

- 3 **Record weather**  
Impacting the water supply.
- 4 **Realignment plan**  
Making the city safer.

- 5 **Unmuted**  
Good neighbors.
- 7 **Price gouging**  
Protections extended.

## Santa Monica Chamber spotlights women leaders shaping city's recovery and future

**MICHELLE EDGAR**  
Special to the Daily Press

Over 150 business and community leaders gathered at the Regent Santa Monica Beach Hotel for the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce's Power of Women in Leadership Luncheon, an afternoon that celebrated female leadership, while also reflecting on Santa Monica's economic recovery and next chapter. The event honored Janet Rimicci of UCLA Health, Inessa Udovchenko of Shore Hotel, and Althea Tupper of Snapchat, with speakers emphasizing the role women are playing across healthcare, hospitality, technology, and civic life.

"This was a dynamic and vibrant event for our business community," said Judy Kruger, President and CEO of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, who said this year's luncheon was about elevating "all the good things that we have going on in Santa Monica" and bringing people together around women in leadership.

Kruger said that while new businesses are joining the Chamber and opening in Santa Monica, the organization's central focus over the



Michelle Edgar

**CHAMBER:** The business community gathered to recognize female leaders this month.

SEE **CHAMBER** PAGE 7

## Mayor calls for special meeting to revise neighborhood grants amid growing backlash

**MATTHEW HALL**  
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica Mayor Caroline Torosis has called a special City Council meeting to revisit the city's Neighborhood Organization Grant Program after at least three neighborhood groups rejected the funding, citing restrictions they say infringe on their independence and constitutional rights.

Torosis said she acted after determining that current grant application guidance may not fully align with the unanimous direction the council gave last year.

"Because this program is intended to support neighborhood organizations and strengthen civic participation, it is critical that the rules are clear, consistent, and aligned with Council's intent," Torosis wrote in a letter to neighborhood group leaders on Monday.

The special meeting will take place alongside a regular council meeting, with Torosis bringing forward a motion co-sponsored by Councilmembers Ellis Raskin and Dan Hall to direct staff to review and clarify the program's guidelines.

The motion asks staff to confirm that neighborhood organizations may conduct informational

education and outreach related to ballot measures, host candidate meetings in a neutral format, and use funds for member communications such as mailers about meetings and events. It also asks staff to clarify that budget pre-approval is not required for individual expenditures, and that demographic information requests are strictly voluntary.

The motion further directs staff to confirm that neighborhood organizations may form or operate separate affiliated entities to conduct political activities — but that any such entity cannot receive grant funds or be listed as an official city program participant. Following updated guidance, the application period for the 2025-26 program would be reopened.

The move comes as the City's seven neighborhood groups have been increasingly hostile to the City's approach with three neighborhood groups already voting to decline the grants.

The Friends of Sunset Park, North of Montana Association and Northeast Neighbors each cited the same cluster of objections: a prohibition on using funds for newsletters and mailers, a

SEE **GROUPS** PAGE 2

## 11 arrested in scheme to steal elderly homeowners' identities, fraudulently obtain millions in loans

**MATTHEW HALL**  
Daily Press Editor

Federal prosecutors say properties in Santa Monica were among those targeted in a years-long fraud scheme that used stolen identities of elderly homeowners to fraudulently obtain millions of dollars in hard money loans,

leading to the arrest of 11 defendants Thursday on federal charges.

A 15-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury Feb. 5 alleges the defendants, including two foreign nationals, stole the personal identifying information of elderly victims who owned properties in Santa Monica and

several Los Angeles neighborhoods — Hollywood, Hollywood Hills, Westwood and Chinatown — then used that information to solicit private lenders for loans falsely represented as being secured by the victims' properties.

The total intended loss in the case is approximately \$17.4 million, with actual losses of approximately

\$6 million.

Among those arrested were Nazaret Chakrian, 65, of Hollywood, and Arnold Moradians, 57, of Hollywood, an Iranian national with an outstanding warrant for removal from the United States, who are alleged to have obtained victims' personal identifying information

beginning in January 2021. The scheme continued through May 2023.

Prosecutors allege the defendants created counterfeit identification documents, fraudulent email accounts in victims' names, and fabricated documents including

SEE **FBI** PAGE 7

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**GROUPS**

FROM PAGE 1

new requirement to collect demographic information from members, and restrictions they say go far beyond the council's stated goal of keeping public money out of candidate endorsements.

Friends of Sunset Park said in its rejection letter that the council "seems to be trying to use the new grant requirements to restrict divergent viewpoints." The group's board called the new demands "unreasonable, unwarranted, and unwelcome," noting that the city had previously helped fund annual neighborhood mailers to all residences before shifting that responsibility to the groups themselves.

"Not only do these strings attach to the grant program, but the city has removed our ability to be a 'city-recognized neighborhood organization' by requiring us to take the money with strings to even be listed on the city website," the board wrote.

The North of Montana Association took particular issue with the demographic collection requirement, which it called a fabrication of a problem that doesn't exist. "Council's new demographic rules show a distrust of our commitment to inclusion among our residents, and imply that Council will judge the value of our groups based on who we are rather than what we say," NOMA's board wrote.

Northeast Neighbors also questioned the city's plan to spend \$200,000 reviving Seascapes, a city-produced newsletter, as a replacement for the neighborhood-written publications the grant previously funded. "In these times of dire city financial challenges, we question why the city is proposing to spend four times the entire current citywide

neighborhood group grant budget of \$49,000," the group's board wrote.

The controversy traces back to a council vote that overhauled the grant program after at least two neighborhood organizations made political endorsements while receiving taxpayer funding (although those groups said no public money was used for the endorsements). The council suspended the \$49,000 annual program pending review before approving the new framework.

Councilmember Dan Hall, who made the original motion, argued that some groups had used publicly funded membership lists and brand recognition for partisan politics. "It crossed an ethical line," Hall said at the time.

Under the reformed program, the seven recognized neighborhood associations — Friends of Sunset Park, North of Montana Association, Ocean Park Association, Pico Neighborhood Association, Mid City Neighbors, Northeast Neighbors, and Wilshire Montana Neighborhood Coalition — would receive funding through an equity-based model calculated by the number of households in each area, rather than the previous flat \$7,000 per group.

