up their mallets and start to knock them back down

- Roger Salazar, Democratic consultant

”

CAMPAIGN

Swalwell, an Iowa native, was elected in 2012 and represents a House district east of San Francisco. He launched a presidential run in April 2019 but shuttered it a few months later after failing to catch on with voters. He is perhaps best known nationally as a House manager in President Donald Trump's second impeachment trial during his first term in early 2021.

Billionaire hedge fund manager-turned-liberal activist Tom Steyer, who is among a handful of leading Democrats, posted a digital ad mocking Swalwell for missing votes in Congress that depicted the congressman taking dunks in a pool while the U.S. House was calling votes, while his campaign separately questioned Swalwell's residency status in California. Steve Hilton, a former Fox News host and one of the leading Republicans, has said Swalwell should be disqualified because of questions about his residency.

In a letter to the state's chief elections officer earlier this month, Steyer's campaign argued the Swalwell lived in California "on paper" and asked the office to investigate whether the congressman is eligible to serve as governor. The state constitution requires five years of residency to run for governor, but the California Secretary of State's Office has said the provision is unenforceable.

The office did not immediately respond to an email inquiring about the status of the request.

The California Post recently sent a

reporter to Swalwell's listed address in the San Francisco Bay Area. The news outlet interviewed neighbors who said they had never seen Swalwell. Meanwhile, Swalwell's landlord filed legal papers with the secretary of state affirming that the congressman and his wife have rented the property since 2017. "He lives at the property," the documents said.

Swalwell said he receives hundreds of death threats and keeps his address private to protect his family, and he accused Steyer and the news outlet of putting them at risk. His campaign says his living arrangements are no different from any other House member from California. He maintains dual residences, one in the state and the other in Washington.

Swalwell missed votes in September following the death of his mother, but campaign spokesperson Micah Beasley added that the congressman "has always been present for important or close votes."

"Tom Steyer has spent \$100 MILLION lying about me," Swalwell posted on the social platform X.

Another leading Democrat, former Rep. Katie Porter, has dinged Swalwell for what she describes as his support for immigration enforcement personnel.

"Eric Swalwell voted to thank ICE," Porter wrote in an email to supporters. "ICE needs to be abolished, not thanked."

SEE GOVERNOR PAGE 11

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Records shattered as summer heat hits Southwest in March; ‘This is what climate change looks like’

The dangerous heat wave shattering March records all over the U.S. Southwest is more than just another extreme weather blip. It’s the latest next-level weather wildness that is occurring ever more frequently as Earth’s warming builds.

Experts said unprecedented and deadly weather extremes that sometimes strike at abnormal times and in unusual places are putting more people in danger. For example, the Southwest is used to coping with deadly heat, but not months ahead of schedule, including a 110-degree Fahrenheit (43.3 Celsius) reading in the Arizona desert on Thursday that smashed the highest March temperature recorded in the U.S.

“This is what climate change looks like in real time: extremes pushing beyond the bounds we once thought possible,” said University of Victoria climate scientist Andrew Weaver. “What used to be unprecedented events are now recurring features of a warming world.”

March’s heat would have been virtually impossible without human-caused climate change, according to a report Friday by World Weather Attribution, an international group of scientists who study the causes of extreme weather events.

More than a dozen scientists, meteorologists and disaster experts queried by The Associated Press put the March heat wave in a kind of ultra-extreme classification with such events as the 2021 Pacific Northwest heat wave, the 2022 Pakistan floods and killer hurricanes Helene, Harvey and Sandy.

The area of the U.S. being hit by extreme weather in the past five years has doubled from 20 years ago, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climate Extremes Index, which includes various types of wild weather, such as heat and cold waves, downpours and drought.

The United States is breaking 77% more hot weather records now than in the 1970s and 19% more than the 2010s, according to an AP analysis of NOAA records. In the United States, the number and average cost of inflation-adjusted billion-dollar weather disasters in the last couple years is twice as high as just 10 years ago and nearly four times higher than 30 years ago, according to records kept by NOAA and Climate Central, a nonprofit group of scientists and communicators who research and report on climate change.

TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH EXTREMES AND FAILING

“It’s really hard to even keep up with how extreme our extremes are becoming,” said Climate Central Chief Meteorologist Bernadette Woods Placky. “It’s changing our risk, it’s change our relationship with weather, it’s putting more people in risky situations and at times we’re not used to. So yes, we are pushing extremes to new levels across all different types of weather.”

For government officials who have to deal with disaster it’s been a huge problem.

Craig Fugate, who directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency until 2017,

said he saw extremes increasing.

“We were operating outside the historical playbook more and more. Flood maps, surge models, heat records — events kept showing up outside the envelope we built systems around. That’s just what we saw,” Fugate said via email.

He added: “We built communities on about 100 years of past weather and assumed that was a good guide going forward. That assumption is starting to break. And the clearest signal isn’t the science debate. It’s insurers walking away.”

‘VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE’ WITHOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate scientists at World Weather Attribution did a flash analysis — which is not peer-reviewed yet — of whether climate change was a factor in this Southwest heat wave. They compared this week’s expected temperatures to what’s been observed in the area in March since 1900 and computer models of a world with climate change. They found that “events as warm as in March 2026 would have been virtually impossible without human-induced climate change.”

That warming, from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, added between 4.7 degrees to 7.2 degrees F (2.6 to 4 degrees C) to the temperatures being felt, the report found.

“What we can very confidently say is that human-caused warming has increased the temperatures that we’re seeing as a result of this heat dome, and it’s going to be pushing those temperatures from what would have been very uncomfortable into potentially dangerous,” said report co-author Clair Barnes, an Imperial College of London attribution scientist.

EXAMPLES ABOUND OF HIGH HEAT AND EXTREME WEATHER

The Southwest heat wave is solidly in the category of “giant events,” with temperatures up to 30 degrees Fahrenheit (16.7 degrees Celsius) above normal, said Stanford University climate scientist Chris Field.

He listed five others in the last six years: a 2020 Siberia heat wave, the 2021 Pacific Northwest heat wave that had British Columbia warmer than Death Valley, the summer of 2022 in North America, China and Europe, a 2023 western Mediterranean heat wave and a 2023 South Asian heat wave with high humidity.

And that doesn’t include the East Antarctica heat wave of 2022 when temperatures were 81 degrees (45 degrees Celsius) warmer than normal. That’s the biggest anomaly recorded, said weather historian Chris Burt, author of the book “Extreme Weather.”

