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Email claims Councilmember Torosis worked with developers on controversial housing project

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

The murky timeline over a now aborted project to house mentally ill individuals along Ocean Ave. continues to develop with an email released through public records request suggesting at least one member of the City Council was far more involved than has been previously admitted.

Councilwoman Caroline Torosis is named in an April 7 email between an attorney representing the property owner and city staff as someone actively supporting the housing project.

The email was sent to Community Development Director Jing Yeo and Director of Housing and Human Services Heather Averick by attorney Elisa Paster who said she was representing the property owners.

The substance of the email centers on zoning for the property and seeks clarification on allowable uses for the buildings. However, later in the email, Paster describes working with staff and Councilwoman Torosis on the projects.

"We have been working with Heather Averick, along with Councilmember Torosis and Elaine Polachek on the funding and concept," Paster wrote.

Polachek was Interim City Manager at the time.

SEE **TOROSIS** PAGE 15

Rick Caruso on building a better California: from the ground up

MICHELLE EDGAR
Special to the Daily Press

Inside the AMC Theatre at The Americana at Brand — one of Rick Caruso's own developments — the real estate mogul and developer paused, taking a breath before speaking. His voice softened as he reflected on what had happened just hours earlier.

"Yesterday was one of the greatest days of my life," he told Adam Carolla during a live taping of The Adam Carolla Show. "We delivered five homes to families who had lost everything in the wildfires. I left there thinking, 'Why isn't the government doing more for these people? They have no options.'"

That question — and the action behind it — captured the essence of Caruso's mission with Steadfast LA, a nonprofit dedicated to helping wildfire victims rebuild faster through public-private partnerships. It's an approach he

SEE **CARUSO** PAGE 15

Beyond the finish line: How Los Angeles is redefining the Olympic legacy

MICHELLE EDGAR
Special to the Daily Press

With fewer than 1,000 days until LA28, Los Angeles is facing one of its most ambitious urban tests yet — transforming the global spotlight into a legacy that lasts long after the closing ceremony. That challenge and opportunity was the focus of "Beyond the Finish Line: Planning, Policy, and LA's Olympic Experiment," a policy forum hosted by the Urban Land Institute Los Angeles.

Moderated by Pasadena City Councilmember Rick Cole, the event convened voices from the public and private sectors to align strategies across mobility, infrastructure, small business, and community engagement. "Unlike most Olympic host cities, LA28 isn't about building monuments, it's about building momentum," Cole said. "If we do this right, the Games can become a catalyst for a new civic era rooted in connectivity, creativity, and equity."

Daniel Bernstein, principal transportation planner in LA Metro's Office of Strategic Innovation, described the next three years as a "living laboratory for mobility." Metro's plan centers on its "Games Route Network," an intricate web of rail, shuttle, and micro-mobility connections that will link venues and communities citywide. "We're planning for a car-light Games with no general parking at venues," Bernstein said. "High-frequency shuttles, new rail extensions, and inclusive design for the Paralympics are how we redefine how LA moves."

Major transit milestones including the D Line extension to UCLA, the K Line connection to LAX, and the Regional Connector linking the A and E Lines, are reshaping how Angelenos navigate the region. Metro's commitment, Bernstein added, goes beyond transportation. "The Olympics give

SEE **OLYMPICS** PAGE 10



Michelle Edgar

LA28: Preparations for the games have begun for both private and public organizations.

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SHIRLEY ANN KEMNA

July 25, 1934 - September 23, 2025

Shirley Ann (Lewalski) Kemna passed away peacefully on September 23, 2025, she was 91 years old.

Shirley was born in Reading, PA to Clarence and Anna (Spanier) Lewalski, the oldest of 3 children. She grew up in Reading with her brother Tom and sister Nancy and attended Central Catholic high school and St. Joseph's School of Nursing graduating in 1955.



IN LOVING MEMORY

She came to Los Angeles, CA in 1956 and worked at UCLA Medical Center for many years. In 1965 she met and married Helmut Kemna of Hannover, Germany. They settled in Santa Monica. There they raised 3 daughters, and Shirley was active in school fundraisers and the Sierra Club. She loved the outdoors and spent much time hiking and camping. Shirley embraced her German family, becoming a good cook of many German dishes and adopting German holiday traditions. She and Helmut enjoyed travel, visiting Europe, the western United States, the Sierras and various National Parks. Shirley continued to work as a Registered Nurse in a variety of settings including home health, school nursing and private medical offices for over 40 years.

Shirley is survived by her husband of 60 years - Helmut, daughters Bridget Bouyssounouse (Kemna) and Annette Farrell (Kemna), five grandchildren: Renee, Andre, Vincent, Max and Calvin; her sister Nancy Smith of Clarkston, WA and brother Tom Lewalski of Virginia Beach, VA. She was preceded in death by her eldest daughter, Gabrielle Kemna.

She was a lifelong Catholic and a parishioner of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Los Angeles. A Memorial Mass and inurnment service will be held on November 14, 2025 at 12:30 pm in Risen Christ Chapel; Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Culver City, CA. In lieu of flowers a donation could be made to the Sierra Club of California, Alzheimer's Association or a charity of your choice.



Santa Monica College opens new science building with public observatory



Amy Williams / Santa Monica College

CEREMONY: Santa Monica College administrators, students, trustees and faculty leaders (current and former) at the ribbon-cutting ceremony held Nov.1, 2025 for the college's new LEED Gold-certified Mathematics + Science Building on its Main Campus at 1900 Pico Boulevard.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica College unveiled its new 110,000-square-foot Mathematics + Science Building on Saturday, bringing together four academic departments under one roof for the first time and offering the public access to the region's most advanced telescope.

The LEED Gold-certified facility, funded through voter-approved bond measures AA and V along with state funding, houses the Earth Sciences, Mathematics, Life Sciences and Physical Sciences departments in a building that college officials say will transform undergraduate education.

"Each community member who voted for bond measures AA and V demonstrated their belief in SMC's life-changing mission, and that the opportunity to innovate, to shine, and to pursue the best-possible higher education should be open to all," said Dr. Nancy Greenstein, chair of the SMC Board of Trustees, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony that preceded the open house.

The building's centerpiece is the new Santa Monica College Planetarium and Observatory, featuring a 0.7-meter CDK700 telescope — the only such telescope available to the public in the Los Angeles region. The planetarium uses a Digistar 7 projection system, the same technology employed at Griffith Observatory.

"The new PlaneWave CDK700 telescope

SEE **SCIENCE BUILDING** PAGE 12



Santa Monica Pier hosts inaugural Youth Day for 250 children



Santa Monica Pier Corporation

PIER: The event marked the return of large-scale youth programming to California's most iconic pier, welcoming children ages 4 to 14 for complimentary rides, games and, for many, their first-ever visit to the Pacific Ocean.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

More than 250 underserved children from across Los Angeles County experienced their first taste of seaside joy Oct. 11 as the Santa Monica Pier launched its inaugural Youth Day, reviving a cherished community tradition that had been dormant for nearly a decade.

> Seeing the wonder on these kids' faces as they stepped onto the Pier for the first time reminds us exactly why we do what we do
> - Jim Harris, executive director and historian of the Santa Monica Pier

The event marked the return of large-scale youth programming to California's most iconic pier, welcoming children ages 4 to 14 for complimentary rides, games and, for many, their first-ever visit to the Pacific Ocean.

"Seeing the wonder on these kids' faces as they stepped onto the Pier for the first time reminds us exactly why we do what we do," said Jim Harris, executive director and historian of the Santa Monica Pier. "As a nonprofit, our mission is to ensure the Pier remains a place where everyone can experience joy—regardless of background or circumstance."

The new Youth Day program resurrects the spirit of "Heartfelt Holiday," an annual winter celebration that brought up to 2,000 children from underserved communities to the pier each December. That program, operated by The Heartfelt Foundation, ended in December 2015, leaving a void that Harris had long hoped to fill.

"Seeing the joy on those children's faces was unforgettable, and understanding the impact that such an experience can have on their lives was immeasurable," Harris said, reflecting on the original program that inspired this year's revival.

The timing finally aligned when Harris specifically budgeted for youth programming this year and reconnected with the original partner organization, now renamed Hearts & Hands of Hope Foundation.

The festivities included unlimited access to Pacific Park rides and games, classic carousel spins inside the historic Merry Go-Round Building, and guided introductions to the ocean for children who had never seen the beach before. Hearts & Hands of Hope coordinated with regional community organizations to select participating children.