The organizations collectively represent more than 50,000 households, ranging from Northeast Neighbors with 1,622 households to the Wilshire Montana Neighborhood Coalition with 12,560 households.

Torosis said she chose the special meeting route rather than waiting for the next regular council session because the matter was too time-sensitive to delay several weeks.

Council is scheduled to meet on Tuesday night at City Hall, 1685 Main Street, starting at 5:30 p.m.

editor@smdp.com

## Four Santa Monica High freshmen launch Stop the Bleed club to teach lifesaving skills



**FRESHMEN:** (left to right) Bryce Kyle, June Gallagher, Louisa Gubbins, Jade Martinez.

Courtesy Image

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**MAAZ ALIN**

SMDP Staff Writer

Four 14-year-old freshmen at Santa Monica High School are on a mission to ensure their classmates know how to save a life.

Louisa Gubbins, June Gallagher, Jade Martinez and Bryce Kyle have founded a Stop the Bleed club at the school, becoming part of a national public health initiative backed by the U.S. Department of Defense that trains civilians to treat severe bleeding injuries before emergency responders arrive.

The club, which received official approval from the Stop the Bleed Coalition in March, will launch in Fall 2026 with an ambitious goal: train 300 students and staff members in its first year.

"The course was empowering because it showed us that ordinary people — even teenagers — can take action in the critical minutes before paramedics arrive," Gubbins said.

The idea took root in February when Gubbins invited her three friends to attend a Stop the Bleed training course taught by her mother, a nurse anesthetist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles who volunteers as a certified instructor for the program.

After completing the training and earning their certifications, the four students recognized an opportunity to bring those

skills to their peers.

Stop the Bleed is often described as "CPR for bleeding," teaching participants three essential techniques: applying a tourniquet, applying direct pressure and packing a wound. The training emphasizes that severe bleeding can become fatal in as little as three to five minutes — often faster than emergency services can respond.

According to the Department of Defense program, more than 30,000 lives could be saved each year if more people received this basic training.

The program also encourages creative problem-solving when medical supplies are unavailable. A shoelace can serve as an improvised tourniquet. A shirt can be used to pack a wound. The goal is to empower bystanders to act with whatever resources they have.

For these four students, who have grown up practicing lockdown drills since elementary school, the training carries particular significance.

"When we were younger in elementary school, the realities behind those drills were shielded from us. Now we understand more clearly what they are meant to prepare us for," Gubbins said. "While we hope we will never have to use these skills, it feels empowering to know that if something did happen, we

# Record heat, melting snow: What does it mean for California's reservoirs?



Photo by Sara Nevis, California Department of Water Resources

**DAM:** An aerial view of Lake Shasta and the dam in Shasta County, on May 9, 2024. On this date, the reservoir storage was 4,380,600 acre-feet (AF), 96 percent of the total capacity.

A record-baking heat wave is scalding California, with major consequences for the state's most important reservoir: its snowpack.

Providing about a third of the state's water supply, the Sierra Nevada snowpack is a vital source of spring and summer runoff that refills reservoirs when the state needs the water most.

But a warm wet storm followed February's snow, and now, March temperatures are shattering records — prompting warnings of rapid snowmelt and swift rivers.

Historically, the snowpack is at its deepest in April. But climate change is shifting runoff earlier, leaving less water trickling down the mountains in warmer months for homes, farms, fish, hydropower and forests.

"In an ideal world, you'd have your reservoir full right now, and this additional huge snowpack reservoir that we know will help replenish and provide more water supply," said Levi Johnson, operations manager for the Central Valley Project, the massive federal water system that funnels northern California river water to the Central Valley and parts of the Bay Area.

This year, he said, "we're not going to have that."

California's reservoirs are in good shape, brimming above historic averages with many nearing capacity. But that summertime snow bank on the slopes of the Sierra Nevada is disappearing early, and fast — dropping to 38% of average for mid-March statewide.

It's not yet the worst snowpack on record: that distinction belongs to 2015, when then-Gov. Jerry Brown stood on brown, barren slopes of the Sierra Nevada to watch scientists

**“In an ideal world, you'd have your reservoir full right now, and this additional huge snowpack reservoir that we know will help replenish and provide more water supply**

- Levi Johnson, operations manager for the Central Valley Project

measure the most meager snowpack in history.

But this year's snowpack is rapidly approaching the worst five on record for

SEE WATER PAGE 6



## Surf report WATER TEMP: 64.0

**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 enough for the larger sets to get a shortboard going through the second half of the day.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**FAIR**

**SURF:** 1-2ft  
Knee to thigh

Fun zone waves off modest scale swell. Winds staying on the lighter side, AM most favorable. Decent size long-period SSW swell creeping up as NW swell is minimal, so shape favors structured spots (piers, points, etc.). Surf is mainly running in the thigh to waist high range. Light/variable winds along with an ebbing tide much of the morning, followed by light+ westerly onshores and nice incoming afternoon tide push.

## Weather

**Tuesday:** Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 80.

**Tuesday Night:** Increasing clouds, with a low around 62. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Wednesday:** Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 78.

**Wednesday Night:** Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
026/03/24	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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Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at <http://www.calottery.com>

**POWERBALL**  
Draw Date: 3/21  
12 28 36 41 59  
Power#: 2  
Jackpot: 133 M

**Fantasy5**  
Draw Date: 3/22  
4 7 10 28 37

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Draw Date: 3/20  
11 20 51 55 63  
Mega#: 4  
Jackpot: 60 M

**Daily 3**  
Draw Date: 3/22  
EVENING: 9 0 1  
Draw Date: 3/22  
MIDDAY: 7 6 2

**SuperLotto**  
Draw Date: 3/21  
5 23 32 38 41  
Mega#: 2  
Jackpot: 9 M

**Daily Derby**  
Draw Date: 3/22  
1st: 05 - California Classic  
2nd: 10 - Solid Gold  
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot  
Race Time: 1:40.57

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Santa Monica Daily Press

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

## Chi's plan is making the city safer

Tonight City Council will consider City Manager Oliver Chi's suggested adjustments in Item 11c- Realignment Plan update. Chi's report highlights several key points including the Police Department being at full officer staffing for the first time in over 20 years. It also touches on an expansion in the Traffic Enforcement unit and a sharp increase in traffic enforcement activities. These were notable because the city has seen a 12% drop in crime and a reduction in serious injury and fatal traffic accidents for the first time in years, save the anomaly of the covid years.

