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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Santa Monica disaster plan warns of $1.5 billion in potential losses



Courtesy photo

PLAN: The plan identifies earthquake, tsunami, wildfire and catastrophic flooding as the city's greatest risks.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica could face nearly $1.5 billion in combined losses from natural disasters over the next several decades, according to a comprehensive hazard mitigation plan presented to city officials this week.

The 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, delivered to the Planning Commission last week, identifies sea level rise as the costliest long-term threat, with potential losses reaching $847

SEE **DISASTER PLAN** PAGE 11

Post Office says it's ready for holiday rush

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The U.S. Postal Service announced it is prepared to handle the 2025 holiday season, backed by nearly $20 billion in modernization investments over the past four years.

Holiday preparations are important for anyone carrying mail during the winter months but experts say it's a mixed bag for this year. Industry forecasts expect about 2.3 billion total U.S. holiday parcel deliveries in late 2025, roughly 5% more than 2024, concentrated in the six weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. However, ShipMatrix analysts specifically forecast USPS holiday package volume will be flat year-over-year, while competitors FedEx and Amazon are expected to see growth of 5% to 8%.

Recent data indicate USPS package volume was flat to slightly down in early 2025, even as competitors have seen increases.

"The Postal Service plans throughout the year to deliver the nation's mail and packages during the high-volume holiday season and we are well prepared and ready to deliver for the American public," said Postmaster General and CEO David Steiner. "For the past several years, the Postal Service has been gaining market share in our package business, which reflects the strong value and excellent portfolio of the shipping options we provide."

USPS has invested in realigning its national postal network to meet modern consumer needs. The agency delivered 45%

SEE **POST OFFICE** PAGE 11

Two Commissioners quit citing problems with city leadership

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica's already-challenging effort to fill volunteer board positions has become more difficult after two commission members resigned this month, citing internal conflicts and disagreements with city leadership.

Deborah Lynch submitted her resignation from the Housing Commission on Oct. 15, following what she described as an unprofessional confrontation with Chair Gail Gordon during a commission meeting. Ann Bowman resigned from the Recreation and Parks Commission shortly after four City Council members voted to terminate an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with Revitalization Partners Group for the Civic Auditorium project.

The resignations add to existing vacancies across the city's standing boards and commissions, which together comprise over a hundred seats covering areas including planning, arts, housing and public safety. City officials have already advertised openings on multiple commissions this fall, including the Arts, Housing and Airport commissions.

Lynch's resignation followed a heated exchange during the Housing Commission's Oct. 14

SEE **RESIGNATION** PAGE 4



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Why California's historic housing law gave activists a new reason to battle the bus



Photo by Pablo Unzueta for CalMatters

BUS: The Norwalk Green Line Station in Norwalk on April 3, 2023.

For years Burbank residents, business owners and elected officials have been squabbling over a plan to run a speedy new bus line through the middle of town.

The North Hollywood to Pasadena Bus Rapid Transit project is slated to carve a bus-only corridor linking the eastern edge of the San Fernando Valley to the western extent of the San Gabriel Valley while connecting two of LA County's most well-trafficked rail lines. To do so, LA Metro plans to take away a lane of traffic and a ton of parking spaces along most of the 18-mile route, which includes much of a four-lane stretch that runs through downtown Burbank.

Ever since the agency floated the project in 2017, a vocal coalition of ticked-off Burbankers, Glendalians and denizens of the northeast LA neighborhood of Eagle Rock has been protesting, petitioning and (unsuccessfully) suing to block, delay or revamp the plan.

Now, with the sweep of his pen, Gov. Gavin Newsom has turned this long-simmering battle over a bus into a full-fledged war over housing, local control and the future of the single-family neighborhoods.

Earlier this month, Newsom signed a law allowing apartment buildings to sprout up within a half-mile of major public transit stations. That includes stops for select bus routes that run frequently, get priority at stop lights and have their own lanes

The purpose of the law is to locate new housing close to publicly funded transportation, funneling more would-be riders onto those systems, while minimizing the traffic, pollution and climate impact of new residential development.

But the law also applies to future transit projects that have reached a certain point in the planning pipeline — including the NoHo to Pasadena bus line.

Susan O'Carroll, a planning and environmental consultant and Burbank resident, said she has long had issues with the bus plan. Now that its development carries the promise of a neighborhood-spanning zoning overhaul, the stakes feel much higher. The bus, in effect, will "destroy the single family neighborhoods on either side" of the route, she said.

The only way to stop the apartments now, she said, is to stop the bus.

The brewing battle in Burbank is an unintended consequence of Senate Bill 79, a law that pro-housing advocates, public transit boosters and many environmentally-minded urbanists lauded as a historic victory for sustainable planning. That law represents the culmination of a legislative trend, in which California has relaxed minimum parking requirements and allowed for more affordable housing and accessory dwelling unit development on lots close to bus and rail lines.

But even supporters of transit-oriented development recognize that it can sometimes result in "perverse" political incentives, said Amy Lee, a transportation researcher at UC Davis, who recently published a paper on how California city governments responded to a 2022 law banning local parking requirements for housing near transit.

When housing and transportation are tied together, for opponents of new residential

SEE **SB79** PAGE 5

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Supporters are way ahead in fundraising for Newsom's Prop. 50, but the race remains close



Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

ELECTION: A button reads, "Vote Yes on Prop 50" at the Kings County Democrats booth during the Thursday Night Marketplace in downtown Hanford on Sept. 25, 2025.

California, listen up: Former President Barack Obama wants you to know that the whole nation is counting on you this November.

"Democracy is on the ballot," the 44th president says straight to camera in the latest advertisement from Gov. Gavin Newsom's campaign for Proposition 50, the ballot question that asks voters to temporarily gerrymander California's congressional districts to favor Democrats.

"Republicans want to steal enough seats in Congress to rig the next election and wield unchecked power for two more years," Obama continues in the seven-figure ad buy airing across California, referring to GOP-led redistricting efforts President Donald Trump has backed in other states like Texas. "With Prop. 50, you can stop Republicans in their tracks."

As voters face a Nov. 4 deadline to turn in their ballots, California's redistricting fight has reached a pinnacle as both sides pour tens of millions of dollars on their final push to persuade and mobilize voters. The Yes side has largely outraised and outspent its opponents, pulling in nearly $97 million — more than double the No side's haul of $42 million — and garnered far more big names to appear in its ads.

Still, recent polling shows the race remains close, and persuasion in the final weeks is critical for both sides. While opponents of Prop. 50 are going all-in on a good governance message and playing on most voters' unease with politicians drawing their own districts, supporters of the measure are doubling down on anti-Trump rhetoric. And both campaigns are trying to turn out Latino voters, a key constituency that could swing the election.

A survey from the nonpartisan Cook Political Report earlier this month found that although 50% of registered voters said they would support Prop. 50 and 35% said they would oppose it, nearly half of those surveyed indicated they were undecided or only softly committed to their vote. The poll included 918 registered voters with a sampling error margin of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points.

There's still plenty of time to sway voters, especially those who are just now tuning into the fact that an election is happening. If voters approve Prop. 50, California would temporarily adopt gerrymandered maps drawn by Democrats through 2030 and suspend the ones drawn by an independent citizens redistricting commission just four years ago. The ballot question informs voters that California's redistricting is a direct response to Texas Republicans' decision to redraw their district lines mid-decade.

And when it comes to persuasion, money is critical.

More than 68,000 people have given money in support of the Yes on Prop. 50 campaign since July, according to campaign finance data analyzed by CalMatters, with the biggest contributions coming from the House Majority PAC controlled by congressional Democrats and the Fund for Policy Reform controlled by Democratic megadonor George Soros. That doesn't include the nearly $13 million that billionaire investor Tom Steyer spent separately to run his own ads supporting the measure.

By contrast, only 200 contributors have given to the two separate No campaigns, including a massive $30 million from wealthy Republican physicist Charles Munger Jr., who funded the 2008 and 2010 efforts to establish the state's independent redistricting commission.

