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Together since teens.

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Santa Monica native's book on
Indigenous Mexican students.



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Documentary screening.

Volume 25 Issue 197

MONDAY 8/24/26

smdp.com

Santa Monica affordable housing production remains on pace, city report finds



SMDP Photo

CONSTRUCTION: According to the most recent report, new housing in the city has met affordability goals.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Affordable housing built in Santa Monica over the past fiscal year outpaced the city's minimum requirements by a wide margin,

according to a new report presented to the City Council, even as the number of affordable units awaiting construction approval showed a smaller share of low-income units.

The report, dated June 17 and submitted

by Aileen Reynolds, the city's director of Housing and Human Services, found that 81% of the 72 multifamily residences completed in fiscal year 2024-25 were affordable to low- and moderate-income households, and 25% were affordable specifically to low-

income households. Both figures far exceed the thresholds set by Proposition R, the 1990 voter-approved measure that requires 30% of new multifamily housing to be affordable

SEE HOUSING PAGE 7

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City of
Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Proposals for:

**Virginia Avenue Park Playground Replacement
Project No. SP2745**

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in design and construction services for the Virginia Avenue Park Playground Replacement.

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified design-build team to provide professional design services, including conceptual design of the playground areas and final design; community outreach (a minimum of 2 surveys and 2 in-person community workshops); survey services; construction work; installation of surfacing; geotechnical investigations; ADA compliance review; permitting; inspections; and estimating. Key considerations for this project include: sustainability (environmental and human health); accessible and inclusive design; community input; shade covering; operations, maintenance and replacement (including responsiveness with replacing parts); and schedule and costs (both upfront and ongoing).

RFP questions to be submitted to via OpenGov, no later than 2:00 PM. on September 4, 2026.

Proposers shall upload RFP via OpenGov, no later than 5:00 PM. on September 11, 2026.

RFP Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>.

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Santa Monica couple, together since their teens, advances in national contest



Courtesy Image

PICTURED: Santa Monica couple Laura and Greg Leib, together since age 15, advance to "America's Favorite Couple" quarterfinals.

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

Their love story began the way the best ones do, they say: with a 13-year-old Greg snatching Laura's pencil at a youth group Christmas party and setting it alight in a candle with a group of friends.

"What can we say: when it's meant to be, it's meant to be," the couple said.

They started dating two years later, at 15 — and promptly got a challenge that would define them. "Our youth pastor told us, in front of that same youth group, that we wouldn't last two weeks," they recalled, "and there's nothing like telling two quietly revolutionary teenagers they can't do something to really make 'em commit."

Today, Laura Vidal Leib and Greg Leib are still together, raising a high school senior in Santa Monica and now competing on a national stage. The pair have advanced to the quarterfinals of "America's Favorite Couple," a competition hosted by Colossal, with a \$20,000 prize and a feature in Variety on the line. Voting for this round opens Monday, Aug. 17, at 10 a.m. PDT and closes Thursday, Aug. 27, at 7 p.m. PDT.

For the couple, the contest is the latest chapter in a story that began in a fundamentalist evangelical church, where the two met at youth group services and, against the odds, decided to build a life together.

"We became very different people than we were at 15," Greg said. "We grew up together and had the flexibility to change as we became adults. We love to spend time together and were careful to keep that as we went through life transitions."

That intentionality meant practical

choices to stay close, including attending colleges near one another. "Staying available and prioritizing time together was really important in those early years, and continues to be," Greg said.

Laura described their longevity as a decision renewed again and again. "We chose each other," she said. "It's neat to look back. We're different and the same, all at once."

The couple point to the 2011 Pride Parade in New York City as a favorite shared memory. Marriage had just been legalized, and the family rode a float down Fifth Avenue with affirming Christians and queer people of faith, with Laura wearing their infant son in a carrier. "We smiled, cried, and celebrated together with the crowd while 'Chapel of Love' played over the speaker," they said. "As a neurodivergent family, big sensory moments can sometimes be overwhelming, but this was simply effervescent joy and a cherished piece of history we got to share as a young family."

Their son, Gavin, is now a high school senior — and the same age his parents were when they met, a coincidence that has prompted reflection. "I look at our son, Gavin, and see a young man who is going to get to experience life through a totally different lens than his Dad or I," Laura said. Unlike his parents, Gavin does not share their church upbringing. "We're hopeful that Gavin will find his own unique path as he goes out into the world, just as we found ours, and each other," Laura said.

The couple's path to the competition began casually. "I forget where I originally saw the America's Favorite Couple competition advertised, but I decided to enter us on a

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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SEE COUPLE PAGE 8

Santa Monica native brings his book on Indigenous Mexican students to local library



Courtesy Image
PICTURED: Rafael Vásquez (Left) and William Pérez (Right) speaking during a panel discussion about Indigenous Mexican communities, education, and the book.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

For Rafael Vásquez, seeing his book on the shelves of the Santa Monica Public Library is more than a professional milestone. It is a return to the building where, as a middle and high school student, he did his homework until closing time.

“It truly feels like a full-circle moment, and it means a lot to me,” Vásquez said.

Vásquez, a Santa Monica native and graduate of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and Santa Monica College, coauthored “Culturally Responsive Schooling for Indigenous Mexican Students” with William Pérez, a professor and chair of the Department of Educational Leadership at Loyola Marymount University. Vásquez is affiliate graduate faculty in the College of Education at Oregon State University and board president of the Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project. The Los Angeles Unified School District recently purchased 600 copies for educator professional development, and the book is now available at the Santa Monica library.

“It means a great deal to me because the Santa Monica Public Library was part of my educational journey long before I ever imagined writing a book,” Vásquez said. “When I was in middle school and high school, I would walk to the main library after school almost every day to study, do my homework, and read. Many times, I would stay until closing.”

He hopes the book finds a wide audience there. “I hope another student, parent, teacher, or community member will pick it up,” he said. “I hope the work can contribute

something back to the community that helped shape me in such a very real way.”

That community shaped the book’s questions. The son of parents who “migrated from the Central Valleys of Oaxaca in the 1970s and settled in Santa Monica,” Vásquez said he grew up “within the Tlacolula community here — a community of Indigenous Oaxacan families with roots in the region.”

School taught him early that his identity was more complicated than others assumed. “My experiences in school made me aware very early that being Mexican was not the whole story,” Vásquez said. “I experienced stigma associated with being from Oaxaca and being Indigenous. At one point, I even avoided saying that I was from Oaxaca at school because I had learned that identifying that way could change how people treated me.”