The event underscores the Santa Monica Pier Corporation's expanding community programming, made possible through public donations and local partnerships. Pacific

SEE **YOUTH DAY** PAGE 15



Weather

Friday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 75. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday Night: Clear, with a low around 57. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 77. Calm wind becoming south southwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 60.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/11/07	Fri	03:01 AM	2.08	L
2025/11/07	Fri	09:24 AM	7.00	H
2025/11/07	Fri	4:52 PM	-1.26	L
2025/11/07	Fri	11:32 PM	3.71	H
2025/11/08	Sat	03:44 AM	2.46	L
2025/11/08	Sat	10:11 AM	6.65	H
2025/11/08	Sat	5:51 PM	-0.96	L
2025/11/09	Sun	12:49 AM	3.55	H
2025/11/09	Sun	04:36 AM	2.82	L
2025/11/09	Sun	11:05 AM	6.12	H
2025/11/09	Sun	6:56 PM	-0.58	L
2025/11/10	Mon	02:20 AM	3.60	H
2025/11/10	Mon	05:50 AM	3.13	L
2025/11/10	Mon	12:12 PM	5.49	H
2025/11/10	Mon	8:09 PM	-0.21	L
2025/11/11	Tue	03:41 AM	3.87	H
2025/11/11	Tue	07:45 AM	3.22	L
2025/11/11	Tue	1:35 PM	4.90	H
2025/11/11	Tue	9:21 PM	0.07	L
2025/11/12	Wed	04:36 AM	4.24	H
2025/11/12	Wed	09:49 AM	2.86	L
2025/11/12	Wed	3:08 PM	4.49	H
2025/11/12	Wed	10:20 PM	0.31	L
2025/11/13	Thu	05:16 AM	4.62	H
2025/11/13	Thu	11:06 AM	2.24	L
2025/11/13	Thu	4:30 PM	4.27	H
2025/11/13	Thu	11:07 PM	0.57	L
2025/11/14	Fri	05:49 AM	4.97	H
2025/11/14	Fri	12:02 PM	1.59	L
2025/11/14	Fri	5:38 PM	4.14	H
2025/11/14	Fri	11:44 PM	0.89	L
2025/11/15	Sat	06:17 AM	5.28	H
2025/11/15	Sat	12:46 PM	1.01	L
2025/11/15	Sat	6:35 PM	4.04	H

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 11/5
9 17 29 61 66
Power#: 26
Jackpot: 467 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 11/4
11 14 17 50 57
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 843 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 11/5
7 8 32 41 45
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 14 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 11/5
16 17 23 30 33

Daily 3
Draw Date: 11/5
EVENING: 7 6 7
Draw Date: 11/5
MIDDAY: 4 7 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 11/5
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:41.78

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Santa Monica Daily Press

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
NOTICE CALLING FOR BIDS FOR THE SALE OF FM RADIO BROADCAST LICENSE AND ASSOCIATED ASSETS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive no later than the below-stated date and time, sealed BIDS for the purchase of personal property.

Santa Monica Community College District ("District") is the licensee of a certain Radio Broadcast License issued by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") for FM Radio Station KERW(FM), Los Osos-Baywood, California, 101.3 MHz, FCC Facility ID No. 63523, and assets associated with KERW(FM) including certain transmitter site equipment and a certain Tower Site License Agreement with Scripps Media, Inc. in which the District is the licensee (collectively, the "Property"). The District intends to sell the Property to the highest bidder with a minimum bid of $237,500.00.

The bid package will be available at 1738 Pearl Street, Santa Monica, California 90405, and can be requested by emailing the contact below:

Contact for all inquiries: Mitch Heskel (heskel_mitch@smc.edu).

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS: 4:30 PM, November 24, 2025. BIDS MUST BE HAND-DELIVERED, and will be publicly opened at this time.

LOCATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, AUXILIARY SERVICES, 1738 PEARL STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, ATTENTION: Mitch Heskel.

Bid Proposals shall not be withdrawn by any Bidder for a period of forty-five (45) days after the opening of Bid Proposals. During this time, all Bidders shall guarantee bid amount in their respective Bid Proposals.

Award will be by action of the District's Board of Trustees on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, or such other time as it deems appropriate, to the Bidder submitting the highest responsible and responsive Bid Proposal. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 9/15/2025 2025191692The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1. Ageless Conversation 6117 Manton Ave Woodland Hills, CA 91367 Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Al #On Registered Owner Annie Charles 6117 Manton Ave Woodland Hills, CA 91367 If corporation or LLC- Print State ofThis is Business is Conducted: An Individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 09/2025. Registrant / Corp/LLC Annie Charles Title: Owner Annie Charles . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 09/15/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS 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 PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 10/106/2025 2025206556The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Lun Lun Beauty 24444 Wilshire Blvd Suite 102 Santa Monica, CA 90403. Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Al #On Registered Owner Keiko Yonemitsu 24444 Wilshire Blvd Suite 102 Santa Monica, CA 90403. If corporation or LLC- Print State ofThis is Business is Conducted: An Individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 09/2025. Registrant /Corp/ LLC Keiko YonemitsuTitle: Owner Keiko Yonemitsu . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/06/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS 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 PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Throwing stones

The recent letter by former Mayor Kevin McKeown brings to mind the old axiom about people who live in glass houses. Mr. McKeown, who abruptly resigned from the City Council before completing his term, forfeited any moral authority to lecture others about public service. His decision to abandon his post midstream four years ago, citing advanced age as the reason for his resignation, raises serious questions about his credibility in criticizing Mayor Lana Negrete's call for accountability and respect for the office he once held.

For him to attack Mayor Negrete, a leader who shows up, listens, and does the hard work, is the height of hypocrisy. Mayor Negrete has consistently demonstrated the integrity, courage, and responsiveness that Santa Monica needs. She asks difficult questions, challenges complacency, and insists that city staff and councilmembers be accountable to the public. That is not a "meltdown." That is responsible leadership.

Mr. McKeown's bitterness toward a mayor who strives to rebuild trust within the community says more about his own legacy than hers.

Santa Monica deserves a higher standard of public discourse, one grounded in facts, fairness, and respect for those entrusted to lead and represent the community they serve. Mayor Negrete's steady commitment to transparency, public safety, and balanced growth continues to earn the trust and confidence of residents citywide.

Eve Lopez, Santa Monica

Misogynistic McKeown

I was beyond disgusted reading Kevin McKeown's opinion letter about Mayor Lana Negrete. At first, I didn't think it should have been printed, but now I'm actually glad it was because it reveals just how misogynistic and condescending his remarks were. It's clear he's aligned with the current City Council, which, in all my years of living in Santa Monica, is the worst we've ever had.

Would he have used the term "hissy fit" if one of the men on the council were standing up for what they believed was right? Would he have questioned their education or credibility in the same way? I doubt it.

Let's not forget: Mr. McKeown resigned from his own council seat in the middle of a meeting and played a role in the decline of downtown Santa Monica. He seems completely unaware that residents are now calling for a recall of this current council after realizing they were misled by campaign promises and hidden agendas.

Mayor Negrete, on the other hand, has shown more integrity than any man or woman who has served on that council. She's unafraid to speak her mind, to stand by her convictions even when it's not the popular stance and she's earned the respect and admiration of residents at neighborhood meetings throughout the city.

We, the citizens of Santa Monica, stand firmly behind Mayor Negrete and are deeply saddened to see her Mayorship coming to an end to a council that appears beholden to developers and out of touch with what residents truly want and a MAYOR who is never out in the community.

Darlene Vogel, Santa Monica

Kevin is a quitter

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to express my deep disappointment and concern regarding Kevin's recent piece, "Mayoral Meltdown." From the inflammatory title to the condescending tone and personal attacks, the article crossed the line from commentary into character assault.

As a reader — and as a woman — I found it deeply uncomfortable to read, especially on the same day the President of Mexico was assaulted on camera. In that broader context, the belittling and gendered language to demean a woman in public office is not only irresponsible, it's dangerous.

The words used in that column were vile and unnecessary, attempting to disguise misogyny and resentment as intellectual critique. Education should never be used as a weapon of superiority — particularly against a resoundingly popular and effective mayor who has shown far more leadership and grace than many of her critics.

Let's not forget: in 2020, when this same author faced criticism over his own response to the Santa Monica unrest, the only "meltdowns" the community witnessed were his own (before he abandoned his city and resigned in disgrace), making the hypocrisy in this recent column all the more galling.

This was not an op-ed. It was a disgusting display of misogyny that Lana and her family, friends, and colleagues did not deserve to encounter in their local paper. But I hope there's a lesson to be learned: Kevin no longer has a place in Santa Monica politics. His actions have already revealed his character — and he forfeited his voice the moment he resigned.

Sincerely,

Jenny Rice, Santa Monica

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sen. Padilla elects not to run for governor, leaving a cloudy field of candidates

In 362 days California voters will choose a new governor. That's just around the corner in political terms, given the expense and organizational lift a statewide campaign requires in the nation's most populous state.

The winner almost certainly will be — as certain as anything in politics can be — a Democrat. If nothing else, the passage of Proposition 50, Gov. Gavin Newsom's mid-decade congressional district gerrymander, confirms anew that California is a one-party state.

BUT WHICH DEMOCRAT?

As the 2026 election cycle gears up — candidates can start filing paperwork next month — the field of would-be successors to Newsom is becoming even cloudier.

U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla, who political media had been portraying as leaning toward running for governor, abruptly dropped out of consideration Tuesday during a Washington press conference to discuss the federal government shutdown.

"It is with a full heart and even more commitment than ever that I am choosing to not run for governor of California next year," Padilla said. "I choose not just to stay in the Senate, I choose to stay in this fight."

Had he opted-in, Padilla would have been the immediate frontrunner. By opting-out, he adds himself to the list of seemingly heavyweight contenders who decided governing California isn't an attractive career move.

Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis was the first to go, dropping out in August, four months after announcing her candidacy. She was followed by former Vice President Kamala Harris, who wrote a book to explain how she failed to win the presidency last year. Toni Atkins, former president pro tem of the state Senate, also exited, acknowledging she probably couldn't succeed.

Padilla's decision leaves a handful of announced Democratic hopefuls still running, but none with anything close to dominant status, along with a few more potentials who have yet to declare one way or the other.

Of those who have announced, former Congresswoman Katie Porter had an early lead in polling, although under 20% support, but she was heavily damaged when videos surfaced of her harsh reaction to a reporter's question and snapping at one of her staffers. Porter apologized but the incidents undermined her likeability, no small thing in political terms.

At the moment, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and former Attorney General and Biden cabinet member Xavier Becerra seem to have the best prospects among the declared candidates, but once again we're waiting for other potential candidates to get in or get out.

All eyes are on businessman Rick Caruso, who's weighing whether to seek the governorship or run again for mayor of Los Angeles. He lost his first mayoral bid to Karen Bass, but her popularity has waned due to her handling of the city's disastrous fires.

Austin Beutner, a businessman and former superintendent of Los Angeles Unified School District, has already declared that he'll challenge Bass, which puts some pressure on Caruso to make his intentions known.

Wealthy investor Tom Steyer, who ran for president in 2020, pumped millions of dollars into his own campaign for Proposition 50, sparking speculation he might run for governor.

