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Volume 26 Issue 7 MONDAY 11/23/26 smdp.com

Malibu adopts updated evacuation plan as council presses on gridlock, alert gaps

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Malibu City Council unanimously adopted an updated Mass Evacuation Plan on Nov. 9, but not before council members pressed staff on single-exit streets, overnight alerts and the plan's reach.

Mayor Bruce Silverstein said the plan "looks good on paper," adding: "Implementation is going to be the

SEE **MALIBU** PAGE 8

Former Meta employee launches Santa Monica decorating, organizing business

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

For more than a decade, Abby Chan built a career in corporate technology, including time at Meta, the company behind Facebook and Instagram. These days, her projects are much closer to home: a closet that doesn't work, a room that needs furnishing, a space in need of both a clear-out and a fresh start.

Chan, a Santa Monica resident,

SEE **DECORATING** PAGE 7

Venice Winter Fest returns to its December roots for fifth anniversary



Courtesy Image

EVENTS: Venice Winter Fest marks its fifth anniversary with free holiday market on Venice Boulevard Dec. 5.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Venice Winter Fest will return to December for the first time since its 2021 debut, marking what organizers call its fifth anniversary Dec. 5 with a free holiday festival on Venice Boulevard in Mar Vista.

The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Venice Boulevard between Centinela Avenue and Grand View Boulevard. Admission is free and open to all ages.

Founder Sarah Fisk said the change in date carries special meaning as the event reaches the five-year mark.

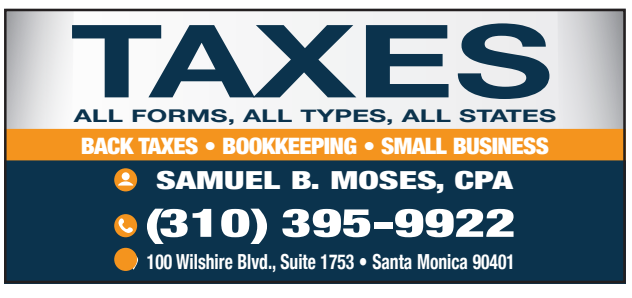
"Bringing Winter Fest back to December feels like coming full circle, especially since that's when it all began," Fisk said. "The holidays are all about bringing people together, and that's really what The Venice Fest has always been about."

The festival debuted Dec. 18, 2021, and was held again Nov. 19, 2022. It returned Nov. 22, 2025, after what The Argonaut reported was a two-year hiatus. The event draws families, local artists, independent designers, makers and small businesses.

"It's hard to believe it's been five

SEE **VENICE FESTIVAL** PAGE 8







GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

HOA boards often make decisions behind closed doors. California should require they meet in public

Like millions of other Californians, I live in a community governed by a homeowners association. In my case the HOA operates a tall condo building in downtown San Diego.

My wife and I pay a lot every month in assessments, and we get a lot in return: 24-hour concierge service, beautiful common areas, two full-time engineers who keep the building running, janitorial service and more.

But we don't really know what our HOA board does. We don't know how they build our budget, why they enter into contracts or how they make many other decisions that affect our financial investment in our building.

Our board meets almost exclusively in closed session, communicates with us mostly via email, delivers a budget to us with an increased assessment each year without much explanation and provides information mostly through carefully curated "town halls," rather than real board meetings.

That's because the Davis-Stirling Act, the state law that governs homeowner associations, doesn't require more. The law is so loose when it comes to transparency that if our HOA is sued — or sues somebody else — the board is under no obligation even to reveal this information to us.

When you talk to HOA board members around the state, they emphasize that they are volunteers serving on a nonprofit board, which is factually true.

But what's also true is HOAs have become another form of local government. They provide services that cities and counties can't.

It's about time the Legislature forces HOA boards to shine a light on what they are doing.

This year, a significant bill on HOA transparency almost got through. Assembly Bill 1184, by Assemblymember Joe Patterson, a Rocklin Republican, would have required HOA boards to reveal far more information to homeowners — for example, revealing the lawsuits the board discusses in closed session.

Patterson's bill died on the last day of the session.

The Legislature should pass the bill next year and go even further by requiring that HOA boards make far more information available to members.

In theory, Davis-Stirling is patterned after the Brown Act, the state's open meetings law for cities and counties. Davis-Stirling limits the topics that can be discussed in closed session to things like litigation, personnel and what the law calls the "formation" of contracts.

But there's little enforcement because no HOA member wants to sue an organization they belong to.

That's why in practice, HOA boards are far more opaque than cities and counties. They often discuss practically everything in closed session, frequently using the "formation of contracts" loophole to talk about things covered by HOA contracts. And most HOAs contract with third parties to do practically everything.

HOAs are under no obligation to even inform the people paying dues about pending litigation.

Although homeowners may legally obtain contracts and other documents related to an HOA's activities, the organization only needs to provide it in response to an individual's request.

For example, I recently learned our HOA manager had been providing contract information to a few people who asked for it, instead of putting the contracts on the building's internal web site. Only after pressure from a number of residents were the contracts made available to everybody.

In short, the Davis-Stirling Act is set up to protect HOA boards when dealing with the property owners they serve. That perverts the whole purpose of the law and makes it nearly impossible for rank-and-file HOA members to know what's going on with the organization they are investing their money in.

The Legislature needs to finally acknowledge that HOAs are, in effect, a form of local government and to hold HOA boards to the same transparency requirements as cities and counties. If Patterson brings back AB 1184 next year, legislators must wave it through.

By William Fulton. William Fulton is a professor of practice at UC San Diego and a condo owner. He is a former mayor of Ventura. This article was originally published on CalMatters and was republished under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives license.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

By emptying death row, Newsom broke a promise and disregarded the will of voters



Photo by Florence Middleton, CalMatters

OAKLAND: An attendee's shirt at a rally at the René C. Davidson Courthouse in Oakland on June 18, 2024.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's decision to commute the death sentences of 548 inmates just weeks before he leaves office is the latest episode in California's 70-year-long political, legal and philosophical debate over capital punishment.

It also adds complexity, because Newsom's unilateral efforts to stop executions violate promises he made while running for governor to honor voters' support of the death penalty.

While Newsom's actions might bolster his standing among center-left Democratic voters in a potential presidential campaign, a Pew Research Center poll in August found 68% of Americans see the death penalty as justified for those who commit murder. That's 6 percentage points higher than the support in a 2021 poll.

A little history: California adopted capital punishment about when it became a state in 1850, but initially executions were done by counties. The state took over in 1893, and since then 514 people have been put to death, according to state records.

Serious efforts to abolish California's death penalty date from the 1950s, when Caryl Chessman, dubbed the "Red Light Bandit," faced execution for a series of robberies and sexual assaults — but no murders — in the 1940s and became a symbol for death penalty opponents.

Chessman's fate finally landed with Democratic Gov. Pat Brown, who personally opposed capital punishment. In 1960, on the eve of Chessman's execution, Brown's 21-year-old son, Jerry, pleaded for a reprieve and urged him to seek legislative repeal. The elder Brown agreed but the Legislature balked, and Chessman was executed on May 2, 1960.

During the 1970s, California's death penalty underwent a dizzying series of legal and political moves — sometimes in effect, sometimes not, depending on the latest decree from the state Supreme Court, action by the Legislature or ballot measure.

Voters had the last word in a 1978 pro-death-penalty ballot measure. However, Jerry Brown, who had become governor, appointed several members of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice Rose Bird, who consistently rejected death sentences. Voters ousted Bird and two other justices in 1986.

