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- 2 Leadership Exit**
Chamber CEO departs after four years.
- 3 Election Drama**
Debate cancellation.



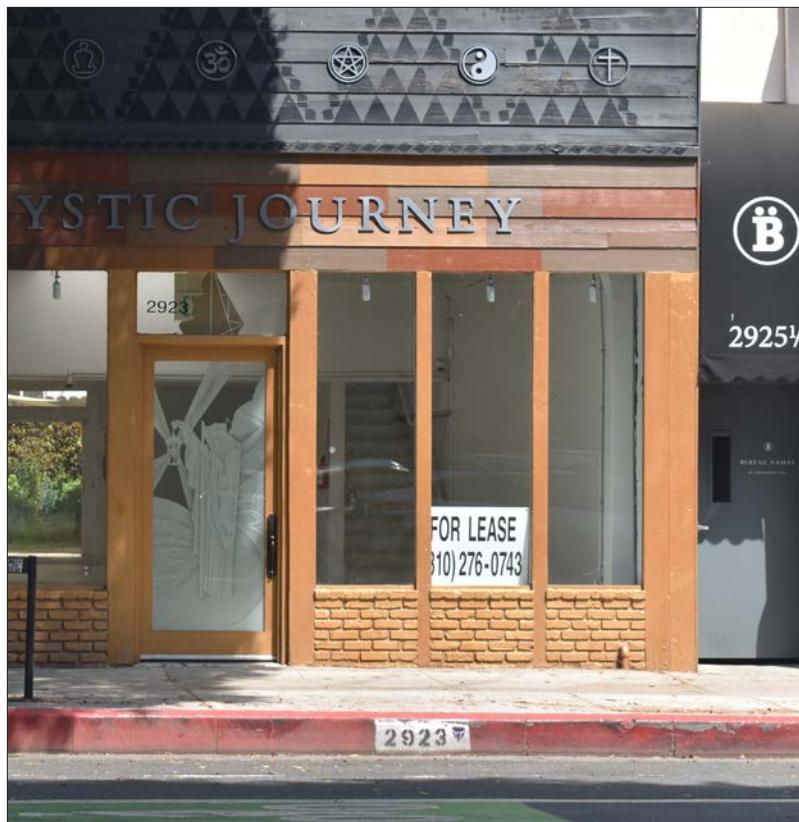
- 4 Tax Reality**
Billionaire tax won't harm tech titans.
- 5 Growth Slows**
US metro growth dips near border.

Volume 25 Issue 92

THE WEEKENDER 3/27-3/29

smdp.com

Santa Monica launches sweeping economic recovery package as businesses struggle to rebound



Matthew Hall

RETAIL: The Council approved a package of economic measures at the last meeting in response to a prolonged period of economic decline.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Facing declining restaurant sales, stubbornly high retail vacancies, and the lingering economic shadow of the 2025 Palisades Fire, the Santa Monica City Council on Tuesday unanimously approved an eight-point economic development toolkit designed

to lower barriers for businesses, attract new investment, and position the city to capitalize on a wave of major global events arriving in the next two years.

The package, adopted as part of a broader update to the city's Realignment Plan, includes a \$3 million economic development fund, elimination of key restaurant fees, an expanded entertainment zone, discounted

downtown parking, and a temporary waiver of film permit fees — measures city officials said reflect both the urgency of the city's economic challenges and a newfound confidence in its financial footing.

"Without foundational safety-related considerations addressed, the recovery of our city will really be challenged," City Manager Oliver Chi told the council before the vote.

"We have to invest in public safety to make sure that we have terrific spaces that people feel comfortable in."

The toolkit comes against a backdrop of steep economic decline in the city's hospitality and retail sectors. Data from the city's sales tax provider, HdL, showed that restaurant and

SEE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PAGE 8

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Chamber of Commerce CEO announces departure after four years

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

Judy Kruger, the president and CEO of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, announced she will step down from the role by the end of June, concluding a four-year tenure during which the organization expanded its programming and restored financial footing following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kruger, who has led the chamber since June 1, 2022, said she is departing to pursue work in government affairs and advocacy. In a letter to chamber members, she said she would continue working alongside the board and a search committee already established to facilitate the transition.

"This is an exciting time to be a part of the Chamber as it evaluates its next priorities and appoints its next leader," Kruger wrote.

Board Chair Paula Larmore credited Kruger with achieving "meaningful progress" during her tenure, citing improved financial stability, expanded grant activity, and continued engagement with the local business community. Larmore also noted that Kruger made intentional efforts to foster diversity within the chamber's culture and programming.

"Judy has been deeply committed to the Chamber's mission and has invested significant time and energy advancing the Chamber's work and visibility," Larmore wrote in a separate letter to members.

Kruger came to the chamber from the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, where she had served as senior director of strategic initiatives. She succeeded Laurel Rosen, who held the president and

“
This is an
exciting time
to be a part of
the Chamber as
it evaluates its
next priorities
and appoints its
next leader

- Judy Kruger, the president and
CEO of the Santa Monica Chamber
of Commerce

CEO role for approximately 14 years, from November 2007 through spring 2022.

During Kruger's four years at the helm, the chamber grew its programming to include larger networking events, a business workshop series and new grant funding tied to economic recovery efforts. Revenue also

rebounded significantly under her leadership. IRS filings show the organization's total revenue reached approximately \$704,000 in fiscal year 2024, up from a pandemic low of roughly \$424,000 in fiscal 2021, though still below the pre-pandemic figure of about \$888,000 in fiscal 2019.

