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2 **Clean energy**
Tested by Trump.

3 **ICE's impact**
On voting.

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On the Honor Roll.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Los Angeles prepares for fire weather



National Weather Service

WEATHER: Santa Ana Winds are expected to bring critical fire weather conditions to portions of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties through Wednesday. Gusty winds, very low humidity will make extreme fire behavior likely with new fire starts. Use extreme caution with anything that can spark a wildfire. Residents near wildland interfaces should be prepared to evacuate if a wildfire breaks out..

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Southern California faces critical fire weather conditions this week as a combination of unseasonable heat, bone-dry air and gusty Santa Ana winds elevates wildfire risk across the Los Angeles region.

The National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning until 6 p.m. Wednesday for the Western San Gabriel Mountains, Santa Susana Mountains and Southeastern Ventura County Valleys. During this period, any wildfire ignition could spread rapidly, with winds forecast to reach 15-30 mph and gusts as high as 45 mph, while relative humidity may plummet to 5-10%.

"Critical fire weather conditions" are likely, forecasters warn, meaning even a small spark could quickly threaten lives and property. Fire agencies caution that if a blaze starts, the Santa Ana winds and

SEE **WEATHER** PAGE 4

California prepares for high-stakes special election on redistricting as federal monitoring dispute unfolds

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

California Secretary of State Shirley Weber outlined the state's preparations for next week's unusual statewide special election on Tuesday, addressing security measures, voter access and an escalating dispute over federal

SEE **ELECTION** PAGE 8

Santa Monica-Malibu School District reports strong teacher retention through comprehensive support programs

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is achieving a 75% retention rate for new teachers through its comprehensive induction programs, district officials reported at a recent board meeting.

SEE **TEACHER RETENTION** PAGE 6







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City of Santa Monica

Funded By CalRecycle

LA's oceanfront power plant is a test of clean-energy ambitions in the new Trump era

The Scattergood Generating Station in Los Angeles is an oceanfront natural-gas-burning relic that sits on the uncertain brink of a clean-energy showdown.

On Tuesday, the Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners will decide whether to advance a plan to shift the plant to futuristic hydrogen-ready turbines. The $800-million-plus retrofit is an anchor in California's effort to boost hydrogen, a potentially clean fuel that for now remains costly, water-intensive and rarely produced without oil and gas.

But California's high hopes for hydrogen — and the state's investments in it as a potential economic driver in the era of clean energy — are at a crossroads.

Earlier this month, the Trump administration canceled $1.2 billion in federal funding for California's hydrogen hub, a public-private partnership to build a clean hydrogen economy and support projects like Scattergood. The move followed a decision earlier this summer to scale back federal tax credits nationally for hydrogen.

California says it's pressing ahead with hydrogen projects including Scattergood, with or without federal support.

"The state remains committed to developing a renewable hydrogen ecosystem," said Willie Rudman, a spokesman for the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, or GO-Biz, which led the creation of the hydrogen partnership. Clean hydrogen, Rudman added, "holds incredible potential as California continues its transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy."

Critics say that optimism ignores real costs and trade-offs.

A BOLD INVESTMENT, AN UNCERTAIN CLIMATE

California politicians have chased hydrogen for decades, seeking environmental and economic benefits. In 2004, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger famously rolled out a hydrogen-powered Hummer and ordered a "Hydrogen Highway" of fueling stations.

The state's most recent bid – an ambitious hydrogen hub – has been its boldest investment yet.

In 2022, Gov. Gavin Newsom launched the Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems, or ARCHES — a partnership led by GO-Biz, the University of California, and the State Building and Construction Trades Council. It now counts more than four hundred public- and private-sector partners, including Chevron and other energy companies.

Most hydrogen today comes from natural gas — a carbon-intensive process that undercuts its climate appeal. Over time, ARCHES hopes to help industry swap that process for "green" hydrogen made by splitting water with renewable power, an expensive and elusive process.

Newsom has embraced hydrogen as both climate and economic policy.

"Scaling this in California isn't just about addressing the climate crisis — it's also about creating hundreds of thousands of jobs," Newsom wrote in August 2023. He directed his administration to develop an "all-of-government Hydrogen Market Development Strategy," similar to what California had done for electric cars.

ARCHES won up to $1.2 billion in federal funding from the Department of Energy as part of a $12.6 billion total statewide hydrogen hub. The award positioned California at the center of the nation's ambitions for clean hydrogen — until the Trump administration abruptly withdrew funding Oct. 1.

Newsom blasted the move as political and "common sense be damned." While California lost its funding, several hydrogen hubs in Republican-led states kept theirs. California has appealed the decision.

State Sen. Anna Caballero, a Democrat from Merced who authored a law speeding approval of hydrogen projects last year, said she expects talks next session on using cap-and-trade funds to keep the hydrogen hub alive. Private and international investors, she added, remain interested in California's market.

"People in my district are asking for good jobs as we make this transition — and they're looking for clean air — and hydrogen has the capacity to do all of the above," Caballero said. "We have the opportunity, and I'd like to see us explore it."

Not everyone was disappointed by the loss of the California funding. Some environmental groups, concerned about encouraging fossil fuels and the potential for explosions, welcomed the federal cancellation. Nevertheless, Los Angeles is pressing ahead with Scattergood — one of several projects that were part of the original statewide hydrogen push.

WHY LA IS BETTING ON HYDROGEN

Until a few weeks ago, ARCHES, the state's hydrogen hub, was expected to contribute at least $100 million to the Scattergood retrofit.

"Our understanding is that the federal dollars are not coming in," said Jason Rondou, assistant general manager of power planning and operations for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. "We don't know yet if there will be another mechanism to make up that $100 million."

Still, the largest municipal utility in the country is seeking approval from its board for the Scattergood conversion, calling it a step toward the city's goal of fossil-free power by 2035 and the state's similar goal, with a deadline a decade later.

Utility officials say the Scattergood upgrade is necessary because its aging gas turbines are inefficient, dirty and cooled with seawater — a process now banned under state policy because of its impact on marine life. The plan is to replace the old turbines with a new combined-cycle unit designed to burn a blend of hydrogen and natural gas.

The goal is to make Scattergood more of a "peaker" plant — one that can fire up and cycle down to match demand surges, rather than running around the clock. But environmentalists are concerned about a project that runs on "green" hydrogen when it isn't readily available at scale. The retrofit would keep the plant running on natural gas,

SEE **POWER** PAGE 11

California Latinos take pride in casting ballots in person. ICE at polls could deter that

As in-person voting begins in California's special election on redistricting, Gov. Gavin Newsom has repeatedly asserted that the Trump administration could send immigration agents to polling places in an attempt to intimidate voters and depress turnout.

The governor's warnings, while unspecific, speak to what community leaders call real, palpable fears within some Latino communities that immigration agents could show up on Election Day. And ever since the Supreme Court greenlit using racial profiling in immigration stops, even U.S. citizens are scared they could be detained simply for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"You're going to likely see members of our military in and around polling booths and voting places all across this country," Newsom warned last week during a virtual event with former President Barack Obama in support of Proposition 50. "I would say the same about ICE and Border Patrol, and I say that soberly."

Newsom has not provided any evidence to suggest that the Department of Homeland Security will deploy immigration agents to polling sites. But he pointed to the Los Angeles campaign launch event for Prop. 50, his plan to redraw the state's congressional districts to favor Democrats, where federal immigration agents blocked supporters from entering the area and detained a nearby strawberry vendor.

A spokesperson for Immigration and Customs Enforcement wrote in a statement that the agency "is not planning operations targeting polling locations," but that if agents are tracking "a dangerous criminal alien" who goes near a voting site they could be arrested there. A spokesperson for Customs and Border Patrol did not respond to emailed questions.

The governor argues that the Trump administration's indiscriminate immigration raids, military and National Guard deployments are intended to suppress Democratic voters and keep Republicans in control of Congress for the duration of Trump's presidency.

"We know the intention of this administration — to rig next year's midterms," Newsom told reporters recently. "It's absolutely predictable. It's a script that's been written for centuries. It's the authoritarian playbook."

