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Strange Bedfellows.



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Gender-flipped.

Volume 25 Issue 97

THE WEEKENDER 4/3-4/5

smdp.com

## Power of Partnership: Women leaders unite across cities at Community Collective to shape the future of the Westside

**MAAZ ALIN**  
SMDP Staff Writer

This week at the Viceroy Santa Monica, Community Collective and Spin PR convened more than 100 civic and business leaders to drive collaboration ahead of LA28 and beyond. This was Community Collective's second annual Women in Leadership event, centered on one defining theme on the power of partnership across cities.

Hosted by Community Collective and sponsored by Venbrook Insurance, the evening honored Santa Monica Councilmember Lana Negrete, Los Angeles Councilmember Traci Park, and Veronica Pugin, Los Angeles County Economic Development's Vice President for their leadership in advancing cross jurisdictional collaboration at a pivotal moment for the region.

At its core, the conversation made one thing clear: The challenges shaping Santa Monica, Venice, and the broader Westside do not stop at city boundaries, and neither can the solutions. "We don't just share a coastline, we share a culture, an economy, and a common set of challenges," Park said. "The lines between our cities are imaginary in many ways, and our leadership has to reflect that."

That mindset has defined the working relationship between



Andrade Visuals / Jordan Andrade

SEE EVENT PAGE 6 **COLLECTIVE:** A group of successful women were recognized at the recent event.

## Malibu reviews wildfire response, outlines fixes after devastating 2024-25 fire season

**MAAZ ALIN**  
SMDP Staff Writer

The City of Malibu has already begun overhauling its emergency operations systems following an independent review of its response to the Franklin and Palisades fires, city officials said Monday, with new technology, expanded radio

SEE MALIBU PAGE 11

## Santa Monica's local elections could be wide open as incumbents retire or pursue other seats

**MATTHEW HALL**  
Daily Press Editor

A Santa Monica school board member has become the first incumbent to announce he will not seek reelection this cycle, setting the stage for an open contest as candidates and committees begin lining up ahead of the city's Nov. 3, 2026, general election.

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified

SEE ELECTION PAGE 7

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# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

## Current successes on the backs of predecessors

Under the leadership of the former Chief of the SM Police Department, Ramon Batista, the number of Violent Crimes in Santa Monica decreased by 9% for 2024, the last full year he was here.

In addition, the number of sworn officers increased from a low of 171 in October 2021 to 231 in August 2025, his last year as Chief. In his letter of resignation on 26 August 2025, he recognized the hard work and commitment of his officers to improve the streets of our City, making Public Safety the number one priority. However, in the end it was not enough for the newly installed City Manager and the newly elected members of the City Council as Chief Batista stated:

“As I step aside, I do so recognizing that my nearly 40 years of experience in public safety and policing, my deeply held sense of justice, and following not only the spirit, but the letter of the law, appear to be at odds from demands set by the new administration.” (Batista was recently hired as the Assistant City Manager for Public Safety, Austin, TX.) <https://www.santamonica.gov/media/CMO/BatistaResignationLetter.pdf>

In a recent article in the Santa Monica Daily Press, 30 March 2026, Council member Dan Hall is quoted about the continued decline in the number of Crimes for 2025, “ ‘Interesting how those numbers shot up with new leadership.’ The new Chief Jacob confirmed that he and his command team implemented the changes that produced the results.”

The changes implemented and the results achieved were the results of actions taken BEFORE September 2025. Chief Darrick Jacob and his officers were wise enough to continue and improve upon the groundwork made by his predecessor and implemented over the last four months of 2025 and into 2026.

It is often the case that the crowns of Kings are built on the backs of their predecessors, especially in Santa Monica following the disasters of the Memorial Day Riots of 31 May 2020.

John Medlin Santa Monica 90403

# COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

## SMC Chamber Choir to Perform Fundraising Concert April 9

The Santa Monica College Chamber Choir, under the direction of Jeremiah Selvey Convento, will perform a fundraising concert on Thursday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. in The Edye at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St. at Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica.

The program will feature madrigals, part songs, and small ensemble works selected by Convento “to lift your spirit and bring you joy.”

Proceeds will benefit SMC’s choirs programs. A suggested donation of \$10 can be made at foundation. [smc.edu/areas-to-support/choirsphp](https://smc.edu/areas-to-support/choirsphp). Parking is free. Seating is first-arrival.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

**CHOIR:** The Santa Monica College (SMC) Chamber Choir will perform a special fundraising concert Thursday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. in The Edye at the SMC Performing Arts Center.

# ORLA

Mediterranean by Michael Mina

## A Beautiful Beachside Easter Brunch

Easter at Regent Santa Monica Beach begins with an exquisite brunch experience, where decadent flavors are crafted to indulge and inspire. Then, children will revel in the magic of an egg hunt and a visit from the Easter Bunny himself, while adults relax with live music and a glass raised in celebration.



Sunday, April 5 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Reserve your table via the QR code

Located within Regent Santa Monica Beach  
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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Top-two race in Los Angeles makes strange political bedfellows

Rules governing elections are generating novel possible outcomes in the races for California's two top executive offices — the governorship and the mayoralty of Los Angeles — and in LA they're producing strange bedfellows as well.

At the state level, attention has centered around the possibility that two Republicans could emerge as top finishers in the June primary, a mathematically possible if politically unlikely scenario. It's the result of the state's top-two system, in which the two top vote getters in the primary automatically move to the runoff in November.

Democrats generally prosper by that system since the state is overwhelmingly Democratic, but with two Republicans and eight Democrats on the ballot, there is an opportunity for the GOP to contend for an office that normal circumstances would place well out of its reach. Faced with that possibility, low-polling Democrats are being pressed to drop out, and some pundits are giving up on the top-two system altogether.

In Los Angeles, meanwhile, the city's election system has opened an unusual path for Mayor Karen Bass — if she uses more of her resources to boost the signal of a fringe candidate in order to clear the field of more serious opponents.

That's a high-risk gambit that could either give her the opponent she wants or it could antagonize and fracture her support.

The rules and strategies for Los Angeles municipal elections are different from those at the state level, so these two races are not mirrors of each other. Start with the fact that the June municipal election is not a primary. It's an actual election: If any candidate for mayor (or any other city office) wins more than 50% of the votes cast in June, that candidate wins. There's no November runoff.

