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Santa Monica's Club France aims to bring the Olympics to the beach and build ties beyond 2028

MICHELLE EDGAR
Special to the Daily Press

Santa Monica city leaders, French diplomats and Olympic officials gathered Nov. 18 at the historic Marion Davies Guest House to preview what's coming to the shoreline with Club France. On Bastille Day, July 14, the Annenberg Community Beach House is set to become Club France, with the Olympic opening ceremony on a giant screen by the Pacific and plans

SEE **CLUB FRANCE** PAGE 8

Los Angeles County youth department reports 1,200 diversions, national awards in fourth year

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Los Angeles County's Department of Youth Development diverted more than 1,200 young people from arrest or court over the past year and helped more than 600 return to their communities after leaving county juvenile facilities,

SEE **CARE FIRST** PAGE 8

Zoox begins driving its purpose-built robotaxi in Santa Monica



Courtesy of zoox.com

TECH: Zoox has launched robotaxi operations in Santa Monica, starting with employee rides before public rollout.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Zoox has begun driving its purpose-built robotaxi in Santa Monica, launching its Los Angeles rollout in a city that has spent six years as a proving ground for driverless technology and, lately, as one of its toughest critics.

The company described the initial rollout as small and deliberate. In this early phase, rides will be available only to Zoox employees, their families and friends. Zoox plans to open a Los Angeles waitlist next year, ahead of launching its Zoox Explorers early rider program, and said it will expand its service area as operations progress.

"We're excited to begin driving our purpose-built robotaxi in Santa Monica as we continue to grow in California," said Ron Thaniel, senior director of policy and regulatory affairs at Zoox. "Great transportation starts with trust and transparency, and we've designed our operations to complement the way this community already moves, adding to its mobility options."

City Manager Oliver Chi said safety remains the city's focus.

"As Santa Monica continues to innovate, our priority remains the safety, accessibility, and trust of our community," Chi said. "We appreciate that Zoox is taking a measured, collaborative approach to its rollout — actively listening to residents and working closely with local leadership. We expect high

SEE **ZOOX** PAGE 6

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Trump targets Newsom and Democrats in Justice Department speech focused on violent crime

President Donald Trump condemned California Gov. Gavin Newsom's decision to commute hundreds of death sentences in the state, using a Justice Department visit to sharply chastise an outspoken Democratic critic who is considering his own bid for the White House.

The speech offered the president a platform to showcase what he said was his administration's success in combating violent crime, a favored Trump topic he has repeatedly invoked to rally his Republican base. But the address, Trump's second at the department in less than two years, veered openly into partisan politics as the president lambasted both a governor with whom he has openly feuded and a Democratic Party he depicted as soft-on-crime and part of a "radical left."

"For years now, we have watched the radical left commit one betrayal of justice and safety after another," Trump said in a speech that was also interspersed with first-person accounts from relatives of victims of crimes affected by Newsom's clemency who criticized the commutations.

Newsom has said the announcement this month to commute the sentences of more than 500 inmates to punishments of life in prison without parole was among the most difficult choices of his career because it will surface painful memories for crime victims' families. The state's Supreme Court would be required to approve the majority of those commutations.

"I won't take lectures on accountability from a president who has used the pardon power to help wealthy friends and business associates avoid accountability while victims are left fighting to recover what was stolen from them. Justice should be about the people we serve, not the political interests of the people in power," Newsom said in a statement about Trump's speech.

Asked at an event Monday why he didn't take the death penalty reveal to the ballot, Newsom said he had the "constitutional right" to do what he did. He added: "I may be the first to have received the kind of response from the sitting president of the United States at the Department of Justice with the FBI director — talk about weaponization."

The speech marked the latest tussle between Trump and Newsom.

In June, Newsom accused the Justice Department of launching a politically motivated investigation into him and his wife, which his office said was focused on "increasingly personal matters involving the governor's family and professional network." He has denied any wrongdoing. The president has repeatedly gone after the heavily Democratic California during his second term and the state has pushed back by suing the federal government dozens of times.

TRUMP'S SPEECH FOLLOWED SWEEPING DEMOCRATIC GAINS IN CONGRESS

The president's address unfolded against the backdrop of sweeping Republican losses in this month's midterm elections, which gave Democrats control of the House and Senate. The development tees up possible congressional inquiries into everything from the mass firings of federal agents and prosecutors by the Trump administration Justice Department to a series of politically charged investigations into Trump adversaries that have been rejected by grand juries and judges alike.

Trump was introduced by Attorney General Todd Blanche, his former personal defense lawyer who has been unapologetic in his view that the Justice Department as an executive branch agency is an extension of the White House and that the president is free to exert his will over the institution. He said Monday that the Justice Department in the Trump administration was seeking the death penalty whenever appropriate.

"I want to take just a moment and tell every law enforcement member watching or here in this room that we have your back, that President Trump has your back, and he will always have your back," Blanche said.

Trump has long sought to position himself as a tough-on-crime president who staunchly backs law enforcement. He has taken credit for dropping violent crime rates that experts say have been declining since 2022.

"Our opponents seek an America that empowers the most violent and dangerous elements and celebrates deviancy and enables dysfunction and demands empathy for serial killers and criminals, while hardworking citizens are treated with hatred and scorn and contempt," Trump said Monday. "In the Trump administration, we believe in the exact opposite."

As with last year's speech, Monday's remarks were delivered inside the ceremonial Great Hall of the Justice Department headquarters, a building whose exterior in the last year was decorated with a massive banner of Trump's face in a physical demonstration of the president's sway over the agency.

Trump's March 2025 address was meant to rally support for his administration's policies on violent crime, drugs and illegal immigration but became a forum for a litany of complaints about the criminal cases Trump faced during Democratic President Joe Biden's administration — when prosecutors charged him with hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, and with conspiring to overturn his 2020 election loss to Biden — and to vow retribution for what he described as the "lies and abuses that have occurred within these walls."

He pledged at the time to expose the "egregious crimes and severe misconduct" of his foes. The Justice Department since then has accelerated efforts to investigate the president's enemies but has encountered multiple setbacks, with cases either thrown out by judges or spurned by grand juries that have refused to issue indictments.

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press. Associated Press writers Jonathan J. Cooper and Aamer Madhani contributed to this report.



GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Los Angeles elected more democratic socialists, but don't expect a revolution at City Hall

As Nithya Raman prepares to become the first mayor of Los Angeles affiliated with the Democratic Socialists of America, that connection reveals a lot about the city electorate and surprisingly little about what we can expect from her.

In terms of the electorate, the voting base that has defined Los Angeles for generations is officially yesterday's news. The coalitions of Jewish and Black voters that elected Tom Bradley, or Latinos and conservatives that elected Richard Riordan, or San Fernando Valley moderates and Black liberals that favored James Hahn are all passe now. They have been supplanted by an energized base of young people, many of them renters, who cross demographic lines but share a demand for something new.

The strength of that coalition is evidenced not just by Raman's solid win over incumbent Mayor Karen Bass. It shows up in an astonishing fact: With this year's elections, every one of Los Angeles' three citywide elected officials is a democratic socialist. Marissa Roy, a 34-year-old former California deputy attorney general, was this month elected city attorney, after City Controller Kenneth Mejia's successful reelection bid in June.