The chamber's Search Committee is now soliciting member input on the qualities and qualifications they would like the next president and CEO to possess. Members can submit their thoughts by emailing CEOsearch@smchamber.com. Larmore said additional opportunities for member input would be available as the search process continues.

Founded in 1925, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit business organization representing more than 650 member businesses across sectors including hospitality, health care, professional services, retail, technology, education and nonprofits. The chamber celebrated its centennial in 2025. It is headquartered at 2525 Main St., Suite 103, in Santa Monica.

Annual membership dues are scaled by employee count, ranging from \$470 for nonprofits or single-employee businesses to \$3,800 for companies with more than 100 employees. Restaurants pay between \$620 and \$750 depending on seating capacity.

The chamber's mission centers on membership services, economic development and advocacy. Its formal advocacy process routes issues through a Government Affairs Committee before the board takes a position. In March 2026, the chamber endorsed the Santa Monica City Council's zoning overhaul

that streamlined business permitting, calling the changes commonsense solutions to removing barriers to business activity. Other policy positions have included support for the Providence Saint John's Phase II campus plan, California's film tax credit extension and extending pandemic-era regulatory flexibilities for outdoor dining and alcohol sales.

The chamber hosts a regular schedule of events throughout the year, including an International Women's Day event in March, the Sustainable Quality Awards in spring — now in its 29th year, co-hosted with the city since 1995 — and the New Heroes Celebration in September. Monthly networking events include Biz@Sunset mixers, Coffee Connections gatherings and speed networking sessions.

Through a separate 501(c)(3) arm, the Santa Monica Chamber Foundation, the organization runs the NextGen Mentorship Program in partnership with Santa Monica College, pairing Black and Latino students with professional mentors each semester. The chamber also co-founded the Santa Monica Alliance with the city in 2011 to support business attraction and retention, and is a co-founding member of the Los Angeles Business Federation, known as BizFed.

Following the January 2025 Palisades Fire, the chamber formed a Rebuild Committee and hosted an inaugural Rebuild, Health, and Wellness Expo in January 2026. A 2025-2030 strategic plan was published in April 2025.

The chamber can be reached at (310) 393-9825 or at smchamber.com.

editor@smdp.com

★ **In Memoriam** ★
Matthew David Redick
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...For your warmth and laughter,
...For your care and thoughtfulness for your friends,
...For your service to our Country,
...For your love for your family,
...For Being You!
...and so much more.

An Inspiration to us all, forever in our hearts.
Your wings were ready, but our hearts were not.
With Love,

Mark Redick, Judy Swank, Cynthia Barlese, Jennifer Barlese
McLaughlin, Daniel Redick and
numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and "Battle Buddies"



October 11, 1988 - March 31, 2021

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California governor's race gets weirder with debate cancellation, new poll

Just when we thought the campaign for California's governorship couldn't get any weirder, it did.

A Tuesday night debate at the University of Southern California was cancelled late Monday amid allegations of racism because all the candidates invited to participate are white while the four Democrats who were left out are Latino, Black or Asian.

USC chose debaters on the basis of their standing in the polls or the amounts of money raised or being spent. It meant, for example, that San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan was included because of his heavy financial support from Silicon Valley, even though he is in the lower tier of candidates as measured by polling.

While the racial divide might have been a result of USC's methodology, it is what political pros call "bad optics" for a party that embraces identification politics. Democratic leaders in the state Legislature had backed the four excluded candidates, saying in a letter, "The university's selection process — built on a formula never before used for a debate of this scale — has delivered a result that is biased."

USC had stoutly defended the selection formula, devised by USC Professor Christian Grose and based on research using data to project candidate viability. However, as criticism mounted, USC was compelled to backtrack.

"We recognize that concerns about the selection criteria for tomorrow's gubernatorial debate have created a significant distraction from the issues that matter to voters," USC said in a statement to the Los Angeles Times. "Unfortunately, USC and KABC (the debate co-sponsor) have not been able to reach an agreement on expanding the number of candidates at tomorrow's debate. As a result, USC has made the difficult decision to cancel tomorrow's debate and will look for other opportunities to educate voters on the candidates and issues."

Former Congresswoman Katie Porter, billionaire Tom Steyer and Congressman Eric Stalwell were to have participated

along with Mahan. They had joined in criticizing the selection methodology but none had pulled out prior to the cancellation announcement, even though those left out had asked them to boycott.

Directly and indirectly, Porter, Steyer and Stalwell had suggested that Mahan was invited to the debate despite his low standing in the polls due to intervention by Rick Caruso, a wealthy Los Angeles businessman who has been a major contributor to USC and is supporting Mahan after flirting with running himself. Caruso and USC flatly denied the allegation.

Cancellation was a rare bit of good news for those in the lower tier, former Attorney General Xavier Becerra, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, state schools Superintendent Tony Thurmond and former state Controller Betty Yee, all of whom had been mired in single-digit positions in the latest polls, along with Mahan.

Their euphoria was short-lived, however. Twelve hours after the debate cancellation, Democratic state chairman Rusty Hicks released a party-sponsored poll that confirmed what other surveys had shown. The two Republicans, Steve Hilton and Chad Bianco, are still leading the field at 16% and 14% respectively while Porter, Swalwell and Steyer are tied at 10% and every other Democrat is still mired in low single digits, from 3% to as low as 1%, with 24% undecided.

Hicks commissioned the series of polls after urging those in the lower tier to drop out, worrying aloud that the two Republicans could finish 1-2 in the June 2 primary, thus guaranteeing that one would win the governorship in November.

While that would seem to be nearly impossible in a state that's utterly dominated by Democrats, voting by mail will begin in just six weeks, and so far the two Republicans are still on top and the eight Democrats are still failing to catch fire with voters.

