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COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
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2 **New Housing**
Coming to Ocean Park Ave.

3 **Public Media**
Under threat.

4 **Civic leaders needed**
Not politicians.

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Events for the week.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 175 MONDAY 7/28/25 smdp.com

Santa Monica Council wants worker protection ordinances for city-owned properties

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The City Council has directed the city attorney to draft new ordinances requiring "right to recall" and labor peace agreements for businesses operating on city-owned properties, including the iconic Santa Monica Pier.

The council voted to approve the measure despite concerns from Mayor Lana Negrete about potential government overreach into small business hiring practices. The ordinances would protect workers on revenue-generating city properties while ensuring business continuity.

WORKER PROTECTIONS PROPOSED

The right to recall provision would require employers to prioritize rehiring qualified former employees based on seniority when positions become available. Workers must be employed for at least six months before gaining protection, and the policy would only apply to layoffs for non-disciplinary reasons such as economic downturns or seasonal fluctuations.

"It enables employers to actually prioritize rehiring of qualified former employees based on

SEE **WORKER** PAGE 7

Trump orders new crackdown on street homelessness



Matthew Hall

PARKS: President Trump wants more enforcement of vagrancy laws targeting homelessness.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on July 24 titled "Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets," launching a federal crackdown on homelessness that prioritizes enforcement and involuntary treatment over housing-first approaches that have guided local policy for years.

The order represents a sharp policy shift that frames street homelessness as "endemic vagrancy" and public disorder. It directs federal agencies to prioritize funding for states and cities that aggressively enforce anti-camping

SEE **TRUMP** PAGE 11

Palisades rebuilding effort takes root despite insurance woes

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Months after wildfires devastated large portions of Pacific Palisades, a slow but determined push to rebuild is beginning to reshape the charred hillsides and fractured neighborhoods. At the center of the recovery effort is Thomas James Homes, a builder with deep roots in the area that has become a key player in getting families back into permanent housing.

With hundreds of lots still vacant and insurance challenges stalling many families' return, the task ahead remains daunting. But for Jeffrey Fair, Vice President of Sales for Thomas James Homes in the Palisades, the goal is clear: simplify the process and restore a sense of community stability.

"We're basically putting people under contract to rebuild their property from start to finish," Fair said. "It's essentially an all-inclusive design-build-permit-plan, fixed-cost. Here's your keys. That's our program."

Thomas James Homes, which has built more than 50 homes in the Palisades since 2013, now has eight active projects under contract, with construction underway at three sites and four city permits already secured. The firm recently began

SEE **PALISADES** PAGE 7



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Santa Monica office building could be replaced by 7-story housing and retail project



Courtesy image

REDEVELOPMENT: The project would convert offices to housing.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Developers have submitted plans to replace a two-story office building at 3205 Ocean Park Ave with a seven-story mixed-use project.

The existing 1970s structure would be demolished to make way for 102 apartments comprising a mix of studios, one-bedrooms and two-bedrooms. At street level the project includes 4,251 square feet of commercial space and a one-level underground parking garage with 122 vehicle stalls. According to plan documents, parking provisions also include electric-vehicle charging stations and bicycle stalls .

A total of 16 of the units would be deed-restricted for moderate-income, low-income and very-low-income renters in exchange for density bonuses under State law including AB 1287. The development is privately funded and does not rely on state or federal low-income tax credits .

JZA Architecture has designed the building in a podium style. Renderings depict a structure with two open courtyards and a rooftop deck for residents. Site plans show approximately 10,700 square feet of combined private and common open space throughout the building .

The proposed development would sit directly north of Santa Monica Airport, a 192-acre site now slated for permanent closure by the end of 2028. Earlier this month, the Santa Monica City Council voted to pursue a park-only future for the airport site, directing staff to study a scenario that complies with Measure LC and would not require voter approval. The motion passed despite concerns from some councilmembers who argued that eliminating housing from the study process was premature and could limit the city's flexibility amid a worsening regional housing crisis.

While the airport redevelopment remains in early planning stages, the council's direction signals a preference for open space over new residential or commercial development. That decision may influence future land use and neighborhood dynamics around Ocean Park Blvd, where new housing like the proposed 102-unit project could play a more prominent role in meeting Santa Monica's state-mandated housing goals. Staff are expected to return in fall 2025 with refined plans, including cost estimates and funding options, while consultants continue gathering input from the public.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS
DISTRICT: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive no later than the below-stated date and time, sealed BIDS from General Contractors. The Project encompasses the following overall scope:

Track, Field, and Scoreboard Replacement::
The project includes the following features: Resurfacing the Existing Track Surface-Includes surface preparation, patching, and application of new track surfacing and striping for athletic performance. Replacement of Synthetic Turf Field- Complete removal and disposal of the existing turf system, subgrade preparation, and installation of new synthetic turf with infill. Removal of Existing Scoreboard Assembly: Disconnection and removal of the current scoreboard and associated components. Installation of New Digital Display System Includes furnishing and installing a new ID panel, video display, scoreboard, and clock box on the exterior of the existing Parking Structure "C", with all necessary electrical and data connections.

Procedure:

Tuesday, July 29, 2025, bid packages will be available at ARC West LA Branch located at 1736 S Sepulveda Bivd. Los Angeles, CA 90025.
Contact for all inquiries: **Kyle Whitley, Senior Project Manager, kyle.whitley@vanir.com; Mathew Denuccio, Project Manager, matt.denuccio@vanir.com**
Contractor's License Classification: California Contractors License A or B.
Mandatory Pre-Bid Walk: **Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 1:00 PM. 2121 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS: 1:00 PM, September 8, 2025, BID MUST BE HAND DELIVERED

LOCATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, DISTRICT FACILITIES PLANNING OFFICE, 1510 PICO BLVD, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, ATTENTION: CHARLIE YEN. **September 8, 2025**

1. Contractors License Classification. In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §3300, the District requires that contractors possess the following classifications) of California Contractors License **A or B.** Any General Contractor not so duly and properly licensed will result in denial of pre-qualification.

2. Labor Compliance Program (AB 1506). The District has established a Labor Compliance Program ('LCP") pursuant to Labor Code 1771.5. The Contractor qualifying to bid the work shall comply with the LCP and provisions of the Contract Documents relating to implementation, compliance with, and enforcement of the LCP.

3. No Withdrawal of Bid Proposals. Bid Proposals shall not be withdrawn by any Bidder for a period of **ninety (90)** days after the opening of Bid Proposals. During this time, all Bidders shall guarantee prices quoted in their respective Bid Proposals.

4. Award of Contract. The Contract for the Work, if awarded, will be by action of the District's Board of Trustees on **October 7, 2025,** to the responsible Bidder submitting the lowest responsible and responsive Bid Proposal

Publication Date: July 28th & August 4th
Last Day to Submit Bid RFI and Bid Product Substitution Request **August 25, 2025**
Post Bid Review: The week of September 8, 2025

California's NPR and PBS stations will cut staff and programs after funding slashed

Dozens of California public broadcasting stations will lose millions of dollars in funding after Republicans in Congress voted to strip them of federal funding, cutting off a vital lifeline in rural communities and limiting access to local news programming in an era of hyperpartisan national media.