The Trump administration's Justice Department announced on Friday that it will deploy personnel to monitor polling sites in five counties: Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside on Election Day. Fresno, Kern and Riverside counties are majority Latino.

The poll monitors will "ensure transparency, ballot security, and compliance with federal law," according to the department. The administration has not said whether the agents will be stationed at polling sites in addition to county election offices where ballots are counted.

Democrats denounced the plan.

"Deploying federal forces to 'monitor' elections is nothing more than an intimidation tactic meant to suppress the vote," said Rusty Hicks, chair of the California Democratic Party. "What Republicans are really afraid of is record voter participation and a clear verdict from the people of California in support of Prop 50."



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters
ELECTION: Voters cast their ballots at the Sacramento County Registrar of Voters office in Sacramento on June 7, 2022.

'ALARMING' NUMBER OF LATINOS FEAR ICE AT POLLS

The vast majority of Californians vote by mail, especially since the state adopted universal mail-in voting during the COVID-19 pandemic. Just over 80% of votes cast in the 2024 presidential election were mail-in ballots.

But casting a ballot in-person on Election Day is a point of pride for many American immigrants, especially Latinos, said Yvette Martinez, executive director of the California Democratic Party.

"It's a cultural thing," said Martinez. "People want to show up and say, 'I'm patriotic, here's my civic duty. I'm here to vote, I'm here to make my voice heard. And when you quell that, it's dangerous. And it's actually sad."

In a September survey of 1,200 registered Latino voters conducted by the Latino Community Foundation, a nonprofit that funds Latino advocacy, 53% said they planned to vote in person. Of those, more than half said they would vote on Election Day.

The same survey also found that two-thirds of the Latino voters surveyed said they were at least somewhat worried that ICE or Border Patrol agents could show up at polling places. The poll had a sampling error margin of plus or minus 2.8 percentage points.

"These are citizens of this country. And if they are concerned about immigration or any type of federal presence at in-person voting sites, that is alarming," said Christian Arana, who leads policy strategy for the foundation.

"If people want to vote in person, it is their fundamental right," Arana said. "I never want us to buy into the fear that you can't participate in democracy because immigration enforcement may show up."

So far in the race for Prop. 50, only 9% of registered Latino voters have returned their ballots, according to the most recent data available from Political Data Inc., compared to 19% of white voters and 13% of Black voters. California pollster Ben Tulchin, who recently surveyed Latino voters about Prop. 50, said those numbers "are not unusual"

SEE **VOTING** PAGE 7



Weather

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 81. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Sunny, with a high near 81. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west in the afternoon.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 78. North northeast wind around 5 mph becoming southwest in the morning.
Thursday Night: Sunny, with a high near 78. North northeast wind around 5 mph becoming southwest in the morning.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2025/11/02	Sun	01:08 AM	0.52	L
2025/11/02	Sun	06:33 AM	5.52	H
2025/11/02	Sun	12:51 PM	0.67	L
2025/11/02	Sun	6:50 PM	4.74	H
2025/11/03	Mon	12:40 AM	0.71	L
2025/11/03	Mon	07:00 AM	6.10	H
2025/11/03	Mon	1:35 PM	-0.13	L
2025/11/03	Mon	7:41 PM	4.70	H
2025/11/04	Tue	01:13 AM	0.99	L
2025/11/04	Tue	07:31 AM	6.61	H
2025/11/04	Tue	2:20 PM	-0.79	L
2025/11/04	Tue	8:32 PM	4.55	H
2025/11/05	Wed	01:47 AM	1.33	L
2025/11/05	Wed	08:05 AM	6.97	H
2025/11/05	Wed	3:07 PM	-1.21	L
2025/11/05	Wed	9:26 PM	4.29	H
2025/11/06	Thu	02:23 AM	1.70	L
2025/11/06	Thu	08:42 AM	7.11	H
2025/11/06	Thu	3:57 PM	-1.36	L

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 10/27
17 39 43 51 66
Power#: 20
Jackpot: 376 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/24
11 18 31 51 56
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 714 M

SUPERLOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 10/25
4 8 15 18 20
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 11 M

FANTASY 5
Draw Date: 10/27
1 7 17 26 29

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 10/27
EVENING: 1 8 3
Draw Date: 10/27
MIDDAY: 2 3 3

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 10/27
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:43.94

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Santa Monica Daily Press

WEATHER

FROM PAGE 1

ultra-low humidity could lead to explosive fire growth.

An upper-level ridge of high pressure parked over California is driving the hazardous conditions, bringing clear skies and deflecting rain storms far to the north. The resulting offshore winds, known as Santa Anas, are blowing from inland deserts toward the coast.

Daytime highs Tuesday climbed into the upper 80s to mid-90s across much of the Los Angeles Basin and valleys — about 10-15 degrees hotter than typical for late October. Even coastal neighborhoods that usually stay cooler reached the 80s under the offshore flow, while inland areas hit 90 degrees or higher.

A Heat Advisory remains in effect through Wednesday evening for Los Angeles, Orange County and the Inland Empire. The NWS warns of a "high risk for heat illness" for vulnerable groups such as the elderly, young children and outdoor workers. Officials recommend avoiding strenuous outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day, staying hydrated and seeking air-conditioned relief.

The Santa Ana winds are howling most intensely across higher elevations, including the Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains, and adjacent valley corridors. Overnight humidity recovery will be poor, staying only around 15-25% in wind-prone spots Tuesday night, meaning fire danger will remain elevated even after dark.

Grass and brush fuels, which briefly dampened from rain earlier in October, have since dried out again and remain highly flammable.

Residents in hillside and wilderness-adjacent communities should avoid any activities that could accidentally start a fire, including outdoor burning, brush clearing with power tools or improper discarding of cigarettes. Authorities urge residents to be ready to evacuate if a wildfire erupts.

Similar conditions contributed to the massive wildfires that tore through the area in January and officials are already staging resources to prevent another tragedy.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has directed the state's first responders to take early, proactive steps to protect communities. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services approved the predeployment of 129 personnel and resources to Los Angeles and Ventura counties, including 10 fire engines, three water tenders, three helicopters, three hand crews and three dispatchers with 107 support personnel.

CAL FIRE remains at peak staffing at all units within the impacted region and has full use of both state-owned air assets and exclusive use aircraft to rapidly attack any new fires. Local fire departments have also pre-positioned strike teams in fire-prone areas like the Santa Clarita Valley and Malibu.

By Wednesday night into Thursday, offshore winds are expected to diminish, bringing an end to the most critical fire conditions. As the Santa Ana winds relax, coastal areas should see some cooling sea breezes and higher humidity by later in the week. Forecasts indicate high temperatures will drop back into the upper 70s and 80s Thursday and Friday.

However, the air mass is expected to remain quite dry inland, meaning elevated fire danger could linger through the weekend. No rain is on the horizon through at least the first few days of November.

Residents are urged to prepare a wildfire action plan, including planning evacuation routes and packing a go-bag with essentials. Officials recommend signing up for local emergency alerts to stay informed about changing conditions.

For more information on fire safety and general preparedness, visit Ready.ca.gov. Up-to-date weather information is available at weather.gov.

editor@smdp.com



GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's gerrymander and generational rift could shake up its Democratic hierarchy



Photo by Fred Greaves for CalMatters

DEMOCRATS: U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi addresses the media during a press conference with a delegation of Texas Democrats who fled their state over the GOP redistricting plan at the Governor's Mansion State Historic Park in Sacramento on Aug. 8, 2025.

Democratic politicians throughout California — those already in office and those who want in — assume that voters will rearrange the state's 52 congressional districts next month and create new career opportunities.

The assumption is well grounded. A recent CBS News poll found 62% of the state's likely voters, driven by disdain for President Donald Trump, will enact Proposition 50, a plan to shift five more congressional seats to Democrats even though they already have 43.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's gerrymander would offset pro-Republican redistricting schemes in Texas and other states that Trump seeks to retain, or perhaps expand, the GOP's paper-thin majority in the House next year.

