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THURSDAY 10/22/26

smdp.com

Downtown Santa Monica looks forward: Debbie Lee's vision for the district's next chapter

MICHELLE EDGAR

Special to the Daily Press

With major events on the horizon and new data showing gains in spending and visitation, Downtown Santa Monica is shifting its focus from recovery to reinvestment, experience and long-term growth.

For years, much of the conversation surrounding Downtown Santa Monica has centered on what it lost from vacant storefronts, public safety concerns, changing shopping habits - the

SEE DTSM PAGE 8

Actor Ignacio Serricchio launches Avanti, bringing theater and visual arts together

MICHELLE EDGAR

Special to the Daily Press

As Hollywood navigates shrinking opportunities, digital auditions and the growing influence of artificial intelligence, Serricchio is taking matters into his own hands, building a platform rooted in artistic independence, collaboration and human connection.

Known for Netflix's Lost in Space, Clint Eastwood's The Mule and the television series Bones, Serricchio has launched Avanti, an independent artist collective bringing together theater, visual

SEE AVANTI PAGE 6

Santa Monica 14-year-old builds websites for local businesses at 'kid prices'



Courtesy Image

YOUTH: Santa Monica 14-year-old, Matteo Milk (middle) builds web design business, charging "kid prices" for professional sites.

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

While many Santa Monica kids spent the summer playing video games or traveling, Matteo Milk spent his learning to code and selling websites to local businesses.

The 14-year-old student at John

Adams Middle School founded MilkWebDesign.com this summer and runs it with his partner, Mason Alvarez. The pair builds websites in HTML and CSS for hair salons, barbershops, boutiques, restaurants, food trucks, supermarkets, international hotels and appliance repair services.

Milk said he has built more than 15 websites, which he estimates would be worth \$6,000 to \$14,000 each. Instead, he charges what he calls "kid prices": about \$120 upfront and \$50 a month for maintenance. He said the average agency charges \$3,000 upfront and \$200 for maintenance.

The business has brought in \$2,000 so far, plus \$700 in recurring monthly revenue, Milk said.

The idea came from a video his mother showed him over the summer. In it, a man in his 30s was on a call with a Mexican restaurant,

SEE WEBSITES PAGE 6



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DENTAL Insurance

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6255

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Trump's attacks on California elections endanger democracy, repeating a pattern



Photo by Pablo Unzueta for CalMatters

L.A.: Jerome Jones casts her ballot while holding her 2-year old grandson in Los Angeles on Nov. 8, 2022.

The Trump administration's attack on California's ongoing elections is merely one episode in a long and dismal series of efforts to undermine confidence in the integrity of the American democratic system. And it's an attempt to manufacture a rationale for attacks still to come.

For context, it might be helpful to catalog Trump's previous evidence-free and often outright disproven allegations that elections were "rigged" against him, either by crooked local and state election officials, crooked voting machine manufacturers, crooked reporters or thousands upon thousands of crooked Californians who aren't lawfully allowed to vote but do so anyway.

For the present, though, and just as a refresher, let's recall Trump's denial that he had lost the 2020 election, his demand

that Georgia officials "find" him enough votes to deliver a different outcome, his demand that Vice President Mike Pence not certify the election results and the shameful Jan. 6, 2021 mob attack on the Capitol that Trump egged on.

Recall that four years earlier, when he won the electoral vote and therefore the presidency in 2016, Trump was so incensed that he lost the popular vote to Hillary Clinton that he declared he'd actually won it and that evidence to the contrary was fake.

To "prove" it he established the Voter Fraud Commission, or more formally the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. There was a brief period in which observers thought a productive

SEE GUEST COMMENTARY PAGE 11

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Weird Al, Halloween Happenings, and Culinary Celebrations

SMDP’s Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town include Eric Idle and “Weird Al” Yankovic, Halloween happenings, and a feast of foodie events, and much more!

Eric Idle & “Weird Al” Yankovic Together in Santa Monica: Monty Python legend Eric Idle and ‘Weird Al’ Yankovic are teaming up for an evening of conversation, comedy and music — including a joint performance with their band. Idle will also discuss his new book, Idle in Provence: A Brief History of Thyme. We’re not entirely sure what happens when these two share a stage, but we’re pretty sure it will be weird. Thursday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m., John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center, 2425 16th St. eventbrite.com/e/eric-idle-and-weird-al-yankovic-in-conversation-and-in-concert-tickets-1993431039902

Ghosts of the Miles — Historical Haunt: The historic Miles Memorial Playhouse gets a spooky makeover for this immersive theatrical haunt. What begins as a historical tour leads guests through backstage spaces, hidden corridors and atmospheric rooms where Santa Monica history and haunting lore come to life. Friday, Oct. 23, & Saturday, Oct. 24, 6 – 9:45 p.m., 1130 Lincoln Blvd. eventbrite.com/e/ghosts-of-the-miles-historical-haunt-tickets-2001427768332

Halloween Cinema by the Sea: Halloween movie nights get a coastal twist at The Regent Santa Monica Beach, with ocean views, themed cocktails and bites from ORLA. Catch Hocus Pocus on Oct. 24 or Practical Magic on Halloween night, with unlimited popcorn and soft drinks included. Saturday, Oct. 24, & Saturday, Oct. 31, 6:30 p.m. seating, Films begin at 7 p.m. 1700 Ocean Ave. santamonica.regenthotels.com/experience/bookable-experiences/?experienceId=cinema-by-the-sea-5ab5d71c

Malibu Moves Running Festival: Running with a view? Malibu Moves returns to Zuma Beach with a half marathon, 10K, 5K, one-mile Zuma Dash and kids’ run. The weekend also features food, music, wellness activities and a post-race celebration, with proceeds benefiting local community organizations. Saturday, Oct. 24, and Sunday, Oct. 25, Zuma Beach, Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu. Registration and details at malibumoves.com.