Those memories became the book’s driving questions. “What happens when schools see Indigenous Mexican students only as ‘Mexican’ or ‘Latino?’” Vásquez said. “What happens to their languages, communities, histories, and identities when those differences are invisible within the educational system?”

Indigenous Mexican students, he said, “are students whose families come from one of the many Indigenous peoples of Mexico, such as Mixtec, Nahuatl, P’urhépecha, or Zapotec communities.” Many are born in the United States, he added, and “may identify as Mexican, Mexican American, Latino, or Indigenous — or as several of these at the same time.”

The trouble comes, he said, when schools “automatically place these students into a

SEE NATIVE PAGE 8



Weather

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

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

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 82.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2026/08/24	Mon	02:33 AM	0.07	L
2026/08/24	Mon	09:11 AM	3.95	H
2026/08/24	Mon	1:43 PM	2.67	L
2026/08/24	Mon	7:51 PM	5.76	H
2026/08/25	Tue	03:00 AM	-0.10	L
2026/08/25	Tue	09:26 AM	4.12	H
2026/08/25	Tue	2:16 PM	2.34	L
2026/08/25	Tue	8:25 PM	5.97	H
2026/08/26	Wed	03:25 AM	-0.19	L
2026/08/26	Wed	09:44 AM	4.33	H
2026/08/26	Wed	2:49 PM	2.02	L
2026/08/26	Wed	8:57 PM	6.06	H
2026/08/27	Thu	03:49 AM	-0.19	L
2026/08/27	Thu	10:03 AM	4.57	H
2026/08/27	Thu	3:23 PM	1.72	L
2026/08/27	Thu	9:29 PM	6.00	H
2026/08/28	Fri	04:13 AM	-0.07	L
2026/08/28	Fri	10:25 AM	4.83	H
2026/08/28	Fri	3:59 PM	1.46	L
2026/08/28	Fri	10:02 PM	5.78	H
2026/08/29	Sat	04:37 AM	0.17	L
2026/08/29	Sat	10:49 AM	5.08	H
2026/08/29	Sat	4:39 PM	1.24	L
2026/08/29	Sat	10:39 PM	5.39	H
2026/08/30	Sun	05:01 AM	0.53	L
2026/08/30	Sun	11:15 AM	5.31	H
2026/08/30	Sun	5:23 PM	1.08	L
2026/08/30	Sun	11:20 PM	4.85	H
2026/08/31	Mon	05:25 AM	0.98	L
2026/08/31	Mon	11:45 AM	5.48	H
2026/08/31	Mon	6:13 PM	1.01	L
2026/09/01	Tue	12:08 AM	4.21	H
2026/09/01	Tue	05:49 AM	1.50	L
2026/09/01	Tue	12:20 PM	5.57	H
2026/09/01	Tue	7:12 PM	1.00	L
2026/09/02	Wed	01:12 AM	3.52	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>

Draw Date: 8/19
10 21 58 61 64
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 68 M

Draw Date: 8/20
10 30 31 34 35

Draw Date: 8/18
5 19 30 38 59
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 113 M

Draw Date: 8/20
EVENING: 4 6 4
Draw Date: 8/20
MIDDAY: 9 9 0

Draw Date: 8/19
4 12 18 34 36
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 48 M

Draw Date: 8/20
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:47.38

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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

Classifieds

Notice



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR
Notice of Divided Publication

NOTICE OF DIVIDED PUBLICATION OF
THE PROPERTY TAX-DEFAULT LIST
(DELINQUENT LIST)
Made pursuant to Section 3371, Revenue
and Taxation Code

Pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code Sections 3381 through 3385, the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector is publishing in divided distribution, the Notice of Power to Sell Tax-Defaulted Property in and for the County of Los Angeles (County), State of California, to various newspapers of general circulation published in the County. A portion of the list appears in each of such newspapers.

I, Elizabeth Buenrostro Ginsberg, County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector, State of California, certify that:

Notice is given that by operation of law at 12:01 a.m. Pacific Time, on July 1, 2024, the Tax Collector declared the real properties listed below tax defaulted. The declaration of default was due to non-payment of the total amount due for the taxes, assessments, and other charges levied in tax year 2023-24 that were a lien on the listed real property. Non-residential commercial property and property upon which there is a recorded nuisance abatement lien shall be subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell after three years of defaulted taxes. Therefore, if the 2023-24 taxes remain defaulted after June 30, 2027, the property will become subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell and eligible for sale at the County's online auction in 2028. All other property that has defaulted taxes after June 30, 2029, will become subject to the Tax Collector's Power to sell and eligible for sale at the County's online auction in 2030. The list contains the name of the assessee and the total tax, which was due on June 30, 2024, for tax year 2023-24, opposite the parcel number. Payments to redeem tax-defaulted real property shall include all amounts for unpaid taxes and assessments, together with the additional penalties and fees as prescribed by law, or be paid under an installment plan of redemption if initiated prior to the property becoming subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell.

The Treasurer and Tax Collector's (TTC) Office will furnish, upon request, information concerning making a payment in full or initiating an installment plan of redemption. Requests must be made at 225 North Hill Street, First Floor Lobby, Los Angeles, California 90012. For more information, please visit TTC's website at ttc.lacounty.

gov or contact TTC at (213) 974-2111.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Los Angeles, California, on July 23, 2026.

ELIZABETH BUENROSTRO GINSBERG
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Assesseees/taxpayers, who have disposed of real property after January 1, 2023, may find their names listed because the Office of the Assessor has not yet updated the assessment roll to reflect the change in ownership.

ASSESSOR'S IDENTIFICATION NUMBERING SYSTEM EXPLANATION

The Assessor's Identification Number, when used to describe property in this list, refers to the Assessor's map book, the map page, the block on the map (if applicable), and the individual parcel on the map page or in the block. The Assessor's maps and further explanation of the parcel numbering system are available at the Office of the Assessor.