How weird is that?

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist



Surf report WATER TEMP: 64.9

FRIDAY
FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Fading but still fun zone waves, most size in the morning. Best winds due then too. Easing mix SSW swell and smaller NW swell, still has thigh-waist high surf rolling in for the morning, then waves taper off during the day. Dawn patrol high tide slows things a bit, then shape improves through mid morning on the ebbing tide. Incoming afternoon tide push gets an assist, but low-end moderate WNW onshores also expected to develop then.

SATURDAY
FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Small scale combo to kickoff the weekend. Let the AM high tide drop and bring the small wave gear. Little blend of leftover NW windswell and small S swell energy. A couple pint-sized combo peaks at the beachbreaks and the odd longboard wave at the points as the AM high tide comes down a bit. Many spots are flat early when it's full. Variable to light onshore flow in the morning for cleaner conditions, a little more onshore breeze for the afternoon.

Weather

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 71.

Friday Night: Patchy dense fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 62.

Saturday: Patchy dense fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 77.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 62.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/03/27	Fri	05:28 AM	4.90	H
2026/03/27	Fri	12:59 PM	-0.64	L
2026/03/27	Fri	7:50 PM	3.86	H
2026/03/28	Sat	12:48 AM	2.06	L
2026/03/28	Sat	06:38 AM	5.08	H
2026/03/28	Sat	1:42 PM	-0.72	L
2026/03/28	Sat	8:16 PM	4.26	H
2026/03/29	Sun	01:40 AM	1.44	L
2026/03/29	Sun	07:34 AM	5.19	H
2026/03/29	Sun	2:18 PM	-0.65	L
2026/03/29	Sun	8:41 PM	4.63	H
2026/03/30	Mon	02:24 AM	0.87	L
2026/03/30	Mon	08:21 AM	5.16	H

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 3/25
7 21 55 56 64
Power#: 26
Jackpot: 166 M

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 3/25
4 5 17 24 38

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/24
4 13 52 53 69
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 70 M

Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/25
EVENING: 2 9 9
MIDDAY: 6 6 5

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 3/25
14 21 33 38 45
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 10 M

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 3/25
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:49.57

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**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to the Text of the City's Zoning Ordinance to Align Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.31.125, Duplexes and Lot Splits on Parcels Zoned for Single-Unit Residential, and Other Applicable Sections as Necessary with State Law as Modified by Santa Monica's 6th Cycle Housing Element.

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to adopt amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance to modify the City's implementation for the allowance of duplexes and lot splits on parcels zoned for single-unit residential ("SB 9") to align with State law requirements, as modified by Santa Monica's certified 6th Cycle Housing Element for parcels greater than 10,000 square feet. On March 4, 2026, the Santa Monica Planning Commission adopted Resolution Number 26-005 (PCS) recommending adoption of the proposed amendments.

DATE/TIME: TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT:

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

You may also comment in person at the City Council hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment in person.

Address your comments to: **City Clerk**
Re: Duplexes and Lot Splits

VIA EMAIL: councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: 1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please contact Ross Fehrman, Planning Manager, by e-mail at ross.fehrman@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia pública para revisar aplicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Government money made Silicon Valley's tech titans rich. A billionaire tax won't hurt them

As California faces a projected \$100 billion healthcare funding gap in 2026, the debate over the proposed Billionaire Tax Act — a 5% excise tax on the state's 200 wealthiest residents — has taken on an almost theatrical quality.

What should be a straightforward discussion about public responsibility has instead become a spectacle of outrage from some of the richest people on earth. In Silicon Valley especially, where fortunes routinely stretch into the tens of billions, even the suggestion of a modest tax on extreme wealth is treated as an assault on the natural order.

Spokespersons for the Silicon Valley elite warn that this tax will cripple innovation, portraying a small levy on extraordinary fortunes as an existential threat to the state's economic engine. Their argument depends on pretending that these fortunes emerged from pure private genius rather than decades of public investment.

The truth: this tax is not a threat to innovation — it is a long-overdue public dividend from a class of billionaires who became rich on the backs of the government.

These tech titans did not bootstrap themselves into existence. Their wealth was built atop federal research grants, defense contracts, regulatory frameworks, and state-guaranteed markets that shaped every stage of California's rise as a global technology hub. The mythology of the "free market" has always obscured the reality that Silicon Valley's success was engineered through massive state intervention.

Silicon Valley's history makes this clear. Long before venture capitalists arrived, the region's technological foundations were laid by government spending. The semiconductor boom of the 1950s and 60s was born from Cold War industrial policy. Defense contracts for ballistic missiles and rockets guaranteed a market for early chipmakers at a time when consumer electronics barely existed.

This pattern continued. The internet — the backbone of the modern tech economy — was created by DARPA, an offshoot of the Defense Department. The foundational algorithm that launched Google was developed at Stanford University through a National Science Foundation grant. Larry Page and Sergey Brin conducted their research in a federally funded lab, using

taxpayer money to solve problems the private sector had no incentive to touch.

The same dynamic still defines Silicon Valley's most influential companies. Peter Thiel's Palantir survived its early years only because In-Q-Tel — the CIA's venture capital arm — stepped in with a lifeline. Today, Thiel is one of the world's richest men largely because Palantir functions as a de facto arm of the state, fueled by multi-billion-dollar government contracts.

California's regulatory environment has also shaped private fortunes. The state's zero-emission vehicle mandates created the credit market that kept Tesla from going bankrupt. SpaceX, meanwhile, is sustained by billions of dollars in NASA and Pentagon contracts that guarantee steady revenue and shield the company from market volatility.

