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L.A. Cancer Challenge funds pancreatic research.

5 **Steep Discount**
Santa Monica Clock Tower changes hands.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 25 Issue 245 THE WEEKENDER 10/30-11/1 smdp.com

Santa Monica woman's six-year probe of Studio City 'rescue' preceded Los Angeles lawsuit

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

When Santa Monica resident Ashley Oelsen learned in 2020 that a Los Angeles-area rescue was flying 100 dogs saved from China's meat trade to Washington state she jumped into action to help. However, by the time the

SEE **DOG RESCUE** PAGE 6

Rain could dampen Halloween night as Santa Monica readies events, street closures

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A storm system moving into Southern California could bring rain to Santa Monica on Halloween, with showers expected to peak Saturday evening as trick-or-treaters head out, according to the National Weather Service.

The weather service puts the chance of rain at about 70% for most of the Los Angeles

SEE **HALLOWEEN** PAGE 11

Paper lunch bags that helped feed nearly 1 million become gallery art in Santa Monica

Courtesy Image

COMMUNITY: (L-R) John Billingsley, Olivia Matsusaka, Jon Burke and Loren Segan at Hollywood Food Coalition lunch bag drop-off.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

For six years, volunteers have turned plain paper lunch bags into tiny works of art, packed them with meals and sent them to hungry Angelenos. This weekend, the bags get a gallery wall of their own.

Westside H.O.D.G., a volunteer group whose initials stand for Hang Out Do Good, will host a one-night Lunch Bag Art Exhibition from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1, at Craig Krull Gallery in the Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Ave., No. B3.

The show celebrates the artists and lunch makers behind the Sunday Lunch Bag Project, which organizers say has fed nearly 1 million hungry people across Los Angeles since 2020. Donations will support the project, Westside H.O.D.G. and the group's student clubs at Santa Monica and Culver

SEE **PAPER BAGS** PAGE 6

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FOOD REVIEW

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

ORLA brings excellent mediterranean glamour (and flaming cheese) overlooking the Pacific

There are restaurants where you go because you're hungry. There are others you go for the vibe. And there are restaurants where you go because someone in your group says, "Let's order the one they light on fire."

ORLA, Michael Mina's Mediterranean-inspired restaurant inside the Regent Santa Monica Beach hotel, happily checks all three boxes.

Hotel restaurants have a reputation problem. Too often they're convenient rather than compelling—the kind of place you end up because the elevator is nearby. ORLA makes a convincing case that hotel dining deserves another look. The dining room is a stunner! With ocean views, warm wood accents, and an open-air feel, it's the sort of place that practically begs you to order "just one more cocktail" while convincing yourself you're actually on vacation. Fortunately, the kitchen backs up the scenery.

Drawing inspiration from Greece and Egypt, the menu walks a line between familiar and adventurous, with plenty of seafood, bright citrus, fragrant herbs, and just enough tableside theater to keep neighboring diners wondering what you've ordered. Thankfully, the spectacle and the epic views never overshadow the food.

Courtesy Image

DINING: Michael Mina's ORLA at the Regent serves Greek and Egyptian dishes with ocean views and tableside drama.

WHAT TO ORDER

The obvious place to begin is their signature spanakopita, assembled and finished tableside. It's flaky, buttery, packed with spinach, leeks, and feta, and somehow manages to make a dish your Greek grandmother has been making for decades feel brand new.

Get the marinated bigeye tuna, served with Egyptian falafel, whipped tahini, spicy cucumbers, and Urfa pepper. It's an inventive combination that somehow feels both familiar and unexpected.

Don't overlook the Macaroni Bechamel if it's on the menu. Think of it as Egypt's answer to lasagna—layers of pasta, richly seasoned meat ragù, and silky béchamel baked until the top develops a beautifully golden crust. It's comforting, decadent, and the kind of dish that makes everyone at the table pause after the first bite, look up, and silently agree they should have ordered a second one.

The grilled octopus is another standout. Tender enough to convert even the skeptics, it's paired with gigante beans, capers, and red onion in a dish that's equal parts rustic and refined.

If you're ordering a main course, lean into the seafood. The whole fish preparations are beautifully simple, allowing fresh fish, lemon, oregano, and olive oil to do what they've been doing around the Mediterranean for centuries. The grilled lamb chops are an excellent alternative if someone at the table insists dinner should have four legs.

And yes, order the saganaki! There are few meals that aren't improved by setting cheese on fire.

Definitely save room for dessert! "The Lemon"—a playful combination of olive oil cake, citrus mousse, and bright lemon flavors—is as photogenic as it is delicious.

SEE **FOOD** PAGE 5

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Santa Monica College names Long Beach City College finance chief as next president

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica College trustees on Wednesday appointed Candace D. Jones, the chief business officer at Long Beach City College, as the school's next superintendent/president. She will take over a campus under accreditation scrutiny and facing a multimillion-dollar structural deficit.

Jones, who is vice president of administrative and business services at LBCC, will succeed Kathryn E. Jeffery, who retires Dec. 31 after more than a decade leading the college. Jones is expected to start no later than Jan. 1, 2027.

"We are thrilled that Dr. Jones has accepted our offer to be Santa Monica College's new superintendent/president," said board Chair Sion Roy. He called her "the ideal person to lead Santa Monica College at a time when we face challenges as well as great opportunities."

Jones said she was "deeply honored by the Board of Trustees' confidence."

"I believe great colleges are built by people who share a commitment to something larger than themselves," Jones said. "Together, we will continue to strengthen trust, expand educational opportunity, and transform lives for generations to come."

Jones has 18 years of leadership experience in the California Community Colleges system, the University of California and private higher education.

At Long Beach City College, she oversees finance, facilities and capital construction, information technology, campus safety, business operations and student housing. According to SMC, she manages about $2 billion in unrestricted, restricted, capital and bond resources, including a capital program of more than $750 million.

The college said Jones eliminated a $7 million structural deficit at LBCC within her first year. It also said she aligned resources to support enrollment growth, which produced the largest entering class in that college's history. She has also led student housing projects and public-private partnerships aimed at students' basic needs.

Before Long Beach, Jones was assistant superintendent and vice president of business and administrative services at Pasadena City College. She earlier served there as associate vice president of information technology services and chief technology officer. At the University of California Office of the President, she was senior executive director of applications and data services.

Jones was the first in her family to attend college and is a UC Davis Wheelhouse Fellow. She holds a doctorate in education in equity and social change from Saint Mary's College of California, and bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Pepperdine University. Her research examines equity, belonging and institutional culture in higher education.

Her honors include the 1865 Courageous Leader Award from LBCC, Champion of Belonging recognition from the Chief Information Systems Officers Association, and the University of California Commitment to Culture and Principles Award. She serves on the board of the Statewide Association of Community Colleges, among other professional roles.

Photo Courtesy of Candace D. Jones, Ed.D.
HIRED: The Santa Monica College (SMC) Board of Trustees voted Wednesday, Oct. 28 to appoint Candace D. Jones, Ed.D. as SMC's new superintendent/president. Jones is currently vice president of administrative & business services and chief business officer at Long Beach City College; she brings 18 years of progressively responsible leadership in the California Community Colleges system, the University of California, and private higher education.

The appointment caps a turbulent search. SMC paused recruitment weeks after a search committee of students, faculty, classified professionals, managers and community members finished its work. In a message to employees, Vice President of Human Resources Tre'Shawn Hall-Baker cited "unforeseen circumstances" but gave no further explanation. Some college officials speculated that the institution's ongoing problems had led candidates to withdraw. Trustees said they would reevaluate the process and take the time needed "to get this decision right."