When City Manager Chi assumed his role, the City was in negotiations with all of the labor groups, many of which were either stuck or slowly moving along. Chi hit the ground running, talking and most importantly, listening. He listened not only to the labor groups but also to the businesses, Council, and the community and neighborhood groups. Many groups were worn down and found it difficult to shift their stance.

Chi heard what people told him, he quickly established contracts for the labor groups, and articulated a plan for businesses and the downtown area. Chi adopted Council's vision of a revitalized Santa Monica and connected with the community to offer a vision of the City that seemed obtainable while attempting to solve most of the pressing issues. No small feat in a politically active city like Santa Monica.

In the Police Department many of these gains have come under the new Chief Darrik Jacob and he deserves considerable credit but it's no surprise to the POA, that when officers have a fair contract, the Department is fully staffed, and officers are supported while doing police work, including traffic stops; we see exactly what you would expect- a decrease in crime and a fewer serious injury and fatal traffic accidents.

Chief Jacob has refocused on partnerships, policing and people. Building on the internal procedural justice he has already put in place by finalizing the promotional process, focusing on assignments, while also addressing deployments for major events are ongoing challenges. Continuing to work with the POA to find solutions to these complex issues will ensure continued success with lower crime and high moral.

Chi's job is even more difficult, building coalitions is hard but keeping them together is even harder! Chi will have to build on the successes we have had. He has succeeded in getting people who see the City through different paradigms to mutually agree on a path forward. He has mapped out a plan to address our most immediate concerns and articulated a vision to make Santa Monica a City where everyone can see themselves working, going out to dinner and events, and raising their families- with some work ahead, of course.

The Realignment Plan is a roadmap laid out in front of us, as difficult as some of it will be. What Chi has showed is the realignment is more about how we realign with each other than how we realign with the challenges. And so far, it has shown early promise.

Cody Green, Santa Monica Police Officers Association- Chairman

## LIFESAVING

FROM PAGE 2

would be able to help fellow students or teachers until professional help arrived."

The students recruited Katie Saunders, a cross country and track coach at the school who also teaches CPR training, to serve as faculty mentor. Saunders is currently working toward certification as an official Stop the Bleed instructor and will supervise the hands-on skills portion of training sessions.

The club's training program mirrors the national curriculum: a one-hour educational session covering the physiology of bleeding, scene safety and the importance of immediate bystander action, followed by a 30-minute hands-on session where participants demonstrate their skills on a prosthetic training arm.

Students who successfully complete both portions receive an official certificate through the program's certification portal.

The founders plan to introduce the club at Club Row in August, inviting students to join as members or simply attend training sessions to become certified. One priority is providing training to every sports team at the school, starting with cross country and track and field.

"Athletes, coaches, and trainers are often

present during injuries, so having Stop the Bleed skills within sports teams could make a critical difference during emergencies," Gubbins said.

The students also have ambitions beyond campus. They hope to participate in community health fairs and partner with local organizations to bring training to Santa Monica residents. Gubbins' mother has volunteered to assist with community sessions.

Santa Monica High School is now part of the Stop the Bleed Coalition, an IRS-approved 501(c)(3) charitable organization that is the only nonprofit singularly dedicated to supporting the national campaign. The coalition is licensed by the Department of Defense and provides approved services and training materials to a growing network of community organizations.

"Our mission is simple: to empower students and community members with the knowledge and confidence to act in a bleeding emergency," Gubbins said. "In those first critical minutes before professional help arrives, the actions of an informed bystander can save a life."

Follow the students on Instagram @stopthebleed.samohi.

maaz@smdp.com

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

## Council dismisses massive driver safety problem

Dear Editor,

A recent Daily Press article ("Santa Monica Council Sends Back Boulevard Safety Plan, Demands Stronger Protections," March 9), as well as other published information, make clear that City Council members do not want or deserve future election support from the roughly 60% of Santa Monicans who commute to work by car. Or from the thousands more who drive their children to school, or drive to a Medical appointment here (for themselves or a loved one) or to a Santa Monica business establishment.

What informs this opinion? The ongoing campaign, led by Dan Hall, Caroline Torosis, Jesse Zwick, and Natalya Zernitskaya, that puts drivers and their passengers at risk for serious injuries, increases dangerous traffic congestion, and blames all drivers for Santa Monica's historically abysmal traffic safety failures.

As recent City data show, motorists and their passengers suffered severe injuries in 2025 (at least 23) more than pedestrians (22) and nearly 5x more than bicyclists (5).

Yet shortly after revealing this, the City announced a crackdown on "dangerous driving" for the safety of people "biking or walking." Not a peep of concern for the safety of Santa Monica drivers and their passengers.

But aren't drivers generally responsible for dangerous traffic safety conditions? Digging into City-supplied data says "no."

Specifically, while the city reported motorists "at fault" in 40 of 52 Fatal and Severe Injury collisions in 2025, 23 of those involved only motor vehicles, so nobody except a motorist could be at fault. And nobody except a motorist and/or passenger could be injured.

I did not see any City-supplied "at fault" data for anyone except motorists in that 2025 FSI data, but 15 years of City statistics (2010-2024) are instructive, showing bicyclists at fault about half the time in FSI collisions involving/injuring them. (Pedestrians are almost never at fault, while vulnerable to injury from cars, bicycles, and scooters.)

Yet, despite bicyclist safety violations causing nearly half of all FSIs, the rare times in which the City "targets" safety violations that include bicyclists (or pedestrians), they simply do not issue bicycle citations nearly as often as motor vehicle citations.

Indeed, bicyclists cause nearly as many FSI collisions as drivers, but are ticketed about half as often as drivers in traffic safety crackdowns. They habitually ignore safety laws, including running through stop signs and red lights, making unsafe turns, traveling against traffic, and even endangering pedestrians by traveling on sidewalks and in crosswalks.

