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Volume 25 Issue 1

THE WEEKENDER 11/14-11/16

smdp.com

Los Angeles County opens investigation into State Farm's wildfire claims handling



SMDP Photo

FIRE: As homeowners have struggled to rebuild their lives following the Palisades and Eaton fires, State Farm has come under increasing criticism.

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

Los Angeles County announced Wednesday that County Counsel has launched an investigation into State Farm's handling of insurance claims filed by policyholders affected by the January 2025 Eaton and Palisades fires.

The investigation focuses on potential violations of California's Unfair Competition Law and follows growing complaints from residents about delays, underpayments and denials of legitimate wildfire claims.

County Counsel has formally notified State Farm that if it is engaging in any unlawful or unfair business practices, the company must immediately stop such conduct and come into full compliance with state laws and regulations.

"Altadena residents have already endured unimaginable loss and they shouldn't have to fight their own insurance company to recover," said Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger. "The County has heard loud and clear from wildfire survivors that State Farm's delays are standing

in the way of rebuilding. Fair and timely insurance payments aren't a privilege; they're a right. State Farm must act quickly so survivors can rebuild their homes and their lives."

The county's action comes nearly a year after the devastating wildfires that killed dozens and destroyed thousands of structures in Los Angeles County. State Farm — California's largest private insurer with more than 2.8 million residential and commercial policies statewide — has faced tens of thousands of homeowner, auto and business claims from fire victims.

Many wildfire survivors have shared stories of frustration in dealing with State Farm. Homeowners whose houses didn't burn down but were rendered uninhabitable by smoke contamination say the insurer has been stingy about paying for proper cleaning and repairs. Survivors reported being shuffled between multiple adjusters, having calls and emails go unanswered, and receiving inadequate or lowball settlement offers far short of actual repair costs.

SEE **LAWSUIT** PAGE 12

Parents file \$200M lawsuit in DUI

death of teen

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

The parents of an 18-year-old Loyola High School student killed by an alleged drunk driver have filed a \$200 million wrongful death lawsuit, vowing to push for tougher California DUI laws in their son's memory.

Jennifer and Daniel Levi announced the lawsuit against Jenia Belt, the woman accused of striking and killing their son Braun Levi in Manhattan Beach on May 4. The

SEE **DUI** PAGE 10

Malibu Council streamlines fee waiver process, delegates authority to city manager

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

The Malibu City Council moved to overhaul its facility fee waiver approval process Monday, delegating significantly more authority to the city manager in an effort to reduce the council's workload and streamline approval of recurring

SEE **FEE WAIVER** PAGE 15







New documentary chronicles Black women's journey in L.A. improv comedy

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

In a comedy landscape where Black women remain significantly underrepresented, two best friends from South Central Los Angeles are breaking barriers one laugh at a time.

"Homegirls in Outer Space," a new short documentary directed by filmmaker Ben Guest, follows Mattia Day and Ashlei Theard as they compete for a coveted residency at the Westside Comedy Theater, one of Los Angeles's premier improv stages. The film captures their audition alongside more than 40 teams vying for just 12 spots.

"I am petrified because in the audition we only have 15 minutes," Day says in the film. "We could literally be out there for 15 minutes with no laughs."

What begins as a straightforward audition story evolves into a deeper exploration of identity, representation and the power of Black female friendship in a predominantly white comedy space.

The documentary blends humor and heart while examining themes of ambition, belonging and resilience. Against a backdrop where few Black women perform improv, Day and Theard's journey becomes one of courage and creative self-definition.

Guest said he was drawn to the project

because of the women's mutual support, a contrast to typical media portrayals of female friendship.

"We often see depictions of friends who are rivals, or jealous of one another," Guest said. "This was the opposite, a story of two women who support each other. Additionally, depictions of Black female friendship are not often seen on the big screen."

The film's structure mirrors a sports movie, building toward the high-stakes audition day. But as Day and Theard brought on coach Patrick Rowland — who also serves as a producer — the documentary's focus expanded.

"Now we have three Black people working together in the improv space, themes of representation naturally came out," Guest said

Those themes include stark statistics about diversity in comedy. In the film, Rowland discusses auditioning for "Saturday Night Live" in 2013. Today, only 20 of the 153 cast members in SNL's history have been Black, including just eight Black women.

"I want to see more people like us on these stages," Rowland says in the documentary.

Rowland speaks from experience as often the only Black person on his improv teams

SEE **DOCUMENTARY** PAGE 4



Patrick Rowland

DOCUMENTARY: (From left to right) Ashlei Theard, Ben Guest (Director), and Mattia Day. Location is 3rd Ct. Santa Monica.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Justice Department sues to block California US House map in clash that could tip control of Congress

The Justice Department on Thursday sued to block new congressional district boundaries approved by California voters last week, joining a court battle that could help determine which party wins control of the U.S. House in 2026.



California's redistricting scheme is a brazen power grab that tramples on civil rights and mocks the democratic process

- Pam Bondi, Attorney General



The complaint filed in California federal court targets the new congressional map pushed by Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom in response to a similar Republicanled effort in Texas backed by President Donald Trump. It sets the stage for a highstakes legal and political fight between the Republican administration and the Democratic governor, who's seen as a likely 2028 presidential contender.

"California's redistricting scheme is a brazen power grab that tramples on civil rights and mocks the democratic process," Attorney General Pam Bondi said in an emailed statement. "Governor Newsom's attempt to entrench one-party rule and silence millions of Californians will not

Newsom spokesperson Brandon Richards said in a statement, "These losers lost at the ballot box and soon they will also lose in

The legal move marks the first time the Justice Department has sued over a flurry of unusual, mid-decade House map revisions across the country that were drawn to maximize partisan advantage in advance of next year's elections.

California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 50, a constitutional amendment changing the congressional boundaries to give Democrats a shot at winning five seats now held by Republicans in next year's midterm elections.

The Justice Department is joining a case challenging the new map that was brought by the California Republican Party last week. The Trump administration accuses California of racial gerrymandering in violation of the Constitution by using race as a factor to favor Hispanic voters with the new map. It asks a judge to prohibit California from using the new map in any future elections.

