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MONDAY 10/26/26

smdp.com

Newsom signs nine Zbur bills in end-of-session flurry

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur, whose district includes Santa Monica, closed out the legislative year with a burst of new laws. Gov. Gavin Newsom signed nine of his bills, covering hotel ground leases, data center power costs, rare disease treatment, attorney misconduct and the right to reach a human customer service representative.

Zbur's office announced the signings in a string of releases. Most of the measures take effect Jan. 1, 2027.

Zbur, D-Hollywood, chairs the Assembly Democratic Caucus. He represents the 51st Assembly District, which includes Universal City, Hollywood, Hancock Park, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Westwood, West Los Angeles, Santa Monica and other parts of Los Angeles.

HOTEL LEASES

The most recent signing was Assembly Bill 2181. It bars appraisers from counting hypothetical density bonus housing projects when setting the value of operating hotels and motels.

Many California hotels sit on land held under long-term ground leases, and the rent resets periodically based on the appraised value of the land. Zbur's office said some of those appraisals have assumed residential redevelopment under the

SEE ZBUR PAGE 6

Former Palisades resident brings New Zealand baking brand home to the Westside



BAKING: Former Palisades resident Lauren Taylor launches Secret Kiwi Kitchen baking mixes at Gelson's this November.

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

For Lauren "Lulu" Taylor, watching her New Zealand baking mixes arrive on the shelves of a Los Angeles Gelson's this fall is not simply a business milestone. It is a

homecoming.

Taylor, founder and CEO of Secret Kiwi Kitchen, is a former Pacific Palisades resident whose children attended Canyon Charter Elementary. She once shopped at the Gelson's on Sunset Boulevard that was destroyed in the Palisades



Noah Maffitt

Fire. Now her company, started in an Auckland kitchen, will launch in Gelson's stores across Los Angeles in early November, anchoring its U.S. debut on the Westside.

The choice, she said, was "both

SEE BAKERY PAGE 8

Bank rebuilds show confidence in recovering fire zones

MICHELLE EDGAR

Special to the Daily Press

Nearly two years after wildfire devastated Pacific Palisades, a cluster of major financial institutions along Sunset Boulevard is emerging as a sign of confidence in the community's future, but local leaders say the bigger test is whether that confidence translates into capital for residents and businesses still trying to return.

Four major banks are now operating within the immediate vicinity of the Palisades Recovery Coalition, according to Maryam Zar, CEO of the Malibu Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce and founder and president of the Palisades Recovery Coalition.

For Zar, their presence sends an important economic signal at a moment when rebuilding remains far from complete. "Within the immediate vicinity of the Palisades Recovery Coalition on Sunset Boulevard, we now have four major banks," Zar said. "That tells financial institutions believe in the future of Pacific Palisades, and they're investing in our comeback."

Nearly two years after the fires, the return of financial institutions is only part of the equation. "That confidence must translate into capital, resources and real recovery solutions for fire survivors who, nearly two years after the devastation, are still struggling to return home," Zar said.

SEE BANK PAGE 6

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Malibu extends contract planner deals, adding \$605,000

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Malibu City Council on Monday approved two-year extensions of its contracts with three planning firms, adding \$605,000 to their spending caps after some development reviews fell behind as the contracts ran low on money.

The council voted unanimously to amend its agreements with 4Leaf Inc., Civic Solutions Inc. and CSG Consultants Inc., which together supply four contract planners who review development applications.

“We have the money in the bank,” Council member Doug Stewart said. “It sounds like it’s just a question of having room on the contracts.”

The largest increase goes to Civic Solutions, whose contract grows by \$495,000 to \$925,000 and runs through Dec. 9, 2028. A staff report said the firm’s original agreement would be fully spent before it expired in December. Its billing is capped at \$25,000 a month through March 2027 and \$16,000 a month after that.

CSG’s contract rises by \$100,000 to \$400,000 and runs through Oct. 28, 2028. The city spent \$160,000, or 53%, of the original \$300,000 in the first two years.

The 4Leaf contract grows by \$10,000 to \$960,000 and also runs through Oct. 28, 2028. The amendment shifts money within the contract, cutting regular planning work from \$350,000 to \$234,000 and raising Woolsey Fire rebuild services from \$600,000 to \$726,000. Regular planning work under that contract is expected to be paid for by applicant deposits.

The amounts are ceilings, not guaranteed payments, and the firms are paid only for work performed, the report said. Palisades Fire recovery work is handled under separate agreements.

Stewart pulled the item from the consent calendar, where items are approved in a single vote, to ask how many applicants had been affected.

Community Development Director Yolanda Bundy said the problem involved two higher-level contract planners and that staff brought the amendments forward as soon as it learned the contracts were running out of money.

“There’s not a lot of applications that are late,” Bundy said. She confirmed the delayed cases were not fire rebuilds.

The four contract planners are assigned to more than 456 applications, including about 100 under active review, according to the staff report. Council member Haylynn Conrad called that “a lot for four consultants.”

City staff responded that most of the 456 have already been approved and are in building plan check. The 100 active cases work out to about 25 per planner, which city staff called “a very doable good workload for a contract planner.”

City staff said the council gave the department about \$1 million for contract planners in 2022, when turnaround times “were not the best.” That spending has since been cut to about \$500,000, and the number of contract planners has dropped from 15 to fewer than nine.

“Our turnaround times have improved significantly,” city staff said.

Conrad said she would support the

“

We are a land use city. We’re not a coal mining city or a lumber city. We build houses here. We renovate houses

”

- Haylynn Conrad, Council member

extensions but questioned how much the city relies on outside help.

“We are a land use city. We’re not a coal mining city or a lumber city. We build houses here. We renovate houses,” Conrad said. She added that the city spends “a lot of money on consultants” and wondered about bringing more of that work in-house someday.