The city race also is different from the governor's in that Los Angeles has an incumbent, Bass, who won comfortably four years ago. For challengers, that makes the campaign for mayor in some ways more difficult than the one for governor. Bass is weaker than she was four years ago, but she's still mayor and has a strong core of support.

And finally, Los Angeles is different from California because LA is even more liberal than the state whose politics it anchors. In the runup to LA's filing deadline, potential office-seekers to Bass' political right melted away. But that wasn't the real threat to her anyway.

Instead, Bass is facing two candidates to her political left — City Councilmember Nathya Raman and community organizer Rae Huang — as well as one to her right, MAGA favorite and former TV personality Spencer Pratt, as well as a smattering of others, including tech entrepreneur Adam Miller, who has told supporters he is prepared to loan his campaign more than \$2 million of his own money.

That field includes much for Bass to be relieved about. It lacks a well-financed, high-profile challenger, and it features her in the top spot. One poll earlier this week showed her in second place, but it's an outlier. She leads in all others, though not commandingly.

But the field also exposes a potential vulnerability. The city's political center of gravity may be shifting so rapidly that Bass, the first Black woman to hold the office and a veteran Democrat, may be too conservative for the city she governs. Add that to general voter dissatisfaction with her handling of the Palisades fire and its aftermath, and Bass could face a genuine threat from Raman, the most credible of her opponents.

As the various campaigns elbow toward the June 2 showdown, the city's elections rules and its political demographics do provide Bass with an unusual, if controversial, option: Either her campaign or one of her backers could spend heavily to raise Pratt's profile, hoping that with Bass' help he could edge out Raman and face Bass in a runoff.

That's a version of the strategy that Adam Schiff employed when the Congressman ran for Senate in 2024. Recognizing that former Dodger Steve Garvey was a patsy he could easily defeat in a runoff, Schiff platformed Garvey in the primary, treating him as his most credible opponent and sidestepping then-Rep. Katie Porter. She was outraged, but Schiff got the runoff — and the result — he wanted.

Now, some Bass supporters are testing out the same idea. In a social media post Sunday, Bass' campaign highlighted her support from Latino leaders while simultaneously drawing attention to a Pratt post attacking her in Spanish.

"Latinos Con Bass > Ai Latinos," the Bass post read. The point: She is backed by Latinos, and she is running against a fundamentally fake candidate.

But framing the race as herself against Pratt is a complicated proposition. It's cynical, as some Raman supporters are sure to see it exactly as Porter did, as a tactic rather than a serious exercise in democratic engagement. It's difficult, as it depends on rallying substantial support for Pratt, who has very little actual backing and even less natural room for growth. And it's entirely contemptuous of Pratt himself, as it assumes he is no more of a threat to Bass than Garvey was to Schiff.

That last assumption is almost certainly correct. Pratt is a gadfly whose main animating force for running is that he lost his house in the Palisades fire — a reminder that we owe those who suffer our sympathy but not our votes.

Pratt is a Republican in a city where that is a vanishing notion — 15.4% of city voters are registered with the GOP. And he's a conservative in a place that hasn't elected one as mayor for far longer than



## Surf report WATER TEMP: 63.3

**FRIDAY** | **SURF:** 1-2ft  
**POOR TO FAIR** | Knee to thigh

Fun, peaky warmup day if conditions can cooperate. Points look best in the PM, beachbreaks AM. A decent mix off S/SSE swell and NW windswell sets up a fun, jumbled day of waves. peaky surf in the knee-waist high range for the beachbreaks west of Dume, points top out closer to thigh-high. A little drained first thing before a nice tide push sets in. Possible E wind texture for the points in the morning, but it looks pretty light. Spots west of Dume look clean. Switch to W/WSW onshores in the afternoon for lumpier conditions out west while the points get better.

**SATURDAY** | **SURF:** 1-2ft  
**POOR TO FAIR** | Knee to thigh

Decent to fun S-SSE swell (185-165 degrees) builds through the day. Starts small, PM gets fun. Not a major swell for the region, enough to keep an eye on and plan on surfing, especially for the top S exposed breaks. Starting on the smaller side, trending toward waist-high waves at the better exposures, up to chest-shoulder high at standout spots. Not expecting much NW energy in the mix, so shape will favor the points. Beachbreaks out west have quicker, stretched out lines. AM looks cleanest, but the points should be clean into the afternoon as a little W wind puffs up.

## Weather

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. East wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south in the afternoon.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northeast in the evening.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south in the afternoon.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 57.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/04/03	Fri	04:53 AM	-0.22	L
2026/04/03	Fri	10:58 AM	3.91	H
2026/04/03	Fri	4:22 PM	1.15	L
2026/04/03	Fri	10:37 PM	5.33	H
2026/04/04	Sat	05:30 AM	-0.18	L
2026/04/04	Sat	11:39 AM	3.48	H
2026/04/04	Sat	4:41 PM	1.57	L
2026/04/04	Sat	11:00 PM	5.19	H
2026/04/05	Sun	06:10 AM	-0.02	L
2026/04/05	Sun	12:27 PM	3.05	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: 4/1  
4 10 11 52 64  
Power#: 24  
Jackpot: 217 M

**Fantasy 5**  
Draw Date: 4/1  
7 12 16 20 32

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Draw Date: 3/31  
18 35 45 60 65  
Mega#: 17  
Jackpot: 90 M

**Daily 3**  
Draw Date: 4/1  
EVENING: 0 4 8  
Draw Date: 4/1  
MIDDAY: 9 2 2

**SuperLotto PLUS**  
Draw Date: 4/1  
11 20 23 38 44  
Mega#: 25  
Jackpot: 8 M

**Daily Derby**  
Draw Date: 4/1  
1st: 05 - California Classic  
2nd: 11 - Money Bags  
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms  
Race Time: 1:41.72

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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## GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

# Allegation that Gavin Newsom presides over an 'empire of fraud' doesn't stick

Gavin Newsom's management of California's government has certainly been less than stellar.

During his seven-plus years as governor, he and a Legislature controlled by fellow Democrats have expanded programs, created new ones, guessed wrong on revenues to support them and overspent the real revenues, thus creating a chronic, multibillion-dollar budget deficit that could last indefinitely.