With Prop. 50 seemingly a slam-dunk, current Democratic congressional members and wannabes are trying to sort out who will run for what — no small feat. To create the new seats, the Democrats' political cartographers have to spread the party's 10.4 million voters more thinly, reducing its margins in districts it already holds.

California also is not immune to the Democrats' generational conflict, in the wake of their loss to Trump last year after an aged and obviously impaired President Joe Biden dropped out.

Politico declares that "fully half of the state's older House Democrats are set to face same-party challengers next year..."

The most interesting example is in San Francisco, where 85-year-old Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the former House speaker who has held her congressional seat for nearly 40 years, has already drawn two primary opponents even though she hasn't announced whether she'll run again.

First in was 39-year-old Saikat Chakrabarti, a former campaign aide and staffer to Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, typifying the young progressives who have chafed at their party's geriatric leadership.

His candidacy forced the issue for state Sen. Scott Wiener, who at 55 is no spring chicken. He has been waiting patiently for years for Pelosi to retire. Wiener declared his candidacy this week, telling the New York Times, "The world changes. I made a decision that it makes sense for me to get into the race now because I'm passionate about San Francisco having the best possible representation."

Pelosi won't announce her intentions until after Prop. 50 is decided. But if she does retire, she likely wants to choose

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 11

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

Santa Monica College Named 2025 Pathway Champion for Transfer Success

Santa Monica College has been recognized as a 2025 Pathway Champion by the Campaign for College Opportunity for its campus-wide growth in Associate Degrees for Transfer.

The bipartisan nonprofit honored SMC in the "Pathway Champion of Transfer" category alongside 40 California Community Colleges and California State University campuses. The recognition celebrates efforts to implement equitable placement policies and Associate Degree for Transfer programs that simplify the path between community colleges and CSUs.

SMC joined Victor Valley College and Mira Costa College as top community colleges supporting the largest growth in students earning Associate Degrees for Transfer between the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years.

"Our multiracial democracy and economy require us to support the growing majority of diverse students to complete college and earn a degree," said Jessie Ryan, president of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

The honor recognizes achievement in placement and transfer outcomes across four categories. Historically, transferring from community college to a four-year university faced systemic barriers, with only 7% of transfer-intending students able to transfer within two years prior to 2015.

Thanks to implementation of Associate Degree for Transfer and placement policies, more students are transferring faster. Currently, 10% of community college students transfer within two years and 19% after four years.

"So many at Santa Monica College have worked tirelessly to streamline the pathway for our students to the CSU university of their choice," said SMC Superintendent/President Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery. "This honor belongs to them!"

Community colleges serve nearly two-thirds of California's college students beginning their higher education journey, making transfer pathway improvements vital to the state's future.

More information is available at collegecampaign.org.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Jonathan Ng, SMC

CEREMONY: Santa Monica College graduates at the college's 2025 commencement ceremony. The bi-partisan nonprofit Campaign for College Opportunity has named SMC a 2025 Pathway Champion in the "Pathway Champion of Transfer" category.

SMMUSD

Six SMMUSD Schools Named to 2025 California Honor Roll

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District announced that six schools have been named to the 2025 California Honor Roll, recognizing high achievement and student success.

The Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll honored Edison Language Academy, Grant Elementary School, McKinley Elementary School and John Adams Middle School as Star Schools, while Franklin Elementary School earned Scholar School recognition. Santa Monica High School received Star School recognition in the high school category.

Star Schools and Districts have 33% or more students designated as socioeconomically disadvantaged. Scholar Schools and Districts have fewer than 33% of students designated as socioeconomically disadvantaged.

This year, 1,834 schools and 158 districts statewide were recognized, representing approximately 21% of eligible schools and districts in California.

"The ERP Honor Roll highlights schools that are making measurable progress in closing achievement gaps and preparing students for success in college, career and life," said SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton.

"Our schools continue to challenge traditional boundaries by reimagining what academic excellence looks like. This recognition reflects the commitment of our teachers, staff, students and families to disrupt inequitable systems and build learning environments where every child can thrive."

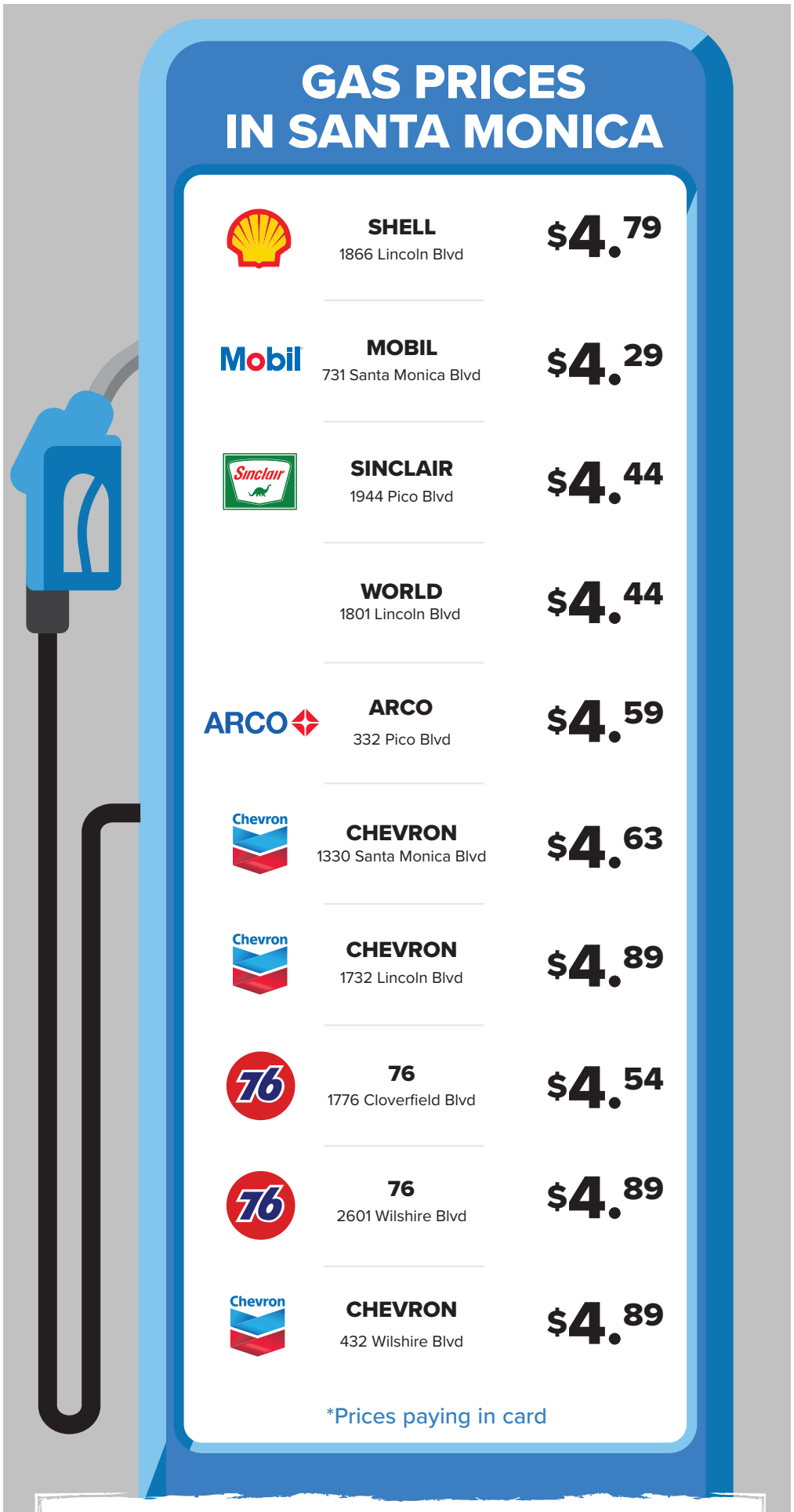
The ERP Honor Roll, part of the national Campaign for Business and Education Excellence, highlights schools effectively preparing students with fundamental skills needed for success in college, career and life.

This recognition is based on objective student achievement data and is the only school recognition program presented in partnership with state and local business leaders.