Do anything that stupid in your car and see how quickly you are arrested for reckless driving.

Despite hard data showing motorists suffer more injuries than bicyclists or pedestrians, certain Council Members continue to serve up nonsense, rejecting staff-recommended safety plans for Santa Monica Boulevard and demanding changes to prioritize bicyclist and pedestrian safety, but ignoring protecting drivers.

Meanwhile, the same City Council crew is moving ahead with more bike lane construction and anti-automobile "traffic calming" (i.e., "congestion creating") infrastructure on Broadway.

So for those Santa Monicans unlucky enough to commute, drive school-aged children, attend Medical appointments, or shop via Santa Monica Boulevard or Broadway, (or anywhere else in the city for that matter) watch out for your safety because the City Council doesn't.

And don't forget to vote for the candidate(s) of your choice in all future elections.

Sincerely,

Peter DiChellism, Santa Monica

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OPINION

UNMUTED

**Devan Sipher**

Send comments to  
editor@smdp.com

## Good Neighbor Policy

There are seven official neighborhood organizations in Santa Monica, and last week the city seemed poised to wage war on them. But instead of echoing the combative impulses of our current President, it looks like Santa Monica's elected leaders might take a page from Franklin D. Roosevelt's approach to neighbors by choosing co-operation and solidarity instead.

Might is the key word.

The internecine skirmish began on July 24th when three City Council members voted against the \$7 million budget agreement in order to lodge their objection to \$49,000 being allotted to the neighborhood groups (Friends of Sunset Park, North of Montana Association, Ocean Park Association, Santa Monica Mid City Neighbors, Santa Monica Northeast Neighbors, Pico Neighborhood Association, and Wilshire-Montana Neighborhood Coalition).

However, council members have suggested that the opening salvo was further back in November 2024, when two of the groups endorsed opposing political candidates in the Council election. And they have a point.

Many people would object to taxpayer dollars going to organizations that make political endorsements. However, there's a big difference between citizens taking potshots at politicians and those same politicians using the power of the state to attack their perceived opponents. There's more than enough of that taking place in Washington without Santa Monica joining the fray, so it was disheartening to see the punitive application for city funding that recently emerged.

It allows the neighborhood groups to continue operating (after some previous debate on the topic), but it forbids them from communicating with residents through the mail. It prohibits political endorsements, as expected, but it also seemingly prohibits groups from talking with candidates or expressing opinions about ballot measures. These constraints were supposedly stipulated to fulfill the Council's instruction that funding for the organizations be narrowly limited to "community building."

"It sounds to me like their policy is more community destruction than community building," said Douglas Mirell, a first amendment attorney and a partner at Nolan Heimann LLP.

To be clear, the city isn't obligated to give a single dollar to any of these organizations, but if they're choosing to give grants, it seems questionable that it would be legal to have so many strings attached. And it turns out that it's not.

"They're breaking the constitution," said Mirell, explaining that the restrictions of communication methods and topics that can be discussed are violations of free speech. He added that there are also likely Brown Act violations, since the restrictions were not part of the Council's vote during their public meeting.

The Council is additionally requiring the neighborhood groups provide the city with demographic data about their members (including race, age and income). Ironically they're doing this while California is suing the Trump administration for making similar demands from colleges. California Attorney General Rob Bonta described the federal government's coercive effort as "unprecedented" and said it was "likely to produce unreliable data that could be used to launch politically motivated investigations."

This isn't the behavior one expects from self-described progressive leaders who give speeches at No Kings rallies. Some of the council members recognize that.

"It is not the intent of this council to chill free speech or to chill participation in our civic life," said Mayor Caroline Torosis. She remained firm that political activities are inappropriate for recipients of city grants, but she expressed strong support for the neighborhood groups and deep concern about proscribing their rights.

Given that the grant application deadline was last week, this may seem a day late and a dollar short. It's tempting to think that the Council was once again dipping their toes in the kind of autocratic behavior they otherwise bemoan. But that's partially because it's tempting to ascribe malevolent motivations to actions we find objectionable.

It's equally possible that the problem was just plain human error, which is nothing for anyone to be proud of, but there wouldn't be so many marriage counselors if we all communicated well with each other. It's also worth remembering the immensity of council members' responsibilities. This isn't an excuse, because they each chose to take on their role, but I counted over 400 pages of material to review just for this week's Council meeting, and that's not including a 232 page audit report.

There's also a last-minute addition: the Mayor announced a special meeting about the neighborhood organization grants.

"I think that we need to have a serious discussion about what the original direction was from the Council and where the discrepancies are," the Mayor said. "I don't want to irreparably harm our relationship with the neighborhood groups."

We can choose to chastise elected leaders for not being the superhuman people we'd prefer them to be. Or we can be grateful and meet them halfway when they admit their foibles. It seems to me that in a world at war, we could all use a little more grace and neighborliness.

Devan Sipher can be reached at Devan@smdp.com.

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**WATER**

FROM PAGE 3

April 1st, state climatologist Michael Anderson said — and it's likely to worsen still as temperatures climb. From early to mid-March, the snowpack has been disappearing at a rate of roughly 1% per day.

It's a sharp departure from the near-average conditions of last year, and presents both a challenge and a glimpse of the future for reservoir operators in the state.

**CONFLICTING ROLES FOR RESERVOIRS**

Many of California's reservoirs serve a dual role: stopping flood flows and storing water for drier times ahead.

Those roles sometimes conflict — as they did at Lake Mendocino, which dried to a mud puddle during the 2012–16 drought. Rigid federal operating rules forced the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release vital water supplies from the dam to make room for winter floods that didn't come.

The dire water shortages that followed spurred an experimental partnership called Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations, between the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego's Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes and state, federal and local agencies.

The program incorporates advanced forecasting and weather observations into reservoir release decisions at Lake Mendocino. It prevented the reservoir from going dry during the most recent drought, according to Don Seymour, deputy director of engineering at Sonoma Water, which co-manages the reservoir.

