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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Volume 24 Issue 219 MONDAY 9/29/25 smdp.com

LA County response to deadly fires slowed by lack of resources, outdated alert process, report says



SMDP Photo

FIRE: The Palisades Fire tore through the area in January.

An outside review of Los Angeles County's response to January's deadly wildfires found a lack of resources and outdated policies for sending emergency alerts led to delays in warning residents about the need to evacuate as flames began consuming neighborhoods in Altadena and Pacific Palisades.

The Independent After-Action Report produced by the consulting firm McChrystal Group was commissioned by county supervisors just weeks after the Eaton and Palisades fires killed more than 30 people and destroyed thousands of homes in highly dense areas of LA County.

The report released Thursday says a series of weaknesses, including "outdated policies, inconsistent practices and communications vulnerabilities," hampered the effectiveness of the county's response.

The Associated Press found some residents didn't receive emergency alerts until well after homes went up in flames.

The report cited critical staffing shortages including a high number of sheriff's deputy vacancies and an under-resourced Office of Emergency Management. In addition, first responders and incident commanders were unable to consistently share real-time information due to unreliable cellular connectivity, inconsistent field reporting methods, and the use of various unconnected platforms.

"While frontline responders acted decisively and, in many cases, heroically, in the face of extraordinary conditions, the events underscored the need for clearer policies, stronger training, integrated tools, and improved public communication," the report says.

It is not intended to investigate or assess blame, county officials said in a news release.

The Office of Emergency Management began putting together its staffing plan for predicted heavy winds Jan. 3, four days before the Palisades and Eaton fires ignited. But an experienced OEM staffer had been sent out of town for a training event. That meant several less-knowledgeable staffers were in

SEE **FIRE** 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 sealed proposals for

- **RFP # 455 MEDICAL DIRECTOR Submission Deadline Is October 16, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

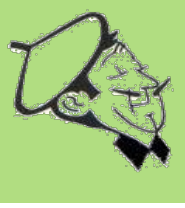
Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.

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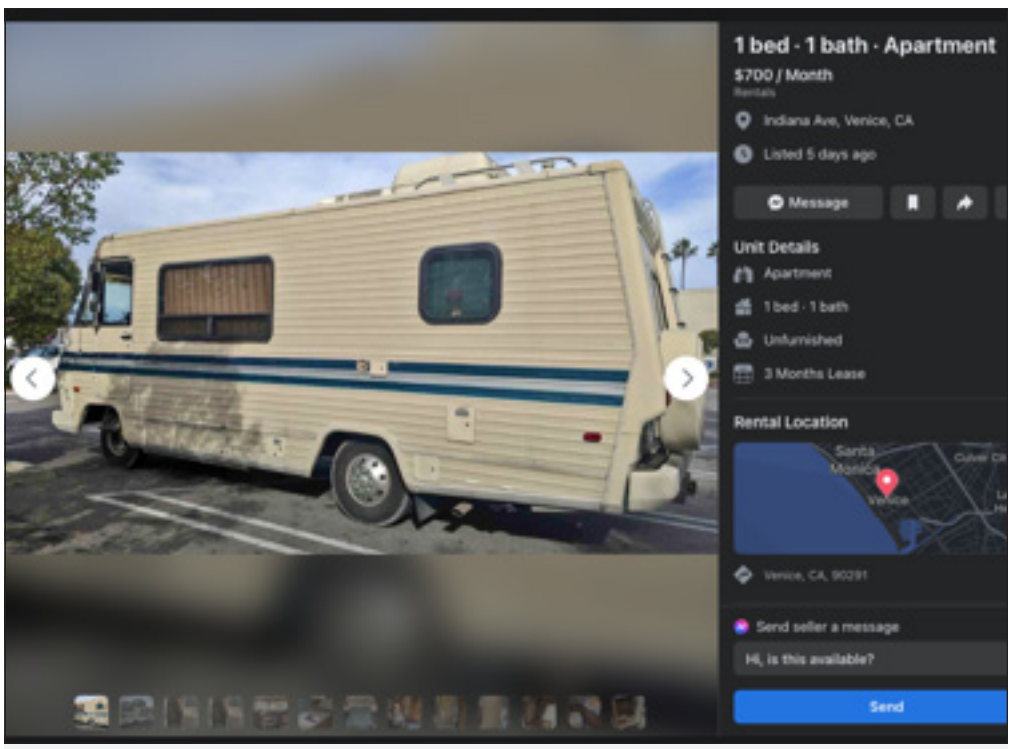
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L.A. advances ban on renting RVs to homeless residents on public streets



Courtesy image

RENT: Listings are available online for people looking to live in vehicles.

JAMIE PAIGE
Special to the Daily Press

The Los Angeles City Council has given initial approval to an ordinance aimed at outlawing "vanlording," the practice of leasing recreational vehicles to unhoused residents on public streets — a phenomenon long visible in Venice and increasingly across the San Fernando Valley.

> This is going to be a really important tool in helping us address that ongoing crisis
>
> - Traci Park, Councilmember

The measure, introduced by Councilmember Traci Park in 2023, amends city law to explicitly prohibit leasing or renting RVs for residential use in the public right-of-way. The Council voted 13-0 on Sept. 17 to adopt the Public Works Committee report, which recommended amending the city code to add RVs to the list of vehicles that cannot be rented, leased or sold in the public right-of-way.

"This is going to be a really important tool in helping us address that ongoing crisis," Park said. "It closes a gap in our city's laws that's going to have a huge impact on quality of life here. It will prohibit people from leasing those vehicles using our city streets for residential purposes."

The ordinance imposes escalating civil penalties: $500 for a first violation, $750 for a second within a year, and $1,000 for subsequent offenses. Each day of violation is treated as a separate offense. Under committee amendments, violations could also be prosecuted criminally as misdemeanors, subject to penalties authorized under Section 11.00(m) of the municipal code.

The Public Works Committee, which advanced the measure on Aug. 27, also directed the Los Angeles Police Department to report back on how enforcement will be carried out, including coordination with outreach teams, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and Council offices, as well as safeguards for people residing in RVs.

VANLORD PROBLEM

Venice has been one of the flashpoints in the city's struggle with RV encampments. In 2019, the Los Angeles Times profiled Gary Gallerie, a man known locally as the "van lord of Venice," who openly acknowledged buying up vans and renting them to people who could not afford apartments.

Gallerie said he built a fleet of 13 vans, renting them for $150 to $300 a month. Supporters described him as providing an option when no other shelter was available, while critics pointed out that the vehicles lacked toilets and running water and fell short of basic habitability standards. Residents often complained about unsanitary conditions and

SEE **RV** PAGE 11

District completes 477 work orders, achieves "good" ratings across all campuses

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District announced significant facility improvements during a board meeting on Thursday, Sept. 18, with all schools now receiving good ratings on state inspections after years of substandard conditions at multiple campuses.

The district's maintenance team completed 477 work orders during an intensive summer campaign, reducing the backlog from 661 pending requests to 184 by the end of July. The effort resulted in every school in the district improving its Facility Inspection Tool (FIT) scores, with several schools jumping from poor or fair ratings to good status.

"We moved all of our scores up to good," said Glen Infuso, Director of Maintenance and Operations. "Every single school improved from last year."

The improvements represent a dramatic turnaround for a district that struggled with facility conditions in recent years. Santa Monica High School, which received a poor rating of 57.11% in the 2023-2024 school year, jumped to 90.75% this year. Will Rogers Elementary School improved from a poor rating of 70.91% to 96.83%.