When critics warn of a "billionaire flight," they ignore the basic economics of why these individuals will remain rooted in California. The success of their companies depends on the state's infrastructure, world-class public universities, proximity to supply-chain networks, and unmatched concentration of talent — advantages not easily replicated elsewhere, no matter how low another state sets its tax rate.

Meanwhile, the consequences of inaction are not theoretical. County hospitals are delaying equipment upgrades, rural clinics are struggling to retain staff, and safety-net providers warn they will be forced to cut services. The state's healthcare system — already strained by rising costs and an aging population — cannot absorb a \$100 billion shortfall without real harm to millions of residents.

When the government provides the research, early capital, regulatory framework, and guaranteed markets, it is a full partner in the creation of wealth. A 5% dividend from the 200 individuals who have benefited most is not an attack on success. It is a recognition that the public helped create their private fortunes.

Passing the 2026 Billionaire Tax Act would allow California to stabilize its healthcare system while reaffirming a basic principle: when public money is used to generate wealth, the returns should benefit everybody, not just those at the very top.

Duane Roberts is editor and publisher of the Anaheim Investigator blog.

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Growth rate slowed in US metro areas in 2025, with steepest drops along the southern border

Growth rates in U.S. metro areas dropped the steepest last year in communities along the border with Mexico because of declines in immigrants, while counties along Florida's Gulf Coast lost residents due to a series of hurricanes, according to population estimates released Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The estimates showed that a majority of metro areas and counties had slower population gains last year, which the agency attributed primarily to a slowdown in international migration. A year earlier, an influx of immigrants had helped urban areas recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The average growth rate for metro areas fell from 1.1% in 2024 to 0.6% in 2025.

The figures, covering one year through July 1, 2025, reflect the initial months of President Donald Trump's second term and the beginning of his administration's immigration crackdown. With an aging America and birth rates in the United States declining over the past two decades, immigration has become an important source of growth in many communities.

"With so little natural increase, migration determines whether an area grows or declines, particularly in the big metro cores that have continuous domestic out-migration and are dependent on immigration," said Kenneth Johnson, senior demographer at the University of New Hampshire.

IMMIGRANT LOSSES

Three metro areas along the southern border stretching from Arizona to Texas had the steepest drops in population growth rates in 2025.

The growth rate in Laredo, Texas, dropped from 3.2% to 0.2%. It went from 3.3% to 1.4% in Yuma, Arizona, and declined from 1.2% into negative territory at -0.7% in El Centro, California. All three experienced growth in 2024 because of an influx of thousands of immigrants.

"That pattern suggests a sharper rise-and-fall effect in border regions, where international migration plays a more central role in year-to-year population change," said Helen You, interim director of the Texas Demographic Center.

As in 2024, the top destinations for immigrants in pure numbers in 2025 were counties that are home to Houston, Miami and Los Angeles. But the drop in immigrant numbers in those counties was stark.

HURRICANE MIGRATION

Two destructive hurricanes, Helene and Milton, tore through Gulf Coast counties in Florida in fall 2024, causing tens of billions of dollars in damage. The storms also caused residents to leave, according to the population estimates.

Pinellas County, home to St. Petersburg, lost almost 12,000 residents, the second most in the country, trailing only Los Angeles County, which has been losing population all decade. Pinellas County relies on migration for growth because deaths outpace births more than in any American county.

Taylor County, a tiny rural community ravaged by the hurricanes in Florida's Big Bend area, had the steepest growth rate decline among U.S. counties last year, with a -2.2% drop.

Urban counties such as Pinellas likely will be quicker to rebuild their counts than the more rural ones in Big Bend, said Richard Doty, a research demographer at the University of Florida.

"These communities may recover in time, but they have lost a lot of appeal due to the hurricanes, the cost of insurance, etc.," Doty said.

The hurricane migration was not limited to Florida. In the Blue Ridge Mountains, the county that is home to Asheville, North Carolina, had more than 2,000 residents leaving in the months after the remnants of Helene destroyed homes and cut off power and communications to mountain towns.

GROWTH LEADERS

The New York metro area slid from growing by the most people in 2024 to ranking No. 13 in 2025 because of the drop in immigrants.

Instead, two perennial growth powerhouses this decade, the Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth metro areas, were at the

SEE POPULATION PAGE 7

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown Santa Monica

Verdi Chorus Presents Spanish-Themed Concert April 18-19

The Verdi Chorus continues its 42nd season with “Verdi in España,” a Spanish-themed concert featuring operatic works by Verdi, Bizet and Spanish composers, for two performances at First Presbyterian Church in Santa Monica on April 18 and 19.

Led by Anne Marie Ketchum, celebrating 24 consecutive years as artistic director, the Verdi Chorus is the only choral group in Southern California that focuses primarily on dramatic and diverse music for opera chorus.

The program features operatic sequences from Verdi’s “Don Carlo,” “Il Trovatore,” “La Traviata” and “Ernani,” along with Bizet’s “Carmen” and selections from Spanish composers Catán, Granados, Giménez, Torroba and De Falla.

“I’ve been wanting to do this Spanish themed concert for a while now and this seemed like the right time to do it,” Ketchum said. “There is so much really marvelous music that’s come out of the Spanish tradition and culture.”

The concert marks a first for the Verdi Chorus with excerpts from Daniel Catán’s “Florencia en el Amazonas,” composed in 1996.

“I’m loving working with Florencia because the sounds, rhythms and atmosphere are totally different from everything the Verdi Chorus has done in the past,” Ketchum said.