Now, 165 miles away in the Sierra Foothills, Yuba Water Agency is eyeing

adopting the same program for New Bullards Bar, a reservoir roughly eight times bigger than Lake Mendocino that's fed by Sierra snowmelt on the North Yuba River.

The reservoir supplies water to more than 60,000 acres of farmland in Yuba County as well as users south of the Delta. But early snowmelt is complicating efforts to store that water.

"We're seeing snowmelt conditions in mid-March that we normally don't see until at least mid-May," said general manager Willie Whittlesey. "It's pretty obvious that this is the runoff — this is the snowmelt — and it's just happening about two months early."

The reservoir is nearly full at 114% of average for this date and 84% of total capacity.

But when snowmelt arrives early, the agency can't catch it once the reservoir reaches a certain level — even when no storms are in the immediate forecast. Federal rules require Yuba Water to maintain a certain amount of empty space until June to absorb potential floodwaters, according to Whittlesey.

Yuba Water is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to update this decades-old rulebook, Whittlesey said, but until then it must request special permission to store the extra water.

Though the agency has received permission in the past, this year it's also contending with a rupture in a major pipe to one of its hydropower facilities, which is forcing the agency to hold back more water behind the dam.

Whittlesey said he suspects that the combination of flood-control requirements and damage control after the pipe failure is likely costing them tens of thousands of acre-feet of snowmelt.

The California Department of Water

Resources, which manages Lake Oroville — the state's second-largest reservoir — told CalMatters that it's storing water beyond its normal flood control limits, with permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In the Bay Area, the East Bay Municipal Utility District, California's second-largest urban water supplier, owns and operates the Camanche and Pardee reservoirs in the Central Sierra foothills.

"We're working to save every drop in light of the warm temperatures that we are experiencing now, and in light of all the zeros that we are seeing in terms of a rain or snow forecast," said spokesperson Andrea Pook. "The last time that we had run off this early was in 2015."

Pook said the district is releasing less water from its reservoirs now, in order to preserve more for the fall when salmon migrate upriver to spawn.

"We're tracking to not necessarily be in a drought situation. But I am not convinced that we're going to fill our reservoirs by July 1st, which is our usual goal," Pook said.

**IMPROVED FORECASTS AFTER A MAJOR MISS**

Even as California suffers record heat and early snowmelt, the state is better prepared than in the past.

Five years ago, state forecasters badly missed their runoff predictions — overestimating the snowmelt expected to refill reservoirs by up to 68%. Dry soils and a parched atmosphere drank up the runoff before it could flow into storage. Farms and cities scrambled in the middle of a drought as supplies fell far short of expectations.

This year is different. Major reservoirs are already above historic averages, and early

season storms soaked the soil beneath the snowpack, making it less likely to swallow the runoff.

The state has also been working on better forecasts.

"Things have substantially improved," said Andrew Schwartz, Director of UC Berkeley's Central Sierra Snow Laboratory, in an email to CalMatters.

Johnson, at the federal Central Valley Project, said that the state and federal water delivery systems are in a better spot than five years ago, and that forecasts haven't made a major miss since.

But the season's early melt may still leave a gap.

"It's going to get us through this year just fine," Johnson said. "But it's not as ideal as having that additional snow reservoir ready to run off through summer, and replenish what we're going to be releasing."

Improved snowpack modeling and soil moisture estimates, experimental temperature measurements at different snow depths, university collaborations and incorporating weather outlooks are helping, according to the Department of Water Resources.

Still, between state budget shortfalls and federal cuts, challenges remain, Anderson said.

Efforts to install more soil moisture sensors in national forests have run into permitting slowdowns at the U.S. Forest Service, which has shed thousands of employees under President Donald Trump.

"You wait in line a lot longer," Anderson said. "That's been the biggest limitation of late. There just isn't anybody there."

Rachel Becker, CalMatters Water Reporter

# HEAL THE BAY BEACH GRADES



**CHAMBER**

FROM PAGE 1

last year has been helping existing businesses recover from lost sales and revenue. “The focus this last year has been on economic recovery with programming building a pipeline of economic recovery, and also helping businesses grow their businesses.”

The luncheon’s awards portion recognized three women whose leadership reflects the breadth of Santa Monica’s business community. Rimicci of UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center, who worked over 20 years at UCLA Health, was recognized for a career spanning quality and patient safety, emergency and trauma services, and leadership across multiple parts of the hospital.

Shore Hotel’s Udovchenko was honored for her operational leadership and for mentoring and elevating team members. Snapchat’s Tupper, director of operations, was recognized for overseeing global teams focused on user safety and platform integrity, while also helping amplify women’s voices within the company.

Dr. Philip Levin, chief medical officer at UCLA Health, praised Janet’s range and steadiness, saying Santa Monica was fortunate to have her, especially because she stepped into leadership at the onset of COVID. Shore Hotel’s Owner & CEO Jon Farzam said Udovchenko represents the kind of leadership that extends beyond a single workplace and into the broader city. “Today is a reminder of the amazing leadership that we have in this city,” he said. “Many of them are women.”

A fireside conversation between Santa Monica Mayor Caroline Torosis and Kruger gave the event its strongest civic frame, moving from personal leadership to Santa Monica’s recovery, business climate, and future opportunities.

When asked who inspired her most, Torosis pointed first to her mother, a full-time working mom who later went to medical school and taught her early that women belong at the table. She also urged women to step into leadership even when they feel uncertain.

“You always feel like you’re the least qualified person, the least prepared person, but you have to somehow overcome that and say to yourself, I can do this, because I offer a lived perspective that no one else brings to the

table,” said Torosis.

Torosis also spoke about the importance of direct and transparent communication in public life. “People want honest brokers in their lives,” she said. “Especially at this age of misinformation and disinformation, it’s really hard to cut through the noise.”

On the city’s future, Torosis said the City Council has been “laser focused” on making Santa Monica clean and safe, while also using that work as the foundation for a broader comeback. “Our real vision is to usher in this recovery for the city,” she said.

Torosis pointed to a city leadership team aligned around that effort and said Santa Monica wants to make it easier to do business locally. She described a five year vision that includes full storefronts, stronger restaurants and retail, more visitors, and a city that remains affordable and welcoming for residents.