Council member Marianne Riggins asked staff to explain how applicants help pay for the planners’ work. City staff said complex projects, such as coastal development permits that require a Local Coastal Program amendment, require a deposit from the applicant.

“It’s an applicant-funded project, so that is not coming out of the general fund,” city staff said.

Bundy said the contract planners provide “expertise for more complex projects,” such as hotels and multifamily housing. In-house staff members cover the public counter, tenant improvements and fire rebuilds, she said.

Mayor Bruce Silverstein took issue with Riggins’ use of the word “customer” to describe applicants.

“Whenever I hear customer, I have a problem with that because the people that are seeking to build in Malibu are not our customers,” Silverstein said.

Stewart moved to approve the extensions, and Riggins seconded.

The city sought proposals for contract planning services in May 2024 and signed two-year agreements with the firms later that year. Citing the department’s workload and its focus on wildfire recovery, staff recommended extending the contracts rather than seeking new bids. Staff said it will run a new competitive process before the extensions expire.

Funding is included in the city’s budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

maaz@smdp.com

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Remove the Deadly Pigeon Netting Under the Pier

The torn pigeon netting under the Santa Monica Pier is entangling and killing pigeons. In my last survey, I counted over 20 dead pigeons in the net over the pedestrian walkway section alone.

When animals become entangled, they slowly die of exposure, dehydration, and starvation. Not only is the net an animal welfare issue, it is ineffective at excluding pigeons. The net was initially installed to prevent pigeons from nesting under the pier due to their negative impact on water quality. However, the tears in it now allow pigeons to nest under the pier and potentially on the net itself. When I emailed pier management about the issue, the principal civil engineer of Santa Monica responded, “we will [be] looking into removing the netting...since it has been breached continually and not serving its intended purpose.”

It has been over a year since I received that response, and I still see dead pigeons in the net every time I visit. Pigeon netting requires precise installation and maintenance in order to safely exclude pigeons, but the city has clearly neglected it. The netting should be removed, and a safer, lower-maintenance, non-lethal pigeon deterrent should be used instead.

Santa Monica officials are aware of the issues with the net, but confirmation and a timeline for its removal have not been established. I am asking Santa Monica to remove the net as soon as possible. Readers, please contact pier management at management@santamonica.gov and attend city council meetings to pressure Santa Monica to take action to prevent the cruel deaths of wild birds and find an effective solution for water pollution at the pier.

Sierra Glassman

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Monday: Sunny, with a high near 75.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 60.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 73.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2026/10/26	Mon	03:06 AM	1.43	L
2026/10/26	Mon	09:22 AM	6.57	H
2026/10/26	Mon	04:20 PM	-0.71	L
2026/10/26	Mon	10:36 PM	4.22	H
2026/10/27	Tue	03:37 AM	1.77	L
2026/10/27	Tue	09:56 AM	6.71	H
2026/10/27	Tue	05:08 PM	-0.85	L
2026/10/27	Tue	11:32 PM	3.89	H
2026/10/28	Wed	04:10 AM	2.13	L
2026/10/28	Wed	10:34 AM	6.67	H
2026/10/28	Wed	06:02 PM	-0.80	L
2026/10/29	Thur	12:39 AM	3.57	H
2026/10/29	Thur	04:47 AM	2.49	L
2026/10/29	Thur	11:20 AM	6.42	H
2026/10/29	Thur	07:02 PM	-0.59	L
2026/10/30	Fri	02:02 AM	3.39	H
2026/10/30	Fri	05:35 AM	2.85	L
2026/10/30	Fri	12:15 PM	6.00	H
2026/10/30	Fri	08:12 PM	-0.32	L
2026/10/31	Sat	03:44 AM	3.47	H
2026/10/31	Sat	06:51 AM	3.17	L
2026/10/31	Sat	01:26 PM	5.49	H
2026/10/31	Sat	09:31 PM	-0.11	L
2026/11/01	Sun	04:03 AM	3.81	H
2026/11/01	Sun	08:00 AM	3.25	L
2026/11/01	Sun	01:57 PM	5.04	H
2026/11/01	Sun	09:43 PM	0.01	L
2026/11/02	Mon	04:51 AM	4.25	H
2026/11/02	Mon	10:00 AM	2.79	L
2026/11/02	Mon	03:31 PM	4.78	H
2026/11/02	Mon	10:40 PM	0.13	L
2026/11/03	Tue	05:29 AM	4.72	H
2026/11/03	Tue	11:14 AM	2.07	L
2026/11/03	Tue	04:49 PM	4.66	H
2026/11/03	Tue	11:25 PM	0.33	L
2026/11/04	Wed	06:02 AM	5.18	H
2026/11/04	Wed	12:10 PM	1.33	L
2026/11/04	Wed	05:55 PM	4.57	H



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	Draw Date: 10/21 1 21 44 50 57 Power#: 5 Jackpot: 674 M		Draw Date: 10/22 13 15 18 28 36
	Draw Date: 10/20 13 28 33 35 48 Mega#: 3 Jackpot: 433 M		Draw Date: 10/22 EVENING: 1 0 6 Draw Date: 10/22 MIDDAY: 0 1 3
	Draw Date: 10/21 12 17 27 30 36 Mega#: 15 Jackpot: 8 M		Draw Date: 10/22 1st: 10 - Solid Gold 2nd: 02 - Lucky Star 3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George Race Time: 1:49.19

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Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00493. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Sabah Sheraz Hajidamji for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Sabah Sheraz Hajidamji filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Sabah Sheraz Hajidamji to Sabah Damji. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 12/04/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 12/04/2026 LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 10/23/2026, 10/30/2026, 11/06/2026, 11/13/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026213305. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: HAPPINESS DEPARTMENT, HPNS DEPT, HAPPINESS DEPT, 8601 LINCOLN BLVD. APT. 2214, LOS ANGELES, CA 90045, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): KATE BELIANKOVA, 8601 LINCOLN BLVD. APT. 2214, LOS ANGELES, CA 90045. 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/ KATE BELIANKOVA, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/7/2026. 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: 10/26/2026, 11/2/2026, 11/9/2026, 11/16/2026

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00467. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica 90401. Petition of Alina Tukhieva Akil for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Alina Tukhieva Akil filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Alina Tukhieva Akil to Alina Akil. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 11/20/2026, Time: 8:30AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 10/02/2026. Lawrence Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 10/05/2026, 10/12/2026, 10/19/2026, 10/26/2026

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Gavin Newsom’s legacy: Big promises undercut by costly mismanagement

Whatever accomplishments Gavin Newsom might claim from his eight years as governor, he will also leave a legacy of mismanagement that has squandered untold billions of taxpayers’ dollars.