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Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 5.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.58/g , according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 14.0 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 10.3 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 4.7 cents compared to a week ago and stands at $3.638 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.87/g while the most expensive was $6.07/g, a difference of $2.20/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.19/g while the highest was $6.49/g, a difference of $3.30/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 2.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.00/g . The national average is down 10.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 7.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

TEACHER RETENTION

FROM PAGE 1

The district hired 67 new certificated staff members for the 2025-26 school year, including 49 classroom teachers, with significant needs in special education (22 hires) and general education (27 hires). The hiring data reflects ongoing challenges in filling high-need positions, particularly in special education, math and science.

The district's induction programs serve as cornerstone strategies for recruitment, training and retention goals, according to presentation materials from Melissa Winters, Director of Human Resources, who presented the staffing update alongside Tristen Gartrell, the district's induction coordinator.

"We have a total of 516 TK teachers, and of that, 32% or 166 current classroom teachers have been involved in the program either as a mentor or candidate in the past seven years," Winters told the board.

> Part of the commitment is that our workforce is reflective of our student population
>
> - Melissa Winters, Director of Human Resources

The district's teacher induction program, operating for over 25 years, pairs new teachers with experienced mentors for weekly one-hour sessions over two years. Teachers create individualized learning plans focused on district values of belonging, curiosity and empowerment. First-year candidates study values-centered teaching, while second-year participants focus on empowering student voice.

Data spanning seven years shows 32% of current classroom teachers have participated in the program either as mentors or candidates. Of the 57 teachers who completed the program, 75% achieved tenure and remained with the district.

"One of the most enduring values I acquired through my second year of induction was a deepened understanding of importance and impact of student-centered instruction," said one participating secondary English teacher. "Student-centered instruction is not all about changing strategies, it's about shifting mindset."

The district recently launched an administrator induction program, receiving state accreditation in 2023. The two-year program emphasizes equity-focused leadership, distinguishing between technical challenges with clear solutions and adaptive challenges requiring experimentation and listening skills.

"The program aims to support administrators through a two-year, job-embedded, individualized system of coaching and support," designed to develop leaders of "diverse, equity-focused, and inclusive school systems," according to the presentation.

Eleven administrator candidates have enrolled, with four completing the full program. Initial feedback highlights growth in listening skills and equity-centered leadership practices.

Despite program successes, diversity representation remains challenging. California Basic Educational Data System records show the district's certificated staff is 21.3% Hispanic or Latino, compared to 29.8% of students. The district has made gradual improvements across ethnic groups over five years, with Hispanic/Latino staff representation increasing from 16.9% in 2019-20 to 21.3% in 2024-25.

"Part of the commitment is that our workforce is reflective of our student population," Winters said, noting the highest underrepresentation remains in Hispanic/Latino groups.

Among departing induction program participants, the largest reason was non-reelection for various reasons including conduct or instructional fit. Other factors included commute issues, relocation due to housing costs, career changes and personal reasons.

The district plans to expand support by increasing new teacher onboarding from two to four days and exploring partnerships with historically Black colleges and universities and institutions with high Latino populations. Officials also plan to attend more in-person and virtual hiring fairs.

Board member Maria Leon-Vazquez praised the programs' effectiveness, saying "I think our program has really been really strong," noting that it helps teachers move beyond academic preparation to find their commitment to teaching. She suggested expanding recruitment at statewide education conferences.

The induction programs operate as recruitment incentives, offering services that other districts charge up to $8,000 for over two years. One special education teacher reportedly chose the district specifically because of the free program after facing fees at her previous district.

The district continues updating its employment policies to emphasize equal opportunities and diverse representation, with the goal of recruiting, hiring, training and promoting staff that reflects the communities served.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Pier

Pacific Park Ferris Wheel Features Halloween, Día de los Muertos Display

The Pacific Park Ferris wheel will feature 90-foot-tall ghosts, vampires and brightly colored sugar skulls for Halloween and Día de los Muertos through Sunday, Nov. 2.

The Pacific Wheel will display orange and red lights, patterns, emojis and more during the celebration period. Pacific Park will offer free entry to its new Funhouse on Halloween, Friday, Oct. 31, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Guests need only go to the Funhouse entrance for free admission.



@excuseyouproductions

PIER: Pacific Park Ferris Wheel Features 90-Feet-Tall Ghosts, Vampires and Brightly Colored Sugar Skulls.

The Pacific Wheel is the world's only solar-powered Ferris wheel featuring 174,000 LED lights mounted on the wheel's 40 spokes and two hubs. The lighting system features 16.7 million color value combinations while programming and display software presents imaging up to 24 frames per second for dynamic, custom, computer-generated lighting entertainment.

The eco-friendly LED lighting provides 81% greater energy savings than traditional incandescent bulbs used on most Ferris wheels.

The Ferris wheel soars nine stories high and lifts riders more than 130 feet above the Pacific Ocean, offering extraordinary views of the Southern California coastline from its Santa Monica Pier location.

The Ferris wheel light show runs from sunset (approximately 6:05 p.m.) to 12:30 a.m.

Pacific Park, located at 380 Santa Monica Pier, is Los Angeles' only admission-free amusement park, offering 12 amusement rides, 14 midway games, Snackville with five food offerings and seaside retail shopping.

Prices and operating hours are subject to change and may be affected by World Series lighting schedules.

For more information and operating hours, visit pacpark.com, Facebook.com/pacificpark, Instagram.com/pacpark or X.com/pacpark.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

VOTING

FROM PAGE 3

since Latino voters tend to lag other ethnic and racial groups in casting ballots.

Sen. Anna Caballero, Democrat of Merced, said U.S. citizens told her they're afraid to go outside, especially when there have been reports of ICE sightings in the region. Many of her constituents come from mixed-status families in which some family members are citizens and others aren't. She blames the Trump administration for terrifying those families so much that they don't want to leave their homes unless absolutely necessary.

"This idea that all you have to do is pull out your driver's license, or pull out some kind of documentation, that's a fantasy," said Caballero. "U.S. citizens have been detained and taken into custody."

A recent investigation by ProPublica found that at least 170 U.S. citizens have been wrongfully detained by ICE since the second Trump administration took office, prompting intense criticism from opponents. Top Democrats on the House and Senate government oversight committees, Rep. Robert Garcia of California and Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, have opened an investigation.

Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria, another Merced Democrat and the daughter of Mexican immigrants, said ever since the Supreme Court issued its racial profiling ruling earlier this summer, she keeps her passport in her bag at all times.

"Just because you may look like an immigrant — which I don't even know what that really means — you know, I could also be targeted," Soria said.

'MY VOICE WILL BE HEARD'

Opponents of Newsom's redistricting plan say the governor's warnings about Election Day intimidation and interference from federal agents are exaggerated.

"People see it for what it is. It's politics, it's headline-grabbing," said Hector Barajas, a spokesperson for the No on 50 campaign.

Barajas denounced Democrats for what he said was intentional disenfranchisement of nonwhite voters, since white college-educated voters are historically far more likely to turn out during off-year elections.

"This is what happens with special elections, is people don't turn out to vote, especially Hispanics, which is a sad tragedy in itself," Barajas said.

Martinez said Democratic Party volunteers are for the first time urging voters to return their ballots early via mail or drop-off when they go door to door and handing out pamphlets with instructions for how to report any suspicious activity near polling sites.

The party has also trained hundreds of volunteers as poll watchers who will monitor polling sites for signs of intimidation or federal interference starting the weekend before Election Day.

Arana, with the Latino Community Foundation, said he's choosing to vote in person as an act of defiance.

"I'm seeing this as a form of a declaration that I am a Latino man in the state," he said. "My voice will be heard on this issue, and no one is ever gonna take that right away from me."

Maya C. Miller, CalMatters Politics Reporter

'Tis the Season '25 | smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

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ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

election monitoring as voters prepare to decide whether to temporarily hand congressional redistricting back to the Legislature.

The Nov. 4 election features only one item on the ballot: Proposition 50, which would replace California's independent redistricting commission with a Legislature-drawn congressional map through 2030. The single-issue contest has generated extraordinary national attention and controversy for what Weber called "a very small election."