She also highlighted a growing pipeline of major events and economic development opportunities, including the Santa Monica International Jazz Festival, the city’s Route 66 centennial celebration, FIFA World Cup related programming, and future Olympic opportunities. She said the city has updated its realignment plan, is working to streamline permits and entitlements, waive certain fees, and invest in tenant improvements to help attract new commercial uses. “We’re back, we’re here, we’re fine, we’re thriving,” Torosis said.

Others echoed the event’s broader message about collective leadership. Misti Kerns Santa Monica Travel and Tourism’s President & CEO said women bring a real and often underrecognized impact to the community. Councilmember Lana Negrete framed the afternoon as a reminder that women’s leadership is strongest when it is shared. “It’s not about one woman’s power,” Negrete said. “It’s about the collective power of all of us together in a room.”

That collective power was the clearest throughline of the afternoon. At a time when Santa Monica is working to rebuild confidence, support local business, and reassert itself on the regional and global stage, the Chamber’s luncheon made one thing clear that women are not simply part of that story, they are helping lead it.

michelle@smdp.com

Office.

The remaining defendants are Avetis Hekimyan, 38, of North Hollywood; Tigran Hovanesian, 56, of Glendale; Armen Vardevaryan, 55, of North Hollywood; Craig Higdon, 66, of Naples, Florida; Helen Spangler, 62, of Oakdale; Victor Lossi, 43, of Thousand Oaks; Marine Sarkisian, 49, of Hollywood, an Azerbaijani national and green card holder; and Cynthia Borjas, 51, of Koreatown.

If convicted, defendants face up to 20 years in federal prison on each fraud and money laundering count, plus a mandatory consecutive two-year sentence on the aggravated identity theft count.

The case is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California and investigated by the FBI Eurasian Organized Crime Task Force and the Los Angeles Police Department’s Commercial Crimes Division.

editor@smdp.com

**COMMUNITY NEWS****LA Country****County Extends Price Gouging Protections for Wildfire Survivors**

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion Tuesday in a 3-0-2 vote to extend price gouging protections for residents impacted by the 2025 wildfires as families remain displaced and continue navigating recovery.

The motion by Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath extends existing limits on price increases for rental housing, goods and services for an additional 30 days.

“As families rebuild from the Palisades and Eaton Fires—especially families of color bearing the heaviest financial burden—we cannot allow rents to spike overnight,” Horvath said. “Seven in ten fire survivors are still not home, and Los Angeles County has a duty to support them through recovery.”

Without these protections, Horvath warned, displaced renters could face increases of 50 to 100 percent when they expire.

The motion removes hotel and motel rate restrictions, as few displaced residents remain in those accommodations, and allows for seasonal pricing flexibility. The action maintains updated rent provisions for certain units not previously on the rental market, aligning protections with current housing conditions while preserving safeguards against excessive increases.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

**LA Country****County Approves Mental Health Care Reform for Homeless Response System**

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion Tuesday to reform and better integrate mental health care within the county’s homeless services system, with a focus on expanding field-based care for people with serious mental illness.

The motion by Supervisors Lindsey P. Horvath and Kathryn Barger addresses the nearly 16,000 people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County who are living with serious mental illness, many of whom are unsheltered.

“For too long, people living on our streets with serious mental illness have been failed by disconnected systems that expect them to find their way to care — instead of meeting them where they are,” Horvath said.

“For too many people living on our streets, untreated mental health conditions are the root cause keeping them there,” Barger said. “Mental health care shouldn’t come after housing. In many cases, it’s what makes housing possible in the first place.”

The motion includes directives aimed at transforming mental health care delivery to people experiencing homelessness. Key provisions include expanding street-based mental health services to reach people on sidewalks, in encampments and in shelters; breaking down silos between county departments; streamlining referral pathways; improving training and support for staff; enhancing data sharing among departments and service providers; and strengthening accountability.

The motion requires ongoing reporting to the board on implementation progress, including updates within 90 days and regular reporting thereafter. This is part of Horvath’s vision for a more coordinated homeless services system, now led by the Department of Homeless Services and Housing.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

**LA Country****County Raises Unpaid Rent Threshold Before Eviction Can Proceed**

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance Tuesday raising the unpaid rent threshold for evictions from one month to two months of Fair Market Rent in unincorporated communities.

The ordinance, proposed by Supervisors Janice Hahn and Hilda L. Solis, will take effect in 30 days following final approval. The measure applies to unincorporated areas under the county’s direct jurisdiction, home to approximately 1 million residents.

“This is a modest but necessary increase,” Hahn said. “With this additional month, I hope we can give renters some breathing room while not putting the entire burden on landlords who also depend on rental income to pay their own bills.”

The county enacted its Rent and Tenant Protections Ordinance in 2022 to stabilize housing, prevent displacement and reduce homelessness risk among renters, particularly during periods of economic instability. The modified ordinance raises the threshold to two months of unpaid Fair Market Rent as established annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which varies by unit size and ZIP code.

“In the face of inhumane federal actions and ongoing threats to immigrant families, the County has taken concrete steps to protect renters,” said Board Chair Solis. “These are not symbolic gestures, but real action that meets the needs of those impacted.”

Hahn and Solis cited the impact of recent federal immigration enforcement actions across the county, with some communities experiencing decreased economic activity in addition to families losing breadwinners and businesses losing customers and employees.

The ordinance will be enforced by the county’s Department of Consumer and Business Affairs through its Housing and Tenant Protections bureau. Landlords are required to provide copies of any Notice of Termination served to tenants as well as proof of service to the department.

“While we are taking action today in the communities under our jurisdiction, every city in LA County can put in place their own tenant protection ordinances,” Hahn added.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

**FBI**

FROM PAGE 1

bank statements, rental agreements, doctors’ notes and death certificates. Upon receiving loan closing documents, defendants allegedly caused them to be fraudulently notarized and signed by individuals posing as the victims.

Defendant Ross Tarkhan, 32, of Glendale, is alleged to have used stolen personal information to create synthetic identities — combining fictitious profile information with real victim data — and opened bank accounts under false names to funnel proceeds from the scheme.