This, in a city where the publisher of the Los Angeles Times once could boast of never having met a union leader and where California's Republican politics once were anchored.

No more.

Surely, then, a city so thoroughly in thrall of socialist officeholders must be perched on the edge of something truly revolutionary.

Not so much. Raman's victory put a democratic socialist in office, but she comes to her post so at the edge of that movement that it's difficult to tell how much of its program she will implement.

She is not a West Coast replica of New York's Zohran Mamdani, as was often observed during the campaign. She does not propose rent freezes or free public transit or city-owned grocery stores or a pied-à-terre tax on second homes — the pillars of Mamdani's New York platform.

Raman's ambitions are far less sweeping. She talks like the urban planner she is, trilling over the nuts and bolts of government, promising accountability and transparency. She vows to patch potholes and fix streetlights. She supported the city's so-called "mansion tax" but also believes it needs amending to correct some of the downward pressure it has put on new housing construction.

All of that is easy to support, but there's nothing about a program of pothole filling and modest reform that suggests the unveiling of a radical, socialist agenda. With those positions, Raman sounds more like former Mayor Eric Garcetti than a zealous activist.

Even the goal she most seeks — a significant uptick in the city's capacity to build new housing — is one she wants to pursue, not through a socialist program of government intervention, but by decreasing regulation and clearing the way for the market to do its work. She promises to create a city where "it takes weeks, not years, to get permission to build housing during a housing shortage." That's under the banner of eliminating "red tape" to "build faster."

Not exactly Trotsky.

Raman's program of back-to-basics tinkering, modest social reforms and reduced government intervention may satisfy the electorate for now. They signal a gentle shift in emphasis away from Bass, and Raman herself represents the emergence of a younger generation: She is 45 and replaces the 73-year-old Bass.

But the electorate's historic move to the left may test even Raman's socialism-lite, underscored by the uneasy relationship the mayor-elect has with the Democratic Socialists of America. The Los Angeles chapter endorsed her in September, but the organization's national committee came within one vote of rescinding that endorsement just days before the election because it questioned whether Raman was, well, socialist enough.

One test: Will Raman deliver an overhaul of the Los Angeles Police Department, starting with the removal of its chief, as many of her allies demand? Or will she opt for stability in the run-up to the 2028 Olympics, as many of her more moderate supporters would like to see?

That's not to say that a more ambitious, liberal agenda is out of reach for Raman or her new colleagues in city leadership.

Mejia is the young, activist city controller who was elected in 2022 and a rare City Hall incumbent to support Raman's mayoral bid. Her council colleagues, for varying reasons, sided with Bass — including the three other democratic socialists. As controller, Mejia has occasionally clashed with Bass, releasing audits that questioned some of her programs and warned that the city's spending could force "wrenching choices" down the line.

As that history suggests, a controller can be an irritating foe — or a powerful ally — and Mejia will welcome the

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 8



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **70.2**

WEDNESDAY — ***POOR TO FAIR***
SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach

Slower AM w/smaller surf & deep high tide. Building surf, manageable wind PM & is the window to hit. Confidence is growing for a good size WNW swell (275-300) to fill in through the afternoon, with a peak in size late on Wednesday into Thursday. We'll also have a fun SSW swell building to a peak at just about the same time. Size picks up into the chest-head high range for many spots in the afternoon/evening off the swell mix. Top WNW/combo spots could get up to a couple feet overhead by the end of the day

THURSDAY — ***POOR TO FAIR***
SURF: 6-8ft Overhead to well overhead

Solid/good surf under favorable wind. Size settles through the day. Work around deep AM high tide. Solid WNW swell continues, enough west in it to wrap into the south-facing points. Very deep high tide in the morning, but enough size to push through it. Fun size SSW swell too for some peaks at the combo beachbreaks. The current expectation is for widespread chest-head high surf, with topWNW spots a couple to perhaps a few feet overhead. Wind looks ok into and potentially through the afternoon.

Weather

Wednesday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 75. North wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56. North wind 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 80. North northeast wind 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 58.

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

Daily Lottery

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 11/23
7 9 27 40 58
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 31 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 11/20
32 35 48 58 61
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 645 M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 11/21
14 17 38 40 42
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 17 M

FANTASY 5
Draw Date: 11/23
13 15 17 31 34

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 11/23
EVENING: 9 9 1
Draw Date: 11/23
MIDDAY: 7 7 2

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 11/23
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:43.36

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026225896. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: TWIXICK, 1265 N HARPER AVE APT 18, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): OLEKSII TERESHCHENKO, 1265 N HARPER AVE APT 18, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046. 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/ OLEKSII TERESHCHENKO, OWNER. 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: 11/04/2026, 11/11/2026, 11/18/2026, 11/25/2026

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026227334. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: M&S PACIFIC SERVICES, 4424 SANTA ANITA AVE STE 204, EL MONTE, CA 91731, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): M&S PROPERTY PARTNERS LLC, 713 W DUARTE RD STE G PMB 146, ARCADIA, CA 91007. 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/ XINHANG ZHANG, MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/27/2026. 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: 11/04/2026, 11/11/2026, 11/18/2026, 11/25/2026

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20226240799. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FINEST VISION BARBERSHOP, 2801 OCEAN PARK BLVD UNIT 2263, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. AI #ON 20225101839. Registered Owner(s): FINEST VISION GLOBAL LLC, 2801 OCEAN PARK BLVD UNIT 2263, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 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/ RIYAD MARC WHITTLE, MANAGER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/16/2026. 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 to publish four (4) times: 11/25/2026, 12/02/2026, 12/09/2026, 12/16/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 20262384387. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: THRIVERAISE, 4139 VIA MARINA APT 1003, MARINA DEL REY, CA 90292, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): BCE SMITH HOLDINGS LLC, 4139 VIA MARINA APT 1003, MARINA DEL REY, CA 90292. 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 11/2026. 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/ ERIK SMITH, MANAGER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/12/2026. 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: 11/25/2026, 12/02/2026, 12/09/2026, 12/16/2026

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26NNCP00677. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 150 West Commonwealth Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91801. Petition of Larry Jenkins for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Larry Jenkins filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Larry Jenkins to Abdur-Rahim Abdullah. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 01/22/2027, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: V room 430. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: November 9, 2026. Roberto Longoria, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 11/18/2026, 11/25/2026, 12/02/2026, 12/09/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26STCP04178. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Petition of Melissa Rose for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Melissa Rose filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Sophie Drew Miller to Sophie Drew Rose Miller. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 02/05/2027 Time: 8:30 AM , Dept: 529 . The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 10/26/2026. Virginia Keeny, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish 11/25/2026, 12/02/2026, 12/09/2026, and 12/16/2026.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00533. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Ernest Jim Choi for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Ernest Jim Choi filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Ernest Jim Choi to Ernest Jim Che. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: January 8. 2027, Time:8:00 AM , Dept: Dept. K The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: November 16, 2026.Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 11/25/26, 12/02/26, 12/09/26, 12/16/26

Summons

SUMMONS (Family Law) Case No. 26LBFL01073. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, South District, 275 Magnolia Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802. NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: Michael Moun Kartt . YOU ARE BEING SERVED BY PUBLICATION BY PETITIONER Mora Khiev-Kartt NOTICE! You have been served by publication. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons is published to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the court house nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 275 Magnolia Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802. The name and address of the petitioner is: Mora Khiev-Kartt, 1012 E 21st St Apt 2, Long Beach, CA 90806. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 11/18/2026,11/25/2026, 12/2/2026, 12/09/2026

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Austria House to set up on Santa Monica beachfront for 2028 Olympics



Courtesy Image

OLYMPICS: Austria secures beachfront site near Santa Monica Pier for Austria House during 2028 Games.