When Newsom embarks on an almost certain campaign for the presidency after leaving office next year, his managerial shortcomings will likely be cited by Democratic rivals and, were he to win his party's nomination, by whomever Republicans choose as his opponent.

But does his record warrant the epithet of "Gavin Newsom's empire of fraud?"

A newly published article in the City Journal, a magazine published by the conservative Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, levels that allegation.

It stitches together a series of fraud cases, instances of sloppy management, questionable assumptions and some mysterious mathematics to allege, "The best estimates suggest that, on the governor's watch, fraudsters, scammers, and organized crime rings have stolen at least \$180 billion from taxpayers."

The centerpieces are two cases that have received copious coverage in California media — multibillion-dollar fraud in the Employment Development Department's disbursement of federal unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic and the indictment of Newsom's former chief of staff, Dana Williamson, for facilitating bogus payments from a campaign fund and falsifying documents to obtain pandemic relief funds for her own business.

The EDD scandal is — or should be — a black eye for Newsom. But three aspects should not be ignored: It also was happening in other states; it reflected pressure, during the Joe Biden administration, to speed claims processing, and the EDD had hired hundreds of new workers who were not fully trained.

In citing the Dana Williamson case,

City Journal declared, "the culture of fraud in California is so pervasive that it has allegedly reached the governor's own office."

That passage presupposes that California has a "culture of fraud" and then suggests that Newsom is at fault.

There is fraud, of course. The specific cases cited by City Journal prove that when taxpayer money is being spent on services, it entices some bad actors to cheat. It was happening long before Newsom became governor; it will continue to happen after he leaves. And when it is discovered people, go to jail.

One situation cited by City Journal warrants special attention because it typifies its sloppy journalism — a 2024 report by the state auditor that the Newsom administration had spent \$24 billion to alleviate homelessness but had not adequately tracked whether the money had been spent effectively.

City Journal implies that the \$24 billion was lost to fraud, but it's likely that it was spent on various programs, not stolen. Newsom should be held responsible for poor management, but that's not fraud.

City Journal sets the stage for its "empire of fraud" assertion with a dystopian description of California:

"The roads are crumbling. Mismanaged wildfires have turned neighborhoods into ash. Drug addiction and homelessness have metastasized, turning parts of Los Angeles and San Francisco into no-go zones. And the cost-of-living crisis is pricing middle-class taxpayers out of basic necessities like groceries and gas, even as the state spends billions on welfare programs that never seem to lift anyone out of poverty."

Accurate or not, that description has nothing to do with the "culture of fraud" it alleges, but it does reveal something about the article's obvious intent, which is to smear Newsom in anticipation of his presidential campaign.

Newsom should be held responsible for what he did or did not do as governor, but this is just slinging mud to see if some of it sticks.

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist

### 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: O, 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

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### Petition to Admin Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF Catharina Anna Lewin, also known as Catharina Lewin. Case No. 26STPB03033. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Catharina Anna Lewin, also known as Catharina Lewin. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Damion Patrick Lewin in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Damion Patrick Lewin be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. A HEARING on the petition will be held on April 20, 2026 at 8:30 AM in Dept. Probate 67 located at 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, Stanley Mosk Courthouse. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Petitioner: Damion Patrick Lewin, 623 Ashland Ave. Apt. 3, Santa Monica, CA 90405, 310-919-7349. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/03/2026, 04/10/2026, 04/17/2026

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

**SMC**

### SMC Barrett Gallery to Host Two Free Artist Roundtables for 'Concrete Hope' Exhibition

The SMC Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery will present two free "In Conversation" artist roundtables tied to its current exhibition, "Concrete Hope | Esperanza Concreta," part of FotoSoCal by CuratorLove — a consortium of more than 20 community college galleries across Southern California. Curator Erika Hirugami, who also teaches History of Photography at SMC, will lead both discussions.

The first roundtable takes place Monday, April 7, at 11:15 a.m. in Art 214 on the SMC Main Campus, 1900 Pico Blvd. Photographers Antonio Perez and Damon Casarez will discuss their work. Perez explores identity, history, and culture through multiple media, drawing on his Chicano and Mexican heritage. Casarez uses photography to revisit childhood and adolescence, examining how personal identity is shaped.

The second roundtable is Thursday, April 24, at 5 p.m. at the SMC Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. California artists Jackie Castillo and Jamil G. Baldwin will discuss the personal, social, and cultural influences behind their lens-based practices. Castillo works in film photography, sculpture, and installation, while Baldwin focuses on analog photography and questions of representation and liberation.

Both events are free. More information is available at [smc.edu/barrett](http://smc.edu/barrett).

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

**SMC**

### Santa Monica College to Stage Gender-Flipped Shakespeare Double Bill April 10-26

The Santa Monica College Theatre Arts Department will present "Hamletta & Twelfth Bro," a modern-dress double bill adapting two Shakespeare plays through distinct gender casting frameworks, April 10-26 at the Theatre Arts Studio Stage on the SMC Main Campus, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Adapted and directed by Dr. Adrienne Harrop, the production pairs two short plays. "Hamletta" stages "Hamlet" with a cast of performers who identify or present as women, while "Twelfth Bro" presents "Twelfth Night" with a cast of performers who identify or present as men. The productions invite audiences to consider how casting shapes character and storytelling in Shakespeare's work.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays: April 10, 11, 24 and 25. Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. on April 12 and April 26. All performances are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

Advance tickets range from \$18 to \$20, with a modest service fee, and are \$15 for SMC students and staff. Tickets purchased at the box office on performance weekends are \$3 higher. Tickets are available at [smc.edu/tickets](http://smc.edu/tickets). Free parking is available on campus; transportation and directions can be found at [smc.edu/transportation](http://smc.edu/transportation).

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Heidi Laubach

**HAMLETTA:** (left to right) Daniela Talleda (as Hamlet) and Janna Bossier (as King Claudius) rehearse for the Santa Monica College production of "Hamletta & Twelfth Bro".

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**CITY OF SANTA MONICA  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica will be holding a public hearing for the following:

**2025 Urban Water Management Plan**

The City of Santa Monica's Water Resources Division is currently preparing its 2025 Urban Water Management Plan. The Urban Water Management Plan is a planning document, required by the California Water Code, that urban water suppliers in California must prepare every five years. The 2025 Urban Water Management Plan is due to the California Department of Water Resources on or before July 1, 2026. The California Water Code requires all water suppliers to inform the public and allow participation prior to adoption of the Urban Water Management Plan.