While California broadcasters are assuring audiences that they plan to keep their signals running, they also warn that cost-saving changes are inevitable.

Radio and television stations of all sizes across the Golden State say that to survive, they'll likely be forced to lay off staff and cut programming unless they're able to make up the losses through fundraising. Their leaders warn that the cuts will disproportionately harm locally produced programs, the most expensive to create but among their most popular content, that inform millions of listeners and viewers.

Republicans have long wanted to cut funding for public broadcasting, arguing such services should be funded by private donors, not taxpayers. Their efforts prevailed when Congress last week finalized President Donald Trump's request to rescind $1.1 billion from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which provides grants to National Public Radio, the Public Broadcasting Service, their affiliates and other independent public media creators. All nine of California's Republican members of Congress voted in favor of the funding cuts.

Now, roughly 35 stations from San Diego to Hoopa in Humboldt County have lost critical funding.

While many public broadcasters remain hopeful that they'll find ways to endure, all agree the rescission undermines the egalitarian mission of public media – to create a nationwide network that provides access to quality information, stories and music for local communities.

"That has been our superpower," said Joe Moore, president and general manager of KVPR Valley Public Radio in Fresno. His station lost about 7% of its budget, or $175,000, from the CPB.

"The New York Times doesn't have the type of investment in Alaska or in North Dakota – or on tribal reservations, bringing local news from these communities – that public radio does."

Smaller stations whose budgets relied heavily on federal dollars to make ends meet are the most at risk of closure. In Eureka, the community-owned PBS affiliate KEET-TV stands to lose $847,000 – nearly half of its operating budget – due to the defunding of CPB. To survive, all of its funding will need to come from community support, since the station has no institutional backer such as a local college or school district.

David Gordon, KEET's general manager and executive director, says that as much as he hopes the station will stay afloat even at reduced capacity, he won't make the same bold proclamation that, "We're not going anywhere," like some stations have.

"I can't guarantee that KEET will be here once the dust settles from this defunding move," Gordon said. He emphasized that he was speaking for himself and not on behalf of his station.

"I hope it is, and I think there's a good chance that it'll survive in some form. But absolutely will it? I don't know if I can say that."

Nearby, Mendocino-based NPR member station KZYX was forced to lay off its news director after losing 25% of its operating budget, or $174,000, from the CPB. That means news will include fewer in-depth stories, such as interviews with city council members or county supervisors, said Andre de Channes, KZYX's general manager and director of operations.

"There isn't the time to source out those kinds of things," he said. "So the news gets more like a headline news."

The station serves roughly 130,000 listeners, including in Mendocino County and part of Lake County. When de Channes first learned about the CPB cuts, he immediately worried about fire safety, since listeners who live in off-the-grid rural areas without access to internet or cell service rely on KZYX for emergency information.

Those potentially lifesaving emergency alerts became a rallying cry for public media providers and their allies as they begged Congress to preserve funding for their stations, especially those in remote, rural areas that also tend to be Republican. Frank Lanzone, the longtime general manager of the NPR-affiliated KCBX in San Luis Obispo, said his station has sometimes been the only on-air source providing emergency information during severe weather events.

"There's been several times in very bad storms when we're the only station on the air in our area because of either power outages or people's generators ran out of propane," said Lanzone, who has worked in public radio for more than 50 years.

KCBX, which serves about 45,000 listeners from Santa Barbara to Monterey, will lose $240,000 in funding from CPB, about 13% of its operating budget.

"It's going to hurt the stations and the people that listen to them who need it the most," Lanzone said. "The most vulnerable, the ones out in the middle of nowhere."

LOCAL PROGRAMS ARE MOST AT RISK

Both radio and television station leaders emphasized that local programming – shows that are created and produced in-house rather than purchased from another producer – will be first on the chopping block. To produce locally focused public television programming, stations must invest additional time, money and work on top of the membership dues they pay to be affiliated with PBS, which unlocks a large catalogue of programming that they can air at no additional cost.

For PBS viewers in the Inland Empire, that likely means the loss of popular local programs such as "Inland Edition," an Emmy-winning weekly half-hour public affairs show, and "Learn With Me," an award-winning bilingual English-Spanish children's show, both of which are produced in house by affiliate KVCR.

"The local stuff that's so important to

SEE **NPR** PAGE 7



Weather

Monday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 71.
Monday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 62.
Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 73.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/07/28	Mon	06:29 AM	0.13	L
2025/07/28	Mon	1:02 PM	4.55	H
2025/07/28	Mon	6:32 PM	2.06	L
2025/07/29	Tue	12:19 AM	4.79	H
2025/07/29	Tue	06:56 AM	0.72	L
2025/07/29	Tue	1:36 PM	4.60	H
2025/07/29	Tue	7:28 PM	2.12	L
2025/07/30	Wed	01:04 AM	4.05	H
2025/07/30	Wed	07:19 AM	1.33	L
2025/07/30	Wed	2:13 PM	4.62	H
2025/07/30	Wed	8:41 PM	2.13	L
2025/07/31	Thu	02:04 AM	3.33	H
2025/07/31	Thu	07:40 AM	1.91	L
2025/07/31	Thu	2:55 PM	4.65	H
2025/07/31	Thu	10:26 PM	1.95	L
2025/08/01	Fri	03:55 AM	2.80	H
2025/08/01	Fri	07:55 AM	2.42	L
2025/08/01	Fri	3:48 PM	4.70	H
2025/08/02	Sat	12:02 AM	1.52	L
2025/08/02	Sat	4:49 PM	4.83	H
2025/08/03	Sun	01:05 AM	1.02	L
2025/08/03	Sun	5:48 PM	5.07	H
2025/08/04	Mon	01:50 AM	0.54	L
2025/08/04	Mon	09:05 AM	3.39	H
2025/08/04	Mon	12:03 PM	3.15	L
2025/08/04	Mon	6:41 PM	5.39	H
2025/08/05	Tue	02:25 AM	0.13	L
2025/08/05	Tue	09:19 AM	3.58	H
2025/08/05	Tue	1:01 PM	2.99	L
2025/08/05	Tue	7:26 PM	5.76	H
2025/08/06	Wed	02:57 AM	-0.23	L
2025/08/06	Wed	09:37 AM	3.74	H
2025/08/06	Wed	1:46 PM	2.75	L
2025/08/06	Wed	8:05 PM	6.11	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: 7/23
2 18 19 25 35
Power#: 25
Jackpot: 350 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 7/22
22 41 42 59 69
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 120 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 7/23
9 10 34 42 45
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 28 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/24
2 4 11 15 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/24
EVENING: 4 2 1
Draw Date: 7/24
MIDDAY: 9 9 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/24
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:41.69