MICHELLE EDGAR
Special to the Daily Press

Austria will make a beachfront parking lot just south of the Santa Monica Pier its home base for the Games, with a free public area for fans.

At the Rio Olympics, about 1,000 people lined up to get into Austria House's public area, with waits of two to three hours, Austrian Olympic Committee Secretary General Florian Gosch recalled. In Santa Monica, organizers plan to offer Austrian food, music and sports activities steps from the sand, with space for athletes and their families to gather and celebrate medals.

The Austrian Olympic Committee and the city unveiled plans for the temporary venue at Lot 4 South yesterday at City Hall. For Gosch, watching people play volleyball on the sand made the choice personal. "I was a former volleyball player, so I'm connected with the beach a bit," he said. The committee also considered how easily athletes could reach the site from UCLA, which will serve as the Olympic Village. "The committee wants to bring "a special Austrian flair to the beach and a front-row seat on the Pacific secured, it's time to fill it with the Austrian spirit for everyone to enjoy."

Austria joins France, Switzerland, and Belgium in choosing Santa Monica for Olympic hospitality houses. France plans to use the Annenberg Community Beach House, and Switzerland has selected the Camera Obscura. The sites give fans places to experience the Games along the coast outside competition venues.

Austria has made public access part of its hospitality house since the London Olympics in 2012. Its house at the Milano Cortina Winter Games earlier this year welcomed about 14,000 guests and fans, according to the committee. Austria sent about 80 athletes to Paris in 2024 and won seven medals at the Tokyo Games, according to the Austrian Olympic Committee. Gosch said he met with Olympic medalists and champions at a team workshop the week before the unveiling and heard how eager they were for Los Angeles. He hopes to bring some of Austria's Winter Olympic champions to Santa Monica to meet fans during the Summer Games. "We always will put the athletes in the center of the Austrian house," Gosch said. He expects athletes from other countries to visit as well.

The committee is considering DJs and traditional Austrian music and is working with longtime partner backaldrin, The Kornspitz Company, on plans to serve Austrian bread and apple strudel. Early renderings show a gala hall, a media hub and space for business events. "For us, the Olympics is just another opportunity to show what we are capable of," Austrian Trade Commissioner Volker Ammann. He said about 1,000 Austrian companies do business in the United States and pointed to Swarovski and Red Bull, whose North American headquarters is in Santa Monica. He also cited Pankl Racing Systems, which has a racing and high-performance manufacturing operation in Irvine and an aerospace business.

Austrian Consul General Christine Moser, who lives close to Santa Monica, said she visited fan zones during the World Cup and saw how they brought people together. She said she was looking forward to "many good opportunities to make businesses and people meet." "It's an ideal chance to showcase champions and best practice and engage with other countries, a win–win!"

Councilmember Barry Snell, who visited Vienna a few weeks ago to learn about affordable housing projects and an impeccable public transport system, said he hopes the Games introduce more visitors to Santa Monica's shops, restaurants and hotels and give the city a reason to keep working with the countries it hosts. "I'm hoping that after the Olympics, that we continue to have these kind of relationships with other countries," he said.

The city's advance advisory described Austria House as a venue for both the Olympics and Paralympics. Gosch said Monday that discussions about whether the Paralympic committee could use the site were still underway.

Austria's unveiling followed Friday's announcement, cited by Snell, that Big Dean's Ocean Front Café at the foot of the Santa Monica Pier will host the Belgium Bar during the Olympics. Big Dean's has welcomed beachgoers since the 1970s at a site that was home to Loring's Lunchroom in 1902.

The Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee and the Belgian National Lottery are planning a gathering spot for athletes, families and fans, with sports viewing, Belgian food and drinks, and Team Belgium merchandise. Organizers have yet to announce opening dates or access details. Snell said he understands that as many as 11 countries are in the mix for a Santa Monica presence during the Games.

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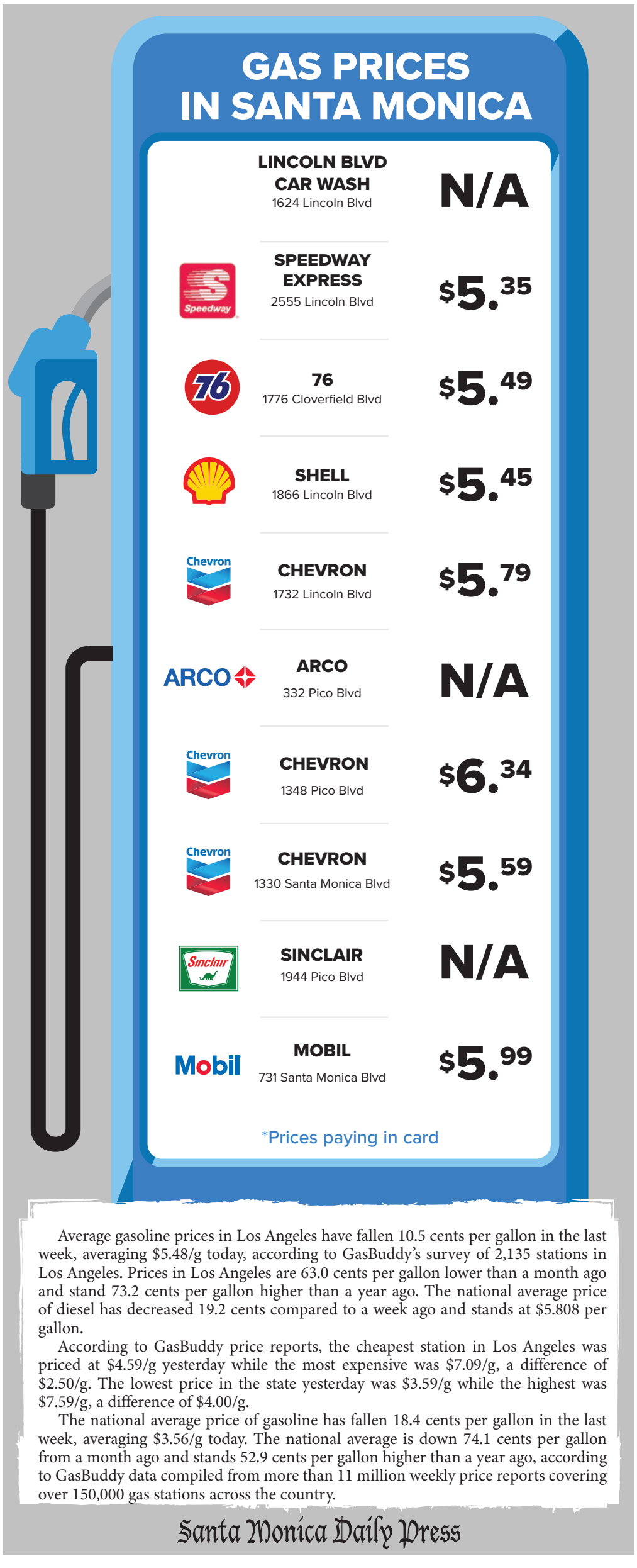

