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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 25 Issue 10 HOLIDAY EDITION 11/27-11/30 smdp.com

Holiday events bring festive cheer



SMDP Photo

SANTA: The local police department will escort Santa through the city as one of several events in the coming days.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Several holiday celebrations will light up the Santa Monica area this week, offering residents multiple opportunities to embrace the season with tree lightings, visits with Santa Claus and festive activities.

The festivities begin Wednesday with Santa Monica's official tree lighting, followed by weekend celebrations featuring the return of a decades-old nativity display and the police department's annual candy cane distribution.

The City of Santa Monica's official tree lighting ceremony will take place Wednesday, Dec. 4, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the 1300 block of Third Street Promenade, between Santa Monica Boulevard and Arizona Avenue. Special holiday programming begins at 5 p.m.

The event, organized by Downtown Santa Monica Inc., will feature Santa Claus lighting the tree and offering free photos with attendees. Live performances include local choirs and a special Nutcracker presentation, followed by artificial snow on the promenade.

Activities include holiday-themed crafts, hot cocoa, a holiday market, a photo opportunity with Big Blue Bus's wrapped bus and a DJ-hosted holiday dance party. All activities are free and open to all ages.

Santa Claus will join Santa Monica police officers and firefighters on Saturday, Dec. 6, for the 33rd Annual Candy Cane

SEE **EVENTS** PAGE 9

SMPD offer safety tips and warnings for the holiday season

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica Police Department is ramping up its presence across the city this holiday season while offering residents practical advice to keep themselves and their belongings safe during one of the busiest times of year.

With shopping districts filling with visitors and packages arriving on doorsteps daily, police are urging residents to take simple precautions that can prevent theft and other crimes.

"Between checking your gift list, snapping photos, and taking in the sights, it's easy to get distracted," police said in a holiday safety message. "When you're in crowded areas, take a second to look up, stay alert, and keep track of your surroundings."

Police warned that pickpockets target crowded holiday shopping areas, taking advantage of distracted shoppers carrying more cash and merchandise than usual. Officials recommend keeping bags zipped

SEE **SAFETY** PAGE 8

Malibu Council approves $50 million PCH safety project despite appeal

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Malibu City Council voted 3-1 Monday night to approve a comprehensive safety improvement project for Pacific Coast Highway, denying an appeal and moving forward with more than $50 million in state-funded upgrades along 16 miles of roadway.

The California Department of Transportation project will install 19 new guardrails, 22 upgraded curb ramps, 6,956 linear feet of new sidewalks, three retaining walls, two realigned intersections, 27 new light poles, 9.7 miles of bike lanes, a law enforcement pullout area and median reconstruction at various locations between the Ventura County line and Serra Road.

The Malibu Township Council had appealed the Planning Commission's November approval, arguing the project was not the least environmentally damaging alternative and violated public access provisions. The group requested that Caltrans reduce speed limits by 5 mph, eliminate proposed sidewalks at Pepperdine University and Corral Canyon State Beach, remove lighting near Malibu Seafood and between Zuma View Place and Zumirez Drive, paint bike

SEE **PCH SAFETY** PAGE 6

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Rebuild LA & WestEdge Design Fair: innovation, resilience, and the new California Design Frontier

Los Angeles is in the midst of a profound transformation—one grounded in resilience, design, and a reimagining of how communities rebuild after disaster. This year's "Rebuild LA & Design Trends Showcase" and the West Edge Design Fair brought together builders, architects, fire-defense innovators, designers, and artists across California, all converging on one question: What does it look like to build the future of home, safety, and culture in a fire-prone, design-driven state? For high-risk communities like Malibu and the Palisades, where rebuilding continues at an accelerated pace, the events offered a glimpse into the new materials, technologies, and aesthetics shaping California's next chapter.

A defining thread across the gatherings was the Palisades' role as a living case study for next-generation resilience. With homes currently under redevelopment, architects and builders are exploring new fire-resistant materials, defensible space technologies, sustainable product systems, and insurance strategies that better support homeowners in the Wildland Urban Interface. As May Sung, Founder & Partner of SUBU Design Architecture and a member of Team Palisades noted, "Rebuilding after devastation isn't just about putting homes back on foundations - it's about rebuilding confidence, community, and a sense of safety. The Palisades has become a proving ground for smarter, stronger, future-focused design. We're not restoring what was lost; we're creating what should have always existed."