Broadway Classics at The Georgian: JUNO Award-winning vocalist Laura Anglade brings an intimate, theatrical take on Broadway classics to The Georgian Room at the Georgian Hotel. The special evening offers a first listen to material ahead of her Nov. 3 album release, paired with a new menu from Chef Ronan and a selection of Georgian wines. Saturday, Oct. 24, 7 and 9 p.m., 1415 Ocean Ave. thegeorgian.com/events/laura-anglade

Spooky Sips at Viceroy: Shake, stir and sip your way into Halloween at Viceroy Santa Monica’s monthly mixology class. An expert bartender will guide guests through seasonal cocktails featuring autumn flavors, with a welcome drink, tastings, light bites and recipe cards included. Costumes are optional; spooky cocktail names are not. Sunday, Oct. 25, 4–5:30 p.m., 1819 Ocean Ave. instagram.com/viceroyism

Not-So-Haunted House: Looking for Halloween fun without the nightmares? Santa Monica’s Main Library is hosting a kid-friendly afternoon of festive crafts, a spooky-but-not-too-scary storytime and games. Costumes are encouraged, and the scares are strictly optional. Saturday, Oct. 24, 2–3 p.m., Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. santamonica.gov/events/41xg7x3frdvdyfr6h41h9d1mg/202610241400

Little Shop of Horrors at Ocean Park Library: A man-eating plant gets its moment in the literary spotlight with a screening of the 1960 horror-comedy classic Little Shop of Horrors, followed by a discussion with Beverly Gray, author of Roger Corman: Blood-Sucking Vampires, Flesh-Eating Cockroaches, and Driller Killers. Because apparently even a carnivorous plant deserves a little literary analysis. Wednesday, Oct. 28, 6–8 p.m., Ocean Park Library, 2601 Main St. santamonica.gov/events/4sdbky2a0tz39tbqpggq37w86cq/202610281800

Volley-Ween Hits the Beach: Halloween gets a volleyball makeover at the 5th Annual Santa MoniCARES Volley-Ween Tournament, featuring beach volleyball, a costume contest, food, drinks and plenty of sand-side fun. You don’t have to be a volleyball player—or even good at volleyball—to join the party, with proceeds benefiting Santa MoniCARES and its charitable partners. Wednesday, Oct. 28, 3–6



Surf report WATER TEMP: 72.1

THURSDAY
FAIR TO GOOD
SURF: 4-5ft
Chest to head
Jumbled swell mix with some leftover lump/warble. Morning is worth a look, could be clean. Old SSW swell backs down as a new, long period SSW swell starts to creep in. There’s also some shorter to mid period NW swell in the mix. Surf is a bit jumbled on the whole, but there should be some decent options if the morning wind can cooperate. There’s a deep high tide early, but wind may stay light as the tide comes down through the morning. Models split on AM wind direction but light enough to look. Building onshore flow likely late-AM, a windy afternoon/evening on the cards.

FRIDAY
FAIR TO GOOD
SURF: 3-4ft+
Waist to shoulder
Fun waves stick around as we get fresh SSW and NW energy. Clean AM, light PM onshores. The early window is cleanest, but gets bogged by what’ll likely be a 6+ high tide (thanks Kelvin). Waist+ waves are easy to track down once that tide gets better, and standouts can expect sets in the shoulder-head high range. The later PM tide push looks like a nice alternative to the AM as we get a little more out of both swells and a nice tide push. There’s likely a little onshore crumble, but even the beachbreaks should be in play.



Thursday: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 66. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 10 mph in the morning.
Thursday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly before 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 59.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 69. Light and variable wind becoming west 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 58.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/10/22	Thur	01:18 AM	0.62	L
2026/10/22	Thur	07:44 AM	4.95	H
2026/10/22	Thur	01:43 PM	1.41	L
2026/10/22	Thur	07:36 PM	4.74	H
2026/10/23	Fri	01:44 AM	0.71	L
2026/10/23	Fri	08:03 AM	5.40	H
2026/10/23	Fri	02:19 PM	0.75	L
2026/10/23	Fri	08:19 PM	4.76	H
2026/10/24	Sat	02:10 AM	0.88	L
2026/10/24	Sat	08:26 AM	5.86	H



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: 10/19 8 31 32 42 48 Power#: 23 Jackpot: 635 M	 Draw Date: 10/20 6 13 18 37 38
 Draw Date: 10/20 13 28 33 35 48 Mega#: 3 Jackpot: 433 M	 Draw Date: 10/20 EVENING: 0 7 9 Draw Date: 10/20 MIDDAY: 0 9 4
 Draw Date: 10/17 3 25 27 29 37 Mega#: 17 Jackpot: 7 M	 Draw Date: 10/20 1st: 08 - Gorgeous George 2nd: 04 - Big Ben 3rd: 02 - Lucky Star Race Time: 1:45.45

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Michelle Edgar,
Devan Sipher,
Miles Warner.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Maaz Alin
maaz@smdp.com

LEGAL ADVERTISING
legal@smdp.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

2219A Main St Santa Monica,
CA 90405
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913



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Santa Monica Daily Press

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026202164. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DREAM PLATEAU, 2621 6TH STREET UNIT 3, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): COLIN MITTS, 2621 6TH STREET UNIT 3, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: an Individual. 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/ COLIN MITTS, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 09/22/2026. 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: 10/08/2026, 10/15/2026, 10/22/2026, 10/29/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026218303. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CHAPPARITO'S TAQUERIA, 960 GAYLEY AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90024, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): TRES HERMANOS TIJUANA TAQUERIA INC, 960 GAYLEY AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90024. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/2026. 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/ NATHAN YOUNAN, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/14/2026. 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: 10/15/2026, 10/22/2026, 10/29/2026, 11/05/2026

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026214233. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SHARED CUSTODY, 4322 GRAND VIEW BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90066, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): 9 AGENCY, INC., 4322 GRAND VIEW BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90066. 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/ VERONICA LOMBARDO, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/8/2026. 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: 10/22/2026, 10/29/2026, 11/5/2026, 11/12/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026219334. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MONTESANTO LANDSCAPING AND PONDS, 1316 S CARMELINA AVE, UNIT 1, LOS ANGELES, CA 90025, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): CAMERON MONTESANTO, 1316 S CARMELINA AVE, UNIT 1, LOS ANGELES, CA 90025. This business is conducted by: an Individual. 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/ CAMERON MONTESANTO, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/15/2026. 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: 10/22/2026, 10/29/2026, 11/05/2026, 11/12/2026

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026205160. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LA CANADA HEARING AIDS & AUDIOLOGY, 1434 FOOTHILL BLVD. UNIT C, LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, CA 91011, County of Los Angeles. AI #ON 3919520. Registered Owner(s): AUDIOLOGY PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF LA CANADA, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, 1434 FOOTHILL BLVD. UNIT C, LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, CA 91011. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 06/2016. 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/ KEVIN IVORY, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 09/24/2026. 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: 10/08/2026, 10/15/2026, 10/22/2026, 10/29/2026

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Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

SMC Applied Music Showcase set for Oct. 30

Students in Santa Monica College's Applied Music Program will perform at the SMC Applied Music Showcase at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 30. The program will include songs, instrumental solos, ensemble works and original compositions in a range of styles.

The SMC Music Department will hold the event at The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St., at Santa Monica Boulevard.