"This is a very, I say it's a little election. It's a yes, no answer in a statewide election, and yet it has generated a tremendous amount of interest," Weber said during a virtual media briefing Tuesday morning.

As of two days ago, nearly 5 million Californians had already cast ballots in the special election, Weber said. The state mailed approximately 23 million ballots to all registered voters in early October.

UNIQUE ELECTION RAISES SECURITY CONCERNS

The special election differs from typical California contests not just in its timing and singular focus, but in the security preparations surrounding it. Weber spent considerable time addressing an emerging dispute over Republican Party efforts to deploy what they call "federal monitors" to five California counties.

Weber's office was not notified in advance of the monitoring plan, she said, learning of it only through press releases. State attorneys have informed federal officials that this is a state election, not a federal one, and therefore does not fall under federal jurisdiction.

"The monitoring that occurs during an election is really triggered by complaints that the court has decided is valid," Weber said. Without court orders, she said, those who wish to observe California elections have the same rights as any other citizen but no special authority.

"They do not have the authority to come in and to change things, to alter things, to move things," Weber said. She emphasized that would-be monitors cannot bring weapons into polling places or position themselves close enough to see how people vote or observe signatures on documents.

Anyone attempting to intimidate voters faces prosecution and removal from polling sites, Weber warned.

"Anyone who comes in with a gun or anything of that nature with the intent to intimidate people in the voting place, that is a violation, and they will be incarcerated," she said.

MULTIPLE VOTING OPTIONS, POSTAL SERVICE CONCERNS

California's "more days, more ways" voting system provides 11 days of early voting, with all registered voters receiving mail ballots that require no postage to return. The state offers multiple secure ballot drop boxes throughout each county, in-person early voting that began in October and traditional Election Day polling from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

However, Weber raised new concerns about the U.S. Postal Service's ability to postmark ballots mailed on Election Day itself. In some areas where collection boxes are not within a certain distance, the Postal Service cannot guarantee same-day postmarking, she said.

"We're encouraging everyone to vote early to make sure if, especially if they're using the Postal Service, to at least put their ballot in the mailbox but at least by the third of November, to ensure that it is going to be postmarked," Weber said.

Voters who use official ballot drop boxes can deposit ballots as late as Election Day and have them counted, she said. The steel drop boxes, which Weber repeatedly described as highly secure, are located at libraries, community centers and other public facilities throughout the state.

"Those mailboxes are steel. They're probably the most secure thing we have in voting," Weber said.

Voters who never received a ballot, lost one or damaged it can obtain a replacement ballot. The original ballot will be voided to prevent any possibility of double voting, Weber said.

The state's voter hotline—1-800-345-VOTE—remains open through Election Day evening for anyone experiencing difficulties or wishing to report intimidation or irregularities.

"If you see something, or you have something that you know that is taking place that's not correct, get as much information as you can without necessarily disrupting the system," Weber said, urging people to note license plate numbers, specific locations and other details when reporting concerns.

MONITORING AND OBSERVATION PROTOCOLS

California has always had election monitors, Weber explained, but these are typically trained state employees who ensure polling places open on time, that voting equipment is properly positioned to protect voter privacy, and that no violations of election law occur.

The state also allows citizen observers, who can watch ballot processing and counting from designated areas. Observers cannot get close enough to see individual ballots or voters' names, but can observe the general process. Such observation has been permitted since the start of the 11-day early voting period.

"We always have persons who come in and who basically observe the election that's taking place. They have a right to do that and we allow them to do that," Weber said.

But observers must maintain proper distance, cannot touch election materials, and cannot interfere with the voting process or intimidate voters. If too many observers appear and threaten to block voters from accessing polling places, election officials will limit access to ensure voting continues unimpeded.

The distinction Weber drew repeatedly was that legitimate observers operate under California law and county registrar protocols, while those claiming to be federal monitors have no court authorization and no special authority beyond what any citizen possesses.

Attorney General Rob Bonta's office has prepared volunteer attorneys trained in election law to respond quickly to any legal issues that arise, Weber said, a standard practice for all California elections.

LANGUAGE ACCESS AND OUTREACH

California provides election materials in 10 languages, with Spanish-language resources the most extensive given the state's large Hispanic population. Voters can request assistance from anyone except employers or union representatives when filling out ballots, either at polling places or at home.

Addressing concerns in Latino communities about immigration enforcement at polling places, Weber encouraged voters who feel uncomfortable voting in person to use the secure ballot drop boxes instead.

"If you feel uncomfortable about it, use our mailbox," Weber said. "Put your ballot into that steel ballot box that's very secure that you can't reach in and get anything out."

Voters who register for California's "Where's My Ballot?" tracking system receive notifications when their ballot is received, opened and counted, providing additional assurance.

WHAT PROPOSITION 50 WOULD DO

Proposition 50 is a legislatively referred constitutional amendment that would temporarily replace California's current congressional map, drawn by the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, with a new map created by the state Legislature. The Legislature-drawn map would be used for elections from 2026 through 2030. After the 2030 census, the independent commission would regain authority to draw new districts for 2031 and beyond.

The proposition also expresses California's symbolic support for requiring independent redistricting commissions in all states, though this language has no binding effect on federal law.

A yes vote means California would use the Legislature-drawn congressional map until 2030. A no vote keeps the existing commission-drawn map in place until after the next census.

WHY IT'S ON THE BALLOT

Democratic legislative leaders placed Proposition 50 on the ballot in direct response to Texas Republicans adopting new U.S. House maps in August 2025—an unusual mid-decade redistricting undertaken without any court order. Texas Republicans openly acknowledged their goal was partisan advantage, with the plan projected to add up to five Republican congressional seats.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and California legislative leaders argued they needed to "fight fire with fire" to protect representation. They contend using a Democratic-leaning map in California for the next few elections would "nullify what happens in Texas" by roughly offsetting those five seats, with the important distinction that California's change would be approved by voters rather than imposed unilaterally.

Analysts estimated the Legislature's proposed map could allow California Democrats to flip as many as five currently Republican-held House seats if Prop 50 passes.

California voters created the independent citizens' commission in 2010 to remove redistricting from politicians' hands, with rules against favoring incumbents or splitting communities. The commission's 2021 map was expected to remain through 2030.

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR

Supporters—including Newsom, the California Democratic Party, former President Barack Obama, U.S. Senators Alex Padilla and Elizabeth Warren, and former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi—call Proposition 50 the "Election Rigging Response Act" and argue it's necessary to counter unprecedented Republican gerrymandering.

They characterize it as a temporary, emergency measure to "level the playing field" so GOP gerrymanders elsewhere don't unfairly dilute Californians' congressional voice. The measure expires after 2030, after which California's independent redistricting would resume.

"We can't unilaterally disarm" when other states are gerrymandering, Newsom has said.

Supporters argue California is taking a stand for democracy by enacting an emergency map through a vote of the people. They note the proposal reaffirms California's long-term commitment to independent redistricting and urges a national move toward nonpartisan map-drawing in all 50 states.

Backing comes from organizations including Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, the NAACP and teachers' unions. The national House Majority PAC is a top donor supporting the measure.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

Opponents—including the California Republican Party, virtually all state GOP elected officials, former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and several members of California's first Citizens Redistricting Commission—call Proposition 50 a cynical power grab that betrays California's commitment to fair elections.

They argue California voters overwhelmingly established the independent commission to stop lawmakers from drawing their own districts. Prop 50 would "throw out citizen-drawn maps" from a transparent public process in favor of boundaries "secretly drawn" by politicians behind closed doors, critics say.

Opponents reject fighting gerrymandering with more gerrymandering, warning that escalating partisan map-drawing will erode democracy long-term. They argue California would lose moral authority by abandoning its nonpartisan process, potentially normalizing tit-for-tat gerrymanders nationwide.

The Legislature-drawn map is accused of splitting cities and counties more often than the citizen map, weakening local representation. Critics contend it eliminates protections against drawing lines to favor parties or incumbents.

Opponents also criticize holding a special election solely for this amendment, estimating the cost at around $200 million. Conservative donor Charles Munger Jr., a key funder of the 2008 redistricting reform, has contributed to the opposition campaign.