Michelle Edgar

REBUILD: Fire recovery was a theme at the annual design fair.

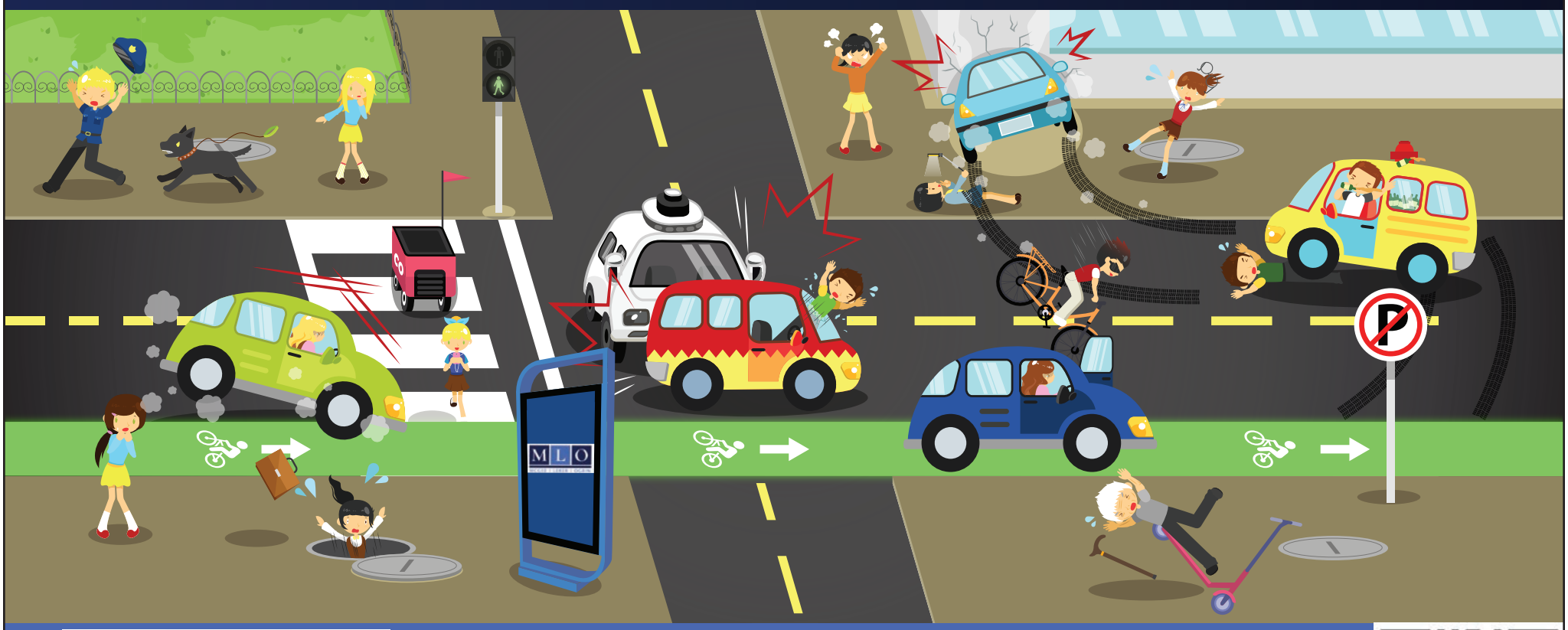
That future-focused approach was evident in conversations with companies like Monolith, whose advanced construction polyurethane ICF (Insulated concrete forms) technology pairs high-U-value concrete with high-R-value foam to achieve dramatically increased efficiency and a Rank 1 fire rating capable of withstanding flames over 2,000 degrees for more than three hours. Their materials are engineered not only for fire, but also for earthquakes, tornadoes, and extreme weather offering a new frontier in durable, high-performance residential construction. Calstate Fire Defenese showcased its autonomous state-of-the-art wildfire fire and ember defense system, which operates independently of public utilities and can activate through heat sensors, solar-backed batteries, and GPS data. With its origins rooted in Australian building codes, the system brings a new level of confidence to homeowners seeking defensible, insurable structures in fire zones.

Fleetwood Windows & Doors, a 61-year-old manufacturer of sustainable window and door systems, highlighted non-combustible, fully recyclable products that meet WUI codes when paired with tempered glass and include a lifetime warranty that transfers across owners. These performance-grade systems speak to a growing demand for durability, environmental responsibility, and aesthetic quality all at once.