“The defendants didn’t just steal identities, they used those stolen identities to secure high value real estate loans, fabricate financial documents, and move millions of dollars through a maze of fraudulent businesses and funnel accounts,” said Tyler Hatcher, special agent in charge of the IRS Criminal Investigation Los Angeles Field



Saint John's  
Health Center  
✦ Providence

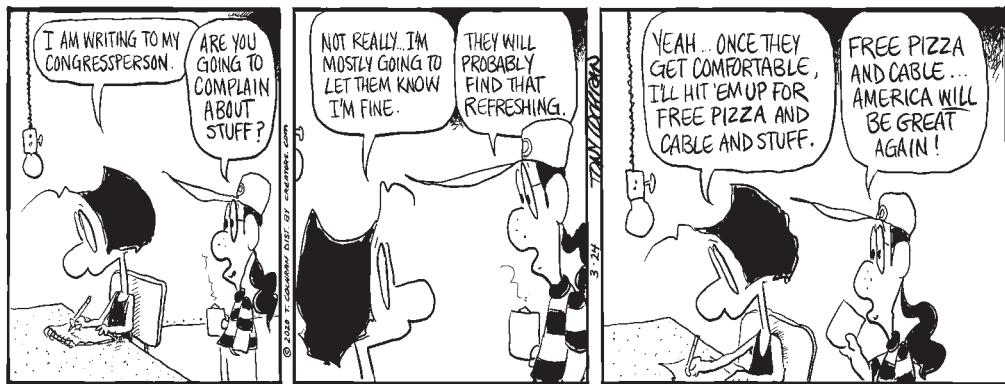
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to mental health services offered through the postpartum period.  
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Better.™

**Agnes**

By TONY COCHRAN



**Dogs of C-Kennel**

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



**Zack Hill**

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



**Heathcliff**

By PETER GALLAGHER



**Strange Brew**

By JOHN DEERING



**FIND THE WORDS**

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6889

**Big personalities**

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

- |              |         |            |          |
|--------------|---------|------------|----------|
| Abrupt       | Crabby  | Idiotic    | Scared   |
| Active       | Crisp   | Idler      | Shyness  |
| Aloof        | Cute    | Insulting  | Solitary |
| Angry        | Daft    | Irascible  | Sporty   |
| Brazen       | Deep    | Kind       | Staid    |
| Busy         | Dope    | Lazy       | Tense    |
| Casual       | Dutiful | Lows       | Tidy     |
| Chummy       | Elegant | Neat       | True     |
| Clean        | Fraught | Nervous    | Wise     |
| Confidential | Happy   | Peevish    |          |
| Cowardly     | Highs   | Psychopath |          |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Invite a few friends over



**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 24)**

Welcome to The Coolest Year, in which your chill attitude attracts friends, fans and admirers. Your sense of purpose teamed with an aesthetic you enjoy has you moving through the world with style. More highlights: Knowledge compiling on a niche subject will bring new people and opportunities to your realm. You'll invest well and be patient, which serves you and your family for years to come. You'll make a difference with a group that really needs you. Aquarius and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 5, 22, 3 and 4.

**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). The secret to keeping your brightness is not filling every hour with responsibility. You need time to explore, to play, to follow a random curiosity just because it delights you. Silliness and fun count for a lot today.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Some listen to learn; others listen to respond. They skim the surface, get a general idea of the content and start formulating their response. Avoid these types of people today.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). When others listen to you, it gives you a chance to listen to yourself. Today, it will be surprising what you learn in that regard. Sometimes we can't understand personal truths until we hear ourselves say them.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). It's dangerous to get too accustomed to validation arriving on a predictable schedule. Reliable praise and attention can actually hurt your development. The superstar move is to care less about reception and more about your mission.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Today, you're hyperattuned, tracking several streams at once. You'll pay attention to your own presentation, another person's micro-signals and the broader social field - and when you notice tiny flickers of interest, that's a strength to lean into.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's someone you're keen to learn more about. You're interested in what happened to them, but you're even more interested in how they experienced what happened. Sharing on that level will build bonds.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Follow the tradition today. You can save time by doing it the way it's always been done. Later, you can figure out the twist - the improvement, the original take. But today, there's nothing that needs to be changed, only appreciated.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Though it hasn't been all roses for you, what makes you special isn't martyrdom. It's consciousness. You are watching yourself in real time and trying to adjust wisely instead of reacting blindly to all that's happening - and there's a lot happening.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your biggest competitor won't be a stranger from the other team. It will be someone on your own side, or maybe even someone you used to be or plan to be. You'll deal with this person and move forward.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may have taken it for granted that you enjoyed certain activities simply because they filled your time. But pause to ask: How did you get here? Strong influences were involved. New awareness lets you choose more intentionally.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). In an uncertain world, certainty is a popular craving, and you're feeling it today. Those who can create an illusion of certainty (all certainty is illusive) have a special draw for you now, even though you're well aware this confidence may be more of an attitude than a reality.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Adventures aren't always a whole expedition. Quests aren't always passionate and all-consuming. You'll get a surge of vitality from drops of novelty, such as a new route, a new question or a new way of saying something familiar. Lightness is fun.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

**Newsday Crossword**

**UNBUMPY** by Guilherme Gilioli  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Goopy hair products
- 5 Noah's Ark groupings
- 9 Donkeys
- 14 Egg shape
- 15 Sneaker or loafer
- 16 Break into bits
- 17 Peru's capital
- 18 Thin fog
- 19 Lone Ranger's pal
- 20 Plain-text data storage formats
- 22 Contest with calf roping
- 23 "My lips \_\_\_ sealed"
- 24 "Maybe a little later"
- 25 Put into \_\_\_ (initiate)
- 29 "Be quiet!"
- 31 Treasure stash
- 32 "Billy" farm animal
- 33 Weighty book
- 37 Give a hoot
- 38 Benches and chairs
- 39 Eve's second son
- 40 Religious song
- 41 Baseball referees
- 42 Dracula's outer garment
- 43 Wish well to, after a sneeze
- 45 Gets up after sleeping
- 46 Mayo or jelly
- 49 Make a mistake
- 50 Jogging gaits
- 51 Peak performance
- 57 Traveler's path
- 58 Vicinity
- 59 With 52-Down, water