Business groups including the California Farm Bureau and Manufacturers Association, along with the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, urge a no vote. Several past redistricting commission members argue Prop 50 undermines their work.

VOTING DETAILS

All registered California voters received mail ballots by early October. Ballots can be returned by mail if postmarked by Election Day or dropped in official ballot drop boxes available in every county through 8 p.m. on Nov. 4.

In-person voting began Oct. 6 at county election offices and vote centers. Polling places will be open Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The registration deadline was Oct. 20, though California allows same-day voter registration at polling sites.

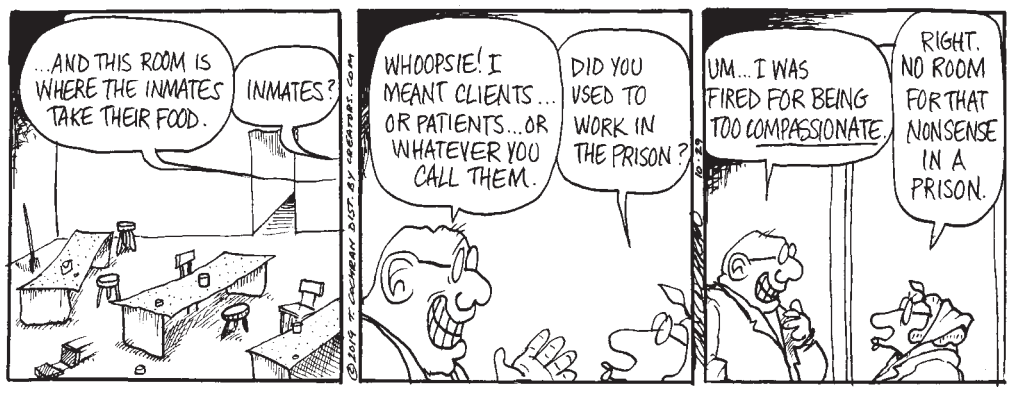
Weber emphasized that regardless of the national attention and controversy, California's election security measures remain robust and voting access remains broad.

"We want to make sure that everyone understands that California is very serious about voting, and we are protective of the things that we see that are very important and that no one should ever be intimidated at the polling place," Weber said.

editor@smdp.com

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



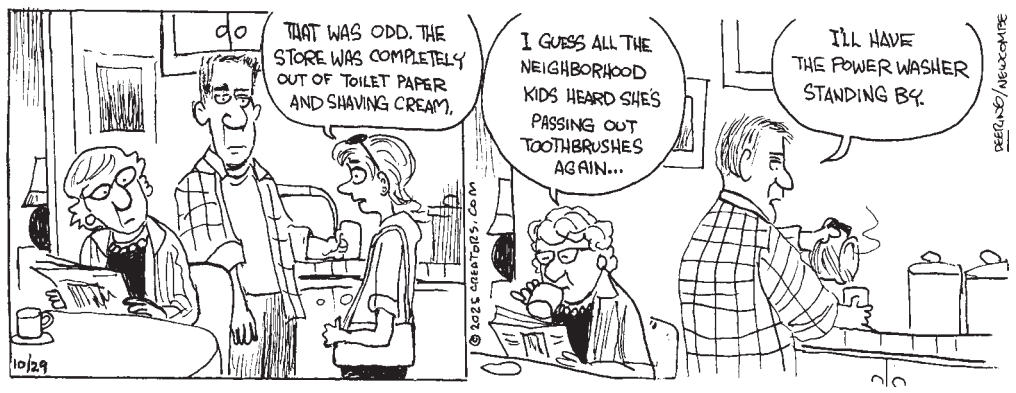
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



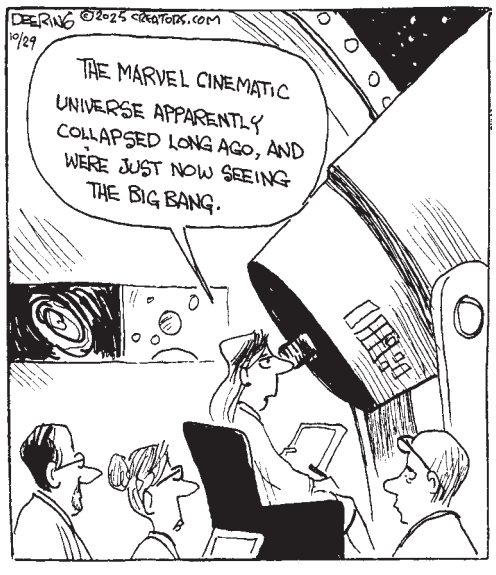
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



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

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Aussie dictionary

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

Ambo	Daggy	Green	Ogle	Surf
Ammo	Daks	Grog	Oldies	Swag
Beach	Demo	Guff	Opal	Tinny
Beer	Dill	Half-cut	Pash	Toey
Buckley's chance	Diving Duds	Harbour Bridge	Rage Rainbow	Togs Twits
Bush	Egos	Hobo	Serpent	Two up
Catch	Esky	Ice	Rest	Upter
City	Geezer	Mate	Sickie	Urger
Cobber	Good	Moon	Snag	Yack
Crikey	onya	Mulga	Snooker	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 29)

Welcome to your Year of Magnetic Encounters. People show up with opportunities that are so right for you. Work gets easier because you attract stellar collaborators. Love feels inevitable and abundant, which makes the work of relationships fulfilling. More highlights: Your name spreads in new circles. A project gets picked up and carried across the goal line. Contributions to long-term wealth. Virgo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 19, 7, 41 and 23.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Indecision ties up mental energy. Don't agonize, because today's choices aren't that different from one another and what you choose doesn't matter too much. Every decision clears space and creates confidence, which fuels the next choice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You notice how people change and grow. In some ways, their process is your process, because when one person changes, the relationship changes. Love is caring enough to acknowledge change - and to balance it, too. Love is constant adjustment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're looking for the next horizon. The horizon is also looking for you. It's your enthusiasm and readiness that opens one opportunity after another in the weeks to come. Keep moving forward and fate meets you halfway.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You can put someone's idea into words the other person understands. You will smooth over tension when opinions or tastes clash. You will soften awkwardness and deescalate conflict so things don't blow up. When you're involved, disconnects turn into connection.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A friend waits for you to text because they assume you're too busy. A stranger holds back a compliment, unsure. You can't know how others observe you, but chances are, they are waiting for you to make the first move.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). This game you're playing is pretty long. Not every turn needs to be a play for the win. Some moves are meant to get you to the next move, and that is enough. Today, focus on whatever gives you momentum.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Restlessness feels uncomfortable. Don't let it go on and on. Take the agitation as a signal to move. If you cannot or should not change locations, can you change your focus where you are? Can you travel inward? Can you approach it differently?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). In life and in video games, you don't have to keep the first avatar you started the game with. You're free to start over and choose your new skin whenever you want. Today brings brilliant ideas and resources for your next incarnation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Avoid throwing money at problems that can't be fixed with money. Don't go in with cookies when it's hugs that are needed. And why shout when a whisper works better? Every solution has its perfect match - choose wisely.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Rise high enough above a situation and what seems like a huge loss or gain appears relatively insignificant. You'll be reminded not to cling too tightly to outcomes because both triumphs and setbacks will pass.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What if your personal growth isn't just private? What if it's a social catalyst too? The more you learn about yourself and the world, the more you tilt the collective field. "If you want to awaken all of humanity, awaken all of yourself." - Lao Tzu

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Poor listeners interrupt, are easily distracted and seem to lie in waiting, ready to hijack the conversation in the space of a breath. Today, you'll have the opposite: rare and disarming attention that lifts the conversation by hearing you well.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

2	7	4					6	
			7		6	4		
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Newsday Crossword