Executions resumed in the 1990s, and there have been 13 since. The last was triple murderer Clarence Ray Allen in 2006.

In 2012 and again in 2016, voters

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 8



Weather

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 67.
Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 52.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 69.
Tuesday Night: A chance of rain, mainly after 4am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/11/23	Mon	12:55 AM	1.73	L
2026/11/23	Mon	07:19 AM	6.71	H
2026/11/23	Mon	02:30 PM	-1.09	L
2026/11/23	Mon	08:52 PM	3.93	H
2026/11/24	Tue	01:33 AM	1.92	L
2026/11/24	Tue	07:56 AM	7.00	H
2026/11/24	Tue	03:15 PM	-1.42	L
2026/11/24	Tue	09:44 PM	3.85	H
2026/11/25	Wed	02:13 AM	2.11	L
2026/11/25	Wed	08:37 AM	7.10	H
2026/11/25	Wed	04:04 PM	-1.53	L
2026/11/25	Wed	10:40 PM	3.74	H
2026/11/26	Thur	02:57 AM	2.29	L
2026/11/26	Thur	09:23 AM	6.98	H
2026/11/26	Thur	04:57 PM	-1.42	L
2026/11/26	Thur	11:41 PM	3.67	H
2026/11/27	Fri	03:49 AM	2.49	L
2026/11/27	Fri	10:13 AM	6.63	H
2026/11/27	Fri	05:51 PM	-1.15	L
2026/11/28	Sat	12:46 AM	3.68	H
2026/11/28	Sat	04:51 AM	2.68	L
2026/11/28	Sat	11:10 AM	6.08	H
2026/11/28	Sat	06:48 PM	-0.75	L
2026/11/29	Sun	01:54 AM	3.84	H
2026/11/29	Sun	06:11 AM	2.82	L
2026/11/29	Sun	12:15 PM	5.39	H
2026/11/29	Sun	07:47 PM	-0.29	L
2026/11/30	Mon	02:58 AM	4.14	H
2026/11/30	Mon	07:55 AM	2.76	L
2026/11/30	Mon	01:33 PM	4.67	H
2026/11/30	Mon	08:49 PM	0.17	L
2026/12/01	Tue	03:53 AM	4.54	H
2026/12/01	Tue	09:45 AM	2.30	L
2026/12/01	Tue	03:04 PM	4.09	H
2026/12/01	Tue	09:45 PM	0.61	L
2026/12/02	Wed	04:38 AM	4.97	H
2026/12/02	Wed	11:05 AM	1.60	L

Daily Lottery

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

Powerball
Draw Date: 11/18
18 31 43 51 62
Power#: 12
Jackpot: 114 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 11/17
3 10 19 28 33
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 629 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 11/18
1 6 15 29 37
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 16 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 11/19
9 26 30 36 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 11/19
EVENING: 3 8 2
Draw Date: 11/19
MIDDAY: 5 3 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 11/19
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:46.77

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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Lost and Found
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Psychic
Obituaries
Tutoring

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026226250. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: THE DILLARD GROUP, 5321 S RIMPAU BLVD, WINDSOR HILLS, CA 90043, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): DILLARD GROUP CONSTRUCTION, LLC., 5321 S RIMPAU BLVD 5321 S RIMPAU BLVD, WINDSOR HILLS, CA 90043. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ KEITH DILLARD, MANAGER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/26/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 11/02/2026, 11/09/2026, 11/16/2026, 11/23/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026209630. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: STEP AHEAD SERVICE, 453 S. SPRING ST. SUITE 1212, LOS ANGELES, CA 90013, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): THE CATALOG, LLC, 453 S. SPRING ST. SUITE 1212, LOS ANGELES, CA 90013. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 09/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ WESLEY HAGARMAN, MANAGING MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/1/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 11/22/2026, 11/29/2026, 12/6/2026, 12/13/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026230362. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SUGAR K BAKESHOP, 3019 OCEAN PARK BLVD #233, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): KAYLEIGH ANN CONRAD, 3019 OCEAN PARK BLVD #233, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ KAYLEIGH ANN CONRAD, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/30/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 11/02/2026, 11/09/2026, 11/16/2026, 11/23/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026224892. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: QUICK DRY LA, QUICKDRY LA, 12078 GUERIN ST #102, STUDIO CITY, CA 91604, County of Los Angeles. AI #ON: B20250320200. Registered Owner(s): ORBIT BUILDERS, INC., 3513 CONSUELO DRIVE, CALABASAS, CA 91302. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ KARL HAIM MAGENDAVID, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/23/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 11/16/2026, 11/23/2026, 11/30/2026, 12/07/2026

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

Santa Monica hotels offer holiday discounts to LA County residents

Twenty Santa Monica hotels are offering discounted rooms to local and Los Angeles County residents this holiday season through the return of Santa Monica Travel & Tourism's "I Wish I Had an Extra Bedroom" program.

The special rates apply to stays from Nov. 13 through Feb. 8 and can be used for a staycation or to put up visiting friends and family. Organizers pitched the program as an opportunity to take in the city's restaurants, arts and culture offerings, holiday happenings and special events, or as a last-minute gift.

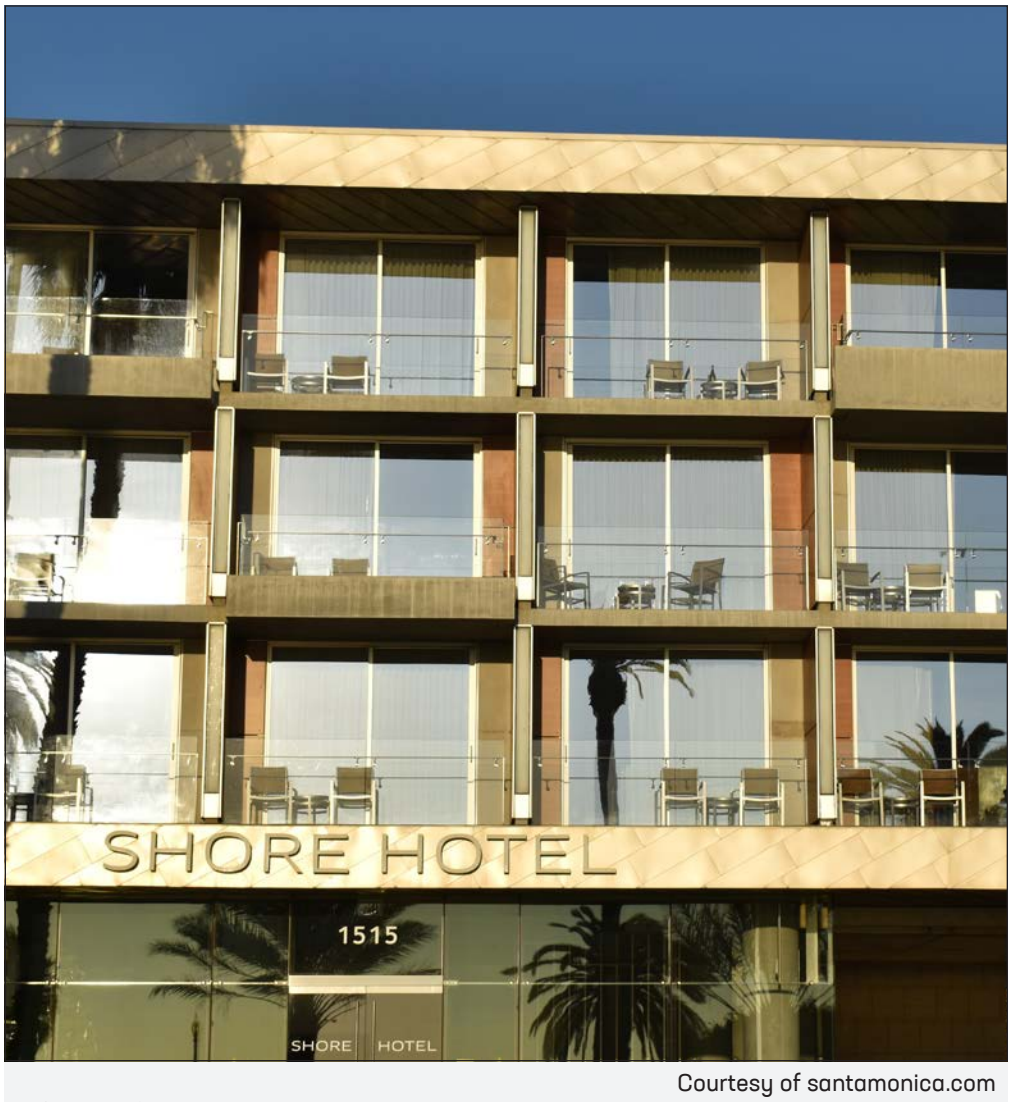
"We look forward to the 'I Wish I Had an Extra Bedroom' program each year, welcoming locals to experience a stay in their own beach backyard and explore all Santa Monica has to offer during the happy holiday season," said Misti Kerns, president and CEO of Santa Monica Travel & Tourism. "It's a great way to enjoy the destination's exceptional hotel offerings at an exclusive value."