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 06/23/25 2025126134The following person(s) is (are) doing business The Rock and Roots Guitar Studio 1101 Colorado Ave Santa Monica, CA 90401 . Los AngelesArticles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Jonathan Horton 215 Dimmick Ave Los Angeles, CA 90291 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: An Individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 06/25. Registrant /Corp/LLC Jonathan Horton Title: Owner Jonathan Horton . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 06/23/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS 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 PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 06/30/25 2025132345The following person(s) is (are) doing business Reorg Couture 4041 Wade St Apt5 Los Angeles, CA 90066. Los AngelesArticles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Bruna Talarico 4041 Wade St Apt5 Los Angeles, CA 90066. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: An Individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. Registrant /Corp/LLCBruna Talarico Title: Owner Bruna Talarico . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 06/30/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS 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 PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 07/02/25 2025134386The following person(s) is (are) doing business La Maison De Jo 935 16th Street Front Santa Monica, CA 90403. Los AngelesArticles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Kailey Schmitt 16th Street Front Santa Monica, CA 90403 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: An Individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 09/23. Registrant /Corp/LLC Kailey Schmitt Title: Owner Kailey Schmitt . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 07/02/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS 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 PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 06/09/25 2025116460The following person(s) is (are) doing business 1. Raining Jane 2. Ice Cream Social 2720 Neilson Way #5111 Santa Monica, CA 90409. Los AngelesArticles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are 1. Mona Tavakoli 2720 Neilson Way #5111 Santa Monica, CA 90409. 2. Chaska Potter 2720 Neilson Way #5111 Santa Monica, CA 90409. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A General Partnership . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/15. Registrant /Corp/LLC Rebecca Gebhardt Title: General Partner Rebecca Gebhardt . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 06/09/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS 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 PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 07/3/25 2025135181The following person(s) is (are) doing business Steller Plumbing & Rooter 752 Brooks Ave Venice, CA 90291 . Los AngelesArticles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Steller Plumbing & Rooter LLC 752 Brooks Ave Venice, CA 90291 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Limited Liability Company . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 06/25. Registrant /Corp/LLC Steller Plumbing & Rooter LLCTitle: Managing Member Gerardo Quero . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 07/3/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS 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 PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

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Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name ChangeCase No. 25SMCP00356 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Amy Rosenbaum for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Amy Rosenbaum with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Amy Rosenbaum to Amy Nadir. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall 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 08/15/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _ The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Alhambra Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica, Ca 90405 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press

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Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00350 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Sabrina Love Bomberg for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Sabrina Love Bomberg court for a decree of changing names as follows: Sabrina Love Bomberg to Sabrina Audrey Love The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall 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 8/8 /2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _ The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica,CA 90401. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Los Angeles needs civic leaders right now. All it has are political ones



Photo by Larry Valenzuela for CalMatters

LA: View of downtown Los Angeles from Ascot Park during sunset on Nov. 18, 2022.

Plenty of Angelenos these days complain about what they see as the city's lack of leadership, a critique that often is directed at the city's mayor and council.

That's understandable in one sense — these are trying times, especially in big cities — but it's poorly focused in Los Angeles, where history and custom suggest that what's lacking is not necessarily political authority but civic leadership.

The lament focuses on several points: Mayor Karen Bass was unimpressive in the early days after the Palisades Fire; much of the city feels unsafe and run-down; the Olympics are fast-approaching, and Los Angeles doesn't feel ready to put on a show of that scale and significance.

These are fair complaints, but they include several fallacies and one key misunderstanding about what city leadership actually looks like.

It's true that Bass was on a diplomatic mission overseas when the fires erupted in January. When she first returned, she seemed overwhelmed by the magnitude of the challenge. But the recovery has moved relatively swiftly, and there is no evidence to suggest that her absence or early uncertainty made the situation worse.

Indeed, the fact that Altadena, which is outside the city limits, suffered precisely the same fate and then confronted precisely the same recovery obstacles — and that part of Los Angeles is rebounding at least as quickly — is proof that Bass's contributions have helped, not hindered, the work in the Palisades.

This was a fire, bigger than any mayor or fire department. Bass should be judged on the recovery, and so far, she has earned high marks.

As for public safety, while Los Angeles may feel embattled to some residents, it's actually safer than it has been in many, many years. New updates on crime and homelessness reveal progress on both fronts. Homicides are on pace to reach annual lows in 2025 not seen in decades, and the number of people sleeping on city streets has declined in back-to-back years.

That does not sound like failure.

The sense of a city in disrepair is to be reckoned with, but addressing it — in Los Angeles, San Francisco and elsewhere — starts by being clear that the numbers do not support the uneasiness. For anyone who lived in Los Angeles in the 1990s, when more than 1,000 people a year were being murdered — this is a much safer

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 6

COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

LA County Sheriff Oversight Commission Elects New Leadership



Courtesy photo
L-R: Co-Vice Chair Arthur Calloway, Chair Hans Johnson, and Co-Vice Chair Luis S. Garcia.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission has unanimously elected Commissioner Hans Johnson as its new chair, along with reelecting Commissioner Luis S. Garcia and electing Commissioner Arthur Calloway II as co-vice chairs for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Johnson replaces former Chair Robert C. Bonner, who served since the commission's inception in 2017 until his term ended this month when Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger opted not to renew it.

"Strong oversight is public safety," Johnson said. "My goals are to strengthen collaboration with the Department and how it seeks and values our input; to secure a new mandate to do our job as a Commission; to shine a light on the hard truths of deputy gangs and eradicate this lasting cancer in the Department."

Johnson serves as president of Progressive Victory, a nationally recognized consultancy on advocacy strategy and good governance practices in the nonprofit sector. He has more than 20 years of experience working in over 20 states with local advocates who track hate crimes and train public safety officers in LGBTQ awareness and cultural competency.

Garcia, who is serving his second term, works as a senior consultant at Advocates for Human Potential, a behavioral health consulting firm. He is also a licensed clinical social worker and founder of Sentir Psychotherapy.

"I remain committed to strengthening transparency and accountability, deepening community trust, and building bridges between the community and the LASD," Garcia said.

Calloway, the commission's newest member appointed in September 2024, is the first commissioner based in the Antelope Valley. An Air Force veteran, he advocates for racial justice and domestic violence prevention while serving as chair of the Antelope Valley Black Chamber of Commerce.

"My goal is to eliminate the need for my position," Calloway said. "We should not need to have oversight. We should only have organizations that hold themselves accountable."

Under Bonner's leadership in fiscal year 2024-2025, the commission pursued revisions to its governing ordinance and issued subpoenas for confidential documents about deputies' use of force, which the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has challenged in court.

The commission was created by the Board of Supervisors in 2016 to provide independent oversight of the sheriff's department and investigate its policies, practices and procedures.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Malibu

Malibu Advances Phase 3 of Community Lands Project with Performing Arts Center Plans

The City of Malibu has launched Phase 3 of its Community Lands Project, advancing plans for a performing arts center on the Parcel C at Cross Creek Ranch property, formerly known as La Paz.

The phase marks progress in the city's long-term vision to create public spaces that reflect community needs, according to city officials. However, development will proceed gradually as the city focuses on recovery from recent wildfires.

"While we're excited to advance into this next phase of planning and community engagement, we recognize that any development efforts will progress gradually," Mayor Marianne Riggins said. "The City remains focused on community wide recovery and rebuilding in the aftermath of the recent fires, and that will continue to influence the pace of any projects on our community lands."