The following property tax defaulted on July 1, 2024, for the taxes, assessments, and other charges for the Tax Year 2023-24:

LISTED BELOW ARE PROPERTIES THAT DEFAULTED IN 2024 FOR TAXES, ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER CHARGES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.
AMOUNT OF DELINQUENCY AS OF THIS PUBLICATION IS LISTED BELOW.
CORRAL,JOSE AND AURELIA TRS JOSE AND AURELIA CORRAL TRUST SITUS 2328 HILL ST SANTA MONICA CA 90405-6002 4272-018-006 \$32,179.35
CORRAL,JOSE CO TR JOSE AND AURELIA CORRAL TRUST3 SITUS 2434 OCEAN PARK BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90405-5140 4272-023-024 \$67,816.62
SITUS 1919 CLOVERFIELD BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90404-4938 4274-001-034 \$41,187.51
SITUS 1925 CLOVERFIELD BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90404-4937 4274-001-036 \$41,072.41
4274-001-046 \$5,282.41
CORRAL,JOSE CO TR CORRAL TRUST SITUS 1820 9TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90404-4512 4283-020-023 \$18,581.55
CORRAL,JOSE L TR JOSE AND AURELIA CORRAL TRUST SITUS 2633 KANSAS AVE SANTA MONICA CA 90404-5258 4274-004-044 \$19,212.43
DEDEAUX,MARC TR MARC DEDEAUX TRUST SITUS 101 CALIFORNIA AVE NO 707 SANTA MONICA CA 90403-3521 4292-027-070 \$1,297.93
DRACH,MARGARET TR MARGARET DRACH TRUST SITUS 201 OCEAN AVE NO 706P SANTA MONICA CA 90402-1425 4293-019-043 \$27,553.12
ECKSTEIN,SHIRLEY TR ECKSTEIN TRUST SITUS 1440 23RD ST UNIT 203 SANTA MONICA CA 90404-2922 4275-006-056 \$15,182.71
ELIZABETHINK LLC SITUS 116 1/2 PACIFIC ST SANTA MONICA CA 90405-2212 4289-022-033 \$38,112.92
FITGER WILLIAMS FAMILY LP SITUS 925

17TH STREET 2 SANTA MONICA CA 90403 4277-009-060 \$58,128.07
GOMEZ,JOHN TR GLORIA GOMEZ TRUST SITUS 1728 PEARL ST SANTA MONICA CA 90405-2727 4273-022-006 \$946.23
HANTMAN,DAVID I SITUS 201 OCEAN AVE NO 1805P SANTA MONICA CA 90402-1442 4293-019-142 \$19,849.40
HOHMAN,WILLIAM L JR ET AL ALMEIDA,KAREN M SITUS 66 VILLAGE PKWY SANTA MONICA CA 90405-2852 4270-013-086 \$32,577.90
HOLLOMAN,MARIA E SITUS 532 MARGUERITA AVE SANTA MONICA CA 90402-1918 4293-009-029 \$63,227.84
JOHNSON,NANCY R SITUS 1552 HARVARD ST NO 5 SANTA MONICA CA 90404-3541 4267-023-028 \$597.82
LEVEY,JONATHAN R SITUS 222 7TH ST NO 212 SANTA MONICA CA 90402-1949 4293-001-055 \$367.02
LEVIN,RAND J AND JESSICA S SITUS 2530 IDAHO AVE SANTA MONICA CA 90403-2118 4277-017-001 \$22,725.48
MACINNIS FAMILY LP SITUS 1624 MONTANA AVE SANTA MONICA CA 90403-1808 4281-001-001/S2021-010 \$237,170.24
MCMILLIN,MELISSA B SITUS 201 OCEAN AVE NO 503B SANTA MONICA CA 90402-1459 4293-020-161 \$13,876.64
MEDDTV SANTA MONICA LLC SITUS 3307 PICO BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90405-2115 4274-036-002 \$69,826.76
MONTAGNA,ALESSANDRA TR ALESSANDRA MONTAGNA TRUST SITUS 2616 3RD ST SANTA MONICA CA 90405-4109 4287-010-025 \$21,643.83
MOORE,PAMELA SITUS 453 11TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90402-0233 4280-014-033/ S2016-010 \$248,485.90
NEMANI,FEREYDOUN F SITUS 1245 24TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90404-1342 4276-017-060 \$26,341.60
PJG/LP CORPORATION SITUS 2006 20TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90404-4754 4274-019-023 \$3,696.55
SITUS 1444 14TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90404-2704 4282-022-026 \$5,069.85
SITUS 1855 9TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90404-4559 4283-021-021 \$3,674.23
RAPPAPORT,ALBERT TR RAPPAPORT TRUST SITUS 1317 19TH ST APT 000E SANTA MONICA CA 90404-1936 4276-028-021 \$22,168.29
SHERMAN,SEAN P AND CINDY K SITUS 944 9TH ST 3 SANTA MONICA CA 90403-2837 4281-033-043/S2022-010 \$1,881.21
SHUKLA,DOLLY H TR DOLLY H SHUKLA TRUST SITUS 833 OCEAN AVE 304 SANTA MONICA CA 90403-1014 4292-025-076 \$41,669.28
YOUSEF,MAHMOOD AND SEYEDAN,MARYAM AND YOUSEF,PAYAM M SITUS 1028 17TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90403-4359 4281-003-006 \$1,708.85
1228 EUCLID APARTMENTS LLC SITUS 1228 EUCLID ST SANTA MONICA CA 90404-1035 4282-005-005 \$141,139.46
2011 LINCOLN LLC SITUS 2011 LINCOLN BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90405-1316 4284-002-003 \$77,851.12
2108 PICO OWNER LLC SITUS 2114 PICO BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90405-1718 4273-004-003 \$319,693.05
2305OCEANPARK INC SITUS 2305 OCEAN PARK BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90405-5107 4273-012-012 \$147,607.13
4TH AND WILSHIRE LLC AND 326 WILSHIRE LLC SITUS 1204 1/2 4TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90401-1304 4291-003-001 \$27,478.13
CN130011 534 Aug 27, Sep 3, 2026

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Op-Ed: A Santa Monica where people can stay

While Santa Monica is very good at being a place people want to move to, we need to get better at being a place where people can stay.

We absolutely must continue to protect our most vulnerable neighbors, help renters at risk of eviction stay housed, and support people struggling to make ends meet or get the help they need.

But our affordability challenge reaches further.

It's the family paying 70 percent of their income on rent and childcare. The middle-wage worker who earns too much for subsidized housing but can't afford an apartment here. And it's the kid who grows up here, graduates from Samohi, and realizes there's nowhere in their hometown they could ever afford to come back to.

And we don't have to look back generations to see how much that's changed. When my wife graduated from college in the mid-2000s, she was able to move back to Santa Monica and spend her twenties in the community where she grew up.

If we want that to be possible for the next generation, we have to make room for them.

That starts with being honest that supply matters. We can't say we want young families and the next generation of Santa Monicans to live here while making it difficult to add homes. We should build more housing Downtown, along our commercial corridors and near E Line stations; make adaptive reuse easier; allow smaller-scale infill throughout the city; and focus on what's especially difficult to find here: family-sized and middle-income housing.

But building more homes isn't enough if we're also losing the people who already call Santa Monica home.