Board member Maria Leon-Vazquez noted the positive community response to the improvements, saying this was the first summer without facility-related complaints from the community.

The district launched what officials called a "work order blitz" across all schools during the summer, utilizing both internal staff and seasonal contractors to address a mounting backlog of maintenance requests. Glen Infuso described the effort as "disrupted the system" to tackle years of deferred maintenance. The initiative targeted everything from ceiling repairs and HVAC replacements to flood damage restoration and pest control.

Major projects completed included addressing flooding at Lincoln Middle School, installing fiber-reinforced plastic panels in kitchen areas to prevent health department violations, and conducting extensive fire damage repairs at Webster Elementary School following recent wildfires.

However, the ambitious maintenance program has created significant financial pressure. Jerry Gibson, Business Manager of Facilities, warned board members that the district is rapidly depleting its facility improvement funds.

Of the district's $5 million in combined facility funds, nearly $3 million has been spent, leaving approximately $2 million for future projects.

The financial constraints pose a particular challenge as the district faces $6.5 million in necessary roofing projects identified for the 2026-2027 summer season — more than three times the remaining available funding. Chief Operations Officer Carey Upton said the most critical roofing projects would total $6.5 million.

The board approved adding $500,000 to deferred maintenance funds to help cover emergency situations, including addressing a water leak at Malibu Elementary School that cannot be covered by bond funds. Assistant Superintendent of Business and Fiscal Services Gerardo Cruz said the board would add funds "to cover a couple miscellaneous items, but as well as to help with the Malibu Elementary water leak."

The district operates under the California Facility Inspection Tool system, which requires annual assessments to ensure schools provide facilities that are clean, safe, and functional. Schools receive ratings from 'exemplary' (99-100%) down to 'poor' (below 75%), with results reported in mandatory School Accountability Report Cards.

The summer improvements occurred alongside an extensive construction program funded by voter-approved bond measures. The district currently has 18 construction projects underway at nine sites, including the recently opened Malibu High School building, which was completed a semester ahead of schedule.

Despite the financial challenges ahead, district officials expressed confidence in their maintenance operations. The facilities team implemented new tracking systems and reorganized workflows to improve efficiency. They also launched E-Builder software in July to better manage maintenance and operations requests across the district.

The improvements come as the district continues to address infrastructure challenges, particularly in Malibu, where schools have faced ongoing power and water system issues. The positive facility inspection results, however, demonstrate the district's commitment to providing safe and functional learning environments for its approximately 11,000 students across both Santa Monica and Malibu communities.

The district's next major challenge will be securing additional funding for the substantial roofing projects needed in the coming years while maintaining the improved standards achieved through this summer's intensive maintenance campaign.

maaz@smdp.com

GET IT DAILY...



Weather

Monday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 69.
Monday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.
Tuesday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 68.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 62.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/09/29	Mon	2:19 PM	4.46	H
2025/09/29	Mon	11:36 PM	0.97	L
2025/09/30	Tue	4:23 PM	4.53	H
2025/10/01	Wed	12:25 AM	0.62	L
2025/10/01	Wed	07:48 AM	3.87	H
2025/10/01	Wed	11:58 AM	3.24	L
2025/10/01	Wed	5:38 PM	4.85	H
2025/10/02	Thu	01:02 AM	0.31	L
2025/10/02	Thu	07:51 AM	4.15	H
2025/10/02	Thu	12:43 PM	2.69	L
2025/10/02	Thu	6:33 PM	5.20	H
2025/10/03	Fri	01:33 AM	0.09	L
2025/10/03	Fri	08:04 AM	4.52	H
2025/10/03	Fri	1:23 PM	2.05	L
2025/10/03	Fri	7:20 PM	5.49	H
2025/10/04	Sat	02:02 AM	-0.01	L
2025/10/04	Sat	08:22 AM	4.97	H
2025/10/04	Sat	2:03 PM	1.37	L
2025/10/04	Sat	8:04 PM	5.65	H
2025/10/05	Sun	02:30 AM	0.04	L
2025/10/05	Sun	08:45 AM	5.46	H
2025/10/05	Sun	2:44 PM	0.69	L
2025/10/05	Sun	8:48 PM	5.62	H
2025/10/06	Mon	02:58 AM	0.25	L
2025/10/06	Mon	09:10 AM	5.94	H
2025/10/06	Mon	3:27 PM	0.10	L
2025/10/06	Mon	9:33 PM	5.40	H
2025/10/07	Tue	03:28 AM	0.60	L
2025/10/07	Tue	09:39 AM	6.34	H
2025/10/07	Tue	4:12 PM	-0.34	L
2025/10/07	Tue	10:22 PM	5.00	H
2025/10/08	Wed	03:58 AM	1.05	L
2025/10/08	Wed	10:12 AM	6.59	H
2025/10/08	Wed	5:02 PM	-0.57	L

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: 9/24
15 31 45 49 53
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 145 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/25
7 18 25 28 38

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 9/23
13 24 41 42 70
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 474 M

Daily 3
Draw Date: 9/25
EVENING: 8 4 3
Draw Date: 9/25
MIDDAY: 1 1 1

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 9/24
23 26 30 39 42
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 46 M

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 9/25
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:41.98

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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

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Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25STCP03331 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Cassandra Marie Gipson for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Morgan D Ross court for a decree of changing names as follows: Cassandra Marie Gipson to Cassandra Marie Pryor . 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 1/30/2026 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: 45 Room: 529 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Stanley Musk Courthouse 111 N Hill St Los Angeles, CA 90012 . 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

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00472 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Kathy Joy Smith for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Luanne Smith court for a decree of changing names as follows: Luanne Smith to Kathy Joy Smith . 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 10/10 /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 7125 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

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00475 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Cassandra Camille Garbutt for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Cassandra Camille Garbutt court for a decree of changing names as follows: Cassandra Camille Garbutt to Cassandra Camille Kumar . 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 10/24 /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 7125 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

Petition to Admin Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:GEORGE ERNEST CHAMBERS CASE NUMBER: 24STPB06482. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of GEORGE ERNEST CHAMBERS A Petition for Probate has been filed by KEITH CHAMBERS in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles-Stanley Mosk Courthouse. The Petition for Probate requests that KEITH CHAMBERS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: OCT 7TH , 2025 Time: 8:30 a.m Dept. 62 Room _ Address of Court: Stanley Mosk Courthouse 111 N. Hill St Los Angeles, CA 90012 If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for the Petitioner: Peter Borenstein (SBN 304266) P.O. Box 885 Culver City, CA 90232 Telephone: 213-362-8740

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Council tackles development heavy agenda on Tuesday

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Tuesday meeting of the Santa Monica City Council will be heavy on development projects but Council will also tackle how, or even if, they should fund local neighborhood associations.

HOUSING PILOT PROGRAM UNDER REVIEW

Council members will review the status of an emergency ordinance establishing a pilot program that allows market-rate housing projects more flexibility in providing affordable housing units off-site. The Off-site Affordable Housing Pilot Incentive Program, approved in August, was designed to incentivize stalled housing projects facing financial challenges.

Since adoption, the city has received six applications totaling 1,088 units, reaching the program's 1,000-unit cap. Five projects elected to build affordable units off-site, while one chose to pay in-lieu fees of approximately $2.2 million rather than construct nine affordable units on-site.