Guests must show proof of residency for themselves or their guests at check-in. Booking instructions vary by property and are posted at santamonica.com/extra-bedroom-2026.

Offers for Los Angeles County residents
The Ambrose Hotel: 20% off
The Eden: 22% off retail
Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows: complimentary second room with an eligible suite
The Gateway Hotel Santa Monica: 20% off best rate guarantee
The Georgian Hotel: 20% off rack rate
Hotel Carmel: $129 weekdays, $139 weekends
Hotel Casa del Mar: $495, down from $695
Huntley Santa Monica Beach: up to 25% off
Maison Twenty Seven: 15% off same-day bookings
Ocean Park Inn: 15% off rack rate, two-night minimum
Oceana Santa Monica: $555, down from $1,235
Sandbourne Santa Monica: 20% off
Sea Shore Motel: $140 for standard rooms
Shutters on the Beach: $525, down from $725
SureStay by Best Western Santa Monica: 20% off standard rooms, $239 for pet-friendly rooms
Viceroy Santa Monica: 20% off best available rate
Offers for Santa Monica residents only
Hilton Santa Monica Hotel & Suites: 15% off
Ocean View Hotel: 20% off, destination fees waived
Santa Monica Hotel: flat $109 rate, destination fees waived
Shore Hotel: 20% off, destination fees waived

A calendar of festive events and holiday specials is set to be posted at santamonica.com.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy of santamonica.com

HOLIDAYS: Twenty Santa Monica hotels offer discounted rates to local residents through Feb. 8.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

SMC, Westside School of Ballet to stage 'The Nutcracker' Nov. 27-Dec. 6

The Santa Monica College Public Policy Institute and the Westside School of Ballet will host Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" from Nov. 27 to Dec. 6, including special performances for fifth graders.

Performances are at 7 p.m. Nov. 27, Dec. 3 and Dec. 4, and at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Nov. 28, Nov. 29, Dec. 5 and Dec. 6.

All performances are at the Eli & Edythe Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St. Ticket information is available at westsideballet.com. Free parking is available on site.

The SMC Nutcracker Symphony and SMC dancers, in partnership with the institute's Arts and Cultural Affairs Initiative, will join Westside Ballet for the annual holiday production. The show features Tchaikovsky's score, Balanchine's choreography, the Sugar Plum Fairy, the Prince, falling snow and a Christmas tree that grows during the production.

In partnership with SMMUSD, special performances will give fifth graders the opportunity to learn about classical ballet and Tchaikovsky's music. Details are available by emailing ppi@smc.edu.

"For many students, it is their first exposure to classical music and to the art of ballet," said Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, institute co-director and an SMC political science professor. "Many of the performers are students in SMMUSD, giving the fifth graders a wonderful sense of connection and of the importance of the arts."

> "For many students, it is their first exposure to classical music and to the art of ballet"
> - Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, institute co-director and an SMC political science professor

The Public Policy Institute provides nonpartisan community programs on economic, social and political issues. SMC offers an associate degree and certificate of achievement in public policy.

Co-sponsors include the city of Santa Monica, Los Angeles County, the Associated Students of Santa Monica College, SMC Associates, Westside School of Ballet and the SMC Dance and Music departments.

All performances are subject to change or cancellation without notice. More information is available at smc.edu/ppi or by calling 310-434-3541.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

BALLET: The Santa Monica College Public Policy Institute and the Westside School of Ballet will host live performances of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" Ballet Nov. 27-Dec. 6 at The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center.





City of Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2871 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA ADOPTING AND AMENDING SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE ARTICLE 8, BUILDING REGULATIONS, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE 2025 BUILDING STANDARDS CODE

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2871 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

On July 1, 2025, the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) approved and published the 2025 edition of the California Building Standards Code, which includes the 2025 California Building, Residential, Electrical, Energy, Mechanical, Plumbing, Fire, Green Building, Wildland-Urban Interface, Historical, and Existing Building Standards Codes. Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Sections 17958.5, 17958.7, and 18941.5, the City may make changes or modifications to the standards contained in the California Building Standards Code based upon express findings that such changes or modifications are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions.

On June 30, 2025, the Governor signed into law Assembly Bill (AB) 130, which implements a freeze on certain state and local building code updates for nearly six years, subject to limited exceptions. On October 14, 2025, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2831 (CCS), which adopted local amendments to the Building Standards Code.
Pursuant to AB 130, the CBSC performed a review of the City's locally adopted building codes and recommended several editorial changes be made to ensure alignment between State and local codes. In order to address the recommended changes by the CBSC, Ordinance Number 2871 (CCS) adopts amendments to Santa Monica Municipal Code Article 8, Building Regulations, and updates Ordinance No. 2831, in compliance with the 2025 Building Standards Code.

Ordinance Number 2871 (CCS) was adopted on November 17, 2026, and shall become effective 30 days after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

Big Blue Bus wins $36.6 million for electric buses and fleetwide charging

The city of Santa Monica's Department of Transportation has been awarded $36.6 million by the California State Transportation Agency to expand Big Blue Bus service, buy eight battery-electric buses and finish key charging infrastructure.

The money comes through the agency's Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program and will advance the bus system's shift to a 100% zero-emission fleet while improving service frequency and regional connections.

Of the total, $13.1 million will buy eight battery-electric buses to replace aging compressed natural gas vehicles, and $23.4 million will complete electric charging canopies at the Big Blue Bus facility, fitted with overhead dispensers able to charge the entire fleet at once.

The award also funds about 9,000 additional annual service hours on Route 2 along Wilshire Boulevard and Route 17 serving UCLA and the VA Medical Center, improving connections to two Metro Rail D Line stations scheduled to open in 2027. Part of the money will train staff to operate and maintain zero-emission vehicles.

"This project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, modernize public transportation in Santa Monica, and support state and local climate and mobility goals," California State Transportation Agency Secretary Toks Omishakin said at the groundbreaking for an earlier phase of the project, adding that the agency was pleased to back an investment aimed at making transit faster and more reliable.