Caruso and Steyer could easily finance campaigns for governor, freeing themselves from the chore of raising money and thus incurring political debts to supporters. That alone would make them viable candidates.

Former state Controller Betty Yee and Tony Thurmond, the state superintendent of schools, are still declared candidates but don't appear to be gaining traction.

Finally, there's some buzz in political media about Bay Area Congressman Eric Swalwell, after one private poll included his name.

Until the field becomes clearer, political media, would-be campaign contributors and California voters will just have to twiddle their thumbs.

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist



Photo by Adriana Heldiz, CalMatters

SAN DIEGO: U.S. Senator Alex Padilla speaks to reporters in front of the federal courthouse in downtown San Diego after observing immigration hearings on Sept. 24, 2025.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Prop. 50 passage sets off a chain of political and legal maneuvers

When California voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 50 on Tuesday, they set in motion political and possibly legal maneuvers that will ultimately determine whether its overt purpose, increasing Democratic congressional members by five or more seats, becomes reality.

The first is a political scramble among politicians in both parties to determine who will run where in next year's congressional elections.

Ambitious Democrats are lining up to run in the newly gerrymandered districts, some of which have been tailored to favor particular candidates.

The most obvious example is a district that stretches from the heavily Republican northeastern corner of the state to the northern suburbs of San Francisco, seemingly made to order for Mike McGuire, the outgoing president pro tem of the state Senate. In creating that district, Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature aim to unseat Republican Doug LaMalfa, who now represents northeastern California in Congress.

The plan would, if successful, shrink Republican districts from nine to four, meaning that in some areas, such as in inland Southern California, current GOP incumbents would be compelled to either retire or joust among themselves for survival.

Prop. 50's political impacts hinge on the assumption that maps ratified by the ballot measure actually are in effect for next year's elections. While it's likely they will be used, there's a possibility that courts will intervene.

By happenstance, Prop. 50's pro-Democrat gerrymander and the recent pro-Republican gerrymander in Texas are occurring just as the U.S. Supreme Court weighs a major case involving the federal Voting Rights Act. Its outcome could impact both.

The Voting Rights Act, passed by Congress in 1965 to bolster the civil rights of minorities, particularly Black people in Southern states, prohibits any voting procedure "which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color."

While the law bars exclusionary voting laws, it has been widely interpreted to require creation of districts specifically to increase chances for racial groups to elect representatives from their communities.

California's independent redistricting commission, in plans drawn after the 2010 and 2020 censuses, adopted that interpretation, and the newly gerrymandered districts do as well.

However, the interpretation is being challenged before the Supreme Court in a case out of Louisiana, and its conservative members, a majority, have indicated both during arguments and in past rulings that they may consider it to be racial discrimination against white voters.

"This court held that race-based affirmative action in higher education must come to an end," Solicitor Gen. D. John Sauer wrote in his brief in the Louisiana case. The same is true, he said, for using the Voting Rights Act to draw legislative districts that are likely to elect Black or Latino candidates.

President Donald Trump's Justice Department monitored Tuesday's voting and could contend that California's new congressional maps are discriminatory and should be suspended until the Supreme Court renders its decision.

Trump seemed to hint about intervention in a Truth Social post Tuesday denouncing Prop. 50 as a "GIANT SCAM" and said that mailed ballots, by far the most prominent form of voting, disenfranchise Republicans and are "under very serious legal and criminal review." He closed with "STAY TUNED!"

In 2001, the threat of intervention by Republican President George W. Bush's administration thwarted plans by California's Legislature for a gerrymander favoring Democrats, forcing them to make a deal with Republicans on maps that maintained the partisan status quo.

Even a brief interruption could undermine what Newsom and the Legislature seek in Prop. 50 because candidate filing for congressional districts opens on Dec. 19, and if the new maps are in legal limbo, current districts would be used for the 2026 elections.

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist

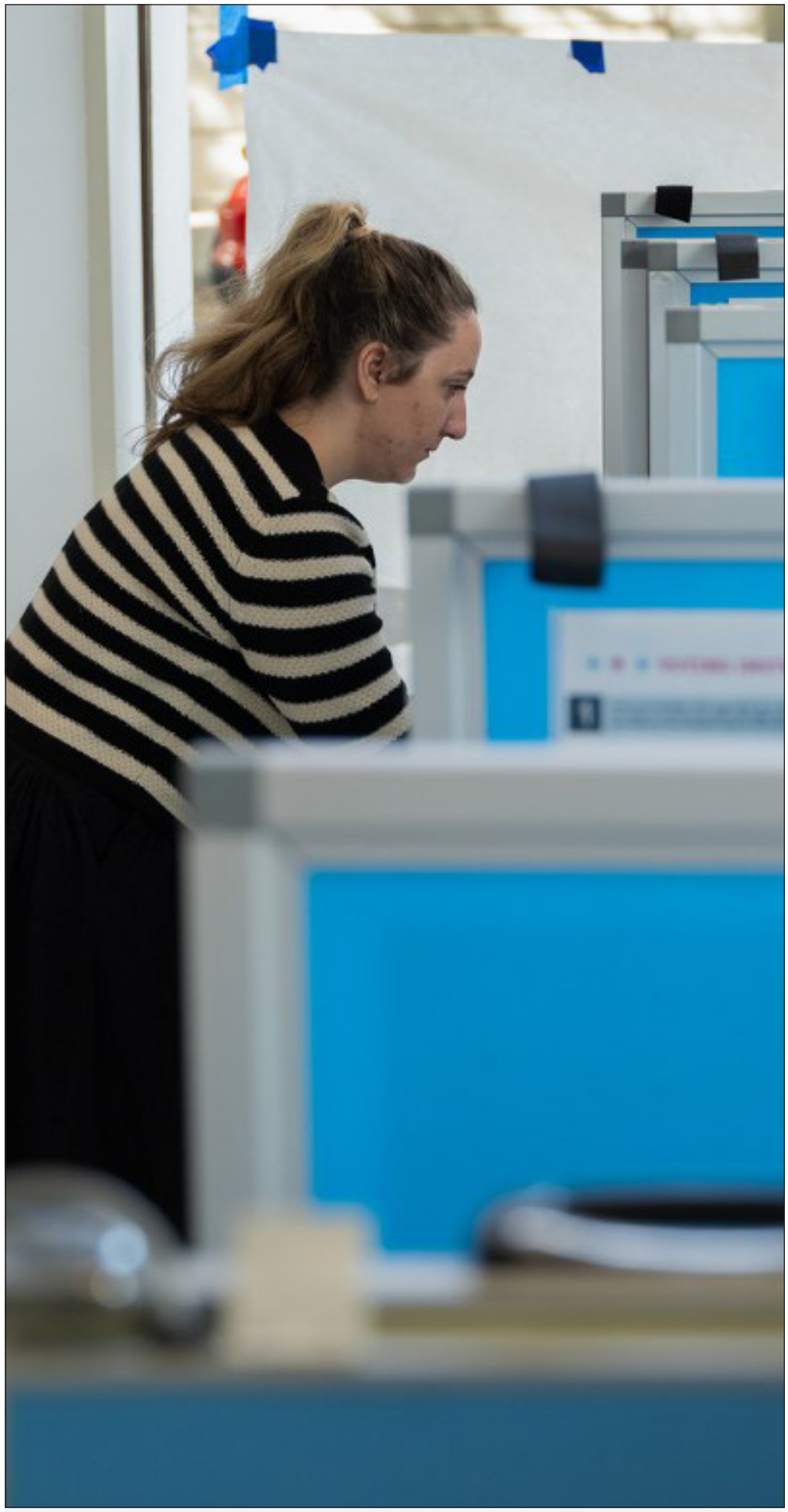


Photo by Jungho Kim for CalMatters

VOTE: A voter marks their ballot at a vote center in the California Museum in Sacramento on Nov. 4, 2025.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

DTSM

Actor Brings LBJ to Life in One-Man Show at Santa Monica Playhouse

Actor Pierce Wallace will perform his original one-man play about President Lyndon B. Johnson on Friday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m. at the Santa Monica Playhouse.

"Reflections of a Tough Texan: The Legacy of Lyndon Johnson" explores the 36th president's dramatic rise and fall during the Civil Rights Movement and Vietnam War era. Wallace wrote the production and has performed it 11 times, with nine performances at the Santa Monica venue.

The educational show examines Johnson's complex political legacy through Wallace's portrayal of the controversial president who championed civil rights legislation while escalating U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

Wallace's previous performances have drawn notable audience members, including Arnold Schwarzenegger and actor Casey Affleck, who attended earlier shows.

The Santa Monica Playhouse, located at 1211 4th Street, will host the Friday evening performance. The venue has become a regular home for Wallace's production, which he describes as both interesting and educational for audiences seeking to understand one of America's most complex political figures.

Johnson served as president from 1963 to 1969 following John F. Kennedy's assassination. His presidency was marked by landmark civil rights achievements, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as well as his Great Society domestic programs. However, his legacy remains complicated by the escalation of the Vietnam War.