The pilot allows developers three options: build market-rate units first and develop required affordable units off-site within four years while depositing $150,000 per unit in escrow; rehabilitate existing uninhabitable units and deed-restrict them as affordable; or pay in-lieu fees to the city's Housing Trust Fund.

Housing providers who participated in a September workshop generally supported the program but raised concerns about the $150,000 gap financing amount being insufficient. Community organization Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights has called for additional milestones to ensure off-site affordable housing actually gets built.

Staff is seeking council direction on whether to terminate, extend or modify the pilot program's terms.

ZONING MAP AMENDMENTS FOR TWO PROPERTIES

The council will consider zoning changes for two properties that staff says were inadvertently rezoned in previous updates, creating legal nonconforming conditions that impede leasing and financing.

The first involves a portion of 2644 30th Street, where staff recommends changing only the commercial office building footprint from Single-Unit Residential to Neighborhood Commercial zoning. The 35,000-square-foot building has operated as office space since 1956 but was rezoned to residential during 2010 and 2015 updates. One tenant plans to vacate in early 2027, and the nonconforming status creates barriers to finding replacement tenants.

The property owner has volunteered to execute a 10-year covenant preventing redevelopment of the commercial space or adjacent parking lot for housing projects, addressing neighbor concerns about large-scale development.

The second property at 1331 Wilshire Boulevard faces similar issues with "split zoning" that runs through an existing commercial building formerly occupied by Rite Aid. Staff recommends expanding Mixed-Use Boulevard zoning to cover the entire commercial structure while leaving the surface parking lot in residential zoning.

Both proposals have raised questions about spot zoning, though staff argues they simply correct mapping errors rather than create incompatible land uses.

BUILDING CODE UPDATES ADOPTED

The council will consider adopting the 2025 California Building Standards Code and related local amendments. The state publishes updated building codes every three years, with the 2025 edition becoming effective Jan. 1, 2026.

Local amendments focus primarily on seismic safety requirements due to earthquake risks in Southern California. Most changes carry over previous local amendments, with one new addition related to home hardening and fire safety measures.

The Building and Fire-Life Safety Commission recommended adoption at its Sept. 10 meeting. Assembly Bill 130, signed in June, generally freezes residential building code updates for nearly six years, but the proposed amendments qualify for exceptions as carryover provisions or home hardening measures.

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT PROGRAM REFORM

Staff will present options for reforming the Neighborhood Organization Grant Program, which has been suspended since July following political endorsements by participating groups during recent elections.

The program previously provided up to $7,000 annually to seven recognized neighborhood organizations representing over 50,000 households citywide. Due to differing kinds of tax-exempt status, some of the groups are legally permitted to engage in political endorsements but they have always been prohibited from using city money to do so.

However, a majority of the current Council have said they do not want to provide money to any organization that engages in political activity.

Three reform options are under consideration: enhanced communications support including reinstating the Seascape magazine at an estimated $200,000 annually; a modernized grant program with formal participation agreements and five-year penalties for political endorsements; or in-kind support through fee waivers and co-sponsorship of community events.

The Tuesday meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, with public comment accepted on all items.

editor@smdp.com

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California resentenced thousands under criminal justice reform laws. Here's how it's working

California over the past dozen years enacted a series of criminal justice laws that were meant to give more people an opportunity to be resentenced and thin out the state's severely overcrowded prisons. This week a state agency released the most-comprehensive look yet at how those changes are playing out among formerly incarcerated people.

The report found low recidivism rates among people who were older and had served lengthy sentences. Those patterns contrasted with people serving shorter prison sentences for nonviolent crimes, which showed higher rates of recidivism, the majority of which were for misdemeanors.

The Committee on Revision of the Penal Code and California Policy Lab on Wednesday published the report, which details demographics and recidivism rates for five of the most significant resentencing policies implemented between 2012 and 2022 under Gov. Gavin Newsom and former Gov. Jerry Brown.

Changing Three Strikes: Proposition 36 in 2012 allowed people serving a life sentence for a "non-serious, non-violent" third strike offense to petition courts for resentencing. Nearly half of the 2,200 people who were released were Black and most were above age 50. The group had an especially low recidivism rate.

Lower penalties for drugs and petty theft: Proposition 47 in 2014 allowed incarcerated people convicted of certain low-level drug and theft offenses to petition courts for resentencing. This population, which accounted for the largest share of people released among all of the policies, had a higher recidivism rate.

Restricting felony murder charges: New laws in 2018 and 2022 narrowed the circumstances for prosecutors to charge people with felony murder if they were involved in a crime but did not pull the trigger to kill someone. Those released under the changes had a very low recidivism rate.

Good conduct: A 2018 policy allows the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to recommend resentencing due to changes in the law or positive conduct. The department's secretary has referred over 2,200 people for resentencing. The report found that 786 of those cases were denied. Those released under the policy had a low recidivism rate.

Rethinking sentencing enhancements: A 2022 law allowed courts to reduce sentences for people who were serving time for enhancements that had been repealed through other laws. The report found that Black and Latino people accounted for 75% of people who were resentenced under the law.

Under all five policies, approximately 12,000 people have been resentenced and 9,500 have been released, according to the report. Black and Latino people represented the majority of those released under the policies.

The Committee on Revision of the Penal Code, a state agency created by the Legislature in 2020, is led by a group of academics and lawmakers, most of whom are appointed by Newsom to recommend statutory reforms. The agency partnered with the California Policy Lab, a research institute at UC Berkeley, to produce the report.

Tom Nosewicz, legal director for the agency, said the data show that the policies have been largely successful at reducing the prison population without increasing risks in public safety and can serve as a blueprint for future changes.

About 90,000 people are incarcerated in California prisons, down from a peak of about 170,000. It costs roughly $130,000 per year to incarcerate someone. As of December 2024, more than 30,000 incarcerated people were over the age of 50 and had served more than 15 years, according to the report.

The new laws "helped reduce our prison population, but of course, it's a drop in the bucket," said Nosewicz. "That's why I think it's important to show how we can expand some of these opportunities and show ways that have worked and ways that haven't."

While the report includes one-year recidivism outcomes for all five reform policies, only two of the policies were old enough to measure three-year recidivism outcomes, which is the standard timeline to determine recidivism. Researchers Alissa Skog and Johanna Lacoe acknowledged that as a limitation, noting that a longer time frame can yield "substantially higher recidivism rates." They also noted that they could not account for people who were eligible under the policies but did not petition the courts or were denied resentencing by judges.

Michele Hanisee, special assistant of legislative affairs for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, said the report was not "an intense study."

"It was a superficial data review," she said.

Other district attorneys have been critical of the Committee on the Revision of the Penal Code.

"Generally, the committee's recommendations, though maybe well-intentioned, have proven to be damaging to victims, law enforcement, and the criminal justice system and have also endangered public safety," said Jonathan Raven, an executive at the California District Attorneys Association.

WOMEN BENEFITED FROM FELONY MURDER CHANGES

But Kate Chatfield, executive director of California Public Defenders Association, said that resentencing, writ large, is working.

"Looking at this holistically, 15 years is the max that we should have someone in prison for. That should be the ceiling," she said. "If you are looking at public safety, there is no reason to hold people in prison after they age out. That is what this data shows."