The West Edge Design Fair broadened the conversation from resilience to lifestyle, luxury, and craftsmanship. One standout was the NordicTrack Ultra 1, a $15,000 high-design treadmill crafted with architectural-grade wood details, a streamlined lever interface, and immersive terrain-responsive technology that automatically adjusts incline to match on-screen workouts. The model signals a shift toward elevated, designer-forward fitness equipment increasingly seen in luxury homes and boutique hotels. At the other end of the home experience spectrum, OLD-Fusion showcased a striking walk-in refrigerator engineered for custom homes. Featuring commercial-grade technology

SEE **EDGE** PAGE 11

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Historic skate shop reopens in Brentwood after Palisades Fire destroys original location



Venice Paparazzi

STORE: New shop at 11740 San Vicente Blvd. drew a strong crowd despite rainy weather, as longtime customers, families and local supporters welcomed back the store that owner Erica Simpson founded in 1999.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Paliskates, the longest-running female-owned skate shop in the country, reopened Friday in Brentwood after the devastating Palisades Fire destroyed its original Pacific Palisades location, where it had been a community fixture for 25 years.

The new shop at 11740 San Vicente Blvd. drew a strong crowd despite rainy weather, as longtime customers, families and local supporters welcomed back the store that owner Erica Simpson founded in 1999.

"It feels bittersweet. I am sad that we lost the store. It has been a staple in the community for 25 years," Simpson said. "We are excited to be open in Brentwood and be so close to our community still. Many people have relocated to the area and most importantly all the kids' schools are still in the area so we are able to be there for them."

The reopening represents more than a business restart for the Westside skateboarding community. Paliskates has served thousands of young skaters over two and a half decades, becoming what Simpson describes as a "truly multi-generational space" where original customers now bring their own children.

"As someone who grew up in the Palisades and has been shopping at Paliskates since I was a little girl, being part of this re-opening was both personal and incredibly special to me," said Alexis Pappas, co-host of the reopening event. "This is more than a store, it's a community."

The response to the reopening has exceeded expectations, with customers traveling from across Southern California and beyond to support the shop's comeback.

"We have had customers come to see us from Santa Monica, Venice, Manhattan Beach, Santa Barbara and New York to name a few areas," Simpson said. "It feels good to be able to talk to people in the community I haven't seen since the store burned down. People are coming in just to talk and connect."

The fire claimed irreplaceable pieces of Paliskates' history. The original location at 1021 N. Swarthmore Ave. housed murals created by children two decades ago, countless photographs documenting 25 years of customers, and a skateboard signed by legendary skater Tony Hawk 25 years ago.

"The space itself held so many memories," Simpson said. "Photos, photos and more photos showcasing 25 years of kids and families. Honestly, just seeing the kids and the community coming into 1021 N Swarthmore Ave for the last two decades."

Rebuilding presented significant challenges, particularly financial ones, but Simpson said the decision to reopen near the original community felt right.

"Financial for sure. We knew it was the right thing to open the store in the area where we did," she said. "Emotionally there is just so much healing in staying connected to people and also moving forward even though things are challenging."