The search came during one of the hardest stretches in the college's recent history.

In July, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges placed SMC under enhanced monitoring after the college scored "at-risk" on the commission's Composite Financial Index. The commission cited four problems:

a structural deficit spanning three straight years

a significantly unfunded retiree benefits liability

a 34% drop in cash reserves over three years

SEE **SMC** PAGE 6

Surf report — WATER TEMP: **72.1**

FRIDAY
FAIR
SURF: 3-4ft
Waist to chest

SSW swell continues to trend up. Decent shot there's enough NW for semi broken up shape. While it won't be as big as the run of Southern Hemi swell we've been on, the end of October into early November gets another series of overlapping SW/SSW swells. Size comes up into Halloween weekend, with the first couple of days in November looking largest on the SPAC swells. Probably enough NW energy to break shape up initially. Then WNW/NW swell could add some additional size to the equation the first few+ days in November. Will be on conditions watch with another coastal low possible.

SATURDAY
FAIR
SURF: 3-4ft+
Waist to shoulder

Fun size off old and new SSW swells, most push end of day. Just enough NW for some corners. Clean morning conditions look likely with a nice tide push to start the day. Knee-waist high surf, pushing chest-shoulder high better breaks, mostly west of Dume. Those bigger sets having a little more push in the afternoon as the tide drops and more long period energy shows. Not much NW energy in the mix, but at least enough for some beachbreak corners. I don't expect peaks, but broken up lines and some open corners.

Weather

Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly after 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 67.
Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers. Cloudy, with a low around 62. South southwest wind around 5 mph.
Saturday: A 40 percent chance of showers. Cloudy, with a low around 62. South southwest wind around 5 mph
Saturday Night: Showers. Low around 61. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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

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

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11 13 16 47 60
Power#: 13
Jackpot: 760 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/27
14 19 21 45 67
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 463 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 10/28
2 25 30 34 42
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 10 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/28
4 13 16 23 26

Daily 3
Draw Date: 10/28
EVENING: 0 6 4
Draw Date: 10/28
MIDDAY: 9 8 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 10/28
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:41.22

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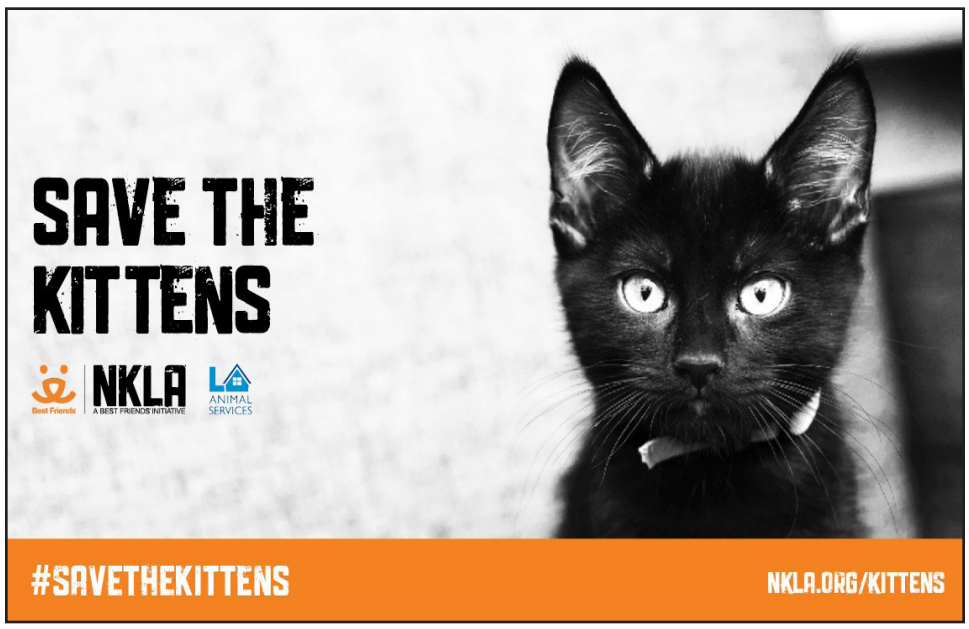
Santa Monica Daily Press



City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

SANTA MONICA
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
SANTA MONICA CITY HALL

DATE/TIME: Monday, November 02, 2026, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 250

PUBLIC HEARING:

1338 5th Street (26ARB-0066): Multi-Unit Residential
Review of the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of an 8-story multi-family residential project consisting of 110 market rate units above 3 levels of subterranean parking in the Neighborhood Village Zoning District of the Downtown Community Plan (NV-DCP).

More information is available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ (en Espanol tambien at (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431#).

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@santamonica.gov. Comments received **prior to 12 p.m.** on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Architectural Review Board prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation.

All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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

TRANSLATION SERVICE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. Please contact planning@santamonica.gov at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

SERVICIO DE TRADUCCIÓN DISPONIBLE A PEDIDO. Comuníquese al planning@santamonica.gov al menos 72 horas antes de la reunión programada.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

SMC Symphony Orchestra to perform Rimsky-Korsakov's 'Scheherazade' Nov. 1

The Santa Monica College Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor Mercedes Juan Musotto, will perform Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade" Sunday, Nov. 1, at 4 p.m. at The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St. at Santa Monica Boulevard.

"Scheherazade," one of Rimsky-Korsakov's most popular works, is filled with sweeping melodies, rich colors and dramatic adventure. The music, also known as "The Arabian Nights," was inspired by pictures from "One Thousand and One Nights."

Musotto said the piece takes its name from one of King Shahryar's wives. In the story, the king, convinced that women are untrustworthy after a previous wife's infidelity, marries a new bride each night and executes her the next morning. Scheherazade avoids that fate by telling him a captivating tale each night and stopping at a cliffhanger as dawn breaks.

"This routine continues for 1,001 nights, during which they have three children, and the king falls in love with her, finally abandoning his cruel law," Musotto said. "The music of Rimsky-Korsakov's piece is rich with all the drama we imagine was in Scheherazade's tales."

> "This routine continues for 1,001 nights, during which they have three children, and the king falls in love with her, finally abandoning his cruel law"
> - Juan Musotto

The family-friendly concert has no age restrictions.

General admission is $15 plus a modest service charge. Admission is free for children and for students with any student ID. Advance tickets are available at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-3005 (Monday-Friday; limited hours). Tickets are also sold at The Broad Stage box office starting 45 minutes before the performance. Free parking is available, and seating is first-come, first-served.

The concert is made possible by the Colburn Foundation. More information is available by calling 310-434-4323. Performances are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Los Angeles

L.A. Cancer Challenge raises more than $800,000 for pancreatic cancer research

The 29th annual L.A. Cancer Challenge raised nearly $815,000 for pancreatic cancer research on Oct. 25, surpassing its fundraising goal.

The money will fund research into early detection methods, innovative treatments and, ultimately, a cure, organizers said.

The L.A. Cancer Challenge benefits the Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research, the first pancreatic cancer foundation established in the U.S. The event has raised $13 million since 1998.

This year's challenge, which combined in-person and virtual participation, drew a historic level of engagement and fundraising, according to organizers.

Pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers, with the highest mortality rate among all major forms of the disease.

The funds will support research initiatives that include the foundation's Seed Grant program, which for two decades has provided start-up funding to test new ideas for improving diagnosis and to develop new treatments.