Chatfield, who drafted the 2018 felony murder reform law, was struck by the number

SEE **CRIME** PAGE 11

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: 25ENT-0163 (Vesting Tentative Parcel Map 83678)

1527 17th Street
APPLICANT: Howard Lak
PROPERTY OWNER: CF Saticoy, LP

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following request:

Vesting Tentative Parcel Map to allow an airspace subdivision of a parcel to create a 3-unit residential condominium development in conjunction with the preservation/rehabilitation of a Craftsman-style residence located on the subject property, a designated City Landmark. A similar parcel map was previously approved on January 20, 2021, but has now expired. The proposed map is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Class 3, Section 15303 (b) of the State CEQA Guidelines. Consistent with the Guidelines, projects located in an urbanized environment designed for not more than six dwelling units are exempt from environmental review.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

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

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to planningcomment@santamonica.gov or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

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

Address your comments to: **Gina Szilak, Senior Planner**
Re: 25ENT-0163 (VTPM 83678)

VIA E-MAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Gina Szilak at (310) 458-2200 ext, 5216 or by e-mail at regina.szilak@santamonica.gov. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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

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

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

SMC Student Documentary on Grammy Winner Stanley Clarke Selected for Newport Beach Film Festival

A documentary showcasing four-time Grammy Award winner Stanley Clarke's artistic residency at BroadStage has been selected as an official entry in the 26th Newport Beach Film Festival.

"Rhythm & Harmony," created by Santa Monica College students in the Short-Form Visual Media Production program, will screen Oct. 19 at 11 a.m. in the Short Documentaries category at The Lot 3, Fashion Island.

The film documents Clarke's three-year artistic residency at BroadStage, which operates out of The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center. The residency included performances, curation and mentorship opportunities for SMC and Santa Monica High School music students.

The documentary was directed and produced by Communications & Media Studies instructor Roxanne Messina Captor, whose students from the Media 21 class created the film. Design Technology professor Walt Louie and Film Production instructor Vishal Solanki supervised the project.

"Rhythm & Harmony" features behind-the-scenes moments, student performances and anecdotes from Clarke about mentorship. It includes an artist interview by SMC Music Department Chair Brian Driscoll and reflections from SMC Superintendent/President Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery.

Clarke became a Jazz Master honoree by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2022, the highest honor the U.S. bestows on jazz artists. He received the Miles Davis Award at the Montreal Jazz Festival and Bass Player Magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award. The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture selected Clarke for its permanent collection.

Santa Monica College offers associate degrees and certificates in Broadcast Programming and Production, with hands-on training in television, radio and internet broadcasting.

For festival information, visit newportbeachfilmfest.com. Learn more about BroadStage's Artist in Residency program at broadstage.org/activations/artist-in-residence. For SMC's media program, visit smc.edu/media21.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy photo

DOCUMENTARY: 'Rhythm & Harmony' showcasing BroadStage's artistic residency with four-time GRAMMY Award-winning musician Stanley Clarke—and made by Santa Monica College (SMC) students from the college's Short-Form Visual Media Production (Media 21) class—is an official selection at the 26th Newport Beach Film Festival.

Malibu

Malibu City Council Adopts Emergency Ordinance to Speed Business Recovery After Palisades Fire

The Malibu City Council has adopted an emergency ordinance temporarily relaxing permit requirements for public events and business signs to help local businesses recover from the 2025 Palisades Fire.

Urgency Ordinance No. 526U streamlines permitting processes through May 31, 2026, making it faster and easier for businesses to host events and promote recovery efforts.

"Supporting Malibu's local economy is critical to rebuilding after the devastation of the fire," said Mayor Marianne Riggins. "These changes make it faster and easier for businesses to host events and promote recovery efforts while keeping our community safe."

The ordinance creates two new expedited permit options for public events in commercial and institutional zones. The TUP-Planning Clearance option allows small events under 100 attendees with only two days' advance notice. Events must be single-day, open to the public and use existing facilities with onsite restrooms.

The TUP-Express option covers events with 100 to 250 attendees, requiring seven days' advance application and city approval three days before the event. Shopping centers may hold up to four such events monthly, while standalone tenants may host two.

Larger or more complex events still require the standard Temporary Use Permit process with 35-day lead time.

The ordinance also eases sign permit requirements for businesses advertising events, sales and services related to fire recovery, reducing paperwork and approval times while maintaining safety standards.

For applications and details, visit MalibuCity.org/PlanningForms or contact the Malibu Planning Division at MPlanning@MalibuCity.org or 310-456-2489 ext. 485.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Single stair reform

"Santa Monica badly needs more housing. Workers can't afford to live near their jobs, the elderly are being forced further afield, and young people like ourselves are being priced out of their own community. This problem comes from piling on red tape for decades, adding costly requirements without thinking about whether they work or what they'll cost.

Last week, the City Council made progress on peeling back unnecessary bureaucracy. They updated our definition of a high-rise to match the rest of the state and approved single-stair apartment buildings, as long as extra safety features are included. These changes, endorsed by the city's fire marshal, are common-sense reforms that will lower construction costs, enable more family-sized apartments, and allow for human-scaled development.

The data on single-stair buildings is clear. According to the Pew Charitable Trust, there is "no evidence of safety risks for single-stairway buildings with sprinklers." In cities where single and double-stair buildings are legal, rates of fire death are the same across the two building types. The modern firefighting technologies this ordinance requires in tandem with single stair construction, such as pressurized stairwells and sprinkler systems, are the most important part of fire safety in multi-unit buildings, not how many stairwells they have. In fact, single-stair designs are safer because units are closer to an exit, reducing deaths from smoke, which is how a majority of structure-fire deaths happen.

Our housing shortage is the result of decades of decisions that make doing things more difficult. When the data supports simple, safe reforms, we shouldn't allow an uninformed minority to block progress. The six City Councilmembers who listened to reason made the right call, and these needed changes will help make housing more affordable in Santa Monica.

Zennon Ulyate-Crow is the Santa Monica Director with Abundance Network, and Matias Fuchs-Lynch is an Administrative and Communications Intern with Abundance Network Santa Monica. ANSM is working to bring down costs and make Santa Monica a livable community for all."

FIRE

FROM PAGE 1

key positions, according to the report.

They were also working with some new emergency notification software provided by an existing vendor: The county signed the expanded contract with emergency alert company Genasys in November, just before the holidays. Only four staff members were trained on Genasys when the fires hit, according to the report.

The review also found that the process to communicate an evacuation decision to the public was slow, convoluted and involved several leadership roles and the need for stable communication channels between county-level departments.

In the case of the Palisades Fire, the Los Angeles County Fire Department and Sheriff's Department identified areas that required evacuation. They then communicated those areas to a member of the County's Office of Emergency Management at the Incident Command center. This person then made a phone call or sent a text message to another OEM staffer located in the Emergency Operations Center, who then updated the system put in place by the third-party vendor and triggered an alert to the public.

During the January fires, according to the report, this process took between 20 and 30 minutes. The report's authors note this represented an improvement, though, over the old system that took between 30 and 60 minutes for the public to receive notice of an evacuation.

Still, the report notes, many of the county's methods to alert the public require opting-in.