"'No' has the steeper hill to climb, there's no doubt about that," said Amy Walter, publisher

SEE **PROP 50** PAGE 7



Weather

Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 68.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 57. West southwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 72. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/10/23	Thu	03:47 AM	2.15	L
2025/10/23	Thu	10:05 AM	5.76	H
2025/10/23	Thu	5:19 PM	0.13	L
2025/10/23	Thu	11:41 PM	3.56	H
2025/10/24	Fri	04:05 AM	2.44	L
2025/10/24	Fri	10:28 AM	5.62	H
2025/10/24	Fri	6:00 PM	0.28	L
2025/10/25	Sat	12:36 AM	3.27	H
2025/10/25	Sat	04:19 AM	2.71	L
2025/10/25	Sat	10:55 AM	5.41	H
2025/10/25	Sat	6:48 PM	0.49	L
2025/10/26	Sun	01:58 AM	3.06	H
2025/10/26	Sun	04:22 AM	2.94	L
2025/10/26	Sun	11:27 AM	5.14	H
2025/10/26	Sun	7:48 PM	0.69	L
2025/10/27	Mon	12:12 PM	4.83	H
2025/10/27	Mon	9:07 PM	0.80	L
2025/10/28	Tue	1:26 PM	4.52	H
2025/10/28	Tue	10:25 PM	0.72	L
2025/10/29	Wed	06:45 AM	3.71	H
2025/10/29	Wed	09:49 AM	3.59	L
2025/10/29	Wed	3:17 PM	4.35	H
2025/10/29	Wed	11:20 PM	0.57	L
2025/10/30	Thu	06:38 AM	4.02	H
2025/10/30	Thu	11:31 AM	3.07	L
2025/10/30	Thu	4:49 PM	4.41	H
2025/10/31	Fri	12:01 AM	0.46	L
2025/10/31	Fri	06:51 AM	4.43	H
2025/10/31	Fri	12:23 PM	2.35	L
2025/10/31	Fri	5:57 PM	4.55	H
2025/11/01	Sat	12:36 AM	0.43	L
2025/11/01	Sat	07:09 AM	4.94	H
2025/11/01	Sat	1:08 PM	1.53	L
2025/11/01	Sat	6:56 PM	4.68	H

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 10/20
32 38 66 67 69
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 320 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/21
2 18 27 34 59
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 680 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 10/18
2 4 25 26 43
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 9 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/21
8 14 24 26 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 10/21
EVENING: 8 8 4
Draw Date: 10/21
MIDDAY: 2 5 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 10/21
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 10 - Solid Gold
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:42.16

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RESIGNATION

FROM PAGE 1

meeting. In her resignation letter to staff members Thomas Philbin and Natalie Verlinich, Lynch described Gordon's behavior as "unwarranted, almost staged, and patently unprofessional."

During the meeting, Lynch wanted to know how many individuals on the City's affordable housing list were already qualified for housing and during a debate over the question, Lynch took issue with Gordon rephrasing the question.

"You're changing my question, and I thought I was handling this. So if you want to deal with it, you handle it," said Lynch to Gordon.

That prompted Gordon to respond.

"I would like to make a note that I'm having problems with Commissioner Lynch," she said. "I cannot continue without being interrupted and being verbally abused."

Lynch wrote that she avoided escalating the confrontation "primarily in the interest of allowing the meeting to continue with Commission business." She accused Gordon of being unable to handle dissent and attempting to control commission members' statements.

"I will never allow anyone to attempt to place their words in my mouth," Lynch wrote. "Her insistence at rewording my comments to what is acceptable to her was abominable."

Lynch also criticized Gordon for allowing a member of the Disabilities and Ageing Commission to speak on Housing Commission agenda items outside the public comment period, noting that Gordon had previously opposed such participation.

Bowman's resignation came in the wake of an early morning council vote that ended negotiations with Revitalization Partners Group. Council members Jesse Zwick, Natalya Zernitskaya, Caroline Torosis and Dan Hall supported the motion to terminate the agreement and directed staff to explore options for the entire Civic Center site.

In her resignation letter, Bowman criticized the decision and the manner in which it was made.

"No mention was made of the Civic Center Specific Plan, the governing planning document for the area," Bowman wrote. "No respect was shown to RPG or the principal of RPG who was present in Council chambers."

Bowman described the behavior of the four council members and City Manager Oliver Chi as "embarrassing and a discredit to our City." She also called for the city to address what she characterized as a conflict of interest involving Zwick related to housing development matters.

"I do not want to give my volunteer time going forward to an organization where a majority in leadership so clearly do not share any of those core values," Bowman wrote, referring to her priorities including community input, adherence to planning documents and protection of public land.

Council will address both resignations next week adding them to the existing vacancies.

The city's boards and commissions exist to bring community expertise and public input into local government decisions. By law, most commissions act in an advisory capacity to the City Council on their respective issues, enabling specialized policy development and civic oversight.

> I do not want to give my volunteer time going forward to an organization where a majority in leadership so clearly do not share any of those core values
> - Ann Bowman

However, filling all the seats can be challenging. Many commissions have specialized requirements that limit candidate pools. The Building & Fire-Life Safety Commission seeks members with engineering or contractor credentials, while the Disabilities Commission requires at least six members who have disabilities.

City officials regularly advertise vacancies and accept applications through an online portal. As of late 2025, some commissions report current vacancies awaiting appointments, with the City Clerk indicating upcoming council appointments for open seats on multiple boards.

The city's board structure has evolved over time. In 2022, Santa Monica consolidated the Commission on the Status of Women, Commission for the Senior Community and Social Services Commission into a single Human Services Commission. New bodies have also been created, including the seven-member Sustainability Commission and the 11-member Public Safety Oversight Commission, both established in 2021.

Each board typically has between five and 11 members, with the Council appointing volunteers as terms expire and new vacancies arise.

editor@smdp.com

GET IT DAILY...

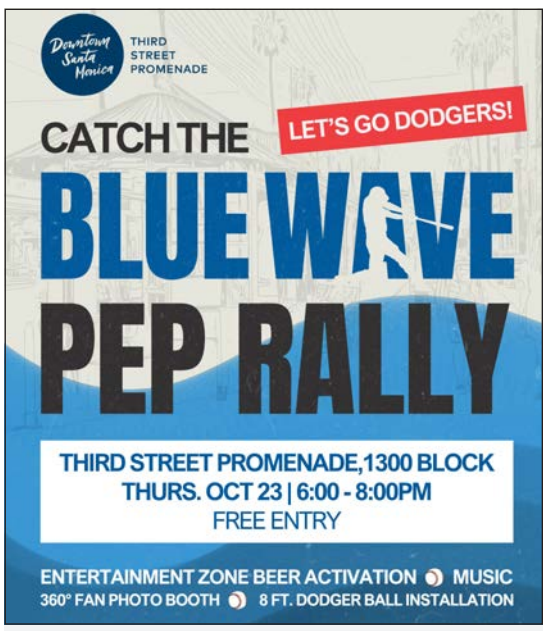
AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dodgers Pep rally, Halloween Events & More

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes Dodgers Pep Rally, Halloween Events, multiple downtown restaurant openings, and much more!

'We Believe in Blue' LA Dodgers World Series Pep Rally: As the Dodgers prepare to take the field for the 2025 World Series, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) and the City of Santa Monica is hosting a first-ever Dodgers Pep Rally on Thursday, Oct. 23, 6 - 8p.m. on the 1300 block of 3rd St. Promenade (in front of Dodgers Club House Store). https://www.santamonica.gov/press/2025/10/21/third-street-promenade-hosts-we-believe-in-blue-la-dodgers-world-series-pep-rally



Courtesy image

BASEBALL: City of Santa Monica is hosting a first-ever Dodgers Pep Rally on Thursday, Oct. 23, 6 - 8p.m. on the 1300 block of 3rd St. Promenade.