The Applied Music Program is part of SMC's effort to combine arts education with high-quality public performances. James Smith founded the program in 2001. It is now directed by Jimmy Cheesman, David Arbury and Janelle DeStefano. The program trains instrumentalists, vocalists and composers and prepares students to transfer as music majors to four-year universities or conservatories.

General admission tickets are \$10, plus a service charge. Tickets are free for students with any student ID. Advance tickets are available at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-3005 Monday through Friday during limited hours. Tickets also will be sold at The Broad Stage box office beginning 45 minutes before the performance.

Parking is free on site. Seating is first-come, first-served.

More information is available by calling 310-434-4323. Performances are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Photo by Amy Williams

CONCERT: The SMC Applied Music Concert — showcasing performances by students in SMC's distinctive Applied Music Program — will be held Friday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m. in The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center.

Get your business in front of the westside community!

Contact dina@smdp.com (310) 573-8342

Today!

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 2219A Main St Santa Monica, CA 90405

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

SMC Emeritus Gallery to open online Lynn Strother exhibition Oct. 29

The Santa Monica College Emeritus Art Gallery will open a free, online-only exhibition of work by artist and SMC Emeritus student Lynn Strother on Oct. 29. A live Zoom launch event will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

The exhibition shows a range of approaches but focuses mostly on photorealistic colored pencil and pan pastel drawings. A link to the opening reception will go live at event time at smc.edu/emergitusgallery.

Gallery curator Jesse Benson will host the reception and talk with Strother about selected works.

“The material mastery and rendering acumen on display in this exhibition are, without exaggeration, unsurpassed in the history of Emeritus Gallery,” Benson said. “Prepare to be amazed.”

Strother has studied art at Emeritus for nine years, since retiring from a career as an association executive in 2017. She previously studied at UCLA Extension and Brentwood Art Center. She enjoys making realistic drawings of people, animals and plants. She began working in colored pencil a little over a year ago, and it is now her favorite medium.

Starting at 5 p.m. Oct. 29, the exhibition can be viewed at any time at smc.edu/emergitusgallery by clicking the exhibition link. The link leads to an album on a public Facebook page, and a Facebook account is not required.

SMC founded Emeritus in 1975 as a noncredit program for older adults interested in lifelong learning. It offers more than 120 noncredit classes and special programs and serves more than 3,000 students a year.

More information is available at smc.edu/emergitusgallery or by calling 310-434-4306.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

EXHIBITION: “Kingfisher-in-Flight” will be shown as part of an online exhibition of works by artist and SMC Emeritus student Lynn Strother. The exhibition opens with a free online reception Oct. 29 from 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. at smc.edu/emergitusgallery.

“

The material mastery and rendering acumen on display in this exhibition are, without exaggeration, unsurpassed in the history of Emeritus Gallery

”

- Jesse Benson, Gallery curator

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 3

p.m., Perry’s Beach Cafe, 2400 Ocean Front Walk. e.givesmart.com/events/KOP

ONGOING: Museum of Illusions; The CUBE VR; Splatter Studio; Locals’ Night Third Thursdays; Western Line Dancing @ Santa Monica Place (throughout October)

WHAT’S NEW & DELICIOUS?

NEW OPENING - Bar Fortuna Brings Italian Flair to Main St: Crudo e Nudo chef-owner Brian Bornemann has opened a stylish new Italian restaurant and cocktail and wine bar just a block from his fantastic seafood restaurant. Bar Fortuna pairs Italian-inspired cocktails, an extensive amaro selection, and California-focused wines with a food menu that features 100% California-sourced ingredients for its handmade pasta, house-butchered meats, and snacks like fried squash blossoms. Look for a moody, old-world vibe, a vintage Victrola playing Italian opera and plenty of reasons to linger over a Negroni. Open for dinner Wednesday - Sunday and lunch Friday - Sunday, 2917 Main St. instagram.com/barfortunala

Food Bowl Returns With a Top 101 Reveal: The L.A. Times Food Bowl brings two nights of serious eating to Barker Hangar, with unlimited bites and drinks from more than 30 restaurants each night, chef demonstrations and cookbook signings. Friday’s festivities feature a live countdown of the Los Angeles Times’ 101 Best Restaurants in L.A. list, while Saturday brings cooking demos from comedian-chefs Anthony Anderson and Cedric the Entertainer, plus James Beard Award-winning chef Roy Choi. It’s a chance to sample some of SoCal’s best kitchens without driving all over town. Friday, Oct. 23, 7–10 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 24, 6–9 p.m., 3021 Airport Ave. latimes.com/events/la-food-bowl

Marilyn Monroe’s Centennial Celebration: The Fairmont Miramar celebrates the Hollywood icon’s centennial with a glamorous evening inspired by Monroe’s connection to the historic hotel. The menu features Oysters Rockefeller, Waldorf Salad and Caviar Fries, alongside the Bungalow #5 cocktail, named for the bungalow where Monroe reportedly escaped the paparazzi. Dress as Marilyn, sing along with live tribute performer Bri Oglu and try to take home the prize for best costume. Diamonds optional; star power encouraged. Saturday, Oct. 24, from 6–10 p.m., 101 Wilshire Blvd. fairmont-miramar.com/events/marilyn-monroe-centennial-celebration

Oktoberfest Grilled Cheese & Beer Night: Forget the bratwurst. Andrew’s Cheese Shop is celebrating Oktoberfest with four courses of its signature grilled cheeses, each paired with a specialty beer, plus a starter salad and a dessert beer float with vanilla ice cream. It’s a decidedly cheesier take on the German beer festival — and a good excuse to make dinner out of melted cheese. \$75. Saturday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m., 728 Montana Ave. eventbrite.com/e/oktoberfest-grilled-cheese-beer-night-tickets-2001390604173

BlocktoberFest at Maple Block: Barbecue, craft beer and live music take over the parking lot at Maple Block Meat Co. for its 11th annual BlocktoberFest. The family-friendly party features smoked brisket, ribs, sausages and other barbecue favorites, along with a beer garden, live bands, a DJ, cornhole and pumpkin decorating for kids. General admission starts at \$10, with separate tickets available for unlimited barbecue. Starts at \$10. Sunday, Oct. 25, 12 - 4 p.m., 3973 Sepulveda Blvd. mapleblockmeat.com/2026/10/09/blocktoberfest-2025-oct-26

Ina Bakes Halloween Pop-Up: Spooky season is here, and they’re baking up Halloween treats all morning long. Saturday, Oct. 24, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., 535 Rose Ave, Venice [Inabakes.com/store](https://inabakes.com/store)