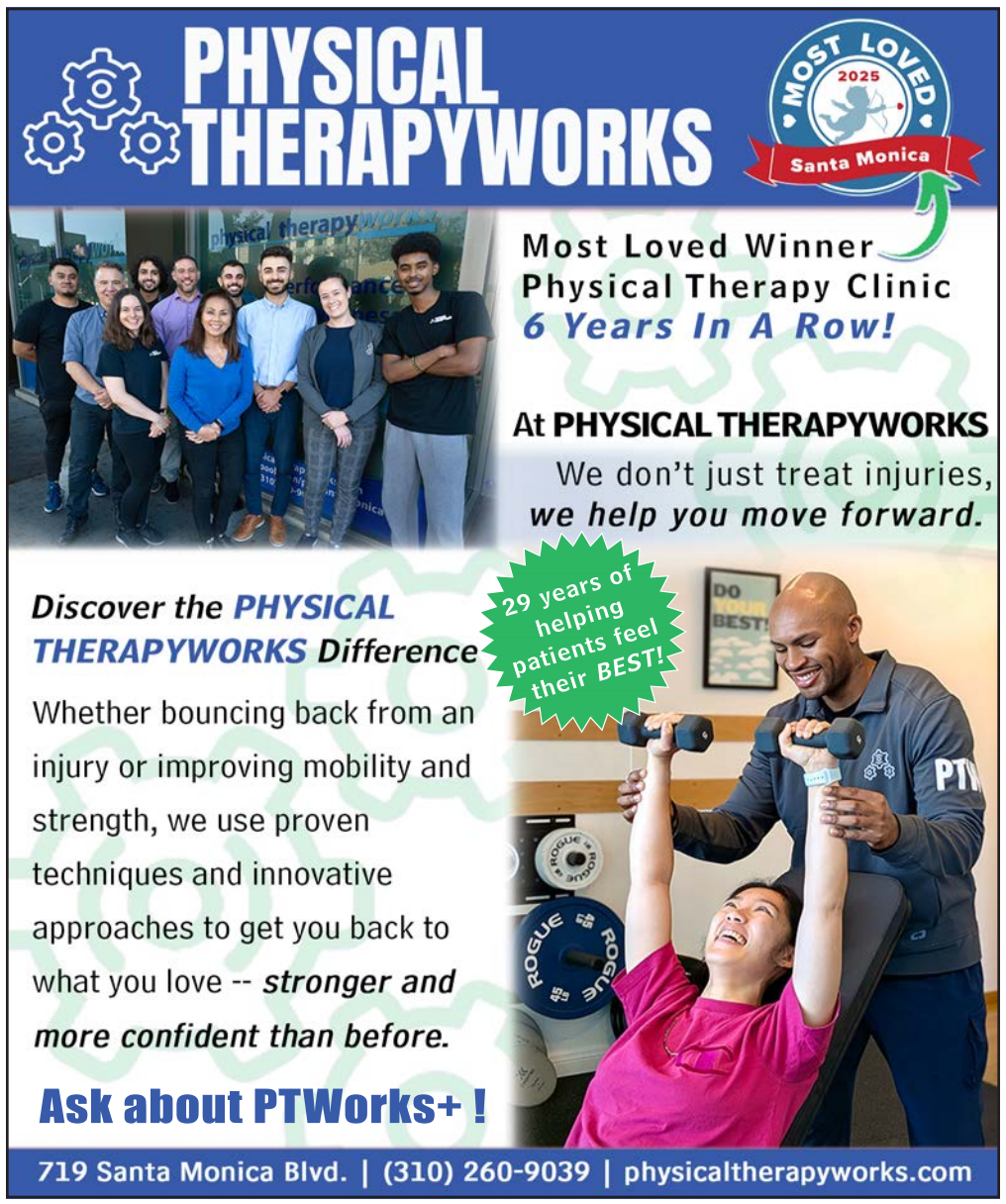
"If residents are not aware of or do not sign up for these services, such as Alert Los Angeles County, Genasys PROTECT, and WatchDuty, they will not benefit from the alerts and notifications sent from these systems," the report states.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to review the 133-page report when it meets next Tuesday.

The causes of the two fires are still under investigation.

After-action reports and investigations revealed issues with alert systems in other California blazes: in the 2017 Tubbs Fire, which killed 22 people in Santa Rosa; the 2018 Camp Fire, which killed 85 people in Paradise; the Woolsey fire, which started the same day and killed three in Malibu; as well as in Colorado's 2021 Marshall Fire, which destroyed more than 1,000 homes outside Denver; and in Hawaii's 2023 Lahaina Fire, which decimated that historic town and killed 102.

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER and REBECCA BOONE Associated Press. Boone reported from Boise, Idaho. Associated Press writer Christopher L. Keller in Albuquerque, New Mexico, contributed to this report.





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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 09/2/25 2025181867The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Jane & Petal 10673 Encino Ave Granda Hills, CA 91344 . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Sophie Reichl 10673 Encino Ave Granda Hills, CA 91344 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CAThis is Business is Conducted: An Individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 09/25. Registrant /Corp/ LLC Sophie Reichl Title: Owner Sophie Reichl . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 09/2/2025NOTICE: 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 09/3/25 202583334The following person(s) is (are) doing business as The Red Thread 505 Idaho St Ave 10 Santa Monica, CA 90403. . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Jessica Xie 505 Idaho St Ave 10 Santa Monica, CA 90403 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CAThis is Business is Conducted: An Individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 09/25. Registrant /Corp/LLC Jessica XieTitle: Owner Jessica Xie . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 09/3/2025NOTICE: 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).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 09/5/25 2025160002The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Sierra Consulting 101 23608 Big Sky Walk Unit 114 Valenica, CA 91354. . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Stephanie Marie Shultz 23608 Big Sky Walk Unit 114 Valenica, CA 91354. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CAThis 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/LLC Stephanie Marie Shultz Title: Owner Stephanie Marie Shultz . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 09/5/2025NOTICE: 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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Summons

Summons (Sum 100) (Citacion Judicial)CASE NUMBER(Número del Caso):37-20230027644-CU-BC-CTLNOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):, Michel Gahard YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE) PLENC El Camino, LLC and CDMPY El Camino, LLCNOTICE. You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the informationBelow.You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy you served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear yourCase.There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California CourtsOnline Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, askthe court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and propertymay be taken without further warning from the court.There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorneyreferral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locatethese nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees andcosts on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información aContinuación.Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en estacorte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estaren el formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta.Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en labiblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corteque le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte lepodrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio deremisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de unprograma de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services,(www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o elcolegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobrecualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene quepagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is:(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):Central Division 330 W. Broadway, San Diego, California 92101The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without anattorney, are: (El nombre, direcci6n y número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o deldemandante si no tiene abogado, son)F. Sigmund Luther, 5333 Mission Center Road, Suite 360, San Diego, California 92108Date 07/03/2023 Clerk By, S. Retez , Executive Officer/Clerk Court Clerk by (secretario) By (ajunto)

Summons

Summons (Sum 100) (Citacion Judicial)CASE NUMBER(Número del Caso):37-20230027644-CU-BC-CTLNOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):Motion Stretch Studio Encinitas, LLC, Michel Gahard, and Doe 1 through Doe 40 YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE) PLENC El Camino, LLC and CDMPY El Camino, LLCNOTICE. You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the informationBelow.You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy you served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear yourCase.There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California CourtsOnline Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, askthe court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and propertymay be taken without further warning from the court.There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorneyreferral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locatethese nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees andcosts on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información aContinuación.Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en estacorte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estaren el formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta.Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en labiblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corteque le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte lepodrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio deremisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de unprograma de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services,(www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o elcolegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobrecualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene quepagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.The name and address of the court is:(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):Central Division 330 W. Broadway, San Diego, California 92101The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without anattorney, are: (El nombre, direcci6n y número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o deldemandante si no tiene abogado, son)F. Sigmund Luther, 5333 Mission Center Road, Suite 360, San Diego, California 92108Date 07/03/2023 Clerk By, S. Retez , Executive Officer/Clerk Court Clerk by (secretario) By (ajunto)

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm **LOCATION** 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Longtime frenemies Kamala Harris and Gavin Newsom reach career crossroads

Three decades ago, thanks to the patronage of legendary San Francisco politician Willie Brown, two young, ambitious politicians launched careers that have taken them into the upper strata of American politics.