Three guest soloists will perform: soprano Leela Subramaniam, who has sung with the Metropolitan Opera, Bavarian State Opera, LA Opera and Carnegie Hall; mezzo soprano Audrey Babcock, known for her performances as Carmen; and baritone Roberto Perlas Gómez, with over 100 roles to his credit. Guitarist Andres Vadin will also perform.

The Verdi Chorus comprises more than 50 singers ages 20 to 87 from various professions who rehearse every Monday night.

Performances are Saturday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 19, at 4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1220 2nd St. Tickets range from \$10 for students to \$50 for priority seating and are available at www.verdichorus.org.

“I’m loving working with Florencia because the sounds, rhythms and atmosphere are totally different from everything the Verdi Chorus has done in the past

- Anne Marie Ketchum

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Courtesy image

VERDI IN ESPAÑA: Verdi Chorus presents “Verdi in España” April 18–19 at First Presbyterian Church.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

SMC Symphony Orchestra to Perform March 28 at Broad Stage

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present an evening of orchestral music performed by the SMC Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m. in The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center.

The concert, led by Conductor Mercedes Juan Musotto, features a program of orchestral masterworks including the Polovtsian Dances from "Prince Igor" by Alexander Borodin and Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 2.

"We'll follow that with Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 2, one of the most beloved symphonies of the Romantic era, celebrated for its warmth, lyricism, and radiant orchestral writing," Musotto said.

The family-friendly performance welcomes listeners of all ages with no age restrictions.

Tickets are \$15 general admission plus service charge. Admission is free for students with any student ID and free for children. Advance tickets are available online at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-3005 Monday through Friday during limited hours. Tickets may also be purchased at The Broad Stage Box Office starting 45 minutes before the performance. Free parking is available on premises, and seating is on a first-arrival basis.

The concert is made possible by the Colburn Foundation. The SMC Performing Arts Center is located at 1310 11th Street at Santa Monica Boulevard. More information is available at 310-434-4323. All performances are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

SYMPHONY: The Santa Monica College (SMC) Music Department will present a family-friendly evening of exceptional live music performed by the SMC Symphony Orchestra.

POPULATION

FROM PAGE 5

top of the list, followed by the Atlanta, Phoenix and Charlotte, North Carolina, metro areas.

Several midsize metros in Florida and South Carolina had the largest growth rates.

Ocala, Florida, located 80 miles (129 km) northwest of Orlando and known for its horse farms, led the nation at 3.4%. It was followed by metro Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, which has become a retirement haven; Spartanburg, South Carolina; Lakeland, Florida, located between the much larger metros of Tampa and Orlando; and Punta Gorda, Florida, about 35 miles (56.3 km) north of Fort Myers.

SUNBELT EXURBAN GROWTH

The far-out suburbs were top destinations among those who had moved from somewhere else in the United States.

They were led by Collin County, Texas, outside Dallas; Montgomery County, Texas, outside Houston; Pinal County, Arizona, outside Phoenix; and Pasco and Polk counties outside Tampa.

WHERE THE BABIES ARE

Even though New York had more people moving out than moving in, births allowed the metro area to gain more than 32,000 residents. The New York metro area led the nation in natural increase, or births outpacing deaths, followed by the Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston metros.

The metros where deaths outpaced births in the greatest numbers were Pittsburgh and several Florida communities with large senior populations — the Sarasota, Daytona Beach and Tampa metro areas.

The two Texas metro areas topped the charts in natural increase because of their age structure and the fact that they have gained more people than anywhere in the U.S., You said.

"Decades of domestic and international in-migration have produced relatively young populations, with a large share of residents in childbearing ages, alongside comparatively smaller proportions of senior populations," she said.

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

SAVE THE KITTENS



#SAVETHEKITTENS

NKLA.ORG/KITTENS

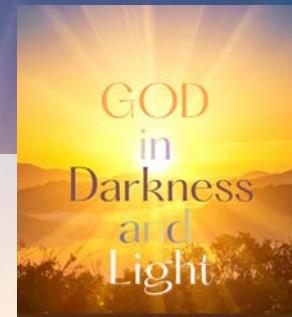


When The Water Dies - NEW PLAY

When the Water Dies, written, starring and directed by Santa Monica native Sebastiano Pigazzi (*HBO's We Are Who We Are, And Just Like That*), comes to the Santa Monica Playhouse for four special performances on April 4, 11, 14, and 16. This powerful family drama unfolds between past and future, centered around a fateful dinner where nothing will ever be the same. Scan for tickets, Or enter the link: wtwd.ludus.com



Easter 2026



Sunday, MARCH 29: Palm Sunday

10 a.m. Sanctuary, and livestream

Sunday, MARCH 29: Palm Sunday Celebration

Brunch/Easter Bunny/Egg Hunt, 11 a.m.

Thursday, APRIL 2: Maundy Thursday Service

6:30 p.m. First UMC Chapel

Good Friday, APRIL 3:

- **Chapel Prayer Vigil** 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Chapel
- **Walk the First UMC Labyrinth** 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. in Simkins Hall
- Join Ross Chitwood for a **special musical performance** of Taizé music from 6 – 7 p.m. in Simkins Hall
- **Good Friday Ecumenical Service** 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5: Easter Sunrise Service

6:30 a.m. Palisades Park, (Santa Monica Blvd. & Ocean Ave.)

Family-friendly worship, Holy Communion, hot coffee & fellowship. Bring blankets, chairs, & fresh flowers for the cross.