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 10.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $5.48/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 63.0 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 73.2 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 19.2 cents compared to a week ago and stands at $5.808 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $4.59/g yesterday while the most expensive was $7.09/g, a difference of $2.50/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was $3.59/g while the highest was $7.59/g, a difference of $4.00/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 18.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.56/g today. The national average is down 74.1 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 52.9 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMUNITY NEWS

Montana Ave

Montana Avenue Holiday Walk returns Dec. 5 with Santa, shopping and tree lighting

The annual Montana Avenue Holiday Walk returns from noon to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, with live entertainment, shopping promotions, Santa Claus and a holiday tree lighting.

The free event, presented by the Montana Avenue Merchants Association, invites locals and visitors to shop, dine and celebrate the season while supporting neighborhood businesses.

"Montana Avenue Holiday Walk is one of our favorite traditions because it brings our entire community together to celebrate the season while supporting the incredible small businesses that make our neighborhood so special," said Michelle Kelly, president of the Montana Avenue Merchants Association.

Santa Claus arrives at 2:30 p.m. at 16th Street and Montana Avenue. Santa Monica High School dancers perform at 3:30 p.m., and the Lincoln Middle School Madrigals will carol at 4 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop 2 will hold a flag ceremony at 5:30 p.m. at 15th Street and Montana Avenue, followed by a tree lighting there at 5:45 p.m. sponsored by the troop.

Other scheduled events include a Much Love Animal Rescue dog adoption event from noon to 4 p.m. and live holiday jazz guitar by Natalie from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Throughout the afternoon, Santa and his elves will visit with families, Disney princesses will roam for photos, and The Grinch and Cindy Lou Who will make surprise appearances in shops.

Participating businesses will offer activities including:

photos with Santa at Pink Chicken from 2 to 4 p.m.

holiday cookie decorating and a letters-to-Santa drop-off at Brentwood General Store

wreath-making at Viola Floral

ornament art and paper wreath-making at Paint Lab

ornament making and an in-store giveaway of $250 toward framing at Framebridge

a festive high tea at Buena Vida Tea

Eileen Fisher will mark an anniversary with a gift-with-purchase promotion, and Divine Vintage will celebrate its fourth anniversary. Other participants include Zibby's Bookshop, Williams Sonoma, Unsubscribed, Human Element, Big and Tiny, Naked Cashmere, Texture, Dermalogica, Aesop, Paper Source and LAYA.

Franklin Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary schools will hold bake sales along the avenue, and FUNBOY will decorate the street for the season.

Organizers suggest visitors start with brunch at Montana Avenue eateries such as Terratory, Bardonna and H&H Bagels.

More information is available at montanaave.com/events/holiday-walk and www.montanaave.com.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

ZOOX

FROM PAGE 1

standards from any company introducing new technology on our streets, and we look forward to ensuring this service serves our city safely and responsibly."

Zoox has run test fleet operations in Los Angeles since spring 2025. The company said it has used that time to map and learn from local driving behaviors, weather patterns and the region's mix of coastal corridors and dense urban streets, while expanding its geofence and growing its fleet and local team.

Unlike the retrofitted vehicles operated by other companies, the Zoox robotaxi was built from the ground up for fully autonomous ride-hailing. It has no steering wheel or driver's seat and offers carriage-style seating for up to four passengers. The company said the vehicle has more than 100 safety features not found on any other car on the road.

Los Angeles is Zoox's newest robotaxi market. The vehicle began driving in Austin, Texas, and Miami earlier this year, adding to the company's public, now-paid service in Las Vegas and its early rider program in San Francisco.

Zoox also said it is supporting local organizations including Sounds Like LA, which provides tuition-free music education to young people, and Wise & Healthy Aging, which offers programming and services for older adults.

Santa Monica's experience with autonomous technology began in August 2020, when remotely piloted Coco delivery robots, then run by Cyan Robotics, appeared on city sidewalks. The City Council responded Oct. 27, 2020, with an emergency one-year moratorium on fully autonomous delivery devices, while still allowing human-controlled robots.

In February 2021, the city and the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator launched what officials called the nation's first Zero Emissions Delivery Zone, a one-square-mile pilot whose partners included Coco and Kiwibot.

Motional and Uber Eats began autonomous food deliveries in Santa Monica, with safety operators aboard, on May 16, 2022. Waymo launched its Los Angeles robotaxi service at a Third Street Promenade pop-up Oct. 11, 2023, which drew protests from about 30 members of Teamsters Union Local 630, the Los Angeles Times reported. State regulators approved paid driverless service in March 2024, and Waymo opened rides to anyone in its Los Angeles service area that November.

Friction followed. Neighbors of Waymo's charging lots at 1222 and 1310 Broadway complained of backup beeping, glare and vehicles queuing in alleys, and some residents blocked the cars with their bodies. The council voted 6-0 on Nov. 18, 2025, to declare the lots' overnight operations a public nuisance. Waymo sued the city Dec. 17, and the city countersued a week later.

On Jan. 23, 2026, a Waymo vehicle struck a 9-year-old near Grant Elementary School, causing minor injuries and prompting federal investigations.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Bradley S. Phillips barred overnight operations at the lots July 27, but the 2nd District Court of Appeal stayed that order in September while Waymo appeals. The council adopted interim rules for autonomous vehicle fleet facilities in July and extended them for two years in September.

As of mid-November, Waymo continues to operate in the city, Coco robots still travel city sidewalks and Zoox is negotiating to park up to 150 robotaxis at the Main Library garage.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

SMC forum to explore micro home communities as affordable housing solution

Santa Monica College's Homeless Services Work Certificate Program will host "Finding Home," a free daylong community forum on affordable housing and planning a micro home community.

The forum runs from 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, in The Edye at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St., at Santa Monica Boulevard.

Reservations are required at smc.edu/FindingHome. Seating is limited and first-come, first-served. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, and parking is free. Presentations are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

> Without a stable, affordable place to live, it's nearly impossible for students to focus on their education or for workers to build a career
>
> - Steven Sedky

"Having a safe, comfortable home is the bedrock for physical and mental wellbeing," said SMC student Maurice Jacobsen, who proposed the forum. "At a time when Santa Monica has a critical shortage of affordable housing, creative solutions are essential. One solution already exists internationally — micro home communities."

Jacobsen, an alumnus of the program, has support from faculty member Alisa Orduña, students in the program and Steven Sedky, SMC's interim associate dean of career education.