SEE **SHOP REOPENS** PAGE 8



Weather

Thursday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 71. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 65.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 52.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2025/11/27	Thu	03:49 AM	3.77		H
2025/11/27	Thu	07:56 AM	3.27		L
2025/11/27	Thu	1:18 PM	4.21		H
2025/11/27	Thu	9:02 PM	0.57		L
2025/11/28	Fri	04:17 AM	4.18		H
2025/11/28	Fri	09:53 AM	2.74		L
2025/11/28	Fri	2:57 PM	3.89		H
2025/11/28	Fri	9:50 PM	0.74		L
2025/11/29	Sat	04:45 AM	4.69		H
2025/11/29	Sat	11:01 AM	1.92		L
2025/11/29	Sat	4:25 PM	3.76		H
2025/11/29	Sat	10:33 PM	0.95		L
2025/11/30	Sun	05:14 AM	5.28		H
2025/11/30	Sun	11:55 AM	0.98		L
2025/11/30	Sun	5:41 PM	3.75		H
2025/11/30	Sun	11:13 PM	1.20		L
2025/12/01	Mon	05:47 AM	5.90		H
2025/12/01	Mon	12:43 PM	0.05		L
2025/12/01	Mon	6:48 PM	3.82		H
2025/12/01	Mon	11:54 PM	1.45		L
2025/12/02	Tue	06:23 AM	6.47		H
2025/12/02	Tue	1:30 PM	-0.76		L
2025/12/02	Tue	7:47 PM	3.89		H
2025/12/03	Wed	12:35 AM	1.69		L
2025/12/03	Wed	07:02 AM	6.94		H
2025/12/03	Wed	2:17 PM	-1.37		L
2025/12/03	Wed	8:41 PM	3.91		H
2025/12/04	Thu	01:18 AM	1.90		L
2025/12/04	Thu	07:43 AM	7.22		H
2025/12/04	Thu	3:04 PM	-1.72		L
2025/12/04	Thu	9:35 PM	3.88		H
2025/12/05	Fri	02:03 AM	2.08		L
2025/12/05	Fri	08:26 AM	7.28		H
2025/12/05	Fri	3:53 PM	-1.79		L
2025/12/05	Fri	10:30 PM	3.81		H
2025/12/06	Sat	02:50 AM	2.24		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: 11/24
8 16 26 30 58
Power#: 14
Jackpot: 681 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 11/25
11 15 31 32 59
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 80 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 11/22
1 2 4 15 44
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 11 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 11/25
3 5 7 18 24

Daily 3
Draw Date: 11/25
EVENING: 5 4 1
Draw Date: 11/25
MIDDAY: 4 2 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 11/25
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:47.27

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Gavin Newsom could have made electricity more affordable and climate-friendly. Here's how

Governor Gavin Newsom stood before global leaders in Brazil recently at COP30, the annual United Nations climate conference, and introduced himself to the world as the new face of U.S. climate ambition.

The scene raised a question back home in California: Why did Newsom recently veto climate solutions that would have made electricity cleaner and more affordable for Californians?

For decades, California has shown the world that states and regions can drive climate and economic progress, even when national governments lag.

Now the world's fourth-largest economy, our state has paired consistent cuts in emissions with sustained economic growth and set a standard for clean car rules that is copied worldwide. It also built the nation's first economy-wide "Cap and Invest" program, the cap-and-trade energy credit program recently reformed and extended under Newsom's watch.

Yet as the climate crisis escalates, even that legacy faces scrutiny. While Newsom was preparing for COP30, his administration was delaying or diluting key domestic reforms and quietly expanding in-state oil and gas drilling. In Brazil, Newsom urged fellow Democrats to start framing climate as an affordability issue — of course, it is. This rhetoric earned him praise abroad.

But Newsom has balked at several recent opportunities to address climate and cost-of-living challenges together.

Just weeks ago, the governor vetoed three bipartisan bills that would have advanced virtual power plants, which are systems that deliver clean power back to the electrical grid during peak hours by aggregating power from devices many of us already have in our homes — such as smart thermostats, rooftop solar panels, home and electric vehicle batteries and electric heat pumps.

Managing strain on the grid with virtual power plants helps avoid blackouts, reduces reliance on gas powered plants and saves electricity customers money on their utility bills, including those not participating in a virtual power plant program.

One recent study predicted virtual power plants could save Californians up to $13.7 billion on electricity over the next five years. That is the kind of climate-forward and affordability-focused policy that California voters and global climate champions want.

But all three bills were doomed because investor-owned utilities like PG&E continue to work against local-scale electricity solutions like virtual power plants, and they know they can count on Newsom as an ally.

It's time for Newsom to start treating climate like a winning issue here in California — not just on the international stage in the lead-up to the 2028 presidential race. Investing in solutions like virtual power plants creates jobs, lowers electricity bills and builds resilience to wildfires and floods.

Californians pay twice the national average for electricity and yet still endure frequent planned blackouts. We want solutions that work, protect our families and save money, and we want our governor to champion them.

Newsom is right to emphasize affordability as a pillar of climate progress, creating further contrast between himself and President Donald Trump. That's good politics and good policy — but it's also puzzling when his administration vetoes the most cost-effective clean energy solutions available today.

After his time in Brazil, Newsom needs more than rhetoric to cement his legacy as a true climate champion. In his final months as governor, he should advance policies that combat the climate crisis and economic relief to hardworking Californians. Here are two ways he can show the world how to tackle climate change while lowering the cost of living.