APRIL 5: Easter Celebration Worship

10 a.m. In-Person and Online Worship in the First UMC Sanctuary

Details for Holy Week schedule: www.santamonicaumc.org/lent

Free parking available across 11th Street in underground garage. See "Church Parking" signs.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA
1008 11th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403
www.santamonicaumc.org
(310) 393-8258



ECONOMIC RECOVERY

FROM PAGE 1

hotel sales fell 4.1% year-over-year through mid-2025. Quick-service restaurants fared even worse, posting a 13.9% decline, while fine dining dropped 9.1% and fast-casual fell 8.2%.

Chi acknowledged that improvements in public safety and infrastructure alone have done enough.

“Creating favorable conditions has not yet been sufficient to catalyze the level of private investment the city needs to achieve a revitalization of the local economy,” he said.

Among the most significant measures approved Tuesday was the elimination of the city’s \$1,000-per-seat portion of the wastewater capacity fee for new restaurants and restaurant expansions. Under the prior structure, a new 50-seat restaurant would have paid \$70,000 in city fees before serving a single meal.

Restaurants will still be required to pay a \$400-per-seat Hyperion wastewater fee to the City of Los Angeles, though council members directed staff to study whether to subsidize that cost as well.

Councilmember Lana Negrete, who said she had pushed for a similar measure years earlier and been turned away, welcomed the reversal.

“I was told, unequivocally, that it was illegal to waive fees,” Negrete said. “I’m really excited about that.”

Councilmember Natalya Zernitskaya asked staff to confirm the city could revisit the \$400 Hyperion fee in the future if Tuesday’s actions proved insufficient to stimulate restaurant activity. Staff confirmed the council retains that authority.

The council also approved the expansion of the city’s entertainment zone program, which

“Creating favorable conditions has not yet been sufficient to catalyze the level of private investment the city needs to achieve a revitalization of the local economy

- Oliver Chi, City Manager

allows open-container alcohol consumption during designated events. The original zone, covering the Third Street Promenade, launched in June 2025 as the first of its kind in Southern California under California Senate Bill 969.

Tuesday’s action extends that framework to the entire downtown core, the Santa Monica Pier, Main Street, and Montana Avenue — though the new zones will operate only in conjunction with specific events and managed under plans developed by local business improvement districts.

Downtown Santa Monica Inc., the nonprofit that manages the Promenade, submitted a letter supporting the expansion but insisted that operational decisions remain at its discretion. The group noted it spent more than \$200,000 in the current fiscal year to staff, equip, and promote the pilot program and said any further expansion would need to occur “incrementally” and only “when appropriate operational safeguards and funding mechanisms are in place.”

Early data from the pilot showed promise: Oktoberfest events doubled foot traffic compared to prior years, and Dodgers World Series watch parties tripled attendance on event nights.

Not everyone was enthusiastic. The North of Montana Association urged the council to establish a buffer zone around Roosevelt Elementary School before activating the Montana Avenue zone, noting that the proposed ordinance would permit open containers as early as 8 a.m., seven days a week. Resident Alan Mont wrote separately that expanding a program less than a year old carried unnecessary risk. “It would take only one serious incident to undermine public confidence,” he wrote.

The council also approved modifications to downtown parking rates, extending the initial discounted period to 90 minutes at \$1 — up from a 30-minute free window — while creating two pilot validation programs for fitness businesses and schools operating near the parking structures.

Sidewalk dining fees for simple tables-and-chairs setups will be eliminated entirely, a change staff said would benefit up to 59 restaurants currently in the city’s outdoor dining program and streamline the approval process.

A temporary waiver of city film permit application fees — which range from

\$350 to \$700 — was also approved. Film Santa Monica CEO Misti Kerns and COO Evan Edwards submitted a letter calling the measure “a meaningful and strategic step” toward strengthening Santa Monica’s competitiveness as a filming destination, noting that comparable jurisdictions across California are adopting similar incentives.

Underlying the entire toolkit is Santa Monica’s positioning for two transformative events: the FIFA World Cup in summer 2026 and the 2028 Olympic Games. The council authorized acceptance of two Metro grants — \$250,000 for a World Cup open streets activation and \$500,000 for an Olympic Games event — and approved an expanded contract with event production partner Revel Republic to produce a five-week World Cup activation in the downtown core running June 11 through July 19, 2026.

A large-scale music festival partnership with Goldenvoice is also advancing, with a licensing agreement expected before the council in April for a September 2026 event. Staff said negotiations are also ongoing for an ESPN broadcasting partnership in 2027 and multiple Olympic hospitality agreements.

Chi framed the economic tools not as a short-term fix but as a foundation for long-term recovery, noting that the city’s general fund is now projected to run surpluses through fiscal year 2030 — a turnaround from the \$29.6 million structural deficit it faced when the Realignment Plan was first adopted in October 2025.

“The financial strength is what is enabling the recommendations we’re making tonight,” Chi said. “It’s giving staff confidence to make these recommendations, knowing that we’re in a much more solid financial footing than we were a year ago.”