There is a running thread in that record — grandiose, self-serving promises of benefits and sloppy, sometimes fraudulent implementation.

The largest managerial mess, in terms of both dollars and impact, has been the state budget.

Newsom inherited a workable budget in 2019 from predecessor Jerry Brown, who had cleaned up a fiscal disaster, including a “wall of debt” left over from the Great Recession. However, Newsom and legislators have habitually overspent revenues and built a new wall of debt several times larger than the one Brown faced.

In 2022, Newsom proclaimed the state had a \$97.5 billion surplus, boasting “No other state in American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this.”

He and the Legislature immediately increased spending, such as extending Medi-Cal health benefits to undocumented immigrants. But that cost \$6-billion more than Newsom estimated, and state Auditor Grant Parks, in a recent report, says the Department of Health Care Services has failed to stop pervasive abuse and fraud in Medi-Cal.

Eventually, Newsom’s administration acknowledged that the phantom surplus resulted from a \$165 billion error in estimating future revenue. The state is left with a “structural deficit” that’s expected to remain at least through the next governor’s first term.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020, Newsom assumed one-man control of the emergency. He issued decrees to shut down schools and many businesses and spent billions of dollars on no-bid contracts.

Money was being shoveled out the door to vendors with scanty or no credentials. Meanwhile, Newsom’s Employment Development Department was granting billions of dollars in unemployment insurance benefits to fraudsters, some of them inmates of state prisons.

While Newsom was telling Californians to avoid human contact, he attended a

birthday dinner at a Napa restaurant where no one wore a mask. When his hypocrisy was exposed, Newsom apologized, but it didn’t explain why he had willingly done what he had told everyone else not to do.

More recently, Newsom has also acknowledged he went overboard in shutting schools, which worsened achievement in a state that already was faring poorly in tests of academic skills, such as reading and math.

Newsom has often touted the state’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but specific projects have been plagued by mismanagement.

Newsom at first hinted that he might throttle back the state’s bullet train project, then backtracked and shored it up with billions of new dollars. The project is stuck in neutral, and its inspector general reported recently that the High Speed Rail Authority had blown nearly \$600,000 on travel to “questionable locations that appear unrelated to state business,” such as gyms, a nightclub, a tiki bar and a cigar lounge.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Times revealed that the state has spent more than \$1 billion to subsidize purchases of zero emission buses and trucks, but the program has been riddled with fraud.

Finally, there’s homelessness. Upon becoming governor, Newsom named himself a czar to attack the crisis and began castigating local governments for not spending state grants effectively. However, in 2024, state Auditor Parks said Newsom’s Interagency Council on Homelessness had failed to effectively oversee programs. Despite more than \$20 billion in state spending, the crisis remains at least as serious as it was when Newsom took office.

There are many other examples. Taken as a whole, they reveal an administration that doesn’t administer very well, though it has promised much.

By Dan Walters. Dan Walters is one of most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state’s political, economic, social and demographic trends. This article was originally published on CalMatters and was republished under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives license.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SMMUSD

Grant Elementary opens new library, innovation lab

Grant Elementary School students have new spaces for reading, research and hands-on projects after the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District cut the ribbon Oct. 14 on the campus’s new library and innovation lab.

The multiuse facility, paid for through voter-approved district bond measures, includes an expanded library, a reading room, a reception and circulation area, a librarian’s office and a textbook room. A separate innovation lab is dedicated to science, engineering and design activities.

In the lab, students will work on projects such as designing structures to withstand natural disasters and using architectural principles to model small towns. The expanded library offers room for independent reading, research and group work.

“Grant has always been a place where students discover new ideas and develop a love of learning,” Principal Christian Fuhrer said. “These new spaces build on that tradition while giving students more opportunities to explore, create and take ownership of their learning.”

Superintendent Antonio Shelton said the library serves a broader purpose than housing books.

“It is a place where students develop a love of reading, explore new ideas, work together and discover interests they may carry with them for years to come,” Shelton said. “This new space gives Grant students more opportunities to learn in different ways, with room for quiet reading, collaboration, creativity and hands-on exploration.”

“

Grant has always been a place where students discover new ideas and develop a love of learning

”

- Christian Fuhrer, Principal

SUBMITTED BY

Santa Monica

Santa Monica History Museum exhibit marks Route 66 centennial

The Santa Monica History Museum will open an exhibition next month exploring the history of Route 66, the highway that ends in Santa Monica, as the road marks its 100th year.

“Creating Route 66: Road, Legend, Community” runs Nov. 12 through June 27, 2027. Co-curated by Anne Wallentine and Avehi Menon, the exhibition uses historic photographs and artifacts to examine how the highway shaped the landscape, the culture and the communities along its path.

“Route 66 holds a powerful place in the American imagination, but its history is also deeply personal,” said Wallentine, the museum’s executive director. “By bringing together stories of migration, creativity, travel, and community, we invite visitors to consider who shaped the road, how various communities and individuals experienced it, and what continues to make it meaningful today.”