First, knock down state barriers to local, clean, affordable energy. Newsom must stop deferring to corporate utilities like PG&E and mobilize the state to support rooftop solar, virtual power plants and other clean, decentralized electricity solutions.

Second, eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and make corporate polluters pay for climate disasters. California hands billions to the oil and gas industry while communities bear the costs of extreme weather and fossil fuel pollution. Making polluters pay their fair share would help finance the transition to a cleaner economy, improve public health and take the burden off taxpayers.

These solutions can be replicated around the world. And, thanks to Newsom's strong showing in Brazil, the world will be watching.

Ellie Cohen is CEO of The Climate Center, a California-based climate and energy policy non-profit.

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Harrowing experiences at the hands of ICE unify a diverse L.A. audience



Photo by J.W. Hendricks for CalMatters

PARK: LA Mayor Karen Bass arrives as federal agents descend on MacArthur Park in Los Angeles on July 7, 2025.

A congressional hearing Monday in Los Angeles on the Trump Administration's immigration raids offered a searing look at a program that has been equal parts stupid and cruel.

One witness after another faced the House Oversight and Reform Committee and described their experience at the hands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which descended on Los Angeles in June, stirring discontent with a theatrical assault on the city's immigrant communities.

One man who has lived in Los Angeles for 23 years and is married with four children, dropped his younger kids at school on June 6 and headed to work, where ICE agents detained him. He ended up at an ICE facility in Adelanto, struggling with his health, waiting for days to see a nurse or doctor. Eventually he was released and is home in Los Angeles.

A young woman, not present for the hearing but represented by a friend, was up early one morning to sell tamales outside a local school. ICE agents tossed her to the ground, injuring her so seriously she had to be hospitalized. She's an American citizen and was released but now is so scared of ICE, she refuses to leave her house. She has been inside for 158 days.

Yet another man, detained on June 10 by masked men who had no identification or warrant for his arrest, remained locked up by ICE until Sept. 16, when he was released on bail. He described his 98 days of detention: rotten food, orders to stay silent when officials visited, an atmosphere of danger.

His voice broke as he acknowledged he had been raped. The experience, he said, "reminded me of the violence that I lived through in my country, Honduras."

Their stories were piercing, puncturing any glib stereotypes about immigrants, documented or undocumented. These were not dangerous criminals who need to be removed to protect this country. They are working men and women, laboring to support their families and loved ones.

President Donald Trump promised to go after the "worst of the worst," but his agents ended up harassing and devastating these decent people. And their detentions benefited no one.

Moreover, there are costs to others around them. Witnesses from local

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 11

COMMUNITY NEWS

Venice

Venice Chamber to Host Holiday Sign Lighting Celebration

The Venice Chamber of Commerce will host its 14th Annual Venice Holiday Sign Lighting Celebration Saturday, Dec. 6 from 6-9 p.m. at Windward Avenue and Pacific Avenue.

The free, family-friendly event will illuminate the iconic VENICE Sign in festive holiday colors as the community gathers to kick off the holiday season.

"The Venice Holiday Sign Lighting is one of our most cherished community traditions," said George Francisco, event producer and former Venice Chamber of Commerce president. "It's a moment where we come together to celebrate our vibrant neighborhood and the people who make Venice such an inspiring place to live, work, and visit."

This year's celebration will feature surprise celebrity guests, live entertainment with Grammy-winning talent, local artisan vendors, culinary delights from local restaurants while supplies last, photos with Santa, and family-friendly activities leading up to the official lighting ceremony.



Courtesy photo

EVENT: The free, family-friendly event will illuminate the iconic VENICE Sign in festive holiday colors as the community gathers to kick off the holiday season.

Past celebrations have included musical acts and surprise guests including Robert Downey Jr., P!nk, Lisa Loeb, Smash Mouth, Angelica Huston, Joe Manganiello, and Matthew Modine.

The Venice All-Stars, led by two-time Grammy-winning producer Rob Christie, will headline this year's entertainment. The lineup includes Richie "LaBamba" Rosenberg and Mark "The Loveman" Pender (Bruce Springsteen, Conan O'Brien Show), Jimmy Z (Rod Stewart, Etta James, Eurythmics), Randy Cooke (Smash Mouth, Colbie Caillat, Kelly Clarkson), and Ricky Z (Josh Groban, Lauryn Hill, Steven Tyler), with vocals by Rachel Krishna Anderson, Michelle Elliott, and special guest performers including guitar virtuoso Angela Petrilli.