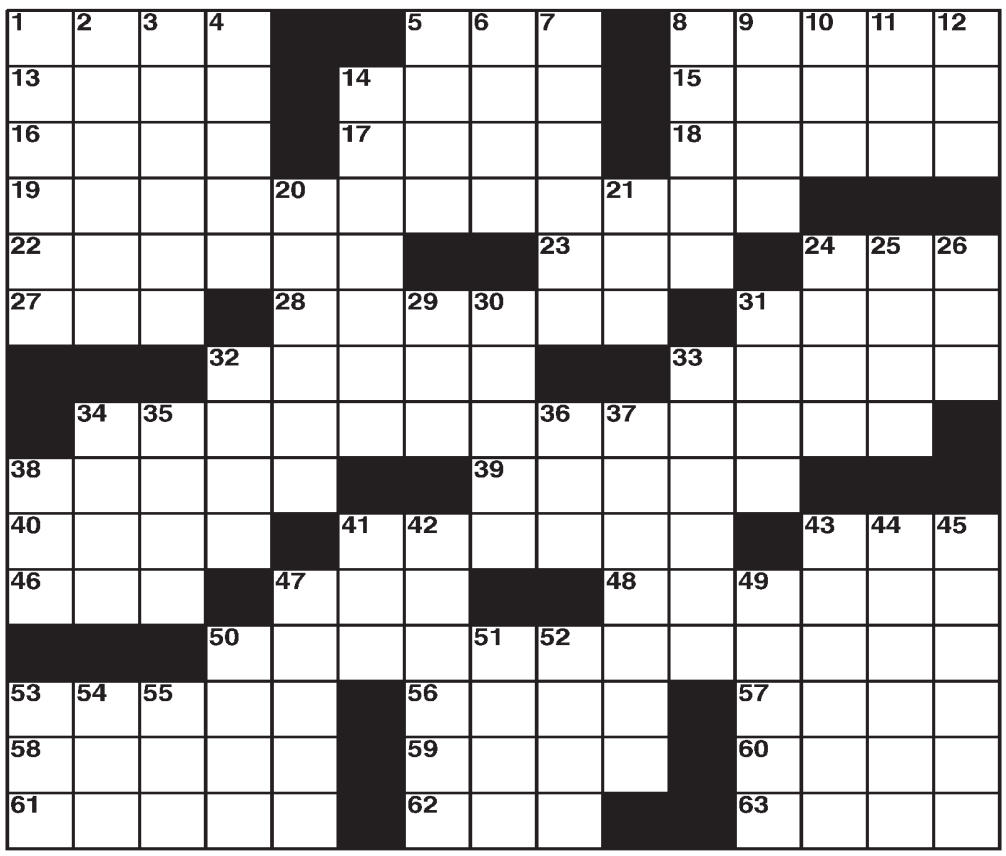
HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT by Jay Silverman
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Paper tablets
5 Winter ailment
8 Dish holding a dinner
13 Fencing blade
14 Raisin __ cereal
15 Hard work
16 Nary a soul
17 Take a break
18 Indoor pro sports venue
19 *Mayflower* landing spot
22 Sci-fi beings
23 Luau instrument
24 Gear tooth
27 Area with parking spaces
28 Main ideas
31 Surface for surfing
32 Transports by truck
33 With a flat surface
34 Covering for a gift box
38 Competition award
39 *Beauty and the* __
40 Neat and orderly
41 Obtain entry to
43 Home security co.
46 Had some food
47 Spanish cheer
48 Just right
50 Manicurist's tool
53 Parcel out
56 Be entitled to
57 Grumpy mood
58 Dog collar attachment
59 Internet diary
60 Roof overhang
61 Knives' sharp parts
62 Do tailoring
63 Snow day toy

DOWN

1 Snail mail buddy
2 NASA's first lunar program
3 Plead not guilty, say
4 Message from a teacher
5 Worry (about)
6 Eyelid attachment
7 Not factual
8 There's no __ like home
9 "Happy as a" songbird
10 Prez on Mount Rushmore
11 Whole bunch
12 Chapter of history
14 Get good at a skill again
20 Preserved with a cassette
21 Authorizes
24 Bat's underground home
25 Higher than
26 Hair-styling goo
29 Yale student
30 *Morning Joe* airer
31 Was in tears
32 Hard to view, as through fog
33 Rodeo ropes
34 Judicial document
35 Hitchhiker's hope
36 "Amazing!"
37 Cutting and __ (word-processor activity)
38 HS support org.
41 Boxing great Muhammad
42 Famous people, for short
43 Lacking a musical key
44 Originate (from)
45 Tried out
47 Solemn vows
49 Donkeys
50 Aroma detector
51 Discount event
52 Raven relative
53 Pub beverage
54 Was ahead of everyone else
55 Trail behind



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10/29/25

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

POWER

FROM PAGE 2

with LADWP reserving the option to blend in as much as 30% hydrogen if the fuel becomes available and affordable.

> An investment in hydrogen comes with an opportunity cost
>
> - Alex Jasset, director of energy justice at Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles

"You're spending a lot of money on a technology that doesn't currently exist," said Julia Dowell, a Long Beach-based organizer with the Sierra Club, who's led opposition to the Scattergood plan. "We don't really know when it will come to fruition — if at all."

For now, this is a natural gas plant, said Dan Esposito, a hydrogen expert with the clean energy think tank Energy Innovation. "In a place with high local air pollution, in a place that has these high clean energy goals … should we be building a new gas plant if there are other clean technologies that we can invest in that we have more certainty will deliver on those clean energy targets? It's a very tough question."

In a recent analysis, the city's ratepayer advocate said the financial setback "doesn't close the door on clean hydrogen" but nevertheless raises questions about who ultimately pays for the project — and how the utility will balance its clean-energy goals with affordability.

THE RISKS AHEAD

LA's water and power commissioners are likely to approve Scattergood's modernization on Tuesday. The vote won't start construction, but it will clear the way for the city's department of water and power to seek builders and finalize designs.

The decision also points up a tough question for California's hydrogen strategy: without federal support, are public agencies investing scarce climate dollars in the right places?

Scattergood's environmental review drew nearly 100 comments from residents, neighboring cities and advocacy groups.

The city of El Segundo warned that emissions and construction traffic could spill across its borders. Business groups backed the plan as a source of jobs and grid reliability. Meanwhile environmental groups warned of harms both locally and beyond.

Building even one major hydrogen project like Scattergood means committing to an entire network of pipelines, storage and supply.

"An investment in hydrogen comes with an opportunity cost," said Alex Jasset, director of energy justice at Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles, who opposes the project. "We're dumping a lot of our very limited resources for addressing the climate crisis into an inefficient, expensive option when we could be instead investing in cheaper, more scalable, more immediate benefits."

Jasset said that the infrastructure for hydrogen projects will mostly be paid for by Californians – through taxes, utility bills, or state business fees. And if those projects fall short, they risk prolonging fossil-fuel infrastructure in neighborhoods already burdened by pollution.

Esposito, the analyst at Energy Innovation, says the Trump Administration's cancellation of the hydrogen hub award, and the loss of federal credits, might offer a silver lining.

"There was so much money for hydrogen, and so much excitement, that we were frankly at risk of making a lot of bad decisions," Esposito said. "There were all these proposals that were coming out that were not on solid financial ground — and needed these big subsidies — and then a lot of this money dried up overnight."

As Los Angeles considers its major project, Esposito added, the state's hydrogen boosters are getting something essential: a reality check. The challenge now is whether that clarity can guide smarter investments — and a more sustainable path forward.

Alejandro Lazo, CalMatters Climate Reporter

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

her successor — which is how she got her congressional seat in 1987.

San Francisco politics have a long history of control by a few powerful factions, most prominently one created in the 1950s by Willie Brown, brothers Phillip and John Burton and George Moscone.

The Burtons both served in Congress. John Burton was a long-time legislative leader and Moscone, then the city's mayor, was assassinated in 1978.

Brown, now 91 and the only one of them still alive, wields massive influence in the city, after being the longest-tenured Assembly speaker and winning two terms as mayor. He was instrumental in the careers of Newsom and former Vice President Kamala Harris.

Pelosi, born into a powerful political family in Baltimore, continued the family business in 1963 after marrying Paul Pelosi, scion of an influential San Francisco family, and moving to his city.

She integrated into the Brown-Burton-Moscone organization. When Phillip Burton died in 1983, his widow, Sala, took over his congressional seat and then, before dying in 1987, designated Pelosi as her successor.