Spooky Splash @ SaMo Swim Center: Join us for an evening of recreational swimming, floating pumpkin patch, spooky flicks, arts & crafts, and tricks and treats. Explore the Sharks Haunted House, conquer the floating obstacle course, and grab dinner from local food trucks. Costumes encouraged! Click here to get your Tickets in advance and skip the line. Friday, Oct. 24, 5 - 8p.m., 2225 16th St. www.santamonicaswimcenter.org

Circular Library's Halloween Costume Run and Coffee Rave: Work it out with spirits, witches, and monsters! ♂ Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 25, 8a.m. - 12p.m., 1221 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Venice instagram.com/p/DPjxioJEt0S/

Malibu Moves Fitness & Halloween Festival: This year's festival blends movement, community impact, and Halloween fun, uniting families, walkers, and runners while raising funds for local schools and fire-rebuild efforts. Events include a 10K, 5K, 1-Mile Zuma Dash, 1K Kids Run, Malibu Moves Expo, featuring a costume contest for kids and families with prizes. Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 25 & 26, MalibuMoves.com

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer: This gathering unites communities to raise funds for both patients and survivors, all while celebrating courage and hope. These 3- to 5-mile noncompetitive walks provide a supportive community for courageous breast cancer survivors, people living with metastatic breast cancer, caregivers and families alike. Saturday, Oct. 25, 8a.m. - 5p.m., Santa Monica Pier https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr_id=110848

Cinema Sundays at Sunset on the Promenade: Beetlejuice Beetlejuice: This summer, Third Street Promenade transforms into Santa Monica's most charming outdoor movie theater every weekend. Sunday, Oct. 26, 6 p.m., in front of the Apple Store, 1415 3rd Street Promenade https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cinema-sundays-at-sunset-tickets-1588204385069

Live Talks: An Evening with Michael Lewis: The writer will discuss the 15 year anniversary of the book and 10 year anniversary of the movie adaptation of The Big Short. Wednesday, Oct. 29, 8p.m., New Roads School 3131 Olympic Blvd. https://livetalksla.org/events/michael-lewis-2/

4th Annual Volley-Ween Fundraiser: Santa MoniCARES is gearing up for its 4th Annual Volley-Ween, a beach mixer and volleyball tournament fundraiser, set for. The event, with a $35 registration fee per player, aims to raise funds for local nonprofits providing essential human services during the winter season. Wednesday, Oct. 29 from 3 - 6p.m., Perry's, 2400 Ocean Front Walk SantaMoniCARES.org

Live Talks: An Evening with Judd Apatow in conversation with Marc Maron: discussing his book, Comedy Nerd: A Lifelong Obsession in Stories and Pictures. Thursday, Oct. 30, 8p.m., New Roads School 3131 Olympic Blvd. https://livetalksla.org/events/judd-apatow/

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 6

SB79

FROM PAGE 2

construction, "logically, a response is to just say, 'okay, we'll just reduce the transit,'" she said.

That might mean scrapping a project altogether. In the case of the Senate Bill 79, it could also mean campaigning to put a bus back in the flow of car traffic or slowing down a commuter rail system, so as to skirt the specific thresholds that would trigger a rezoning.

Density-averse city governments may also exploit ambiguities in the law. For example, if a bus only gets a dedicated lane on part of its route, as is the case with the line designed to cut through Burbank, is rezoning triggered at every stop along its route, none of them or just those where the bus has its own lane?

Turning contentious local disputes over new bus or rail lines into even more contentious rezoning battles also just has a way of turbo-charging the politics of both. "It's chummed the waters," said Lee.

A BARRIER TO LA'S TRANSIT BOOM?

It's not that the backers of the new law didn't see this coming.

The statute purposefully limits rezoning to projects that have already entered a regional transportation improvement plan — a short-list of projects that have already received a short- to medium-term funding commitment.

"If, in a few weeks, the Orange County Transportation Authority says they want to do a street car project from Fullerton to Disneyland, that wouldn't be eligible," said Marc Vukcevich, state policy director for Streets For All, which co-sponsored Senate Bill 79.

Further out, projects can still trigger changes to zoning once they are added to one of those transportation short-lists in the future, but only if they are part of a region's longer-term capital plan as of the end of this year.

The pipeline of such projects isn't especially full in most of the state's major metro areas. The Bay Area's transit system isn't growing much these days. Nor is San Diego's, where the city has upzoned most of its major transit hubs anyway.

The Los Angeles metro area is a notable exception.

In 2016, county voters backed a sales tax hike to fund public transit improvements. With relatively little public transit infrastructure on and in the ground, LA Metro has a subway, light rail and bus rapid transit boom in its planning pipeline. All of those projects may trigger rezoning under the new housing law and so "have a chance to be impacted by the NIMBY politics of housing," said Vukcevich.

BEYOND BURBANK

O'Carroll and other opponents of the NoHo to Pasadena project have called upon LA Metro to conduct another environmental review of the bus line. The first one, drafted back in 2020, didn't take rezoning into account. That leaves significant land-use changes that would result from the bus line unexamined and unpublicized, she said.

Burbank's city council has, for its own part, repeatedly voted to ask LA Metro to leave the bus in the regular flow of traffic along its route through the city.

It might be too late.

In a written statement, LA Metro spokesperson Missy Colman said that the agency will continue to "closely coordinate with the cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena" as it finalizes the design "in accordance with the Metro Board approved project."

What the board approved is a route with a bus-only lane. Construction is scheduled to break ground before next summer. The pressing deadline of the 2028 Olympics could make further delay especially unpalatable.

"The Metro board would have to basically take the unprecedented step of stopping a project that has already begun," said Nick Andert, a documentary filmmaker and public transportation advocate.

But with so many bus and rail projects in the pipeline across Los Angeles County, the extra-heated politics of Burbank's new bus may be a preview of what's to come.

Massive plans are in the works. New rail from the San Fernando Valley to the affluent neighborhoods around UCLA. A subway extension running south out of Hollywood. A bus rapid transit line connecting South Los Angeles to the neighborhoods east of Hollywood. All are controversial in their own right, said Andert. Throwing in the prospect of new apartment buildings could give local elected officials extra reason to dissent.

"Cities can really slow down permitting for certain things if Metro doesn't work with them hand-in-hand and address their concerns," he said.

'THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S COMING'

Backers of the new zoning law say they hope such controversies will be isolated and short-lived. Once neighborhoods start getting rezoned beginning next July, it will likely take years for developers to start swapping out single-family homes for apartment buildings en masse. Significant, neighborhood redefining densification could take decades in any given location, if ever happens.

"Call me an optimist — or maybe ludicrous — but I think the general public will understand that housing is not the end of the world and that development happens on a really long time frame," said Vukcevich.

It might be some time before irate homeowners along the NoHo to Pasadena bus line reach such levels of equanimity.