"Investments like this are about more than modernizing our transit system; they are about creating a healthier, more connected, and more accessible community for everyone," Mayor Caroline Torosis said. "By expanding bus service, improving connections to regional transit, and accelerating the transition to zero-emission vehicles, we are making it easier for residents to get where they need to go while reducing emissions and improving air quality."

Department of Transportation Director Anuj Gupta said state support for the city's electrification effort now totals more than $112 million over the past decade.

"These funds will enable us to complete all seven phases of our Charging Infrastructure Master Plan, while building on earlier phases already under construction," Gupta said. "Big Blue Bus is on track for a fully electric fleet by 2032."

The award is the third major grant from the program in recent years, following $22.9 million in 2023 and $53.3 million in 2024, which funded fleet modernization, charging infrastructure, service improvements and workforce development.

City officials said the work supports Santa Monica's Sustainable & Connected vision and the Realignment Plan's goal of improving access to jobs, education and other destinations.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Los Angeles

UCLA researchers turn up a healthy gene copy to offset an autism mutation

UCLA Health researchers have shown in lab-grown human brain cells that boosting the activity of a healthy gene copy can offset the effects of a mutation linked to autism.

The findings, published in Nature Neuroscience, point to a new direction for treating autism and related neurodevelopmental conditions, though the work is at an early stage.

Autism is highly heritable, and roughly 15% of its genetic risk comes from new mutations that appear for the first time in a child rather than being inherited. Many of them disable one of a gene's two copies, and a single working copy often cannot produce enough of the gene's product on its own, altering neurodevelopment. Most current autism treatments address symptoms rather than the underlying biology.

The team, led by Dr. Daniel Geschwind, focused on two genes strongly tied to autism: CHD8, which helps regulate other genes involved in brain development, and SCN2A, which is essential for neurons to fire electrical signals.

Rather than replacing or editing the faulty gene, the researchers used a modified form of CRISPR to turn up the remaining healthy copy. They aimed it at enhancers, stretches of DNA that control when and how strongly a gene is expressed. Targeting those dials was meant to keep the gene in step with natural brain development and avoid harmful overexpression.

"Many autism-linked mutations leave a person with one working copy of a gene instead of two," said Geschwind, a professor of human genetics, neurology and psychiatry at UCLA. "Our results show that, in human cell models, it's possible to turn up that remaining copy and move cells back toward typical development."

The approach was tested in cultures of excitatory neurons and in cortical organoids, small clusters of brain-like tissue that mimic early brain development.

In CHD8 models, boosting the healthy copy reduced abnormal organoid overgrowth, helped cells mature and shifted gene activity closer to typical levels. In SCN2A models, it restored much of the neurons' normal electrical activity, though some finer properties normalized only in certain cell lines. The effect appeared only in cells carrying the mutation, and neighboring genes were unaffected. Timing also mattered, suggesting the method may work best at certain stages of development.

"That kind of specificity matters for any future therapy," said first author George Chen, a former postdoctoral fellow in the Geschwind lab and now an assistant professor of neurology at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. "We are still a long way from the clinic."

The authors called the work a proof of concept rather than a ready-to-use treatment, noting that safe delivery to the brain will require better methods and that the approach has yet to be tested after the early developmental window closes.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

DECORATING

FROM PAGE 1

left corporate tech to launch Simple Edit LA, a home decorating and professional organizing business in which one person handles each project from start to finish.

"The difference in how happy I feel is night and day," Chan said of the change.

Chan said she loved her team at Meta, but over time she felt burned out and disconnected from the impact of her work. The companies she helped were so large that her contribution could feel insignificant, she said. She wanted a working life where she could see the difference she makes and feel more connected to her community.

The feeling built over time, she said, but one evening brought it into focus.

"I kept finding myself thinking about work projects while I was home with my family," Chan said. "My mind would wander, and I would constantly miss details in conversations that mattered to them."

What bothered her was how much of her attention was going toward work she no longer felt deeply connected to.

"I understood that work would sometimes occupy my mind, but I didn't want to keep being distracted for something I wasn't passionate about," she said. "That was when I started to feel that I needed to make a change."

Walking away from a career she had spent more than 10 years building felt enormous at first, Chan said. To make the leap manageable, she treated it as a one- to two-year, self-funded sabbatical. It was a chance to test whether this was the work she wanted to do and to see what living on less income would mean for her family's daily life.

"Framing it as a period of exploration made the decision feel more manageable," she said. "I didn't have to decide what the rest of my working life would look like all at once."



Courtesy Image

BUSINESS: Former Meta employee Abby Chan launches Santa Monica home organizing business Simple Edit LA.

The idea for the business took root when Chan's family built their Santa Monica home from the ground up. She had renovated before, but this time she took on the full interior design herself, from choosing tile and planning the layout to sourcing every piece of furniture.

She said she questioned whether it was wise to do so without hiring a designer.

"There was so much money going into the house, and I worried about making the wrong decisions," Chan said.

But her corporate career had trained her to be detail-oriented and to manage complex projects, she said, and she had a clear sense of the design styles she liked. The experience showed her how much goes into a successful project beyond choosing beautiful things.

"You have to anticipate problems, stay organized, and work closely with your builder and subcontractors so decisions and timelines come together," she said. "My problem-solving skills were what I was most valued for in my corporate career, and I realized I could apply them to everything I do in design and organization."

The project also showed her how hard it can be for families juggling fast-paced jobs, children and other dependents to find the time and mental bandwidth for their homes. Even when people know what needs attention, making all the decisions and getting it done can feel like another job, she said. She wanted to take some of that weight off other families, starting in her own community.

Simple Edit focuses on the smaller projects people keep putting off, combining decorating and organizing. Chan also started SpaceWorks LA, which helps small businesses with websites and back-office support. She said both grew out of wanting to work directly with people and see the results close to home.

For now, the business is very local, Chan said. Most of her work is in Santa Monica and West Los Angeles, though she has taken on projects in more central parts of the city. Because the work involves a lot of going back and forth to fine-tune details, being nearby makes a real difference, she said. She plans to focus mainly on West Los Angeles, though that could change as the business grows and she brings on more help.

Within three years, Chan said, she hopes to have built a sustainable business that supports her financially, "so there's no question of needing to return to corporate work." She wants most of her projects to come through referrals from satisfied clients, with enough demand that she needs to hire additional help.

She also hopes to take on a wider range of work, including individual room makeovers and organizing, interior design for larger renovations and whole-home move-ins.

"Ultimately, I want to have built a brand known for making a meaningful difference in people's everyday lives," she said.

Examples of Chan's work are available at simpleeditla.com.

maaz@smdp.com

City of Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2869 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA (CITY) creating Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 7.16.025, Prohibition on Use of Potable Water to Irrigate Nonfunctional Turf, to prohibit potable water irrigation of nonfunctional turf as required by AB 1572

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2869 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

California Assembly Bill 1572 (AB 1572) requires public water systems to prohibit the use of potable water to irrigate nonfunctional turf (NFT) on commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) properties, homeowners' associations (HOAs), common interest developments (CIDs), and community service organizations. Signed into law on October 13, 2023, AB 1572 is incorporated into California Water Code section 10608.14. To comply with AB 1572 and the California Water Code section 10608.14, public water suppliers must revise their ordinances, regulations, or policies by January 1, 2027, to prohibit the use of potable water to irrigate NFT and communicate these new requirements to their customers. Failure to comply could result in regulatory penalties. The Ordinance creates Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 7.16.025, Prohibition on Use of Potable Water to Irrigate Nonfunctional Turf, to prohibit potable water irrigation of NFT in compliance with AB 1572. Adoption of the ordinance also supports and strengthens the City's ongoing water conservation efforts to reduce the City's reliance on imported water supplies.