Phase 3 centers on developing a performing arts center on the Cross Creek Ranch lot. Cross Creek Ranch developers created conceptual designs for the proposed facility, which the Malibu Arts Commission reviewed April 22.

The Arts Commission will host a community workshop Wednesday, July 30, at 6 p.m. at Malibu City Hall and via Zoom to gather public input on the conceptual design.

The Community Lands Project launched in 2024 as a comprehensive outreach initiative to gather community input on five city-owned properties totaling approximately 61 acres. Phase 1 collected broad feedback on potential land uses, while Phase 2 refined input by identifying specific preferences for each property.

Based on community input, the City Council on Oct. 28, 2024, directed staff to move forward with a phased development strategy reflecting community priorities and needs.

Plans for the Ioki Lot, formerly the Chili Cook-Off Lot, and the Heathercliff Lot have been temporarily paused due to impacts from recent Los Angeles County fires. The Ioki Lot and Triangle Lot are currently being used for essential services, including as a base for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to facilitate wildfire debris removal and storage and staging for traffic signal synchronization equipment.

For more information and updates, visit MalibuCommunityLands.org.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

city. And though homelessness remains dismayingly widespread, progress should be applauded.

Is the region ready for the Olympics? No. But the concern about the Olympics is a good reminder of what actually counts for leadership in this city. While Los Angeles is not facing a crisis of political leadership, it does confront a dearth of civic leadership.

LEADERSHIP FROM BEYOND CITY HALL

It was not that long ago that the city's mayor was just one source of influence in this notoriously diffuse civic culture. The Committee of 25, a loose but powerful collection of civic leaders, once exercised quiet leadership over local affairs. The committee, organized by insurance executive Asa Call, collected some of the city's most influential executives and marshalled their efforts on behalf of city priorities, from municipal bond measures to the construction of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

The committee had its failings — it was almost entirely the domain of white, Protestant men, for one thing — but it complemented the mayor and council as a source of leadership.

With the committee's eventual demise, other notable individuals rose to fill the vacuum. Modest and shrewd, Warren Christopher acted as a kind of civic consigliere over his long and distinguished career. In addition to serving as a top deputy to President Carter and Secretary of State to President Clinton, Christopher chaired the colloquially titled "Christopher Commission" that examined the LAPD in the aftermath of the Rodney King beating in 1991.

The commission's findings about racism and brutality at the LAPD laid the groundwork for the modern police department. In all my years of covering local, state and national politics, I have never seen a commission whose recommendations resulted in more profound and lasting change.

Christopher died in 2011, but the baton of civic duty was carried forward by others, most notably billionaire philanthropist Eli Broad, whose civic contributions included school reform, the redesign of Los Angeles' architectural landscape and the completion of Disney Hall, which stood as a monument to civic failure until Broad took it over and brought it to fruition, delivering the city an architectural and cultural gem.

Mayors played a role in the work of those civic leaders — Mayor Tom Bradley created the commission that Christopher managed, and Mayor Richard Riordan turned to Broad for help with Disney Hall — but Christopher and Broad had their own standing and regard, independent of City Hall.

ILL-ADVISED POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS

That's what is absent in Los Angeles today. Where the city's political leadership has its stumbles and failings, its civic leadership is altogether missing in action.

Witness the aftermath of the Palisades fires. Bass turned to Steve Soboroff to lead that effort, but it quickly bogged down in misunderstandings about his role and whether he should be paid for it. He bowed out in April.

Developer Rick Caruso, meanwhile, convened a group of his own, but it drew largely from his political supporters, and was dismissed as a vehicle for his aggrandizement rather than for genuine city responsibility.

What made Christopher and Broad effective, in addition to their generosity and intelligence, was their disinterest in holding elected office. Their advice was unsullied by their personal ambition, at least in terms of local politics. Not so for Caruso.

Caruso could opt to be a civic leader in Los Angeles, but his ambition is too great for that. Instead, he aimed for political office and failed — Bass beat him by 10 points in 2022 — and he may yet try again, so he remains a would-be political figure rather than a civic leader.

Other sources of power and leadership have similarly disintegrated, most notably the Los Angeles Times. The Chandler family once stood at the center of Los Angeles leadership — for better and for worse — and the paper was a mighty voice.

Today, The Times is a shell of its former self, and its owner is more a subject of ridicule than a leader. To take just one example, he recently announced his intention to create a "leadership council." It sank without a trace. Who wants to be a member of a leadership council that shows no capacity for leading?

Which brings us back to the Olympics. One of those estimable L.A. figures who made a name for himself in actually guiding Los Angeles, rather than merely seeking political office, was Peter Ueberroth, whose signature contribution was in spearheading the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

Ueberroth helped make those games a roaring success and set a template for the modern Olympics. That did not, however, translate into political triumph. Ueberroth was a flop in his ill-advised 2003 campaign for governor.

That only underscores the point: Political leadership and civic leadership are different things. Los Angeles has the former, but it needs much more of the latter.

By Jim Newton. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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PALISADES

FROM PAGE 1

working with the mayor's office on a pilot program that uses artificial intelligence to expedite plan reviews. Fair said the company's guaranteed pricing structure, currently set at $650 per square foot, offers homeowners a rare level of predictability in an otherwise volatile rebuilding environment.

Still, for many residents, construction delays are not due to lack of interest or unwillingness to return. The real stumbling block, Fair said, is insurance.

"The biggest issue homeowners are contending with is getting through the process with their insurance company in order to realize the full amount of their proceeds," he said. "We're not experts in the insurance field, but that's probably the number one hurdle. It's what's keeping a lot of people frozen."

Public adjusters, experienced agents and well-structured policies have helped some residents move forward, but others remain stuck in limbo. While adjusters typically work on contingency and can be a lifeline for those struggling with claims, not all homeowners can afford the time, energy or legal leverage needed to unlock funds and begin reconstruction.

"It's not necessarily an epidemic," Fair said, "but that's probably the biggest issue for those who are not able or ready to move forward. The people who understand their policy and who they're working with, those are the ones who are already rebuilding."

Adding to the complexity is the emotional toll. Fair, a fourth-generation Palisadian, said the damage was personal. His children, who live with their mother in the area, were displaced from their townhouse for four months due to smoke damage. Their school, park and after-school center were among the community institutions that burned.

"His social sphere and his friends and kind of his way of life — that was taken from him as well," Fair said.

For those who have opted not to return, a new wave of buyers has emerged. According to Fair, 110 fire-damaged lots have been sold since January, many of them to families who intend to live in the area and rebuild. While some properties are trading below pre-fire values, he said the majority of transactions appear to be driven by residents with strong ties to the neighborhood, not outside developers.

"It's not across the board, by any stretch, that developers are going around buying every single lot," he said. "It's just not happening, not right now at least."

In the months ahead, Thomas James Homes plans to open a design studio in Brentwood to support the Palisades rebuild and a broader push into the Westside. The company is also closely monitoring changes in local permitting policies, including the rollout of one-stop permit shops and ongoing coordination with city departments.

Fair said the key to speeding up recovery is continued cooperation between public agencies and builders.