The one-man format allows Wallace to present an intimate portrayal of Johnson's personality and political struggles during a tumultuous period in American history.
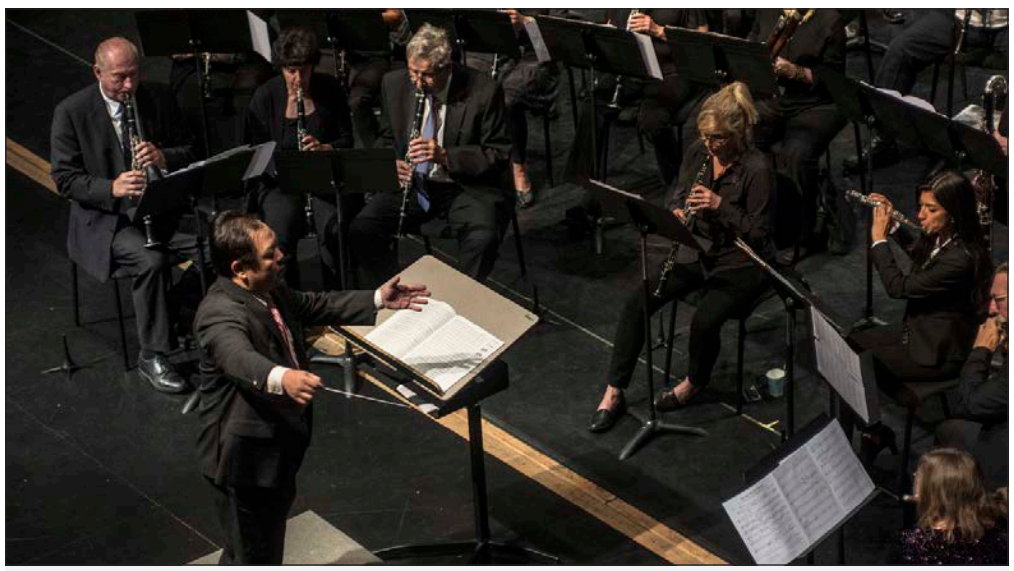
Tickets and additional information are available at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reflections-of-a-tough-texan-the-legacy-of-lyndon-johnson-a-one-man-play-tickets-1722761890189?aff=oddtdtcreator.

The performance is categorized under arts and theater programming at the Santa Monica Playhouse & Group Theatre.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SMC

College Concert Bands Unite for Free French Impressionist Performance



Courtesy photo

CONCERT: Santa Monica College's Emeritus Concert Band will combine with the Santa Ana College Concert Band to present a free concert, "The Impression That I Get".

Santa Monica College's Emeritus Concert Band will join forces with Santa Ana College's Concert Band for a free performance titled "The Impression That I Get" on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 1 p.m.

The concert will take place at The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center, located at 1310 11th Street at Santa Monica Boulevard. Ample free parking will be available, with seating on a first-arrival basis.

Under the direction of conductor Yosuke Miyoshi, the SMC Emeritus Concert Band will combine with Santa Ana College's Concert Band, led by Adam Gerling, to present works by French Impressionist composers including Debussy, Ravel and Boulanger.

"I am excited to share all the hard work the Emeritus Concert Band has done to perform this beautiful concert of French Impressionist music," Miyoshi said. "The band will be featuring music by Impressionist composers Debussy, Ravel, and Boulanger, with some fun twists to their music."

The program will also include a ska music medley as a playful nod to the concert's title and conclude with "March Blue Spring," a march by Masafumi Suzuki. Featured soloists will include Nick Diakatos and Howard Crawford on saxophone.

SMC's Emeritus Concert Band comprises musicians of various ages, with their diverse musical and life experiences creating an inspiring collaborative environment. The group welcomes new members and has provided free concerts since 1979.

The 60-member band is part of Santa Monica College's Emeritus program, established in 1975 to offer free classes and programs to older adults.

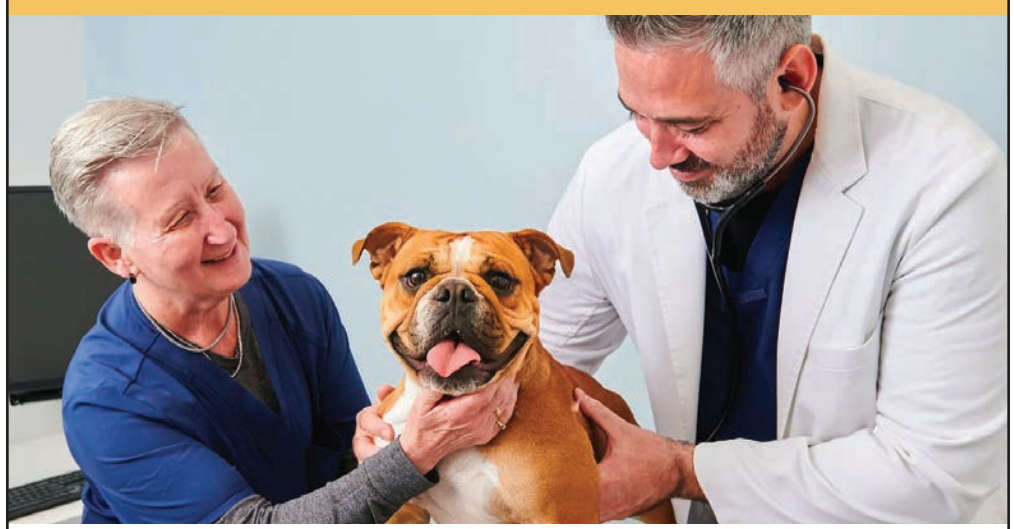
More information is available at smc.edu/emeritus or by calling 310-434-4306.

Disability accommodations can be arranged by emailing SMC's Center for Students with Disabilities at dsps@smc.edu or calling 310-434-4255 at least five business days in advance.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

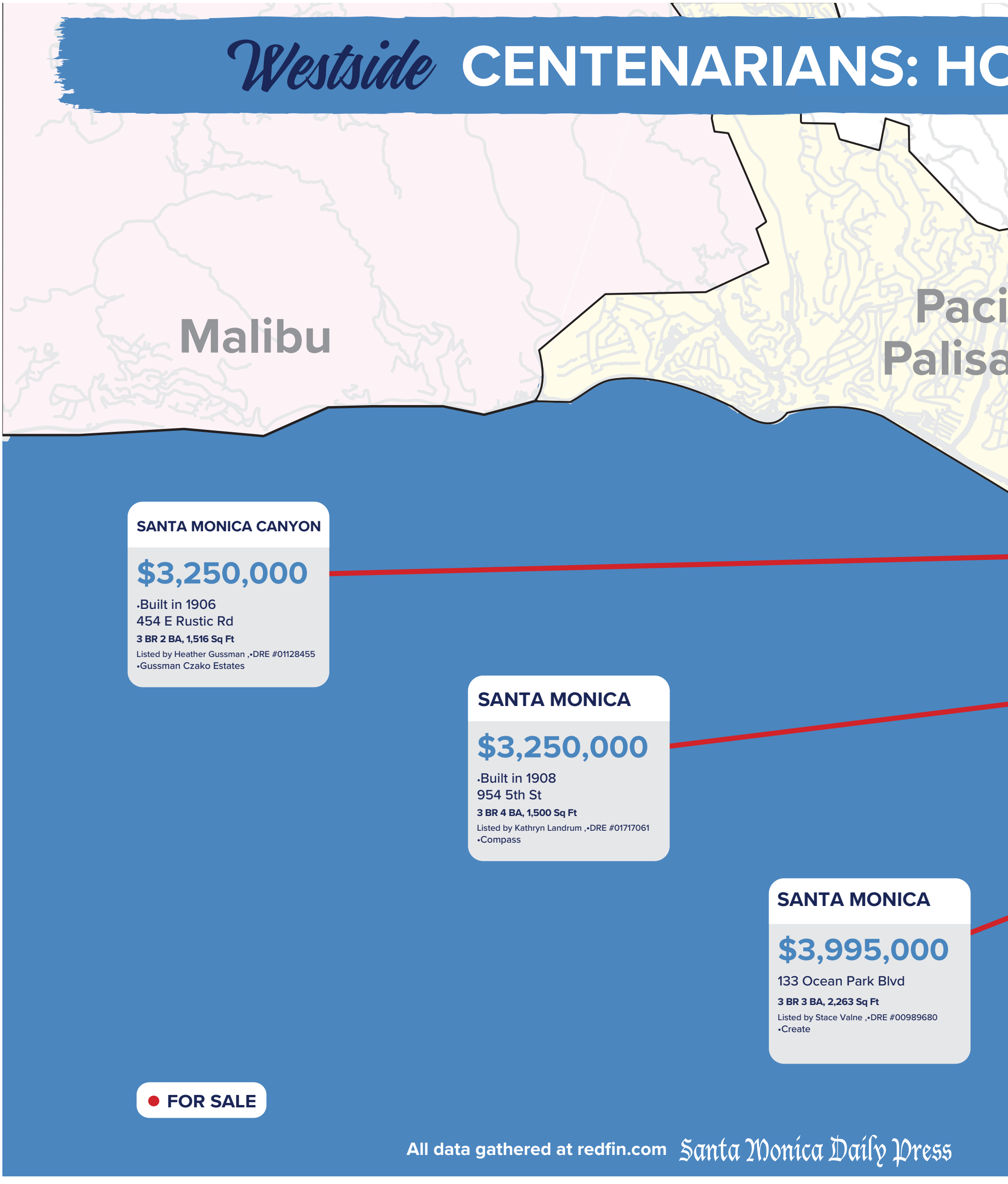
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•Gussman Czako Estates

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•Built in 1908
954 5th St
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Listed by Kathryn Landrum ,•DRE #01717061
•Compass