"Year after year, I am inspired by the incredible generosity and determination of our L.A. Cancer Challenge community," said Lisa Manheim, executive director of the Hirshberg Foundation and race director of the L.A. Cancer Challenge. "Surpassing our fundraising goal is a remarkable achievement and a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish when we come together for a common purpose."

Manheim said the support is more important than ever at a time of exciting advances in pancreatic cancer research.

"Every participant, donor, team and sponsor is helping us turn hope into progress, and progress into a future with better outcomes for patients and families," she said. "That is what keeps us moving forward."

Organizers describe the event as a rallying cry for families, friends, neighbors and the scientific community to unite behind the cause.

Next year marks the 30th anniversary of the L.A. Cancer Challenge and the Hirshberg Foundation's decades-long commitment to finding a cure and giving patients a fighting chance.

"The Hirshberg Foundation has been at the forefront of pancreatic cancer research for nearly three decades," Manheim said. "We continue to remain laser-focused on supporting groundbreaking research and improving patient care."

She added, "We are here to finish what we started."

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Santa Monica Clock Tower sells at a steep discount

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

An entity tied to the Mani brothers has bought the Santa Monica Clock Tower for $28.5 million, about half of what the previous owner paid in 2019, The Real Deal reported Wednesday.

The 12-story Art Deco office building at 225 Santa Monica Blvd., once the city's tallest, had been in receivership after owner Rockwood Capital defaulted on its loan. Court documents identify the buyer as an entity connected to Simon, Daniel and Joseph Mani of West Hollywood-based Mani Brothers Real Estate Group.

Rockwood, now part of Harrison Street Asset Management, paid $58 million for the century-old building in 2019. It bought the tower from Sorgente Group of America and assumed about $27 million in commercial mortgage-backed securities debt.

The loan went into special servicing after missing its May 2025 maturity date and landed in court that September. Special servicer Rialto Capital sued, alleging Rockwood owed about $25 million.

The building was 43% occupied as of September 2024, down from 100% when the loan was issued in 2015, according to Morningstar figures, but the offices did not generate enough income to cover the debt. Morningstar valued the tower at $49 million in 2015 but cut that figure while the loan was in special servicing.

Office space has been a tough sell in Santa Monica recently.

Santa Monica recorded the largest occupancy loss in West Los Angeles in the second quarter amid pullbacks in the tech and media sectors, leaving one-third of its office inventory available for lease, according to Colliers' second-quarter 2026 West Los Angeles office report.

Colliers put the city's office vacancy rate at 28.5%, up from 25% in its third-quarter 2025 data, while availability rose to 33.4% from 32.9%. Santa Monica lost about 265,000 square feet of occupied space in the second quarter, after losing about 234,000 square feet the quarter before, the report said.

Average direct asking rent in Santa Monica was $5.49 per square foot per month, or $5.95 for Class A space, according to Colliers. Across West Los Angeles, the firm reported 24.6% vacancy, unchanged from the first quarter. Century City had the region's lowest vacancy at 13.3%.

A RAND Corp. study put Santa Monica's office vacancy above 20% in June, second only to Culver City among four Westside cities.

RAND also found the Promenade 31% vacant in August across 37 retail properties, based on CoStar data. Buildings larger than 30,000 square feet were 47% vacant, compared with 12% for those smaller than 10,000 square feet, and four properties were completely empty.

Citywide taxable sales fell 32.8% from 2015 to 2025, from $3.24 billion to $2.18 billion in 2015 dollars, according to state tax data analyzed by RAND. Clothing and accessories sales fell 75%, a loss of $327.7 million.

Across Los Angeles, direct office vacancy was 16.4% in the third quarter, down slightly from 16.5% in the second quarter but up from 15.9% a year earlier, according to Kidder Mathews. Average asking rent held at $3.50 per square foot per month.

The market absorbed about 235,000 square feet of office space in the quarter but remained down about 1.3 million square feet for the year. Leasing totaled about 12.2 million square feet through the first nine months, down 37% from the same period in 2025. No new office space was delivered, though 2.31 million square feet was under construction.

Kidder Mathews cited businesses relocating out of California, remote work and an oversupply of Class B properties as major drags on the market. It named Century City as the region's most desirable office submarket.

The quarter's biggest countywide sale was the former Sony Pictures Animation campus in Culver City, a three-building, 198,126-square-foot complex that Fortress Investment Group bought at auction for $71.3 million.

editor@smdp.com

FOOD

FROM PAGE 2

It provides the perfect ending to a meal that feels just indulgent enough without tipping into excess.

Can't decide? Let the kitchen do the work. The family-style tasting menu strings together many of ORLA's greatest hits, eliminates order envy, and delivers so much food that it practically guarantees tomorrow's lunch is already taken care of.

WHAT TO DRINK

The cocktail menu leans heavily into Mediterranean botanicals, bright citrus, and crisp spirits designed to fight off coastal chill.

The Ares (mezcal, apple, ginger beer, and a hint of absinthe) was my favorite and they have a variety of zero-proof options if you're trying to pretend you have an early morning workout planned.

If you're a wine drinker, they have a fun selection of Greek selections, offering a chance to discover varietals that rarely make it onto California wine lists.

PRO TIPS

Request a terrace table about 45 minutes before sunset. You'll catch golden hour over the Pacific without having to squint directly into the sun for your entire meal.

And if you like a little drama with your meal, keep an eye out for the tableside carts—where everything from sea-salt crudos to custom desserts are finished right at your elbow for maximum dining room theater.

1700 Ocean Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90401, orlasantamonica.com

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly at instagram.com/sean-besser or email me at sean@smdp.com.

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LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

PAPER BAGS

FROM PAGE 1

City high schools.

"As for calling it art, you just have to see these bags," said Jennifer Levin, who founded H.O.D.G. in Hancock Park in 2016. "Anything that makes your heart leap like they do is art and deserves to be seen."

"I've always yearned for a Boy or Girl Scouts for grown-ups: a troop where we learn new skills and do good deeds," Levin said.

After Donald Trump's election in 2016, Levin and friends began gathering in one another's homes to figure out how to become better citizens. They petitioned, wrote postcards, protested, knocked on doors and ran food and clothing drives, inviting everyone they knew to join.

"They did, and before we knew it, we had a really big troop!" Levin said.

Other chapters followed because "Los Angeles is too big for one group," she said. Alison Rou and Loren Segan launched the Westside chapter in May 2025; state Sen. Ben Allen was the guest at its first meeting.

The lunch project began in 2020, during the pandemic. "People were so lonely and disconnected, and making art, even temporary art on a lunch bag, was a way to cope," Levin said.

The Hollywood Food Coalition, known as HoFoCo, told volunteers how much recipients loved the artwork. "Sometimes it was more exciting to them than the PB&J inside!" she said.

The partnership began when the group, hoping to feed unhoused people, asked Bonnie Friedericy, a HoFoCo volunteer, whether the coalition could get its lunches into people's hands.

"She asked how many. We said 100. 'Sure!' she said," Levin recalled. "That Sunday, we showed up with 400. And it never stopped. … We've never missed a Sunday. Not for Christmas, not for the LA Marathon."

Friedericy asked for Sundays because most organizations that feed unhoused people are closed that day, Levin said.

HoFoCo, which redistributes food across Los Angeles, delivers the volunteer-made lunches to more than 20 partner nonprofits, including Food on Foot, The People Concern and Covenant House.