For the nearly 70 percent of Santa Monicans who rent, making room for new neighbors must go hand-in-hand with protecting those already here. That means protecting rent control, enforcing laws against tenant harassment and illegal evictions, and helping people through temporary financial setbacks before they become evicted. Santa Monica's new \$6 million renter assistance program is exactly the kind of prevention worth investing in.

Protecting today's renters without creating homes for tomorrow's renters

isn't enough. And building tomorrow's housing while allowing today's residents to be displaced isn't enough either. We have to do both.

But housing isn't the only thing making it harder for families to stay in Santa Monica.

For families with young children, childcare can effectively become a second rent payment. Right now, 88 families are waiting for assistance through Connections for Children. We should help clear that backlog and expand programs like "Preserving Our Diversity" to help families struggling to pay rent and childcare every month.

The other side of the household budget is what people earn. The people teaching our children, serving our hotels and restaurants, and keeping Santa Monica running shouldn't be priced out of the community they serve. Strong labor standards and good-paying union jobs are part of affordability too.

This is how we should think about affordability: through the monthly budget of someone actually trying to make a life here.

None of this happens just by saying we want Santa Monica to be more affordable. It takes knowing how government works, how to build coalitions and how to turn good ideas into programs that actually reach people. I've spent my career doing that work in government and public service, bringing people together, navigating complex systems and delivering results.

It's easy to make a list of everything City Hall gets wrong. It's harder to put forward serious solutions and know how to get them done.

I don't want a city with only two ways to afford living here: be wealthy, or qualify for subsidies. It's becoming increasingly difficult for the people in between, working families, young adults and middle-income residents, to make the math work.

We can protect the people who are here, make room for the next generation, and tackle the everyday costs that quietly push people out.

That's what affordability should mean: not simply being able to arrive in Santa Monica, but having a realistic chance to stay.

By Brett Morrow

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica's moment

This election matters because too many of the city's major tax contributors are in financial trouble — or simply no longer exist. There is no better example than Santa Monica Place.

In 45 years, Santa Monica Place has traveled a dramatic arc: from urban-renewal showpiece, to Frank Gehry landmark, to distressed asset in receivership. It opened in 1980 as an enclosed three-level mall — Gehry's first — built to rescue a struggling Third Street corridor. Ironically, it pulled shoppers off the street, helping spur the creation of the Promenade in 1989. When Macerich proposed replacing it with high-rise towers in 2004, residents revolted, and the company retreated to a \$265 million open-air renovation that reopened in 2010. For a decade, it worked: the mall was 95 percent leased in 2019.

Then the pandemic gutted it. Bloomingdale's and ArcLight left in 2021. Macerich defaulted on its \$300 million loan in April 2024 and handed the keys to its lender — a hometown company abandoning its flagship asset a few blocks from its own headquarters. The property's value collapsed nearly 60 percent, from \$622 million to roughly \$255 million. When Nordstrom closed its doors in August 2025, the mall was left without a single anchor. Macerich's CFO put it bluntly: "Santa Monica has continuing issues and it is underwater."

Here is the good news: the mall can be fixed faster than the Promenade, because it has one "manager" who can implement a comprehensive strategy and make decisions that last. If the former department store spaces are filled with tenants that draw consumers back, the rest of the mall will fill — and fill quickly, with the Olympics on the way. Renewed competition from the Palisades and a lackluster realignment plan that has apparently already been forgotten will add to the challenges. But the challenge is not insurmountable.

Make no mistake: this is not work for the faint of heart, or for policymakers focused on politics rather than outcomes. The City has two years to get the mall ready for the Olympics, because there will be no catalyst after the Olympics. That means recruiting tenants who are excited about the prospects for Santa Monica. It means restructuring the ownership of the mall. It means navigating Measure GS — a potential \$20 million bill for lenders who are already losing money. And it means finding a long-term owner who isn't afraid of Santa Monica politics.

There will be moments in the coming months when the City will have to perform under pressure, and we will need the

Coastal Commission to work at record speed. New tenants want certainty: certainty of timing, certainty of investment, certainty of safety, and certainty of common-sense approaches to fixing Santa Monica. Prism, the court-appointed mall manager, gives the City a chance to fix this mess. But the City is on the clock — a clock that doesn't care about political objectives or working hours. It only cares about results.

Why should you care about Santa Monica Place? Because it is in Santa Monica.

Santa Monica Place is a cash engine for the City. Having one of our most prominent pieces of real estate generating reassessed — that is, diminished — property taxes is a problem. We need the cycle restored: the mall brings tourism, tourism brings spending and hotel stays. Everything in this city ultimately comes down to filling our hotels, and everything is symbiotic.

The alternative is housing. If retail fails, the replacement will be residential. That would help our state housing mandate and fill the Promenade with much-needed foot traffic, but it would not help the City financially and it would not help our hotels. Construction costs and high interest rates mean developers will push for the tallest structures possible to make the economics work — and on this site, affordable housing will be all but impossible.

This is downtown's infrastructure moment. An entertainment venue, a convention center, a hotel, more residential downtown, including on the Promenade — the City needs to attract investors back to build. I was a NIMBY. But being a NIMBY in downtown Santa Monica today will destroy the engines that fund this city. New infrastructure will help dilute our crime and homelessness challenges, bring valuable funds back to the City, and send a message to every other city watching: Santa Monica is no longer in decline.

The fix is simple to describe, not as simple to do: tenant the corners of the mall (already in process), have the City staple development to the edges, get the City and the Coastal Commission working at warp speed to approve and open tenants, work out a solution on Measure GS with the City, and attract a permanent owner who will reinvest in Santa Monica's future. Success hinges on the City response.

Politics and business haven't mixed well in Santa Monica for the last five years. It's time to change that.

By Doug Trussler

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Pico

Documentary 'This Is Buzz' to Screen Sept. 5 Ahead of Release

A new documentary about Buzz, the short-lived 1990 MTV series that put avant-garde writers and artists on music television, will screen in Santa Monica on Sept. 5 ahead of its wider release, followed by a live panel.

The film, "This Is Buzz," was directed and written by Mark Pellington, whose work spans Pearl Jam's "Jeremy" video, "Arlington Road" and "The Mothman Prophecies." It chronicles the making of the 13-part experimental series Pellington created with producer/director Jon Klein, commissioned by MTV and Channel 4 in the U.K.

Buzz put William S. Burroughs, Jenny Holzer, William Gibson, Jaron Lanier, Timothy Leary and RuPaul on music television, cut together with a rapid, collaged visual logic. It aired once and was never rerun, and MTV canceled it after its first run.