A Public Hearing for the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan will be held on June 23, 2026, at 5:30pm.

A copy of the Draft 2025 Urban Water Management Plan will be made available on the Water Resources Division website in advance of the City Council meeting at: [www.santamonica.gov/UWMP](http://www.santamonica.gov/UWMP)

For comments, questions, and inquiries, please e-mail: [water.resources@santamonica.gov](mailto:water.resources@santamonica.gov)



**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED 2026-27 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN ALLOCATING FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) & HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP ACT PROGRAM (HOME) FUNDS**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides annual CDBG and HOME entitlement funds to the City of Santa Monica. As a recipient of these federal funds, HUD requires the City to develop a five-year Consolidated Plan along with Annual Action Plans for housing and community development which identify high priority needs and the associated goals, strategies, and resources anticipated over a five-year period.

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Proposed 2026-27 Annual Action Plan, which identifies the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of a projected \$1,164,932 in CDBG funds and \$542,428 in HOME funds to address the high-priority needs specified in the 2025-29 Consolidated Plan.

The Proposed 2026-27 Annual Action Plan is now available to the public for a 30-day review period beginning March 27, 2026. Both the Proposed 2026-27 Annual Action Plan and the HUD-approved 2025-29 Consolidated Plan can be viewed at [www.santamonica.gov/community-development-block-grant-and-home-investment-partnership-programs](http://www.santamonica.gov/community-development-block-grant-and-home-investment-partnership-programs).

Hard copies are available upon request through the Housing and Human Services Department at [humanservices@santamonica.gov](mailto:humanservices@santamonica.gov) or by telephone (310) 458-8310. Written comments may be submitted by April 27, 2026 by email to [humanservices@santamonica.gov](mailto:humanservices@santamonica.gov) or by mail to: Housing and Human Services Department, 1685 Main Street, MS22, Santa Monica, CA 90401. All comments received will be incorporated into the final draft of the 2026-27 Annual Action Plan, currently due to HUD by May 15, 2026. The City Council is scheduled to consider approval of the proposed plan on April 28, 2026.

**ESPAÑOL** Esto es un aviso público para invitar a cualquier parte interesada a participar en el repaso del Plan Preliminar de Acción Anual del Año Fiscal 2026-27. Si necesita más información, por favor llame a Lupe Madrid en el Departamento de Vivienda y Servicios Humanos al número (310) 458-8310.

## EVENT

FROM PAGE 1

Negrete and Park, a partnership forged in 2022 and strengthened through some of the region's most urgent moments, including wildfire recovery, public safety challenges, and economic disruption. "We've been inseparable in the work," Negrete said. "If she's invited, I'm coming. If I'm invited, she's coming. We open doors for each other, and sometimes we have to kick them down."

From coordinating post fire recovery efforts to addressing traffic gridlock along PCH and advocating jointly with state leadership, their collaboration has become a model for what regional leadership can look like when it is rooted in trust and shared purpose.

That trust, Pugin noted, is what makes the word "partnership" more than a talking point. "Partnerships are not a nice to have. It is core to delivering results, and it only works when there is both a shared understanding that we succeed together and a trust that is built over time."

The evening also tackled one of the most pressing issues facing the region, public safety and homelessness, framed not as isolated policy challenges, but as foundational to economic recovery. "We will not see economic recovery if we do not address public safety and homelessness," Negrete said. "People need to feel safe walking outside. Businesses need to feel supported. Otherwise, nothing else works."

Park reinforced that connection, pointing to tangible outcomes in Venice as an example of what coordinated leadership can achieve. "Economic development starts with safe, clean, accessible communities," she said. "When we cleaned up the beach, we saw production return, new businesses open, and real investment follow."

As Los Angeles prepares for global events including the FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, leaders emphasized that collaboration across cities will determine whether the region can fully realize the opportunity ahead. "We are going to be the face of Los Angeles for the Olympics," Park said. "But this is not about one neighborhood. This is about the entire region showing up together."

Negrete echoed that sentiment, highlighting Santa Monica's role in hosting international country houses, business activations, and cultural programming tied to the Games, while stressing the importance of ensuring small businesses benefit in practical ways.

Beyond policy and economics, the evening carried a deeply human throughline. Negrete shared her personal journey through cancer, family loss, and public service, framing leadership as both resilience and responsibility. "What keeps me going is knowing I am showing up for someone else who cannot be in the room," she said. "This is about community, and being willing to speak

up, even when it is uncomfortable."

Park added that her motivation is grounded in accountability to her constituents and the weight of seeing major initiatives through. "With whatever time I am entrusted with this role, I am here to do as much good for as many people as I can," she said.

Throughout the evening, a consistent theme emerged among attendees and speakers alike, the unique power of women coming together to lead, collaborate, and build. "When women come together with intention, we don't just exchange ideas, we accelerate impact," one attendee reflected. "There is a different level of trust, accountability, and momentum that happens in rooms like this."

Venbrook Insurance, the event's presenting sponsor, reinforced that message through its continued investment in community driven initiatives. "Partnerships are not just a strategy, they are a responsibility," said Brooke Lais, Chief Marketing Officer of Venbrook Insurance. "When leaders come together across cities, industries, and communities, we unlock solutions that are bigger than any one organization. That is how we build resilience, and that is how we move Los Angeles forward."

The evening also marked a moment of recognition for Community Collective's growing impact and the broader ecosystem of leadership it supports. Scott Davis received a City of Santa Monica proclamation on behalf of Palisades Charter High School Principal Pam Magee, honoring her leadership and commitment to community during a critical time of recovery. In addition, Edgar was recognized for her work through Community Collective in convening cross sector partnerships and advancing a model of collaboration that continues to gain momentum propelling partnership and business in the city.

Looking ahead, Community Collective is continuing to build on this momentum with a series of upcoming convenings designed to deepen cross sector collaboration. Next Thursday, the organization will host a mobility focused event celebrating over 100 years of Route 66, bringing together civic leaders, business executives, and cultural stakeholders to explore the historic corridor's role in Los Angeles' economic and cultural future. This will be followed by the launch of Community Collective South Bay on April 13 at the California Surf Club, expanding the network's reach and convening a new, high caliber cohort of leaders across industries to drive regional impact.