"Race cannot be used as a proxy to advance political interests, but that is precisely what the California General Assembly did with Proposition 50 — the recent ballot initiative that junked California's pre-existing electoral map in favor of a rush-job rejiggering of California's congressional district lines," the lawsuit says.

Prop 50 was Newsom's response to Trump's maneuvers in Texas, where Republicans rejiggered districts in hopes of picking up five seats of their own ahead of the 2026 midterm elections, when House control will be on the line.

Democrats need to gain just a handful of seats next year to take control of the chamber, which would imperil Trump's agenda for the remainder of his term and open the way for congressional investigations into his administration. Republicans hold 219 seats, to Democrats' 214.

The showdown between the nation's two most populous states has spread nationally, with Missouri, North Carolina and Ohio adopting new district lines that could provide a partisan advantage. Other states are considering similar moves.

The national implications of California's ballot measure were clear in both the money it attracted and the high-profile figures who became involved. Tens of millions of dollars flowed into the race, including a \$5 million donation to opponents from the Congressional Leadership Fund, the super political action committee tied to House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La.

Former Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger opposed it, while former President Barack Obama, a Democrat, appeared in ads supporting it, calling it a "smart" approach to counter Republican moves aimed at safeguarding House control.

The contest provided Newsom with a national platform and he has confirmed he will consider a White House run in 2028.

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and MICHAEL R. BLOOD Associated Press. Richer reported from Chicago



. WATER TEMP: **63.9**

SURF: 3-4ft+

Waist to shoulder

More SSW swell shows up and new WNW pulse is also into the mix. Southerly wind, rain expected. Another potent low in the Gulf of Alaska looks likely through the middle of the week, setting up a rise in WNW swell through the day. Also expecting a refresh of SSW swell. SE wind in the forecast all day along with rain showers. Might have enough E in it for select spots out west, otherwise sideshore out there. Points dealing with E wind lumpiness all day. Shaping up to be a pretty junky day of

SATURDAY FAIR TO GOOD SURF: 2-3ft+

Thigh to stomach

Chunky combo leftover. Watching the AM wind, potential for improving conditions. WNW swell from Friday gradually backs down but still has some bite and there's nice size SSW swell lingering. The early morning high tide slows things down for the dawn patrol but the tide is in a good place pretty quickly. Chunky combo surf expected and the thing to watch is the PM wind. AM wind ranges from S to E in the AM, neither of which are favorable for the region. Afternoon could cleanup some, depending on how the low behaves. We'll dial it in over the next



Friday: Showers. High near 58. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. Friday Night: patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a chance of showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Low around 58. East wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as

Saturday: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 61. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Saturday Night: Showers, mainly before 4am. Low around 55. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(IT)High/Lov
2025/11/14	Fri	05:49 AM	4.97	Н
2025/11/14	Fri	12:02 PM	1.59	L
2025/11/14	Fri	5:38 PM	4.14	Н
2025/11/14	Fri	11:44 PM	0.89	L
2025/11/15	Sat	06:17 AM	5.28	Н
2025/11/15	Sat	12:46 PM	1.01	L
2025/11/15	Sat	6:35 PM	4.04	Н
2025/11/16	Sun	12:15 AM	1.23	L
2025/11/16	Sun	06:42 AM	5.53	Н



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 nation and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery



Draw Date: 11/12 29 39 43 51 65 Power#: 23 Jackpot: 546 M

12 18 22 37 40



Draw Date: 11/12 Draw Date: 11/12

EVENING: 1 9 6

Draw Date: 11/12 MIDDAY: 5 4 6





Draw Date: 11/12 1st: 08 - Gorgeous George 2nd: 01 - Gold Rush 3rd: 10 - Solid Gold Race Time: 1:45.60





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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD REGULAR MEETING SANTA MONICA CITY HALL

DATE/TIME: Monday, November 17, 2025, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)

Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 250

PUBLIC HEARING:

1320 Pico Boulevard (25ARB-0210): Multi-Family Residential

To review the design, colors, materials, and landscape for the construction of an eight-story, 78'-10" tall, 134,869 square foot residential housing project consisting of 147 units (123 market rate units; 24 affordable units), above 2.5 levels of subterranean parking in the Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Zoning District.

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 <u>planning@santamonica.</u> gov at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

SERVICIO DE TRADUCCIÓN DISPONIBLE A PEDIDO. Comuníquese al <u>planning@santamonica.</u> 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 <u>ana.</u> fernandez@santamonica.gov

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.cor

Re: "Los Angeles Tops National 'Rattiest City' List" (Nov. 5)

Dear Editor

With regard to the article "Los Angeles Tops National 'Rattiest City List" I hope your readership will understand that this assertion-we're the rattiest city-is basically hogwash. First, and foremost, there is no accurate or scientifically grounded account of the rat population in the United States. There are too many variables: location, climate, age of housing etc. etc. The best estimate experts circulate is that there is one rat for every two persons. That's for the whole United States. Rats, in other words, are endemic everywhere.

The Orkin assertion is based on the number of calls the company received regarding rats. The data does not include whether inspectors actually found rats, how many were actually exterminated, etc. So the "data" in this case is purely anecdotal. That is, it's a publicity stunt.

Los Ángeles is an urban ecosystem whose weather and other factors are particularly favorable to rats, raccoons, oppossums and coyotes This should come as zero surprise. We are all gaily involved in a "synanthropic" community which means the rats et al. and us humans are all one big hopefully happy family hereabouts. They're your friends and neighbors.

Bruce Henstell, MLS, Ph.D., Santa Monica

Dear Edito

Leaving L.A.'s streets piled with food-filled trash bags is like sending engraved invitations to rats—resourceful animals simply trying to survive. Rats are highly intelligent, fastidiously clean, hardworking, and devoted to their families—all qualities we admire in humans. But after rolling out the welcome mat for rats, we label them—as your article did—"pests" and "vermin" and subject them to drawn-out, agonizing deaths with glue traps and poisons.

These methods are not only horrifically cruel but also ineffective, as more animals will move in to replace those who were killed. And, even though rats are less likely than dogs or cats to transmit parasites and viruses, glue traps increase the risk, as ensnared animals are torn apart.