"Our lunches, offered in bags that are decorated with care, are messages of hope: a reminder that they're not alone, that someone is thinking about them," Segan said.

Levin credits the Westside chapter with finally staging an art show. "The Westside gals figured it out and made it happen. This show is all theirs!" she said.

Segan, whose mantra is "art is always the answer," said the idea caught on. "Whenever we mentioned the idea of a lunch bag art exhibit, people would light up and say, 'I'd come to that!'" she said. The show includes work by well-known working artists alongside everyday volunteers.

Marjorie Ornston, a curator and member of the chapter's leadership team, approached her longtime friend Craig Krull, who had organized "Out of the Ashes" at Bergamot Station for artists who lost homes and studios in the Palisades and Eaton fires. Krull offered his gallery between two shows.

"It's so powerful to see the creativity that abounds in our community, and what gifted minds and hands can make using a simple paper bag as a canvas," Segan said.

Noting anxiety over the midterm elections, she said organizers are grateful the gallery can offer "a joyful, uplifting antidote."

Kaeli, who founded the Santa Monica High School club, and Olivia, who founded the Culver City High School club, have made lunches for the project with their families since middle school, Segan said. Their clubs now use bake sales and donations to fund gatherings that turn out 40 to 150 lunches at a time.

"You don't realize the impact you're making by doing what seems like a small thing," Olivia said, according to Segan. "But one Sunday, after we loaded the car and I saw all the lunch bags we were bringing, it hit me: We're feeding 150 people today. That's not nothing."

Rou urged Westside residents to sign up for the chapter's newsletter and join the lunch makers. "In turbulent times, being together and doing something good for others is a balm," she said. "Plus it's fun!"

For more information, visit hangoutdogood.com/westside-la or email hodgwestla@gmail.com.

maaz@smdp.com

SMC

FROM PAGE 3

multiple expired labor contracts

Colleges that stay on enhanced monitoring for three consecutive years can face adverse action.

That spring, trustees voted 6-2 to lay off 45 classified employees amid a $14.7 million deficit. College reserves had fallen 61% from a peak of $43.9 million in 2021-22. Falling non-resident enrollment added to the strain, driven in part by federal restrictions on international student visas. Academic Senate President Vicenta Arrizon said the tentative 2026-27 budget carries a structural deficit of about $7.6 million with no clear plan to close it.

Jeffery, who has led the college since 2016, earns about $498,000. She drew mounting criticism as the crisis deepened, particularly after trustees unanimously approved a $250,000 post-retirement supplemental income plan for her while the college was cutting classes and staff. Unions and faculty condemned the move.

Jeffery has defended her record. She said the accreditation data was "backward-looking" and did not reflect cost-cutting measures already underway.

SMC has been California's top transfer college to the University of California for 35 consecutive years. It also operates public radio station KCRW and the Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center.

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DOG RESCUE

FROM PAGE 1

animals had landed, she'd already gone from supportive to suspicious based on a single detail, every dog was a French bulldog.

"I went, 'Everybody, hold off! Wait a second! This makes no sense,'" Oelsen said.

That moment set off a six-year effort by Oelsen to expose Wagmor Pets, the Studio City organization now at the center of a civil enforcement lawsuit filed by Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto.

The complaint, filed Oct. 22 in Los Angeles County Superior Court, accuses Wagmor Pets, two affiliated companies and founder Melissa Bacelar of buying dogs from commercial breeders, including puppy mills, and reselling them to families as rescues, a practice known as "puppy laundering." It seeks a permanent injunction, restitution for consumers and at least $7.3 million in civil penalties.

> "Families who open their homes to rescue animals deserve honesty, not deception"
>
> - Hydee Feldstein Soto

"Families who open their homes to rescue animals deserve honesty, not deception," Feldstein Soto said in a statement announcing the suit.

Oelsen's entry point was a phone call. Years earlier, before returning to school to study biodiversity and wildlife, she ran humane education and animal rescue programs for children in foster care. A former volunteer from that work was connected to Ellen DeGeneres and called asking for help on DeGeneres' behalf regarding a rescue organization that DeGeneres had worked with, Oelsen said.

The rescue had no one lined up to receive the dogs at the Canadian border in Washington, and the animals were already being loaded onto a plane at the time of the call so Oelsen connected the group with contacts in Washington. However, the breed of the animals raised a red flag prompting her to fly north to see the dogs herself.

"There's going to be a day where I have to testify about these dogs," she recalled thinking. "I just had this weird feeling."

Oelsen said she had visited a dog meat market before and knew what those animals endure. The French bulldogs she saw were "friendly, well adjusted, loving, beautiful" and showed no signs of abuse, she said. "They looked like they had all been bred."

She had recently completed an animal welfare and behavior program at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and a fellowship on Capitol Hill with the International Fund for Animal Welfare. She called IFAW, which put her in touch with the director of an international humane organization's Beijing office.

At the same time, she started running records searches. Within 48 hours, Oelsen said, a name search on the Los Angeles court records database and the California Secretary of State's website turned up a lawsuit she identified as Green v. Bacelar, with seven plaintiffs and six dead puppies. She began contacting the plaintiffs from the airport.

On about the third day, the dogs' health certificates arrived. Bacelar had initially said the records were in Chinese, Oelsen said, but she insisted they be with the dogs. Searching the names and addresses on the customs paperwork, Oelsen said, she linked a contact listed there to a network of other rescue groups, which she said Bacelar later worked with in 2023 to obtain dogs from puppy mills and auctions.

She ran those names through other states' business registries and pulled court records from San Francisco, including deposition and witness testimony. Within a couple of weeks, she said, she began to understand what she calls a network of puppy trafficking.

Wagmor, meanwhile, was a fixture of local TV segments and celebrity-driven coverage. The organization's website still features clips praising their work from local Los Angeles TV stations and nationally syndicated shows.

"Nobody did their research," Oelsen said. "It's one of those feel good clickbait stories with tons of celebrities. … Nobody wanted to hear what I had to say."

That prompted Oelsen to build a website, The Truth About Wagmor Pets, which went up in 2022 to collect the records she had gathered.

"To me, it was clear as day what was going on," she said. "But then I had to prove it."

Over the following years, Oelsen said, she took her findings to the IRS, the state attorney general, consumer protection agencies and Los Angeles Animal Services, which she said did not act on her reports. However, she said the work did manifest in a state bill restricting the pet store sale of dogs.

The Los Angeles complaint echoes many of her early suspicions. It alleges Bacelar, often through intermediaries, bought dogs from breeders nationwide, including from a breeder auction house in September 2023 and a breeder called Diamond Doodles around November 2023, and imported them without required health certificates. It says the defendants falsely claimed dogs were rescued from "horrible conditions" or surrendered by owners, sold puppies sight unseen, and that some dogs died days or weeks after adoption.

The complaint also alleges the defendants routinely charged more than the $500 state cap on adoption fees for dogs displayed at pet stores, with Bacelar telling a city inspector in February that fees could reach $1,500. It says Wagmor kept claiming nonprofit status after the IRS revoked it, and that the companies operated their Studio City storefront, which reportedly closed this month, without required city permits.

The city attorney's Public Rights Branch is handling the case, No. 26STCV33334. Anyone who bought a dog from Wagmor Pets or has information can email att.wagmorpets@lacity.org.

editor@smdp.com

Where to vote, or drop your ballot

The General Election is Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026. Every active registered voter in Los Angeles County gets a ballot in the mail by Oct. 5. Here is how to return it on time, plus a map of nearby vote centers and drop boxes.