Worsening wild weather influenced by climate change isn’t just superhot days, but includes deadly hurricanes, droughts and downpours, scientists told AP.

Devastating floods hit West Africa in 2022 and again in 2024. Iran is in the midst of a six-year drought. And the deadly Typhoon Haiyan hitting the Philippines in 2013 shocked the



Surf report WATER TEMP: 63.7

MONDAY
FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Still on the peaky side w/ modest to locally fun-zone surf running. Light wind sticks around in PM. NW energy eases from Sunday as SSW swell sticks around. The early window is drained out on a negative low tide, but the push mid/late AM looks pretty fun for the smaller wave gear, and should have the best shape of the day before the NW energy dips further in the afternoon. If you can’t surf in the AM, PM onshores look pretty light and there should still be a few comers around.

TUESDAY
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Surf on the modest side, nudging up through the day. PM in play, can take advantage of late size. Older SSW swell leftovers to start as a new round of modest long period SSW swell creeps up -mostly in the afternoon. NW energy is down to trace leftovers, so shape goes back to favoring structured spots. Wind looks pretty light all day, so waiting for the later afternoon/evening window looks like a decent play at this point. It won’t be all that big, but maybe enough for the larger sets to get a shortboard going through the second half of the day.



Monday: Sunny, with a high near 81.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 60.
Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 82.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 62.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/03/23	Mon	12:13 AM	5.62	H
2026/03/23	Mon	07:37 AM	-0.23	L
2026/03/23	Mon	2:09 PM	2.76	H
2026/03/23	Mon	6:08 PM	2.06	L
2026/03/24	Tue	01:04 AM	5.36	H
2026/03/24	Tue	09:05 AM	-0.09	L
2026/03/24	Tue	4:40 PM	2.62	H
2026/03/24	Tue	6:43 PM	2.55	L
2026/03/25	Wed	02:17 AM	5.02	H
2026/03/25	Wed	10:47 AM	-0.18	L
2026/03/25	Wed	6:47 PM	3.01	H
2026/03/25	Wed	9:08 PM	2.94	L
2026/03/26	Thu	03:56 AM	4.83	H
2026/03/26	Thu	12:04 PM	-0.43	L
2026/03/26	Thu	7:22 PM	3.45	H
2026/03/26	Thu	11:36 PM	2.65	L

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<p>Draw Date: 3/18 14 18 19 21 69 Power#: 1 Jackpot: 120 M</p>	<p>Draw Date: 3/19 3 14 20 27 37</p>
<p>Draw Date: 3/17 4 11 18 38 50 Mega#: 24 Jackpot: 50 M</p>	<p>Draw Date: 3/19 EVENING: 6 1 6 Draw Date: 3/19 MIDDAY: 4 6 8</p>
<p>Draw Date: 3/18 1 26 35 40 46 Mega#: 26 Jackpot: 8 M</p>	<p>Draw Date: 3/19 1st: 06 - Whirl Win 2nd: 02 - Lucky Star 3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit Race Time: 1:42.70</p>

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER

Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Michelle Edgar,
Devan Sipher,
Miles Warner.

CIRCULATION

Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS

Maaz Alin
maaz@smdp.com

LEGAL ADVERTISING

legal@smdp.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING MANAGER

Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION

Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

2219A Main St Santa Monica,
CA 90405
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913



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Santa Monica Daily Press

Santa Monica Daily Press

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

To many people, César Chávez had become ‘too big to fail’

Those who quote Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar often mistake “Et tu, Brute?” as the dictator’s final line, as Caesar realizes his friend, Marcus Junius Brutus, has stabbed him. With vulgar Caesars dominating the news, from Donald Trump to César Chávez, perhaps Caesar’s actual final line, “Then fall, Caesar,” offers a more appropriate lesson for our time.

The allegations reported in the New York Times that César Chávez, labor leader and arguably the most famous Latino in U.S. history, molested and raped girls and young women, will come as a shock to many Americans. For others, especially the victims, this disclosure initiates a journey toward justice long overdue. It also illustrates what the victims, and some scholars of Chávez and the United Farm Workers (UFW) movement, including myself, have found to be true in recent years: no matter his failures, Chávez, like Bank of America during the Great Recession, had become “too big to fail.” Both individuals and the entire movement suffered as a result.

What reckoning should these revelations produce now? Many will make excuses, especially when powerful men, including the president of the United States, are accused of some of the same crimes. Some may worry that Donald Trump will use this news to further distract the public’s attention from the Epstein files. Others may even ask, what do César Chávez’s personal life, or his private words and deeds, have to do with the business of the union? For many years, this was the attitude of some UFW veterans.

Debra Rojas learned this the hard way. More than a decade ago, she found the courage to disclose Chávez’s assault of her, when she was just 12, on a private Facebook account for UFW veterans: “Wake up, people. This man u march for every year molested me and many, many other young girls.” Rather than support her, fellow Chavistas accused

her of tarnishing the movement she and her family belonged to. She took down her post.

In 2012, after I published *From the Jaws of Victory*, a history of the UFW that also revealed much of Chávez’s complicated truth, I faced backlash within this same community. My book chronicled how, in 1977, when UFW signed a historic agreement to end years of conflict with the Teamsters, Chávez showed greater interest in building an intentional community at the union headquarters in La Paz than in advancing the gains made by farm worker advocates over the previous decade. My book also described the humiliating group therapy exercises Chavez made residents participate in, and some of the infidelity that we now know only scratched the surface of his criminal conduct.

Chávez had many enablers — some who transported him to and from locations where abuse occurred — whose blind adulation and devotion ultimately harmed the union. Because UFW founders failed to build a democratic structure that allowed for members to challenge him, Chávez’s words — no matter how profane or misguided — were taken as gospel.

I also chronicled even earlier consequences of this unchecked power. In 1973, Chávez scuttled contract extension talks with grape grower John Giumarra, Jr., citing concerns about Giumarra’s failure to stop Filipino workers from having sex with “whores in the camps.” Jerry Cohen, head of the UFW legal team, could not persuade Chávez to let the prostitution issue go. Chavez’s obsession, which weakened the union, now feels strangely telling as well.