As the region navigates rebuilding, economic transformation, and the road to global events, the message from the Viceroy was clear the future of Los Angeles will not be built in silos but built through cross-sector partnerships.

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

## GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

Pratt's been alive.

In short, Pratt has roughly the same chance of being mayor that Steve Garvey had of becoming a United States senator. Which is to say, none.

Still, the idea of Bass signal-boosting Pratt is enough to send concerns through other campaigns. That's because highlighting Pratt is one other thing — potentially effective.

Recent polling puts Raman narrowly

ahead of Pratt in the all-important race for second place — and thus an entry into the runoff — but with lots of undecided voters and Bass coming in at around 25%, nothing is yet fixed in the race.

If efforts to highlight Pratt's candidacy move him up a few points and Raman down a few, Bass could get the runoff she wants.

And that would seal this contest. After all, Schiff is now a U.S. senator.

Jim Newton, CalMatters Contributor

# SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

## ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

School District Board of Education member Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein said last week he will not seek a fourth term, citing his support for a successor rather than his own continued service. In a notable move, he has thrown his weight behind Robert Staenberg to fill his seat.

Staenberg has yet to file campaign finance paperwork with the city but confirmed to the Daily Press that he is running.

"I am going to run for School Board, a decision I came to after quite a few conversations and a lot of introspection," Staenberg told the Daily Press. "Richard's support and encouragement means an enormous amount."

Tahvildaran-Jesswein, first elected in 2014 and currently in his third term, is among four SMMUSD board members whose seats are on the November ballot. The others are Vice President Laurie Lieberman, who is in her fourth term after first being elected in 2010; Alicia Mignano, who is in her first term after first being elected in 2022; and Stacy Rouse, also in her first term following her 2022 election. As of this week, challenger Harry Leshner has filed paperwork to run, as has incumbent Mignano.

### CITY COUNCIL: THREE SEATS, FAMILIAR FACES AND SOME UNCERTAINTY

Three of the seven at-large City Council seats are on the November ballot — those held by Mayor Caroline Torosis, Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Zwick and Councilmember Lana Negrete, all of whom were first elected in November 2022 although Negrete was appointed to the council prior to her first election.

Torosis has already filed to seek reelection. Zwick, however, has publicly expressed reservations about running again, citing family obligations and regulatory restrictions tied to his housing advocacy work. Negrete has not made a public statement about her plans.

Beyond Torosis, candidates who have opened campaign committee accounts include Eli Gill, Daniel Ivanov, Ericka Lesley, Brett Morrow, Derrick Townsend and Doug Trussler.

Santa Monica uses at-large elections for its seven-member council, whose members serve staggered four-year terms. The council — not voters — selects the mayor after each biennial election using a formula based on seniority and vote count. A long-running California Voting Rights Act lawsuit, *Pico Neighborhood Association v. City of Santa Monica*, is scheduled to return to trial this year after a prior verdict was overturned on appeal, but will not affect the format of this year's election. The city's term-limit law, allows council members to serve up to three four-year terms.

### RENT CONTROL BOARD: POTENTIAL VACANCIES LOOM

Three of five seats on the Santa Monica Rent Control Board are up for election, held by Chair Daniel Ivanov, Kurt Gonska and Ericka Lesley, all of whom were seated in November 2022.

As of April 2026, no candidates have filed or publicly announced for the Rent Control Board. The rent control election has gone uncontested in each of the past two election cycles: in 2022, exactly three candidates filed for three seats, and in 2024, exactly two filed for two seats. If the number of qualified candidates does not exceed the number of

vacancies, no election is held and candidates are automatically seated.

That dynamic could change this cycle. Both Ivanov and Lesley have signaled interest in City Council seats — candidates cannot hold two elected offices simultaneously — which would create genuine vacancies on the Rent Control Board and potentially produce the board's first contested race in years.

The board has also formed a charter amendment subcommittee to develop potential ballot measures, including possible changes to registration requirements, owner-occupancy rules and term limits.

### SANTA MONICA COLLEGE TRUSTEES: FOUR SEATS IN PLAY

Four of seven at-large seats on the Santa Monica Community College District Board of Trustees are on the November ballot. The seats are currently held by Chair Dr. Sion Roy, who is in his second term after first being elected in 2018; Dr. Nancy Greenstein, who is in her sixth term and is the longest-serving current trustee; Vice Chair Dr. Tom Peters, who is in his first term after being elected in 2022; and Dr. Luis Barrera Castañón, who was appointed in February 2025 to fill the vacancy left when Barry Snell was elected to City Council in 2024.

Roy is running for State Senate District 24, meaning his trustee seat will likely be open. Kera Blades-Snell and Thomas Peters have filed paperwork to establish campaign committees for the SMC Board race.

### ELECTION TIMELINE: WHAT CANDIDATES NEED TO KNOW

The nomination period for the Nov. 3 election runs from between the 113th day and the 88th day before the election and will be extended if an incumbent fails to file. This year those dates will likely be Monday, July 13, through Friday, Aug. 7, at 5 p.m. with a possible extension to Wednesday, Aug. 12.

The City Clerk's Office is expected to hold a candidate workshop on the first day of the nomination period at City Hall, 1685 Main St. Candidates must pick up a nomination packet — either at the workshop or by appointment during the nomination period — which includes two nomination petitions to circulate among registered voters.

To qualify for the ballot, candidates must collect at least 100 valid signatures from registered voters in the jurisdiction of the office they are seeking. A \$25 filing fee is due when petitions and forms are submitted. Candidates who choose to submit an optional 200-word statement for inclusion in the official sample ballot must pay a \$1,100 statement fee. Candidates unable to pay at the time of filing may submit a Statement of Financial Worth to request a deferral.

Candidates must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old on or before Election Day and a registered voter living in the jurisdiction at the time nomination papers are issued. Those planning to raise more than \$2,000 or spend more than \$1,000 must file a Statement of Organization (Form 410) with the Secretary of State and establish an electronic filing account with the City Clerk's Office before the nomination period opens.

Write-in candidates have a separate filing window expected to run from approximately Sept. 8 through Oct. 20.