The exhibition is organized into six sections. The first traces the road’s origins, including the early Indigenous trails that shaped its route. Another focuses on the people who traveled it, including Dust Bowl migrants, Black travelers who relied on the Green Book to navigate segregation, and women whose lives and work shaped the highway.

Other sections cover the road’s place in literature, film and music, from John Steinbeck’s “The Grapes of Wrath” to Disney and Pixar’s “Cars”; the roadside advertising and landmarks that became part of its imagery; its significance in California and Santa Monica, known as the “End of the Trail”; and current efforts to revitalize the route for local businesses and travelers.

Highlights include a first edition of “The Grapes of Wrath,” loans from the California Historic Route 66 Association and images of roadside signage. An interactive feature will let visitors mark their own trips along the route.

An opening reception is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12. Tickets are \$25 for members, \$40 for nonmembers or \$66 for two tickets purchased together, and are available on the museum’s website.

Public programs planned for 2027 include talks on the Green Book and Route 66 travel stories, a screening of the Assertion Films documentary “Route 66: The Untold Story of Women on the Mother Road,” and family workshops with road-themed craft projects. Dates and registration details will be posted at santamonicahistory.org/events.

The museum, at 1350 Seventh St. next to the Santa Monica Public Library’s Main Branch, is open 2-5 p.m. Thursdays and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays through Sundays. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Admission is free for museum members, children 4 and under, active military and veterans, and SNAP/EBT cardholders, and free to all on the first Sunday of each month.

For more information, visit santamonicahistory.org or call 310-395-2290.

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BANK

FROM PAGE 1

The latest sign came with City National Bank's reopening of its Palisades Village branch at 15273 W. Sunset Blvd., restoring a physical banking location the company had operated for more than a decade before the fire displaced it.

The branch's return provides residents and business owners with in-person access to mortgage consultations, business financing and personal banking as many continue to navigate insurance settlements, reconstruction costs and the financial consequences of prolonged displacement.

City National said its 1,423-square-foot renovated branch includes two private consultation rooms, an ATM and three service desks. "Many of our clients lost homes or businesses in the fires," said Lindsay Dunn, executive vice president and head of Personal & Business Banking at City National. "We're here to help them navigate their financial needs as the community continues to rebuild and recover."

The bank and its parent company, Royal Bank of Canada, committed a combined \$3 million to Southern California wildfire relief efforts following the fires. City National also offered qualifying clients affected by the disaster a three-year mortgage and home-equity-line-of-credit forbearance period.

Yet the larger challenge facing the Palisades extends beyond the reopening of individual institutions. Restoring a functioning community requires homes to be rebuilt, businesses to reopen and residents to return, all of which depend, in part, on access to financing and the ability of public and private institutions to support a recovery expected to take years. "Residents remain determined to rebuild and businesses are fighting to come back," Zar said. "This community has every reason to achieve a historic recovery, but what we need now are the systems, financing and institutional commitments to match that determination."

That challenge also carries implications beyond the Palisades. The rebuilding is unfolding within the interconnected Westside economy, where Santa Monica and neighboring communities share residents, workers, customers, businesses and tourism.

As the Palisades moves further from

“That confidence must translate into capital, resources and real recovery solutions for fire survivors who, nearly two years after the devastation, are still struggling to return home

- Maryam Zar, CEO of the Malibu Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce and founder and president of the Palisades Recovery Coalition

immediate disaster response and deeper into long-term reconstruction, the return of banks and other essential businesses offers one measure of economic confidence. Whether that confidence ultimately helps residents rebuild homes and entrepreneurs restore businesses will provide another.

Zar said the community should be aiming for more than simply recreating what existed before the disaster. "This was a devastating and, in my view, preventable fire, made possible by years of inadequate attention to public safety and preparedness," Zar said. "We owe this community more than a return to normal. We owe it a recovery worthy of its resilience and its future."

michelle@smdp.com



Courtesy Image

BUSINESS: Major banks return to Sunset Boulevard as Palisades leaders push for capital to reach fire survivors.

ZBUR

FROM PAGE 1

state's Density Bonus Law, even when no such project was ever pursued, approved or entitled. That drives up lease costs without adding any housing.

Under the new law, density bonuses may be considered in those valuations only if they have been entitled and vested as of the valuation date. The law does not limit a property's eligibility for a density bonus, block future redevelopment or change the state's underlying housing policy.

"Property valuations should be based on what can actually be built, not speculative development scenarios that exist only on paper," Zbur said.

UNITE HERE International and UNITE HERE Local 11 sponsored the bill. Maria Espinoza, a housekeeper at the Sandbourne Santa Monica, said hotel workers too often lack "a real voice in the decisions that affect our jobs and our workplaces. That's why AB 2181 matters."

DATA CENTERS

AB 2383, the Fair Share in Energy Act, requires data centers to cover the costs of serving their large electricity demand rather than shifting those costs to households and businesses. Zbur's office described the protections as the strongest in the nation.

Newsom signed it as part of a package that also included SB 886 by Sen. Steve Padilla, D-San Diego, and SB 1186 by Sen. Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton. The Legislature sent the package to the governor Sept. 1.

The laws require data centers to pay for grid upgrades their operations trigger and for the electricity needed to meet their demand. They must also pay a share of wildfire mitigation and liability, electrification and environmental programs, and other societal costs. The package also gives data centers incentives to add onsite clean energy.

"AB 2383 puts ratepayers first by ensuring data centers pay their fair share," Zbur said.

HUMAN CUSTOMER SERVICE

AB 1609, the Right to Human Customer Service Act, requires large businesses serving California consumers to offer access to human customer service during normal business hours. They must make a good-faith effort to connect a customer with a person within 15 minutes of a request or schedule an appointment. Companies must also disclose when a customer is talking to a chatbot.