Rustic Canyon 20th Anniversary: “The Wiz Kids” Dinners: Former executive chef Andy Doubrava (who helped earn the restaurant its Michelin star) and former pastry chef Erika Chan (now of Kato) reunite for a two-night culinary collaboration showcasing inventive, market-driven dishes and desserts. Monday, Oct. 26 & Tuesday, Oct. 27 Rustic Canyon, 1119 Wilshire Blvd. resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/rustic-canyon

Marcus Samuelsson Talks Food at the Hammer: Award-winning chef Marcus Samuelsson visits the Hammer Museum to discuss Back to Green: Rediscovering a World of Delicious, Healthy Eating. In conversation with Los Angeles Times food executive Laurie Ochoa and Sandra Jackson-Dumont, Samuelsson will explore how food traditions carry stories of ancestry, migration and cultural exchange. A book signing follows the talk. Admission is free, with tickets distributed first come, first served. Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m., 10899 Wilshire Blvd., LA hammer.ucla.edu/programs-events/2026/chef-marcus-samuelsson-conversation-laurie-ochoa-sandra-jackson-dumont

Looking Ahead: Montana Avenue Halloween Hop (10/31); Día de los Muertos at the Pier (10/31); SaMo Pier Swiss Winter Village (11/14 - 1/3); Ice at Santa Monica (starting mid-November)

Know something I missed? Send tips, events and questionable culinary decisions to sean@smdp.com or instagram.com/seanbesser.

WEBSITES

FROM PAGE 1

offering to sell the restaurant a \$3,000 website he had built from the restaurant's Google and Instagram information.

"Look how much money this guy is making, Matteo," Milk recalled his mother saying.

"When I saw it I thought that this should be my new business," he said.

He told his mother, "If I had a laptop I could do this too." She handed him his older brother's old laptop.

It wasn't his first venture. "In the past few years I have started multiple school businesses that were kind of a joke and made me little to no money," Milk said. They included selling painted rocks, delivering food after school to classmates — "a type of kid doordash for the school" — and creating a new currency in fifth grade that he traded for real money.

The video also left him wondering how someone could sell a \$3,000 website to a local restaurant. He said he keeps his prices low because running a single-location store or a brand-new location can be difficult.

He had help from family. His older sister, who worked in web design, taught him how to build a site from scratch.

"She was always very supportive and while others thought I would never get any sales and this was just an idea that would last two weeks she truly believed and I am incredibly grateful for that," Milk said.

His father, who runs the artisanal marketplace handmade.com, taught him how to host a site, buy a domain, draw search traffic, set up a Google business profile, buy Google ads and "how to talk to clients."

Milk and Alvarez find clients two ways. The first is going door to door on streets lined with independent shops, such as Pico Boulevard, Ocean Park Boulevard and Main Street.

Milk said his pitch goes something like this: "Hey good afternoon, could I ask you guys a question? Do you have a website currently?" If the answer is no, he tells owners that he and his partner code websites and "we think you're missing on a lot of clients and

revenue."

The key promise: "We build your website beforehand so if you are not interested you don't have to pay a dime."

The second method is searching Google business profiles for shops with no website linked, then building a sample site before reaching out.

Milk said building first earns trust. "If we told them that they would have to pay us for our work they would just think we were going to give them some awful website and charge them," he said. This way, "they don't have to stress about their money going to waste."

His first customer, Masih Hair Salon, has since referred him to more clients as new appointments came in through the site.

"I am so glad I met Matteo! He built my website Masih hair salon at a very reasonable price, and now I have many more customers. Thank you so much!" Masih Hair Salon LLC said in a statement provided by Milk.

He is preparing to launch a site for his newest client, Hairbrains on Ocean Park.

Now that school has started, Milk works at a coffee shop next to John Adams and again at home before soccer practice, which he has every day except Friday. He said that adds up to about four hours of work a day.

"That might seem like a lot for a kid but the difference is that I truly enjoy what I do," he said.

His mother, Mina Nercessian, said he even handed out flyers door to door for one client that really needed new customers.

"I'm just so amazed by my son," Nercessian said. "He really cares about them getting new clients."

"Every pitch, every victory and every rejection is such an amazing life lesson," she said. "Great to see him building resilience and work ethics at such a young age."

In a few years, Milk hopes to build and maintain websites for 50 or more stores.

His goal, he said, is to "help grow this business to make it profitable for all of my teenage years."

For more information about MilkWebDesign, visit milkwebdesign.com.

maaz@smdp.com

AVANTI

FROM PAGE 1

arts and other creative disciplines. Its inaugural theatrical production of TAPE by Stephen Belber has been running for the past month at TruLove Post in Culver City, with performances Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and a possible additional performance on October 24.

For Serricchio, who has spent approximately 25 years in film and television, the initiative represents a return to the fundamentals of artistic expression while creating a platform for others navigating an increasingly unpredictable entertainment industry. "It all started generally just to feel, to be active, to act, and to put on a show just for the love of it," Serricchio said. "Ultimately, it was just about us taking things into our own hands and creating work, and that was the goal."

The collective's first production of TAPE centers on two former high school friends who reunite at a Michigan motel during a film festival. Their encounter takes an unexpected turn when a woman connected to both arrives, reopening unresolved tensions from their past. Written in 2002, the play explores memory, accountability and the consequences of personal choices, themes Serricchio said have prompted lengthy audience conversations following performances.

The experience has reinforced his belief that live theater offers something increasingly difficult to capture through Hollywood's reliance on self-taped auditions. "In an industry that just purely hires off of tapes, self-tapes, and can only see the actors, you know, from the chest up, I think the acting, true acting, happens all over your body," he said.

Beyond showcasing talent, Avanti reflects Serricchio's determination to focus on what artists can control rather than waiting for casting directors, producers or studios to provide opportunities. "Even after 25 years of me doing this, it still gets to me, but it gets to me because I care," he said of the uncertainty surrounding auditions and casting decisions.

Producing the theatrical project independently has brought a different sense of accomplishment. "I don't see a movie or a TV series that's more important than this play - this fills me with joy way more than TV and film, 'cause in TV and film, you get there, and it's all built for you, it's all done for you. And with this, I get to build it myself and watch it all grow from the ground up."

That philosophy extends beyond the stage. Through a collaboration with TruLove Post, Serricchio has transformed the production into a multidisciplinary experience, inviting visual artists to exhibit their work while audiences gather for live performances.

Among those featured is Argentine-born artist Damian Acosta, who displayed his work over one weekend, presenting tango-inspired pieces alongside artwork reflecting California's coastline, ocean and local wildlife. "I see honest work from an artist, and this is talking about Ignacio specifically, that he wants to help other artists by creating work, and he has a vision for talent, and this is just the beginning."