### HOW VOTERS CAST BALLOTS

Los Angeles County administers election operations for Santa Monica under California's Voter's Choice Act. Every active registered voter will automatically receive a vote-by-mail ballot although there are

questions about that process as the Trump administration continues to attack mail-in voting. Ballots can be returned by mail, deposited at secure drop boxes available, or cast in person at any LA County Vote Center.

Vote Centers open approximately 10 days before the election

Voters must be registered 15 days prior to the election. Same-day conditional voter registration is available at Vote Centers through Election Day.

editor@smdp.com

# GET IT DAILY..



## 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](http://wtwd.ludus.com)



CITY OF SANTA MONICA  
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS TO THE  
Measure GS Resident Oversight Committee

### UNSCHEDULED VACANCY

#### MEASURE GS RESIDENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:

One seat available for a term ending: **June 30, 2029**

Applicant must be a Santa Monica resident who meet one of the following requirements:

- Minimum of 1 expert in homelessness prevention

Registered lobbyists and persons working for organizations seeking funding from the Homelessness Prevention and Affordable Housing Fund are ineligible to serve as members.

Applications due by noon, May 5, 2026

Appointments to be made by City Council, May 12, 2026

Applicants are encouraged to attend the meeting and speak about their qualifications during public comment.

No Santa Monica City Employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

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**Hana Goble**  
 Hana attended Gemological Institute of America after graduating from UC Riverside and has been passionate about antique jewelry for over a decade. Her deep interest in the history and craftsmanship of fine jewelry led her to work as a traveling buyer for a prominent estate jeweler, specializing in old-cut diamonds and signed pieces. She especially enjoys researching hallmarks and uncovering the history behind jewelry she encounters.

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**Michael Merritt**  
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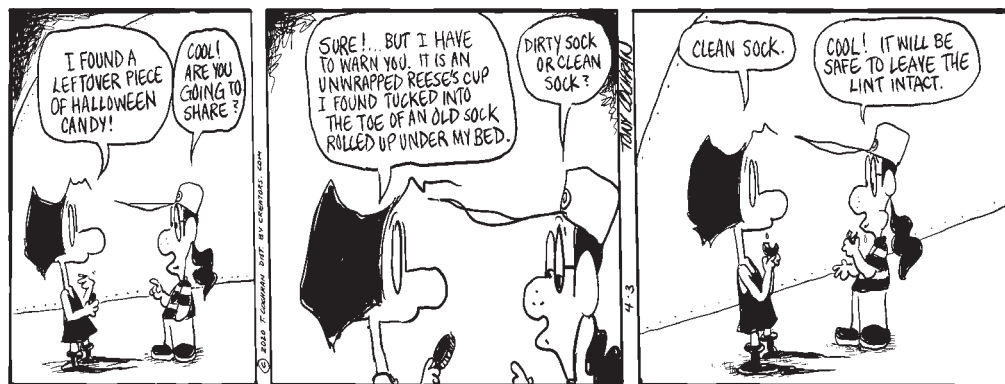
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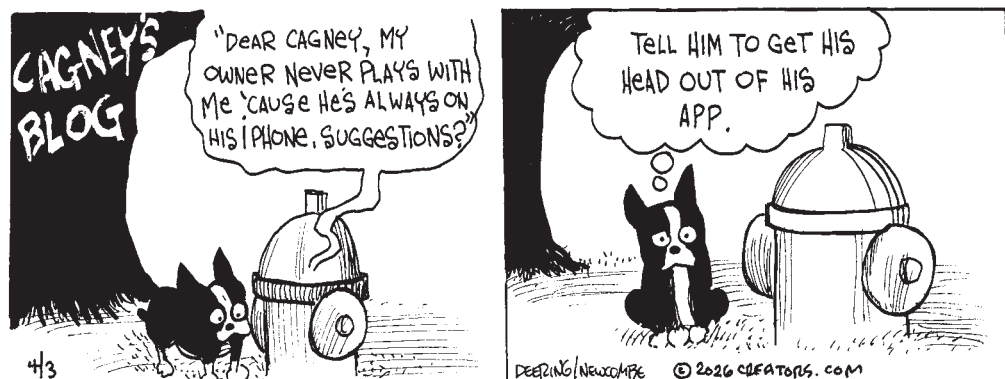
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By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



### 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 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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## Rainforest discoveries

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

- |         |               |          |           |
|---------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| Aerial  | Care          | Goanna   | Paths     |
| feeders | Damp          | Green    | Quiet     |
| Algae   | Epiphyte      | Gums     | Smell     |
| Ants    | Fern          | Heat     | Snails    |
| Aril    | Fig           | Humidity | Soil      |
| Bats    | Fish          | Lichen   | Staghorn  |
| Bees    | Flora         | Lizard   | Tawny     |
| Bird    | Fragmentation | Lush     | frogmouth |
| Bites   | Fungus        | Mist     | Turkey    |
| Bleak   | Germinate     | Moss     | Vine      |
| Canopy  | Glades        | Palms    |           |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 3)**

Welcome to your Year of the Bustling Market when your ideas, talents and stories find eager audiences. The exchange between what you offer and what you receive becomes delightfully balanced. More highlights: A creative endeavor grows into dependable income. A relationship becomes more adventurous through travel, art and new social scenes. By year's end, you'll look around and realize your world has grown larger and far more interesting. Taurus and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 24, 5, 38, 12 and 7.