The law does not ban AI or automated customer service. Zbur recalled spending hours on hold during the pandemic trying to get medication for his elderly mother. He eventually drove to the pharmacy "just to show them that I was still sitting on hold." The Communications Workers of America, District 9, sponsored the bill.

RARE DISEASE TREATMENT

AB 1887 sets a 30-day backstop for prior authorization of rare disease treatments prescribed by an appropriate specialist based on medical necessity. If a health plan does not approve a qualifying request within 30 days, the request is automatically certified.

An estimated 4 million Californians live with rare diseases, and the average time to diagnosis is seven to eight years, according to Zbur's office. Zbur chairs the California Rare Disease Caucus and cited his sister Jackie's battle with ALS as a personal motivation. The California Chronic Care Coalition sponsored the bill.

HEALTH CARE SHIELD LAW

AB 1930 requires California entities to notify the state attorney general before producing records in response to subpoenas or other demands for information about legally protected reproductive or gender-affirming care. The attorney general can then review the request and intervene when appropriate.

Attorney General Rob Bonta and Equality California sponsored the bill. It was signed as part of a six-bill package of California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus priorities. Zbur's office said the need became clear after a federal subpoena was issued to Children's Hospital Los Angeles seeking information about gender-affirming care.

RETAIL RENOVATIONS

AB 1693 creates a faster permitting option for retailers renovating the interiors of existing storefronts. Qualified architects or engineers can certify that plans meet building, health and safety standards, and local building departments then have 20 business days to approve or deny a complete application.

The California Retailers Association and the Westside Council of Chambers of Commerce sponsored the bill. George Francisco, president of the Westside council, cited the Third Street Promenade among the region's signature shopping destinations. The law extends a framework the state adopted for restaurants in 2025 through AB 671 by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks.

ATTORNEY MISCONDUCT

AB 2039 requires mandatory summary disbarment proceedings for attorneys convicted of felony illegal client solicitation, known as capping. It also applies to misdemeanor convictions involving knowing financial gain. The law protects whistleblowers who report attorney misconduct from retaliation and adds safeguards for loans and financial advances between attorneys and clients, including a cooling-off period before signing.

The release cited Los Angeles Times reporting on allegations that attorneys and recruiters solicited vulnerable people as clients. Consumer Attorneys of California sponsored the bill.

PART-TIME FACULTY RETIREMENT

AB 2417 requires community college districts to offer qualifying part-time faculty a choice of Social Security, the CalSTRS Defined Benefit Program or, where offered, the CalSTRS Cash Balance Benefit Program. CalSTRS, in consultation with CalPERS, must also produce materials comparing the options.

The law follows the federal Social Security Fairness Act, which repealed the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset. The California Federation of Teachers sponsored the bill. The new information requirements begin July 1, 2027.

WORKFORCE TRAINING

AB 2634, the High-Road Jobs & Workforce Training Act, gives a scoring preference in the state's High Road Training Partnership grant program to bona fide labor-management cooperation committees and groups applying on their behalf. The program has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in workforce development since 2017.

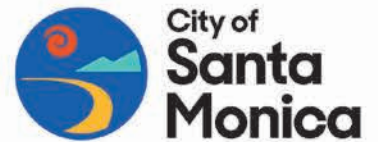
Zbur tied the bill to the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles. "We need to make investments today that prepare Californians for the jobs ahead," he said.

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Summons

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) Case No. 26SMCV03615. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: KEVAN TSCHKEALOFF, AN INDIVIDUAL; CALEY TSCHKEALOFF, AN INDIVIDUAL; DIANE TSCHKEALOFF AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND AS TRUSTEE OF THE DIANE TSCHKEALOFF INTER VIVOS TRUST; DOES 1-50, AND DOES 1-20. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: CITY OF SANTA MONICA. NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center, your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney is: Denise McGranahan, Deputy City Attorney, SBN 130623, 1685 Main Street, Room 310, Santa Monica, CA 90401, (310) 458-8336. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Publish: 10/12/2026, 10/19/2026, 10/26/2026, 11/02/2026

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BAKERY

FROM PAGE 1

personal and strategic.”

“Gelson’s was actually the first U.S. retailer I approached, so seeing Secret Kiwi Kitchen on their shelves feels incredibly special,” Taylor said. “I have so many happy memories of shopping for my family at the old Gelson’s in the Palisades. It has been a dream of mine to see my products there one day.”

“New Zealand is a small market of just five million people, while the U.S. is enormous,” she said. “Rather than trying to be everywhere at once, I wanted to come full circle and start in a community I know and understand.”

Returning to a neighborhood still rebuilding carries particular weight. “Watching the fires from the other side of the world was incredibly emotional,” she said. “The Palisades is a place I have a deep personal connection to, so seeing a community that I remembered so fondly go through something so devastating was heartbreaking.”

She hopes the business can be part of the recovery. “Businesses are such a part of the fabric of a neighborhood. They give people places to gather, familiar faces, and a sense that life is moving forward again,” she said. “To bring

Secret Kiwi Kitchen back to a place that has meant so much to me, at a time when the community is rebuilding, feels bigger than simply launching a business. It feels like being part of that next chapter.”

Taylor opened a Los Angeles-area warehouse in July and now ships U.S. online orders. Gelson’s will carry the brand’s signature mixes — blondie, scone, chocolate cake, gingerbread cake and cookie — while the broader lineup includes triple fudge brownie, buttermilk pancake and a Kiwi favorite called ginger crunch.

She has positioned the mixes as an alternative to multinational products with long ingredient lists, using New Zealand grass-fed dairy, GMO-free-milled flour and Marlborough sea salt. Every ingredient, she said, “should be something a Kiwi mum would recognise in her pantry.”