San Francisco media have speculated that if Pelosi steps down, she might favor Connie Chan, a city supervisor, as her successor, noting that Chan was the only local official to speak alongside Pelosi at a recent Prop. 50 rally. However, it's also been rumored that daughter Christine Pelosi might want to succeed her mother.

That's the way things have gone in San Francisco for decades. Will it continue or is evolution in the air?

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist



WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 29

MAKERSPACE AKA CRAFTERNOON

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Makerspace Aka Crafternoon Join us for a shared DIY space. Feel free to bring your own crafting project, or just come for inspiration and community. We provide button maker, sewing machine, and basic craft. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/makerspace-aka-crafternoon/15748880/2025-10-29T15

CINEHAUS MOVIE NIGHTS

7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. The Eden Hotel 1301 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica. CineHaus presents: Sunset Screenings at The Eden Step into old Hollywood charm as CineHaus transforms the courtyard of The Eden Hotel into a dreamy open-air cinema. Grab a cocktail or a hot drink, settle under the stars, and lose yourself in iconic films the way they were meant to be seen — together. From hot popcorn and candy to s'mores, we've got everything you need for the perfect movie night. Cozy, timeless, unforgettable — only at CineHaus. Dates vary — check our lineup! Doors 7:30 PM | Movie 8:00 PM | Tickets - buytickets.at/cinehaus | First-come seating Drinks, snacks, s'mores & good vibes every time. Bottle service inquiries: nikita@nolongernetwork.com. Gift certificates: tickettailor.com/events/cinehaus/store. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/cinehaus-movie-nights/16585124/2025-10-29T19

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 30

JUDD APATOW WITH MARC MARON

8:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. The Ann and Jerry Moss Theater-New Roads School Herb Alpert Educational Village 3131 Olympic Blvd. Santa Monica. Discussing his memoir, "Comedy Nerd: A Lifelong Obsession in Stories and Pictures". Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/judd-apatow-with-marc-maron/16991581/2025-10-30T20

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 31

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-/15793351/2025-10-31T08

2025 TRICK OR TREAT DOWNTOWN

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 1351 Third Street Promenade. Ready for a trick-or-treating adventure in Downtown Santa Monica? Halloween Party on the Promenade Join us on Third Street Promenade for a Monster Mash for all ages! Dogs are more than welcome to join the fun too (and hopefully wearing costumes of their own…) The party will include : Kid-friendly costumed characters Mini Pumpkin Patch - Pick your FREE pumpkin! (first come, first served) Pumpkin decorating Appearances by special guests! Games Face painting Photo ops Arts & Crafts Free treats, stickers, and tattoos And more! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/2025-trick-or-treat-downtown/16679542/2025-10-31T15

THE OFFICIAL HALLOWEEN BAR CRAWL (FRI & SAT)

4:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. Cabo Cantina 1240 3rd Street Promenade Santa Monica. Get ready to celebrate Halloween like never before! On October 31st and November 1st, join us in Santa Monica for a spooktacular TWO-DAY bar crawl featuring creepy cocktails, outrageous costumes, and an electrifying atmosphere. We're making our way through Santa Monica's top bars with exclusive drink deals, Halloween-themed entertainment, and surprises lurking around every corner. Grab your friends and throw on your most hilarious, horrifying, or out-of-this-world outfits—because this night is all about bold looks and big scares. Each stop on the crawl will bring a new vibe, from bone-rattling beats to ghoulishly good drinks. Whether you're dressed as a vampire, villain, or just out to vibe, this is the place to be for Halloween night. Santa Monica is turning up the fright and fun — and you won't want to miss a moment. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-official-halloween-bar-crawl-fri-sat-/16355332/2025-10-31T16

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

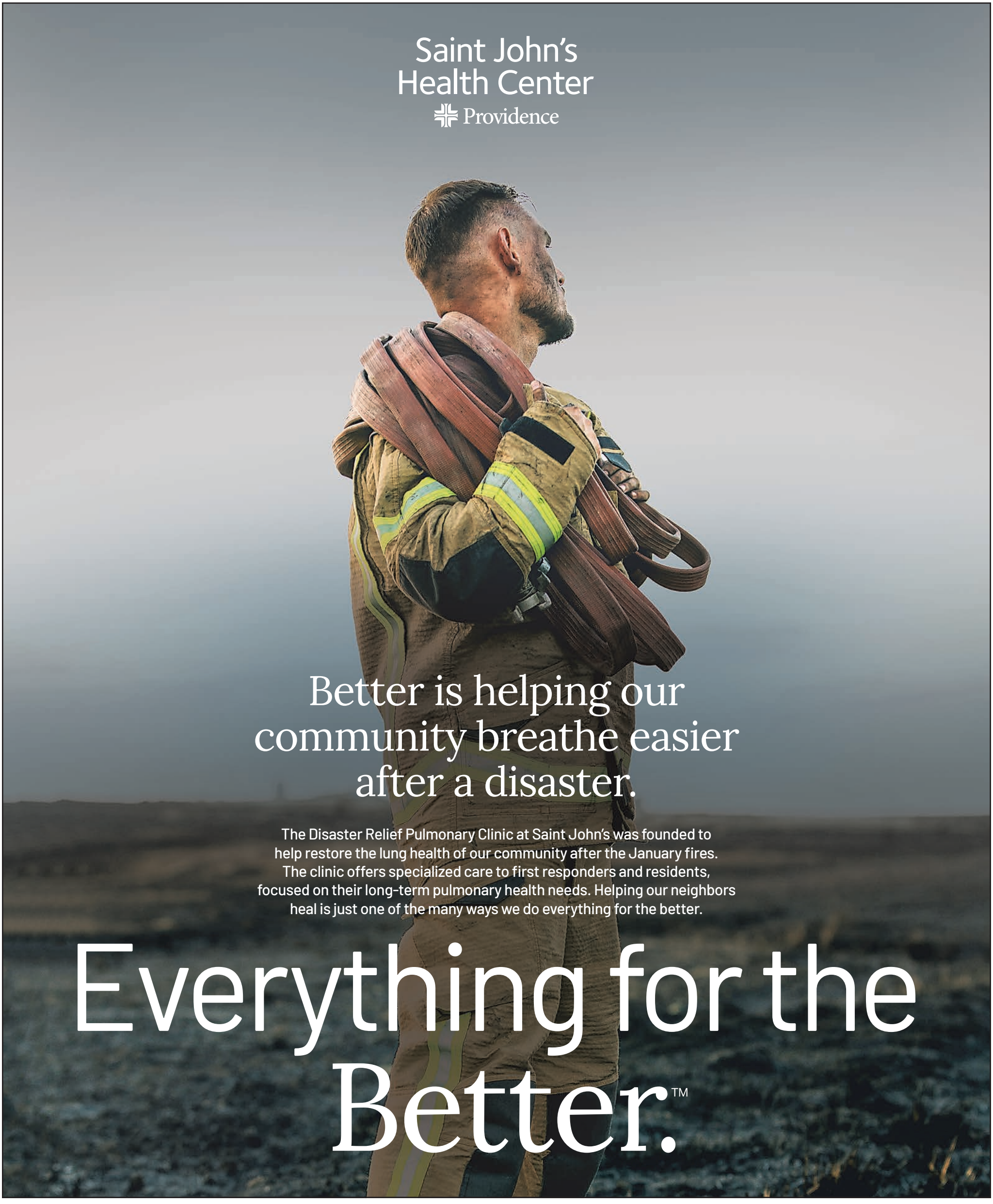
6:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. Britannia Pub 318 Santa Monica Blvd Los Angeles. Barcrawlerz is a Santa Monica Bar Crawl like no other. Trick or Drink features The Best Drink Specials and The Best Bars in Town. This is a THREE DAY EVENT! Saturday, October 25th: 4PM-2AM (Registration 4PM-10PM). Friday, October 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-/16913358/2025-10-31T18

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/14385252/2025-10-31T18

Saint John's Health Center

Providence



Better is helping our community breathe easier after a disaster.

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

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