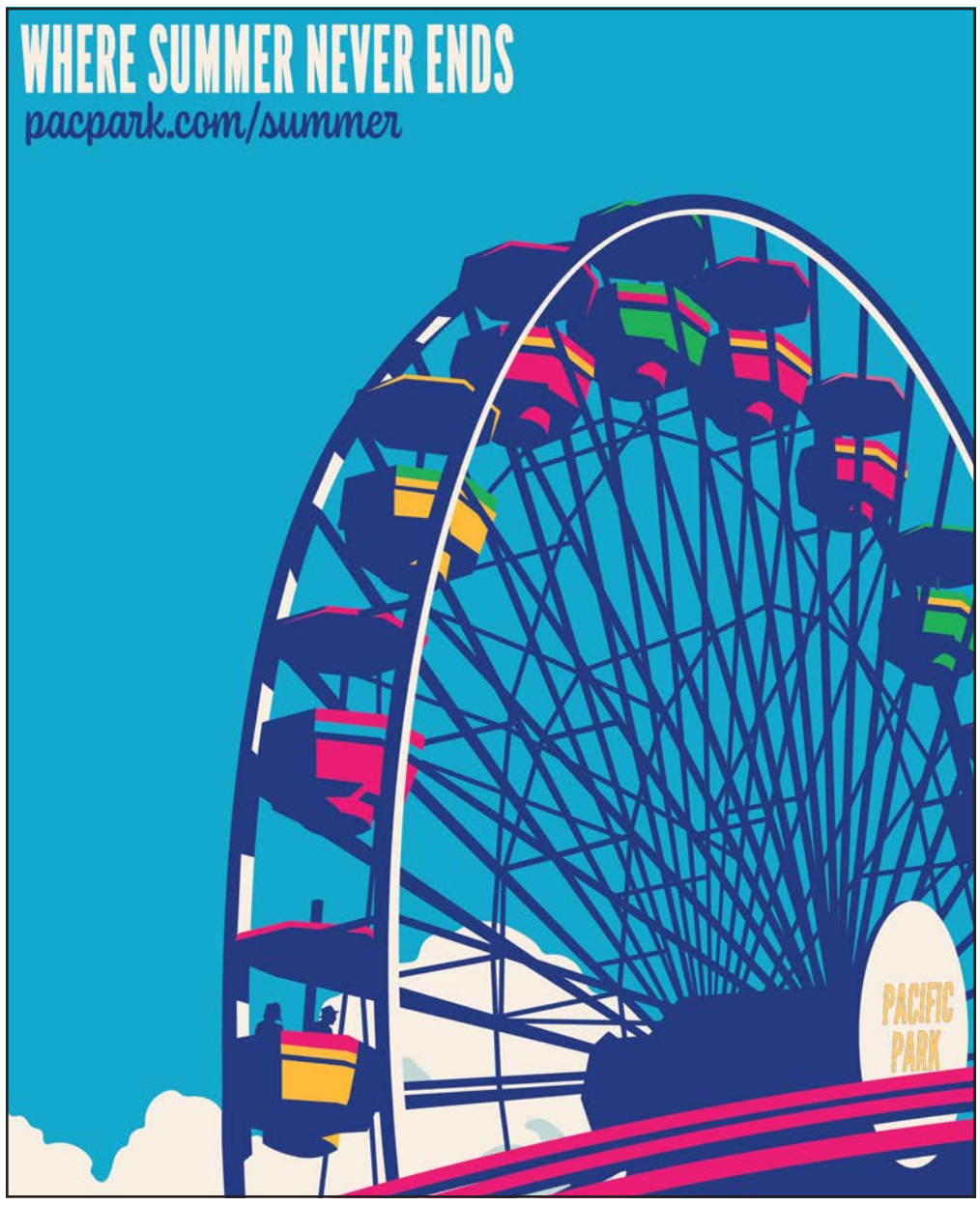
Lisa Cusack, a Glendale homeowner and local GOP activist who sits on the town's historic preservation commission, said she was late to begin organizing against the planned bus route. It was only after this year's zoning law advanced out of the state Senate that she realized the full implications of the proposed bus line and launched a petition and website to "save Glenoaks," the major thoroughfare that will serve as its main route through town.

"I've been going around talking to neighbors and they have no idea what's coming," she said. When Senate Bill 79 was still floating through the Legislature, the "threat" of densification was a little abstract. Now that Newsom has signed it into law, the pitch to her neighbors is much easier to make — the only way to stop the coming zoning changes is to stop the bus.

"People are only now starting to find out," she said.

Ben Christopher, CalMatters Housing Reporter

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AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

ONGOING: “Two Bit Circus” Pop-Up; LiteBrite Experience; Weekly Western Wednesday Line Dancing (through 10/29); Penmar Sunset Sessions (through 10/31)

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Red Car Winemaker Dinner at Local Kitchen: Red Car Winemaker Tanner Scheer will guide you through a specially curated Taste of Fall Winemaker dinner thoughtfully paired with Red Car Wines. $125 per person includes 4 course menu & wine pairing. Thursday, Oct. 23, 1736 Ocean Park Blvd. https://localkitchenandwinebar.com/red-car-winemaker-dinner/

APL to Host Pop-up at Hotel Casa del Mar for Breast Cancer Awareness: They are supporting Breast Cancer Awareness and raising funds for Providence St. John’s & American Cancer Society by hosting light bites, pink mocktails, and an APL pop-up at Hotel Casa del Mar after the Breast Cancer walk. Saturday, Oct. 25, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 1910 Ocean Way https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?fr_id=110848&pg=team&team_id=2824755

Sake & Temakis at Divine Vintage: Blue Plate Oysterette will be serving up their famous and fresh temaki rolls right outside Divine, while they pour premium sake flights and glasses inside. Enjoy them a la carte or pair them together for the perfect experience! Saturday, Oct. 25, 4 – 8p.m., 1025 Montana Ave. instagram.com/divinevintagesm

Ina Bakes Pastry Pop-Up: Boo-tiful treats and spooky sweets, Ina Bakes—a bakery known for custom cakes and creative desserts, is having a special Halloween pop-up, featuring festive baked goods and seasonal pastries. Sunday, Oct. 26, 9a.m. - 1p.m., 535 Rose Ave., Venice www.inabakes.com/store

All’Antico Vinaio SaMo Opening: The viral sensation Italian sandwich shop from Florence has been busy expanding its Italian sandwich empire to New York, Las Vegas, and Dubai, and now their fifth LA location is in Santa Monica, just steps away from Third Street Promenade, which means you can now grab a focaccia sandwich with truffle spread between buying shorts at Lululemon. 316 Santa Monica Blvd. https://www.instagram.com/p/DQDUtFujxSJ/?img_index=1

La Monique Opening: This is a new restaurant in the Oceana Hotel that’s led by a chef from Top Chef France. The dining room looks like a Great Gatsby backdrop, with mirrored ceilings, vintage photography, and a gilded bar. On the menu, look for a french onion grilled cheese, caviar seafood towers, linguine vongole, and lots of wagyu. Here is an NBC4 video report about the new spot at 849 Ocean Ave.: https://www.nbclosangeles.com/video/california-live/glamour-meets-gastronomy-at-la-monique-santa-monicas-new-french-brasserie/3791323/

SaMo Crushes “The Best Croissants In LA” Rankings: 🥐SaMo appears to be the king of croissants, grabbing four of the top 11 on This Infatuation list. Petitgrain Boulangerie nabbed the #2 spot, Bread + Butter got #5, Tartine got #10, and Milo & Olive got #11. https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/guides/best-croissants-los-angeles-ranked?lid=c96ivd2y1jba

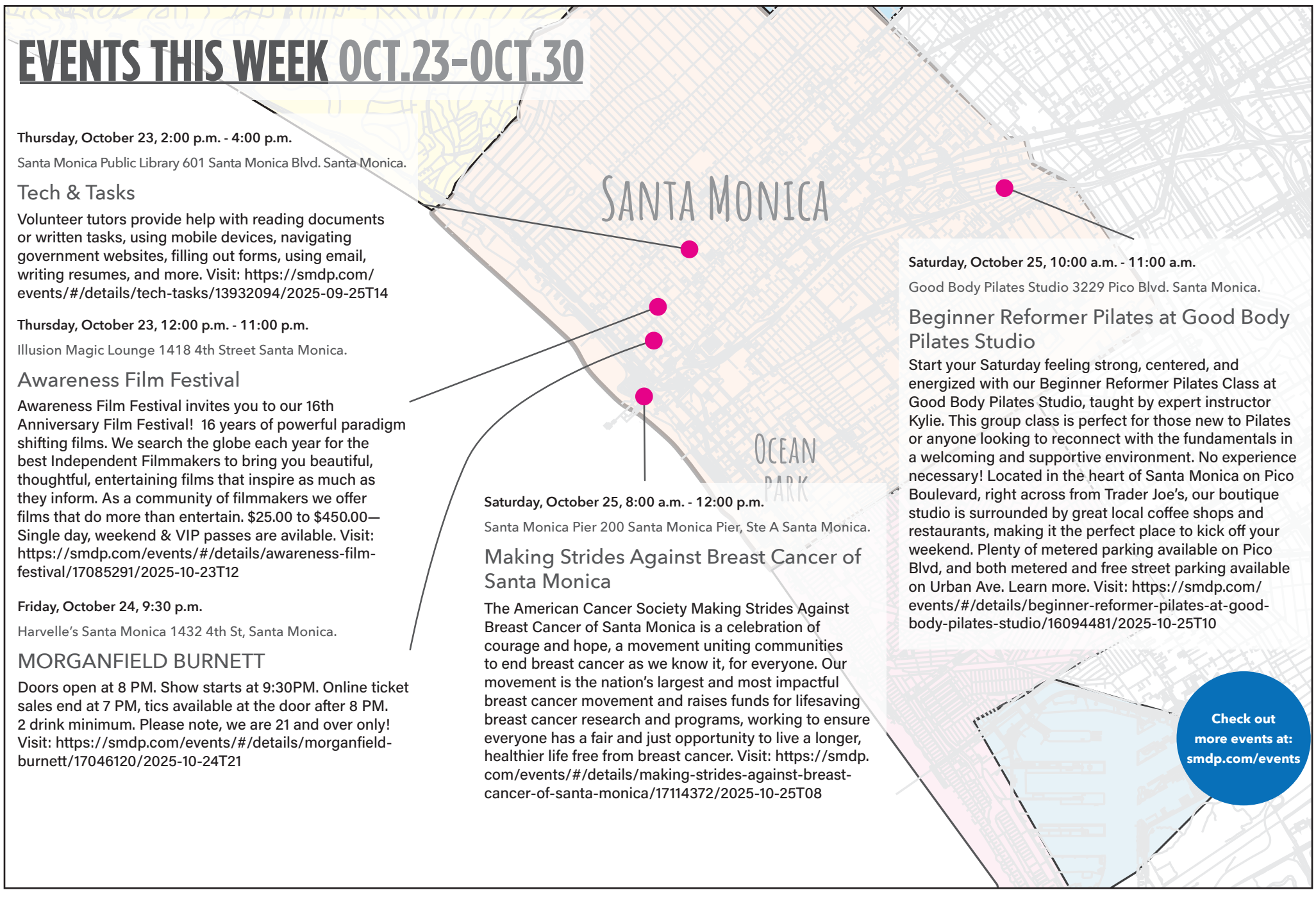
Esters Wine Bar Closing: Their last day is Nov. 23. 🍷😭Here is the owners’ letter about the closing: https://mailchi.mp/rcrestaurants/esters-closure