Another turning point came in 1976, when Chávez went against the advice of Gov. Jerry Brown and many within the union by supporting a risky ballot measure rather than working within the

SEE CÉSAR CHÁVEZ PAGE 8



City of Santa Monica

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Labor unions' influence in LA mayor's race is harder to predict this year

One of the standing assumptions of Los Angeles politics — and urban, liberal politics generally — has been that organized labor holds outsized influence on the outcomes of elections. Like all political assumptions, however, that one bears periodic reconsideration, and the municipal elections underway in LA this year offer a new test of it.

Labor has a particular place in Los Angeles civic life. In a city without many discernable sources of power, it supplies one, organizing members to maximize their engagement and participation and to help fashion a government — and, more broadly, a society — that reflects their interests and concerns. It is a portal for immigrants, a gathering set of institutions for community and a concerted voice in politics. All of that has been true at least since the 1980s.

Sometimes, however, pundits and even political operators get stuck in old assumptions. It is commonplace, for instance, to read about the “politically powerful Police Protective League” without questioning what that power means. Does “politically powerful” mean that the league can elect whomever it wants as the city's mayor?

Tell that to Rick Caruso, who ran with the league's support in 2022, only to get walloped by then-Congressmember Karen Bass. Neither the “politically powerful” union nor the more than \$100 million of his own money could get Caruso anywhere close to victory in that race. He lost by 10 points and took a pass this year on a rematch. So much for political power.

But the league is just one of many unions.

Labor unions traditionally supply money and support for their candidates in the form of volunteers and contributions. Los Angeles carpenters, for instance, were

major backers of Bass in 2022, as was the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Both of those unions are more lukewarm about Bass this time, their leaders feeling slighted by decisions Bass has made regarding union rules in housing construction and selection of a general manager for the city's Department of Water and Power, as well as debates over pensions for that department's workers.

Many members of those unions remain supportive of Bass, but some of their leaders feel ignored by the mayor, who not only defied them but did little to explain herself to them. They are unlikely to be there in force for her this time, a particularly tough hit for Bass, a politician who has a poor reputation as a fundraiser.

That's not to say labor has abandoned her. The county Federation of Labor, which brings unions together under its umbrella, is solidly in support of Bass. And many public employee unions can be expected to stick with her. Yvonne Wheeler, who heads the federation and is an enthusiastic Bass supporter, affirmed the group's support for her after Councilwoman Nithya Raman surprised LA's political class by jumping into the mayor's race at the last minute in February.

“With Donald Trump's ongoing war against the people of Los Angeles, our working families and immigrant communities, now is not the time for distractions from a political opportunist — especially one who backed the Mayor's re-election campaign just weeks ago,” Wheeler said in announcing the federation's support for Bass.

That swipe, labelling Raman a “political opportunist,” suggests the depth of the federation's antipathy toward the only

SEE LABOR PAGE 8

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MALIBU

FROM PAGE 1

estimated \$3.3 million needed to build it.

The vote came after Little League families and young athletes filled the council chambers to advocate for the project, which would replace a deteriorated temporary setup that has served the park's baseball fields for years.

"This is one of the most important things we'll do this year," said Council Member Doug Stewart. "It is critical to get it done. But we don't have the dollars right now."

The project, officially titled the Malibu Bluffs Park Snack Shack and Park Enhancement Project, calls for a 374-square-foot precast concrete building featuring an electric kitchen, four ADA-accessible restrooms, and upgraded storage facilities for both the city and youth sports leagues. The design also includes new pedestrian pathways, ADA ramps, and improved access to the baseball fields.

The previous snack shack, operated by Malibu Little League from 2006 to 2018, fell into disrepair and was demolished due to safety concerns. Currently, volunteers must erect temporary canopies, rent mobile sinks, and set up portable restrooms each time they want to serve food — a burdensome arrangement that supporters say is long overdue for replacement.

Community Services Director Kristin Riesgo told the council that the Parks and Recreation Commission worked with designers to reduce the project's estimated cost from nearly \$5 million to approximately \$3.7 million by eliminating electrical upgrades, minimizing kitchen equipment, and using the building itself as a retaining wall.

Construction is estimated to take 30 to 40 weeks once funding is secured, with the entire project timeline spanning 1.6 to 2 years.

The financial discussion dominated much of the council's deliberation. Stewart noted that Malibu's fiscal landscape has shifted dramatically since the Palisades Fire, with the city now carrying an estimated \$18 million to \$22 million in non-interest-bearing loans while awaiting FEMA reimbursements.

"We don't have the property tax we had a year ago. We don't have the sales tax we had a year ago," Stewart said. "Income is down, expenses are up."

Despite those constraints, council members expressed strong support for moving forward with the design phase while directing staff to pursue alternative funding sources including private donations, grants, and naming rights.

Council Member Marianne Riggins, who made the motion to approve the project, emphasized the facility's importance to the community's recovery.

"Having those shipping containers that are out there and portable restrooms are the last thing that we need when we're trying to

encourage residents to rebuild here," Riggins said. "We need to have something that is attractive... Having something that shows value in our community is going to show our residents that we value them."

Mayor Bruce Silverstein acknowledged the project's cost was higher than initially anticipated but voiced his support.

"I was supportive of moving this forward with all alacrity. I can't believe it's taken us as long to get to where we are, and we still have a long road ahead," Silverstein said. "This is an important community amenity."

I was supportive of moving this forward with all alacrity. I can't believe it's taken us as long to get to where we are, and we still have a long road ahead

- Mayor Bruce Silverstein

The approved design features a precast concrete structure with an estimated lifespan of 50 to 100 years. The building will be constructed off-site and delivered in 12-foot sections, with a color palette matching the adjacent skate park.

Riesgo told the council she is working with the city manager on a fundraising plan, including meetings with officials from South Lake Tahoe to discuss their approach to park facility funding.

Council Member Steve Uhring urged an aggressive fundraising effort, noting uncertainty about federal disaster relief.

"Do what you can to raise as much as you can, because I think when we get to the end of it, you're going to need it," Uhring said.

The council voted 5-0 to approve the preliminary design and direct staff to identify funding sources for construction. Final costs will be determined during the bidding phase and require future council approval.

maaz@smdp.com

COMMUNITY NEWS**California****California AG Bonta Issues New Guidelines for Schools on Immigration Enforcement**

California Attorney General Rob Bonta issued two bulletins notifying local educational agencies, institutions of higher education and child care providers of new legal responsibilities under recently enacted state legislation.