SANTA MONICA

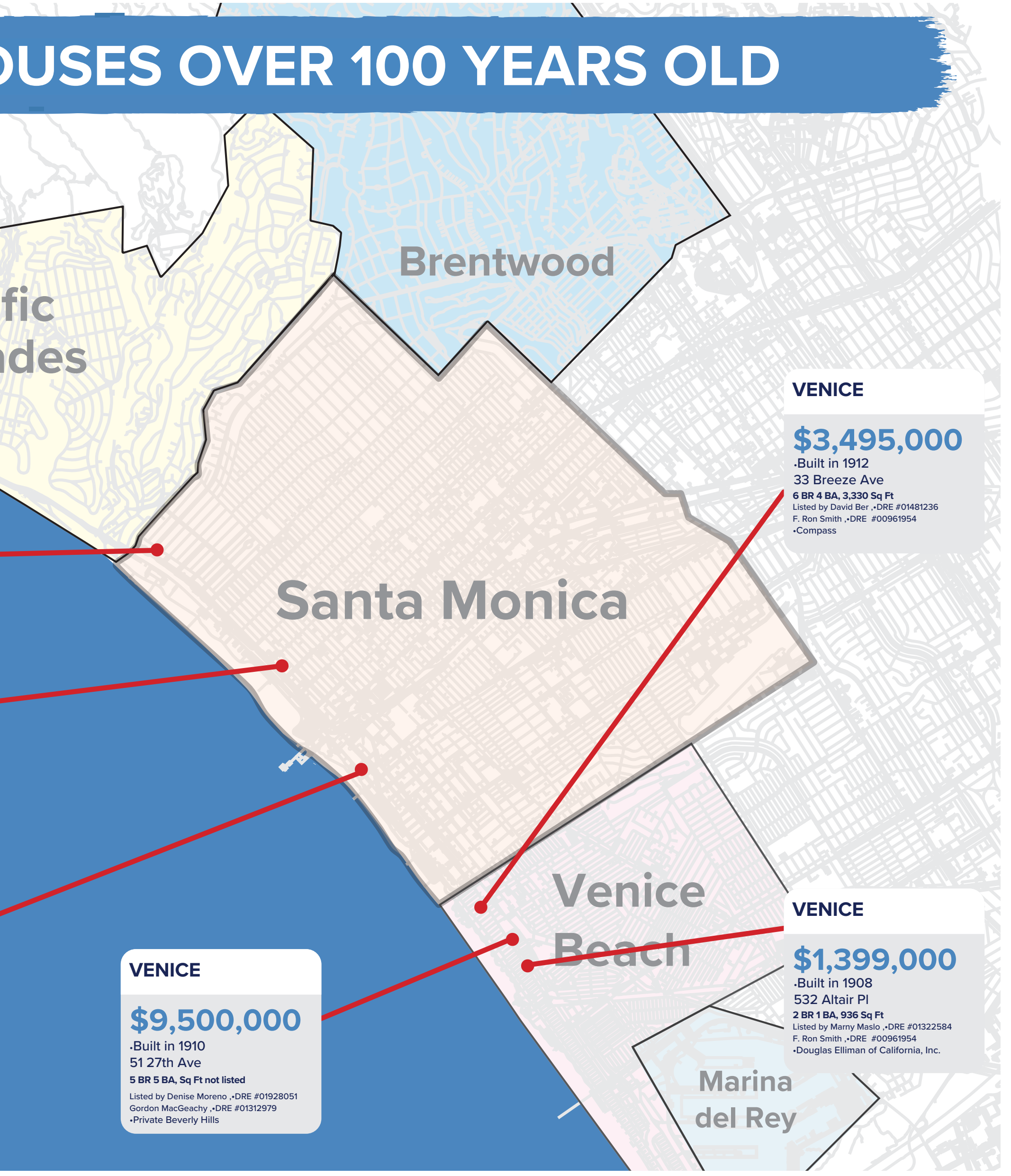
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133 Ocean Park Blvd
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•Create

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33 Breeze Ave
6 BR 4 BA, 3,330 Sq Ft
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F. Ron Smith ,•DRE #00961954
•Compass

VENICE

$1,399,000
•Built in 1908
532 Altair Pl
2 BR 1 BA, 936 Sq Ft
Listed by Marny Maslo ,•DRE #01322584
F. Ron Smith ,•DRE #00961954
•Douglas Elliman of California, Inc.

VENICE

$9,500,000
•Built in 1910
51 27th Ave
5 BR 5 BA, Sq Ft not listed
Listed by Denise Moreno ,•DRE #01928051
Gordon MacGeachy ,•DRE #01312979
•Private Beverly Hills

OLYMPICS

FROM PAGE 1

us a deadline to modernize not just our infrastructure, but our mindset. This is our opportunity to build a city that works for everyone, every day not just for two weeks."

Panelists agreed that mobility alone isn't enough; what happens between the venues will define LA's legacy. Inspired by Paris 2024's citywide approach, planners and civic leaders are pushing for neighborhood-level "fan zones" that activate streets, connect cultural districts, and encourage walking and biking through what has been dubbed the "festival trail." "The legacy shouldn't be a stadium," said Cole. "It should be a new civic habit - how Angelenos move, gather, and celebrate together."

Architect Michelle Stevenson, Regional Practice Director at HKS and a leader in sports and entertainment design, highlighted the potential for "temporary-to-permanent" urban interventions — modular shade structures, open-air kitchens, and pop-up plazas that start as Games pilots but evolve into lasting civic improvements. "Quick-build doesn't mean short-lived," Stevenson said. "The Olympics can be LA's R&D phase for creative, resilient city design."

The conversation also centered on how to strengthen small business participation and cultural activation. Panelists urged organizers to engage local business improvement districts, restaurants, and artists to host neighborhood fan experiences and viewing hubs, ensuring that the economic impact circulates back into the community. "We can't outsource LA's Olympic experience," Cole noted. "Our chefs, artists, and entrepreneurs are the true hosts."

Public-private partnerships emerged as a recurring theme throughout the discussion. With limited city bandwidth and tight timelines, experts stressed that collaboration between agencies, developers, nonprofits, and civic organizations will be critical. ULI's Young Leaders Group is already forming working groups to advance "quick-build" pilots, advocate for streamlined permitting, and design public-private funding models that mix philanthropic and infrastructure capital. "City government can't carry this alone," Cole said. "This will take an army of collaborators - a city of partners."

Safety and accessibility also dominated the agenda. Metro is advancing a multi-layered strategy that expands its ambassador program, introduces new fare gates, and launches a dedicated Metro police department while integrating social-service outreach. "We want stations to feel active and alive," Bernstein said. "Art, music, and human presence make transit safer and more inviting, safety is as much about perception as enforcement."

As the Games draw nearer, the question looming over every conversation was one of readiness: how is Los Angeles truly preparing — not just for the arrival of millions of visitors, but for the city that remains when they leave? With public and private leaders aligned on a vision of mobility, equity, and legacy, the path forward is both ambitious and urgent.

"The Games will happen," Cole concluded. "The question is, what kind of city will we be when the torch leaves town? If we align purpose, partnership, and imagination, LA28 won't just be another Olympics - it will be a blueprint for how cities can reinvent themselves."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

My wife deserves respect, not condescension and name calling

As the husband of Mayor Lana Negrete, I usually keep quiet about politics. But after reading Kevin McKeown's recent letter attacking my wife, I couldn't stay silent.

It's one thing to disagree on policy. It's another to publicly belittle a woman who has dedicated herself to this city while carrying more responsibility and hardship than most could ever imagine. Lana runs a small business, serves on multiple local boards, raises two teenage daughters, and operates a nonprofit supporting at-risk youth — all while serving as Mayor. She did all this while battling breast cancer, never missing a single council meeting during her treatment. Not one. And even after losing her father last year, she stayed committed to the people of Santa Monica with strength, empathy, and grace.

I live with this strong, amazing, selfless woman. I see her come home after 1 a.m., exhausted from hours of council meetings where she's often talked down to, interrupted, or dismissed — yet she keeps showing up. She's the only one on that dais who was born and raised here, the only one who speaks from lived experience. She doesn't stand up for residents and marginalized communities because it looks good on a political flyer — she does it because that's who she is and what she represents.

It's sad to see that the political machine calling itself the "majority" on council is being steered behind the scenes by a man like Mr. McKeown. But then again, it's not hard to see the common thread — the same pandering, condescending tone, the same micro aggressions that my wife endures regularly on the dais. Through all of it, she's remained steadfast. She's never backed down, and she would never quit.

For Mr. McKeown, a man who walked away from his council seat live on Zoom without warning, to call her "petulant," "whining," or "reckless" isn't just ironic — it's a reflection of exactly what's wrong in our local politics.

I'd welcome the opportunity to speak with Mr. McKeown directly about his opinions. It's easy to throw stones from the sidelines, but real leadership — and real respect — come from honest, face-to-face conversation.

Lana doesn't need me to defend her — she's more than capable of holding her own — but as her husband, I won't sit quietly while someone takes cheap shots at a woman who's given her whole heart to this city.

– Luis Negrete, Santa Monica

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FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 7

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-/15793351/2025-11-07T08

BRUNCH FRIDAYS WITH LIVE MUSIC IN OUR GARDEN PATIO!

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Our newly launched Brunch Fridays just got vibey-er! Every week enjoy great eats, summer libations, and a featured music artist on our beautiful garden patio! So come toast to summer with our uniquely crafted brunch menu including our Turmeric Spiced Cloud Egg dish, Smoked Gouda Scramble with Smashed Ube, Vietnamese French Toast, along with Mama An classics such as Famous Garlic Noodles, Shaken Beef, and Seafood Egg Fried Rice! And of course, it wouldn't be brunch without bottomless mimosas & summer punch bowls, so grab your brunch crew and enjoy the fair along the beautiful backdrop of Al fresco dining. RESERVE NOW. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/brunch-fridays-with-live-music-in-our-garden-patio-/14639006/2025-11-07T11

TRIVIAL COMEDY

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. The Crow 2525 Michigan Avenue #Unit F4 Santa Monica. Come flex your knowledge AND enjoy a fun showcase of some hilarious comics who also have some favorite trivia fun facts too. In between sets, our host will be asking the audience trivia questions which you can answer for your chance at winning a cool prize! Recommended for 18 + (material is mature and can be compared to content seen in rated R films). $18.00 to $23.11. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/trivial-comedy/16607353/2025-11-07T20

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 8

ARTISTS & FLEAS: VENICE MARKETPLACE

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Westminster Elementary School 1010 Abbot Kinney Los Angeles. Artists & Fleas in Venice is located in the vibrant, artistic heart of Venice at the corner of Abbot Kinney and Westminster Avenue in the outdoor lot of Westminister Avenue Elementary School. Join 50+ merchants every Saturday (rain or shine!) for a fabulous lineup of art, design, food trucks and vintage. Date: Every Saturday Time: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Location: Westminster Elementary School - 1010 Abbot Kinney Check our website here for a list of vendors. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/artists-fleas-venice-marketplace/14548485/2025-11-08T11