"Every decision that should be made should be made with homeowner in mind across the board," he said. "There's a real opportunity here to make this process work better for people. We're seeing positive steps, and I'd like that to continue."

While it remains unclear how many former residents will ultimately return, Fair said he continues to feel a sense of cautious optimism. He described a growing buzz in the neighborhood, fueled by families eager to rebuild, reconnect and restore what was lost.

WORKER

FROM PAGE 1

seniority if and when those folks are rehired," said Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Torosis, who sponsored the measure along with Council Members Ellis Raskin and Jesse Zwick.

When recalled, former employees would receive a 90-day probationary period before performance evaluations. Council Member Jesse Zwick clarified the ordinance "wouldn't infringe upon an employer's right to basically relieve someone of their employment if they're not performing their duties."

Labor peace agreements would minimize the risk of labor disruptions by allowing employees to organize "free from any sort of interference," according to Torosis. Council Member Dan Hall said labor peace "creates business continuity" while right to recall "creates workforce stability."

COUNCIL DEBATE AND CONCERNS

Mayor Negrete expressed strong concerns about the city's role in private hiring decisions, calling it "a huge overreach" for the city to manage "how people hire back their employees." She questioned who would determine if workers are "qualified" and asked whether small businesses with fewer than five or 10 employees could be exempted.

"Who owns the business, the city or the person running the business?" Negrete asked, casting the lone dissenting vote.

Supporters argued the measures protect both workers and businesses. Council Member Hall emphasized that such policies are "both pro-worker and pro-business," noting the Pier's significant economic impact of $938 million in local spending in 2023, supporting thousands of jobs.

FOLLOWING REGIONAL PRECEDENT

The proposed ordinances would follow models established by other regional jurisdictions. Los Angeles World Airports, the City of Long Beach, and Los Angeles County have implemented similar worker protection measures.

"Part of the direction is to look at existing ordinances that already do this, including the two that were signed were LA World Airports and the city of Long Beach," Council Member Raskin said.

SCOPE AND TIMELINE

The ordinances would apply to all city-owned properties that generate revenue, including businesses operating on the Santa Monica Pier, at the airport, the Civic Center, and Bergamot Station.

"Although in some of our lease terms we have loose right to recall and labor peace protections, we actually don't have any of that codified in our city ordinance," Torosis explained. The goal is to create "a blanket ordinance that stays no matter what" rather than negotiating terms for individual leases.

The city attorney has been directed to return with draft ordinances within 120 days.

Economic Context

The Santa Monica Pier, one of the city's most valuable assets, welcomed 4.6 million visitors in 2023 and ranks as the second most Instagrammed location in California. The Pier is home to restaurants, retailers, amusement rides and entertainment venues that together form a vital economic engine for the city.

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NPR

FROM PAGE 3

people is probably the stuff that'll go away," said Connie Leyva, executive director of KVCR and a former Democratic state senator. The station stands to lose about $550,000 in annual CPB funding, about 6% of its budget.

She emphasized that the station also wanted to preserve its journalism staff – two full-time reporters and one part-time – who have recently focused on federal immigration raids taking place across the region.

> "If we're not here, the Inland Empire is just hearing about what's happening in Los Angeles"
>
> - Connie Leyva

"If we're not here, the Inland Empire is just hearing about what's happening in Los Angeles," Leyva said. "We want to know what's happening in our backyard, what's happening at the schools around us, what's happening at the Home Depots around us."

LARGE STATIONS AND INDEPENDENTS SUFFER TOO

While larger radio stations such as KQED in San Francisco are better equipped than their smaller counterparts to withstand the blow to their budgets, they too will lose massive chunks of funding that currently fund journalist positions and popular shows. Tony Marcano, who runs a statewide partnership network of 14 public radio stations and CalMatters known as the California Newsroom, said the loss of public funding will require even more collaboration.

"Smaller stations are likely to be more affected, but that doesn't mean that the large stations are out of the woods," Marcano said. "There'll be pain."

KQED, one of the country's most listened-to public radio stations and the largest in California, laid off 45 employees earlier this month and lost 10 more from early retirement offers. The 15% reduction came on the eve of Congress passing the budget cuts and is KQED's third round of layoffs in just five years. Though the station stressed that the cuts were due to longstanding financial challenges, KQED now stands to lose close to $8 million, or about 8% of its revenue.

LAist, the Los Angeles area's largest NPR affiliate, laid off eight people earlier this year and has slashed 61 positions since 2023. It will lose $1.7 million in federal funding, about 4% of its budget.

The consequences go beyond newsroom staff and programming. The federal government funds repairs to transmission infrastructure and played a role in helping negotiate artist royalty fees on behalf of local stations.

Radio Bilingüe, a Central Valley-based organization that is one of the largest Spanish-language radio outlets and broadcasts throughout the U.S. and Mexico, was in the final stages of negotiations for a $1.1 million grant from the CPB to improve its transmission equipment, which hasn't been updated since the 1980s. But the funding rollback means it will have to find the money elsewhere, said Hugo Morales, the group's co-executive director and founder.

"You're talking about transmitters that are 40 years old," Morales said. "At some point, it's going to give out, and we're going to have to find somewhere else to raise the money for that."

Morales also made the difficult decision earlier this year to cancel the construction of three additional stations across Arizona and New Mexico that would have primarily served rural communities and farm workers who don't have access to broadband. The organization and its stations will lose $300,000 in annual CPB grants, roughly 7.5% of its yearly budget.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Radio Bilingüe shared vital information about testing centers, vaccine availability and how to sign up for social services in Spanish and Indigenous languages such as Mixteco and Triqui.

The loss of CPB funding will also jeopardize independent documentary filmmakers supported by the San Francisco-based ITVS, which Congress created in 1990 as an independent service with a mandate to increase diversity and innovation in public media. It received roughly 86% of its budget, $19 million, from federal grants.

ITVS leaders say the group has partnered with hundreds of independent filmmakers to co-produce more than 900 feature documentaries distributed to PBS stations nationwide.

"Public media is a space for all Americans," said Carrie Lozano, the organization's president and CEO. "These films are not partisan. They are, generally speaking, films that touch everybody's lives. They are there in service of the public."

In anticipation of the cuts, the organization laid off 13 employees in June, or roughly 20% of its staff. Lozano expects roughly 10 films to lose out on funding this year – a big cut from the 20 to 40 feature and short documentaries that ITVS typically funds every year. While the organization is determined to stay afloat, Lozano worries the loss of federal investment will prevent important stories from being told and create a domino effect on the rest of the ecosystem.

"There's no question that this is a huge blow to the field," Lozano said, "and to everything that surrounds it."