The first bulletin concerns Assembly Bill 495, authored by Assemblymember Celeste Rodriguez, D-San Fernando, which took effect Jan. 1, 2026. The second concerns Senate Bill 98, authored by Sen. Sasha Renée Pérez, D-Pasadena, in effect since Sept. 20, 2025.

"As federal immigration enforcement continues to create fear and uncertainty, it is critical that schools and child care providers are prepared and informed on how to safeguard the rights of students and their families," Bonta said.

The bulletins advise that school officials are prohibited from allowing immigration enforcement officers to enter nonpublic areas unless presented with a valid judicial warrant, subpoena or court order. School personnel are also prohibited from disclosing student information or education records to immigration enforcement officers without proper judicial authorization or parental consent.

All local educational agencies must update existing policies to be consistent with the attorney general's guidance by March 1, 2026. California state preschool programs must adopt model policies by July 1, 2026.

Licensed child care facilities are prohibited from collecting information about citizenship or immigration status of students or family members unless required by law. They must also report any requests for information by law enforcement for immigration enforcement purposes to the State Department of Social Services and the attorney general.

Schools must include procedures in their safety plans to notify parents, teachers and staff when immigration enforcement is confirmed on campus by March 1, 2026. The "Know Your Educational Rights" guide must be posted in administrative buildings and online in every language provided by the attorney general by the start of the 2026 school year.

Bonta reminded families that all children have a right to free public education regardless of immigration status, and that student records are generally protected by federal and state confidentiality laws.

More resources are available at oag.ca.gov/immigrant/resources.

As federal immigration enforcement continues to create fear and uncertainty, it is critical that schools and child care providers are prepared and informed on how to safeguard the rights of students and their families

- Rob Bonta, California Attorney General

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SMMUSD**SMMUSD Financial Oversight Committee Seeks Volunteers, Student Representatives**

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's Financial Oversight Committee is seeking qualified candidates to fill four upcoming vacancies with three-year terms beginning July 1, 2026.

The committee reviews significant financial matters impacting the district, assists in communicating school finance issues to the community, provides oversight for various district financing measures and agreements, and reviews SMMUSD's annual budget, financial projections and audited financial statements.

Ideal candidates will have significant professional finance or accounting experience, or deep familiarity with public education operations and finance. Candidates should also be committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable learning environment for SMMUSD students.

Application forms are available at <https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1746668515/smmusdorg/wndu4zsnbgokt5fpvy/focapplication.pdf> and may be scanned and emailed with a resume to foc@smmusd.org. The deadline for applications is Thursday, April 2, 2026.

The committee is also seeking student representatives from each of the three district high schools to join in an advisory role. Student committee members will have an advisory vote on agenda items, which will be recorded in the official minutes.

Student application forms are available at <https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1773861353/smmusdorg/be1negqqcdrg5eoq67el/FOCStudentApplication.pdf> and should be submitted to foc@smmusd.org. The deadline for student applications is Friday, April 17, 2026.

The committee generally meets once a month at the District Office or in Malibu. The schedule of meetings and additional information may be found on the SMMUSD FOC page.

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COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

tools, organizational reforms and housing strategies intended to cement those improvements as permanent city standards.

The council adopted the Realignment Plan in October 2025, deploying \$60 million in reserves across five strategic priorities aimed at restoring public safety, revitalizing civic spaces and rebuilding organizational capacity. According to the staff report, results since adoption have been significant.

Part I crime — which tracks violent offenses and burglary — declined 12.5%, falling from 4,793 incidents in 2024 to 4,194 in 2025. The Santa Monica Police Department has reached full sworn staffing for the first time in over 20 years. The City Attorney's Criminal Unit is now filing on approximately 88% of all legally fileable cases, up from a previous rate of 65-70%. Building plan check performance improved to 92.5% on-time for first-round reviews, an increase of more than 40 percentage points in four months. All library branches are now open for the first time since 2020.

The post-Realignment policing data is particularly striking. Monthly traffic citations averaged 1,200 during December 2025 through February 2026, compared with 480 per month during 2025. Weekly arrest activity climbed from an average of 81 per week in December to 104 per week in February.

When the Realignment Plan was adopted, the city faced a projected \$29.6 million structural General Fund deficit in FY 2026-27. The update presents a materially improved outlook.

New revenue streams secured since October — including an ambulance operator program generating approximately \$7 million annually, a parking rate restructuring

projected at \$8.5 million per year, and a digital signage program expected to yield \$4.5 million per year beginning in 2027 — now total roughly \$28.8 million in new annual General Fund revenues. Combined with expenditure management, the city now projects a General Fund surplus of approximately \$5.4 million in FY 2026-27, a full year ahead of the original plan's timeline.

The city maintains approximately \$94 million in unobligated General Fund cash on hand, and staff notes that major event licensing agreements currently under negotiation — including FIFA World Cup activations, a Goldenvoice music festival in September 2026, an ESPN broadcasting partnership and 2028 Olympic hospitality arrangements — could generate additional revenues not reflected in current projections.

Despite the public safety progress, the report acknowledges that private sector reinvestment has not materialized at the scale needed for broader economic recovery. Restaurant and hotel sales declined 4.1% year over year as of the second quarter of 2025, with quick service restaurants down 13.9% and fine dining down 9.1%.

To address that gap, staff is recommending a suite of economic development measures for council action Tuesday.

The council will be asked to establish a \$3 million Economic Development Fund from available one-time General Fund reserves, to be used for restaurant attraction incentives, business retention activities, Promenade capital renewal and other economic development efforts.

Staff is also recommending that the council waive the city's portion of the wastewater capacity fee for new restaurants and restaurant expansion projects. The fee currently costs new restaurant operators approximately \$1,400 per seat — representing \$70,000

in city fees alone for a 50-seat restaurant before the first meal is served. Restaurants would still be required to pay a Los Angeles Hyperion wastewater fee of approximately \$400 per seat.

Additionally, the council will consider a no-cost sidewalk dining program that would eliminate permit requirements and fees for outdoor dining setups consisting solely of simple tables and chairs. Staff estimates 19 current operators would see monthly license fees eliminated under the program.

The council will also consider expanding the Entertainment Zone program, which allows alcohol consumption in designated public areas and launched on the Third Street Promenade in June 2025. The proposal would extend the zones to cover the full Downtown core, portions of the Santa Monica Pier, and event-based zones along Main Street and Montana Avenue.