KEY DATES

Oct. 5	Oct. 19	Oct. 24	Oct. 27	Oct. 31	Nov. 3
Ballots mailed & drop boxes open	Registration deadline (same-day registration at vote centers after)	Select vote centers open	Last safe day to mail your ballot	All vote centers open	Election Day 7 AM–8 PM

HOW TO RETURN YOUR BALLOT

OPTION 1

By mail

No stamp needed. Postmarked by Nov. 3 and received within 7 days, it counts.

Mail by Oct. 27 to be safe

OPTION 2

Drop box

Seal, sign & date your return envelope, then drop it at any official box. Open until 8:00 PM on Election Day.

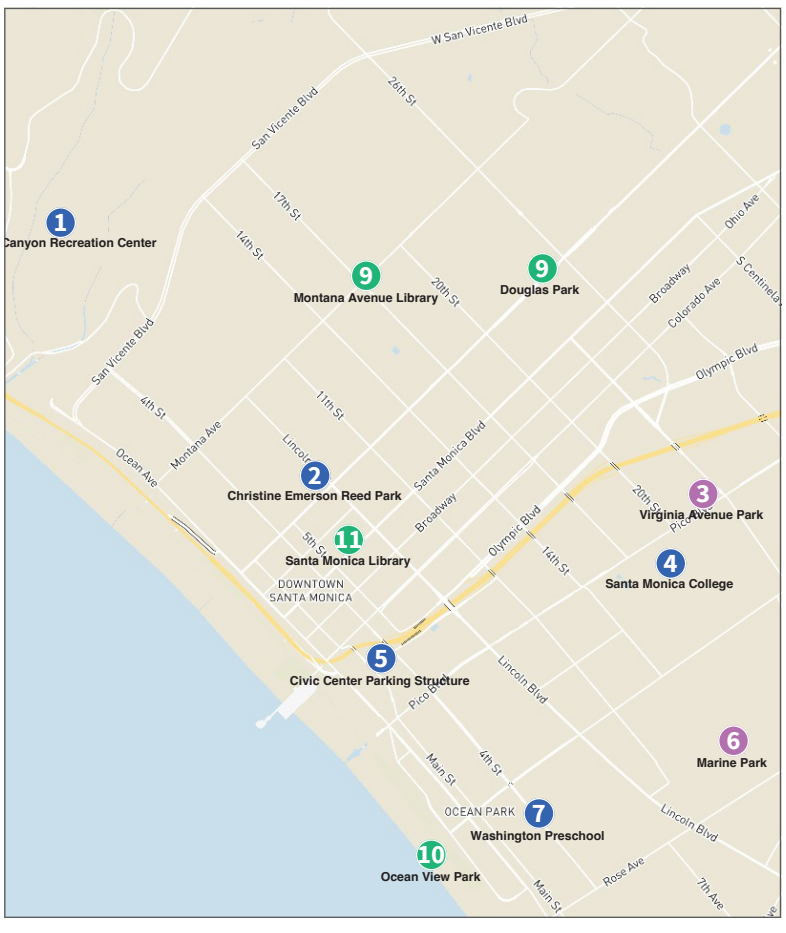
400+ boxes countywide

OPTION 3

Vote center

Vote in person, register, or return your ballot. Open 10 AM–7 PM daily, 7 AM–8 PM on Nov. 3.

Select sites Oct. 24 · all Oct. 31



Nearby locations to vote or drop your ballot

No.	Location	Address
1	Rustic Canyon Recreation Center	601 Latimer Rd
2	Christine Emerson Reed Park	1133 7th St
3	Virginia Avenue Park	2200 Virginia Ave
4	Santa Monica College	1900 Pico Blvd
5	Civic Center Parking Structure OPEN	330 Olympic Dr 2nd Floor Plaza Level
6	Marine Park	1406 Marine St
7	Washington Preschool	2802 4th St
8	Douglas Park	2439 Wilshire Blvd
9	Montana Avenue Library	1704 Montana Ave
10	Ocean View Park	2701 Barnard Way
11	Santa Monica Library	601 Santa Monica Blvd

Vote Center · Vote Center + Ballot Drop Box · Ballot Drop Box

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Lost and Found
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Obituaries
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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026211285. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SAMMICROCHETS, 10621 VALLEY SPRING LN 201, TOLUCA LAKE, CA 91602, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): SAMANTHA JAI HENDERSON, 10621 VALLEY SPRING LN 201, TOLUCA LAKE, CA 91602. 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/ SAMANTHA JAI HENDERSON, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/5/2026. 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: 10/09/2026, 10/16/2026, 10/23/2026, 10/30/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026225704. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: INVESTOR COLLECTIVE, 2219 MAIN ST SUITE 678, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): SPINNIO, LLC, 2219 MAIN ST SUITE 678, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ DUSTIN LUTHER, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/23/2026. 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: 10/30/2026, 11/06/2026, 11/13/2026, 11/20/2026

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026196570. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FUNERAL FLOWERS LOS ANGELES, 1702 S. ROBERTSON BL 298, LOS ANGELES, CA 90035, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): TINA ROCHON, 1702 S. ROBERTSON BL. 298, LOS ANGELES, CA 90035. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 09/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ TINA ROCHON, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/23/2026. 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: 10/30/2026, 11/06/2026, 11/13/2026, 11/20/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026218688. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SANSTORM, 12700 INGLEWOOD AVE UNIT 618, HAWTHORNE, CA 90250, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): DONALD WATTS, PO. BOX 618, HAWTHORNE, CA 90251. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2020. 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/ DONALD WATTS, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/14/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 10/31/2026, 11/07/2026, 11/14/2026, 11/21/2026

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026218028. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: TIMOT, 13142 Dewey Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): INDIDESIGN, INC., 13142 Dewey Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ TIMOTHY STEPHEN SMITH, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/14/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 10/23/2026, 10/30/2026, 11/06/2026, 11/13/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026219799. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MIGHTY VILLAGE, 1137 2ND STREET, SUITE 216, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): MIGHTY VILLAGE PSYCHOLOGY, INC., 1137 2ND STREET, SUITE 216, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 09/2023. 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)). DARRELL WALTERS, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/15/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 10/23/2026, 10/30/2026, 11/06/2026, 11/13/2026

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026206210. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SUNSET WELLNESS, SUNSET WELLNESS LA, 7720 W SUNSET BLVD STE 1, LOS ANGELES, CA 90046, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): SUNSET THERAPY SPACES LLC, 155 CARLTON AVE #8, PASADENA, CA 91103. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 03/2025. 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/ JAMES EDWARD COLE CHAN, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 2026-09-28. 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: 10/09/2026, 10/16/2026, 10/23/2026, 10/30/2026

DBA Abandonment

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME File No. 2026215276. The following person(s) has (have) abandoned the use of the fictitious business name: I AM JUST LOOKING, 529 E Cedar Ave Apt 203, Burbank, CA 91501, County of Los Angeles. The fictitious business name statement for the business name referred to above was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on May 28, 2026, File No. 2026117744. Registered Owner(s): ASBED GARABETIAN, 529 E Cedar Ave Apt 203, Burbank, CA 91501. This business was conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) /s/ ASBED GARABETIAN, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/9/2026. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 10/23/2026, 10/30/2026, 11/06/2026, 11/13/2026