As state Assembly speaker, Brown appointed Kamala Harris, with whom he had a personal relationship, to two well-paying state boards and in 1998, as mayor of San Francisco, helped her land a job in the district attorney's office.

That career move led to her becoming district attorney in 2004, California attorney general six years later and a U.S. senator six years after that. After her four years in the Senate (and a failed 2020 presidential run) Joe Biden made her his vice presidential running mate in 2020 and, finally, endorsed her as his successor in 2024, only to see her lose to Donald Trump.

It was an extremely fast climb up the political ladder, from local civil servant to presidential nominee, but Brown's other protégé, Gavin Newsom, was also climbing quickly.

In the early 90s, Newsom had founded a restaurant-wine-hotel business called Plumpjack, the title of an opera written by oil fortune heir Gordon Getty, whose personal trust provided early financial support.

In 1996 Mayor Brown appointed the young businessman to the city's Parking and Traffic Commission, then to the city Board of Supervisors, setting up Newsom's successful campaign for mayor in 2003.

Newsom wanted to run for governor in 2010 but stepped aside when former Gov. Jerry Brown decided he wanted another crack at governing California. Newsom, with obvious reluctance, ran for lieutenant governor and bided his time in the powerless office until Brown retired again, allowing Newsom to claim the governorship in 2018.

Now, a year after Harris lost her second presidential bid, the two politicians whose relationship has always featured elements of both mutual support and rivalry, find themselves at a crossroads.

Harris is promoting her book about the presidential campaign, "107 Days," which digs into other politicians, including Newsom. She wrote that she tried to reach Newsom after Biden's decision not to seek re-election but Newsom's reply was "Hiking. Will Call Back."

"He never did," Harris added.

Newsom later told reporters that an unknown number popped up on his phone that day, and only later did he realize it had been Harris. "That exact same moment, was working with my team to draft a statement," he said. "I assume that's in the book as well."

Harris' book did not mention Newsom's endorsement.

As Harris peddles her book she brushes aside questions about running again in 2028, but Newsom is no longer hiding his ambition to climb the final rung on the nation's political ladder three years hence.

He already claims the role of Donald Trump's most strident critic, trolling the president with snide and sometimes vulgar social media postings, and denouncing virtually every presidential decree.

Newsom is also sponsoring a November ballot measure, Proposition 50, that would, if successful, shift five California congressional seats from Republicans to Democrats to thwart Republican gerrymanders as the parties vie for control of the House of Representatives next year.

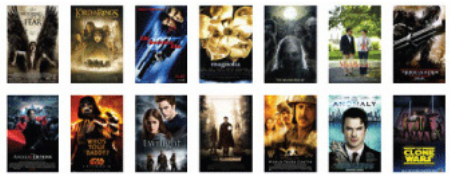
On Tuesday, Newsom took his crusade to a very friendly venue, Stephen Colbert's talk show, fielding the host's softball questions and running through his litany of Trump's sins.

"This guy is flooding the zone, dominating the narratives. Facts don't seem to matter, and Democrats, frankly, have had a difficult time pushing back," Newsom told Colbert.

Newsom couldn't resist taking an oblique shot at Harris for her losing campaign, without naming her. "As the Democratic Party, we have a lot of work to do to make up for our failures in the past," he said. "We got crushed in this last election."

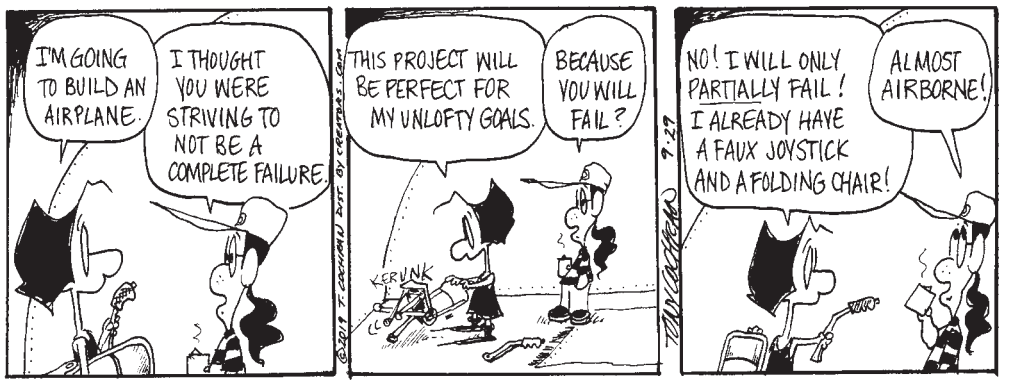
The remark reflected what has been — and obviously still is — a decades-long relationship of frenemies.

by Dan Walters

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By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

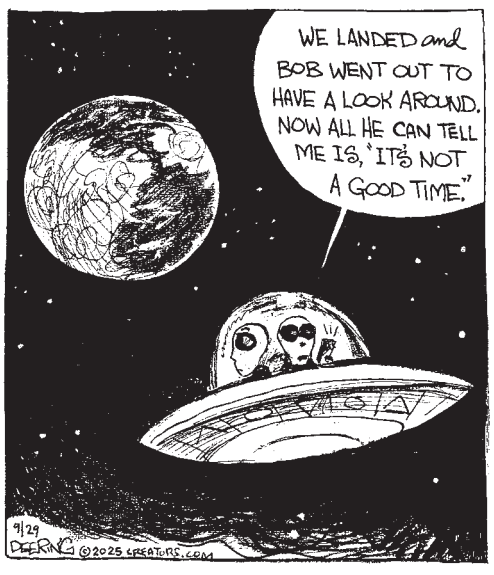
By PETER GALLAGHER



"BRO GNOMES."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

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

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Wonderous trees

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

Acacia
Alder
Antarctic beech
Apple
Bark
Buds
Cedar
Chop
Cone
Coogera
Disease
Elms
Eucalypt
Fell
Flame
Fruit
Green
Hawthorn
Hickory
wattle
Ironwood
Karri
Kauri
Koda
Leaf
Lime
Mangrove
Nests
Nuts
Palm
Pear
Pine
Pittosporum
Plum
Poplar
Rain
Red gum
Root
Sapling
Seed
Soil
Teak
Trunk
Willow

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Tourist traps or treasures?

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To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 29)

Welcome to your Year of Devotion. Love deepens through relationships that are both grounding and expansive. More highlights: You'll shine in a competitive environment and cultivate a relaxed confidence that serves you for years to come. You'll pick up a new skill and develop it until it's a superpower. Friends pull you into laughter-soaked escapades that make unforgettable stories. Taurus and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 49, 3, 13 and 6.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In the animistic belief of shamanic tradition, everything in nature is alive and has spirit, including stones, oceans and mountains. You'll feel as though you're in communication with all of it. "There is a voice that doesn't use words. Listen." - Rumi

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Charm relies on context. When someone admired acts silly, it feels delightful. When someone overlooked does the same, it risks dismissal. Avoid playing to type, as the performance will fade into the background. Keep 'em guessing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Instead of seeing your work as chores or obligations, you'll recognize them as the privileges they really are. "Have tos" become "get tos." "I have to care for loved ones" becomes "I get to have people to love."