Ordinance Number 2869 (CCS) was adopted on November 17, 2026, and takes effect thirty days after adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

City of Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2870 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA APPROVING THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, AND XYZ NOW LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ("OWNER") TO ALLOW A DIGITAL BILLBOARD DISPLAY AT 1355 THIRD STREET PROMENADE

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2870 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2870 (CCS) ("the Ordinance") approves Development Agreement application 26ENT-0124 for the installation and operation of a new, full motion, digital display located at 1355 Third Street Promenade, pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.61.205. The Digital Display will display paid on-premise and off-premise advertising and community content including civic announcements, community interest content, public safety information, public art programming, events information, and local business spotlights. The approved Development Agreement also provides for the installation of a reconstructed historic blade sign for on-site branding/identification of the building's future tenants as well as an on-site commemorative installation depicting the history of the project site.

Ordinance Number 2870 (CCS) was adopted on November 17, 2026, and shall become effective 30 days after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

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MALIBU

FROM PAGE 1

big one, right?"

The 5-0 vote adopted Resolution No. 26-72, which rescinds Resolution No. 20-09, adopted in February 2020.

The plan "provides a coordinated framework and procedures for emergency personnel and residents during large-scale disasters," said Sarah Flores, the city's emergency services coordinator.

The city hired emergency management consulting firm Constant Associates in August 2025. The plan drew on an April community workshop, an online survey and a tabletop exercise with city departments, county agencies, regional transportation partners, utilities, nongovernmental organizations and neighboring jurisdictions. The Malibu Disaster Council approved it in June, and the Public Safety Commission reviewed it in October.

Senior Management Analyst Austin Anderson demonstrated the web-based story map, which lets residents search an address to find their evacuation zone and see primary and secondary roads and choke points.

"Your evacuation zone is one of the most important things to know before an emergency," Anderson said, urging residents to look it up before power or internet service becomes unreliable.

The map also stresses leaving early. "Leaving early is not giving up your home," Anderson said. "It is a way to protect your life, your household, your animals, your neighbors, and the responders who may otherwise need to reach you later under more dangerous conditions."

Councilmember Haylynn Conrad asked how the city would draw people to the site. "I've noticed that it's hard to get people to be engaged," she said.

Flores said the city would promote the plan and map on its website and social media. Anderson said the map is mobile-friendly but not an app, and that it looks "a little bit clunky" with all the text.

Mayor Pro Tem Steve Uhring raised concerns about accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, on streets with only one way in or out. He said an early draft of the city's safety element would have limited development on such streets, but the final version left that decision to the fire department.

"What we don't want to do is sort of repeat what we saw in the Palisades Fire," Uhring said, recalling Palisades Drive and Sunset, where "they had to get a bulldozer in the end to pull out the cars."

"If we build enough ADUs, it's going to be a problem," he said.

Assistant City Manager Jesse Mays said he would "reach out to the chief and schedule a meeting." Uhring pressed for the criteria the fire department uses to approve more development. "I've asked this question now four times and never got an answer," he said.

City Manager Joseph Irvin said the department applies fire and building code standards for access and fire flow. He said staff "will verify that and follow up with a memo to the entire city council" and would schedule a future agenda item if warranted.

Councilmember Doug Stewart questioned how residents would be warned when the city's Emergency Operations Center is closed and Malibu relies on Los Angeles County. He said the county's Genesis system "was down, didn't function properly, didn't notify" during the Eaton disaster in Altadena.

Describing a 2 a.m. emergency, Stewart asked, "Are we sure it works? Is it tested?"

Flores said Genesis is a mapping tool and that the city also sends opt-in Everbridge alerts, website alerts and social media posts, and relies on local radio station KBUU (99.1 FM) when cell towers go down. She said the county runs its own tests and the city follows county wireless emergency alerts with its own messages.

Stewart also faulted the plan's treatment of Pepperdine. "It's not like we can just ignore 3,000, 4,000 people on the edge of our city," he said. "So I do think that's a shortfall in this evaluation." Anderson said the story map links to Pepperdine emergency information.

Councilmember Marianne Riggins urged a standard way to identify medical professionals trying to reach patients inside evacuation zones, an issue she said surfaced during the Palisades Fire. "It comes up all the time. It hasn't been dealt with," she said.

On schools, Conrad said not hearing that principals took part in the tabletop exercise was "worrisome." Mays said the city meets twice a year with the school district and all four principals, and that a joint exercise was discussed at the most recent meeting.

Flores said the city has received two outdoor sirens from the city of Los Angeles and will begin testing them once they are registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles and insured.

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VENICE FESTIVAL

FROM PAGE 1

years!" Fisk said. "What started as a small community block party in December 2021 has grown into something so much bigger than I ever imagined."

She described each festival as a reunion of familiar faces, local businesses, artists, families and neighbors.

"I love seeing people reconnect, run into old friends, and make new ones," she said.

Reflecting on the milestone, she added, "Five years later, it feels like we're celebrating with one big extended family, and that means everything to me."

This year's festival will feature complimentary photos with Santa, holiday caroling, children's activities and dog adoptions with Pup Culture Rescue, along with a market.

Fisk said organizers are creating a more intimate, thoughtfully curated holiday market this year, focusing on quality over quantity.

"This year, we're being much more intentional about the Venice Winter Fest experience," Fisk said. "As we celebrate five years, I wanted to bring it back to what made it special in the first place: that feeling of a neighborhood coming together."

"I want every vendor to feel like a discovery, somewhere you can find something truly unique while supporting the creative people and businesses in our own backyard," she added.

To fill the market, organizers opened applications to new artists, makers and small businesses and personally invited some longtime vendors who have been with the festival since the beginning.

"Those relationships mean so much to me because many of these businesses have grown alongside The Venice Fest over the past five years," Fisk said.

She said the goal is to honor longtime vendors while welcoming newcomers. "It's really about finding that balance between celebrating the businesses that helped build this tradition and making room for new talent."

Organizers are encouraging shoppers to support independent makers and shop small this holiday season.

"December adds another layer because it's such a busy time of year for everyone, especially small businesses," Fisk said. "We want to be mindful of that and create an event that genuinely supports them during one of their most important seasons."

Staging the festival requires coordinating with the city on street closures, permits and safety, as well as working with vendors, local businesses and community partners.

"We're a very small team, so there's a lot of behind-the-scenes work and long days that go into making it all happen," Fisk said.

The organizers' focus on community also led them to recently open rèunion, a community event space in Mar Vista intended for local markets, creative workshops, celebrations and neighborhood gatherings.

"We wanted to create a place where people could continue coming together beyond our festivals," Fisk said.

She said the hard work is worth it when everything comes together.

"Watching thousands of people fill Venice Boulevard, families making memories, neighbors reconnecting, and small businesses thriving reminds me why we started this in the first place," Fisk said.

"My hope is that people come for the holiday shopping but stay for the experience," she said.

She said she hopes visitors run into old friends, meet their neighbors and leave feeling more connected to their community, which she said is what the festival has always been about.

"It's not just about putting on an event; it's about creating a place where people feel like they belong," she said.

For more information, visit www.thevenicefest.com.

maaz@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

rejected ballot measures to repeal the death penalty while passing a 2016 measure aimed at speeding up capital punishment appeals.