"Without a stable, affordable place to live, it's nearly impossible for students to focus on their education or for workers to build a career," Sedky said. "This forum is about finding creative, practical solutions and preparing our students to be part of them."

Speakers include Aileen Reynolds, the city of Santa Monica's homeless coordinator; Denny Zane, a former Santa Monica mayor and co-chair of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights; James Shen, founder of PlugIn Homes and chief architect at The People's Architecture Office; Ralph Mechur, a Santa Monica architect, civic leader and founding member of Cloverfield Commons; Leepi Shimkhada, chief program officer at the Los Angeles County Department of Homeless Services and Housing; and Orduña.

Sessions will cover the need for affordable housing in Santa Monica, micro home design and construction, developing and financing micro home communities, and the path to collective action.

Guests who need a disability accommodation should email dsps@smc.edu or call 310-434-4173 at least five business days in advance.

The forum is sponsored by Merritt Community Capital Corp. and presented with SMC's Social Work and Affordable Property Management programs and its Office of Workforce and Economic Development.

The certificate program, launched in 2024 in partnership with and funded by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and United Way of Greater Los Angeles, prepares students for entry-level jobs in homeless services.

More information is available at smc.edu/FindingHome or HomelessServiceWork@smc.edu.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

RENDER: Render of a micro home concept by Maurice Jacobsen, with home design from PlugIn Homes.



CLUB FRANCE

FROM PAGE 1

for medalist visits, concerts and sports on the sand.

More than 600 days before opening, Santa Monica and its French partners are already discussing classroom visits, cultural exhibitions and business exchanges they hope will outlast the Games. "I think for us, the games start today," said Adrien Frier, France's consul general in Los Angeles.

For Mayor Caroline Torosis, one measure of success will be where visitors go after they leave the Beach House. "When visitors walk out of these doors, we want them to be walking into our restaurants, into our shops, our hotels, and our neighborhoods," Torosis said. "We want Santa Monica to be a destination, not just a stop on the way to somewhere else."

Torosis said Club France fits into a city realignment plan that began about 18 months before the preview. She described an effort to make Santa Monica safer, cleaner and more economically vibrant while building its capacity to host major events and draw visitors in the off-season. She pointed to the Pitchside Club on the Santa Monica Pier, a Swiss event planned for the pier that evening and efforts to bring ESPN to Santa Monica around the Super Bowl. The city has also pursued a major music festival, she said.

The mayor sees Club France as part of a monthlong celebration in 2028 that will also include hospitality plans involving Austria and Switzerland, Nations Village and Island of Songs, an immersive art experience planned for the beach.

National Olympic hospitality houses give fans a place to follow the Games outside competition venues and give participating countries a place to share their culture, celebrate their athletes and introduce young people to sports. Amélie Oudéa-Castéra, president of the French National Olympic and Sports Committee, said Club France drew about 90,000 visits in London in 2012, 120,000 in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 and 700,000 in Paris in 2024. Organizers project about 120,000 visits in Santa Monica, roughly on par with Rio, and are planning for nearly 7,000 visits a day.

Oudéa-Castéra called the Beach House "a unique place," citing its proximity to the Olympic Village at UCLA and the opportunity to bring sports and family activities directly onto the sand.

The Beach House's connection to France goes back more than a century. At the preview, architect Fred Fisher traced it to Julia Morgan, who studied at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and became the first woman to earn an architecture certificate there. She returned to California and in 1904 became the first woman licensed as an architect in the state.

While Morgan was in Paris, philanthropist Phoebe Apperson Hearst visited her. Hearst became an early client and supporter, and her son, newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, went on to commission some of Morgan's best-known work. In the 1920s, Morgan helped shape the five-acre Santa Monica estate he developed for actress Marion Davies, which included a mansion of more than 100 rooms and an ornate marble swimming pool. "This site has deep history with France," Fisher said.

Fisher credited the partnership among the city, the state and the Annenberg Foundation with giving the property a second life. A $27.5 million foundation grant helped restore the historic guest house and pool and create new recreation and event spaces. The site opened to the public in 2009 as the Annenberg Community Beach House. Torosis said Fisher and his team had turned "a piece of old Hollywood" into "a public front porch on the Pacific."

Plans for the fan zone include live competition coverage with French commentary, celebrations with newly crowned medalists, live music, French DJs, beach yoga, friendly sports tournaments, and French food and wine. Oudéa-Castéra said the committee wants to invite young people from underserved Los Angeles-area communities to meet athletes and try sports. Athletes would share how they got to the Games and what it took to keep competing after setbacks. "We really want to bring the general public to this place here," Oudéa-Castéra said.

For Nicolas Batum, a former Los Angeles Clippers forward and two-time Olympic silver medalist for France, the Santa Monica location means he can experience Club France close to home. Batum said he had lived in Los Angeles for six years and planned to go as a spectator. "I'm a little bit jealous now that I'm retired," Batum said.

At past Olympics, he said, Club France gave him somewhere to grab a meal, see his wife and children and clear his head between competitions. For athletes far from home, it offered "a quick getaway."

Torosis said she wants Club France to serve as a business accelerator. Santa Monica suppliers could provide goods and services for the venue, while French companies could meet local counterparts and introduce their brands to the community. The mayor hopes those introductions will lead to trade, investment and business relationships that continue after the Games.

French organizers also plan to offer corporate hospitality packages and private events, with options such as athlete meet-and-greets, guest speakers and receptions by the historic pool. Oudéa-Castéra said companies could use those gatherings to meet prospective clients and partners, bring employees together or recruit talent.

The committee is exploring how revenue from corporate hospitality could help keep public fan-zone tickets affordable. Oudéa-Castéra cited the five-euro admission price in Paris as a reference point. Santa Monica prices are still being worked out, and organizers plan to encourage fans to use public transit.

Frier said he met with Torosis and Santa Monica's city manager earlier that week to discuss classroom visits, cultural exhibitions and business exchanges, including ways to bring more French brands to the Third Street Promenade. He said he had also spoken with the incoming mayor about carrying the work forward. A possible sister-city relationship was among the longer-term ideas he raised. Frier described Club France as an anchor for projects that could continue beyond 2028.

The city says Club France will offer programming during both the Olympics and Paralympics. The preview left open which Beach House amenities residents will be able to use during setup, the Games and teardown, what accessibility arrangements will be in place and how local vendors can compete for contracts. Organizers have yet to release a detailed Paralympic schedule.

Torosis said the city is working on a community benefits agreement. At the preview, she pointed to the principle that guided the property's transformation into a public gathering place. "The beach belongs to everyone," she said.

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CARE FIRST

FROM PAGE 1

according to the department's Year Four impact report.

The report, which covers July 2025 through July 2026, says the department served more than 6,300 young people across its program areas and logged more than 60,000 total youth engagements. The department currently holds 79 contracts with service providers and partners.

The county created the department four years ago as the centerpiece of its Youth Justice Reimagined initiative, which aims to build a care-first alternative to juvenile incarceration. The department works with other county agencies and community-based organizations to keep young people connected to family, school and opportunity through prevention, diversion and reentry services.