Taste of Venice will showcase culinary delights from more than 20 local restaurants including Market Venice, The Venice Whaler, Gran Blanco, Si! Mon, The Penmar, Cerveteca, Venice Beach Wines, The Venice Beach Club, Voodoo Doughnuts, Butcher's Daughter, Belles Beach House, Kassi Club, Great White, and Hinano's.

The event will include the annual "My Venice Holiday" poster contest ceremony honoring local elementary school students and the dramatic lighting of the VENICE Sign by a surprise celebrity guest.

Attendees can RSVP online at givebutter.com/venicesign. The event will include a street closure east of Pacific Avenue.

The VENICE Sign has served as a defining neighborhood symbol since 1905, originally installed by developer Abbot Kinney. The contemporary version was recreated in 2007.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

DTSM

Public Library to Host Free Holiday Concerts

Santa Monica Public Library will host two free holiday concerts at the Main Library's Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

Holiday Concert & Ukulele Strum-Along will be held Saturday, Dec. 6 from 2-3:15 p.m. Cali Rose and the CC Strummers return to the library with an interactive holiday ukulele concert. Attendees can strum along, sing along, or enjoy festive holiday and popular songs. Participants can bring their own ukulele, borrow one from the library while supplies last, or check out a Ukulele RED Kit. For an advance copy of song sheets, email library@santamonica.gov.

Lyric Chorus: Songs of the Season will be held Thursday, Dec. 18 from 11 a.m. to noon. The Lyric Chorus of SMC Emeritus College will perform four-part arrangements of Broadway tunes and songs of the season. The 30-plus member chorus was founded in the 1940s and is under the direction of Tom Gerhold.

The library is wheelchair accessible and welcomes persons of all abilities. For special accommodations, contact Library Administration at 310-458-8606 at least one week prior to the event or email library@santamonica.gov. Library Administration office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. TTY/TDD users may call 310-395-8499.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SMC

SMC Mariachi Ensemble to Present Free Concert

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present the SMC Mariachi Ensemble Los Corsarios in a free concert celebrating regional Mexican folk music Thursday, Dec. 4 at 11:15 a.m.

The performance will be held in The Edye at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St. at Santa Monica Boulevard. Free parking is available on premises. Seating is on a first-arrival basis.

Led by director Mary Alfaro, Mariachi Los Corsarios will perform a variety of ranchera bolero and huapango songs that have become standards in the mariachi canon.

For more information call 310-434-4323. The concert is subject to change or cancellation without notice.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

PCH SAFETY

FROM PAGE 1

lanes green and consult with first responders about potential impacts.

Mayor Marianne Riggins moved to uphold the Planning Commission's original approval, which gave Caltrans flexibility to retain all 27 light poles if needed, though the agency had voluntarily reduced the count from an initial 38 lights.

"I think that the area of Malibu Seafood deserves to have some additional lighting in it, and the area near Zumirez, I'm in that area all the time, it's extremely dark," Riggins said. "The dark skies lighting is responsible, and it is something that is going to help safety at night for people who are out on the roads."

Councilmember Doug Stewart seconded the motion, saying the council's approval gives Caltrans options rather than mandating specific elements.

"I think we're not denying Caltrans ability to take out the lights if they want to, but by having the approval of the Planning Commission, they have the option to keep those lights in place," Stewart said. "We've got a safety issue here on Corral, and that area along PCH. It's dark."

Stewart emphasized the need to protect pedestrians, not just reduce speeding.

"It's not about just speeding on PCH. We have pedestrians that are in harm's way," he said. "We've got to get them off the street and out of harm's way. And if you look at the tragic accident with Pepperdine women, they were actually standing behind cars, and they still got hit."

Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Silverstein voted in favor but said he preferred approving the modifications Caltrans had negotiated with the Malibu Township Council after the Planning Commission hearing, which reduced the light count.

"I specifically asked Caltrans whether they were satisfied with the changes that they volunteered and that they do not impair the safety proposals. And they said yes," Silverstein said.

He acknowledged the project's limitations while supporting approval.

"These changes are somewhat cosmetic, even if they'll have incremental safety benefit," Silverstein said. "The real safety change is slowing speed. Everyone knows it. The real safety change is not just narrowing lanes with a little bit... The real change is making it one lane in each direction and having real bike lanes that are separated from the roadway."