Enter Newsom, who was elected lieutenant governor in 2010 and obviously wanted to become governor. In 2016, when asked about the death penalty by the Modesto Bee, Newsom said he would "be accountable to the will of the voters" if elected governor.

"I would not get my personal opinions in the way of the public's right to make a determination of where they want to take us," he said.

While campaigning in 2018, Newsom said he didn't "want to get ahead of the will of the voters" and wanted to "give the voters a chance to reconsider."

However, shortly after inauguration in 2019, Newsom issued a moratorium on executions but ducked questions about asking voters to repeal capital punishment, which would have been the honorable way to proceed. Instead he waited until the final weeks of his governorship to commute death sentences, subject to state Supreme Court ratification of some cases.

"I take this action because I firmly believe that state-sanctioned killing is incompatible with California's values, undermines the foundation of our legal system, and diminishes each of us," Newsom said in an open letter. "I know we cannot execute people in our imperfect legal system and remain true to our core values, first among them justice and human decency."

Newsom insists he respects voters, "but the Constitution also gave every governor clemency authority, and that power exists for moments when law as applied cannot be squared with justice. For me, this is that moment."

The authority he cites was aimed at righting perceived injustices on a case-by-case basis.

Newsom's blanket clemency distorts that process, thumbs his nose at California voters and dishonors victims of horrendous crimes and their grieving families.

We'll learn whether it also impacts his presumed presidential ambitions.

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

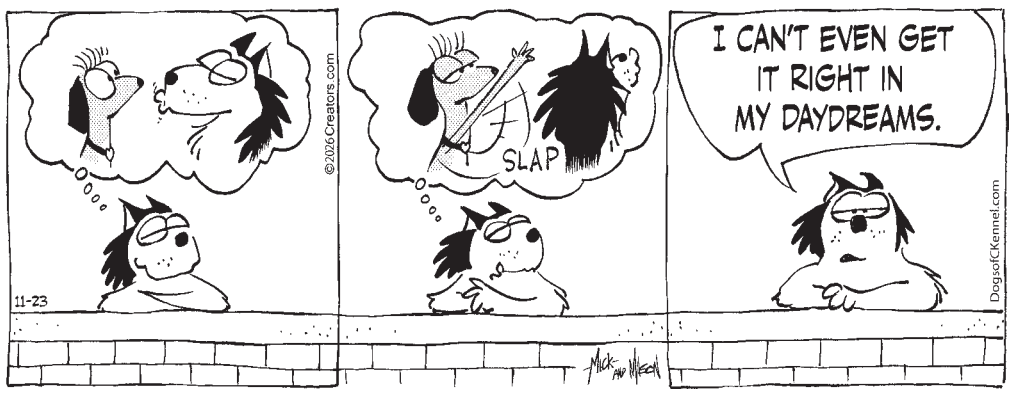
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



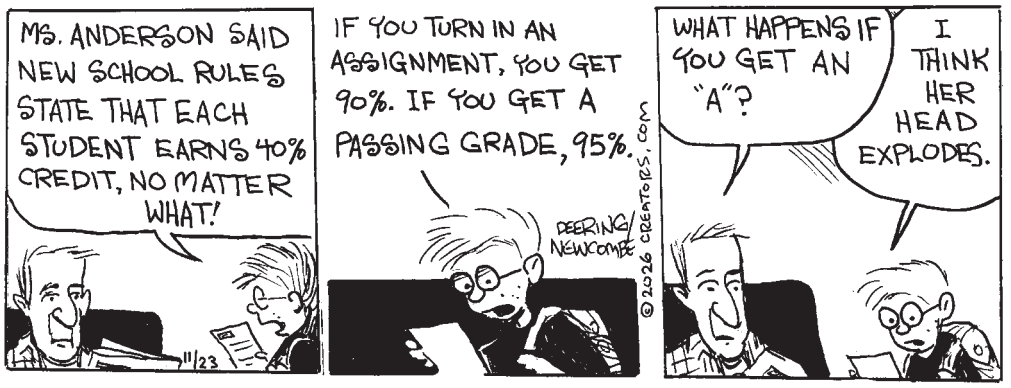
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



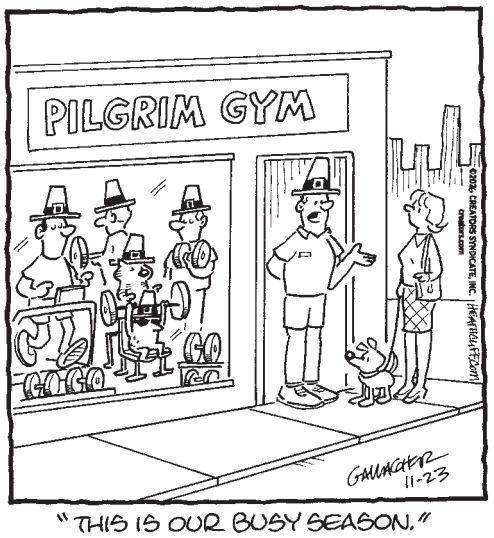
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THIS IS OUR BUSY SEASON."

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 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 7133

School leavers

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

Acne	Escape	Mobile	Relax
Action	Exams	Move	Shop
Adults	Final	Nerds	Sports
Advice	Free	News	Start
Aims	Grant	Organise	Study
Asia	Happy	Pals	Suit
Blues	Inexperienced	Peers	TAFE
Cars	Jobs	Phone	Taxes
Computer	Learn	Pressure	Time out
Crazy	Luck	Rage	Travel
Defer	Mates	Rebel	Vague
Disco	Menial	Regrets	Zits

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 23)

In your Year of the Sequel, life unfolds in a similar tone to your favorite plot line, except the story develops to meet more interesting challenges and higher stakes. You're the star and hero. More highlights: Tenderness from one who prioritizes your needs, finally a resolution that's taken years to get to and a study that becomes a lifestyle. Cancer and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 19, 25, 34 and 42.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've speculated about who you'd be if you chose Door 5 instead of Door 3. And though you'll never know completely, the fantasy doesn't have to stay in an alternative universe. Today, you'll get a glimpse of the choice not taken.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your fascination with another culture gives you a different way to think of the one you were born into. Compare, contrast and put yourself in a position to experience in some small way what it feels like from the inside.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What would it be like to speak every language in the room, catching the jokes, understanding the whispers and joining any conversation you please? For now, a few well-chosen foreign phrases will give you a taste of that experience.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Back in the day, people's families and friends and favorite people all lived within walking distance and could drop by without calling, or share meals on a whim. You can't change geography, but you will bring people together.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've mentally rehearsed a moment many times and ways, even imagining what you'd wear. The fantasy may be grand, but the desire underneath it is practical. Today, a version of it can be achieved.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't feel you've really pulled off the job until you've also made it look effortless. The pianist's flying fingers, the chef's instinctive seasoning, the artist's confident brushstroke - you'll accomplish an equivalent with your own work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A relationship in which the other person understands your moods and moves without explanation? Sounds heavenly. But even the most devoted partner can't read minds. You'll communicate well and achieve some happy middle ground.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your taste is more developed than your budget, but proceed anyway. You don't have to be the owner of something to experience it. Take a test drive. Borrow or rent. Get used to what it will feel like to meet the goal.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's harder to stir things up in familiar settings, which is why it's fun to visit a place where you can be the mysterious stranger among people who know one another well. There you'll notice the impact you have by just being you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Were you to meet today's expectations, it would check the box and still not be enough to satisfy your soul. You're thinking beyond the day's work and into the work that will matter to future generations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's something deeply wrong about the way society is structured, but your personal interactions are representative of a better, more just way of moving through the world. Others model your behavior.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Simply holding a vision in your mind for a few minutes makes things go differently from there. But so often we go into the phone call, the room or the entire day without first setting an intention. Today, you'll remember.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