Some recipes will feel familiar to Americans, such as brownies and blondies. Others, like the Ginger Crunch Slice and

Buttermilk Scone mixes, are distinctly Kiwi. “It’s not about making American food with a Kiwi label,” Taylor said. “It’s about sharing a little piece of New Zealand through food.”

An American-born Kiwi with Japanese-European roots, Taylor has lived in New Zealand for about a decade and previously spent time in France, Italy, London and Latin America. “California taught me an appreciation for really good ingredients,” she said. “I still think California has some of the best farmers markets anywhere.” Still, “New Zealand is really the foundation of Secret Kiwi Kitchen,” she said.

The company grew out of hardship. After her digital marketing career was upended by COVID-19 in 2020, Taylor began making

mixes during Auckland’s second lockdown, printing labels herself and gluing them onto coffee bags. She started with \$1,000, kept the company self-funded and once worked four extra jobs to keep it going, all while navigating tariffs and supply chain issues.

That period shaped her view of food. “We all go through difficult chapters, whether it’s a pandemic, losing a job, a fire, or being displaced from your home,” she said. “Food can’t fix those things, but sharing something you’ve made and sitting around a table together can give people a moment of comfort and connection.”

Today, Secret Kiwi Kitchen is stocked in roughly 700 stores across New Zealand,

the Pacific, the United States and Canada. Most New Zealand brands look first to Australia when they expand. Taylor did not.

“I’ve chosen to do something different. I wanted to come home to the U.S.,” she said. “Seeing Secret Kiwi Kitchen on an American shelf, particularly at Gelson’s, feels like a real full-circle moment.”

Even as the company grows, she wants it to keep its personal touch. “I still personally respond to customer emails,” she said, describing conversations about baking hacks and mixes sent to children for science projects. “I want Secret Kiwi Kitchen to become a significant international brand, but I still want people to feel that there is a real person behind it who cares about what they’re making in their kitchen.”

The mixes are available at secretkiwikitchen.com.

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“I’ve chosen to do something different. I wanted to come home to the U.S.”
- Lauren “Lulu” Taylor

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Zack Hill

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Strange Brew

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 17 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 7105

Fruit picking

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

Akee	Durian	Musk pear	Rhubarb
Betel	Figs	Nuts	Ripe
Cape	Gage	Olive	Russet
gooseberry	Gean	Pecan	Sloe
Carmelite	Hail	Peel	Sorting
Catawba	Kaki	Pests	Soursop
Colmar	Kiwi	Plum	Spondias
Crab-apple	Ladder	Pome	Ugni
Crop	Lime	Prune	Uva
Date	Mango	Rain	Whurt
Dog-wood	Mast	Rasp	
Drupe	Morel	Redcurrant	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Life in abundance

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 26)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Know your target and what lies beyond it. You can get so focused on the prize that you forget to imagine life after you get it. Look past the immediate win. Make sure you like what comes next.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Hunt only what is in season. You may want something whose time has yet to come. Put your attention where conditions favor you now. You will have plenty to pursue while you wait for another opportunity to ripen.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Take only what you can use. You have access to more information, invitations and opportunities than you need. Choose according to what fits your life. Leave something for another person, and give yourself room to enjoy your haul.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Get permission before entering someone else's territory. You may feel close enough to ask a personal question or offer help. Check first. You will earn greater access by respecting the boundaries around another person's private world.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Choose your shot with care. You have plenty of power, so you can afford to wait for the angle that gives you confidence. Once you see it, act. You will make a stronger impression with one well-timed move.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Follow through after you make your move. You may need to send another message, check the result or finish one last task. Stay with what you started. You will find the prize through persistence after the first attempt.

HOROSCOPES

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Read the signs before you make your approach. Observation requires a certain unselfishness, a subversion of ego and a desire to know how things actually are instead of seeing only what you'd like to be true.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Pay attention to the wind. You can sense which direction people are moving before anyone makes an announcement. Position yourself with that movement in mind. You will gain an advantage by noticing where things seem to be headed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Stay still long enough to see what comes within range. You have an instinct to go looking, though today you can accomplish more through observation. Give the situation time to reveal itself. You will recognize your opening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Know when to pass. You can recognize an opportunity and still decide against pursuing it. Save your energy for the prospect that gives you a better angle. You will feel powerful when you choose rather than chase.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Respect the territory you cross. You can pursue what you want while leaving people and places better for having encountered you. Keep your promises and mind your impact. You will earn invitations back into places you enjoyed visiting.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Begin the hunt long before you make your move. You can study the terrain and learn the patterns. Decide what you truly hope to find. By the time your opportunity appears, you will know exactly what to do.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Look without blinking
- 6 Venetian-blind strip
- 10 Arrests, slangily
- 14 More adorable
- 15 Rail-riding wanderer
- 16 ___ mater (one's former school)
- 17 Backyard swimming spot
- 20 Note from the boss
- 21 Remove from power
- 22 Vote into office
- 23 Windowsill, for one
- 25 Pub beverage
- 26 Portrait painter's surface
- 29 Throb
- 33 Woodwind instruments
- 34 Goatee's location
- 36 Color of Santa's suit
- 37 Feature of engraved invitations
- 41 Letter before tee
- 42 Des Moines' state
- 43 Joke around with
- 44 Clipped wool from
- 47 Talked back to
- 48 Pecan or cashew
- 49 Awaken rudely
- 51 Joggers' paces
- 54 ___ Canaveral, FL
- 55 Reach across
- 59 Sweltering weather
- 62 Not doing anything
- 63 Null and ___ (not valid)
- 64 Boot bottoms
- 65 Appear to be

66 Concludes

67 Dropped-egg sound

DOWN

- 1 Con game
- 2 Toothpaste holder
- 3 Molecule part
- 4 Spins in circles
- 5 Poet's "before"
- 6 "I don't know" gesture
- 7 Off the leash
- 8 Share a border with
- 9 2,000 pounds
- 10 Italian port
- 11 Skin-soothing ingredient
- 12 Popular college guy, briefly
- 13 Pretzel topping
- 18 Mythological figures
- 19 Farmer's place of song
- 24 Make simpler
- 25 Uncle's wife
- 26 Centers of apples
- 27 Embarrass
- 28 Loud racket
- 29 Greek pocket bread
- 30 Opera solos
- 31 Feeling nervous
- 32 Barely defeated
- 34 Clumsy person
- 35 Chop down with an ax
- 38 Weight loss plan
- 39 When planes are

expected: Abbr.