The screening launches Moving Image Arts, a new Los Angeles nonprofit event series. The documentary premiered at the 2026 Slamdance Film Festival and will be released by Antenna Releasing.

"Buzz was a visceral proto-version of modern media language: pop culture, politics, art, philosophy, and the manic energy of youth, all colliding chaotically in one show," said Tony Romain, founder of Moving Image Arts. "It deserves to be remembered as a milestone in the development of our visual culture. That is the work of Moving Image Arts, connecting the craft and history of visual storytelling to the new tools and new forums of mass communication. September 5 opens our fall and winter calendar, and there is no better way to launch it."

The evening will open with excerpts from the original series, followed by the film and a panel on how Buzz's visual language of pastiche, irony and cut-up shaped how media is consumed today. Moderated by Joanne McNeil, author of "Lurking: How a Person Became a User," the panel features Pellington; Robert Tercek, former international creative director at MTV; Kate Parsons, associate professor of digital art at Pepperdine University; and Holly Willis, chair of Media Arts + Practice at USC's School of Cinematic Arts.

The event runs from 6 to 10 p.m. at Highways Performance Space + Gallery on the 18th Street Arts Center campus, 1651 18th Street. Free parking, food and drinks are available. Admission is free with RSVP, and seating is first come, first served: <https://this-is-buzz-conversation.eventbrite.com>

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



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SATURDAY 9.5.2026
SANTA MONICA, CA

MI ARTS **RSVP @ MOVINGIMAGEARTS.ORG**

Courtesy Image

DOCUMENTARY: "This Is Buzz" screens Sept. 5 in Santa Monica, chronicling the short-lived 1990 MTV avant-garde series.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

UCLA Law School to Host Symposium Examining Enduring Legacy of Sept. 11

25 YEARS
AFTER 9/11

REIMAGINING FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND SECURITY

SEPTEMBER 10 AND 11, 2026UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW

UCLA Critical Race Studies

UCLA Institute for Technology, Law & Policy

UCLA School of International & Comparative Law Program

UCLA Miñana Family Center for Immigration Law & Policy

UCLA The Promise Institute for Human Rights

Courtesy Image

SYMPOSIUM: UCLA Law hosts Sept. 10–11 symposium on legal and social legacies of 9/11 on its 25th anniversary.

UCLA School of Law will host a two-day symposium examining the enduring legal, political and social legacies of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, 25 years after the assaults that killed nearly 3,000 people and reshaped law and society in the United States and abroad.

The symposium, set for Sept. 10-11, 2026, will explore how the legal and political architecture of the post-9/11 era continues to shape contemporary debates about race, migration, surveillance, war, technology, policing and international law, along with the lasting consequences that followed the attacks.

In response to the attacks, the government declared a global “War on Terror” and vowed to strengthen national security, ushering in sweeping expansions of state power that transformed domestic and international law. Those developments reshaped the lives of people in the U.S. and abroad who were targeted by racialized national security policies, immigration enforcement, policing and war, according to organizers.

Legal scholars, practitioners and others from a range of disciplines will discuss those legacies during the event.

The symposium is a collaboration among the law school’s Critical Race Studies Program, International & Comparative Law Program, Institute for Technology, Law & Policy, Miñana Family Center for Immigration Law & Policy and The Promise Institute for Human Rights.

The event will be held in Room 1347 on the first floor at 385 Charles E. Young Drive E., Los Angeles.

For more information, including program details, visit <https://law.ucla.edu/25Years911Symposium>.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

HOUSING

FROM PAGE 1

to low- and moderate-income residents, with half of that — 15% of all new units — reserved for low-income households.

The five completed projects included a 56-unit, 100% affordable mixed-use development at 711 Colorado Ave., along with smaller condominium and apartment buildings on 17th Street, Franklin Street, 10th Street and Bay Street.

The report, required annually, also tracked housing still in the pipeline. Of 927 multifamily units under construction citywide, 321 were affordable — 35% affordable to low- and moderate-income households and 25% to low-income households, both above the Proposition R thresholds.

Housing awaiting planning approval told a different story. The 14 multifamily developments approved during the fiscal year would bring 2,146 total units, including 367 affordable to low- and moderate-income households — 17% of the total, with 11% affordable to low-income households specifically. Those approved projects include a 24-story mixed-use tower at 601-609 Colorado Ave. and an 18-story mixed-use building at 1415-1437 5th St., along with a 100% affordable senior project at 1217 14th St. and a 100% affordable building at 1217 Euclid St.

The completed and under-construction totals mark a shift from the prior fiscal year. In FY 2023-24, the city reported 91 affordable residences completed and 243 under construction, according to that year’s report to the council. The FY 2024-25 report shows completions dipping to 58 affordable units while construction activity rose to 321 affordable units, and affordable units in the

planning pipeline jumped from 88 to 367.

Looking back over three decades, the city has completed 7,089 multifamily residences since Proposition R took effect, of which 2,512 — 35% — were affordable. Roughly 24% of all units built since 1994 have been affordable to very low- and low-income households, and the city has funded 1,560 of the affordable units, or 84%, according to the cumulative data included in the report. None of the units completed this past fiscal year relied on city funding.

The report also credited three pending city-owned sites, all with executed development and disposition agreements, as key to future affordable housing production: 1318 4th St. (122 residences), 1217 Euclid St. (48 residences) and 1211-1217 14th St. (82 residences).

City officials also pointed to a round of zoning and policy changes adopted during the fiscal year meant to streamline affordable housing development. Those included amendments to the city’s General Plan and Zoning Ordinance under the city’s 6th Cycle Housing Element, a streamlined architectural review process, a new ministerial approval process for housing in the Bergamot Area Plan, and an Adaptive Reuse Ordinance intended to encourage converting non-residential buildings to housing. The city also expanded flexibility for accessory dwelling units and adopted local implementing rules for several recent state housing laws, including SB 1211, which allows ADUs on multifamily-zoned lots, SB 9 and SB 450, which govern lot splits and duplexes on single-family lots, and SB 1123 and SB 684, which allow ministerial approval of small subdivisions.