Better trash pickup procedures and chew-proof receptacles are proven, long-term solutions. Residents can evict rodent visitors with ammonia-soaked cotton balls or strobe lights. To keep them out, seal all holes, cracks, and gaps; store food in chew-proof containers; secure garbage cans; and reduce outdoor nesting spots by clearing clutter and trimming vegetation. With compassion and common sense, we can humanely coexist—even with the smallest among us.

Sincerely,

Dru Dowd, Los Angeles

DOCUMENTARY

FROM PAGE 2

and at shows. Now he's mentoring the next generation, including Day and Theard, as the comedy landscape slowly diversifies.

Guest moved to Santa Monica three blocks from the Westside Comedy Theater and began taking improv classes there. He was struck by the mix of students, from finance professionals and think-tank employees to comedians and actors.

"It was a great slice of life," Guest said. "And I want to give the Westside Comedy Theater their flowers. With their combination of improv and stand-up shows and classes, they are the hub for comedy on the West Side."

The film also serves as a call to action for viewers to step outside their comfort zones.

"I also hope the film can serve as an example for people to get out of their comfort zone and try something new," Guest said.

Shot with vibrant cinematography and fast pacing, "Homegirls in Outer Space" maintains an authentic emotional core. The

film resonates with anyone who has dared to create in spaces not built for them.

The documentary, produced by Guest, Day, Theard and Rowland, recently completed post-production and has begun its festival run. A work-in-progress version received honorable mention at the Athens International Art Film Festival.

Guest said he hopes the film will premiere at the Santa Monica International Film Festival before appearing at several festivals in 2025.

"Santa Monica is a diverse place and it is important we see that represented on film," Guest said. "I'm lucky enough that Mattia and Ashlei and Patrick trusted me to tell their story."

The film's portrait of Black female friendship, set against the competitive world of Los Angeles improv, offers both celebration and critique — honoring the performers while highlighting the work still needed to diversify comedy's stages.

maaz@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

In L.A. mayor's race, Karen Bass is vulnerable but she'll be tough to topple

The announcement by investment banker and former schools chief Austin Beutner that he will challenge Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass for re-election poses several questions about the state of politics in America's second-largest city.

Among them: Is Bass vulnerable to a respectable opponent? If so, what kind of challenger might give her the most trouble? And how, if at all, does the long shadow of President Donald Trump affect the parameters of this race?

LET'S TAKE THOSE IN ORDER:

Yes, Bass is vulnerable. Public and private polls place her approval rating somewhere in the low 40s, against a disapproval rating in the high 40s — which means she's about 10 points under water, a danger zone for an incumbent.

The good news for her is that her disapproval hasn't risen above 50% in any poll, so she hasn't alienated a majority of voters.

It also bears noting that her standing comes at a time when many political figures are held in low esteem.

In California, Gov. Gavin Newsom typically tops 50% since he stepped up his attacks on Trump. The president, for point of reference, is deeply unpopular, with disapprovals outweighing approvals by 18% — shocking even for a leader who generally receives low marks from Americans.

Bass' numbers are nowhere near alarming enough to count her out, but they do invite challengers. For months, speculation has mostly centered around businessman Rick Caruso, who Bass beat in 2022. If Caruso gets in, it will set up a rematch of a race in which he spent more than \$100 million of his own money, only to lose to Bass by 10 points.

Private polling has shown Caruso potentially starting off a bit better this time, but not by much. Many voters don't like that he's a developer or that he registered as a Democrat just in time to run in 2022.

Even Caruso's attempts to challenge Bass over her response to the January wildfires were complicated by his record during that devastating event. Caruso's private fire crews protected his mall in the Palisades while allowing structures around them to burn — not a great look for a would-be mayor for all Angelenos.

Beutner's main contribution to the campaign so far may be to crowd out Caruso. It's hard to imagine there's room in a Los Angeles election for two rich white guys. Indeed, there's reason to wonder whether there's even room for one. And with Senator Alex Padilla's announcement last week that he won't run for governor, Caruso may have a better opening in that

As the campaign moves forward, a look at the issues and personalities will

The announcement by investment help voters make up their minds in this nker and former schools chief Austin race, but for now, the questions are more structural than personal.

Which brings us to this one: What kind of challenger might pose the biggest threat to Bass?

People outside Los Angeles undoubtedly imagine that a liberal, Black woman mayor would be vulnerable only to a conservative, someone who could hold the center while she drew support from the left.

Those people would be wrong.

Los Angeles is among the most liberal cities in America. If anything, Bass may be more conservative than the city's political center. Given that, there's been talk of possible liberal challengers to her. The popularity of Democratic Socialists in several council districts and New York mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani's recent victory are reminders that the left has a solid and growing hold in America's urban centers.

For his part, Beutner resists attempts to categorize his candidacy as fitting into one lane or another. In an interview last week he emphasized he is seeking the office in response to what he senses as broad disappointment in Bass' leadership.

He's arguing for an all-out commitment to building more housing, an issue that might put him to Bass' left. To liberal housing advocates he offers a construction boom and, one hopes, a burst in supply that might bring down rents.

But he also talks about improving public safety, security and cleanliness, issues that might appeal to more conservative voters.

That's going to take some footwork, but Beutner, a former superintendent of Los Angeles public schools, is not to be taken lightly. (Disclosure: I worked as an editor at the L.A. Times when Beutner was its publisher in 2014-15.)

One recent private poll found just 23% of those interviewed had an impression of Beutner. Coaxed by a description of him as a "Democrat who gets things done" and given a few other tidbits from his resume, they broke in his direction, suggesting a possible campaign path. However, they did so when fed a positive description of him and his achievements. That's a favor the Bass campaign will not grant him.

Which brings us to the final question: How is this campaign affected by Trump?

The mayor's race will appear on the ballot next June and, if no candidate gets a majority in that round, the runoff will be in November. That places it in competition with the Congressional midterms — hotly contested races sure to place Trump in the center of the conversation.

That, too, probably helps Bass, because Trump has made it clear he doesn't

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 15





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.



Classifieds

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This ent 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 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

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Pier

Locals' Night Returns to Santa Monica Pier with Holiday Festivities

Santa Monica's beloved Locals' Night returns to the iconic Pier on Thursday, Nov. 20, from 3:30 to 10 p.m., offering a vibrant mix of local talent, seasonal shopping and community spirit — all for free.