- 40 Where a driver takes a break
- 45 National song
- 46 Corrosion of iron
- 47 Court plaintiff
- 49 Quick
- 50 Newspaper essays, for short
- 51 The one here
- 52 Take a bus or train
- 53 Make eyes at
- 54 "We gotta get going!"
- 56 Drag from behind
- 57 Region
- 58 Bird's tree home
- 60 Day before a holiday
- 61 Donkey

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

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MONDAY | OCTOBER 26

WEEKLY PALISADIANS GATHERING IN SANTA MONICA

Monday, October 26, 2026 , 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Bardonna 1601 Montana Ave Santa Monica, CA. A weekly gathering for displaced Palisadians to connect and talk, with no formal agenda or RSVP needed. Displaced Palisadians are welcome to join for connection and discussion. No formal agenda. No RSVP necessary. Organized by Stephanie Kana of Oasis Palisades. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/weekly-palisadians-gathering-in-santa-monica/18461166/2026-10-26T08>

COMMUNAL GARDENING @ ISHIHARA PARK

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Ishihara Park 2909 Exposition Blvd Santa Monica, CA. A free drop-in communal gardening session where gardeners of all levels can learn and work together in a learning garden. Communal Garden Program Work Days @ Ishihara Park Learning Garden - Mondays and Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Free. Come get your hands dirty in the Communal Garden Program at Ishihara Park Learning Garden, a communal spot to learn and acquire gardening skills. Seasoned as well as new gardeners of all ages are welcome. Free drop in activity, no reservation needed. Visit the Ishihara Park Learning Garden site for More Information. Subject to cancellation due to weather. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/communal-gardening-ishihara-park/18461167/2026-10-26T09>

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

4:00 p.m. Holey Moley Santa Monica 1315 3rd Street Promenade Santa Monica, CA. A Halloween bar crawl spanning multiple days in Santa Monica. Drink specials and costumed fun across participating venues. Barcrawlerz is taking over Santa Monica this Halloween! \$13.33 to \$37.50. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/trick-or-drink-santa-monica-halloween-bar-crawl-3-days-/19458729/2026-10-26T16>

PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica, CA. A weekly Monday night pizza and wine deal at Bodega Wine Bar: purchase any bottle of wine and receive a half-off pizza. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! 6pm-Close. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2026-10-26T18>

THE GORDONS IMPROV RESIDENCY

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica, CA. Long-form improv comedy from resident teams at Westside Comedy Theater. Each show is built from audience suggestions. Rotating teams perform every three months. Welcome to The Gordons Improv Show at Westside Comedy Theater! IMPROV RESIDENT TEAM NIGHT! Check out our current

lineup of Resident Improv Teams! These teams perform Long-Form Improv all inspired by a suggestion from the audience. Think of it as a sitcom made up on the spot. Catch them before they are gone! These teams rotate every three months! Get ready for a night filled with laughter, spontaneity, and hilarious moments. Join us for an evening of unscripted comedy where every joke is made up on the spot. Our talented improv performers will have you in stitches as they create scenes, characters, and stories based on your suggestions. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind experience! Grab your friends and come on down to Westside Comedy Theater for a night you won't forget. TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED @ <https://ci.ovationtix.com/34923/production/1126449?performanceId=11576550>. \$10.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-gordons-improv-residency/14863274/2026-10-26T19>

TUESDAY | OCTOBER 27

VCC COFFEE CONNECTION HOSTED BY THE SALON VENICE

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. The Salon Venice 701B Venice Blvd Venice, CA. A morning networking meetup over coffee, organized for local business professionals to build relationships and collaborations. Start your day with intention and expand your local network! Join fellow business professionals for coffee, conversation, and high-value networking presented by the Venice Chamber of Commerce. Whether you are looking to build lasting relationships, explore new business collaborations. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/vcc-coffee-connection-hosted-by-the-salon-venice/20083351/2026-10-27T08>

ACRYLIC/OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP TUESDAY

Tuesday, October 27, 2026 , 1:00 p.m - 3:00 p.m. Paint Lab 1453 14th St Santa Monica, CA. A workshop for painters of any level to work on their own acrylic or oil projects with individual guidance from an instructor. In this workshop each student will work on their own project with guidance from an instructor. \$61.60. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/acrylic-oil-painting-workshop-tuesday/19429773/2026-10-27T13>

ELEMENTARY ART STUDIO 3:30-4:20PM

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica, CA +1 310-744-1310. A weekly art studio for elementary students at Palisades Community Renewal Center exploring drawing, color, collage, and mixed media. 3:30 – 4:20pm. Open to all skill levels, sparking creativity through drawing, color work, collage, and mixed-media techniques. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/saint-monica-preparatory-open-house/20082056/2026-10-27T18>

WALTER MOSLEY IN CONVERSATION WITH ANDRE HARDY

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Miles Memorial Playhouse, 1130 Lincoln Blvd. Santa Monica Public Library, in partnership with the city of Santa Monica's Cultural Affairs division and Diesel Bookstore, welcome acclaimed crime and mystery writer Walter Mosley for

an evening of discussion with Andre Hardy. Mosley discusses Hanging & Burning, the fourth novel in his King Oliver mystery series, with Hardy, a former NFL player whose debut crime novel, Tear the City Down, was just released. A book sale and signing follow.