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 9

THE WATERFRONT - SUNDAY REAL FUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Waterfront 205 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Enjoy a bottomless brunch buffet Sundays at The Waterfront! The Waterfront Venice is a full-service restaurant celebrating Californian cuisine with views of the Pacific Ocean. Situated between Rose and Navy on the famous Venice Beach Boardwalk, our food & beverage menus celebrate California with carefully selected seasonal produce from local farms. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-waterfront-sunday-real-funday-brunch-buffet/14894114/2025-10-26T11

VENICE ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE - SUNDAYS AT SUNSET

Windward Plaza 1501 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Join the Magic of the Venice Electric Light Parade Every Sunday Night! Looking for a unique and vibrant way to end your weekend? The Venice Electric Light Parade (VELP) is here to light up your Sunday evenings! Founded by Marcus Gladney, this family-friendly weekly event celebrates community, creativity, and safe cycling. Bring your LED-lit bicycle and join us for an unforgettable ride along the iconic Venice Beach. Details: When: Every Sunday evening. Meet 45 minutes before sunset. Where: Windward Plaza, Venice Beach. Who: Open to everyone! Bring your bike, lights, and good vibes. Cost: FREE to join! Experience the magic of glowing bikes, amazing sound bikes playing great music, and the welcoming energy of the Venice community. The parade follows a strict no-smoking or drinking policy, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all. Why Join? Connect with old and new friends. Celebrate the artistic and cultural spirit of Venice. Enjoy a safe and fun environment for all ages. So, light up your ride, bring your friends, and join us this Sunday at Windward Plaza. Don't forget to turn on your lights and practice safe cycling at night! Let's ride into the sunset together! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/venice-electric-light-parade-sundays-at-sunset/14970341/2025-10-26T00

MONDAY | NOVEMBER 10

THE GORDONS IMPROV RESIDENCY

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. Welcome to The Gordons Improv Show at Westside Comedy Theater! IMPROV RESIDENT TEAM NIGHT! Check out our current lineup of Resident Improv Teams! These teams perform Long-Form Improv all inspired by a suggestion from the audience. Think of it as a sitcom made up on the spot. Catch them before they are gone! These teams rotate every three months!Get ready for a night filled with laughter, spontaneity, and hilarious moments. Join us for an evening of unscripted comedy where every joke is made up on the spot. Our talented improv performers will have you in stitches as they create scenes, characters, and stories based on your suggestions. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind experience! Grab your friends and come on down to Westside Comedy Theater for a night you won't forget. TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED @ https://ci.ovationtix.com/34923/production/1126449?performanceId=11576550. $10.00. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-gordons-improv-residency/14863274/2025-11-10T19

LANDMARKS COMMISSION

7:00 p.m. City Council Chambers Santa Monica. Established in 1975, the mission of the Landmarks Commission is "To protect improvements and areas which represent the City's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history; safeguard the City's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage; and promote the use of landmarks and historic districts for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people." [SMMC Chapter 9.56]. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/landmarks-commission/11868081/2025-11-10T19

TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 11

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room at Virginia Avenue Park.Each week there will be something new: Exercise, Talking with Friends, Learning, Guest Presenters, Health & Wellness! For more information call (310) 458-8688. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2025-11-11T10

TECH & TASKS

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica. Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes and more. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tech-tasks/16225799/2025-11-11T16

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

5:30 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/city-council-meeting/13799967/2025-11-11T17

TUESDAY OPEN MIC

Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. The best open mic in Los Angeles! The Tuesday Open Mic is a weekly open mic. Hop onstage and perform your best 3 minutes! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tuesday-open-mic/16004734/2025-11-11T22

WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 12

FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY: YOGA FOR EVERYONE!

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Venice. Through body awareness, movement, and breath, you will be guided on how to bring your body, mind, and spirit back into balance for overall well-being. All levels are welcome. Generously funded by the Friends of Venice Library. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento.

ORIGINAL UNDERSTUDIES

8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Mi's Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A Third Street Promenade Santa Monica. Original Understudies. The Bear Supply Hour is now Original Understudies. The same high energy comedy that was once named one of "The 100 Best Things in Comedy" by The Comedy Bureau, is now joined by a cast of both fresh and veteran comedians in fast-paced sketch and long form improv. Every show features special guests creating a high-octane, freakishly entertaining, one-of-a-kind improvised spectacle. FEATURING: Shaun Boylan. Caroline Cotter. Joey Greer. James Heaney. THIS SHOW IS 21 AND OVER. PLEASE BRING A VALID I.D. LINE-UP SUBJECT TO CHANGE. IF YOU ARE NOT PHYSICALLY HERE TO CLAIM YOUR TICKETS THEY WILL BECOME VOID 15 MINUTES AFTER SHOW START TIME. $11.49. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/original-understudies/15018109/2025-11-12T20

THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 13

WALKING MEDITATION

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Los Angeles. Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. We'll meet Tuesday's and Thursdays at 8 am at lifeguard tower 28 in line with Ashland Street (paid parking available in the Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South) We'll walk silently together for approximately 45 minutes on the shoreline (from tower 28 to the rainbow tower at Brooks Street). Everyone is welcome to join whether new to meditation or with many years of experience. Please remember to bring sand shoes if you prefer not to walk barefoot, sunscreen, a hat, a jacket if it's cold and water. Looking forward to meeting and meditating with you all. please feel free to reach out with any concerns or questions and please arrive 5 minutes early and check schedule for any changes or cancellations. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/walking-meditation/16206460/2025-11-13T08

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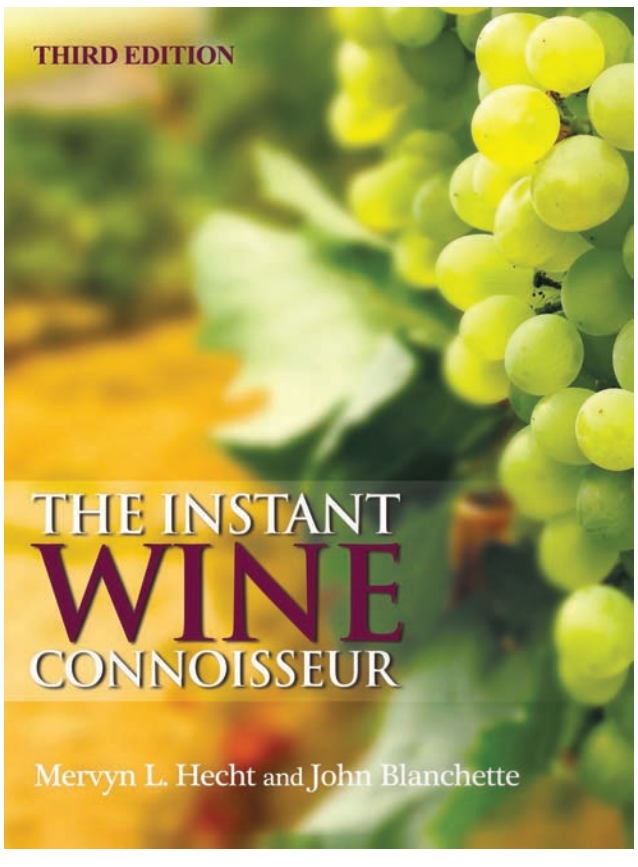
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★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



Daily Press Food &Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.

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SCIENCE BUILDING

FROM PAGE 2

opens a true window to the universe and puts Santa Monica College in the company of research universities around the world," said Jason Beardsley, vice president of academic affairs.

Public shows will begin Friday, Nov. 14, with "Night Sky Show" programs at 7 p.m. exploring current celestial objects and astronomy news, followed by feature programs at 8 p.m. Once monthly, weather permitting, the feature program will be replaced with live telescope viewing from the rooftop observatory.

> A very large percentage of SMC students are first-generation, and many hold down part-time jobs while pursuing an education here to make a better life for themselves and their families
> - Brian Rodas, Math Professor

The facility houses 22 classrooms and 11 laboratories equipped with cutting-edge educational technology. Fifteen rooms feature "Hyflex" capabilities, allowing instructors to simultaneously teach students attending in person and online — a critical feature for SMC's diverse student population.

"A very large percentage of SMC students are first-generation, and many hold down part-time jobs while pursuing an education here to make a better life for themselves and their families," said Math Professor Brian Rodas, who has taught at SMC for more than 24 years. "To say that this space has transformed the teaching-learning experience is truly an understatement."

The building features document cameras that project live experiments onto high-definition displays and channel glass walls that flood classrooms with natural light. In chemistry labs, see-through hoods provide clear sightlines throughout the space, allowing better instructor supervision during experiments.

"The moment anyone steps into our new labs, they always remark on how stunning and bright the space is," said Dr. Jennifer Hsieh, chair of the Physical Sciences Department. "Beyond being beautiful, the new labs are highly functional."

The Physical Sciences Department gained sophisticated analytical equipment, including Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer and High-Performance Liquid Chromatograph instruments. The department also acquired two Monowave 50 reactors that accelerate chemical reactions from hours to minutes, allowing more complex experiments in class time.

These additions will support a new "Introduction to Chemical Instrumentation" course and enable students to earn a Certificate of Achievement in Chemical Technician Skills, pending board approval.

The Life Sciences Department expanded its biotechnology program with additional lab space for Biology 31-35 courses, helping students complete certificates more efficiently. Earth Sciences gained a new Geographic Information Systems lab where students learn to convert data into maps, and expanded anthropology labs with new bone casts for studying human evolution.

The physics lab accommodates the complete physics for engineering sequence with specialized features including red lights and blackout curtains for optics work.

SMC Superintendent/President Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery said the building "was designed to inspire and to represent SMC's vision of education: the striving toward a better, more sustainable future while staying true to a shared past."