- near Niagara Falls
- 60 Irrate feeling
- 61 Half of a quart
- 62 Cambodia's continent
- 63 Social equals
- 64 Late night TV host Meyers
- 65 Wagers

**DOWN**

- 1 18-hole game
- 2 Wicked
- 3 The Dalai \_\_\_
- 4 Window blinds strip
- 5 Gym class top
- 6 Largest ocean mammal
- 7 Flow slowly

- 8 Has a look at
- 9 Houston baseballers
- 10 Flattering language
- 11 Like a beach's surface
- 12 Lauder of cosmetics
- 13 Take a photo of
- 21 Clock dial
- 24 Acorns and pecans
- 25 Carve in stone
- 26 Start to unravel, as a towel
- 27 Sheet to fill out
- 28 More preferable
- 29 Daytime TV dramas
- 30 Caps and derbies
- 32 Rubies and sapphires
- 34 Woodwind instrument

- 35 Intend (to)
- 36 Large antlered animals
- 38 Took to court
- 42 Astronomer Sagan
- 44 High-tech light beams
- 45 Yuletide door decoration
- 46 Helmet fastener
- 47 Likely (to)
- 48 Red cosmetic
- 49 Major happening
- 51 Trips around a track
- 52 See 59-Across
- 53 Reveal a secret
- 54 Uncomplicate
- 55 Short comedic sketch
- 56 Pekoe and oolong

**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.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

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

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

# Classifieds

## DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026059614. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CLAROS THERAPY & WELLNESS, 1228 POINDEXTER STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90044, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): JOHN CLAROS, 1228 POINDEXTER STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90044. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 03/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ JOHN CLAROS, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/17/2026. 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: 03/24/2026, 03/31/2026, 04/07/2026, 04/14/2026

## Lien

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALE Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700 et seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction, on MARCH 31st, 2026 personal property including but not limited to business equipment, electronics, furniture, clothing, tools and/or other miscellaneous items located at: A-AMERICAN SELF STORAGE @ 5:00PM, Via Storageauctions.com STORED BY THE FOLLOWING PERSONS: Daniel Barrow Norma Perez Judith L. Martinez Tobi Paredes David Solis All sales are subject to prior cancellation. Terms, rules and regulations available at sale. By A-American Self Storage Management Co. Inc. (310)914-4022, Bond. #72BSBBU5400

## Help Wanted

Retired single person or couple to manage 15 units apartment building in best location in Santa Monica CALL 310-985-9084

## DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026036153. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: AMLI PARK BROADWAY, 245 W BROADWAY, LONG BEACH, CA 90802, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): PPF AMLI 245 WEST BROADWAY GP, LLC, 141 W JACKSON BLVD STE 300, CHICAGO, IL 60604. 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 12/2018. 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/ ALINA EVANGELOU, GENERAL PARTNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 2/17/2026. 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: 03/17/2026, 03/24/2026, 03/31/2026, 04/07/2026

## DBA

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00113. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Kal Emrys Kestis for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Kal Emrys Kestis filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Kal Emrys Kestis to Calamine Emrys Gilroy. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 04/24/2026, Time: 8:30a, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 03/06/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 03/10/2026, 03/17/2026, 03/24/2026, 03/31/2026

## Petition to Admin Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF KONRAD LUTHER RUCKER Case No. 26STPB02292. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of KONRAD LUTHER RUCKER. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Kenneth Andre Shelton. in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Kenneth Andre Shelton be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent

Administration of Estates Act. A HEARING on the petition will be held on 03/26/2026 at 8:30 AM in Dept. 2D located at 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, or 60

## Summons

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) Case No. 25NNCV01825. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: GLEN PARK AT GLENDALE – BOYNTON ST; TILLMAN PINK, JR.; ROOBIK MEHRABI; YOLANDA SILVA ROMO, a nominal defendant; LILIANA ISABEL SILVA, a nominal defendant; GERARDO SILVA, JR., a nominal defendant; and DOES 1 through 100. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: ARMIDA SILVA, by and through her Successor in Interest, Beatriz Silva; BEATRIZ SILVA, individually. NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of California, Glendale Superior Court, 600 E. Broadway, Glendale, California 91206. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney is: Lanzone Morgan, LLP, 356 Redondo Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90814; (562) 596-1700. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 03/17/2026, 03/24/2026, 03/31/2026, 04/07/2026

days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. Attorney for Petitioner: CHRISTINA M KRAUSS ESQ SBN 316537, KRAUSS LAW GROUP APC, 4141 BALL ROAD SUITE 260, CYPRESS CA 90630, 714-527-1115. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 03/10/2026, 03/17/2026, 03/24/2026



## 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>

### 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](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>

## WEDNESDAY | MARCH 25

### BEACH WALK MEDITATION

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Santa Monica Lifeguard Tower 24 2400 Ocean Front Walk Los Angeles. Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. Developing mindfulness doesn't have to happen in a quiet room without any distracting sights or sounds. In fact we can develop our mindfulness while out in nature; feeling the warmth of the sun on our backs and the cool ocean splashing around our feet.. Let's practice meditation in motion while creating a potent wellness experience that enhances mental clarity, alertness, and overall well-being. We'll meet Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 am at lifeguard tower 24 -see a red, yellow, blue, orange, white FLAG. After some basic instructions we'll walk silently together for approximately 45 minutes on the shoreline at a natural pace from tower 24 towards the Santa Monica Pier and back. Free—Donations are accepted. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/beach-walk-meditation/16206460/2026-03-04T08>

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SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

# Campus Events

# 20 26



Photo by Amy Williams

**SPRING & SUMMER**

## Exciting events happening at SMC!

Santa Monica College has a lively lineup of events scheduled, so mark your calendar!

- Art Shows
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- Intercollegiate Athletic Competitions
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- Planetarium Shows
- *Santa Monica Review* Issue Launch Party
- Theatre Arts Performances
- And Much More!

Visit [smc.edu/events](http://smc.edu/events) for more information.



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