Presented by Pacific Park, this special Locals' Night features a Winter Art Mart, with unique handcrafted goods and holiday gifts from local artists and makers, making it the perfect opportunity to kick off holiday shopping while supporting the Santa Monica creative community.

Locals' Night

continues to shine

as one of the Pier's

most meaningful

evening designed

- Jim Harris, executive director and

historian of the Santa Monica Pier.

traditions — an

by and for the

Santa Monica

community

The evening's soundtrack will be powered by some of L.A.'s favorite DJs, spinning live from 5 to 10 p.m., including Xica Soul, Jamma-Dee, Tavish DJ and Aiden Ramos.

Families are invited to bring their little ones for story time with Books & Cookies, with sessions at 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., and stroll the Pier as it lights up with festive energy and community pride.

This month's featured nonprofit partner is Feed the Streets LA, who will host a Thanksgiving food drive and turkey voucher fundraiser to help families in need. Guests are encouraged to bring shelf-stable food donations and consider making a contribution to support their critical work this holiday season.

"Locals' Night continues to shine as one of the Pier's most meaningful traditions — an evening designed by and for the Santa Monica community," said Jim Harris, executive director and historian of the Santa Monica Pier. "We're especially proud this month to highlight local artists, music, and the incredible work of Feed the Streets LA. It's a great reminder that this Pier belongs to everyone — and thrives because of the community behind it."

While many enjoy the magic of Locals' Night and other free events at the Pier, few realize that it's made possible by Santa Monica Pier

Corporation — a nonprofit that isn't fully funded by the City of Santa Monica.

Presented by Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier, Locals' Night is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for residents to rediscover the magic of the Pier while connecting with their community.

FREE tickets are available at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/locals-night-at-the-santa-monica-pier-tick-ets-1035331714027?aff=oddtdtcreator

The Santa Monica Pier is located at 200 Santa Monica Pier, Suite A, Santa Monica, CA 90401.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Santa Monica Pier Corporation

EVENT: Families are invited to bring their little ones for story time with Books & Cookies, with sessions at 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

Documentary Screening Features 'To Kill a Tiger' and Director Q&A

Santa Monica College will present a screening of "To Kill a Tiger," an Oscar-nominated documentary film that tells the story of a father's quest for justice for his daughter after she suffered a violent sexual assault.

The 2022 Hindi-language documentary will be presented in a 59-minute short film format with English subtitles and followed by an audience Q&A with Nisha Pahuja, the film's director and writer. A reception will be held after the Q&A, offering the opportunity for conversations about the documentary and the #StandWithHer Campaign against gender-based violence. Chai tea and light Indian snacks will be served.

The screening and reception are free and will be held Thursday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. in Auditorium Room 180 at the SMC Center for Media and Design, 1660 Stewart St., Santa Monica.

Seating is limited, so an RSVP is requested at bit.ly/standwithhernov20.

Free parking for this event is available in the CMD garage, accessed from Pennsylvania Avenue. Event attendees are also encouraged to arrive by using public transportation, bicycling, skating, boarding, or walking

"To Kill a Tiger" follows Ranjit, a farmer in the small village of Jharkhand, India, whose 13-year-old daughter has not returned the morning after attending a family wedding. Hours later, she is found injured on her way home after being abducted and raped by three men. Although the men are arrested after Ranjit goes to the police, the situation changes when the villagers and their leaders attempt to force the family to drop the charges. Instead of bowing to the pressure, Ranjit decides to support his daughter and find justice for her, a very rare decision in India, where a rape is reported every 20 minutes and conviction rates are less than 30 percent.

The documentary was nominated for an Oscar for Best Documentary Feature and inspired the launch of #StandWithHer, a global initiative to empower survivors of gender-based violence, to engage and involve men and boys in the work of gender justice, and to empower allies to become agents of change.

The screening was organized by SMC journalism and media studies professor Sharyn Obsatz, who also serves as a faculty advisor to SMC's award-winning Corsair student newsroom.

Sponsored by the SMC Associates, a community support group that aims to enhance student excellence at Santa Monica College. Additional sponsors include the SMC Communication and Media Studies Department, SMC Design Technology Department, and SMC Global Citizenship Committee.

More information is available at tokillatigerfilm.com.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Mrinal Desai

DIRECTOR: Oscar®, Peabody, Grierson, and Emmy-nominated filmmaker Nisha Pahuja, director and writer of "To Kill a Tiger" will hold an audience Q&A after the screening of the documentary.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press

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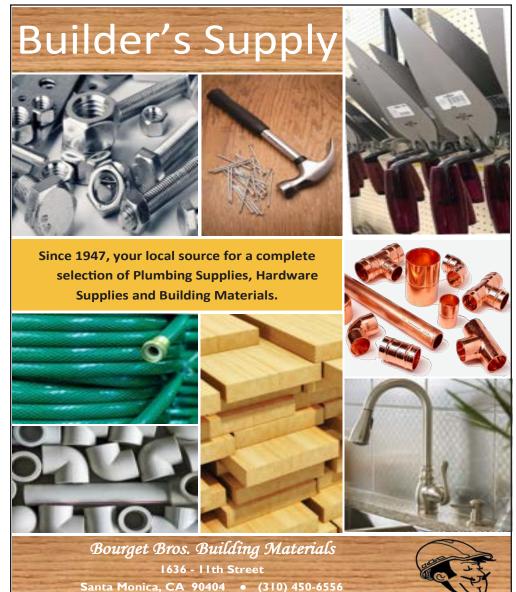
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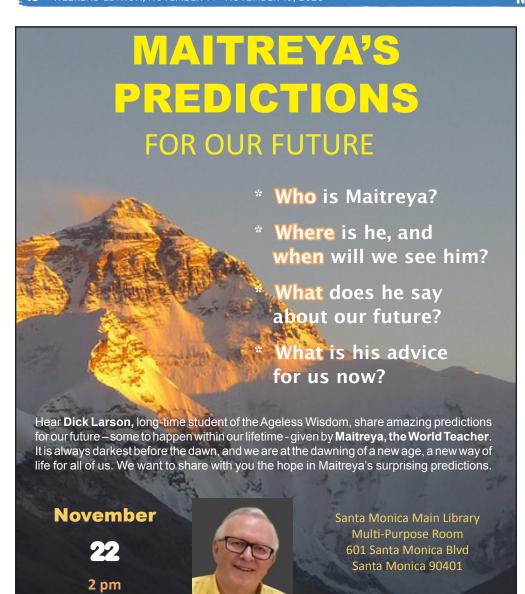
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DUI

FROM PAGE 1

family said all proceeds will benefit the Live Like Braun Foundation, established to raise awareness about impaired driving.