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026146370. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: NEIGHBORS AIOLI, 117 W. 9TH STREET SUITE 1002, LOS ANGELES, CA 90015, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): SECOND STREET PALS LLC, 117 W. 9TH STREET SUITE 1002, LOS ANGELES, CA 90015. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ PRIYA PATEL, MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/07/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 08/03/2026, 08/10/2026, 08/17/2026, 08/24/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026165369. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BRAZEN COMMUNICATION, BRAZEN COMMUNICATION COACHING AND CONSULTING, BRAZENCOMMUNICATION.COM, 1142 S. DIAMOND BAR BLVD #272, DIAMOND BAR, CA 91765, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): DORINE LAWRENCE-HUGHES, 1142 S. DIAMOND BAR BLVD. 272, DIAMOND BAR, CA 91765. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2025. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ DORINE LAWRENCE-HUGHES, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/31/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 08/01/2026, 08/08/2026, 08/15/2026, 08/22/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026166805. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ELDER BUDDY, 927 COEUR D ALENE AVENUE, VENICE, CA 90291, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): FAT SOUND MUSIC, LLC, 927 COEUR D ALENE AVENUE, VENICE, CA 90291. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ DAVID BARACH, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/03/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name

DBA

Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 08/10/2026, 08/17/2026, 08/24/2026, 08/31/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026165395. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MARTIN FEINBERG TEAM PROPERTY MANAGEMENT GROUP, 1437 7TH ST, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): MARTIN FEINBERG REAL ESTATE, INC., 1437 7TH ST, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ Martin Feinberg, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/31/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 08/03/2026, 08/10/2026, 08/17/2026, 08/24/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026176162. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: VALERO WILMINGTON REFINERY, ONE VALERO WAY, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78249, County of BEXAR. Registered Owner(s): ULTRAMAR INC., ONE VALERO WAY, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78249. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 05/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ JUDE A. DWORACZYK, SECRETARY. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/17/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 08/24/2026, 08/31/2026, 09/07/2026, 09/14/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026178009. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SANTI COACHING, 3626 DENVER AVE, LONG BEACH, CA 90810-2205, County of Los Angeles. AI #ON B20250085574. Registered Owner(s):

DBA

SANTI WATER STRATEGIES, 3626 DENVER AVE, LONG BEACH, CA 90810-2205. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 08/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ MOISES SANTILLAN, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/19/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 08/22/2026, 08/29/2026, 09/05/2026, 09/12/2026

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26STCP02999. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 North Hill St Los Angeles, California 90012. Petition of Cate Woodson Schaberg for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Cate Woodson Schaberg filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Cate Woodson Schaberg to Jamie Woodson Schaberg. 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: 11/20/2026, Time: 8:30AM, Dept: 529. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 08/10/2026. VIRGINIA KEENY, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 08/15/2026, 08/22/2026, 08/29/2026, 09/05/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00394. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica 90401. Petition of Scott Hamilton Hunter McKinnies for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Scott Hamilton Hunter McKinnies filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Scott Hamilton Hunter McKinnies to Scott Hamilton Hunter. 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: 10-09-2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: AUG 14 2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 08/24/2026, 08/31/2026, 09/07/2026, 09/14/2026

COUPLE

FROM PAGE 2

whim,” Laura said. Placed first in their group on the strength of daily votes from family and friends, they advanced to the quarterfinals. “We are usually not ‘contest’ people and this is out of our comfort zone, but in a way that’s turned out to be pretty fun,” Laura said.

Should they win, the couple have modest, practical plans for the \$20,000: home projects, a dent in the mortgage and a celebratory weekend getaway with their two dogs in tow. “With our son now a high school senior, these family moments are fleeting,” they said.

The campaign also raises money for two nonprofits, the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and Oceana, chosen by the event’s nonprofit partner, the Action Initiative Team.

NATIVE

FROM PAGE 3

broad ‘Mexican’ or ‘Latino’ category,” so that “important differences can disappear.” Such students, he noted, “may speak an Indigenous language at home, have cultural traditions and community ties that differ from those of other Mexican or Latino students, and sometimes face backlash because of their Indigenous identity or language.”

“If schools don’t recognize these differences, they may not have the information, language support, or cultural understanding needed to serve these students well,” Vásquez said. “Recognizing Indigenous identity allows schools to see students more fully and provide support that reflects who they actually are.”

For Pérez, the most important reform begins with better data. “When students are not accurately identified, it becomes much harder for schools to understand their experiences, identify inequities, provide appropriate language support, or develop culturally responsive programs,” he said.

“Accurate data would not solve every challenge these students face, but it would provide an essential foundation for addressing them,” Pérez said. “Schools cannot effectively respond to disparities they cannot see or measure.”

Data alone, he cautioned, is not enough. “Policy change should be accompanied by meaningful engagement with students, families, and communities,” Pérez said. “Recognition means making Indigenous students visible.” He warned that “if Indigenous Mexican students remain invisible in school data and institutional policies, their needs and strengths can continue to be overlooked.”

The book grew out of a three-year, mixed-methods study in semi-urban, urban and rural settings, using student interviews, teacher interviews and survey data. It focuses on multilingual students who speak Zapotec, Mixtec or P’urhépecha.

Pérez described the partnership as one of complementary strengths. “Working with Rafael was a natural progression of my scholarship and a collaboration in which our perspectives reinforced one another,” he said. Vásquez, he added, “brought deep and focused expertise on Indigenous Mexican

Greg cited Santa Monica’s ties to the coast in explaining Oceana’s appeal and called food insecurity, which affects 1 in 4 people in Los Angeles County, equally pressing. “We’re grateful for the work the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank does to ensure that people in our communities are fed,” he said.

A Variety feature would be a surreal capstone, Laura said. “Having this platform allows us to bring a positive and upbeat story to the place we call home while rallying support for charities that have a direct impact on our community.”

Voting is open through Aug. 27 at the couple’s profile at americasfavcouple.org/2026/laura-and-greg.

maaz@smdp.com

“

If schools don’t recognize these differences, they may not have the information, language support, or cultural understanding needed to serve these students well

- Rafael Vásquez

”

students, particularly their linguistic and cultural experiences and the ways their identities can be overlooked in educational settings.”

“I would not characterize our perspectives primarily in terms of difference,” Pérez said. “I would characterize them as complementary.” Together, he said, they set out to ask “what happens when schools fail to recognize an important dimension of a student’s identity, and what can institutions do differently?”

You can learn more about the book, including photographs and academic reviews, at heyzine.com/flip-book/782c258cf5.html.