Name Change

AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26NNCP00597. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 150 West Commonwealth Ave, Alhambra, CA 91801. Petition of TESS JONES for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner TESS JONES filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: TESS SUSAN MARIE JONES to TESSA NATASHA JONES. 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: 12/11/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: X. 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: 10/16/2026. Roberto Longoria, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 10/16/2026, 10/23/2026, 10/30/2026, 11/06/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00488. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Andrea Jenae Urrutia for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Andrea Jenae Urrutia filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Andrea Jenae Urrutia to Andrea Jenae Moore. 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: 8:30AM, 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: 10/13/2026. Lawrence Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 10/23/2026, 10/30/2026, 11/06/2026, 11/13/2026

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26STCP04017. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Petition of MICHAEL THOMAS BIRK for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner MICHAEL THOMAS BIRK filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: MICHAEL THOMAS BIRK to MICCOLO MICHEL TOMAS. 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: January 29, 2027, Time: 8:30am, Dept: 529. 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: October 16, 2026. VIRGINIA KEENY, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 10/23/26, 10/30/26, 11/06/26, 11/13/26

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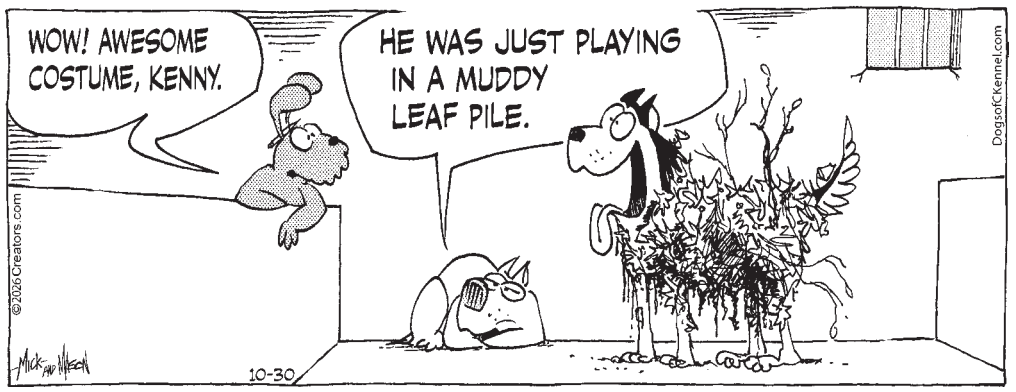
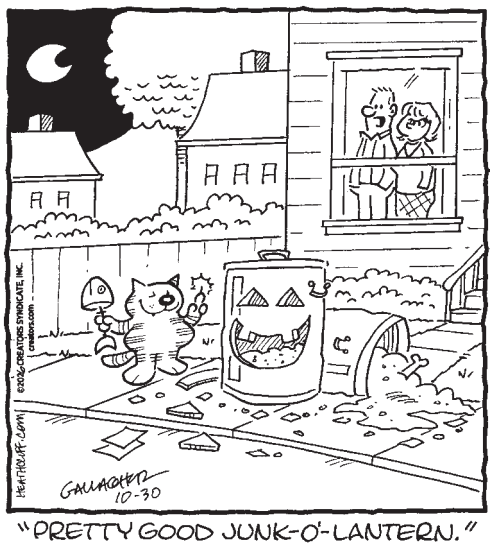


Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Heathcliff

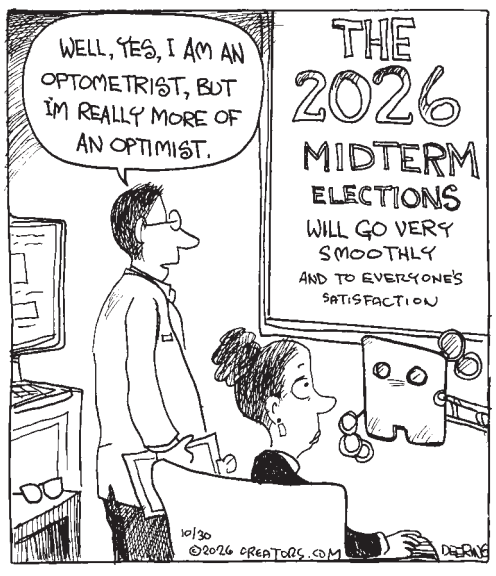
By PETER GALLAGHER



"PRETTY GOOD JUNK-O'-LANTERN."

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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 7109

Party people

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

Band	Excitement	Merry	Seafood
Bar tab	Games	Napkins	Snacks
Beer	Gifts	Nice	Social
Booze	Glasses	Noise	Spirit
Bruschetta	Happy	Peanuts	Stereo
Cake	Hats	Pool	Sugar
Croon	Hire	Pubs	Sweet
Dinner	Kids	Regrets	Tags
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Drinks	Love	Rose	Toys
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 30)

In your Year of the Laurels, you'll be awarded as the ancient Olympians were, with the equivalent of symbolic branches proclaiming the victorious combination of hard work and good taste. More highlights: Not only are you able to make yourself comfortable, but you'll also have the means to extend an extra measure of comfort to those who need it. Projects you're in charge of bring in top dollar. You'll journey to love. Leo and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 48, 6, 33, 17 and 21.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Costume suggestion: Think cuddly. Go against your warrior nature; try a teddy bear, a baby or a Bluey character. There's something about connecting with the adorableness in your own nature that will sweeten your experience. You just may spend the night collecting hugs.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Costume suggestion: Go wildly glamorous. Wear the jewels, the fur, the crown and the train. Give yourself permission to take up 6 feet of doorway. You spend plenty of time being practical. Plan to make an entrance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Costume suggestion: Someone who barely speaks. Try a mime, a masked stranger or a mysterious figure in sunglasses. Spend the evening communicating through looks and gestures. You may discover how much fun you can have while keeping everyone guessing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Costume suggestion: The one you wanted to be when you were 5. You had your reasons. Whether you'd still aspire to it or not is beside the point. Tapping into the innocent admiration will be so sweet.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Costume suggestion: Play the sidekick. Pick a faithful assistant, beleaguered henchman or obscure supporting character. You already know how to command attention. Tonight, you can lurk around the edges and steal scenes whenever you feel like it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Costume suggestion: Someone disreputable. A pirate, outlaw, jewel thief or rogue gives you permission to break character for a night. Swagger around. Make unreasonable demands. Steal a few pieces of candy. Your criminal career can end at midnight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Costume suggestion: A musical hero. Bonus points if you also plan to sing karaoke. From Sinatra to Bruno Mars, Beyonce to Chappell Roan, the spirit of the thing will put a song in your heart.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Costume suggestion: Go absurd. Become a hot dog, garden gnome, giant banana or household appliance. You spend enough time being fascinating. Give yourself one glorious evening of making absolutely no sense. Commit to the bit and enjoy the confusion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Costume suggestion: Choose a character with an elaborate accent and a ridiculous backstory. You'll have an excuse to improvise all night. Introduce yourself under another name. Invent a profession. See how far you can take the story.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Costume suggestion: Someone whose status is extreme. They could be as powerful as a world leader or as ineffective as a ghost. To embody the high or low status will liberate you from thinking of your own ranking in these funny little systems that can matter so much to us.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Costume suggestion: The gore is weirdly liberating. A simple axe to the head or zombie aesthetic gives you a break from being your usual put-together self. And because you're usually so kind, you may find it interesting to scare people.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Costume suggestion: Go as someone you love. It's a tribute and a joke wrapped in one. Either you look like them or could never, and both outcomes are hilarious. Get the hair right and go from there.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