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Pacific Oaks
COLLEGE



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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6892

Speaking in rhyme

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

- | | | | |
|---------|------------|------------|--------|
| Accent | De la Mare | Hugo | Prose |
| Ariosto | Dirge | Hunt | Simile |
| Attar | Donne | Hyperbole | Stanza |
| Aubade | Elegy | Longfellow | Tagore |
| Austen | Eluard | Motif | Tasso |
| Bronte | Endre Ady | Muir | Theme |
| Caesura | Ginsberg | Murray | Thomas |
| Canto | Gosse | Odes | Words |
| Chasm | Haiku | Owen | Wotton |
| Conceit | Hood | Pindar | Yeats |
| Dada | Hope | Plath | |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 27)

Welcome to your Wild-Hearted Year, when the fire of your spirit burns with embody unapologetic authenticity. You'll work with the focus of a falcon and the fearlessness of a pioneer and earn recognition that feels both thrilling and well deserved. More highlights: You're brilliant in a mentorship role that changes lives, you'll make the money that solves a longstanding issue and you'll be constantly surprised and fortified by special relationships. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 26, 18, 39 and 5.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've often learned from your mistakes, but don't forget about learning from the many things you've done exactly right. Your instincts, your judgment calls, your strong moves have served you well, and the future is bright as you continue in kind.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Trust your read. You feel things that seem right before you're able to prove it. You can act on your feelings and preemptively avoid trouble. It's not about condemning anyone, just about putting yourself in the best environments for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Mother said, "Don't worry about what they're thinking of you because most times they're not thinking of you." The fact that their minds are probably elsewhere will come as a liberation today and an invitation to do as you please.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You will get where you're going. Have faith. You're in the hall now, which offers doors to destinations, but doesn't feel like a destination itself. Keep moving. There isn't an endless corridor on this entire planet. You will eventually arrive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are highly perceptive, and almost intuitive about other people's inner worlds. The ease is in sensing. The difficulty is in confirming. In other words - insight comes quickly; certainty does not. The tension lives between intuition and proof.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Getting control of your emotions isn't necessary for good living, but healthy self-expression is. Emotions only animate you when they are trapped in the body. Go where it's safe to open up and let them flow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll notice the facts. This you do without spiraling, seeking reassurance or needing approval. The facts may include naming rudeness or noting someone's sense of entitlement without taking it personally, then deciding not to engage. You move on with grace.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Not every irritation needs processing. Some just need labeling and deprioritizing. Today you'll be an example of intelligent allocation of energy. You are alive and responsive and trying. The competence is a bonus.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You take care of your people. You're thoughtful, balanced, the one who makes sure everyone's OK. But today it kind of feels like your wild side is being underutilized. That's why you'll be inspired to come up with an unexpected twist.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You feel everything, but it's not all yours to absorb. Choose what to delve deeper into and what to move quickly though. Compassion doesn't require overextension. Your superpower: sensitivity paired with boundaries.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Hard jobs make the world go 'round, and you have one of them. Because you're used to reliably carrying a big load, you tend to make it look easy, but it's not. Give yourself more credit and more breaks.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your little rituals are luck magnets today. The same mug, the same playlist, the way you arrange your desk or light a candle before you begin. None of it is accidental. Honor your quirks.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 EPA-banned chemicals
- 5 Hotel room amenity
- 9 College major
- 13 Bailiwick
- 14 Name related to Helga
- 15 Cherish
- 16 Left ___
- 19 No novice
- 20 Over the moon
- 21 Toaster's choice
- 22 "Careful, now!"
- 23 Frequent Fleming foe
- 26 "___ right!"
- 32 Airborne allure
- 34 Lose steam
- 35 Subatomic topic
- 36 Lionfish's defense
- 37 Where Mandela was pres.
- 38 Trigger
- 39 Promises on paper
- 40 Spotted
- 41 Stage prompt
- 42 Left ___
- 45 Uplands, for short
- 46 City near Downton Abbey
- 47 Genesis 7 focus
- 49 Acquiesce
- 52 Agreeing to participate
- 57 ___ right
- 59 Boardroom accessory

DOWN

- 1 Bear feet
- 2 Manitoba people
- 3 Film rival of Boris
- 4 Chip dip
- 5 Form for the Bard
- 6 Vitamin water flavoring
- 7 Enduring dispute
- 8 Poaching candidate
- 9 Pacific Rim cuisine
- 10 Frequently
- 11 Employ a fork for
- 12 Take to heart
- 15 What Chopin called some of his music
- 17 Wind-borne
- 18 Fling with force
- 22 Mini-mission
- 23 Nine-gold Olympian Ledecky
- 24 Certain stable worker
- 25 Prepare for shipping
- 27 Unbroken run
- 28 Iron, in Austria
- 29 Early life
- 30 Inauguration
- 31 Manual readers

SPLIT ENDS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- 33 Close to tears
- 38 Self-styled "Entertainer"
- 40 Rip to ribbons
- 43 Mountain music
- 44 Takes courses at home
- 48 Deceitful fellow
- 49 Took after
- 50 Modeling medium
- 51 *Domicilio*
- 52 A while ago
- 53 Cobbler filling
- 54 Hold fast
- 55 Sri Lankan rice cake
- 56 Tiny part of a min.
- 58 Buffoon

Sudoku

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

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

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

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03/27/26

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

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026030293. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SUNFLOWER EDUCATIONAL THERAPY, SUNFLOWER EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, 1437 HARVARD ST UNIT 6, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): SUNFLOWER EDUCATIONAL SERVICES LLC, 1437 HARVARD ST UNIT 6, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 02/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ Erika Redlinger, MANAGER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 2/9/2026. 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: 03/06/2026, 03/13/2026, 03/20/2026, 03/27/2026

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26VECP00128. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Northwest District - East Bldg, 6230 Sylmar Ave. Room 107, Van Nuys, CA 91401. Petition of Shannon Renee Fischel for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Shannon Renee Fischel filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Shannon Renee Fischel to Shannon Renee. 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: 05/01/2026, Time: 8:30 A.M., Dept: 0, Room: 511. The address of the court is the same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 03/12/2026. Shirley K. Watkins, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 03/20/2026, 03/27/2026, 04/03/2026, 04/10/2026