To help fill vacant commercial space, staff is asking the council to endorse a conceptual framework for a Retail to Restaurant Activation Program, which would offer forgivable loans, expedited permitting and case management support for operators converting vacant retail spaces to restaurant uses. Final program design would follow additional outreach to architects, restaurant operators and commercial brokers.

The council will also vote on temporarily waiving city film permit application fees, ranging from \$350 to \$700, as part of broader efforts to attract production during what the report describes as a challenging period for the California film industry.

Staff is recommending a comprehensive restructuring of the Public Works Department, including the creation of a new Downtown and Beach Maintenance Division and the transfer of the city's 311 customer support operation from the City Manager's Office

into Public Works. The reorganization would add 12 positions across the department.

On public safety, staff is seeking council authorization to negotiate a memorandum of understanding with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority that would allow SMPD officers to conduct enforcement actions on Metro train platforms within the city — a measure staff says is necessary to address the downstream public safety effects of end-of-line Metro rail service.

The council will also receive an update on a proposed vehicle habitation and "vanlording" ordinance. Staff is recommending the council hold off on formally adopting the ordinance until a safe parking site is secured, after a previously identified four-space site near the city's eastern border fell through following intervention by a neighboring jurisdiction.

Staff is recommending the council authorize a community outreach process, running March through May, to gather public input on a proposed transition from the city's current SamoShel shelter model to a housing-first system of care in which the city would control infrastructure at each step of a shelter-to-permanent-housing continuum. A report incorporating community feedback is expected to return to the council in June 2026.

Staff is also asking the council to direct further study of a city-aligned nonprofit housing development entity that could supplement existing affordable housing programs by developing mixed-income housing outside the constraints of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program.

The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St.

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CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

FROM PAGE 4

system to extend funding for the landmark Agricultural Labor Relations Act. When the measure lost, Chávez blamed it on UFW volunteers, saying they betrayed his orders or did not work hard enough to win. The union descended into chaos marked by purges of innocent volunteers — alongside the grooming and violation of girls that has now come to light.

WOMEN WERE OVERLOOKED

The abuse happened at a time when many women dedicated themselves to the movement only to be overlooked or driven out by this corrosive behavior. It has become common to recognize Dolores Huerta, who we now know is a survivor of Chávez's abuse, as the co-founder of the union. But the meaningful contributions of other women, including Jessica Govea and Elaine Elinson, remain mostly hidden to the public.

Govea and Elinson's management of the boycott in foreign countries helped deliver the first contracts for farm workers in 1970, though you would never know it from popular depictions of this history. The 2014 biopic *Cesar Chavez*, for example, shows British transport workers dumping grapes into the River Thames alongside Chávez—when it had in fact been Elinson. Govea fought sexism in the

union while working on the frontlines of the boycott in Montreal, only to encounter it at headquarters when she returned to California in the 1970s and 1980s. Labeled a troublemaker by Chávez, she ended up outside the union, working as a labor educator on the East Coast before cancer shortened her life.

Chávez's victims never achieved a fraction of the influence Govea fought for or Elinson temporarily enjoyed. It's impossible to measure how much the union lost in the leaders these girls would never become. It is time to begin a process of healing for the victims of Chavez's violence, and for the full story of the UFW to become public knowledge.

We need to acknowledge that whatever the UFW accomplished, it often did so as a collective. There's a reason why the UFW's slogan, "Sí se puede" is translated as "Yes, WE can." History shows us that organizers, workers, and advocates solved problems by coming together, not by blindly following orders from Chávez. It is time for Cesar to fall.

Matt Garcia is a professor of Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Studies, History and Human Relations at Dartmouth College. He is also the author of "From the Jaws of Victory: The Triumph and Tragedy of César Chávez and the Farm Worker Movement". This commentary was adapted from an essay produced for Zócalo Public Square.

HEAT

FROM PAGE 3

world.

Superstorm Sandy, which in 2012 flooded New York City and neighbors, had tropical storm-force winds that covered an area nearly one-fifth the area of the contiguous United States. It spawned 12-foot seas over 1.4 million square miles, about half the size of the U.S., with energy equivalent to five Hiroshima-sized atomic bombs, said Yale Climate Connections meteorologist Jeff Masters.

And don't forget wildfires that are worsened

by heat and drought, so recent extremes should include 2025's Palisades and Eaton wildfires, which were the costliest weather disaster in the United States last year, said Climate Central meteorologist and economist Adam Smith.

"This is due to climate change, that we see more extreme events, and more intense ones and have so many records being broken," said Friederike Otto, an Imperial College of London climate scientist who coordinates World Weather Attribution.

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

LABOR

FROM PAGE 5

opponent who poses a credible threat to the mayor. It sounds personal, not just political.

Bass also enjoys the support of many prominent labor leaders, current and former, including the endorsement of State Sen. María Elena Durazo, the most important of all Los Angeles labor leaders over the past quarter century. Durazo, currently a candidate for county supervisor, stood next to Wheeler when the federation, which Durazo once headed, announced it is backing Bass.

But the federation does not control its member unions, and others could still break from the mayor. Raman is a democratic socialist, after all, and labor's historic alliances with social justice campaigns — the Living Wage and protection of immigrants, to name two — make Raman a natural recipient of support, especially if she were not challenging an incumbent with labor bonafides of her own.

That could spell trouble for Bass, depriving her of money she needs to spread her message and votes in a campaign that could be close. Again, however, those risks may be smaller than they once were.

Start with money: Bass is not great at raising it, and she's lost some of the deeper pockets that helped her to victory in 2022. But she's running against a weak field of candidates and has the name recognition and tools of incumbency at her disposal.

Moreover, Bass has a record to point to, and even if it wasn't enough to chase off every opponent, it's one with plenty to be proud of: Homelessness is down, albeit modestly; crime is at historic lows (Los Angeles had fewer murders last year than at any time since the 1960s), and Bass has led the opposition to President Trump, whose attacks on Los Angeles and its immigrant communities have made him a pariah.

If the enemy of my enemy is my friend, well, Karen Bass has lots of friends.

If labor were united, powerful and uncontested, and if it rallied behind an opponent to Bass, her record might not be enough. A well-financed and broadly supported Bass critic could capitalize on the slowness of this administration to build housing, could question the LAPD's role in protecting the city against federal

incursions, could tap into the general malaise that so many residents feel about a city that seems to fall short of its potential.

But all of that rests on two assumptions: That labor could unite and that it retains its old power. Neither of those is true today just because it once was.