"This is not a decision rooted in anger, vengeance, or financial gain," Jennifer Levi said. "It is a decision grounded in accountability, prevention, reform, and the unwavering love we have for Braun."

The lawsuit, filed by attorneys Spencer Lucas, Bobby Reagan and Alec Clark of Panish | Shea | Ravipudi LLP, seeks \$200 million in damages plus punitive damages against Belt, a repeat offender who was driving on a suspended license.

Braun Levi was crossing Sepulveda Boulevard near 2nd Street around 12:45 a.m. when Belt's silver Infiniti FX35 struck him. The force of the impact propelled the teen down the roadway, causing catastrophic injuries. He was rushed to Harbor-UCLA Medical Center but died shortly after.

At the scene, Belt admitted to officers she had been drinking before driving. A bloodalcohol test revealed her level was 0.19%, more than twice California's legal limit of 0.08%. Police records showed Belt's driver's license had been suspended in January 2024 as part of a plea deal for a misdemeanor hitand-run in which a related DUI charge was dismissed.

"As a repeat offender, Jenia Belt knew the inherent risks of driving under the influence, and she must be held accountable for her negligence," Lucas said. "Not only has she stolen the life of an incredible young man, but she has forever changed the lives of those who loved him."

Belt, 33, of Los Angeles, was arrested at the scene on suspicion of DUI and vehicular homicide. She now faces charges including murder under California's "Watson" law for repeat DUI offenders. After initially being held without bail, Belt was released pending trial — a decision that has angered the Levi family and community members.

The tragedy occurred just weeks before Braun Levi's high school graduation. He was one of Loyola High School's most accomplished athletes, having won four consecutive tennis league championships, including three as team captain. He had been admitted to the University of Virginia to play tennis in the fall.

After losing their home to the Palisades Fire earlier this year, the Levi family had moved to the South Bay, where Braun and a classmate established a peer-to-peer counseling group for students displaced by the fires. Hundreds attended a candlelight vigil the day after his death.

The case has intensified criticism of California's DUI laws, which advocates say are among the most lenient in the nation. In California, a driver typically cannot be charged with a felony DUI until a fourth offense within 10 years, absent serious injury. Some other states classify a second DUI as a felony.

"Our family has made the decision to file a civil lawsuit against the individual responsible for taking Braun's life," said Jennifer Levi. "This is not a decision rooted in anger, vengeance, or financial gain. It is a decision grounded in accountability, prevention, reform, and the unwavering love we have for Braun."

Pat Rillera, a regional director with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, agreed. "We have terrible laws in California that need to be fixed," he said, noting the state's DUI enforcement system is too lax.

Jennifer Levi, who has joined MADD's state legislative board, is now championing "Braun's Bill," a proposal to reclassify DUI crashes that cause death as violent felonies. The change would mandate tougher sentences and treat drunk-driving fatalities more seriously.

Alcohol-related road deaths in California have jumped more than 50% over the last decade. Gov. Gavin Newsom's office has said he would consider any DUI reform bill passed by the legislature.

The Levi family hopes their lawsuit and advocacy will prevent similar tragedies.

"We stand with the Levi family in seeking justice for Braun and creating lasting change by reforming California's DUI laws to prevent tragedies from impaired driving," Lucas said.

editor@smdp.com



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FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 14

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS AT THE SURFING FOX

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 120 Colorado Ave Santa Monica. Erinn Alissa performs acoustic folk pop with her quitar Friday nights at The Surfing Fox. Enjoy a night of live music, tasty bites, and Foxtails! Visit: https://smdp. com/events/#/details/live-music-fridays-at-the-surfingfox/14385252/2025-11-14T18

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 15

RECYCLING EVENT AT CITY YARDS — POSTPONED

The event has been postponed due to the possibility

DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Hosteling Intl. 1436 2nd Street Santa Monica. Join the Santa Monica Conservancy's Downtown Walking Tour. Discover downtown Santa Monica's architectural gems, history, and culture. From Art Deco to Victorian and Romanesque Revival, you'll explore the various styles that fill the streets of Santa Monica. Explore downtown's diverse architectural heritage, including Bay Cities Guaranty Building, El Miro Theater, Georgian Hotel, Gussie Moran House, Keller Block and more! The Downtown Walking Tour is FREE for Conservancy members, FREE for guests staying at Hostelling International, and \$10 for the general public. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtownwalking-tour/15830816/2025-11-15T10

BEGINNER REFORMER PILATES AT GOOD BODY PILATES STUDIO

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Good Body Pilates Studio 3229 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica Good Body Pilates Studio Santa Monica. Start your Saturday feeling strong, centered, and energized with our Beginner Reformer Pilates Class at Good Body Pilates Studio, taught by expert instructor Kylie. This group class is perfect for those new to Pilates or anyone looking to reconnect with the fundamentals in a welcoming and supportive environment. No experience necessary! Located in the heart of Santa Monica on Pico Boulevard, right across from Trader Joe's, our boutique studio is surrounded by great local coffee shops and restaurants, making it the perfect place to kick off your weekend. Plenty of metered parking available on Pico Blvd, and both metered and free street parking available on Urban Ave. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/ beginner-reformer-pilates-at-good-body-pilatesstudio/16094481/2025-11-15T10

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-

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 16

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Main Street From Strand Street to Pier Avenue Santa Monica. The Sunday Main Street Farmers Market features some of California's freshest produce plus prepared foods from local Main Street restaurants as well as artisanal foods prepared with ingredients sourced from California farmers - you can't get more local than that! Also, enjoy musical entertainment from a variety of featured weekly bands, face painting, balloon designs, and bi-weekly cooking demonstrations featuring local produce. Visit: https:// smdp.com/events/#/details/main-street-farmersmarket/15836891/2025-11-16T08

THE WATERFRONT - SUNDAY 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 fullservice 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-waterfrontsunday-real-funday-brunch-buffet/14894114/2025-11-