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

Help Wanted

NOTICE OF HEARING TO CONDUCT MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION TO CONDUCT ADDRESS OF PREMISES: 4375 ADMIRALTY WAY MARINA DEL REY, CA 90292 NAME OF APPLICANT: TRILOGY SPA HOLDING LLC / DBA: SISLEY SPADATE OF HEARING: 04/01/2026 TIME OF HEARING: 09:15 ANY PERSON HAVING OBJECTIONS TO THE GRANTING OF THE LICENSE MAY, AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE ABOVE DATE, FILE WITH THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OBJECTIONS IN WRITING GIVING REASONS THEREFOR, AND MAY APPEAR AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE HEARING AND BE HEARD RELATIVE THERETO OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION: BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION 500 W. TEMPLE STREET, RM 374 LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 CN 125165 Mar 23, 25, 27, 2026

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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FRIDAY | MARCH 27

ALL ABOUT THE NEWS WITH JUDY

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. All About the News With Judy Learn English by discussing today's headlines. The class includes reading, writing, and speaking. Build reading comprehension and learn to express yourself verbally. For more information. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/all-about-the-news-with-judy/17428017/2026-03-27T10>

THE NIGHT SKY SHOW

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (MSB 126 Planetarium) Math & Science Building, 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. The Night Sky Show - Using SMC's 4K Digistar projection system, Planetarium Lecturer Sarah Vincent will talk about the latest news in astronomy and space exploration, and present a virtual tour of constellations and other night-sky celebrities making their appearance in the evenings ahead. The Night Sky Show is followed by the Feature Program. General Admission: \$10 Children (3-12): \$7. Show Combo (Include the Feature Program at 7 p.m.): \$16 adults, \$10 children (3-12) (A \$1 per ticket service fee will be charged by the ticketing company.) There will be a short intermission prior the start of the Feature Program. No children under age 3 at Friday evening shows. Visit: <https://www.smc.edu/calendar/#event-details/b179db56-3639-4b1f-9300-4ef0b4100fce>

BERGAMOT COMEDY FEST: STAND-UP SHOWCASE (PURPLE GROUP)

8:00 p.m. The Crow 2525 Michigan Ave Unit F4 Santa Monica. A launchpad and hub for top industry executives, tastemakers, and audiences to discover the best up-and-coming comedians. \$33.77. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/bergamot-comedy-fest-stand-up-showcase-purple-group-18363477/2026-03-27T20>

SATURDAY | MARCH 28

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Santa Monica Elks Lodge 1040 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Treasure Hunt Starts Here! Don't miss out on our community garage sale, where you can find great deals on pre-loved items. From furniture to clothing and everything in between, discover hidden gems at unbeatable prices. Indoor event with plenty of parking. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/community-garage-sale/18341984/2026-03-28T08>

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - SATURDAY MARKET

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

[details/downtown-farmers-market-saturday-market/13357377/2026-03-28T08](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-saturday-market/13357377/2026-03-28T08)

DADTIME

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Virginia Avenue Park (fitness room inside the Park Center) 2200 Virginia Avenue Santa Monica. Every Saturday morning dads come together to let their young children (0-3) explore, socialize, and learn from uninterrupted play. StrongStart Facilitator on hand to answer questions. Free coffee, and the Pico Boulevard Farmer's Market is just outside! Provided FREE by Early Engagement & SMMUSD. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/dadtime/17327106/2026-03-21T09>

\$5 COMMUNITY DOG TRAINING CLASSES!

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Virginia Ave Park 2200 Virginia Ave Santa Monica. People's Dog Training™, a Love At First Sit® host ongoing \$5 ongoing Community Dog Training Classes on Saturdays at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. Sign-up at <https://www.peoplesdogtraining.com/group-classes>. \$5.00 —General \$5.00 then Pay-What-You-Can. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/-5-community-dog-training-classes-11981844/2026-03-28T10>

SUNDAY | MARCH 29

2026 DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA EASTER CELEBRATION

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. 1300 Block Santa Monica. Join us for the 2026 annual Easter Celebration on Third Street Promenade with music, games, crafts, and FREE photos with the Easter Bunny! There will be fun activities for all ages including: Photos with the Easter Bunny (pets welcome!) Stilt walkers, and entertainment for children Arts & Crafts Games Balloon twisters + face painters Outdoor Bar/Concession Stand Easter Egg Giveaways See you all there! Tickets Coming Soon! *Photos with the bunny are first come first served. Two photos per group. Easter Eggs will be handed out in lieu of an egg hunt. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/2026-downtown-santa-monica-easter-celebration/18273429/2026-03-29T12>

THE NIGHT SKY SHOW - MATINÉE

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (MSB 126 Planetarium) Math & Science Building, 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. The Night Sky Show - Using SMC's 4K Digistar projection system, Planetarium Lecturer Sarah Vincent will talk about the latest news in astronomy and space exploration, and present a virtual tour of constellations and other night-sky celebrities making their appearance in the evenings ahead. The Night Sky Show is followed by the Feature Program. General Admission: \$10. Children (3-12): \$7. Show Combo (Include the Feature Program at 2 p.m.): \$16 adults, \$10 children (3-12) (A \$1 per ticket service fee will be charged by the ticketing company.) There will be a short intermission prior the start of the Feature Program. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-night-sky-show-matin-e/18045437/2026-03-29T13>

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Designed for innovators, decision makers, and engaged civic leaders, this gathering is more than a networking event. It is a curated room for meaningful connection, thoughtful dialogue, and forward momentum.

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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NEGRETE**

COUNCIL MEMBER,
SANTA MONICA



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