Department officials credit that approach with helping young people stay in school, avoid deeper involvement with the justice system and gain access to counseling, job training and mentorship. According to the department, outside evaluation and initial review show that 95% of youth connected to its diversion or reentry services stay out of trouble with the legal system after completing the program. The materials released by the department do not detail how that figure was calculated or over what period.

"The core of our work has always been rooted in community power," said David J. Carroll, director of the department. "By equipping young people with holistic support, restorative practices, and accessible resources, we're empowering them to overcome systemic barriers and reach their full potential."

The department's youth diversion program, which it describes as its flagship effort, works with 12 community-based providers. Young people are referred through informal or formal channels in lieu of arrest or court. The report notes a substantial increase in referrals from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office this year, along with new collaboration with the Department of Children and Family Services to support youth affected by the child welfare system.

The department's largest program by reach is the Youth Development Network, which served more than 4,500 young people and recorded more than 54,800 engagements this year. A related effort, Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined, logged more than 1,900 engagements. After launching the network as a pilot, the department said it developed a new model to bring its low-barrier, community-based services to more areas. The network now includes all of the county's Service Planning Areas.

The department also launched an inaugural Incubation Academy this year, which supported 25 providers.

In schools, the department rolled out a new program model, called the Rooted School-Based initiative, focused on restorative practices and mentorship. The goal is to improve school climate and offer alternatives to suspension, expulsion and school-based arrest. The report lists 21 restorative skills training sessions, 45 community-building activities and 38 youth development wellness sessions held under the program this year.

For young people already involved in the justice system, the department said it expanded services ranging from decarceration to in-facility support to community reentry. The Reentry Action for Youth program, known as RAY, supports justice-involved youth ages 12 to 25 as they return home from facilities, and has also served as an alternative to incarceration for some young people who are able to remain in their communities with added support. RAY works with 22 providers.

Inside county youth justice facilities, the department supports Credible Messenger mentors through four providers and is preparing to lead program coordination there. The report says the department is expanding to provide support in all county youth justice facilities.

The department is also working to launch Safe Healing Centers and gender-responsive services as part of its strategy to reduce incarceration of girls and gender-expansive youth. Other priorities listed in the report include investing in youth centers with extended hours and growing the county's youth development workforce.

The RAY, Credible Messenger and Youth Development Network programs each received 2026 Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties. The department received four of the awards in total, according to a department news release. The department also recently released a separate report on RAY's first year.

"Grounded by our Strategic Plan, our growing community-based programs are expanding and being recognized for their success," Carroll wrote in the impact report.

The full Year Four report is available at bit.ly/4yearsofdyd. More information about the department is available at dyd.la.

editor@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

changing of the guard under Mayor-elect Raman.

Roy, meanwhile, won her first election to city office this fall and brings a background and commitment to consumer protection to the city attorney job. She ran as a "champion of justice," determined to thwart the Trump administration and to defend city residents who are "victimized by businesses engaging in unlawful, unfair, or deceptive conduct." Her priorities fall neatly alongside those of Raman.

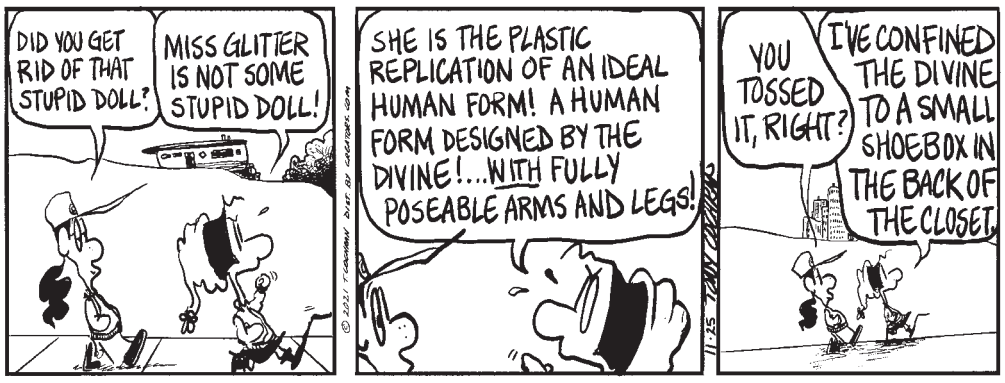
Altogether, the DSA-supported city leadership has an unmistakable mandate to pursue novel programs that make the city more affordable, more protective of residents and more aggressive in defiance of federal authority, particularly on immigration.

The bigger question may be whether Raman and her colleagues can deliver as much as their electorate may demand. As renters and young people look to their government for stronger cost-of-living solutions and new ideas, the energy unleashed by this month's victories place Raman, Mejia and Roy in a position to lead — or to be led.

By Jim Newton. Jim Newton is a veteran journalist, best-selling author and teacher. He worked at the Los Angeles Times for 25 years as a reporter, editor, bureau chief and columnist, covering government and politics. He teaches at UCLA and founded Blueprint magazine. This article was originally published on CalMatters and was republished under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives license.

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



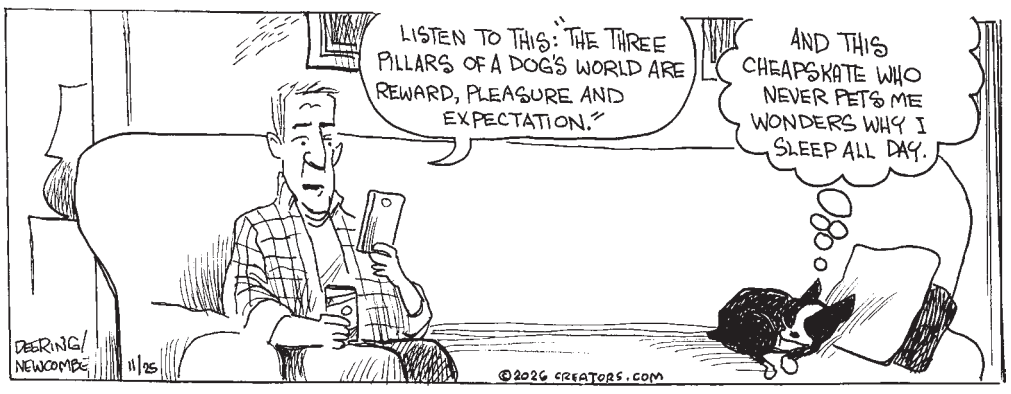
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



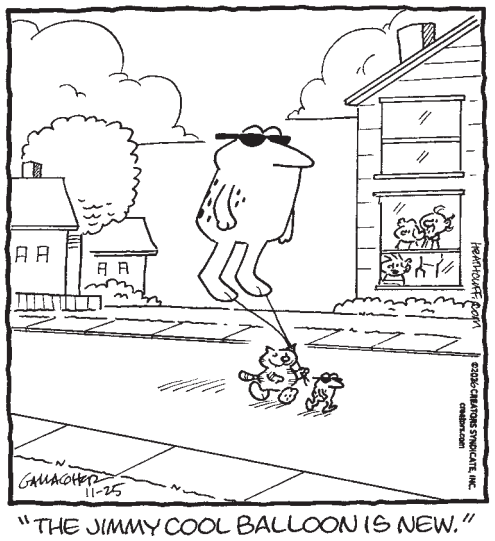
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THE JIMMY COOL BALLOON IS NEW."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 14 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Sewing skills