BANNED BOOKS READING GROUP

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Banned Books Reading Group The banned books reading group reads and discusses materials that have been historically challenged or are on the American Library Association's "Banned and Challenged Books" lists. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/bannedbooks-reading-group/15607288/2025-11-16T14

NIGHT MARKET AT THE BUNGALOW SANTA MONICA

5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. The Bungalow 101 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica. Get ready to experience the ultimate foodie event of the summer with new food vendors. beverage activations, family-friendly activities, live musical and DJ performances, and celebrity guest appearances. Free and open to the public for guests of all ages and pet friendly. Visit: https://smdp.com/ events/#/details/night-market-at-the-bungalow-santamonica/16465055/2025-11-16T17

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-sundaysat-sunset/14970341/2025-11-16T00

MONDAY | NOVEMBER 17

PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! Visit: https:// smdp.com/events/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodegawine-bar/11526040/2025-11-17T18

THANKS FOR SHARING - CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING IN TRUE THEATRE R.A.W. STYLE

8:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica. A hundred fifty-year-old Thanksgiving tradition. An annual reunion. A family meal, laced with just a touch of greed, a pinch of jealousy, under-currants (sic) of coming out and moving in, a smidgeon of rebellion, a dash of separation anxiety and anticipation, and a soupçon of K-Pop. What could possibly go wrong? Admission includes post-show wine and Thanksgiving nibbles reception with the cast. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/thanksfor-sharing-celebrate-thanksgiving-in-true-theatre-r-aw-style/17241352/2025-11-17T20

TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 18

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 and back). Everyone is welcome to join whether new to meditation or with many years of experience. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/ walking-meditation/16206460/2025-11-18T08



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LAWSUIT

FROM PAGE 1

According to an October 2025 survey by Embold Research for the nonprofit Department of Angels, State Farm customers have had far worse experiences than customers of other insurers, reporting much higher rates of claim denials, lowball claims estimates, poor communication and multiple adjusters being assigned to their claims. The survey noted the urgent need to resolve claims quickly as displacement coverage will be running out soon for many survivors who must either return home or find other housing.

"Los Angeles County residents have paid State Farm millions in premiums over many years, and the company has a clear obligation to honor its policies in full," said Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath. "Families who lost everything in the Palisades and Eaton fires deserve fair and timely treatment — not delays, denials or underpayments. It's time for State Farm to live up to its commitment to be a 'good neighbor' and do right by its customers who have lost so much."

The scope of County Counsel's investigation includes whether State Farm failed to timely respond to communications from claimants or timely accept or deny claims. State regulations require insurers to respond to communications from claimants within 15 days and accept or deny claims within 40 days of receiving proof of claim.

Investigators are also examining whether State Farm engaged in a practice of switching adjusters assigned to a claim in a manner that resulted in delays and unfairly burdened policyholders in violation of its obligations to timely process claims and to diligently conduct thorough, fair and objective investigations of

66

Los Angeles
County
residents have
paid State
Farm millions
in premiums
over many
years, and the
company has a
clear obligation
to honor its
policies in full

- Supervisor, Lindsey P. Horvath

99

claims.

Other areas of investigation include whether State Farm misrepresented policy language or the terms or scope of coverage to claimants, failed to provide compensation for reimbursement for living expenses for up to 36 months from the date of the covered loss as required by law, and failed to disclose repair, remediation or replacement estimates or other documents upon claimant's request in violation of its obligation to disclose such documents within 15 days of a request.

County Counsel is also investigating whether State Farm failed to pay for testing for or otherwise reasonably investigate claims of smoke damage and to compensate claimants for remediation of smoke damage in violation of its obligations to conduct thorough, fair and objective investigations of claims and to effectuate settlements of claims where liability is reasonably clear.

County Counsel Dawyn R. Harrison said, "We are committed to thoroughly investigating State Farm's actions and making sure they are treating claimants fairly and resolving their claims quickly and in full compliance with the law."

County Counsel is empowered by statute to investigate and prosecute violations of the Unfair Competition Law on behalf of the People of the State of California and seek restitution, civil penalties and injunctive relief for any violations.

In a letter dated Wednesday to State Farm Senior Vice President and General Counsel Keesha-Lu Mitra, County Counsel requested that the company produce documents related to the January 2025 wildfires, including records tracking insurance claims, claims-handling policies and procedures, and any updates made to those policies after Jan. 7, 2025. The

letter also requests all documents provided to the California Department of Insurance in connection with its Market Conduct Examination of State Farm announced on June 12, 2025.

The county is seeking State Farm's cooperation on an expedited basis and has requested that the company respond no later than Nov. 20, 2025.

The county's investigation adds to mounting regulatory and legal scrutiny of State Farm's wildfire claims handling. In June, California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara ordered a formal market conduct examination of State Farm's wildfire claims handling, citing troubling patterns such as frequent reassignment of adjusters, inconsistent claim management and poor communication continuity.

State Farm also faces legal challenges stemming from the wildfires. In June, a group of homeowners sued the insurer for allegedly scheming to leave customers underinsured. The lawsuit claims State Farm deliberately underestimated home replacement costs in its policy quotes to offer cheaper premiums and capture market share at the expense of adequate coverage.

State Farm maintains that it has acted in good faith and that an overwhelming majority of wildfire claimants are satisfied with State Farm's service. The company says it is committed to paying what it owes promptly, courteously and efficiently. State Farm points to the unprecedented scale of the disaster — the company has received roughly 13,000 fire-related claims and paid out over \$4 billion so far — as context for the challenges.

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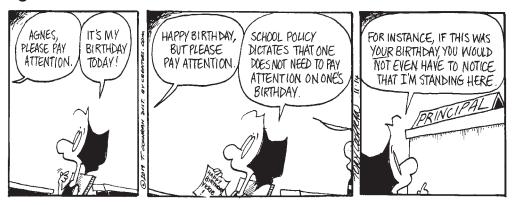


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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6759

Biology class

D	I	N	0	S	Α	U	R	Ε	М	U	L	0	V	S
В	1	S	Ε	C	Т	Т	L	1	F	Ε	Ε	Ε	U	S
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Heredity Algae Seed **Biome** Host Skin **Bisect** Insulin Solar **Blood** Leaf **Synapse** Test Cells Life Cilia Marine **Transformation** Control Meiosis Tundra Dietary Order **Ventilate** Dinosaur **Parasite** Virus **Endemic** Radial Vital **Fetus** Receptor **Volume** Fossil Repress Waste Zone Germ Scope

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Do I honestly need that?