By Maya C. Miller and Cayla Mihalovich. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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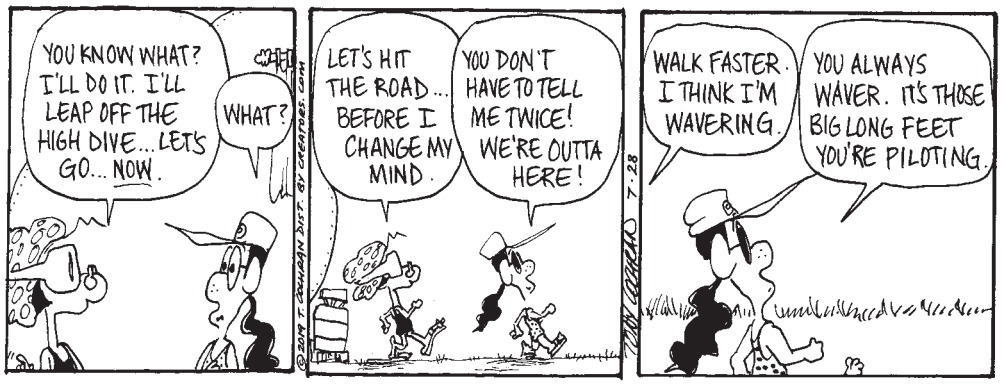
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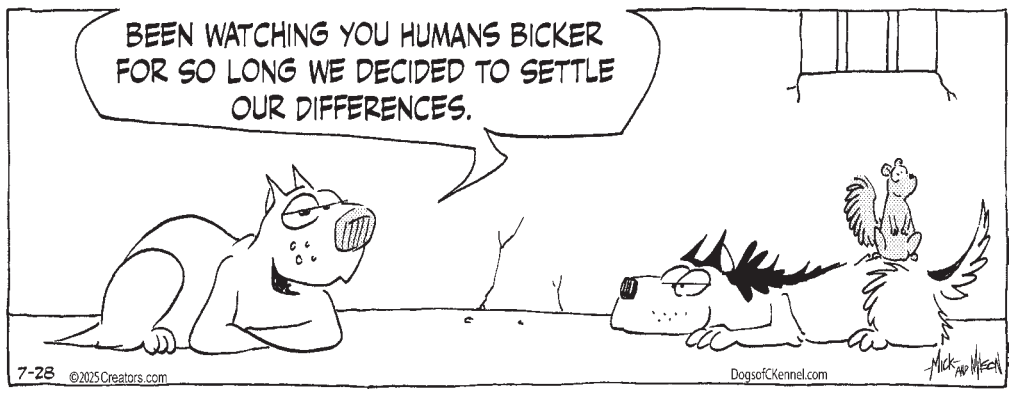
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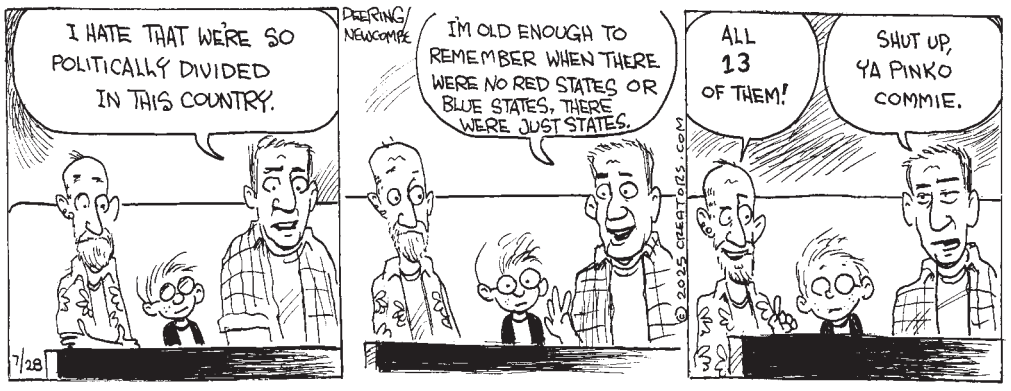
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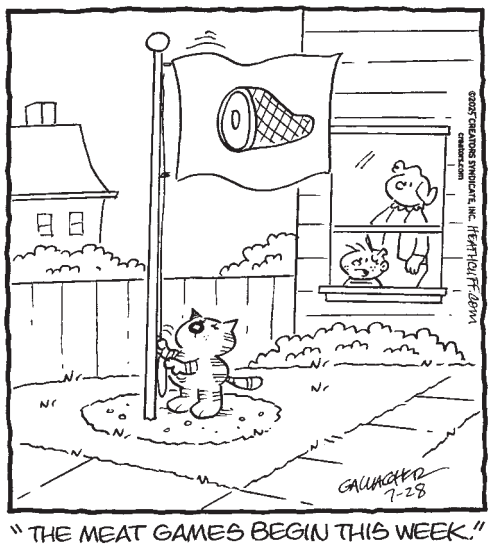
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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 28)

This year brings exciting invitations and secret passages into worlds you only speculated about before. It will turn out that the places and states of being you dreamed of are viable, real places to live, love and work. More highlights: You'll stumble upon thrilling knowledge, collect friendships like rare coins, and use your creativity to build something totally unique. Virgo and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 15, 3, 26 and 11.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Pretending eats energy. Sometimes you don't even realize how you're changing yourself to fit the situation. Today, you'll see it and stop. No over-curating yourself today. Let go of roles that no longer serve so you can be stronger, freer and more available for what matters.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've done the hard part - faced the feelings, made the decisions, brought yourself right to the edge of something new. Now the door is open. All that's left is the step. You're ready. One breath, one step, and it's on.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). This load you carry? It's real. But the power is in your framing. You choose how to see things, what to call them and what they mean to you, and this makes all the difference between lifting a "burden" or lifting a "gift."

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your heart is on the line, and that's exactly where it belongs. You're made of strong stuff. Not fragile - forged. Go ahead and feel it all. Risk doesn't scare you when the potential prize is love, sweet love.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It is a mystic tradition to see joy, awe and unstructured time as key elements of divine connection. Whether you think you have the time or not, you really can afford to lose track of yourself while making art, being in nature, dancing or daydreaming.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your reputation as a hard worker is undisputed, but hard work isn't always required. Knowing the right thing to do - the thing that will flip the script, raise the scenery, transcend the limits - is not about work, but about awareness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A thought takes you deep. It's interesting to visit those depths, but you don't want to live there. Feel it, name it, and learn from it. Then make a move. Your mind is built for both analysis and action.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are those who like you but don't know you. Being appreciated for your image is still being appreciated. It's not exactly what you're looking for, but there's power here you can leverage to get closer to what you really want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've got options. You've got angles. You could spin this 10 ways and make all of them interesting. But one version feels best in your body, and that's the one to follow. Trust the story that feels easy to live inside.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're feeling your way through the day like a musician learning a song. Keep moving toward what resonates. Tune in to what people mean, what they hide, what they're aching for. This is your native language - the one you sing without words.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You care big. You always have. But now you're realizing how much your own rest, fuel and space matter in the mix. Fill your own cup without guilt. That's what allows you to stay strong and show up for others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's mix-and-match energy today. The loud will be asked to listen. The soft will speak up. Everyone's stretching. You're right in the middle of it, finding new dimensions of yourself through brave moves.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