N	O	L	Y	N	A	N	K	E	E	N	S	A	Y	E
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M	H	K	G	A	Z	A	R	P	E	E	A	A	T	E
A	L	R	R	A	M	I	E	E	S	D	N	I	R	T
L	A	T	I	N	K	E	C	A	N	V	A	S	T	E

Argentella lace	Denim	Knit	Poodle	Tops
	Dye	Lame	Ramie	Tulle
Bias	Edges	Lanon	Rare	Tweed
Bitch	Felt	Lawn	Rayon	Velvet
Canvas	Flax	Length	Rib weave	Voile
Cavalry twill	Fold	Moire	Saye	Wadmal
	Gazar	Nankeen	Seam	Warp
Clever	Hair	Nomex	Silk	Yarn
Coat	Irish linen	Nylon	Tack	
Cuts	Iron	Omran	Tais	
Darlexx	Jute	Pins	Tape	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 25)

In your Year of the Dramedy, events are tinged with humor and sharp wit guides the action to cinematic heights. Beautiful, complex people keep your days interesting and your goals on track. More highlights: You'll be a beloved regular at three locations. You'll make memories on three trips outside your comfort zone. You'll create a monumental "proof of concept" and get the green light. Gemini and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 17, 29, 38 and 44.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've made a bold declaration, and people want to see what you'll do about it. The trouble with announcing a revolution is that eventually you have to organize one. You're great at getting people moving once you've decided where they're going.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's an opinion you've defended so many times that changing it would feel like letting down your former self. But what if you've simply learned more since then? You're allowed to revise your position.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're halfway through a plan when something changes the whole arrangement. Your first reaction may be annoyance, but soon the new circumstances have a certain appeal. Later you'll be glad things didn't go according to schedule.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Every family has a story that gets told at gatherings, and every telling makes it a little less accurate. Your version of that familiar tale is completely different. Maybe it's worth correcting, though the competing accounts are entertaining.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have a flair for making an entrance, though this time your greatest contribution may be knowing when to make an exit. A conversation is heading toward an argument that nobody really wants. You'll change the subject and leave everyone laughing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll have the satisfaction of fixing a problem. Mars enters your sign and you're more competent than ever. You'll make an adjustment that improves the experience for everyone. They may never know what you did, but you'll enjoy the results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Not only can you see both sides of an argument, you may find yourself today defending a position you don't even care about to maintain the social balance. People's feelings are more important to you than any particular opinion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're discreet when it counts, but why withhold information that would make life easier for everyone? When you're reasonably certain it will help, you'll share what you know. The right revelation, delivered at the right moment, solves a problem.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You love a spirited debate with a charming, fair and worthy opponent. Today, you'll encounter an argument so persuasive that you may change your mind mid-conversation. What a pleasure to meet an intellect worth surrendering to.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A plan that looked excellent on paper will encounter the messy realities of human behavior. People can be late, forget instructions or improvise where they shouldn't. You'll adjust, work with the world as it is and save the day.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've been entertaining an unconventional idea, and now you'll see if it will actually work. Test the practical details. If the idea survives your scrutiny, you'll have the beginnings of a plan. If it doesn't, you'll invent a better one.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can sense the energy in a room before anyone has said a word. You'll change the atmosphere with a joke, an unexpected kindness or an irresistible distraction. What a useful talent, especially around the holidays.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

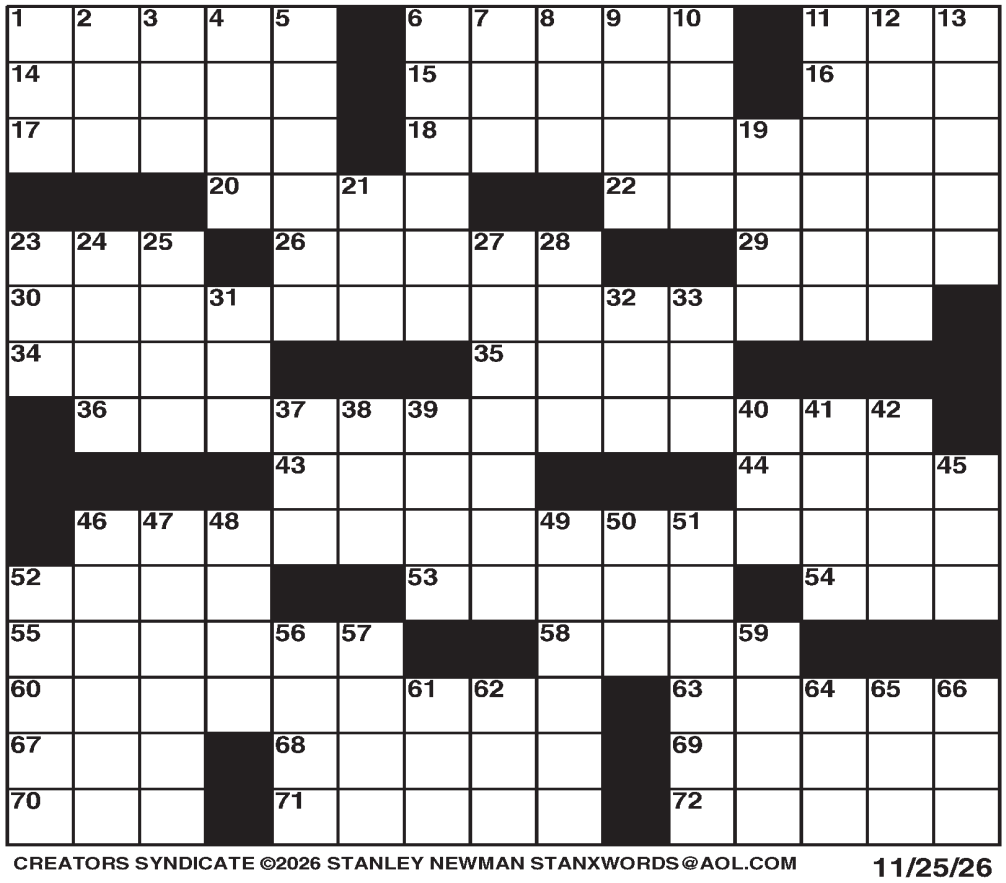
METAPHORICAL MEAL by Alan Levin
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Southwestern donkey
6 Small jeweled crown
11 Suffix meaning "somewhat"
14 Pungent burger topping
15 Fairy tale monsters
16 Abbr. for two-name people
17 Honking bird
18 Jumble of random phrases
20 Sicilian volcano
22 Catalogued and stored
23 "Slippery" fish
26 Not as good
29 Depend (on)
30 Earth's very early molecule mixture
34 Objectives
35 General __ chicken (Chinese entrée)
36 TV addicts
43 Cash advance
44 Scent
46 Banquet with good-natured insults
52 Cube inventor Rubik
53 Pigpens
54 Homer Simpson's bartender
55 Every guy
58 Maritime force
60 Figurative serving of shame
63 Of the Vatican
67 Heroic pilot
68 Optional purchase
69 Run off to wed
70 Pro goalies' org.
71 Beatle drummer
72 River mouth formation