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There is a way to leverage the situation you're in to create the situation you want, but you haven't found it yet. It's partly about the moves and even more about the mindset and attitude that can help you see and execute them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have strong ambitions stirring inside you. The fire in your belly makes you want to charge forward and let the world feel the full force of your drive. But this is a marathon, not a sprint. Stay measured. Give what's sustainable.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Let go of judgment and simply allow yourself to enjoy what you enjoy. If something lights you up, even in a small way, that's valid. Seizing those moments without overanalysis lets joy accumulate freely in daily life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're intriguing. You'll draw people in. Yes, you speak their language. Yes, you show how much you like them, offer comfort and inclusion - but you don't give it all away. You hold something back so they stay curious.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). People don't just need food and shelter. They also need to feel seen and understood. Those emotional needs are essential, too. You have the gift of making people feel valued, and this will keep them close today. Appreciation is the glue.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Today's experience is an unsolvable mystery. Love, art, spiritual questions, nature, relationships - all resist tidy conclusions. The answers don't tie off with a bow; they open endlessly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're fun. It's irresistible! A lot of it is in your wit. Playful self-expression, the way you phrase things, the spirit and tone you convey - all something others want to be around. They smile and lean in. You get asked back.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The past is with you. Even the detours and seeming wastes of time belong to your story. Every moment is inseparable from who you are. You cannot unlive any moment, but you can think about it differently, and today you will.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your responsiveness has a cycle. Sometimes you're "Johnny-on-the-spot" ready to deliver. Sometimes you delay, hoping when the moment is past, they'll forget their ask. Keep changing it up to avoid being taken for granted. It's also OK to just say no.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

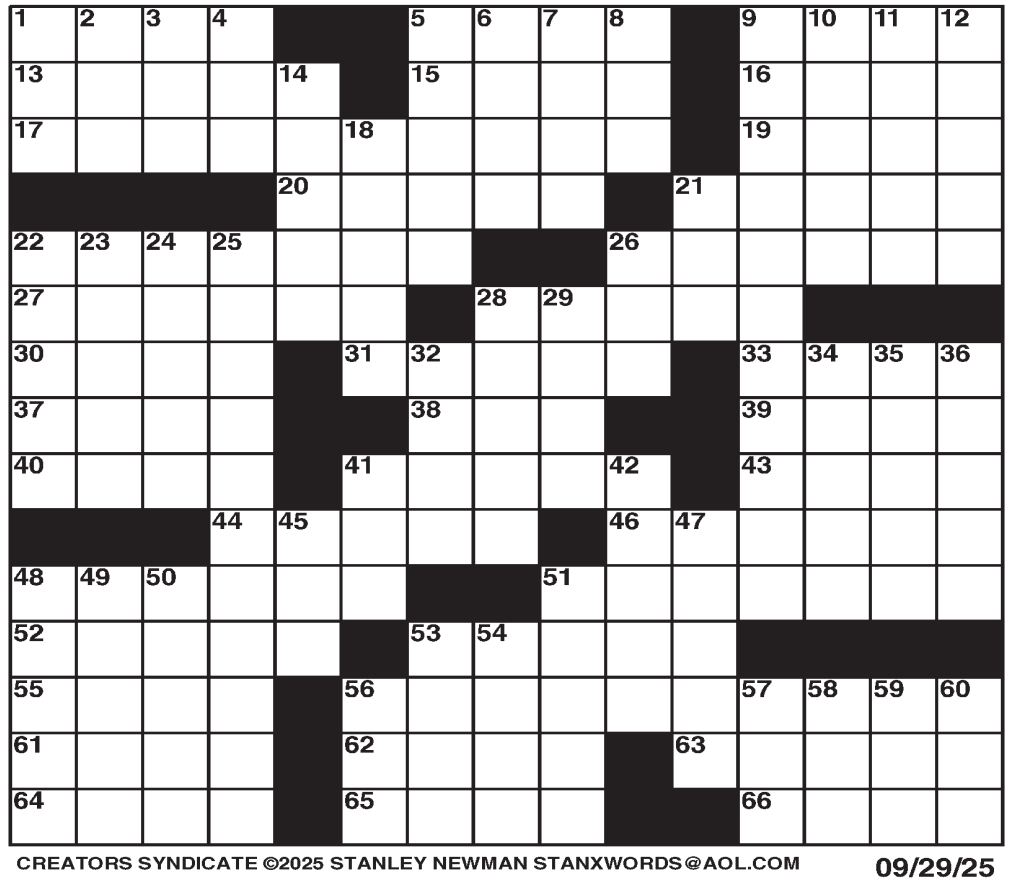
ON YOUR HEAD by Guilherme Gilioli
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Beef meal in a slow cooker
5 Move like a river
9 Armed conflicts
13 Creme-filled cookies
15 Personal assistant
16 Biblical garden
17 Pedaler's head covering
19 Artist Salvador __
20 Stares at
21 Allow to enter
22 People belonging to a club
26 Is real
27 Army "Relax!" command
28 Donated
30 Long-tailed lab rodents
31 Make a swap
33 Feeling pleased
37 Car wheel
38 Had a meal
39 Aloe __ (soother in lotions)
40 Messy person
41 Makeup smudge
43 "...lived happily __ after"
44 Accumulate in quantity
46 Familiarize, as for a newcomer
48 Show a sportscast moment again
51 Brunch egg servings
52 Poker quitter's comment
53 The __ Lama
55 Shape like a hockey puck
56 Deep-sea explorer's face covering
61 Anna's sister in *Frozen*
62 Tel __, Israel
63 "It's the truth!"
64 Leak slowly
65 Manufactured
66 Huge Arctic ice chunk

DOWN

1 Weep loudly
2 Prefix for cycle or angle
3 "A mouse!"
4 Misfortune
5 Takes a tumble
6 Green citrus fruit
7 Poems of praise
8 Moisten
9 Bride's face covering
10 President John Quincy __
11 Ignited again
12 Grumpy moods
14 Sneakers and high heels
18 White heron
21 Lumberjack's tool
22 Mini-__ (small stores)
23 Online commerce
24 Urban area, for short
25 Pitcher's head covering
26 Day before a holiday
28 Fence entryways
29 Creative notion
32 Fathers of lambs
34 River's flood barrier
35 "__ you sweet!"
36 Pointy things thrown in pubs
41 Utter out loud
42 Person from Italy's capital
45 Furious
47 Monarch's period in power
48 Takes a bus or train
49 Submit tax forms online
50 Old West sheriff's group
51 Fruit in a Greek salad
53 Female opera star
54 Enthusiastic, as a fan
56 Beaver-built structure
57 Unruly crowd
58 "Pale" pub serving
59 "Dear __ or Madam..."
60 Beer barrel



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09/29/25

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

RV

FROM PAGE 2

unsafe clusters of RVs, while some tenants described the vans as their only lifeline.

City officials estimate roughly 4,000 RVs across Los Angeles are used as makeshift housing, representing about 22 percent of the city's total unsheltered homeless population. That marks a 40 percent increase since 2018. Many of the vehicles are in grave disrepair, leaving residents without access to basic hygiene facilities or safe conditions.