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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 14)

Welcome to the Year Fortune-Favors-the-Bold. The moments you take a risk will change everything. You'll get green lights for daring ventures and creative experiments. More highlights: Love surprises you by showing up as friendship first. Career opportunity comes through your network. A financial breakthrough leads to interests and the freedom to pursue them. Taurus and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 18, 30, 14 and 49.



HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). By feeding your insatiable curiosity, you have learned quite a bit you can readily apply to your life. And while you know much that could be of value to others, today it's best to share knowledge only with those who seek it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are hyper-aware of the exchanges inside relationships, and this knowledge of what's being exchanged on both the deeper levels and the surface levels can be a lot to manage. Trust your instincts, follow your impulses and acknowledge your takes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's impossible to see reality as it is if you are looking through fantasy filters. To remove the goggles of wishful thinking, seek to access your subconscious. Ask yourself, "What am I secretly hoping will happen here?"

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You pride yourself on being somewhat self-contained, but you can't hold your own weather all of the time because moods and energies are contagious; we pick up what's around us. Reset your system in a lighter, calmer atmosphere.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The best goals aren't given to you by authority. The best goals emerge organically out of your attractions. Like a kitten batting at the sky of birds, you're already in motion before you even realize what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's exciting to think luck could strike like a bolt out of the blue. But lightning is also dangerous. It's better to throw logs on the fire for the slow burn - success you work toward and build around as you go.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Just because you can solve a problem for someone else doesn't mean that you should - at least not right away. Hang back and observe a bit longer, paying special attention to power dynamics.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Loving relationships are your forte, and you'll show and share what counts today. However, it's the you-to-you relationship that fortifies and fuels. Self-acceptance and positive internal dialogue are at the root of your next achievement.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Like a baker rising before dawn to make bread for the town, a physician vowing to do no harm, or a postal worker delivering mail in all kinds of weather, you will carry out a defining act with devoted consistency.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll get the sort of fun challenges that make life interesting. For instance, a situation in one area of your life is getting intolerable, but it can be changed. You'll take this on and someone will come into your picture and help you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A lucky charm will help you. When things don't go your way, use the charm as a kind of reset button. Hold it and think about the lesson you learned and the new way you want to be going forward.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you feel loved though love was not intentionally given, were you loved? If wronged by actions that meant no harm, were you wronged? Emotional truths can influence a situation even if they don't match up to facts.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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U	М	Р		D	0	Н		S	T	Α	R			
Τ	0	U		C	R	U		S	Ε	L	I	N	Е	S
T	U	T		Α	I	N	T		R	0	В	E	R	T
Ε	R	S		M	Α	G	S		S	М	Ε	Α	R	Y

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Alpo alternative
- 5 Car bumper protector
- 8 Mimic closely
- 11 Steam shovel's bucket
- 13 Incautious
- 15 Finned predator
- 16 Jobs in high-tech
- 17 Louisville's river
- 18 Trivial details
- 19 Useful details
- 21 As a consolation
- 23 Appear before
- 26 Compacted coolers
- 27 Exactly right
- 28 Marine scientist's concern
- **32** Game running in Utah
- **33** Capacity of some carafes
- 35 Aphrodite's child
- 37 Self-styled stinger
- 38 Discreetly include
- **39** Plural pronoun homonym
- 40 The bulk of
- 42 Charters, for instance
- 44 Transpose
- 45 "Fingers crossed!"
- 47 Makes move
- **49** Record label since '29
- **50** Power source with liquids
- 52 Fonts of creativity
- 56 Inconsequential
- **57** An interest in real estate
- 58 Novel focus
- 60 Prefix for proof
- 64 Elevation indication

- 65 Editorial overruling
- 66 Pal of Sundance
- 67 Solar wind particle
- **68** Cold thing "fused" 10 times in today's diagonals
- **69** Oil company, in Wall Street slang

DOWN

- 1 NASA orbiter since '98
- 2 Stop stalling
- 3 Duff Beer server
- 4 Cold War contingent
- 5 Mother hen's concern
- 6 Retro cheer
- 7 About 25% of the UN
- 8 "On My Own" in Les Miz

- **9** Exit poll data, for short
- 10 __ St. Louis, IL
- 12 Pound fractions
- 14 Bombast
- **15** Selection from a toddler's togs
- 20 Vague impression
- 22 iPad display
- 23 General public, from the Greek
- 24 Jaunty
- 25 Be forced to recant
- 27 Corps
- 29 BeBe Winans' singing sister
- **30** Bricklayer's implement
- 31 Second-person plural
- **34** Bird on the Rosetta

- Stone
- 36 Few-drop quantities
- 41 Capital of Piemonte
- 42 Shrubby tracts

COLD FUSION by Jay Silverman Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 43 Architect's space
- 44 Acceleration
- 46 HP hardware
- **48** Occasional fast food sandwich
- 51 Be too theatrical
- **52** Jai
- **53** Word on the American
 - Commonwealth list
- 54 Far-flying wader
- 55 Alien-hunting project
- 59 DVD player button
- 61 Ending like -arian
- 62 National Book Mo.

11/14/25

63 Not just any

13 12 <u>14</u> <u>15</u> 17 18 16 19 20 22 21 26 28 31 30 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 42 43 45 48 49 51 52 53 55 56 58 60 62 59 63 65 66 64 68 69

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FEE WAIVER

FROM PAGE 1

community events.

The council provided direction on Draft Policy Number 53, which would replace 2018 guidelines that had become outdated as fee waiver requests grew substantially in recent years. The policy will return to the council for final approval on the consent calendar.

Under the new framework, the city manager could approve fee waivers up to \$10,000 for new events that meet established criteria, and up to \$75,000 for recurring events previously approved by the council. The limits are designed to eliminate most routine waiver requests from the council's agenda while maintaining oversight of the largest community events.