Acosta, originally from Rosario, Argentina, draws inspiration from cultural memory, movement and personal experience. His work moves between realism and abstraction, reflecting an evolving artistic identity. "I'm still discovering it - sometimes I go very realistic, and other times, I go abstract,

depending on how I feel."

His participation in Avanti follows a previous monthlong multidisciplinary exhibition, Recuerdos de Rosario (Memories of Rosario), exploring his Argentine heritage and the influence of tango on his upbringing. Inspired partly by memories of his grandparents, the presentation incorporated paintings and imagery, photography, music, records, instruments and live tango performances.

Acosta sees Avanti as an extension of that interdisciplinary approach, particularly at a time when technology is transforming how creative work is produced and experienced. "I like that he's combining different disciplines of art, like acting, visual art, music. I'm glad I got to experience it," he said.

While acknowledging the emergence of new creative tools, Acosta expressed concern that artificial intelligence risks making artistic expression increasingly uniform. It's just making everything very similar and fast," he said.

For Acosta, the value of live theater, music and tangible artwork lies in the human experiences behind them. "These performances, like music, theatrical performances, tangible paintings, presented by the artists themselves, I think are very important for humans, to show what a human is," he said.

Equally important are the relationships that emerge when artists and audiences share physical spaces. "Those create connections, and those connections lead us to friendships, relationships, deeper ones," Acosta said.

That emphasis on community is central to Serricchio's broader vision for Avanti. Rather than creating a single theatrical production, he hopes to develop an ongoing platform where artists across disciplines can collaborate, experiment and reach new audiences.

The concept also presents potential opportunities for arts communities such as Santa Monica, where independent performance, visual arts and cultural programming remain important elements of the city's identity.

Serricchio expressed openness to bringing future Avanti projects to Santa Monica and other Los Angeles communities, although no specific expansion plans have been announced. "This is the first project, the inaugural, I guess, project of the collective, in order to, from now on, start creating more work and giving artists a platform," he said.

Despite competing with a crowded Los Angeles entertainment calendar, Serricchio said the production has attracted encouraging audiences and generated meaningful conversations, reinforcing his commitment to continuing the initiative.

He is already considering additional productions and collaborations, with Avanti envisioned as a growing creative community rather than a one-time project.

For an actor accustomed to working within established film and television productions, the opportunity to build something independently has become its own reward. As Hollywood continues to evolve, Serricchio believes artists need not wait for permission to create. "It's been giving me so many more ideas," he said. "It was just the beginning."

Avanti's inaugural theatrical production is presented at TruLove Post in Culver City, with performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM, with an additional performance on October 24.

michelle@smdp.com

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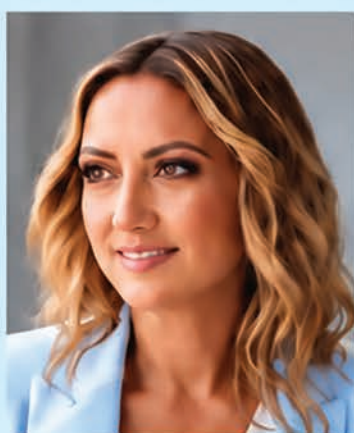


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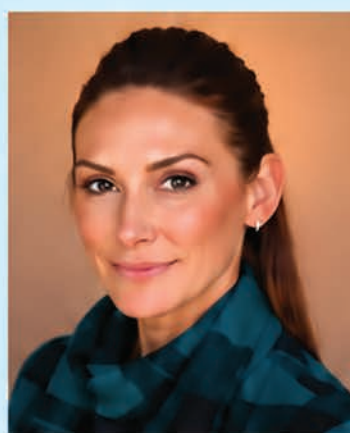
Santa Monica City Council candidates



Lana Negrete



Doug Trussler



Ashley Olsen



Brian Goldsmith

Candidate for
California State Senate

Santa Monica City Council candidates

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RSVP QR CODE

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DTSM

FROM PAGE 1

pandemic-era decline of one of Southern California's most recognizable retail districts.

DTSM's CEO Debbie Lee wants to change the conversation, focusing not just on bringing the district back, but on defining its next chapter, and using data, programming and a more proactive approach to operations to get there. "We really needed to shift into a proactive model," Lee said.

That shift begins with some of the least glamorous but most consequential elements of managing a downtown: cleanliness, maintenance and public safety. Instead of responding to problems after they are reported, Lee said DTSM has been recalibrating its operations to identify and address them earlier. "Cleaning things before people notice them versus cleaning after somebody's reported it, that's a very different scenario," she said.

The same philosophy now extends across the organization. Increasingly, decisions about where DTSM deploys resources, what kinds of events it produces and how it measures success are being informed by data.

Some of those numbers are beginning to tell a different story about Downtown Santa Monica than the one that has dominated public perception. Santa Monica's six weeks of FIFA World Cup programming this summer became an important real-world experiment. The activations brought crowds into Downtown and Third Street Promenade, but for Lee, the more important question was what those visitors actually did once they

arrived.

DTSM is tracking metrics including visitation, average daily spending, transaction size, number of transactions and dwell time to see how long visitors remain in the district.

In July, Lee said average daily visitor spending across Downtown was slightly above \$120, with visitors averaging approximately 1.7 transactions. Third Street Promenade recorded average daily spending of more than \$110 per visitor, representing a 12.5% year-over-year increase. Overall spending on the Promenade increased 11.2% year over year, while the average transaction approached \$75.

The results reinforced something Lee believes will shape DTSM's strategy going forward: major activations can provide powerful moments that draw people Downtown, while lighter-touch programming gives them additional reasons to return. "Activations work to spark interest," Lee said. "The lighter-touch events and the surprise and delight create a reason for people to come back time and time again."

Rather than viewing the two approaches separately, DTSM sees larger-scale events and recurring, lighter-touch activations as complementary. Major events can introduce or reintroduce audiences to Downtown, while smaller experiences help create the consistency and familiarity that encourage repeat visits.

That distinction is becoming particularly important as Santa Monica considers the opportunities surrounding an extraordinary sequence of global events coming to Southern California, including the Super Bowl and the

2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. "We also need to look at how we're getting people to come every single day," Lee said. "We want people to come over and over and over again."

August offered another encouraging data point. Approximately 2.4 million people visited Downtown Santa Monica during the month, according to figures Lee shared, representing nearly a 20% increase from the previous August.

Third Street Promenade recorded approximately 380,000 visitors, a roughly 2% year-over-year increase despite construction affecting a portion of the district, but Lee cautions against judging the health of Downtown by foot traffic alone. "If foot traffic is down but spend is up, what does that mean?" she said.