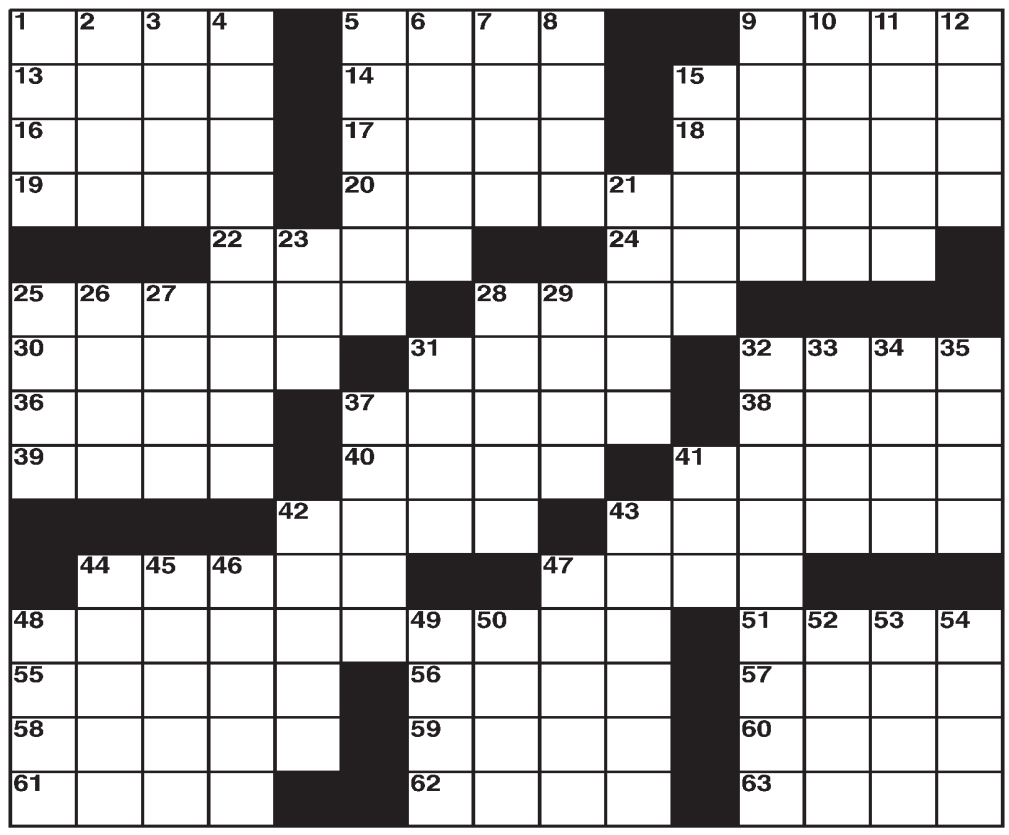
BLACK AND WHITE by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Raven or robin
5 Cain's next-born brother
9 Golf course vehicle
13 India's continent
14 Medical remedy
15 Paris' Eiffel __
16 Divulge a secret
17 High school math class
18 Point the finger at
19 Appear to be
20 Best-selling Nabisco snack
22 Bushy hairstyle
24 Building wing
25 Foamy coffeehouse orders
28 Judge's garment
30 Steer clear of
31 Not a __ (no one)
32 Flamingo's color
36 Exercise with meditation
37 Frighten
38 Clothes-pressing appliance
39 Graceful white 1-Across
40 Young girl
41 French-speaking Caribbean nation
42 Many-breed dog
43 When daylight fades
44 Story viewed while sleeping
47 Snowballs, in snowball fights
48 Large Chinese bear
51 Boxed parts to assemble
55 Bring together
56 Next-__ neighbor
57 Make revisions to
58 Thorny flowers
59 Small missile thrown in pubs
60 Harness for oxen
61 Computer purchaser
62 Girls and women
63 __ down (become thinner)

DOWN

1 Mammals that fly
2 "Now it makes sense"
3 Make angry
4 Firehouse dog
5 People in movie casts
6 Southwestern donkey
7 A Great Lake
8 Toy brick brand
9 Two-dot punctuation mark
10 No longer sleeping
11 Blend together again
12 Maple or willow
15 Type of steak
21 Bridge's metal wire
23 Served a meal to
25 Puts down, as carpeting
26 Declare frankly
27 Garment for Julius Caesar
28 Cook beef in an oven
29 Belonging to us
31 "Shoo!"
32 88 parts of a "baby grand"
33 Colorful part of an eye
34 Short written message
35 Make a scarf or sweater
37 Have poor posture
41 Sing with closed lips
42 Wives and husbands
43 Stings a little
44 T-Rexes, for short
45 Salary increase
46 Walk inside
47 Be very fond of
48 Wise advisor
49 Calculates a sum
50 Biblical ark builder
52 Much-admired celebrity
53 Hawaiian carving
54 Flower stalk



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TRUMP

FROM PAGE 1

laws and pursue civil commitment of homeless individuals with mental illness or addiction.

"Surrendering our cities and citizens to disorder and fear is neither compassionate to the homeless nor other citizens," the order states, calling for a "new approach focused on protecting public safety."

The directive immediately drew sharp criticism from homeless service providers and creates potential conflicts with California's housing-first policies, setting up what could become a federal-state showdown over how to address the nation's homelessness crisis.

WHAT THE ORDER DOES

The executive order instructs the Attorney General to seek reversal of court precedents that limit involuntary civil commitment and to support "maximally flexible" standards for institutionalizing people "who pose risks to themselves or the public" or cannot care for themselves.

Federal agencies including Justice, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation must prioritize grants for jurisdictions that enforce prohibitions on open drug use, urban camping, loitering and squatting. The order explicitly shifts resources away from "housing first" programs that provide housing without preconditions, instead requiring treatment or sobriety as conditions for shelter.

The order also targets harm reduction programs, directing HHS to defund "so-called 'harm reduction' or 'safe consumption' efforts that only facilitate illegal drug use." The Justice Department is instructed to pursue legal action against organizations operating supervised injection sites.

Additionally, federally funded shelters would be allowed to collect health information from homeless clients and share that data with law enforcement "to enhance public safety."

QUESTIONS ABOUT FEASIBILITY

Implementation faces significant practical and legal hurdles. The order seeks to dramatically expand civil commitments despite most states, including California, lacking sufficient psychiatric hospital capacity to absorb tens of thousands of homeless individuals.

Local homeless service providers said that by expanding forced treatment and institutionalization in facilities that do not exist, the order undermines consent and due process. They said it also undercuts evidence-based Housing First and Harm Reduction, which consistently deliver better long-term outcomes, and leans into criminalization that does not reduce homelessness and only deepens harm.

The order's approach of conditioning federal grants on local policy choices may face legal scrutiny, with some seeing echoes of past battles over federal funding to coerce state compliance.

Civil liberties advocates argue measures like forced treatment and health data sharing will be challenged on constitutional grounds. Privacy laws including HIPAA also govern health information sharing.

SERVICE PROVIDERS PUSH BACK

Homeless service organizations strongly denounced the order, arguing it undermines evidence-based approaches that have shown results.

"This order turns homelessness into a problem to be managed through force instead of investing in housing and care," said John Maceri, CEO of The People Concern, one of Los Angeles County's largest housing agencies. "It risks further harm to people already living with trauma, poverty and complex health needs."