CASTANEA SICILIAN CAFE - EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 352 Westminster Ave Venice, CA Scoop up a deal on coffee at a Sicilian cafe: 50% off all coffee drinks, Monday through Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m. Enjoy 50% OFF all coffees at Castanea Venice Beach ?? Early Bird special every Mon–Thu from 9–10am. Start your morning with premium coffee at a special price – limited time offer! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/castanea-sicilian-cafe-early-bird-special/18847307/2026-10-27T21>

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 28

MOBILE COMMUNITY MEDITATION CENTER - GUIDED MEDITATION

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South 2701 Bernard Way Santa Monica, CA. A guided 45-minute mindfulness meditation on the beach, open to all levels. Bring your own chair or cushion and arrive a few minutes early. Suggested donation \$10-\$20. Please join Mobile Community Meditation Center aka Buddhist Boondockers Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 am for a 45 minute fully guided mindfulness meditation - on the grass, under the shade of the trees, with a view of the sparkling ocean. (Tuesday and Thursday offered via zoom). Whether you're new to meditation or a seasoned practitioner, everyone is welcomed. Bring your own chair or cushion and try to arrive 5 minutes early. Be prepared to enjoy a truly peaceful moment as we relax, be present and make new friends; giving ourselves the love and attention we deserve by quieting our minds, finding peace and creating community. \$10.00 to \$20.00— Suggested donation. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mobile-community-meditation-center-guided-meditation/19479748/2026-10-28T10>

SUNSHINE SOCIAL SERIES

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Third Street Promenade 1212 Santa Monica Santa Monica, CA. A twice-weekly outdoor picnic with farmers market shopping, fresh ceviche, and a pop-up spritz bar for 21+. A relaxed way to stretch the summer season. Summer may be winding down, but in Santa Monica, sunshine, ocean breezes, and long afternoons are always in season. Every Wednesday and Saturday, join Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. for Summer Social, a twice-weekly pop-up picnic on Third Street Promenade. Browse the iconic Farmers Market and fill your bag with fresh fruit, artisan breads, pastries, cheese, flowers, and everything you need for a picnic. Then, head to the Promenade, grab a seat at one of our outdoor community tables, and stay awhile. Hermanito will be serving up fresh ceviche. Adults 21 and older can also enjoy refreshing cocktails from Hermanito's pop-up spritz bar as part of the Entertainment Zone. Gather

your friends and family, find a table on the Promenade, take a sip and a bite, and make the season last a little longer. Summer never really ends in Santa Monica. The first 100 guests each Wednesday and Saturday will receive a complimentary Third Street Promenade French market tote and custom picnic tablecloth. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sunshine-social-series/19902349/2026-10-28T10>

MIDDAY YOGA ON WEDNESDAYS

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica, CA +1 310-744-1310. A free community yoga session created with care for those affected by the Palisades Fire. A welcoming midday practice to support healing, relaxation, and connection. Free Community Yoga created with care for those impacted by the Palisades Fire. In case this event has been updated, please visit <https://www.pccrsm.org/event/midday-yoga-on-wednesdays-5aba1> for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/midday-yoga-on-wednesdays/19633922/2026-10-28T13>

5TH ANNUAL VOLLEY-WEEN BEACH BBQ MIXER

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Perry's Cafe and Beach Rentals 2427 Main Street Santa Monica, CA. A beach volleyball fundraiser for local nonprofits, open to all ages and skill levels, with food, a drink ticket, and a costume contest. Volley-Ween is an annual fundraising event that raises money for local nonprofits that support human services during the holidays. Past recipients include Westside Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, West Coast Care and The People Concern to name a few. The tournament is open to all ages and all skill levels are welcome. Spectators and non-players may also attend. This is a family-friendly event. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/5th-annual-volley-ween-beach-bbq-mixer/20197888/2026-10-28T15>

WESTERN WEDNESDAY: HALLOWEEN EDITION

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Santa Monica Place 395 Santa Monica Pl Santa Monica, CA. A spooky twist on a weekly country line-dancing night, with costume contest, pro-led lessons, and happy hour specials. October 28th, 6pm-8pm | Center Plaza, Level 1 Western Wednesday is getting a spooky twist this October, so dust off your costume! Show up in your spookiest look on 10/28 for a chance to win a \$50 Tenshoppe gift card. Grab your boots, round up your ghoulish friends, and learn to line dance at our free weekly dose of country on the coast. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/western-wednesday-halloween-edition/20179746/2026-10-28T18>

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Ocean Park Branch Celebrate Halloween with a screening of this 1960 horror comedy classic and discussion with Beverly Gray, author of Roger Corman: Blood-Sucking Vampires, Flesh-Eating Cockroaches, and Driller Killers.



**BLUE WAVE
DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

MEET & GREET

Meet the candidates. Connect with your community.

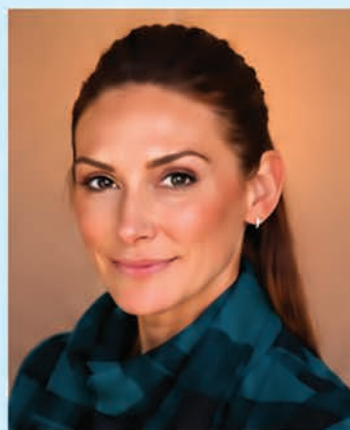
Santa Monica City Council candidates



Lana Negrete



Doug Trussler



Ashley Oelsen



Brian Goldsmith

Candidate for
California State Senate

Santa Monica City Council candidates

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026
4:00 – 6:00 PM

Blue Wave Democratic Club Headquarters

1427 3rd Street Promenade, Santa Monica

Join us for food, beverages, and good company.

Scan to RSVP

or email

vote4lana@gmail.com



RSVP QR CODE

Learn more: bluewavedemclub.org