The more complete picture, she argues, emerges when visitation is considered alongside spending, transactions and dwell time. The longer someone stays Downtown, the greater the opportunity to have another meal, visit another retailer, attend an event or make another purchase. That makes dwell time an economic-development strategy.

Programming isn't simply about filling a calendar. It is designed to give people reasons to remain Downtown longer and return more frequently, supporting existing businesses while creating the conditions to attract new investment.

The biggest shift in Lee's strategy is philosophical. For a district long associated with tourists, Lee believes Downtown Santa Monica's strongest foundation must be the people who live nearby. "We want residents to come here and use Downtown as their downtown," she said. "And then, of course, we want to welcome the rest of the world to come and enjoy what our locals love."

DTSM is using spending and visitor data to better understand who is already coming Downtown and which businesses resonate with them. Lee points to the concentration of activewear, wellness, beauty and specialty businesses and a customer base heavily represented by adults between roughly 18 and 44 with active lifestyles, which is influencing both programming and business attraction. It is also informing smaller-scale events designed to make Downtown feel less like a destination reserved for special occasions and more like part of residents' everyday lives.

DTSM's "Forever Summer" series, for example, takes advantage of Santa Monica's year-round outdoor climate with Wednesday and Saturday programming surrounding the farmers market, including seating, music and food.

Monthly Block Fest events bring evening activity to the district, while seasonal programming including Oktoberfest, Halloween activities and the return of the ice rink create opportunities for traditions that can bring residents back repeatedly.

Together with larger-scale activations, those recurring experiences are intended to create a rhythm Downtown, moments that draw new audiences alongside regular programming that gives them a reason to return.

The image of empty storefronts remains one of the most persistent challenges facing Third Street Promenade. Lee doesn't dismiss the concern, but says the reality is more nuanced. The Promenade is approximately 80% leased, she said, with some leased spaces still appearing vacant because tenants are in various stages of permitting, construction and build-out.

Additional businesses are preparing to open, while Lee says DTSM is hearing increased interest from the brokerage

community in Downtown and particularly Third Street Promenade.

Pop-ups are another piece of the strategy. Brands can use temporarily available storefronts to introduce products, create experiences and test the Santa Monica market without immediately committing to a traditional long-term lease. Neutrogena recently used the Promenade for a 30-day activation surrounding new skincare and sun-care technology, exactly the type of temporary brand presence Lee would like to attract more frequently.

Rather than viewing every available storefront solely as evidence of vacancy, DTSM is increasingly looking at some of that space as an asset that can be programmed while longer-term investment takes shape.

Lee acknowledges that Downtown Santa Monica softened in recent years. But she believes the perception of the district has, in some cases, fallen further than the reality. "Much of that is true, while the other part is exactly that, a perception."

From her office overlooking Third Street Promenade, Lee sees something different from the image of an empty district. "Every single day I look down on the street, and it's bustling," she said. "It's not nearly what we want it to be, but we are building back and there are people who are enjoying coming to our Downtown. We see that in the numbers."

Cleanliness and safety remain central to that effort, and Lee credits the City of Santa Monica's investment and partnership as critical to improving conditions. Changing perception also requires giving people a reason to experience Downtown for themselves - that is where the next several years could become transformative for the district.

DTSM's Board recently voted to focus the organization's efforts, in collaboration with key stakeholders, around three key areas: Next Generation: Third Street Promenade, Access and Business Development, Major Events, and the DTSM, Inc. Management Plan. Those priorities provide a framework for how the organization approaches Downtown's next chapter: rethinking the Promenade and strengthening the business environment, positioning the district to capitalize on major events, and ensuring DTSM has the management structure necessary to support the district's longer-term evolution.

Major global events offer Downtown Santa Monica an opportunity not only to generate economic activity, but to reintroduce the district to residents, visitors, investors and brands.

For Lee, however, the goal is larger than successfully hosting a series of events, but what remains afterward. The World Cup demonstrated that programming can move people and spending. The next phase is turning those moments into habits getting a visitor to stay longer, a resident to return next weekend, a business to renew its lease, a brand to open a pop-up and, eventually, an investor to make a longer-term commitment.

That is the Downtown Lee and DTSM are working to build - one that is cleaner and more proactive, driven by measurable results but animated by experiences, rooted first in its local community and ready to welcome the world. "We want Santa Monica to re-embrace Downtown as their Downtown," Lee said.

As Southern California moves toward another unprecedented cycle of global attention, that may be the most important measure of Downtown Santa Monica's next chapter.

michelle@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Trustee sale

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. TS1026-02. YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED April 30, 2026. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On November 6, 2026 at 9:30 AM, Matthew Abrams, Esq., as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded May 7, 2026 as Instrument No. 20260334358 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, executed by: Cora V. Robinson, a married woman as her sole and separate property, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH at Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, CA 91766, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California describing the land therein: 1833 19th St., Santa Monica, CA 90404. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 10/15/26, 10/22/26, 10/29/26

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Agnes

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By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 7101

Getting a job

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

Air force	Earn	Maid	Secretary
Artist	Epic	Nanny	Service
Author	Farmer	Navy	manager
Bailiff	Fencer	Nurse	Taxi
Butcher	Film	Paver	Trade
Cabinetmaker	Graphic	Pilot	Waitress
Char	designer	Play	Welder
Chiropractor	Juggler	Quit	Writer
Cook	Lawyer	Sack	
Drama	Librarian	Sales	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Some beautiful destinations