He added: "We have immediate safety issues. If we can just save one person from being harmed or much less killed, we can't say no."

Councilmember Steve Uhring cast the lone dissenting vote, expressing frustration that the project doesn't adequately address what he called the primary cause of fatalities.

"Speeding is the number one cause of death on PCH, number one cause has been all along," Uhring said. "I spent $55 million and I'd like to see something happen on PCH, which at least starts to slow down the traffic, because that's what's killing people."

The project gained urgency following the deaths of four Pepperdine University students who were struck while standing on a sidewalk. Stewart referenced the tragedy during discussion.

Councilmember Haylynn Conrad recused herself before the vote, citing strong personal opinions. In an emotional statement, she criticized opponents and apologized to Caltrans engineers.

"I have watched in real disappointment as planning commissioners and residents have spoken to visiting engineers with a tone and an attitude, in my view, is unacceptable," Conrad said. "To the Caltrans engineers who have tried to work with us in good faith, I want to say that I'm sorry for the way that some of you were treated."

The most contentious element involved a proposed 1,855-foot sidewalk between Malibu Canyon Road and John Tyler Road along Pepperdine University property. Pepperdine and the Malibu Township Council argued for removing or relocating the sidewalk.

Caltrans insisted the inland sidewalk is the most feasible option because it remains entirely within the state right-of-way and avoids environmental reviews and delays that would result from acquiring additional rights-of-way from the city or county. Caltrans noted the sidewalk connects to existing sidewalks on Malibu Canyon Road and John Tyler Drive.

As a condition from the Planning Commission that remains in the approval, Caltrans must gather input from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, LA County Fire Department and Pepperdine University regarding the sidewalk design before building permits are issued. City staff must ensure Caltrans has communicated with and considered input from these parties.

The council also required all light fixtures to be Dark Sky compliant, fully shielded, 3,000 kelvin in color temperature and directed downward.

Regarding the Corral Canyon sidewalk controversy, staff noted the plans show the proposed 2,483-foot sidewalk would be placed on the outer edge of the right-of-way, not between the highway and parking spaces, meaning it would not alter vehicle access to existing parking.

Before the vote, Silverstein urged the Malibu Township Council not to appeal to the California Coastal Commission.

"Please don't appeal this," he said. "It's not going to go anywhere. It'll just hold up the project."

Stewart emphasized the city's partnership with Caltrans is essential given Malibu's limited resources.

"One of the things that's been said quite often has been Malibu should take over PCH," Stewart said. "We have a $60 million general fund budget. We're spending—you're watching $50 million being spent just on fixing PCH. We don't have the money to do this. We have to work with our partners at Caltrans to get this done."

The project represents phase one of a two-phase pavement rehabilitation plan, with improvements to eastern Malibu PCH to follow.

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Americans are thankful for family

As Americans gather for Thanksgiving, surveys reveal a nation overwhelmingly grateful for personal blessings while uneasy about broader economic and social challenges.

An overwhelming 91% of U.S. adults say they feel thankful this year, according to YouGov. When asked what tops their gratitude list, nearly half chose family, with health coming a distant second. Faith, finances and other factors lagged well behind, underscoring that family and health remain the cornerstone blessings for most people.

The findings were similar in other polls.

"Gratitude, family and great food remain cornerstones of the season," a National Turkey Federation survey noted, with 94% of Americans planning to celebrate Thanksgiving 2025 in some form.

Beyond personal relationships, Americans express gratitude for peace and financial stability. The YouGov survey finds 79% are grateful the U.S. is not embroiled in a war while 60% feel thankful for their personal financial situation.

Only about 26% feel thankful about the U.S. economy's condition, and just 18% feel thankful for how "the poor, the homeless, and the less fortunate" are treated in America. In fact, a majority are not thankful about those societal issues, the survey found.

Gratitude transcends political lines – majorities of both parties express thankfulness – though slightly fewer Democrats, at 85%, than Republicans, at 97%, say they feel thankful this year.

Partisanship plays a significant role in how Americans view national conditions. Republicans are far more likely than Democrats to feel thankful about the economy's state – 46% versus 15% – and even about how the less fortunate are treated according to YouGov.

In a Fox News voter poll, 33% said they have more to be thankful for in 2025 than they did last year, compared with 25% who feel they have less, while the largest share – 42% – feel about equally thankful as before.