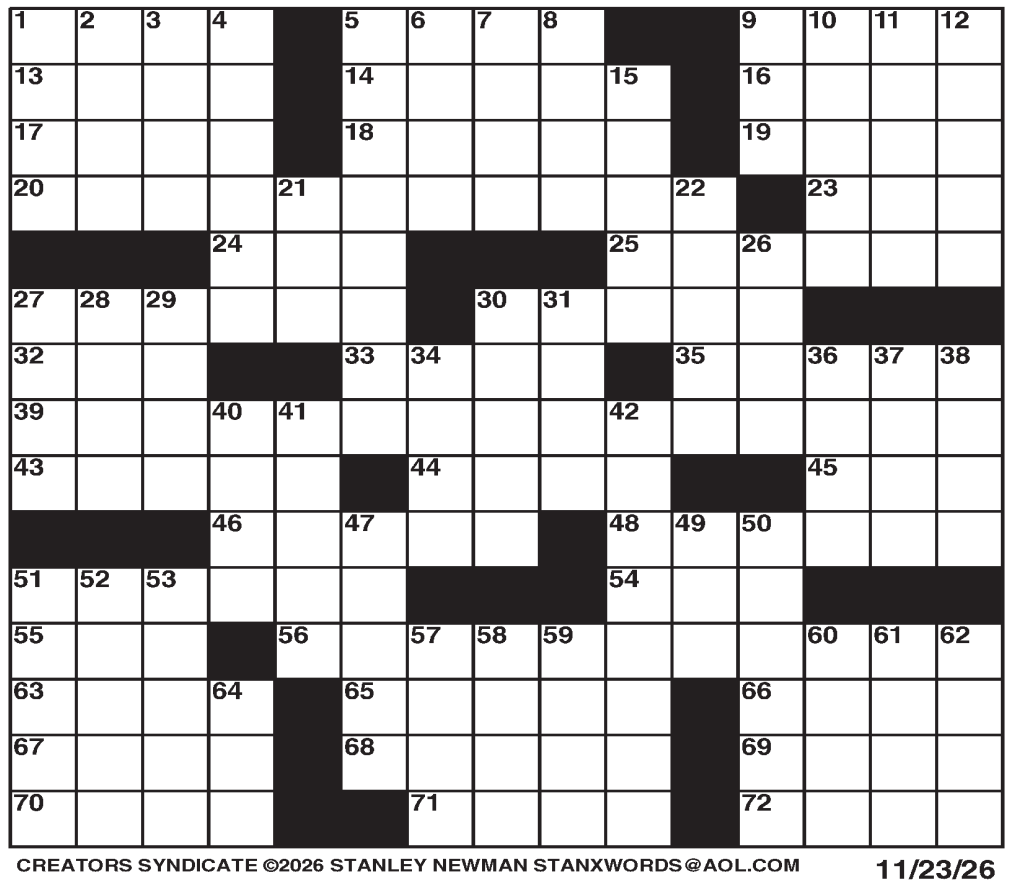
DOCTOR'S OFFICE DEVICES by Guilherme Gilioli
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 With no warranty
5 Young boys
9 Chimps and gorillas
13 Took a bus or train
14 Poet T.S.
16 Grain storage tower
17 Tunneling rodent
18 Not at all tidy
19 Think ahead
20 Tool to check a heartbeat
23 When a plane is due: Abbr.
24 Bird in a coop
25 Pencil mark remover
27 Cellphone photo taker
30 Lacks, for short
32 Spanish cheer
33 Consider to be
35 Mirror reflection
39 Stick for viewing a throat
43 Four-door car
44 Someone __ (not me)
45 Road paving material
46 Large water pipes
48 Bar seats
51 Prime-time hour: Abbr.
54 Burst, as a balloon
55 Poem of praise
56 Tool for checking temperature
63 Touches on the shoulder
65 Pacific or Atlantic
66 Film star Robert De __
67 Casual conversation
68 Bronze medalist's place
69 Guitarist Clapton
70 Sacred
71 Change for a $5 bill
72 Have an unpleasant smell

DOWN

1 Limbs inside sleeves
2 Chimney dust
3 Not doing anything
4 Be furious
5 Drink sold at a kid's stand
6 Pub beverages
7 Hockey puck shape
8 Just adequate
9 Egyptian snake
10 Stacks of things
11 Make very happy
12 Sub's tracking device
15 Works at a keyboard
21 __ Majesty (queen's title)
22 Bert's *Sesame Street* pal
26 24-hr. cash dispensers
27 Army beds
28 Organic skin soother
29 Repair with thread
30 "High" women's shoes
31 Sound-boosting boxes
34 Adam's garden home
36 Regarding, in memos
37 Soccer score
38 Makes a mistake
40 Checkers or chess
41 Not suitable
42 Gives an answer
47 "It's too warm in here!"
49 Actor Cruise or Hanks
50 First event in a series
51 V-shaped cut in wood
52 Potato-growing state
53 Himalayan country
57 Rebound, as a sound
58 Jockey's strap
59 Horse's mom
60 Car wheel
61 A Great Lake
62 Pebble or boulder
64 Pigpen



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11/23/26

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



MONDAY | NOVEMBER 23

COMMUNAL GARDENING @ ISHIHARA PARK

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Ishihara Park 2909 Exposition Blvd Santa Monica. A free drop-in communal gardening session where gardeners of all levels can learn and work together in a learning garden. Communal Garden Program Work Days @ Ishihara Park Learning Garden - Mondays and Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Free Come get your hands dirty in the Communal Garden Program at Ishihara Park Learning Garden, a communal spot to learn and acquire gardening skills. Seasoned as well as new gardeners of all ages are welcome. Free drop in activity, no reservation needed. Visit the Ishihara Park Learning Garden sitefor More Information. Subject to cancellation due to weather. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/communal-gardening-ishihara-park/18461167/2026-11-23T09

MOBILE COMMUNITY MEDITATION CENTER - GUIDED MEDITATION

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South 2701 Bernard Way Santa Monica. An outdoor guided meditation with ocean views, open to all, bring a chair or cushion. Please join Mobile Community Meditation Center aka Buddhist Boondockers Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 am for a 45 minute fully guided mindfulness meditation - on the grass, under the shade of the trees, with a view of the sparkling ocean. (Mondays and Fridays also offered via zoom, see Facebook event page for more info). Whether you're new to meditation or a seasoned practitioner, everyone is welcomed. Bring your own chair or cushion and try to arrive 5 minutes early. Be prepared to enjoy a truly peaceful moment as we relax, be present and make new friends; giving ourselves the love and attention we deserve by quieting our minds, finding peace and creating community. $10.00 to $20.00— Suggested donation. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mobile-community-meditation-center-guided-meditation/19479748/2026-11-23T10

WATER AEROBICS

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Palisades Charter High School 15777 Bowdoin St Pacific Palisades. Group water aerobics sessions at a local pool, offering a low-impact workout in the water. It's time to make some waves. Water Aerobics are back! Monday & Wednesdays at 10 to 11 a.m. at the Maggie Gilbert pool. Find and register for classes on the Y app. Don't have a Y membership? If you were affected by the fires get your free membership at a Y near you. Y's on the Westside participating in the free Fire Relief memberships are the Collins & Katz Y, Culver-Palms Y & Westchester Y. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/water-aerobics/20366526/2026-11-23T10

PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Santa Monica Place 395 Santa Monica Pl Santa Monica. Bring your leashed cats and dogs to festive photos with Santa at this holiday photo session in a shopping center. November 23rd | 4 - 7 p.m. Bring your cats and dogs for festive photos with Santa! Pets must be on a leash or in a carrier. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pet-photos-with-santa/20480997/2026-11-23T16

CARDIO DANCE CLASS

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Pacific Palisades Woman's Club 901 Haverford Ave Pacific Palisades. A high-energy dance-inspired workout that blends cardio with easy-to-follow moves, offering a fun way to get moving on Monday afternoons. Who's ready to cut a rug? Join the new Cardio Dance class! Monday at 4 to 5 p.m. at the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club. Find and register for classes on the Y app. Don't have a Y membership? If you were affected by the fires get your free membership at a Y near you. Y's on the Westside participating in the FREE Fire Relief memberships are the Collins & Katz Y, Culver-Palms Y & Westchester Y. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/cardio-dance-class/20366527/2026-11-23T16

LATE NIGHT HAPPY HOUR AT MARELLE - NIGHT CAP MENU

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Marelle at Sandbourne Santa Monica 1740 Ocean Ave Santa Monica. Late-night happy hour at Marelle in Santa Monica, offering $10 nibbles and $13 cocktails after 9pm. Marelle will be launching a late-night happy hour menu called 'Night Cap' starting Monday, April 6th. Guests can order from this menu exclusively at Marelle, bar and bar lounge only. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/late-night-happy-hour-at-marelle-night-cap-menu/18409321/2026-11-23T21

TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 24

LUNCHTIME LINE DANCE: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd Venice. An intermediate lunchtime line dance session at the library, combining dance, exercise, and fun. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/lunchtime-line-dance-intermediate-level/20081759/2026-11-24T12

ACRYLIC/OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP TUESDAY

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Paint Lab 1453 14th St Santa Monica. A workshop for painters of any level to work on their own acrylic or oil projects with individual guidance from an instructor. In this workshop each student will work on their own project with guidance from an instructor. $61.60. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/acrylic-oil-painting-workshop-tuesday/19429773/2026-11-24T13

WALK-IN TUTORING WITH LAURIE

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Branch Library 11360 Santa Monica Blvd Los Angeles. Walk-in tutoring with Laurie for adults needing help with reading, writing, or English language skills. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/walk-in-tutoring-with-laurie/20087480/2026-11-24T14

OPEN STUDIO (AGES 14+) 4:30 - 5:30PM

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. A weekly open studio session for teens and adults to explore visual art in a community setting, no registration details provided. Unleash your creativity and connect with your community! In case this event has been updated, please visit https://www.pcrcsm.org/event/open-studio-ages-14-4-30---5-30pm-c8936 for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/open-studio-ages-14-4-30-5-30pm/19639018/2026-11-24T16

FULL MOON SOUNDBATH

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Calming Spot 1540 6th Street, Suite 120 Santa Monica. A full moon sound bath meditation featuring crystal bowls, gongs, and chimes. Two evening sessions, with mats, blankets, and eye masks provided. Celebrate the November full moon with an evening of deep rest at Calming Spot, Santa Monica's sound bath studio. Two sessions: 6:00 PM and 7:30 PM. Lie back as crystal singing bowls, gongs and chimes guide you into meditation. No experience needed; mats, blankets and eye masks provided. Tickets are 55 dollars per person. Book at https://www.calmingspot.com/schedule. Calming Spot, 1540 6th Street, Suite 120, Santa Monica, CA 90401. $55.00 — 55 dollars per person. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/full-moon-soundbath/20474110/2026-11-24T18

WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 25

YOGA FOR EVERYONE

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd Venice. An inclusive yoga class accessible to all levels, focusing on movement and mindfulness. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/yoga-for-everyone/20081866/2026-11-25T12

JAZZ A GO GO AT LOULOU SANTA MONICA

7:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica Pl #300 Santa Monica. A weekly live jazz night that blends mellow tunes, good food, and a social, late-night atmosphere. JAZZ A GO GO at LouLou Santa Monica- Every Wednesday · From 7 PM till late - Live Jazz that turns into a Vibe.Music you Feel.People you Meet.Amazing Food.Nights that Flow. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/jazz-a-go-go-at-loulou-santa-monica/18476815/2026-11-25T19

CASTANEA SICILIAN CAFE - LATTE ART CLASS

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Castanea Sicilian Cafe 1307 Ocean Front Walk Los Angeles. Hands-on latte art training where you'll learn to steam milk and pour designs, with snacks and a certificate included. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/castanea-sicilian-cafe-latte-art-class/18526612/2026-11-25T19

THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 26

THANKSGIVING IN VENICE 2026- FEED THE HOMELESS

6:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Rose Ave- In between Hampton Dr and Main St 219 E Rose Avenue Los Angeles. A Thanksgiving outreach effort bringing food and community support to people experiencing homelessness. $12.51. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/thanksgiving-in-venice-2026-feed-the-homeless/20039195/2026-11-26T06

PALISADES TURKEY TROT

8:00 a.m. Palisades Charter High School 15777 Bowdoin St Pacific Palisades. Thanksgiving morning race with 5K, 10K, and kids' family run options, drawing neighbors together for a festive start to the holiday. The Palisades Turkey Trot is more than a race — it's a Pacific Palisades tradition that brings thousands of neighbors together every Thanksgiving morning. Featuring a 5K, 10K and Kids & Family run. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/palisades-turkey-trot/20374849/2026-11-26T08

PACIFIC PALISADES TURKEY TROT

8:00 a.m. Palisades Village 15225 Palisades Village Ln Pacific Palisades. A community turkey trot with 5K and 10K options, welcoming runners and walkers of all levels. Start Thanksgiving with a beloved community tradition bringing neighbors together for a morning of movement and connection. The 5K and 10K races take runners and walkers of all ages and abilities through Pacific Palisades, starting and finishing at Palisades Charter High School. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pacific-palisades-turkey-trot/20484526/2026-11-26T00

THANKSGIVING BY THE SEA

1:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Orla by Michael Mina 1700 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica. A Mediterranean-inspired Thanksgiving feast with mezze, entree choices, family-style desserts, and a festive photo opportunity. Celebrate Thanksgiving by the sea with a Mediterranean-inspired feast at Orla by Michael Mina. Begin with an abundant selection of mezze to share before choosing your entrée, followed by an array of family-style desserts made for passing around the table. A festive welcome beverage is included to begin the celebration. Throughout the experience, guests may also indulge in optional tableside enhancements available for an additional charge, including caviar service, mulled wine and other festive cart moments. Included with your Thanksgiving experience, families are invited to capture a holiday photo together in front of the Regent Christmas tree and menorah, creating a keepsake from the celebration. Little ones can also visit our Letters to Santa station to pen their holiday wishes. A warm and memorable Thanksgiving, designed for gathering, indulging and celebrating together. $75.00 to $240.00. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/thanksgiving-by-the-sea/20339627/2026-11-26T13

THANKSGIVING AT HARVELLE'S

8:00 p.m. Harvelle's Santa Monica 1432 4th St Santa Monica. A free Thanksgiving gathering with football on at a Santa Monica venue, offering a casual place to spend the holiday. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/thanksgiving-at-harvelle-s/20460832/2026-11-26T20

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