Today, many union members live outside the city. Housing prices make it very difficult for a city clerk or a hotel maid or even a construction worker to live in Los Angeles.

Unions split their support among candidates — the carpenters and hotel workers may back different horses, undermining the idea of a "labor candidate." And labor sometimes antagonizes other voters: The Police Protective League brings money to a campaign, but also carries the mixed help of aligning its chosen candidate with the police, who are viewed unfavorably by many of the city's younger and more liberal voters.

Labor's shaky influence, meanwhile, has attracted new entries into LA's power matrix, echoing or sometimes foreshadowing national trends. Today, the Democratic Socialists of America's Los Angeles chapter has demonstrated organizing strength, discipline, patience and resolve. And new organizations, including Thrive LA, are edging into the fray, sniffing the power vacuum and the opportunities it creates.

Los Angeles remains a labor city. Unions continue to occupy a place of influence over civic, cultural and political life. Labor can and still does pick winners in city council races and other contests. It will help pick the next mayor. But nothing stays the same forever in politics.

"Labor is very important in every race," Los Angeles City Council President Marquece Harris-Dawson, a thoughtful observer of LA politics, said this week.

He cited the impact of housing prices and the emergence of new groups as stresses on the traditional place of labor. And he noted that unions, like other players in politics, are searching for new ways to have their voices heard.

"A lot of other people that weren't important before are also important now," he said. "It's changing. How (labor) influences and what influence it has are being negotiated right now."

Jim Newton, CalMatters Contributor





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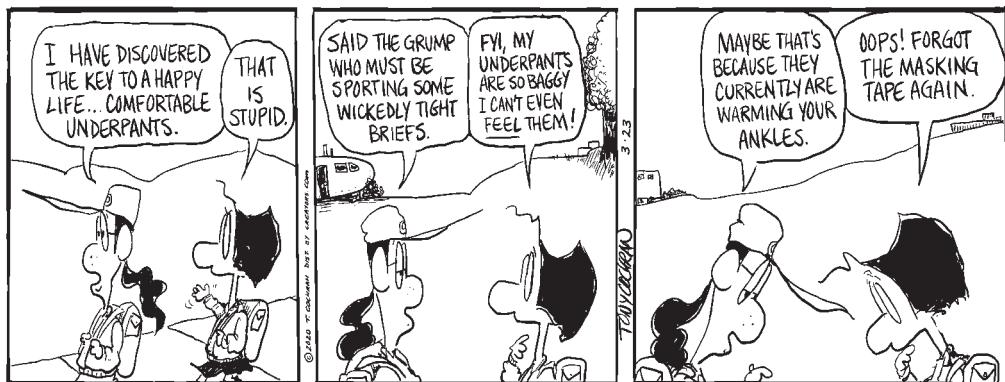
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By TONY COCHRAN



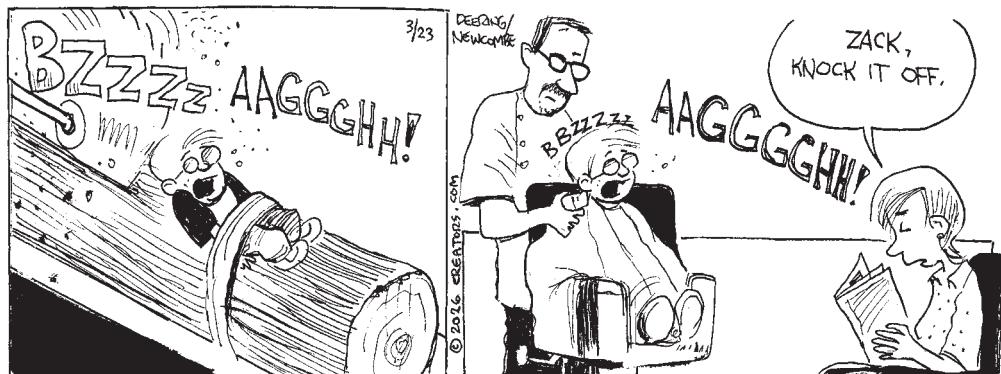
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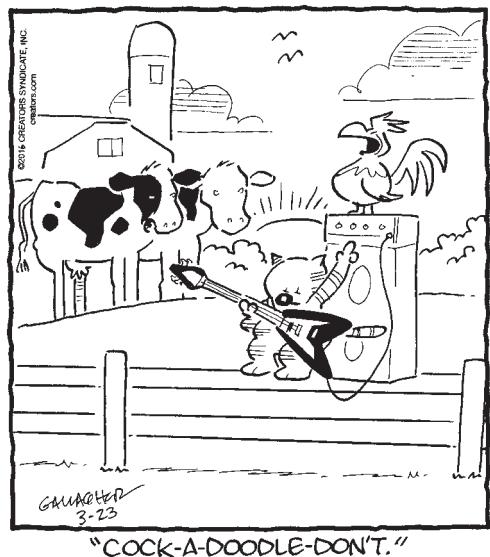
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 21 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Impromptu party

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 H L E E I K C C E G S A D O R
 O B C S O P E I E T R A N L T
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| Alcohol | Drum | Merry | Snacks |
| Band | Food | Music | Songs |
| Beer | Gifts | Name | Stereo |
| Birthday | Hats | Napkins | Sweet |
| Booze | Hire | Nice | Tags |
| Bosses | Hors | Pool | Tapas |
| Cake | oeuvre | Popular | Ties |
| Cheese | Icing | Pubs | Toys |
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 23)