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 22)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Let go of keeping score. Life will fail every test of perfect fairness. Give what feels right to give. Ask for what you want in return. Then judge each relationship by how you feel and what you learn inside it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There will be tattered edges where ideals meet realities, not to mention roadblocks, dead ends and detours. Let go of the idea that a good life must follow the plan you once made. You can always draw up a new one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Let go of performing for an audience you have outgrown. Your humor may change. Your interests may wander. Follow what fascinates you now. You get to develop new tastes without anyone else's approval.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Let go of your family story as the definitive account of who you are. As loving as they may be, when they look at you, they see who they need, want or expect to see. Besides, the whole of you could never be confined to a role.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Let go of the version of events you have explained a hundred times. You have made your case. Leave the evidence on the table and walk away. You have better things to spend your time and energy on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Let go of proving that you earned every pleasure. In this life of cycles, we must seize joy when it's available, knowing that it won't always be. Buy the flowers. Lollygag. Eat up. You made enough sensible choices.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Let go of a joyless responsibility that was imposed on you. You were meant for the responsibility that honors your talents and strengths and makes you feel fulfilled as you give it your very best.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Let go of keeping an old hurt available for reference. You already know what happened. You know what it taught you. Past you would have chosen one thing, but present you has other ideas. Start the fresh page.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Let go of beliefs you inherited before you knew enough about life to examine them properly. Pick one assumption and hold it up to your experience. Keep what rings true. Release the rest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Let go of an old definition of success. Decide what you want your days to be like. Start there. A title can impress people for a minute. It's the quality of your work and results that keeps them coming back.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Let go of belonging everywhere you once belonged. You don't need to keep the keys to apartments you're never going to live in again. Thank the people who mattered there. Take the memories with you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Let go of the promise you made to an earlier version of yourself. You made it with the information you had then. Look at your life today and come up with terms that make sense for where you are and where you want to be.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Nautical "Halt!"
- 6 Bring blushes to
- 11 Hotshot pilot
- 14 Instrument of India
- 15 A la ___ menu
- 16 '70s war zone
- 17 *Whirly Olympic event
- 19 Hotshot celebrity, for short
- 20 Ponce de ___
- 21 Lamentation
- 23 Rude bus rider
- 27 Mary who wrote *Frankenstein*
- 28 Necessitate
- 29 ___ acid (vinegar component)
- 30 Leaves port
- 31 Maze marking
- 32 Includes
- 35 Horse's dad
- 36 Pilfered
- 37 French author Émile
- 38 Goof up
- 39 Young puppy
- 40 Sing "Deck the Halls"
- 41 Imaginary
- 43 Kids' pellet dispensers
- 44 Understand speaking without hearing
- 46 Antarctic water
- 47 Flung skyward
- 48 Utah national park
- 49 Letter after sigma
- 50 Site suggested by the answers to the

- starred clues
- 56 Supposed sixth sense
- 57 Has a tilt
- 58 Hockey great Gretzky
- 59 Air-leak sound
- 60 Coax forth
- 61 Pay out

DOWN

- 1 Fire residue
- 2 Through, on an itinerary
- 3 Casino \$\$\$ source
- 4 Walton of Walmart
- 5 Rack for roses
- 6 Cast member
- 7 German highway
- 8 Incoming LAX flight

- 9 Instruction to a cabbie
- 10 Packard's high-tech partner
- 11 *Noisy Verdi piece
- 12 Michael of *Interstellar*
- 13 Containing nothing
- 18 Stagger
- 22 Arabian Nights name
- 23 Reverend Jackson
- 24 Walking ___ (blissful)
- 25 *Before-the-foxhunt drinks
- 26 Bit of folklore
- 27 Head covering
- 29 Oceanic ring
- 31 In its ___ (replacing it)
- 33 Unaccompanied
- 34 Spicy dip

- 36 Snugly contained
- 37 Turns sharply
- 39 Grapple in a ring
- 40 Cronkite's longtime employer
- 42 FDR-era agency
- 43 Big help
- 44 Minstrels' instruments
- 45 Bridge non-bid
- 46 Washer cycle
- 48 ___ oxide ointment
- 51 French water
- 52 Grammy category since 1989
- 53 See 55-Down
- 54 ___ Arbor, MI
- 55 With 53-Down, late-night flight

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 2

and bipartisan effort was possible, and that the panel could ferret out improper voting and get to the bottom of allegations that Russia and other adversaries interfered with the election.

But the commission produced nothing.

And recall that even before that, when asked whether he would respect the 2016 election outcome, Trump responded, “If I win.” It was vintage Trump — a headline-grabbing statement that committed him to no particular position and could be taken either as a jest or a warning, or both at the same time.

It has been widely asserted that Trump sees no distinction between statements that are true or false and considers only whether a statement will or will not serve him.

If that’s the case, he may not care whether there was any fraud or misconduct at the polls. He may see no difference between that position and the conviction that there absolutely must have been fraud or misconduct — because how else could he possibly have lost?

That belief — we can only lose if the system is rigged — has roots in California, 2008, and redistricting reform.

Moderate Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger was governor after defeating Gray Davis in the historic recall five years before, but Republican candidates were making no headway in state legislative or congressional races.

It’s because of your politics, the governor told the party. Candidates had to move toward the center if they wanted support from California voters. “We’re dying at the box office,” he famously told them.

But others in the party said that there must be some other reason they weren’t winning. Many sincerely believed Democrats must be cheating, or at least gaming the system when they use their majority legislative power to draw district lines. Why else could Republicans possibly be losing?

Good-government advocates from inside and outside both major parties agreed it would be best for a nonpartisan, or at least bipartisan, panel to draw district lines. Together they wrote Proposition 11, which changed redistricting in both houses of the Legislature, but not Congress.

Former Democratic Assembly Speaker Willie Brown warned his party’s leaders that the measure was dangerous. Defeating Proposition 11 and electing Barack Obama were equally important, he told the state’s delegation at the Democratic national convention in Denver.

Republicans up and down the state embraced the measure as a way to bring fairness, and perhaps some Republican-controlled seats, to the Legislature. Two years after Prop 11 passed, backers returned with Proposition 20, a measure to apply the same redistricting commission process to congressional elections.

But Republican candidates continued to die at the box office. Schwarzenegger, who supported a range of reforms in a quest to break a toughening partisan stalemate, had been right that candidate positions needed to change as well. But they didn’t.

Redistricting reform went the other way in Texas, which last year altered its rules

in an attempt to award congressional Republicans more seats in the current midterm election. California Gov. Gavin Newsom responded with Proposition 50, which (ahem) “temporarily” suspends Proposition 20 to allow midterm redistricting to favor Democrats, because of the emergency created by Texas.

No doubt we will face continuing partisan emergencies in future elections, and California voters will be asked to repeatedly suspend Proposition 20. If that’s the case, we may return permanently to a scenario in which control of Congress is no longer seen merely as a contest between political and policy rivals and will become instead a permanently Trump-flavored electoral civil war.

The Department of Homeland Security’s recent demand that California election officials set aside some 20,000 ballots cast by voters on a list that supposedly names people who registered but are ineligible to vote, and the Department of Justice’s follow-up lawsuit, may be shots — or perhaps just blanks — in that war.

Also, armed troops already gather around ballot dropboxes in the District of Columbia. The director of the FBI won’t rule out sending armed agents to polling places. And Trump supporters openly talk of martial law as the only response to an election that does not go their way.

Like Trump’s 2016 answer about accepting the election outcome, it’s hard to know whether to take these things as very bad jokes or very serious warnings. Either way, they serve to dissuade people from voting at all, which is likely the point.