**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You'll get the job done, but that's not what they notice. People see the respect you pay with your approach, the thought behind your moves, and they'll appreciate your style. You'll leave an impression beyond the finished work.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Financial potential gleams today, and it will respond to attention. Clean out your wallet, inbox or desktop. Order invites attention, and attention notices opportunity. Learn the names of the people who handle money around you - bookkeepers, managers, gatekeepers. Relationships move resources.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Sometimes you're called to a task; other times it's about the money or external validation, and there's nothing wrong with that. But since you're always happier when you love the actual work, you'll use that as your guide for picking your next project.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). There's lots of help that doesn't help anyone but the "hero" offering it. Look for motive. Don't accept people's solutions until after you know the backstory. It's a day to ask more questions and leave lots of space for the answers.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You can't tell from the storefront what's on sale. You have to go in and investigate. Today the metaphor applies across the board, so skip the window-shopping and let your curiosity embolden you to enter.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You accept that winning often involves loss. You're willing to tolerate a little disappointment, look past it, stay hopeful. A little rain must fall, and you continue through it. Success is a matter of movement.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What's trivial? Everything matters to someone. A drop of water is a universe to the microbe. Perspective changes scale. Today, what seems small from afar will contain a whole world of consequence, effort and meaning to those living inside it.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Healthy friendship goes both ways. Notice who initiates, remembers details, follows up and shows up without prompting. If you're always planning, carrying or brightening the room, that's labor. The right friends contribute energy, not just consume it.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are reasons you don't push for what you really want. It's not a lack of confidence on your part but a sense that the other person is not ready to give it. It doesn't mean you should give up or turn back; it just calls for a bit of strategy.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your cosmic gift is a sense of belonging that fortifies you. It's good to be understood. And when someone seems to do this fully, actively and with so much love... you feel more like yourself in their presence.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The classic philosophical position echoed in Stoicism, Buddhism and many leadership traditions: to govern oneself is a deeper form of strength than controlling others. Today you will embody the most durable form of power - self-command.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Appearances deceive. The obvious interpretation is often wrong. Wisdom comes from looking deeper, and today you're uniquely equipped for it, with a kind of inner sonar that can reach far beneath the surface and return with truth.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

**Newsday Crossword**

**NOTHING'S MISSING** by Alan Levin  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Vacation venue
- 4 Hair-covering scarf
- 9 Part of government agency acronyms
- 12 Beverages that sound bothersome
- 13 First side-by-side fridge/freezer
- 14 Sushi staple
- 15 Lateral lead-in
- 16 *Candles* director
- 18 Midwest oil center
- 20 *Angelo* instrument
- 21 Outdoor gear chain
- 22 Dejected
- 26 \_\_\_-camp
- 30 *Rock* star
- 33 Portrayed
- 34 What you'd never want on your house
- 35 Toon sailor's sweetheart
- 36 Votes for
- 38 Marriott School deg.
- 39 Sounds displeased
- 41 It may be legal
- 42 Corridor
- 44 Bit of energy
- 45 % alcohol
- 49 Campaign manager
- 51 14 AAAAAA, for 35-Across
- 52 Copycat
- 53 Sparkly mineral
- 55 Traditional battlers
- 57 What to include with three Across definitions
- 63 Sound off
- 64 Work for
- 65 Serene state
- 66 Old hands
- 67 Dominate in competition
- 68 Poke around
- 69 Needing a lift

**DOWN**

- 1 Blockbuster's frequent follow-up
- 2 Brother of Rocky's wife
- 3 At the purchaser's risk
- 4 Mecca pilgrimage
- 5 "I think..." text
- 6 Rastafarian Almighty
- 7 Novelist Sewell
- 8 Persian Gulf nation
- 9 Ho-hum
- 10 Friar Tuck refreshment
- 11 Sinuous shape
- 12 Colorful aquarium purchase
- 14 Conan Doyle exclamation
- 17 Go \_\_\_ smoke

- 19 Arafat successor
- 23 SFO shuttle destination
- 24 Host for the Simpsons' first show
- 25 Food
- 27 Furry member of Skywalker's army
- 28 Rather long time to be patient
- 29 YMCA fluency class
- 31 Agcy. with buses to O'Hare
- 32 Abundant holdings
- 36 Place to play croquet
- 37 Just beat
- 39 Shipping department supply
- 40 It's NW of Iraq
- 41 Lentil cousin
- 42 Minor malfunctions

- 43 Least populous US state
- 45 "*Absolut nicht!*"
- 46 State bordering Veracruz
- 47 Started the show
- 48 Themed events
- 50 Marvel mutants, mostly
- 54 Last word of Revelation
- 56 Historical studies
- 57 Annual report signatory
- 58 Word from a despot
- 59 Server made of metal
- 60 Dim-sum bun
- 61 Fuel-saving driving mode
- 62 Speak for

**Sudoku**

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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.

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

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11			
12					13						14					
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41									42			43				
44									45				46	47	48	
49									50				51		52	
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57	58	59							60	61	62		63			
64									65					66		
67									68						69	

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**MALIBU**

FROM PAGE 1

systems and mobile warning sirens among the improvements now underway.

The City Council received the after-action report at its March 23 meeting, a document prepared by Witt O'Brien's, a national emergency management firm, that evaluated the city's Emergency Operations Center response to the Franklin Fire in December 2024 and the far more destructive Palisades Fire in January 2025. Together, the fires destroyed more than 700 structures in Malibu and ranked among the most consequential disasters in the city's history.

**“The test has to be, can you wake everybody up at two o'clock in the night, without any power, without any cell service, without any telephone service?”**

- Doug Stewart, Council member

Public Safety Director Susan Dueñas told the council that several key recommendations from the report had already been put into action. The city has transitioned its EOC software to Microsoft Teams and trained staff on the new platform. The city's LA-RICS radio network has been expanded by 18 units to a total of 48 radios citywide, a change officials credited with improving field communications during the later stages of the Palisades Fire response.

The city is also in the process of acquiring two mobile siren trailers from the City of Los Angeles, to be deployed during critical red flag days as a backup alert mechanism for residents. A new EOC incident management team of approximately 15 specially trained staff members is also being developed, officials said.

Despite those gains, the report identified persistent vulnerabilities — none more urgent, council members agreed, than the city's inability to reliably warn residents when power and cell service fail simultaneously.

“The test has to be, can you wake everybody up at two o'clock in the night, without any power, without any cell service, without any telephone service?” said Council member Doug Stewart, who served as mayor during the fires. “That's what we face.”

The city's primary alert system, the Everbridge notification platform, delivers warnings via landline, cell phone and email — all of which depend on functioning infrastructure. The after-action report found

that Public Safety Power Shutoffs during both fires knocked out communications systems at critical moments, at times making it impossible to send alerts to residents or coordinate among EOC staff. Officials acknowledged that a comprehensive, infrastructure-independent alert system remains an unsolved problem.

Council member Haylynn Conrad noted the city has been discussing a citywide alert solution for years without resolution. Dueñas confirmed discussions are ongoing and that a NOAA radio repeater serving the area was also found to be non-functional during the fires.