"So I'm not coming to you every meeting requesting fee waivers," Community Services Director Kristin Riesgo told the council, explaining the policy's primary goal.

The change comes as fee waivers have increased dramatically. The city waived \$222,640 in facility fees in fiscal year 2024-25, more than triple the \$68,556 waived in 2021-22. In 2023-24, the city waived \$159,638 in fees, and in 2022-23 the amount was \$98,805.

The original 2018 guidelines allowed the city manager to approve fee waivers, but as requests grew in frequency and value, management became uncomfortable with the level of authority. That pushed most waiver requests to the City Council for approval.

"The frequency of fee waivers was coming in quite rapidly, and the comfort level that management had approving these was a little uncomfortable," Riesgo said.

Councilmember Bruce Silverstein led much of the discussion, questioning why certain provisions from the 2018 guidelines were excluded from the proposed policy and suggesting specific dollar thresholds for delegated authority.

"I thought it was a great concept that we're taking it off City Council's plate if these are relatively minor, and hit these bases," Silverstein said, referring to established eligibility criteria.

The council debated appropriate financial limits, considering that some long-standing community events carry substantial costs. The annual Christmas Tree Lot, for example, involves a fee waiver worth approximately \$55,000, while Veterans Day runs about \$5,500. Little League field use costs roughly \$30,000.

The Chili Cook-Off, a multi-day event, requires waiving between \$80,000 and \$90,000 in fees — making it the most expensive regular waiver and one the council wanted to continue reviewing despite the new delegation of

authority.

"I can see a potential in the future Council not approving the chili cook off," Silverstein said, noting increasing complaints about the event while acknowledging the council isn't near that point yet.

Mayor Marianne Riggins and Councilmember Steve Uhring supported giving the city manager more authority for established events.

"If it's an event that's taking place in the past, manager can approve it," Uhring said. "If it's something new, bring it back and take a look."

Councilmember Haylynn Conrad raised concerns about the city's permitting process potentially driving away community events, citing the Arts Association's recent decision to hold its Art-a-Palooza event in Agoura Hills instead of Malibu.

"I asked, why not in Malibu? You're the Malibu Art Association. And they just said, it was just too hard to get, you know, a permit," Conrad said. "I do think we lose some community events to just, we waive the fees, but then we also have an onerous and cumbersome process."

The proposed policy establishes clear eligibility criteria, limiting waivers to nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies and city co-sponsored events. It excludes commercial events, corporate gatherings, family or social gatherings, and programs that provide no community benefit.

The council also directed staff to eliminate a proposed quarterly approval process. Instead, the city manager's approved waivers would be reported to the council on a "receive and file" basis, requiring no action unless concerns arise.

Silverstein proposed modifying language to change "programs or events that provide no community benefit" to "little or no community benefit" to prevent applicants from circumventing the rule with minimal public offerings.

The policy would maintain an application process requiring organizations to demonstrate community benefit, financial need and experience coordinating events. Applications would be reviewed quarterly according to a set schedule, with deadlines falling months before planned events.

The revisions continue a broader council trend toward operational efficiency. Earlier in the same meeting, the council increased the city manager's general purchasing authority to account for inflation and streamline procurement processes.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 5

respect the mayor. And the electorate in Los Angeles has made it just as clear that it has no use for him.

Ever since ICE began waging its theatrical and overbearing raids in Los Angeles last summer, Bass has risen to oppose the president, challenging him in court and in public appearances.

For his part, Trump has called Los Angeles a "trash heap" and disparaged Bass as being "not very competent." And Stephen Miller, Trump's architect of the ICE raids, has accused Bass of siding with the "illegal alien invasion" of California.

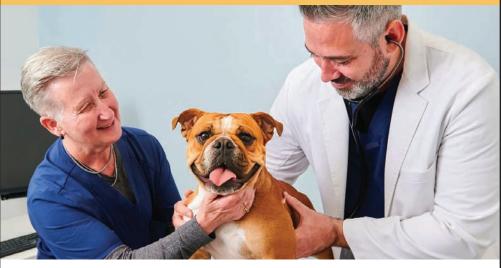
In normal times, a mayor might suffer under such withering criticism from Washington. But as much as Trump nationalizes this campaign, he helps Bass; he's not hurting her.

The recent vote on Proposition 50 — which authorized redistricting California Congressional seats to counter Texas' efforts to help Trump in the midterms — shows more than 64% of Californians supporting it.

That's a big number. But in Los Angeles, the yes vote was 74%, a staggering majority and entirely dedicated to thwarting Trump. As those numbers prove, voters here detest Trump. He has a way of crowding out other conversations.

If Los Angeles sees Bass as a bulwark against the president, it may be hard for Beutner, or any other candidate, to find traction — especially if they appear on the same ballot voters will use to register unhappiness with a president they loathe.

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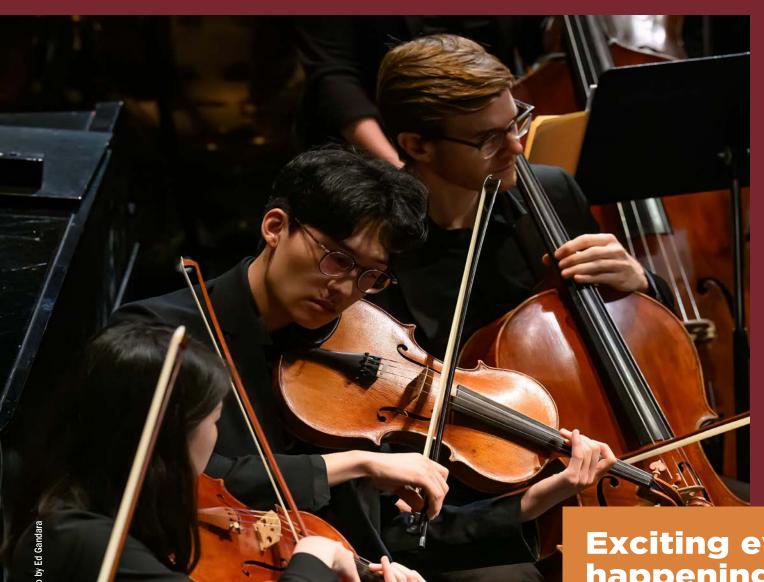
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Jim Newton, CalMatters Contributor

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