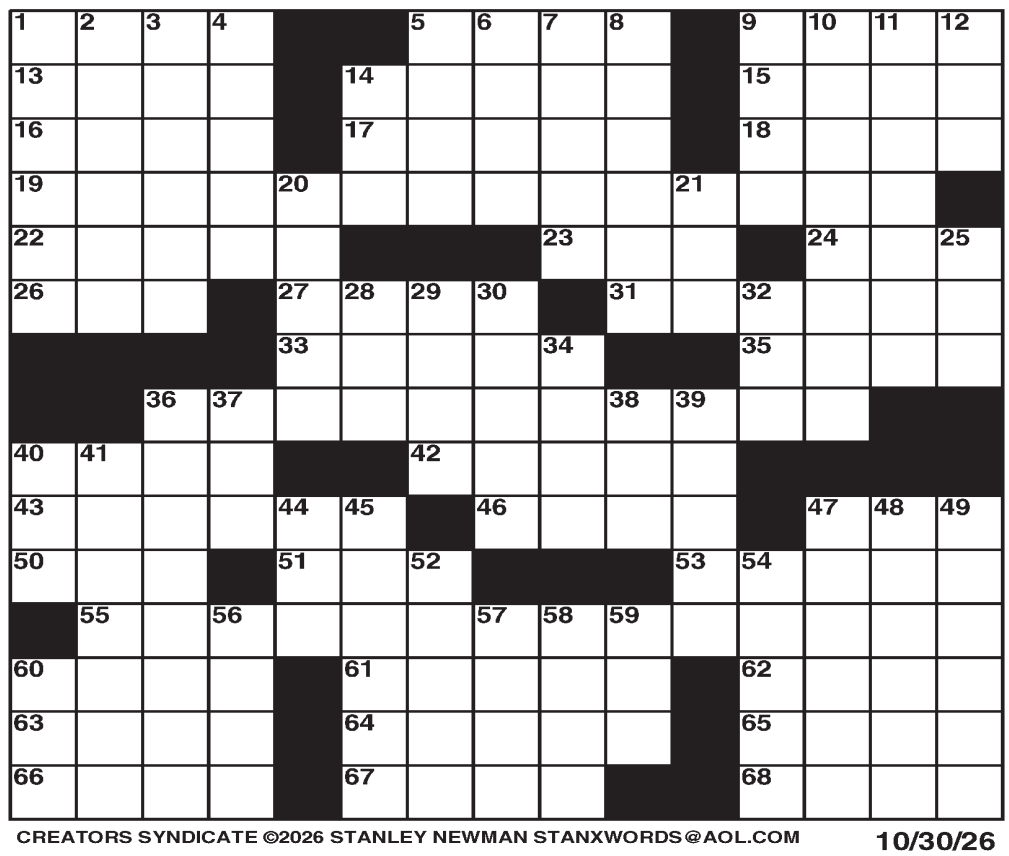
IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN by Chris Gross
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Sudden increase
5 Distant starter
9 Galileo Airport serves it
13 Ocular membrane
14 Trash talk
15 Has run its course
16 Decoy, e.g.
17 __ *Next Top Model* (series filmed in Singapore)
18 Basic irregular verb
19 *"The Queen of Jazz"
22 Franklin's pamphleteer mentee
23 Category
24 Otto's out
26 JFK once, but not DDE
27 Car wash supplies
31 Page-bottom ID
33 Heart chambers
35 Amalgamates
36 *Connect with your bestie
40 Awe-inspiring figure
42 Sweet buy
43 Color intensity
46 Proclaimed with gusto
47 Bagel flavor
50 Canine cry
51 __-Locka, FL
53 Looking floored
55 *Alternative to Microsoft Edge
60 "Try this"
61 Pleasant respite
62 List some
63 Articulated
64 Personal manners
65 Key in a chain
66 With 67-Across, timely phrase for what's hidden in the starred clue's answers
67 See 66-Across
68 Marvel movie powerhouse

DOWN

1 Derby drinks
2 They're down in the mouth
3 *Idylls of the King* character
4 Hymn of praise
5 Where Lady Liberty looks
6 Interrogate
7 Eels with wasabi
8 End of an FDR quote
9 Chip choice
10 Set apart
11 Soft, as lighting
12 Big bumbler
14 Word on a tiki bar menu
20 Unbroken
21 Hirer of Welles in '39
25 HS VIPs
28 Part of NATO
29 Foie __
30 Searches (through)
32 Have mastery over
34 Survey datum
36 Bodily
37 "It's __ from me" (*Idol* rejection)
38 Ending like -ite
39 Composer heard at commencements
40 Far from congenial
41 Mythical hybrid monster
44 "Little old me?"
45 Poise under pressure
47 Bumbling
48 Leader of the Muses
49 Today's teen, time and again
52 "King of Cling" French designer
54 Jokester's prod
56 Former Georgia senator Miller
57 Very briefly, phrase-wise
58 Squealer
59 NASA six-person orbiter
60 NBA shrine



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10/30/26

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

HALLOWEEN

FROM PAGE 1

area Saturday. Rain is forecast to continue overnight before tapering off from west to east Sunday morning. By Sunday afternoon, only eastern Los Angeles County is expected to see a chance of showers.

Forecasters cautioned, however, that higher-resolution models show the rain arriving later than expected, which could leave Saturday and Saturday evening drier than predicted. A Thursday morning update noted the storm appeared to be trending drier.

The official forecast calls for a quarter to a half inch of rain across most areas, with up to three-quarters of an inch possible in southeast Los Angeles County. Forecasters said there is a 30% chance the storm delivers 1 to 2 inches south of Point Conception and a 10% to 15% chance it produces only a couple tenths of an inch.

Highs Saturday are expected to reach only the 60s before climbing into the low 70s Sunday as skies clear. Cloudy, cooler weather will continue through Friday, with coastal highs in the upper 60s to mid-70s, 5 to 10 degrees below normal. A stray shower is possible Friday, though little if any rain is expected. A coastal flood advisory remains in effect until 2 p.m. Friday because of very high tides.

CITY EVENTS AND STREET CLOSURES

City Manager Oliver Chi said the city will host two family-friendly events Saturday. Joslyn Park will hold a morning of costumes, crafts and activities for children ages 2 to 5 and 6 to 11.

In the evening, the Santa Monica Police Activities League will host its Halloween Spooktacular from 5 to 8 p.m. at the PAL Youth Center, 1401 Olympic Blvd., which staff have been transforming into what Chi called a "Halloween Wonderland."

"It will have a haunted maze that is sure to delight," Chi said.

Chi said the police department and public works staff coordinated several street closures for trick-or-treating. Yale Street will be closed between Washington Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard, and Cedar Street will be closed between 10th and 11th streets. Sections of 24th Street, 21st Street between Pico Boulevard and Ocean Park Boulevard will also be closed, as will Georgina Avenue at 16th Street and a section of Pearl.

"I've been told that you will get big chocolate, big candy bars if you head out that way," Chi said of Georgina Avenue.

The Montana Avenue Merchants Association will host a free Halloween Walk from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, with participating businesses offering trick-or-treating, activities and sales. The event runs an hour earlier than the association's Halloween Hop of past years, which ran from 3 to 6 p.m.

Bars throughout the city are offering parties for adults.