Welcome to your Year of Declarations, in which you just say what you're going to do (often to a small group of supporters who double as accountability partners) and then you do it. Your amazing follow-through, decisiveness and keen instinct for efficiency have you crossing off major goals. More highlights: Relationships get sweeter, deeper, more numerous and lighter, too. An award or certificate helps you make more money. Pisces and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 14, 33, 19 and 4.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It feels like the reward isn't enough or isn't there at all. That doesn't mean your work is meaningless. Yes, there are tedious aspects. Don't let exhaustion masquerade as philosophy. It all matters. Be sweet to yourself. Go easy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Today calls for resolution. What can you tie up or move along? You may feel something is over, but if another person is still wondering, the loop will remain open. The next phase can only begin after this one ends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It seems counterintuitive, but losing doesn't make a person a loser. Losing means you're in the game, and being in the game means you're winning at life, even though you may not be winning at the game in question.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're asking the right questions today - questions such as, "What are my thoughts and feelings trying to protect me from?" and "What can be learned from this?" It's better to relate to ideas than wrestle them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll make moves that don't have the intended outcome, and that's just part of the process. Calling them "mistakes" is shorthand for "different outcomes." You'll find there's something wonderful in what happens unexpectedly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're already good at thinking about what you want to do, so try it a different way today. It's fun and creative to think about what you want to feel first, then go from there. There are endless ways to get to the same feeling.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Habits can make your life better or worse. The new one you want to make will be easier than you think. Start now. Keep showing up. Soon the habit will carry you. You'll stop building it and it will build you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't need breakthroughs today. You need repetition. The basics are boring and powerful. In a way, it's a relief to know that you don't have to reinvent the wheel; you just have to show up and hit the basics over and over.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your patience will be key - it's the secret to effective communication. Hear others out. Pause to consider how to respond. Hold up your hand to slow the discourse. Taking that extra breath creates space for reflection.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's more labor and responsibility in your world than people see. Instead of tightening your grip, look for leverage. What system can you adjust? What expectation can you lower? Put your strength where it counts, and let the rest redistribute.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A dip in the old self-esteem? No worries. Fluctuations are normal, and a high opinion of yourself doesn't always serve you anyway. The best scenario is not to be preoccupied with evaluating yourself at all. The flow state is unselfconscious.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your imagination is powerful today, which means it can either inspire you or unsettle you. Before you follow a worry too far, ask what's actually happening right now. Reality is gentler than the story. Stay with what's tangible, and let the rest drift by.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

A	T	W	O	R	K		S	T	A	G	S
S	W	A	N	E	E		C	A	M	E	O
S	E	V	E	N	Y	E	A	R	S	O	F
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			I	M	P	E	I		B	R	I
			M	E	M	O	S		Y	E	A

Newsday Crossword

AROUND A NECK by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Bathtub cake
- 5 Tax law expert: Abbr.
- 8 Cab driver
- 12 "Mamma Mia!" singing group
- 13 Reach by phone
- 14 Anglo-__ (ancient Brit)
- 15 Award for a winning Olympian
- 17 Strong packaging cord
- 18 "Long time no __"
- 19 Home for Eve and Adam
- 20 Mystical gathering
- 21 Narrow wooden strip
- 22 Santa's vehicle
- 23 Church leader
- 26 Spicy beef-and-beans meal
- 27 From another planet
- 28 Frog's cousin
- 29 Painting, sculpting, etc.
- 33 "Winning __ everything"
- 34 Prod gently
- 35 Uncluttered
- 36 Light snack
- 37 Dollar bills
- 38 Camel's South American cousin
- 39 Playful river mammal
- 41 Less shallow
- 42 Redeemed, as a check
- 44 "Half" prefix for circle
- 45 Lowest poker cards
- 46 Single-person performance

DOWN

- 1 Droops
- 2 Woodwind instrument
- 3 Up to a job
- 4 Tablet of paper
- 5 West Point student
- 6 Make preparations
- 7 Everyone
- 8 Floral necklace at a luau
- 9 Chopping down
- 10 Spiral-shaped seashell
- 11 Midleg joint
- 13 Fragrant wood
- 14 Metal in girders
- 16 Cantaloupe or honeydew
- 20 Playground chute
- 21 Doctor's device to listen to a heartbeat
- 22 Thick carpets
- 23 __ in the neck (pest)
- 24 "Additionally..."
- 25 Moral missteps
- 26 Software programmer
- 28 Adjusted, as a piano

AROUND A NECK

- 30 Bring in a harvest
- 31 Make docile
- 32 Top-billed performer
- 34 Short memos
- 38 Yellow citrus fruit
- 40 Nearby things
- 41 Local food shops
- 42 Larger relative of a viola
- 43 Cars
- 44 "My apologies"
- 45 Short footrace
- 46 Number in a spreadsheet
- 47 Remain in place
- 48 Add new employees
- 49 Snakelike fishes
- 51 Ship's distress signal
- 52 "Golly!"

Sudoku

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11			
12					13				14						
15					16				17						
18					19				20						
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27							28				29	30	31	32	
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45									46				47	48	49
50									51				52		
53									54				55		
56									57				58		

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03/23/26

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

YELLOW ROSE

FROM PAGE 1

the stakes of the current moment. “We used to work on improving democracy,” she said. “But now, it’s an existential fight for survival.”

The program opened with a land acknowledgment recognizing the traditional lands of the Chumash, Tongva, and Kizh peoples, alongside a call for deeper partnership with Native communities. Attendees were also encouraged to advocate for the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, reinforcing the League’s focus on voter access and civic participation.

Santa Monica City Councilmember Natalya Zernitskaya highlighted the importance of the event within the broader civic landscape. “We get to honor these incredible women who made Santa Monica what it is today and really celebrate their accomplishments,” said Zernitskaya.

The Yellow Rose Award itself draws from the 1920 fight to ratify the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, when suffragists wore yellow roses and anti-suffragists wore red in what became known as the “War of Roses.” Speakers recounted how a single deciding vote helped secure women’s right to vote, reinforcing the night’s central theme that civic participation remains critical.

Former Mayor Gleam Davis was recognized for decades of civic leadership, including service on the Santa Monica City Council from 2009 to 2024 and two terms as mayor. “You don’t have to have a title to be a leader,” Davis said. “Every person can be a

leader in their everyday life.”

Carolyn Day, founder of Growing Hope Gardens, was honored for building a model of local sustainability through food access and community driven agriculture. Her organization operates a regenerative free farm and manages gardens across affordable housing and shelter sites, donating more than 80,000 pounds of fresh produce last year. “The garden equalizes that, and everybody is equal in front of the garden,” said Day.

Angela Scott, a U.S. Navy veteran and civic leader, was recognized for her work in voter education, public safety reform, and community advocacy, in addition to Activision’s Senior Personalization & content manager. “Democracy is not permanent,” Scott said. “It is something that must be protected, strengthened, and renewed by every generation. Young people are not disengaged, but underestimated.”

Santa Monica City Councilmember Dan Hall reflected on the significance of the honorees’ contributions. “It’s always an honor to come and celebrate the women that make Santa Monica what it is. Being in their presence and continuing that with civic leadership and participation is what I hope to see going forward,” said Hall.