DOWN

1 Impede, with "down"
2 Important "numero"
3 Spaniard's river
4 Stood up
5 Boxer's double punch
6 In the direction of
7 "Where did __ wrong?"
8 Incoming LAX flight
9 Begin again with
10 Affinity grp.
11 Taking the place (of)
12 What "pizza" starts with
13 __-hole (secluded spot)
19 Spherical hairstyle
21 Neither here __ there
23 Air quality agcy.
24 Explorer __ the Red
25 VIP's auto
27 *Happy Days* "Shut up!"
28 Daybreak direction
31 E. Lansing campus
32 Mauna __
33 Retired jet: Abbr.
37 Ohio AL team
38 Prefix for goblin
39 Standard golf scores
40 Winning tic-tac-toe row
41 Dutch cheese
42 Just adequate
45 GPS calculation
46 Stoop with bent knees
47 Tooth layer
48 Bausch's eye-care partner
49 Musician's liability
50 Nay's opposite
51 Replied to an invitation
52 Actor Hawke
56 Pub pints
57 Subsequent
59 Harvard rival
61 Bake sale org.
62 Second-quality, as clothes: Abbr.
64 Vote seeker, for short
65 Very likely (to)
66 Pastureland



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11/25/26

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



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

FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 27

PALISADIAN COFFEE AND CHAT
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Palisades Garden Cafe 15231 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades. An informal coffee meetup for Palisades residents, with no agenda - just a chance to say hello and connect. An informal hello run by Palisadian resident Rebecca Martin. No Agenda, no powerpoint, just a chance to say hello for those who have moved back to the Palisades, or are working on it. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/palisadian-coffee-and-chat/19242128/2026-11-27T09

SOUNDS OF SANTA MONICA: HOLIDAY EDITION
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Santa Monica Place 395 Santa Monica Pl Santa Monica. Holiday-inspired live sets from emerging musicians and local DJs in a shopping plaza, creating a festive soundtrack for the season. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sounds-of-santa-monica-holiday-edition/20480998/2026-11-27T12

LIVE WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT
6:00 p.m. Palisades Village 15225 Palisades Village Ln Pacific Palisades. Weekend evenings feature live musicians on an outdoor shopping street, adding a soundtrack to a stroll through the village. Join us for Swarthmore Sounds every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening for live entertainment as talented musicians perform on Swarthmore Avenue. Enjoy the soundtrack of the weekend, then share your favorite moments with us by tagging @PalisadesVillage on Instagram. Fridays and Saturdays: 6 to 9 p.m. and Sundays 4 to 7 p.m. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/live-weekend-entertainment/20085380/2026-11-27T18

WESTSIDE BALLET OF SANTA MONICA PRESENTS "THE NUTCRACKER"
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center 1310 11th St Santa Monica. Westside Ballet's staging of The Nutcracker brings the classic holiday ballet to the stage with multiple performances. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/westside-ballet-of-santa-monica-presents-the-nutcracker-/20284096/2026-11-27T19

SALSA & BACHATA FRIDAY SOCIALS IN SANTA MONICA
8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Los Angeles Salsa & Bachata Dance Academy 1247 Lincoln Blvd Santa Monica. A Friday night salsa and bachata social with a beginner lesson, open dance floor, and no partner needed. Includes free pizza, wine, and sparkling drinks. 3 hours of music, connection, and great energy. Make your Friday nights count! Swap the workday routine for an incredible night out! Join us this Friday for SALSA & BACHATA SOCIALS. The ultimate atmosphere to unwind, make new connections, and kick-start your weekend! No need to come with a partner. You'll have plenty of opportunities to dance with different people throughout the evening. $25.00. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/salsa-bachata-friday-socials-in-santa-monica/20233611/2026-11-27T20

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 28

COFFEE LOVERS RUN 5K/10K/13.1 LOS ANGELES
7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Palisades Park (Course Map will be emailed) Ocean Avenue Santa Monica. A scenic road race in Santa Monica for runners of various distances, paired with a love for coffee. Set a Goal and Run in this Smaller Group Race through a beautiful route. Run Stress-free, Warm memories, Always here for you! $41.32 to $49.87. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/coffee-lovers-run-5k-10k-13-1-los-angeles/18911295/2026-11-28T07

5K FAMILY FUN RUN TURKEY TROT
7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Crescent Park 2000 Ocean Ave Santa Monica. A 5K run and walk in Santa Monica raising funds to support veterans at the Wadsworth VA Medical Center through the holiday season. The Veterans Affiliated Council is hosting a 5K Family Fun Run "Turkey Trot" fundraiser for their Holiday Program. Every year we give over 5 thousands dollars away in food and gifts to Veterans and their families for the holidays. The money raised from this event will go directly to the Veterans housed at the Wadsworth VA Medical Center in West Hollywood. Come join us for some fun in the sun before you enjoy your holiday meal and know you are supporting veterans at risk through the holidays. $45.00 — Children under 18 are free. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/5k-family-fun-run-turkey-trot/14343193/2026-11-28T07

SATURDAY ROSÉ BRUNCH AT LOULOU SANTA MONICA
11:30am-4:00pm. LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica Pl #300 Santa Monica. A Saturday brunch with French rose, crepe, omelette, and paella stations, plus DJs and live performances. Groups of six or more get a complimentary bottle. Saturday Rosé Brunch at Loulou Santa Monica- Every Saturday from 11:30 AM -Named one of the 14 Best Buffet Brunches in the USA.This is how weekends should begin.French Rosé flowing.Crêpe, Omelette & Paëlla stations.DJ's & live performances with the Riviera Vibe.A Rooftop bathed in sunshine and Pacific breezes.$55 before noon | $65 after noonGroups of 6+ get a complimentary Bottle of Côte de Provence Rosé (21+)Brunch, Celebrate, Escape.Repeat!LouLou is your new Saturday ritual. Book now: bit.ly/loulou-rose-brunch-booking. $55.00 to $65.00. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/saturday-ros-brunch-at-loulou-santa-monica/19674102/2026-11-28T11

THE NUTCRACKER BRUNCH
11:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. Regent Santa Monica Beach 1700 Ocean Ave Santa Monica. A holiday experience combining a multi-course brunch, a live Nutcracker ballet performance, Santa photos, and family-friendly activities inspired by the story. Step into the magic of the season with an enchanting Nutcracker Brunch at Regent Santa Monica Beach, a festive experience for the whole family. The afternoon begins at Orla with a lavish multi-course brunch by acclaimed chef Michael Mina and his culinary team, featuring shareable starters, a choice of plated entrée, festive drinks and decadent holiday sweets. $125.00 to $240.00— Free for ages 0–4. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-nutcracker-brunch/20239830/2026-11-28T11



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