Supporters of Park's measure say the ordinance targets profiteers rather than criminalizing people living in vehicles. By making those rentals illegal, backers say, the city can disrupt the cycle that fuels encampments.

The ordinance does not ban living in a privately owned RV outright, nor does it penalize individuals who use vehicles as shelter. Instead, it focuses on the commercial practice of renting RVs on public streets.

NEXT STEPS AND VOTE TALLY

The Sept. 17 Council vote was the first formal approval of the ordinance, which must still be finalized by the City Attorney, signed by the mayor, and published before taking effect.

If enacted, Los Angeles would join Los Angeles County — which last year directed staff to explore policies to address "vanlording" in unincorporated areas — in formally banning the practice. State officials have also authorized cities to use Caltrans lots for storing inoperable RVs cleared from encampments.

Published in partnership with the Westside Current

CRIME

FROM PAGE 5

of women who were resentenced under it. According to the report, women accounted for 11% of people who were resentenced and released, which was a notch above the 7% they represented in total prison releases.

> It reinforces how correct it was for the Legislature and Gov. Brown to enact and sign that reform
>
> - Nancy Skinner, Oakland Democratic Sen. Nancy Skinner

Under felony murder reforms, the report showed that nearly 1,200 people have been resentenced, the majority of whom were just over 21-years-old at the time of their offense and nearly half of whom were Black. Many served long prison terms — generally 14 to 15 years — after never having been incarcerated before.

For those released under felony murder reforms, researchers found that recidivism rates were "notably low" at 3% within a year and 7% within two years, most of which were misdemeanor convictions. Just five people out of 274 had been convicted of a new serious or violent felony within three years.

"It reinforces how correct it was for the Legislature and Gov. Brown to enact and sign that reform," said former Oakland Democratic Sen. Nancy Skinner, who authored the 2018 law. "A long sentence does not contribute to improved public safety. There's just a certain point where we're warehousing people and using taxpayer dollars in a way that's proven to be unproductive."

'WHO ACTUALLY NEEDS TO BE INCARCERATED'?

Just over 4,700 incarcerated people were resentenced under Prop. 47, nearly half of whom were serving time for a felony drug offense and under the age of 40 at the time of their release, according to the report. Researchers found that 57% of people resentenced under the proposition were convicted of a new crime within three years of release, most of which were misdemeanors. In comparison, 42% of people released between 2018 and 2019 were convicted of a new crime within three years.

Voters last year undid part of Prop. 47 when they passed a new initiative that lengthened sentences for certain theft and drug offenses.

Matt Cate, who was California's corrections secretary under former Govs. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Brown, wasn't surprised by those high recidivism rates, and said the combination of substance use disorders and property crimes are typically a "recipe for additional crimes committed upon release."

But that doesn't mean those individuals should have been incarcerated for longer, he said.

"In California and throughout much of the United States, we built the wrong prisons," said Cate. "We built places that are really good at keeping inmates from escaping and are good, typically, at keeping people — especially staff — safe. But they're a terrible environment for people to change their lives."

Jennifer Shaffer, former executive officer of the Board of Parole Hearings, said reports like this will hopefully motivate people to dig deeper and understand how California can do better.

"Who actually needs to be incarcerated is the question," she said. "This idea that people who commit low-level crime shouldn't go to state prison, I think makes sense. It makes sense that they get treatment at the local level as opposed to going to state prison, because state prison unfortunately is a very violent place."

by Cayla Mihalovich. Cayla Mihalovich is a California Local News fellow.



MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 29

CITIZENSHIP CLASS

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica. An ongoing series of citizenship classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. The classes help students study the 100 civics questions, practice the dictations, review the citizenship application, and prepare for the interview. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/citizenship-class/16220806/2025-09-29T10

THE GORDONS IMPROV RESIDENCY

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. Welcome to The Gordons Improv Show at Westside Comedy Theater! IMPROV RESIDENT TEAM NIGHT! Check out our current lineup of Resident Improv Teams! These teams perform Long-Form Improv all inspired by a suggestion from the audience. Think of it as a sitcom made up on the spot. Catch them before they are gone! These teams rotate every three months!Get ready for a night filled with laughter, spontaneity, and hilarious moments. Join us for an evening of unscripted comedy where every joke is made up on the spot. Our talented improv performers will have you in stitches as they create scenes, characters, and stories based on your suggestions. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind experience! Grab your friends and come on down to Westside Comedy Theater for a night you won't forget. TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED @ https://ci.ovationtix.com/34923/production/1126449?performanceId=11576550. $10.00 Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-gordons-improv-residency/14863274/2025-09-29T19

TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 30

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2025-09-16T10

TECH & TASKS

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica. Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes and more. Assistance provided on a drop-in, first arriv. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tech-tasks/16225799/2025-09-16T16

TUESDAY OPEN MIC

10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. The best open mic in Los Angeles! The Tuesday Open Mic is a weekly open mic. Hop onstage and perform your best 3 minutes! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tuesday-open-mic/16004734/2025-09-16T22

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 1

MAKERSPACE AKA CRAFTERNOON

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Makerspace aka Crafternoon Join us for a shared DIY space. Feel free to bring your own crafting project, or just come for inspiration and community. We provide button maker, sewing machine, and basic craft. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/makerspace-aka-crafternoon/15748880/2025-10-01T15

CINEHAUS MOVIE NIGHTS

7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. The Eden Hotel 1301 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica. CineHaus presents: Sunset Screenings at The Eden Step into old Hollywood charm as CineHaus transforms the courtyard of The Eden Hotel into a dreamy open-air cinema. Grab a cocktail or a hot drink, settle under the stars, and lose yourself in iconic films the way they were meant to be seen — together. From hot popcorn and candy to s'mores, we've got everything you need for the perfect movie night. Cozy, timeless, unforgettable — only at CineHaus. Dates vary — check our lineup! Doors 7:30 PM | Movie 8:00 PM | Tickets - buytickets.at/cinehaus | First-come seating Drinks, snacks, s'mores & good vibes every time Bottle service inquiries: nikita@nolongernetwork.com Gift certificates: tickettailor.com/events/cinehaus/store. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/cinehaus-movie-nights/16585124/2025-10-01T19

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 2

CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. TVirginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2025-10-02T11

TECH & TASKS

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica. Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes, and more. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tech-tasks/13932094/2025-10-02T14

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 3

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS AT THE SURFING FOX

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 120 Colorado Ave. Santa Monica. Erinn Alissa performs acoustic folk pop with her guitar Friday nights at The Surfing Fox. Enjoy a night of live music, tasty bites, and Foxtails! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/live-music-fridays-at-the-surfing-fox/14385252/2025-09-26T18

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 4

REPAIR CAFÉ AT MARINE PARK

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Marine Park 1406 Marine St Santa Monica. Join us for the Repair Café held at Marine Park on October 4th, 2025 from 11:00am to 3:00pm. This event is open to anyone - not just Santa Monica residents. Bring your items to be repaired by volunteers. Please be prepared to wait for volunteer availability and repairs. The final list of items accepted for repair will be posted closer to the date of the event. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/repiar-caf-at-marine-park/14544553/2025-10-04T11

Saint John's Health Center

Providence



Better is helping our community breathe easier after a disaster.

The Disaster Relief Pulmonary Clinic at Saint John's was founded to help restore the lung health of our community after the January fires. The clinic offers specialized care to first responders and residents, focused on their long-term pulmonary health needs. Helping our neighbors heal is just one of the many ways we do everything for the better.

Everything for the Better.™