Further Afield: FREE Downtown LA Museums for “Grand Ave Arts: All Access” Day: Highlights include a singing workshop and a chance to try instruments at the Colburn School; a sugar skull workshop and Halloween necklace-making at the Los Angeles Central Library; LA Opera recitals at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion; a preview of the world’s first museum of AI arts, DATALAND; and a Day of the Dead celebration at Gloria Molina Grand Park. Other participating institutions include the Broad, MOCA, REDCAT, the Music Center, Center Theatre Group, the Los Angeles Master Chorale, and Walt Disney Concert Hall. Saturday, Oct. 25, 11a.m. - 4p.m., Along Grand Avenue in Downtown Los Angeles from Temple–6th St. https://grandavearts.org/

Looking Ahead: Montana Ave. Halloween Hop (10/31); Ice at Santa Monica (11/7); LA Wine & Food Festival (11/7-9); Montana Ave. Holiday Walk (12/6);

If there’s something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Dodgers Pep Rally, Halloween Events & More

EVENTS THIS WEEK OCT.23-OCT.30



Thursday, October 23, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica.

Tech & Tasks

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/13932094/2025-09-25T14

Thursday, October 23, 12:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Illusion Magic Lounge 1418 4th Street Santa Monica.

Awareness Film Festival

Awareness Film Festival invites you to our 16th Anniversary Film Festival! 16 years of powerful paradigm shifting films. We search the globe each year for the best Independent Filmmakers to bring you beautiful, thoughtful, entertaining films that inspire as much as they inform. As a community of filmmakers we offer films that do more than entertain. $25.00 to $450.00—Single day, weekend & VIP passes are avilable. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/awareness-film-festival/17085291/2025-10-23T12

Friday, October 24, 9:30 p.m.

Harvelle’s Santa Monica 1432 4th St, Santa Monica.

MORGANFIELD BURNETT

Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. Please note, we are 21 and over only! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/morganfield-burnett/17046120/2025-10-24T21

Saturday, October 25, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Santa Monica

The American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Santa Monica is a celebration of courage and hope, a movement uniting communities to end breast cancer as we know it, for everyone. Our movement is the nation’s largest and most impactful breast cancer movement and raises funds for lifesaving breast cancer research and programs, working to ensure everyone has a fair and just opportunity to live a longer, healthier life free from breast cancer. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/making-strides-against-breast-cancer-of-santa-monica/17114372/2025-10-25T08

Saturday, October 25, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Good Body Pilates Studio 3229 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica.

Beginner Reformer Pilates at Good Body Pilates Studio

Start your Saturday feeling strong, centered, and energized with our Beginner Reformer Pilates Class at Good Body Pilates Studio, taught by expert instructor Kylie. This group class is perfect for those new to Pilates or anyone looking to reconnect with the fundamentals in a welcoming and supportive environment. No experience necessary! Located in the heart of Santa Monica on Pico Boulevard, right across from Trader Joe’s, our boutique studio is surrounded by great local coffee shops and restaurants, making it the perfect place to kick off your weekend. Plenty of metered parking available on Pico Blvd, and both metered and free street parking available on Urban Ave. Learn more. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/beginner-reformer-pilates-at-good-body-pilates-studio/16094481/2025-10-25T10

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events

PROP 50

FROM PAGE 3

and editor-in-chief of the Cook Political Report. She explained that opponents of Prop. 50 would not only need to solidify their tentative supporters and ensure they vote, but also persuade all undecided voters and also convert some of the tentative "yes" voters.

But working in the opposition's favor is widespread unease with the idea of elected officials influencing the shape of their districts. About 56% of the Cook poll's respondents who indicated they would probably vote "Yes" said they agreed that politicians shouldn't draw their own district lines.

"If you're the 'No' campaign, it is the one place where you can see you can get some traction," Walter said.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PROP. 50 OPPONENTS

Opponents of Prop. 50 are trying hard to capitalize on that discomfort in their recent advertising.

"Prop. 50 takes us backwards and rips power away from the people," an unidentified woman tells viewers in a recent No on 50 advertisement. Then the declaration "Politicians Can Rig Elections" flashes across the screen in bold red and black text.

Jessica Millan Patterson, the former state GOP chairperson who is leading the No on 50 campaign backed by House Republicans, said she's targeting independents and Democrats who are dissatisfied with the party. That means focusing on a limited, simple good-governance message to turn out undecided voters.

Millan Patterson isn't concerned about mobilizing the Republican base, she said, adding that the Yes campaign is already doing that for her by demonizing Trump and deifying Newsom, whom conservatives despise. In a small nod to the party faithful, the campaign is running one advertisement criticizing the governor. It hammers him on affordability.

"We can't win with just Republican votes, so we need to make sure that those persuadable voters … that the conversation is happening with them," Millan Patterson said. "They know that giving this power to politicians, it will not serve anyone but those politicians, and they just need some permission to vote no on this."

That mirrors the message of the other No campaign paid for by Munger.

"If you look at all the polling since the beginning, voters don't like gerrymandering, full stop," said Amy Thoma Tan, spokesperson for that campaign. "So we're just reminding people that this is gerrymandering."

California unions settle on Trump message

By contrast, their opponents on the Yes side are investing heavily in an anti-Trump message, a move that Walter said was smart given that the president is "the special catalyst" that helps the Yes side overcome California voters' traditional preference for rejecting ballot measures.

In digital ads, the powerful California Labor Federation is reminding its 2 million members that Trump has terminated federal workers' contracts and cut infrastructure spending, which paid for many trades workers' projects.

But in phone-banking operations, its president Lorena Gonzalez said the catch-all framing of Prop. 50 as a way to "fight back against Trump" works best to motivate voters, who all "know what they're not happy about."

"Do we want to talk about ICE? Do we want to talk about LGBTQ (issues)? Do we want to say, 'fight fascism?'" Gonzalez said of discussion among labor organizers working to turn out students on University of California campuses.

The Service Employees International Union of California is taking an all-of-the-above approach, said Tia Orr, the union's executive director. A digital advertisement urges viewers to fight back against the Trump administration's "inhumane immigration policies" by supporting Prop. 50. And a recent mailer sent to SEIU's 800,000 California members, many of whom work in health care, reminded them that the Republican-controlled Congress approved Trump's megabill that would take health insurance coverage from an estimated 10 million Americans.

"I urge all registered nurses to volunteer, vote, and share the message with your friends and family," reads the mailer, written in the first person and signed by Monique Hernandez, vice president of an SEIU local that represents nurses.

In Asian American immigrant communities, pro-Prop. 50 organizers are emphasizing cuts to health care programs and how Trump policies destabilize local economies — a nod to tariffs. For Latino voters, the Yes campaign is airing ads in English and Spanish featuring New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez and Democratic Sen. Alex Padilla of California, who was forced to the ground by federal agents in Los Angeles this summer during the height of the immigration raids that jolted the city.