The design seamlessly integrates the restored Memorial Clocktower, dedicated in 1955 to commemorate SMC student veterans who died in World War II and the Korean War.

Sustainable features that earned the building LEED Gold certification include low-flow toilets, efficient mechanical systems, energy-efficient lighting, reflective roofing and drought-tolerant landscaping, according to Charlie Yen, director of facilities planning and construction.

The building, which won a design award in 2024 from the Los Angeles Business Council in the "under construction category," had its soft opening in late 2024 and began serving students then. Saturday's open house marked the official celebration of the facility's completion.

Professor of Astronomy Simon Balm said the new facility "transforms astronomy from something you read about to something you experience."

The planetarium's public programs and additional information are available at smc.edu/planetarium.

maaz@smdp.com

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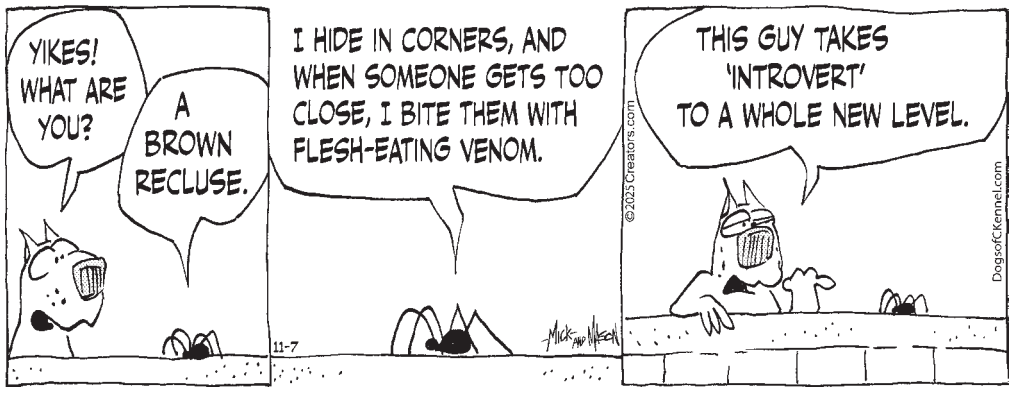
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



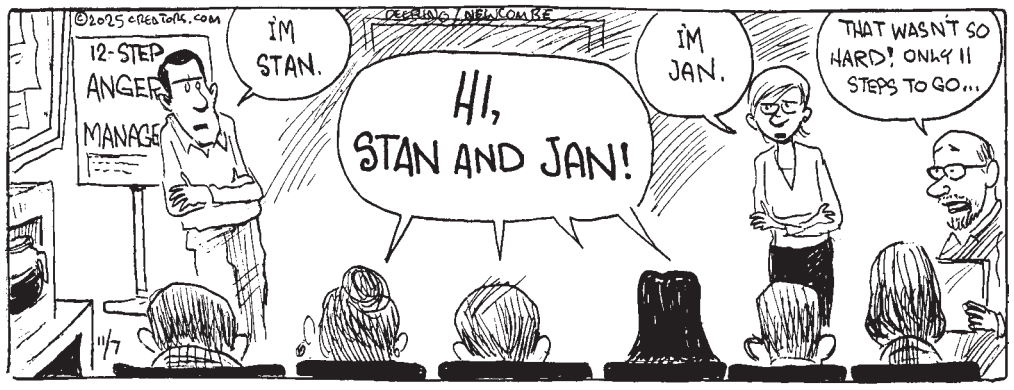
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S ON THE JOB."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Bank industry

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

Alarm
Analysis
Applied
ASIC
Assets
Bank
Bonds
Buck
Card
Cash
Cent
Coin
Copper
Costs
Crown
Debtor
Deposit
Ducat
Euro
Fees
Gain
Gold
Goods
Guinea
Kits
Lending
Loan
Loss
Mint
Money
Mortgage
Notes
Pay
Real
Risk
Safe
Sale
Secure
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Staff
Stock exchange
Taxes
Terms
Thrifty
Trade
Users
Value

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 7)

Welcome to your Year of an Incandescent Inner Life. You'll use the illumination born of your curiosity to turn ordinary interactions into art, daily work into purpose and focused time into creative gold. You'll alternate between the pleasures of learning and the fulfillment of teaching. More highlights: Fun and profitable work; love that feels lighter, sillier and sweeter; and a financial win that proves joy really can pay. Sagittarius and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 8, 1, 11 and 30.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The people who inspire laughter, creativity and closeness can be the same people who bring you friction, misunderstandings and overwhelm. Blame chemistry. All in all, it's a blessing because either way, it's an invitation to grow.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The mind doesn't store time; it stores impressions. A memory will light up your nervous system as though it's happening right now. Just because something is in the past doesn't mean that it's over.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The familiar falls away. Something extraordinary wants to come through. Release routine. There's a brief, scary space - the void - before the new reality forms. Before you even have time to feel that emptiness, something wondrous replaces it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The astral omens warn against crowdsourcing today, only because your vision is beautiful and clear, and extra opinions will only compromise or distort it. No need to reconcile conflicting ideas. Just act on your own.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Those who encounter your light feel more awake to their own. You're honest, and it's why people sense they can rely on you. In a world hungry for something real, your candor is both medicine and magnet.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're handling life with emotional intelligence. Self-respect is an inside job. Today you'll realize how you're really training your attention to go where it heals instead of where it hurts. Small things build genuine self-esteem.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The way to freedom is through a little chosen restraint. Skip a luxury, delay gratification or sit with a craving instead of satisfying it right away. You'll find that the "need" quickly dissolves.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Myths, love stories, art, political systems - they are all constructs humans agreed to believe in, and they've shaped everything we know. Don't fear illusion. Use it. The line between delusion and creation is where humanity does its best work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There will be admin work to do, and there's no way around it - only through. Try to find a way to make it fun for yourself - rewards, music, small interruptions, a change of scenery... it all becomes a game instead of a grind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Unresolved emotion lingers. It doesn't dissolve just because the calendar turned. It waits, quietly influencing your relationships, fears or ambitions until it's acknowledged and integrated. The emotional past becomes the psychological present.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You get to know people by letting them teach you who they are. If each person is a classroom, you're showing up with coffee, awake to what's being taught. The lessons will come through more feelings than facts today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Exchanges leave you stronger and give you the sense that you're on the right path. Because the right kinds of challenges are regenerative, not exhausting. You'll naturally be drawn to (and attract) experiences that give back.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

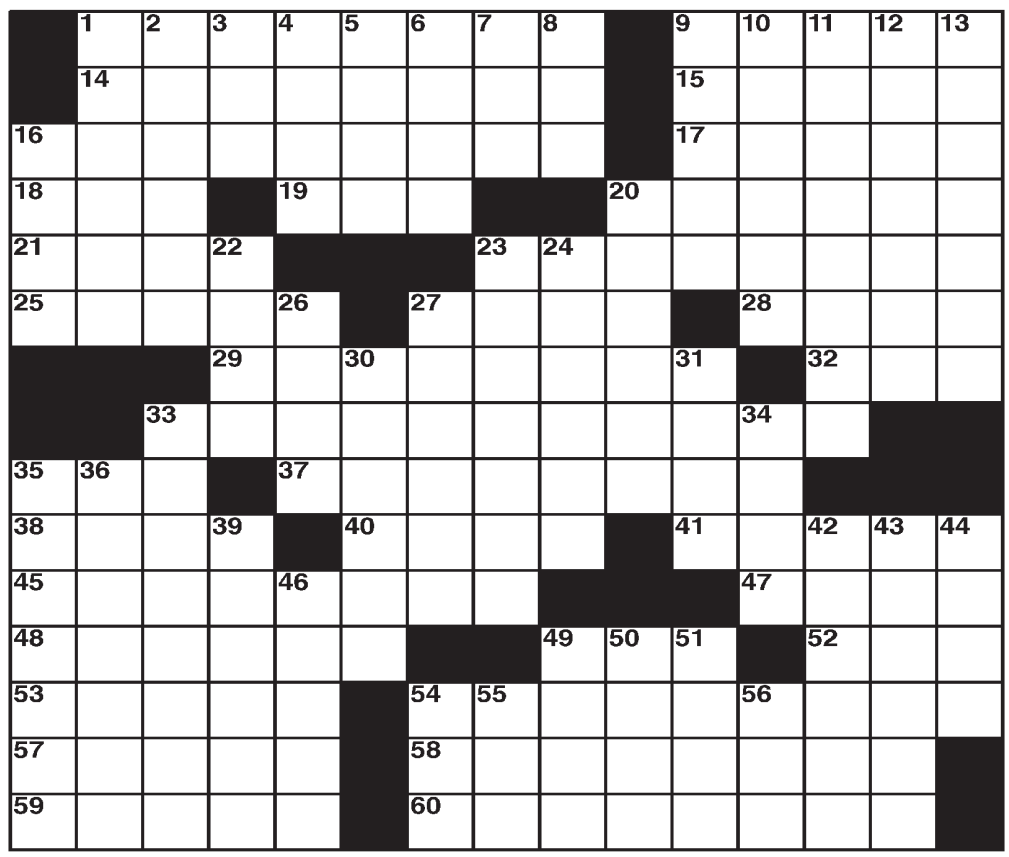
UNCOMMON ANTONYMS by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Start to have an effect
9 Academy Award category
14 What Madonna and Teller are
15 Specialty magnifier
16 With the awareness of, with "to"
17 Guitar ancestors
18 Give Kids a Smile org.
19 Plank with a binding
20 Corporate owner
21 Former capital of Italy
23 Happy
25 "No, thank you"
27 British pen
28 Young-adult novelist Gruen
29 Where America's only royal palace is
32 Merry, per "Deck the Halls"
33 Easily wearied
35 Body of *eau*
37 Olympians, for instance
38 Jam-pack
40 Set up for sowing
41 Woodworking hand tools
45 Stained
47 Path preceder
48 Charlie's successor on *Two and a Half Men*
49 Online gasp
52 Cargo carrier
53 All too fallible
54 Paying close attention
57 Chimp cousin
58 Red carpet event
59 Hatching posts
60 European range

DOWN

1 Cautious-beginning metaphor
2 Bicontinental country's capital
3 Mental perception
4 Noah ancestor
5 Winged predator
6 Luxury hotel chain
7 Article written by Curie
8 Banned hydrocarbon
9 Frances or John who raised Poe
10 County seat
11 Protective influence
12 Contemporary tennisdom
13 Break from working out
16 Indonesian Film Festival site
20 Tug
22 Early 12-Down star
23 Where the Jesus Trail is hiked
24 Became red in the face
26 What may hide a bed
27 Started a winning streak
30 Lane around Broadway
31 "Super" starter
33 Greek bread of old
34 Exam with logic games
35 *Entertainment Weekly's* #1 of the "50 greatest sidekicks"
36 Evidence of editing
39 Genetic newcomer
42 Unforgiving
43 Woodworking hand tools
44 On their way
46 Extended suits
49 A thing of the past
50 Trending thing
51 Exude elation
54 Salad or soup
55 Parched
56 Souvenir shop staple



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CARUSO

FROM PAGE 1

believes can scale — from neighborhoods like the Palisades and Altadena to the City of Los Angeles and, eventually, the entire state of California. His philosophy is simple but urgent: to build back better, leadership must think like builders — cutting through bureaucracy, empowering communities, and partnering across sectors to get results.