The Legal Action Center called the order "a dangerous step backwards that will only deepen harm," arguing it "attempts to dehumanize, punish, and subvert the rights of unhoused people."

Paul Samuels, the center's director, said the approach "promotes the illusion of safety by criminalizing people for being visibly unhoused rather than addressing root causes like the dearth of affordable housing."

CLASH WITH CALIFORNIA POLICIES

The order directly collides with California's approach, which emphasizes housing-first principles mandated by state law since 2016. California requires all state homelessness programs to provide housing without prerequisites like sobriety or treatment participation.

Governor Gavin Newsom's office dismissed Trump's move as focused on creating distracting headlines and settling old scores rather than making a positive impact. The response noted California's efforts are based on the law and the facts, not harmful stereotypes and ineffective public policy.

The legal landscape had shifted recently toward enforcement when the Supreme Court overturned lower court decisions that had limited cities' ability to enforce camping bans. At that time, Newsom asked local municipalities to step up enforcement.

While Los Angeles faces particular pressure, Santa Monica's stricter approach may align better with federal priorities. The city's rules were already largely stricter than the State provisions as the city prohibits camping in virtually all public spaces. However, a needle distribution program does operate in local parks through the Venice Family Clinic and such programs are not in direct opposition to Trump's new order.

CALIFORNIA'S RECENT PROGRESS

Despite federal criticism, California has shown signs of progress on homelessness. The state outperformed national trends in 2024, limiting its overall homelessness increase to 3% compared to over 18% nationally.

Preliminary 2025 data shows continued improvement in major metropolitan areas. Los Angeles County expects to report total homelessness declined 4%, with unsheltered homelessness down 9.5%. The city of Los Angeles saw total homelessness decrease 3.4% and unsheltered homelessness drop 7.9%.

San Diego reported a 13.5% decrease in total homelessness, while Riverside County saw unsheltered homelessness fall 19%.

"This progress came from housing and care, not punishment," Maceri said. "We cannot afford to reverse course now."

However, Santa Monica's homeless population grew last year by about 5 percent with a noticeable increase in car camping. While the rules already exist banning people from living in vehicles, local officials have said they are limited by state provisions that make it hard to force car campers off public streets.

editor@smdp.com



MONDAY | JULY 28

PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

6:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica, CA 90401. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! 6pm-Close. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2025-07-21T18

TUESDAY | JULY 29

WALKING MEDITATION

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Away Santa Monica. Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. We'll meet Tuesday's and Thursdays at 2 pm by the Mobile Community Meditation and Retreat Center VAN parked in the Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South (by the grass on the east side of the parking lot and across the street from the basketball courts at Ocean View Park) We'll walk silently together for approximately 45 minutes on the shoreline. Everyone is welcome to join whether new to meditation or with many years of experience. Please remember to bring sand shoes if you prefer not to walk barefoot, sunscreen, a hat, a jacket if it's cold and water. Tho there's a dog in the photo, unfortunately dogs are not permitted on the beach. Looking forward to meeting and meditating with you all. please feel free to reach out with any concerns or questions and please arrive 5 minutes early. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/walking-meditation/16206460/2025-07-15T14

GELSON'S WEST LA TO HOST TACO TUESDAYS WITH TACOS, MARGARITAS, AND MEZCALS

4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Gelson's 12121 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles. Every Tuesday from 4 PM to 10 PM, Gelson's West LA Wine Bar will be hosting Taco Tuesdays, bringing together a festive blend of flavors and fun. Enjoy a variety of mouthwatering tacos, refreshing margaritas, and smooth mezcals, all served in a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere. The perfect way to spice up the week—gather friends and enjoy a night of great food, drinks, and good times. Prices vary. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/gelson-s-west-la-to-host-taco-tuesdays-with-tacos-margaritas-and-mezcals/15309564/2025-07-08T16

SUMMER FILM SERIES: THE FAREWELL (2019)

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Montana Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave. Santa Monica. Awkwafina stars in this touching dramedy about a woman who learns that her grandmother has only a few weeks to live. She conspires with her family to travel to China under the facade of a family wedding, giving them one last chance to say goodbye to their Nai Nai. Run time: 100 min. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/summer-film-series-the-farewell-2019-/15920882/2025-07-29T17

FIG COCKTAIL CLASS HOSTED BY ASPEN VODKA

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The Potting Shed at FIG Restaurant 101 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica. Join us for an unforgettable evening of creativity and craftsmanship at FIG's exclusive Cocktail Class Series, held in the intimate setting of our private dining room – Potting Shed. This hands-on experience is perfect for cocktail enthusiasts and beginners alike. Under the expert guidance of a seasoned mixologist, you'll learn the art of crafting signature cocktails that are as visually stunning as they are delicious. Next cocktail class will be held on Tuesday, July 29. Two cocktails and bar snacks included. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/fig-cocktail-class-hosted-by-aspen-vodka/16301789/2025-07-29T18

WEDNESDAY | JULY 30

FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY: YOGA FOR EVERYONE!

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Venice. Through body awareness, movement, and breath, you will be guided on how to bring your body, mind, and spirit back into balance for overall well-being. All levels are welcome. Generously funded by the Friends of Venice Library. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/friends-of-venice-library-yoga-for-everyone-/14548476/2025-07-02T12

KATHLEEN KAUFMAN TO THE STORE TO DISCUSS AND SIGN

6:30 p.m. Brentwood Country Mart 225 26th Street, Suite #33 Santa Monica. Feminist Gothic horror author Kathleen Kaufman presents a thrillingly atmospheric and exquisitely evocative tale of feminine rage set at the height of the Spiritualist Movement in The Entirely True Story of the Fantastical Mesmerist Nora Grey, a shadowy blend of historical fiction and horror that takes place at the dawn of the 20th Century. Nora Grey follows a young woman, Narina, who is pulled from a lifetime of hoax seances and roadside tarot readings by the powerful yet mysterious Edinburgh Spiritualist Society. Recognizing that Narina has true power, the Spiritualists encourage Narina to cross the veil and make a connection with her 'spirit guide,' a spirit who can help her communicate with others from beyond the grave. In doing so, Narina's psychic abilities shatter the barriers between space and time, leading her to form a bond with another young woman wrongfully imprisoned in an infamous asylum decades before Narina's birth. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/kathleen-kaufman-to-the-store-to-discuss-and-sign/16239573/2025-07-30T18

THURSDAY | JULY 31

AUTHOR TALK WITH PRIA ANAND

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. You're invited to a fascinating conversation with neurologist and author Pria Anand to chat about her new book The Mind Electric: A Neurologist on the Strangeness and Wonder of Our Brains (forthcoming June 10, 2025). The Mind Electric speaks to the stories we tell ourselves about our brains, and the stories that our brains tell to us. A girl believes she has been struck blind for stealing a kiss. A mother watches helplessly as each of her children is replaced by a changeling. A woman is haunted each month by the same four chords of a single song. In neurology, illness is inextricably linked with narrative, the clues to unraveling these mysteries hidden in both the details of a patient's story and the tells of their body. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/author-talk-with-pria-anand/16144069/2025-07-31T11


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