Throughout the evening, speakers returned to a consistent message: the work of democracy is ongoing, and local leadership plays a critical role in shaping its future. In Santa Monica, leadership is not defined by title, but by action, and the responsibility to protect democracy belongs to everyone.

michelle@smdp.com

Policy Institute of California found the field had broken into two distinct groups, with Swalwell, Hilton, Porter, Steyer and Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco, a Republican, in close competition, with other candidates trailing.

Swalwell faces the same challenge as other Democrats — how to stand apart in a field where the candidates largely agree on many issues, including resistance to Trump’s agenda and lowering the cost of living in a state with some of the nation’s highest housing costs, taxes and utility bills.

Even with Swalwell winning a coveted endorsement from SEIU, “there’s still a little bit of a window” for another Democratic candidate to pull ahead, said Democratic political consultant Elizabeth Ashford.

“There is momentum behind Swalwell,” she said. “I just don’t know that it has reached quite the tipping point of like, ‘OK, this is the clear front-runner.’”

The uncertainty hovering over the race to replace outgoing Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom was underscored by a rare but not unprecedented decision by the powerful California Federation of Labor Unions, which endorsed four rival Democrats — Swalwell, Steyer, Villaraigosa and Porter. Each has an extensive history working with labor.

Federation President Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher said the dynamics of the race continue to fluctuate.

“I think you’re still going to see a lot of that bouncing back and forth before it really settles in,” she added.

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD and SOPHIE AUSTIN Associated Press. Austin reported from Sacramento, California.



MONDAY | MARCH 23

FEELINGS MATTER! A FAMILY LITERACY WORKSHOP

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Feelings Matter! A Family Literacy Workshop Let’s learn about feelings and build vocabulary together! Let’s talk about feelings and learn new words as we read Oga Mora’s book Saturday. Mother and... Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/feelings-matter-a-family-literacy-workshop/18298209/2026-03-23T10>

PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

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

CHIEF MAPU LIVE @MUD/WTR :GATHER

7:00 p.m. MudWtr :gather 2515 Main St. Santa Monica. On Monday, March 23rd, we welcome Chief Mapu Huni Kuin to :gather for a powerful live performance and immersive musical journey. Mapu Huni Kuin is an esteemed leader of the Huni Kuin people of the Brazilian Amazon and a globally recognized musician whose work bridges ancestral wisdom with contemporary sound. He gained international acclaim through his collaboration on the Grammy-nominated album The Future is Ancestral, produced by Brazilian artist Alok. Assets Chief Mapu Bio x Images. Through music, movement, and storytelling, Mapu shares a message of Alegria - joy, connection, and healing - while championing Indigenous leadership and rainforest protection. This special evening will feature live music with Mapu and accompanying musicians, blending Indigenous chants, guitar, percussion, and contemporary soundscapes into a deeply moving experience. \$55.00 to \$77.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/chief-mapu-live-mud-wtr-gather/18275111/2026-03-23T19>

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 24

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>

SAINT PATRICK’S DAY AT SANTA MONICA PLACE

11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Santa Monica Place 395 Santa Monica Pl, Santa Monica. March 17th | Center Plaza, Level 1 Add a little luck to your day with a St. Patrick’s Day stop! Visit Concierge to pick up a four-leaf clover sticker, a fun, festive way to spread good cheer and a bit of Irish luck. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/>

[calendar/#/details/saint-patrick-s-day-at-santa-monica-place/18171563/2026-03-17T11](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/saint-patrick-s-day-at-santa-monica-place/18171563/2026-03-17T11)

AUTHOR TALK WITH SHOSHANA WALTER HOSTED BY BARBARA KINGSOLVER

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Join us for a special conversation between award-winning journalist Shoshana Walter and bestselling and award-winning author Barbara Kingsolver as they chat about Walter’s book Rehab: An American Scandal. In this work, Walter, a Pulitzer finalist, exposes the country’s failed response to the opioid crisis, and the malfeasance, corruption, and snake oil which blight the drug rehabilitation industry. Today, more people have access to treatment than ever before. So why isn’t it working? The answer is that in America—where anyone can get addicted—only certain people get a real chance to recover. Despite record numbers of overdose deaths, our default response is still to punish, while rehabs across the United States fail to incorporate scientifically proven strategies and exploit patients. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/author-talk-with-shoshana-walter-hosted-by-barbara-kingsolver/18044866/2026-03-24T11>

SUSHI-MAKING CLASSES AT SOKO

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Fairmont Miramar - Soko Sushi 101 Wilshire Blvd Santa Monica. This February, discover the art of sushi at Soko with a new hands-on sushi-making class led by Chef Masa Shimakawa. This 90-minute, beginner-friendly experience begins with a sparkling sake welcome drink followed by guided instruction on crafting classic salmon, yellowtail, crab, and tuna rolls. Perfect for couples, best friends, or anyone looking to elevate their Valentine’s Day celebration with a playful twist on the traditional dinner date. \$114.00 —\$114 per ticket + tax. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sushi-making-classes-at-soko/17977012/2026-03-24T17>

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/13799967/2026-03-24T17>

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>

GOVERNOR

FROM PAGE 2

His campaign confirmed that Swalwell was among 75 Democrats who voted last year in favor of a GOP-sponsored resolution condemning an attack on a Colorado demonstration that was being held in support of Israeli hostages, which left one woman dead. The resolution expressed “gratitude” to law enforcement, including ICE.

His campaign added that he has proposed restrictions on ICE activities, including requiring agents to remove masks and display official identification. “If there’s someone that Rep. Swalwell has gone after more than Trump, it’s ICE,” Beasley said.

CANDIDATES TRY TO BREAK FROM THE PACK

With mail-in voting scheduled to begin in early May, candidates are jostling for advantage in a race in which a fraction of a percentage point could decide the outcome. The election marks the first time since voters approved the state’s “top two” primary system more than a decade ago that there has been a governor’s race with no dominant candidate, enticing a crowd of Democrats into the contest.

Indeed, Democrats are openly fretting that the party’s numerous candidates will undercut each other and allow two Republicans to advance to the November election. Even in the heavily Democratic state, an all-GOP general election is possible under the unusual top-two primary system, which puts all candidates on one ballot and advances the top-two vote-getters, regardless of party.

Recent polling by the nonpartisan Public



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We hope you will join us as we celebrate Women's History Month by elevating the voices of leaders actively shaping the future of Los Angeles and beyond. We look forward to seeing you there!



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**TRACI
PARK**

**LA CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 11**



**VERONICA
PUGIN**

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