LATINO VOTERS "THE MOST UNDECIDED"

Latino voters, the state's largest racial group and about 30% of likely voters, are a key constituency that could swing the election.

Affordability remains a top priority for Latino voters, a survey by the Latino Community Foundation of 1,200 Latino registered voters in California in September shows. But they also disapproved of the president by wide margins, and felt pessimistic about their personal economic prospects in higher shares than ever, vice president of policy Christian Arana said. By a three-to-one margin they said they felt Trump had betrayed them on immigration.

"There's a lot of people that say if you really want to talk to Latino voters, you only have to talk about the economy," said Yes on 50 consultant Juan Rodriguez. "It's a false choice. You can't just talk about kitchen-table issues when they're burning down your house."

The campaign has spent more than $10 million specifically on Latino outreach, Rodriguez said, including broadcast, digital, print and radio ads in Spanish and English, and phone banking operations with Latino community groups.

Still, Arana called Latinos "the most undecided voter." Latino approval for Prop. 50 is just under 50% in the Inland Empire and Central Valley, according to the group's survey, which has a sampling error margin of plus or minus 2.8 percentage points.

Arana is most concerned that fears of immigration or other federal agents showing up to polling places could depress turnout, particularly as immigration raids in California and elsewhere have ensnared U.S. citizens. The survey showed two-thirds of Latino voters statewide are concerned about immigration enforcement this election.

Democratic organizers emphasized in a recent Zoom call for volunteers that they were pushing for early voting by mail instead.

CalMatters' Jeremia Kimelman contributed reporting. Maya C. Miller, CalMatters Politics Reporter Jeanne Kuang, CalMatters Capitol Reporter



THURSDAY | OCTOBER 23

WALKING MEDITATION

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Los Angeles. Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. We'll meet Tuesday's and Thursdays at 10 am by the Mobile Community Meditation and Retreat Center VAN parked in the Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South (by the grass on the east side of the parking lot and across the street from the basketball courts at Ocean View Park) We'll walk silently together for approximately 45 minutes on the shoreline. Everyone is welcome to join whether new to meditation or with many years of experience. Please remember to bring sand shoes if you prefer not to walk barefoot, sunscreen, a hat, a jacket if it's cold and water. Tho there's a dog in the photo, unfortunately dogs are not permitted on the beach. Looking forward to meeting and meditating with you all. please feel free to reach out with any concerns or questions and please arrive 5 minutes early and check schedule for any changes or cancellations. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/walking-meditation/16206460/2025-10-23T10

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 24

DRUNK THEATRE: THE WILDEST IMPROV COMEDY SHOW!

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica. A comedian takes five shots of whiskey in a row and tries to perform an improvised play with five sober comedians. What could go wrong?! Drunk Theatre is the entirely improvised, unpredictable, and crazy comedy show that'll kick your weekend into overdrive. Reserve your spot now as limited seating and space is available. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/drunk-theatre-the-wildest-improv-comedy-show-/15793351/2025-10-24T08

WEEDCON WEST

1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. B2B education and networking expo. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/weedcon-west/16107075/2025-10-24T13

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/14385252/2025-10-24T18

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 25

ARTISTS & FLEAS: VENICE MARKETPLACE

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Westminster Elementary School 1010 Abbot Kinney Los Angeles. Artists & Fleas in Venice is located in the vibrant, artistic heart of Venice at the corner of Abbot Kinney and Westminster Avenue in the outdoor lot of Westminister Avenue Elementary School. Join 50+ merchants every Saturday (rain or shine!) for a fabulous lineup of art, design, food trucks and vintage. Date: Every Saturday Time: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Location: Westminster Elementary School - 1010 Abbot Kinney Check our website here for a list of vendors. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/artists-fleas-venice-marketplace/14548485/2025-10-25T11

TRICK OR DRINK: SANTA MONICA HALLOWEEN BAR CRAWL (3 DAYS)

4:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. Britannia Pub 318 Santa Monica Blvd Los Angeles. Barcrawlerz is a Santa Monica Bar Crawl like no other. Trick or Drink features The Best Drink Specials and The Best Bars in Town. This is a THREE DAY EVENT! Saturday, October 25th: 4PM-2AM (Registration 4PM-10PM). Friday, October 31st: 6PM-2AM (Registration 6PM-11PM). Saturday, November 1st: 4PM-2AM (Registration 4PM-10PM). PARTICIPATING BARS: BRITANNIA PUB [REGISTRATION]. BARNEY'S BEANERY. CABO CANTINA. LANEA. LOULOU. SANTA MONICA WHALER. Here is how it works: 1) Pre-Purchase Your Bar Crawl Wristband. 2) Check in at Britannia Pub (318 Santa Monica Blvd) to get your wristband and map with participating bars, their location, and their drink specials. (Registration on Saturday 10/25 is from 4PM-10PM, Friday 10/31 is from 6pm-11pm, and Saturday 11/1 is from 4PM-10PM) *WRISTBAND MUST BE PICKED UP DURING THESE TIMES* 3) Your wristband gets you into any of the participating bars with no cover, plus gets you drink specials all night 4) Have Fun! For questions, email info@barcrawlerz.com or Call 310-273-8772 Ext. 5. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/trick-or-drink-santa-monica-halloween-bar-crawl-3-days-/16913358/2025-10-25T16

THE LAST HAT – A WORLD PREMIERE ENSEMBLE HORROR PLAY

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica. In a decaying Victorian hat shop, a reclusive milliner begins to unravel into madness after a series of strange visits—driven by grief, obsession, and the poisoned whispers of his father's legacy. The Last Hat is a one-act ensemble horror play written by Chris Levine, who is also featured as The Mad Hatter. Set in a once-thriving Victorian hat shop, the story follows a quiet and eccentric hatter whose life begins to spiral following visits from a grieving old client, a mischievous boy, and a curious young woman named Eliza. What begins as a strange but tender connection with her quickly fractures as hallucinations, mercury-induced madness, and the weight of his father's gruesome legacy consume him. With haunting imagery, dark humor, and stylized horror, the play weaves obsession, craftsmanship, and unrequited love into a final act of beauty and brutality that no one will forget. The Last Hat is directed by Megan Ripchik, produced by Erica Tenaglia. Proceeds support the Santa Monica Playhouse Save the Main Stage Benefit Campaign. Rated 18+. $25.00 —Includes post-show wine and sweets reception. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-last-hat-a-world-premiere-ensemble-horror-play/16838584/2025-10-25T20

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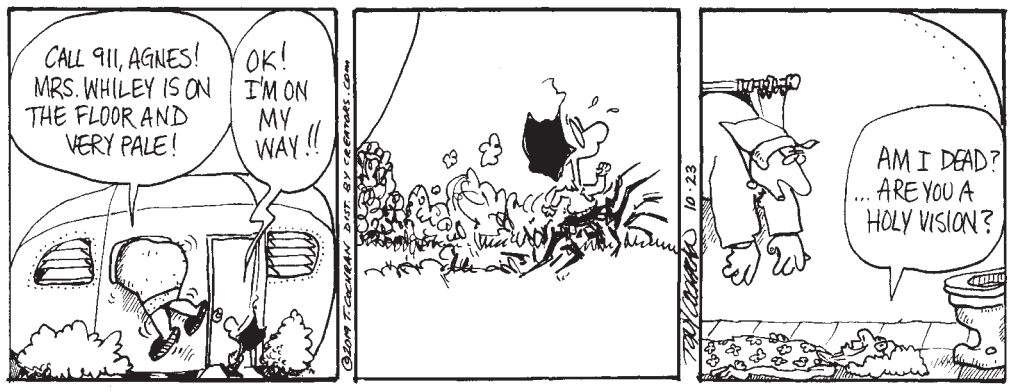
GHOST