"I do enjoy taking very complex problems, taking them apart and putting them back together — and I love public service," Caruso said early in the conversation, setting the tone for an evening that blended civic passion with practical solutions.

Moderated by Carolla, the discussion spanned Los Angeles governance, infrastructure efficiency, vocational trades, housing affordability, Olympic readiness, and post-disaster recovery. But at its heart, it was a conversation about how to restore competence, pride, and progress to California's public life. "Government can't do it alone," Caruso said. "But when the public and private sectors come together with purpose and integrity, we can move mountains."

He traced that conviction back to his family's beginnings. His grandfather immigrated from Italy and worked as a gardener in Boyle Heights. His father went on to become a successful businessman. By his mid-twenties, Caruso was already serving as one of Los Angeles' youngest commissioners on Water & Power which lead to a Board role, in addition to Police Commissioner, learning from civic giants like Mayor Tom Bradley and later Mayor Dick Riordan. "They empowered people, they valued results, and they knew what leadership meant — making tough calls and standing by them," he recalled. Those lessons, he said, shaped his belief that leadership isn't about title or tenure; it's about responsibility and courage.

Throughout the evening, Caruso returned to what he calls the "builder's mentality" a mindset grounded in urgency, discipline, and common sense. "We've got a city full of meetings but no progress," he said, drawing laughter and applause. "We need leaders who roll up their sleeves." Carolla quipped that "common sense is an endangered species in Los Angeles," as the two men agreed that change requires both the private sector's efficiency and the public sector's reach — the model Caruso has been proving through Steadfast LA.

They spoke about how California could learn from its own failures. Carolla introduced his idea of "monuments to failure," inspired by Ferrari's habit of displaying broken parts to spark innovation. He suggested that the state's stalled bullet train could serve as a symbol of inefficiency, a reminder of what happens when ambition isn't matched by execution. "We should be learning from what hasn't worked — not burying it in another study," Caruso said. "That's how you build better the next time."

The conversation turned toward education and the workforce. Both men lamented the decline of vocational training and the lack of opportunities for young Angelenos to enter the skilled trades. "If you drive down PCH, you see hardworking crews — mostly Hispanic tradespeople — literally building the city," Carolla said. "Why aren't we opening those opportunities for every kid in LA?"

Caruso agreed, calling for a revival of trade schools and stronger union partnerships with groups like the carpenters and pipefitters. "Not everyone needs a four-year degree," he said. "We need plumbers, electricians, builders - people with purpose and pride. This is about dignity giving people the chance to build their own future."

On housing, Caruso was direct. Nearly 40 percent of the cost of new housing, he said, comes from regulation and permitting. His company has worked to challenge that model through workforce housing that allows employees to live closer to where they work without subsidies or tax credits. "We build housing that honors workers," he said. "That's how you build a community, not just a skyline."

Looking ahead to the 2028 Olympics, Caruso questioned whether Los Angeles is ready. "We clean up for cameras, not for residents," he said. He called for a return to civic pride and long-term planning, suggesting that the opening ceremony be held at the LA Coliseum to honor the city's Olympic legacy. "The world is coming," he said. "Let's show them the Los Angeles we all love - clean, proud, and united."

As the evening unfolded, Caruso reflected on his early years in public service. "Tom Bradley built coalitions. Dick Riordan ran the city like a business. Jim Hahn made hard choices — hiring Bill Bratton and cutting crime, even when it cost him politically. That's what leadership looks like." Carolla nodded, adding, "We need to start voting for competence over charisma." The audience erupted in applause.

When the conversation turned to whether he would run for office again, Caruso smiled, the same measured, understated smile that's become his signature. "What is the path to do that? I'm at a point very soon that I have to make a decision," he admitted. "It's a really tough decision. I want to come in and do good, and do the right thing, get it done, and go back to the private sector. I'm not looking for a career. Within a few weeks or so, I'll probably have a decision made, and it's a big topic of discussion at the house with my wife and kids, who are incredibly supportive." Carolla laughed, offering, "If you run for governor, I'll move to Sacramento with you."

Caruso chuckled, then paused. "I don't know," he said. "What I do know is I'll never stop fighting for this city and for this state. You don't need a title to serve. You just need to care enough to do something about it."

Before the night ended, he returned to what had made that day so meaningful. Just hours earlier, Caruso met with the five families and told them they'd be receiving a newly built homes in Altadena through Steadfast LA - each one for a family that had lost everything in the wildfires. "It was one of the greatest days of my life," Caruso said quietly. "When you help a family rebuild their home, you help rebuild their hope. That's what being a builder means."

TOROSIS

FROM PAGE 1

Torosis said she hadn't seen the email and she had not been working with the project.

"I don't know what to tell you - people can say whatever they want," she said.

Torosis previously defended herself against allegations she had early knowledge of the project. During the Oct. 14 Council meeting, speakers said any possible collaboration between the council and the developer was a "betrayal" of the public trust and Torosis was accused of collusion dating back to 2024.

"I just want to refute that statement that was just made. It is not true that I've known about this project since then," she said at that meeting. She said she did not want to say more given a pending threat of litigation over the subject.

The email is one of many sought by residents trying to piece together the history of the project.

As proposed, two buildings along Ocean Ave. would have housed about 50 individuals under the care of the St. Joseph Center. The facility would have been funded through a grant administered by the County but was first paused, then cancelled, when residents organized in opposition.

County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath made the call to end the project saying it was ill-conceived but a similar project could still come to fruition somewhere in the city.

Despite moving away from Ocean Ave., neighbors have said they still want more information about the origins of the idea and why they were left out of the loop for so long. Mayor Lana Negrete was the first to make the project public in an email to constituents in late September.

The St. Joseph Center said it was approached by the property owner as early as November 2024. The organization said it received state/county money for the project in February of 2025, notified staff about the project in April, and briefed some councilmembers in June/July.

City officials have previously said that staff were first made aware of the project in April and as yet, no one has provided a clear timeline on which councilmembers were involved in the early briefings.

Resident Ashley Oelsen has been working with neighbors to understand the process and said the new email highlighted the disrespect for citizens shown by the clandestine negotiations to bring it forward.

"We now know Councilmember Torosis wasn't just aware of these projects; she helped shape them while concealing that involvement from the very residents she represents. The bridge housing projects on Ocean Ave. would have directly affected the safety of our children and the economic health of our city, yet the community was kept in the dark until the eleventh hour," she said. "As she prepares to assume the role of mayor, she owes the public a clear answer: whose interests come first: Los Angeles County's or Santa Monica's? Her silence and concealment have already revealed where her loyalties lie, and it's not with the residents of this community."

Torosis was part of a unanimous council vote last month for new transparency standards for supportive and transitional housing projects, responding to the community backlash.

Mayor Negrete's measure directs staff to develop coordination protocols with Los Angeles County and developers to ensure community engagement before projects advance. The vote came one day after the county canceled the controversial Ocean Ave. facility proposal for severely mentally ill individuals following resident opposition.

The framework requires written council briefings when projects are first discussed, comprehensive community engagement, clarification of zoning requirements, and creation of a communications system including a webpage and hotline.

editor@smdp.com

YOUTH DAY

FROM PAGE 3

Park on the Santa Monica Pier, Starbucks, Costco and Kiwanis Santa Monica provided support for the inaugural celebration.

Many people remain unaware that the Santa Monica Pier Corporation operates as a nonprofit organization that isn't fully funded by the City of Santa Monica. The corporation relies on donations and partnerships to produce free public programs throughout the year that connect the community through arts, culture, education and entertainment.

The success of the event has already prompted planning for expanded programming. Future Youth Day celebrations aim to include more participating children and additional partner organizations annually, building on the foundation established by this year's pilot program.

The pier's commitment to accessibility and community service reflects its broader mission to serve as more than just a tourist destination. Through programs like Youth Day, the historic landmark continues to fulfill its role as a community gathering place where economic barriers don't determine access to joy and discovery.

Community members interested in supporting next year's Youth Day or other pier initiatives can contact Dana Moorehead at dana@santamonicapier.org. Tax-deductible contributions to support future programming are available at santamonicapier.org/support.

The success of the inaugural Youth Day suggests the pier has found a sustainable model for bringing transformative experiences to children who might otherwise never visit one of California's most celebrated coastal destinations.

As Harris and his team begin planning for 2026, they're guided by the same principle that inspired the original program: ensuring that every child, regardless of circumstance, can experience the simple magic of a day at the pier.

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