A separate debate emerged over whether elected officials need more formal emergency training — and what their proper role is during a disaster.

Stewart, drawing on his background in corporate risk management, argued that all council members should complete Federal Emergency Management Agency's Incident Command System courses ICS-100 and ICS-700, foundational training required of all EOC personnel. He said the coursework would give elected officials a framework for understanding emergency operations without interfering in them.

“I'm not saying that the ICS training puts you in a chair at the EOC,” Stewart said. “But in order for us to evaluate exactly what we have in front of us, we should understand what the staff is required to do.”

Mayor Bruce Silverstein pushed back, citing the report's own findings. The after-action review found that the city's management team failed to formally convene the EOC policy group — which includes the City Council — during the fires, preventing elected officials from making high-level policy decisions. Instead, council members communicated informally with staff on an ad hoc basis, which the report found created “the potential for operational confusion by blurring the distinction between field-level priorities and the strategic policy decisions” that should rest with elected officials.

Silverstein said the council's proper role is not operational but legislative — meeting formally to set policy direction, coordinate public messaging, and press state and federal officials for resources. He said the council was repeatedly denied the ability to convene during the emergency.

Council member Marianne Riggins said the two positions were not mutually exclusive, suggesting the city develop formal training for council members focused specifically on when and how elected officials should engage during a crisis, and that a dedicated policy room separate from the EOC floor be established.

City Manager Joseph D. Irvin said he was committed to organizing joint training for both staff and council members before the next fire season.

“Ideally, you have a separate room that's the policy room,” Irvin said. “And we could organize that, work with the city attorney and city clerk on meetings as needed.”

The after-action report was received and filed without a vote. It will be submitted to the State of California in accordance with state reporting requirements. The city has scheduled a community workshop on evacuation planning for April 28 at City Hall.

maaz@smdp.com

**FRIDAY | APRIL 3****BEACH WALK MEDITATION**

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Santa Monica Lifeguard Tower 22 2200 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, or lying down. 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...creating a potent wellness experience that enhances our mental clarity, alertness, and overall well-being. Free—Donations are accepted. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/beach-walk-meditation/16206460/2026-04-03T08>

**BRUNCH FRIDAYS WITH LIVE MUSIC IN OUR GARDEN PATIO!**

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tiato Kitchen & Venue 2700 Colorado Ave Santa Monica. Our newly launched Brunch Fridays just got vibey-er! Every week enjoy great eats, summer libations, and a featured music artist on our beautiful garden patio! So come toast to summer with our uniquely crafted brunch menu including our Turmeric Spiced Cloud Egg dish, Smoked Gouda Scramble with Smashed Ube, Vietnamese French Toast, along with Mama An classics such as Famous Garlic Noodles, Shaken Beef, and Seafood Egg Fried Rice! And of course, it wouldn't be brunch without bottomless mimosas & summer punch bowls, so grab your brunch crew and enjoy the fair along the beautiful backdrop of Al fresco dining. RESERVE NOW. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/brunch-fridays-with-live-music-in-our-garden-patio/14639006/2026-04-03T11>

**BUNDY TRIANGLE NIGHT MARKET**

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Bundy Triangle 1500 S Bundy Drive Los Angeles. Cayton Children's Museum will offer free, weekly hands-on activities for children and families at the Bundy Triangle Night Market in Sawtelle every Friday from March 27 through the end of October, the museum announced. The programming, offered in partnership with Los Angeles City Councilwoman Traci Park, will run from 5 to 8 p.m. each Friday at the Bundy Triangle, a public space at Ohio Avenue and Bundy Drive. The broader night market, presented by Raw Inspiration, runs from 5 to 9 p.m. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/bundy-triangle-night-market/18490079/2026-04-03T17>

**SATURDAY | APRIL 4****WELLNESS & WAVES RETURNS TO SANTA MONICA PIER, FREE SAT. MORNING FITNESS**

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Pier Corporation invites the community to move, stretch, and recharge by the ocean as Wellness & Waves returns for its 2026 season. Taking place every Saturday from April 4 through October 17, 2026, from 8 to 10 a.m., this free, all-ages wellness series

transforms the iconic Santa Monica Pier into an open-air fitness destination at the most iconic outdoor setting in Southern California. With the Pacific Ocean as its backdrop, Wellness & Waves offers a welcoming, energizing way to start the weekend—no membership required. Each Saturday morning begins at the top of the Santa Monica Pier at the intersection of Colorado and Ocean with an easygoing group run from 8 to 9 a.m., open to all levels. Guests can then head to the west end of the Pier for yoga and yoga-pilates fusion classes from 9 to 10 a.m., led by top local instructors. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wellness-waves-returns-to-santa-monica-pier-free-sat-morning-fitness/18475500/2026-04-04T08>

**SANTA MONICA FARMERS MARKET - VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK/PICO BOULEVARD**

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave Santa Monica. The family market in the heart of the Pico neighborhood's Virginia Avenue Park! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/santa-monica-farmers-market-virginia-avenue-park-pico-boulevard/12382447/2026-04-04T08>

**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/17327106/2026-04-04T09>

**SATURDAY MORNING YOGA WITH KIM**

9:15 a.m. - 5:15 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Free Community Yoga created with care for those impacted by the Palisades Fire In case this event has been updated, please visit <https://www.pcrsm.org/event/saturday-morning-yoga-with-kim-0ad10> for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/saturday-morning-yoga-with-kim/18425309/2026-04-04T09>

**ROMAN GARDEN: SEED BALL WORKSHOP**

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Getty Villa 17985 E Pacific Coast Hwy Pacific Palisades. Family programs are always free, and do not require a ticket. However, the Villa requires a timed-entry reservation. Please note, there is a fee for parking. Make reservations here: <https://gty.art/4qsgcKo> Celebrate nature and get your hands delightfully dirty in this seed ball-making workshop! Mix and mold seed balls filled with fragrant flowers and herbs once popular in ancient Roman gardens and kitchens. Discover simple recipes and growing tips, then enjoy an inspiring stroll through the Villa gardens before planting a little history of your own. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/roman-garden-seed-ball-workshop/18261574/2026-04-04T11>

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
- Dance Performances & Master Classes
- Intercollegiate Athletic Competitions
- Music Concerts
- 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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