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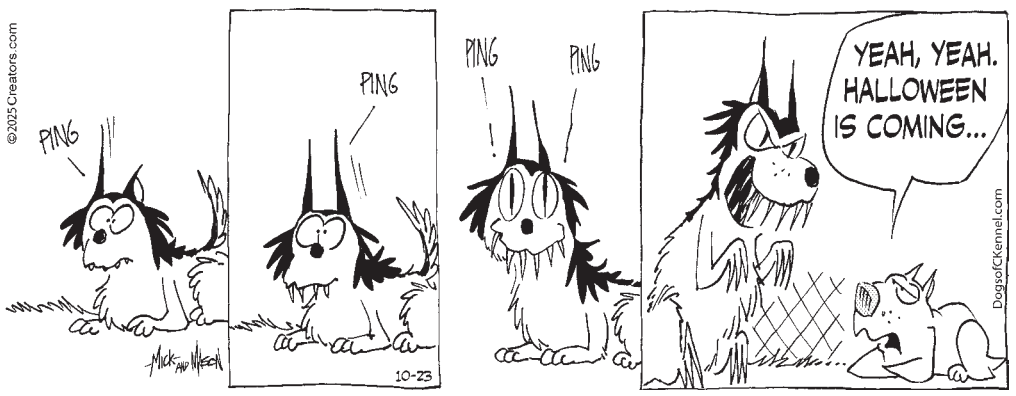
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



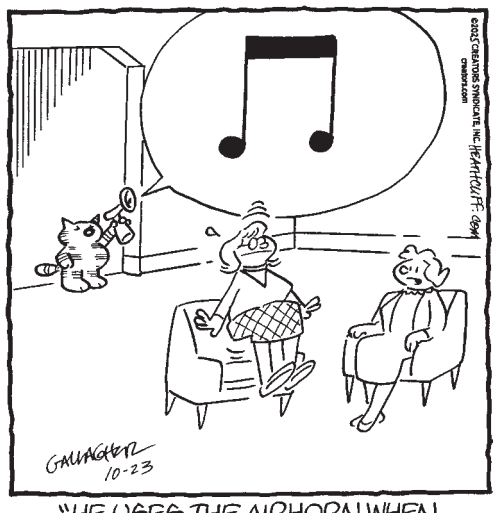
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

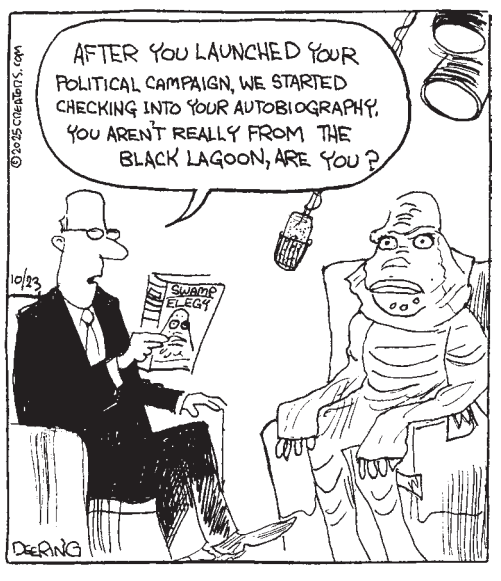
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE USES THE AIRHORN WHEN HE'S HAPPY."

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.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6737

Old stuff

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

Attic
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Cost
Crack
Cups
Decore
Desk
Dusty
Fragile
Gold
Ivory
Marble
Mid-century
Museum
Necklace
Novelty
Patina
Plates
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 23)

Welcome to your Year of Generous Mischief. Your playful side will get you into situations that end up being extraordinarily beneficial to you and yours. You'll stumble into the ideal business or mentor and work on projects that bring excellent income. More highlights: a big family celebration, the rediscovery of an old passion you thought was lost and a change in scenery that feels like a whole new life. Cancer and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 15, 23, 30 and 49.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can't solve every problem in the group, nor should you. What you can and will do is bring levity, ideas and perspective. Your originality is a cue to others who will feel freer to be themselves, too.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Not every adventure involves transportation tickets. Trains, planes and automobiles are mind-expanders for sure, but so are walks, conversations and new chapters of a book. Follow your curiosity somewhere new.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Love shows up steadily, not just when it's convenient. If their attention, kindness or presence is spotty, you feel the gap. You're putting energy into relationships of reciprocity today - not just with people but with other interests and endeavors, too.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People speak in code, rarely saying what they mean, and yet their meaning often reads loud and clear to those who pick up on things like body language, tone, gestures and patterns of behavior. Today you're a masterful decoder.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Sensitivity doesn't have to be fragility. Use it as radar. You pick up signals of all kinds today. The key is filtering: not every vibration deserves your full attention. Tune in to the frequencies that give you something positive to work with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The way you fold a towel, brew your tea or arrange your desk can become a meditation. These repeated motions, seemingly trivial, remind you that order is possible even when life feels chaotic. Small rituals bring grounding.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Comparison to others is tempting, but it rarely works in your favor. Today, focus on contrasts that have to do with you and you. Your life is different today from yesterday. How? People have grown from knowing you. How? These examinations build self-respect.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're unstoppable. Where others might see a dead end or give up, you spot the hidden path if there is one. And if no such path exists, you have the courage to forge ahead and blaze one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If the environment itself is toxic, matching your tone to the room makes you complicit in the problem. In that case, authenticity and boundaries are more important than diplomacy. When in doubt, use your feet. Sometimes the best thing to do is leave.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The most responsible thing you can do is to pause. Rest can be a kind of labor, too, the invisible work of renewal that makes your other efforts sustainable and strong. Trust that much is going on beneath your consciousness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People aren't tasks to be managed. They are complex and best understood with a flexible kind of attention that spans the shallows and the depths. Listen and notice. Your attentiveness is more valuable than any quick fix.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A small change in environment alters your whole outlook. Take the work on the road. Move the furniture. Call in help from someone you've never talked to before. What's needed is to shake loose those stuck ideas.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

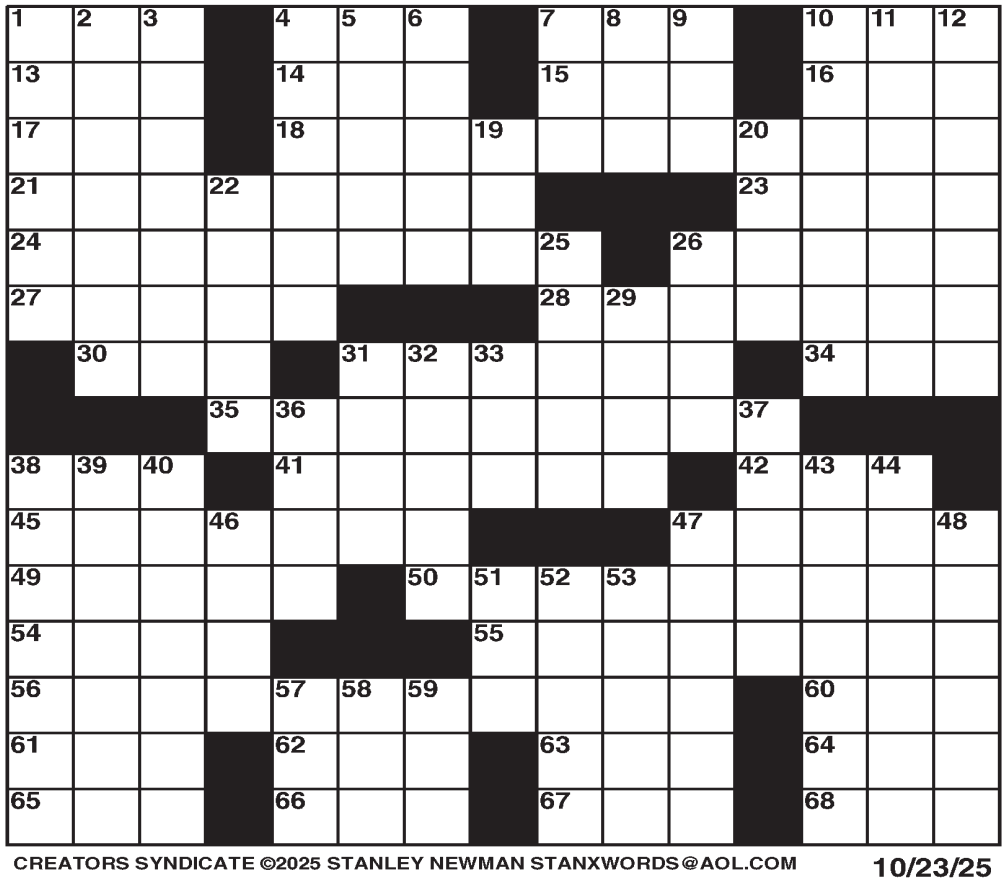
SPILL DRILL by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Food with altered DNA
4 Some cards with pics
7 Minimal ink
10 "I wonder ..."
13 Director Howard
14 __ half bad
15 Be liable to
16 Watersport tool
17 Rocky Mtn. state
18 World Series
21 Retail proceeds
23 Campus building
24 Painter's protector
26 Highly concentrated
27 Elitist
28 Samoa's region
30 Alphabetic trio
31 Small footwear
34 Novelist Patchett
35 Laundry cycle
38 Machine tooth
41 Noggin
42 Adds to
45 Miserly desire
47 Went downhill fast
49 A beginner in
50 Couch protector
54 Grates on
55 Person-to-person
56 Travel agent, often
60 Grind __ halt
61 Prohibition
62 Airport security container
63 Holiday lead-in
64 Drive-thru device
65 UK country
66 Deep black
67 Checker color
68 *Toutes __ heures* (hourly)