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

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Garden colour

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

Aloe	Gift	Musk	Sorrel
Arum	Grow	Open	Stem
Bloom	Hemp	Oxlip	Tansy
Boronia	Hyacinth	Path	Vase
Card	Iris	Peony	Violet
Cistus	Ixia	Phlox	Water
Columbine	Leaf	Poppy	Waxflower
Cress	Leek	Posy	Weeds
Daisy	Lily of the valley	Rakes	Weld
Daphne	Lobelia	Rose	Wilted
Dill	Lupins	Sage	
Erica	Moss	Show	
Fuchsia		Snail	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Hooked on a feeling

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 24)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Today features the intelligence of the body that shows itself through movement. Movement is the language of the wild. It's what the creatures understand and respond to. Through movement, we learn what kind of creature we are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't like to be told what to do, and that comes up in interesting ways. For instance, the hardest part of a meditative practice can be letting someone else dictate your breathing, even if that person is you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). On an average day, your eyes land on thousands of things without really seeing them. But today, an ordinary object seems to call you to study it as though it washed ashore from another planet. Your takeaway says more about you than the object.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You can learn from watching what makes a person lose track of time. Turn the study on yourself. Your attention already knows where it wants to live, and you'll feel most content and congruent when you let it go there.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Laughter will interrupt your thinking. Maybe this is why you cherish your funniest friend. For a few seconds, there is simply the laugh itself. It gives the mind a brief, unexpected holiday, all-inclusive and totally free.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Conversations are a real education today. People become far more interesting because you don't see them as your audience. Instead of waiting for your turn to talk, you see your connection as a chance to collect clues.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If it feels like you need to prepare for a conversation, challenge yourself to go in cold. Today, this will force you to be in the moment, seeing and understanding more about this scene than you would if you already knew what you were going to say.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Today, your attention behaves like a flashlight instead of a floodlight. Rather than chasing every corner of the room, you point it at one thing and let your mind wander only within the limits of this focused illumination. There is a whole universe right here.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Music asks something unusual of the body. Even people who refuse to dance may not be able to resist tapping a finger or nodding their head. Rhythm reaches parts of us that language only visits from time to time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have spent your whole life inside your own voice. Imagine hearing it for the first time today. Would it sound encouraging? Funny? Curious? Familiarity has hidden things that you will now experience more fully.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Not only does self-consciousness feel uncool, it can actually feel painful to you. But you can avoid the whole dynamic by bringing your attention to the other person as though you'll be tested on this later. You just might be!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Somewhere along the way, many adults begin asking what a thing is worth before deciding whether it's worth noticing. Not you. Today, you're like a child picking up an interesting rock. You'll turn it over, hold it to the light and put it in a pocket for later.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Junk email
- 5 Performs in a movie
- 9 Small pesky fly
- 13 Ram of the zodiac
- 15 Repair, as a sock
- 16 Jay who hosted *The Tonight Show*
- 17 Soup-dipping utensil
- 18 Vicinity
- 19 Strongly recommend
- 20 Thin tube that releases tiny amounts of liquid
- 22 Nights before holidays
- 23 Winery tank
- 24 Tag on a garment
- 26 Mercury or Mars
- 30 '70s dance club
- 32 Wise advisor
- 33 Follow, as advice
- 35 Engrave with acid
- 38 Only slightly
- 39 Beauty parlor
- 41 Right ___ minute (now)
- 43 Apiece
- 45 Farm's storage tower
- 46 Jeans maker Strauss
- 47 Ferris wheels and carousels
- 49 Beer maker
- 51 In good ___ (fit)
- 53 ___-mo replay
- 54 Fashionable
- 55 Bicycle handle for stopping
- 62 Colonel or captain
- 63 Car with a meter

- 64 Banish
- 65 Sharp part of a sword
- 66 Pizza appliance
- 67 Hearing or sight
- 68 Forest animal with antlers
- 69 Dark-colored wines
- 70 Burger bun morsel

DOWN

- 1 Reduced-price event
- 2 Say grace, for example
- 3 Office assistant
- 4 Card-game combo
- 5 Adjust to change
- 6 Complain constantly
- 7 Maple or elm
- 8 Hair tangles

- 9 Container for liquid adhesive
- 10 Great bravery
- 11 Halo wearer
- 12 Tips of shoes
- 14 Bring a meal to
- 21 Sworn statements
- 25 Highest poker card
- 26 Group for expert putters: Abbr.
- 27 Oil change, informally
- 28 Opera solo
- 29 Tool to break open pecan shells
- 30 Sandwich shops
- 31 Much-admired celebrity
- 34 Make simpler
- 36 Enjoy some gum

- 37 Home for bees
- 40 Of high morals
- 42 Title for a knight
- 44 ___-hop (music genre)
- 48 Person who owes money
- 50 Parts in a play
- 51 Pulled-down window covering
- 52 Door-to-wall hardware
- 53 Potato coverings
- 54 Reputation, informally
- 56 Glowing review
- 57 Chopped down
- 58 Former partners
- 59 Grape plant
- 60 "So what ___ is new?"
- 61 Clarinet accessory

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13				14		15					16			
17						18					19			
20					21						22			
				23					24	25				
26	27	28	29				30	31						
32					33	34				35		36	37	
38					39				40		41			42
	43			44		45					46			
			47		48				49	50				
	51	52						53						
54					55	56	57				58	59	60	61
62					63					64				
65					66					67				
68					69						70			

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08/24/26

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



MONDAY | AUGUST 24

WEEKLY PALISADIANS GATHERING IN SANTA MONICA

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Bardonna 1601 Montana Ave Santa Monica. Displaced Palisadians are welcome to join for connection and discussion. No formal agenda. No RSVP necessary. Organized by Stephanie Kana of Oasis Palisades. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/weekly-palisadians-gathering-in-santa-monica/18461166/2026-08-17T08>

COMMUNAL GARDENING @ ISHIHARA PARK

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Ishihara Park 2909 Exposition Blvd Santa Monica. Communal Garden Program Work Days @ Ishihara Park Learning Garden - Mondays and Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Free Come get your hands dirty in the Communal Garden Program at Ishihara Park Learning Garden, a communal spot to learn and acquire gardening skills. Seasoned as well as new gardeners of all ages are welcome. Free drop in activity, no reservation needed. Visit the Ishihara Park Learning Garden site for More Information. Subject to cancellation due to weather. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/communal-gardening-ishihara-park/18461167/2026-08-03T09>

NATIONAL WAFFLE DAY WITH KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. Celebrate National Waffle Day and the centennial year of Route 66 with Comfort Hotels at The Ultimate Route 66 Comfort® Stop for National Waffle Day, a public pop-up at the Santa Monica Pier, the symbolic end of Route 66. Guests can stop by the Waffle Truck for free waffles and enjoy games, photo opportunities, surprise giveaways, commemorative keepsakes and road trip-inspired fun. Actor and comedian Keegan-Michael Key will make a special appearance from 9:30–10:00 a.m., bringing his signature humor to the celebration of road trips, family getaways and waffles. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/national-waffle-day-with-keegan-michael-key/19673524/2026-08-24T09>