Surely there were people who stormed the Capitol in the sincere belief that Trump had won the 2020 election, and that they were standing up against Democratic Party cheating and for the truth. And surely at least some of them now see they were duped into destroying a formerly shared faith in the system and the truth, and the conviction that we could and would unite after the votes are counted.

And there certainly are some Americans who believe California and Democrats are engaged in a criminal conspiracy to get noncitizens and other ineligible voters to the polls — despite the long list of evidence to the contrary, the court rulings that repeatedly reject such allegations, Trump’s previous lies about election fraud, the 2020 pressure on Georgia officials, the Supreme Court’s ruling last month rejecting a similar assault on Nevada’s election and the fact that the attack on California’s vote is taking place in the middle of the election, for maximum impact on public opinion.

That’s the darkness of Trump’s assault on California’s elections. Losing Congress on Nov. 3, by his reasoning, supplies proof that the state is cheating, because how else could he possibly be defeated?

We need not worry if he actually believes that. The tragedy for American democracy would be if a substantial number of voters also believe it.

By Robert Greene. Robert Greene is a Los Angeles-based journalist and the 2026-27 John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation fellow. He was previously a member of the Los Angeles Times editorial board, a staff writer for LA Weekly and associate editor of the Metropolitan News-Enterprise. This article was originally published on CalMatters and was republished under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives license.



THURSDAY | OCTOBER 22

REACH PROGRAM APPLICATION SUPPORT

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Main Library, Lobby. Office of Sustainability staff answer questions about the city’s Renter’s Energy and Cooling/Heating Program, which offers free appliances for income-qualified Santa Monica renters.

COMPUTER PRACTICE: OPEN LAB

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Main Library, Computer Classroom. Build computer skills at your own pace through guided online lessons. Support is available if needed.

LA LAW LIBRARY OFFICE HOURS

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Main Library, Lobby. Need your legal questions answered? An LA Law Library Legal Research Specialist can help! Assistance provided on a drop-in basis, no appointment necessary.

NOTABLE FICTION BOOK GROUP

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Ocean Park Branch. This community-led, monthly book discussion group returns to in-person meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Ocean Park Branch. The book group discusses prize-winning fiction titles.

HISTORY OF THE SANTA MONICA AIRPORT

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Fairview Branch. Join historian and founding member of the Santa Monica Conservancy Nina Fresco for a discussion of her new book. First Around the World: The History of the Santa Monica Municipal Airport traces the rich history of the Santa Monica Airport, which once served as home base for the largest airplane company in the world, the first round-the-world flight, and the first women’s air derby. Learn how the enduring impact of aviation continues to shape Santa Monica today. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

MONTANA BRANCH TEEN BOOK GROUP: GOOD GIRL’S GUIDE TO MURDER BY HOLLY JACKSON*

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Montana Branch. Teens and tweens are invited to discuss books and have fun together. Free books are available at the Montana Branch while supplies last. For ages 12 - 17

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 23

BEACH WALK MEDITATION

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Santa Monica Lifeguard Tower 27 2700 Ocean Ave Santa Monica, CA. A guided silent walking meditation along the beach, led by Stacey Polacco, offering a chance to practice mindfulness in nature; RSVP recommended. Meditation isn’t something that needs to happen only in a quiet room without any distracting sights or sounds. In fact we can develop our mindfulness while in nature; walking on the shore feeling the warmth of the sun on our face, the cool ocean splashing around our feet. Stacey Polacco, founder of Mobile Community Meditation Center offers an opportunity to practice walking meditation; to develop as individuals, as a community, and as stewards of the earth with this gentle practice that helps to open our hearts and minds to discover what it means to truly be alive. We’ll meet every Friday. After a brief explanation

how to do the practice, we’ll silently walking along the coastline for approximately 40 minutes ending up back at Tower 27. Please RSVP on FB or IG or by email and remember to check FB or IG for any changes or cancellations. \$20.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/beach-walk-meditation/18828982/2026-10-23T08>

PALISADIAN COFFEE AND CHAT

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Palisades Garden Cafe 15231 La Cruz Dr Pacific Palisades, CA. An informal coffee meetup for Palisades residents returning or settling back, with no agenda and a friendly hello. An informal hello run by Palisadian resident Rebecca Martin. No Agenda, no powerpoint, just a chance to say hello for those who have moved back to the Palisades, or are working on it. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/palisadian-coffee-and-chat/19242128/2026-10-23T09>

BUNDY TRIANGLE NIGHT MARKET

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Bundy Triangle 1500 S Bundy Drive Los Angeles, CA. Cayton Children’s Museum offers free hands-on activities for families at the Bundy Triangle Night Market every Friday through October. Cayton Children’s Museum will offer free, weekly hands-on activities for children and families at the Bundy Triangle Night Market in Sawtelle every Friday from March 27 through the end of October, the museum announced. The programming, offered in partnership with Los Angeles City Councilwoman Traci Park, will run from 5 to 8 p.m. each Friday at the Bundy Triangle, a public space at Ohio Avenue and Bundy Drive. The broader night market, presented by Raw Inspiration, runs from 5 to 9 p.m. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/bundy-triangle-night-market/18490079/2026-10-23T17>

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 24

THE BUG GALS SPOOKTACULAR CRAWLERS

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Venice, Community Room 501 S. Venice Boulevard Venice, CA 90291. A Halloween event from The Bug Gals centered on crawly creatures, with a spooky-season angle for those curious about bugs. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-bug-gals-spooktacular-crawlers/20081722/2026-10-24T11>

HAUNTED HOWL-O-WEEN PARTY FOR DOGS AT WAG HOTELS SANTA MONICA

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Wag Hotels 1653 19th Street Santa Monica, CA. A dog-friendly Halloween party with costume fun, activities, and treats, all supporting at-risk senior dogs. Come for the costumes. Stay for the cause. Join us on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 3–5 PM for a howling good time benefiting at-risk senior dogs! \$14.64 to \$22.11. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/haunted-howl-o-ween-party-for-dogs-at-wag-hotels-santa-monica/19974439/2026-10-24T15>

HALLOWEEN: BOOKWORM BLVD TRANSFORMATION

3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Village School 2401 Colorado Ave Santa Monica, CA. Volunteers can help transform the Village School into Halloween’s Bookworm Blvd, a book-themed street experience. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/halloween-bookworm-blvd-transformation/20194259/2026-10-24T15>



SPOOKTACULAR! 2026

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31
5:00-8:00pm



HELEN ALBRIGHT



HARDING LARMORE
KUTCHER & KOZAL, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JOE PAIAZZOLO
NEIL AND KAREN CARREY
JIVANTO VAN HEMERT

1401 Olympic Blvd.
Santa Monica