DOWN

1 Powderlike coffee beans
2 They're all about the latest
3 Carousing
4 "Truth be told..."
5 Handy person
6 Fifth-century pontiff
7 Grumpy coworker
8 Harry Potter pet
9 Sri Lanka export
10 Hymn cry
11 Submits for a contest
12 Highly moral man
19 D-Day craft
20 __ butter shampoo
22 Water pitcher part
25 Suite spot
26 Elk cousin
29 Turn over formally
31 Campus VIP
32 Clarinet kin
33 The same __ story
36 Military detachment
37 Canada's smallest territory
38 "Is that even possible?"
39 Exceeded, as a budget
40 Staring vacantly
43 Decisive
44 Cross-referencing phrase
46 Wood shaper
47 Made a point
48 Freudian study
51 Synthetic fabric suffix
52 Deep-seated
53 Annoyance
57 BLT alternative
58 Falsification
59 Aesop insect



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DISASTER PLAN

FROM PAGE 1

million by 2100. Wildfire damage could range from $60 million to $660 million, reflecting new risk assessments following January's devastating Palisades fire.

> The January 2025 Palisades fire presented a new reality where fire acted as a structure-to-structure event, not just a wildland-urban interface fire
> - Lindsay Call, the city's Chief Resilience Officer

"The January 2025 Palisades fire presented a new reality where fire acted as a structure-to-structure event, not just a wildland-urban interface fire," said Lindsay Call, the city's Chief Resilience Officer, who presented the findings. The fire forced officials to rewrite two hazard chapters and revise mitigation strategies.

The plan identifies earthquake, tsunami, wildfire and catastrophic flooding as the city's greatest risks. New state fire maps now place Santa Monica in very high, high and moderate hazard zones, a significant change from previous assessments.

EARTHQUAKE POSES GREATEST IMMEDIATE THREAT

Analysis of four earthquake scenarios shows the Santa Monica fault presents the most severe risk due to its proximity to the city. The fault line scenario produces the largest damage estimates because of tremendous shaking potential and high likelihood of liquefaction and landslides.

Tsunami risks vary dramatically based on origin. A long-distance tsunami from Alaska with a 20-foot runup would impact areas north of the pier up to Pacific Coast Highway and south of the pier, affecting parks and parking lots but not overtopping the coastal bluffs. Local tsunamis pose greater casualty risks due to a 10-minute evacuation window.

The most catastrophic flooding scenario involves failure of Stone Canyon Dam, which would send water stretching to the marina and Mar Vista with maximum depths potentially reaching 12 feet. Officials estimate evacuation time at approximately 1.5 hours.

FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN UNVEILED

City officials outlined ambitious mitigation projects for the next five years, though funding and staffing constraints were cited as primary challenges across nearly every proposed action.

Key initiatives include developing a citywide evacuation plan that accounts for residents without transportation and those with disabilities. The city plans to evaluate multimodal evacuation routes and implement Red Flag Warning restrictions to limit fire ignition risk.

Infrastructure improvements will focus on retrofitting water systems where they cross the Santa Monica fault line. Officials also plan to install backup utilities, solar power and microgrids at essential emergency facilities.

The tsunami alert system will be expanded along the coastline with robust communication methods targeting tourists, who represent a significant but uncounted population in current risk assessments.

Natural systems improvements include continuing beach dune restoration for tsunami and climate change resilience, plus expanding community gardens to improve food security during disasters.

VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES FACE HIGHER RISKS

Planning commissioners noted that hazard maps show higher risks concentrated in lower-resource areas with vulnerable residents, including elderly and disabled populations. The northeastern section of the city, which has an older population and more residents with disabilities, presents specific evacuation challenges during wildfires.

"We look a lot at high resource communities, but there are lower resource areas with people who are more vulnerable, and all of those maps were targeting those areas," said Commissioner Nina Fresco during the presentation.

The emergency management office acknowledged they layer social vulnerability analysis onto hazard maps and plan to focus education and outreach in those specific areas.

DOCUMENT ACCESSIBILITY PRIORITIZED

The comprehensive plan spans three volumes and will be converted into a magazine-style format available in six languages with a dedicated website to improve public accessibility. Officials cited a successful education program at Grant Elementary School, where students create disaster preparedness displays, as a model for non-threatening community education.

The plan requires approval from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services and FEMA before becoming an appendix to the city's Safety Element. The update is mandated every five years, with the previous version completed in 2016.

The Planning Commission will review the plan before it advances to the City Council for final consideration.

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POST OFFICE

FROM PAGE 1

more packages per operating day than its competitors in December 2024, in addition to delivering more than 350 million mail pieces per operating day.

The Postal Service has also expanded its daily package processing capacity from 60 million to 88 million items by deploying more than 600 package sorters over the past five years, including 94 installed this year. The state-of-the-art machines have automated scanning capabilities that ensure tracking visibility as packages move through the postal system.

USPS said it has stabilized its workforce since 2020 through the conversion of nearly 232,000 precareer employees to full-time positions. This year, the agency plans to hire 14,000 temporary employees, down from 40,000 just a few years ago.

In July, USPS updated its service standards to expand turnaround service for processing and delivering mail and packages within the same region. The enhanced service now has a 2-day or 3-day standard, meaning local consumers and businesses can send holiday greetings more quickly and reliably within their region.

The agency opened new facilities in 2025 in Dallas, Phoenix and Johnson City, Tennessee, with buildings soon to open in Memphis, Tennessee; Birmingham, Alabama; Tampa, Florida; and San Antonio, Texas. Over the past four years, USPS has opened nine regional processing and distribution centers, 19 regional transfer hubs, 17 local processing centers and 133 sorting and delivery centers.

USPS has received nearly 29,000 new vehicles this year and deployed more than 24,000 on postal delivery routes. The agency expects to acquire a total of 106,480 new vehicles, including 66,000 zero-emission electric vehicles.

Los Angeles represents one of USPS's largest and busiest markets. The main Los Angeles Processing & Distribution Center on South Central Avenue, along with the Los Angeles International Service Center at LAX and dozens of postal facilities, collectively process millions of items weekly. In 2024, the Postal Service staged its ceremonial "billionth holiday mailpiece" delivery in Los Angeles.

The agency is hiring 119 seasonal positions in the Los Angeles area. A Los Angeles USPS official said these hires are intended to keep the network flexible and avoid the need for temporary annexes or contractor lines that plagued some regions in past years.

The Los Angeles facility has been upgraded with new sorting equipment, and the local fleet has received many of the new postal delivery vehicles. The Southern California Shipping and Processing Center at LAX helps funnel more packages into ground networks instead of air.

USPS emphasized that the current federal government shutdown will not interrupt its operations because the agency is self-funded through the sale of its products and services rather than tax dollars. Post offices in Los Angeles and nationwide remain open, and mail carriers continue daily deliveries.

However, indirect effects could emerge. On Oct. 7, the FAA reported no air traffic controllers were on duty at Hollywood Burbank Airport due to controller callouts amid the shutdown, leading to flight delays that could affect USPS shipments relying on those flights.

USPS offers several shipping options for the holidays, including USPS Ground Advantage with 2-5 business days delivery, Priority Mail with 2-3 business days and Priority Mail Express with 1-3 business days. Most shipments include $100 insurance and tracking.

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