MANUFACTURED HOUSING COMMUNITY CONVENINGS

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Palisades Recovery Coalition - Community Center 15233 La Cruz Dr Pacific Palisades, CA. A space for Palisades MHC fire survivors to come together, explore research, and share experiences as they navigate recovery — hosted by NPHS and the Just Environments Lab. Join for research presentations, time to connect with fellow community members, and a chance to share your experience as researchers shape the next phases of this work. Food and refreshments provided, and a virtual attendance option is available. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/manufactured-housing-community-convenings/19662342/2026-08-24T18>

PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! 6pm-Close. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2026-08-03T18>

ALIVENESS: A WAY BACK TO YOURSELF

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Kama 11788 West Pico Boulevard Los Angeles. A live talk with certified holistic health coach Jenn Smukler. You are capable, dependable, and holding everything together. And somewhere along the way, you stopped feeling like yourself inside of it. This talk is for the high-capacity person who has been running on overdrive for so long that aliveness started to feel like a luxury — something you will get to when things slow down. Except they never do. Jenn Smukler is a certified holistic health coach whose work centers on one question: what does it cost you to keep abandoning yourself in the process of taking care of everyone else? Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/aliveness-a-way-back-to-yourself/19660835/2026-08-24T19>

CASTANEA SICILIAN CAFE - EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Castanea Cafe 1307 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Enjoy 50% OFF all coffees at Castanea Venice Beach ?? Early Bird special every Mon–Thu from 9–10am. Start your morning with premium coffee at a special price — limited time offer! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/castanea-sicilian-cafe-early-bird-special/18847307/2026-08-03T21>

LATE NIGHT HAPPY HOUR AT MARELLE - NIGHT CAP MENU

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Marelle at Sandbourne Santa Monica 1740 Ocean Ave Santa Monica. Marelle will be launching a late-night happy hour menu called 'Night Cap' starting Monday, April 6th. Guests can order from this menu exclusively at Marelle, bar and bar lounge only. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/late-night-happy-hour-at-marelle-night-cap-menu/18409321/2026-08-03T21>

TUESDAY | AUGUST 25

LADIES GOLF CLINIC

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Four Wood Golf 828 Pico Blvd, Suite 5 Santa Monica. Join us every Tuesday from 9:30–11:00 AM for a relaxed, social golf experience designed for women of all skill levels. Whether you're picking up a club for the first time or looking to build confidence in your game, Matchas & Mulligans is all about learning, connecting, and having fun in a welcoming, pressure-free environment. Led by our in-house golf pros, you'll learn new skills each session. Blend of light instruction with a social atmosphere — the ladies' clinic is perfect for improving your skills

while meeting like-minded golfers. \$60.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/ladies-golf-clinic/19572527/2026-08-18T09>

AUTHOR TALK WITH BERONDA MONTGOMERY

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Join us for a riveting conversation with award-winning biologist Beronda Montgomery as we discuss her book, When Trees Testify: Science, Wisdom, History, and America's Black Botanical Legacy. The histories of trees in America are also the histories of Black Americans. Pecan trees were domesticated by an enslaved African named Antoine; sycamore trees were both havens and signposts for people trying to escape enslavement; poplar trees are historically associated with lynching; and willow bark has offered the gift of medicine. These trees, and others, testify not only to the complexity of the Black American narrative but also to a heritage of Black botanical expertise that, like Native American traditions, predates the United States entirely. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/author-talk-with-beronda-montgomery/19500850/2026-08-25T11>

ACRYLIC/OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP TUESDAY

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Paint Lab 1453 14th St Santa Monica. In this workshop each student will work on their own project with guidance from an instructor. The adult acrylic/oil workshop is \$48.00 plus the cost of canvas (canvas available for purchase in studio). Workshop cost includes easel set up, paint, brushes, apron, 2 hours of instruction and clean up. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/acrylic-oil-painting-workshop-tuesday/19429773/2026-08-11T13>

WALK-IN TUTORING WITH LAURIE

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Walk-In Tutoring With Laurie Walk-in tutoring is available for any adult who needs help with internet searches, filling out forms, English conversation, reading, writing, resumes, and applications. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/walk-in-tutoring-with-laurie/17128550/2026-08-04T14>

ELEMENTARY ART STUDIO 3:30-4:20PM

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Open to all skill levels, sparking creativity through drawing, color work, collage, and mixed-media techniques. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/elementary-art-studio-3-30-4-20pm/18825639/2026-08-04T15>

WEEKLY WALKING CLUB

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Near Palisades Recreation Center Toyopa Drive and Alma Real Drive Pacific Palisades. A weekly walking club will meet on Tuesdays for approximately one hour to walk 1.5 to 2 miles. The group will meet at the corner of Toyopa

and Alma Real. All levels are welcome. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/weekly-walking-club/19106860/2026-08-04T16>

PAWS ON THE PATIO AT MARELLE

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Marelle at Sandbourne Santa Monica 1740 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica. National Dog Day deserves an encore! Join us Wednesday, August 26, for Paws on the Patio, an extended National Dog Day celebration benefiting Labelle Foundation and presented by Tito's Handmade Vodka. Spend the evening in the Sandbourne Courtyard enjoying music from a live DJ, specialty Tito's cocktails and plenty of dog-friendly fun. Meet adoptable rescue dogs from Labelle Foundation, capture photos with your pup and learn more about adopting, fostering or supporting dogs in need. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/paws-on-the-patio-at-marelle/19473827/2026-08-25T17>

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 26

MOBILE COMMUNITY MEDITATION CENTER - GUIDED MEDITATION

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Santa Monica. Please join Mobile Community Meditation Center aka Buddhist Boondockers Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10 am for a 45 minute fully guided mindfulness meditation - on the grass, under the shade of the trees, with a stunning view of the sparkling ocean. Whether you're new to meditation or a seasoned practitioner, everyone is welcomed. Bring your own chair or cushion and try to arrive 5 minutes early and be ready to enjoy a truly peaceful moment as we relax, be present and make new friends; giving ourselves the love and attention we deserve by quieting our minds, finding peace and creating community. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mobile-community-meditation-center-guided-meditation/19479748/2026-08-05T10>

TODDLER STORYTIME AND SONGS

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Toddler Storytime and Songs Join us for storytime on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. We share stories, songs, and movement activities to build early literacy skills for toddlers aged 18 months to 3 years. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/toddler-storytime-and-songs/>

MIDDAY YOGA ON WEDNESDAYS

1:30 p.m. - 9:30 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.pcrscm.org/event/midday-yoga-on-wednesdays-b7af2> for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/midday-yoga-on-wednesdays/19509303/2026-08-12T13>



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