The Santa Monica Pier will hold its seventh annual Día de los Muertos celebration this weekend, honoring film star Pedro Infante. Ofrendas will be on view in the Merry-Go-Round building from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, and the public is invited to contribute. Sunday's program runs from noon to 5:30 p.m. and includes an Aztec blessing at 1 p.m., ballet folklórico, mariachi and remarks by Mexican Consul General Carlos González Gutiérrez at 4 p.m.

After a six-year hiatus, the Pico Día de los Muertos event will return to Woodlawn Cemetery on Sunday, Nov. 1, with live music, traditional altars, art, food and activities.

Residents should also remember that daylight saving time ends Sunday, when clocks fall back an hour.

"It's going to get dark a little bit earlier," Chi said. "Stay safe as we enter into the fall and winter season."

SAFETY TIPS

The Santa Monica Police Department urged drivers to slow down and stay alert in residential neighborhoods and near community events, where children may move unpredictably. Drivers should watch for pedestrians at intersections, crosswalks and between parked vehicles, use headlights as daylight fades and arrange a sober ride home if their celebration includes alcohol.

Police recommended that a responsible adult accompany young children and that older children going out without an adult agree on a route, return time and check-in plan. Trick-or-treaters should use sidewalks, cross at intersections and crosswalks, stick to familiar, well-lit routes, approach only homes with porch lights on and never enter a home or vehicle for treats. Adults should inspect treats and check labels for food allergies.

The department also recommended reflective tape on costumes and treat bags, flashlights or glow sticks, costumes that fit properly and do not drag, masks that do not block vision, and no replica weapons.

For Día de los Muertos, police advised using battery-operated candles where possible, keeping open flames away from decorations and costumes, and keeping walkways clear around ofrendas.

"Look out for one another and help keep our streets and celebrations safe," the department said.

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LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 30

HALLOWEEN PARADE

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Canyon Elementary School 421 Entrada Dr Santa Monica, CA +1 310-454-7510. An elementary school Halloween parade, with kids in costume winding through a festive morning celebration. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/halloween-parade/19699903/2026-10-30T08

PALISADIAN COFFEE AND CHAT

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

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/19479748/2026-10-30T10

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CRAFTS

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Palisades Branch Library 861 Alma Real Dr Pacific Palisades, CA +1 310-459-2754. A family crafting session for Dia de los Muertos, with supplies to create masks, ofrendas, and colorful papel picado. Families of all ages are invited for an afternoon of festive Día de los Muertos crafting. Supplies will be provided for creating masks, ofrendas (altars) and colorful papel picado. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/dia-de-los-muertos-crafts/20209687/2026-10-30T15

BUNDY TRIANGLE NIGHT MARKET

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Bundy Triangle 1500 S Bundy Drive Los Angeles, CA. Cayton Children's Museum offers free hands-on activities for families at the Bundy Triangle Night Market every Friday through October. Cayton Children's Museum will offer free, weekly hands-on activities for children and families at the Bundy Triangle Night Market in Sawtelle every Friday from March 27 through the end of October, the museum announced. The programming, offered in partnership with Los Angeles City Councilwoman Traci Park, will run from 5 to 8 p.m. each Friday at the Bundy Triangle, a public space at Ohio Avenue and Bundy Drive. The broader night market, presented by Raw Inspiration, runs from 5 to 9 p.m. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/bundy-triangle-night-market/18490079/2026-10-30T17

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 31

AQUA SURF KIDS HALLOWEEN SURF CONTEST

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Lifeguard Tower 28 in Santa Monica 2701 Barnard Way Santa Monica, CA. A kids' Halloween surf contest at the beach, open to all levels, with costumes encouraged. Surfers pay $50; spectators watch free. Costumes: Absolutely. Surfing Level: All Levels Welcome. Cost: $50 for participating surfers, FREE to attend and enjoy! $50.00 — free to watch, $50 to compete! Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/aqua-surf-kids-halloween-surf-contest/20281688/2026-10-31T09

HALLOWEEN SOCIAL

9:30 a.m. Club Joyful 2121 Lincoln Blvd Venice, CA +1 310-758-1911. A playful Halloween social with morning activities designed for young children and a festive atmosphere for the grown-ups. Come dressed up and stay awhile! We're turning Club Joyful into a playful, festive Halloween mini-festival with something fun happening throughout the morning for little ones — and plenty for the grown-ups to enjoy, too. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/halloween-social/20131873/2026-10-31T09

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Rustic Canyon Recreation Center
601 Latimer Road Pacific Palisades, CA. Rustic Canyon Recreation Center and Palisades Recreation Center have partnered to present a Halloween Carnival. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/halloween-carnival/20289060/2026-10-31T10

A HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Palisades Village 15225 Palisades Village Ln Pacific Palisades, CA +1 310-525-1380. A Halloween celebration with trick-or-treating at retailers, themed crafts, face painting, live entertainment, and pet-friendly costume moments. Calling all ghosts, goblins and four-legged friends! Join us at Palisades Village for a spirited Halloween celebration filled with festive activities, sweet surprises and fun for all ages. Come in costume and trick-or-treat at Caruso Concierge and participating retailers, then head to The Park for Halloween-themed crafts, face painting and live entertainment. Furry family members can show off their Halloween best too, while seasonal treats and festive photo moments add to the fun. Gather your family and neighbors for a day of tricks, treats and community celebration. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/a-halloween-celebration/20276962/2026-10-31T11

SAINT MONICA PREPARATORY

MONDAY
NOVEMBER
9TH

Golf & Pickleball

FOR A PURPOSE | 2026

MULHOLLAND HILLS
COUNTRY CLUB
Formerly known as Braemar Country Club

A Tournament Supporting Financial Aid for Our Students

Swing, Serve & Support Saint Monica Prep!

Golf

Price Per Golfer	**$350**
Price Per Foursome	**$1,400**
Early Bird Registration *Ends October 16th at 11:59pm*	**$1,200** *savings of $50 a golfer*

Pickleball

Price Per Player	**$150**

9:00 am	Golf Check In & Driving Range Opens
9:30 am	Putting Contest Begins
10:00 am	Pickleball Check In
10:30 am	Pickleball Play Begins
10:45 am	Call to Carts
11:00 am	Shotgun Start
1:00 pm	Lunch for Pickleball Players *Golf Lunch Provided on Carts
4:00 pm	Dinner is Served
5:00 pm	Live Auction and Announcement of Winners

Sponsorships

Support the next generation of Mariners.

$25,000 Mariner	Premier branding as title sponsor on all pre-event and event-day signage, Exclusive Cart Sponsor, 4 Tee Signs, and 3 Foursomes of Golf or 3 Pickleball Teams (6 players).
$10,000 Anchor	Prominent branding on all pre-event and event-day signage, Signage at Driving Range, 3 Tee Signs, and 2 Foursomes of Golf or 2 Pickleball Teams (4 players).
$5,000 Chart	Branding on all pre-event and event-day signage, Signage on the Putting Green, 2 Tee Signs, and 1 Foursome of Golf or 1 Pickleball Team (2 players).
$2,500 Plume	Recognition on all pre-event and event-day signage, 2 Tee Signs, 2 Individual Entries/ Players of Golf or Pickleball.

In addition to morning coffee & tea, catered lunch and sit-down dinner, each player will receive refreshments on the course/court, chances for prizes & awards, a fabulous goodie bag, access to the open bar throughout the day, as well as:

Golf: green fees & cart

Pickleball: tournament play with a guarantee of two games, and open play

SAINT MONICA PREPARATORY

***Adults Only Event** scan here to register and for more information