In California these gratitude trends largely mirror the national picture with residents setting a record for travel, with an estimated 6.8 million people going heading out.

Some practical circumstances in California add a local twist to Thanksgiving. According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, residents here face steeper holiday costs than most Americans, as a classic Thanksgiving dinner for 10 in California runs about $72.61 – much higher than the $55 national average. Food prices in the state, from turkeys to produce, remain elevated due to factors like transportation costs and earlier inflation surges.

LOCAL LEADERS SHARE THEIR GRATITUDE

Santa Monica community leaders offered their reflections on what they're grateful for this Thanksgiving season.

"As we gather this Thanksgiving, I want to extend my warmest wishes to our Santa Monica–Malibu community," **said Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein of the SMMUSD Board of Education**. "This season invites us to pause, reflect, and give thanks for all that we have and for all those we hold dear. In a time when vitriol and disrespect seem far too common, I am especially grateful for the care, compassion, and resilience that define our schools and our neighborhoods. May we continue to choose community over division, respect over rancor, and generosity over fear. Let us move forward with gratitude—and a renewed commitment to caring for one another."

Hodge Patterson of the Santa Monica Family YMCA emphasized community support.

"This year, I'm grateful for a community that shows up for one another," Patterson said. "From supporting families during fire-relief efforts to expanding access so everyone can belong at our Y, Santa Monica's strength shines through. I'm especially thankful for our dedicated staff and volunteers whose impactful work makes this mission real every day. And I'm grateful that my own family gets to learn and grow through SMMUSD schools and Y programs. It's an honor to serve and help create safe, welcoming spaces for all."

Jon Farzam of the Shore Hotel expressed appreciation for the diverse community.

"This year, I am especially thankful for the people who bring Santa Monica to life every day: our staff, neighbors, and guests from around the world," Farzam said. "Their resilience, kindness, and trust carried us through another year of change and reminded me how strong this community is when we work together. I am grateful to call Santa Monica home, to welcome travelers to our city, and to be part of a community that shows up for one another."

Santa Monica City Council member Caroline M. Torosis reflected on family and community resilience.

"This year I am grateful for my family, especially my beautiful nephews who remind me what joy and possibility look like," Torosis said. "In a time when so many people around the world are living through conflict, loss, and uncertainty, I am holding close the gift of health, safety, and loved ones. I am grateful for the residents, workers, and small businesses in Santa Monica who show courage and kindness every day. Their hope and perseverance fuel my commitment to build a safer, more just, and more compassionate community for everyone."

Jeremy Ferguson of Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. highlighted those who maintain the city's vitality.

"I am thankful for the people who bring Downtown Santa Monica to life every day," Ferguson said. "I am grateful for the teams who care for our streets and public spaces, the businesses that invest in our district, and the community partners who work with us to make downtown welcoming for everyone. I am thankful for the artists, residents, and visitors who remind us how special this place is. Most of all, I am grateful to serve a downtown that reflects the spirit of the entire city and to help strengthen the connections that support Santa Monica's ongoing reinvestment together."

James Harris of the Santa Monica Pier offered personal and professional thanks.

"I must begin my Thanksgiving gratitude with a nod to my parents, for my birthday always falls on or near the holiday (and this year, on Thanksgiving Day!)," Harris said. "And I am of course forever grateful for my wife and daughters, and all family and friends - my base. And right up there at the top I am also thankful for the people of the Santa Monica Pier - past and present - for their dedication has made it unique, vital, important, and distinct."

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Turkey, Tinsel & Tide Holiday Weekend Guide

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes Small Business Saturday, Holy Basil SaMo Opening, and a veritable cornucopia of Thanksgiving night out options, and much more!

Santa Monica Turkey Trot: It's time for the Turkey Trot 5k, 10k, 15k, or Half Marathon on Thanksgiving Day. Pick your speed and work up an appetite running along Santa Monica's beautiful beach path. All finishers will receive a medal and goodie bag. Thursday, Nov. 27, 7:30a.m., 2000 Ocean Ave. https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/SantaMonica/SantaMonicaTurkeyTrotKKHalfMarathon

Small Business Saturday: This holiday season, take a stroll through Santa Monica's vibrant neighborhoods and celebrate the heart of our local economy—small businesses! From the charm of Main Street to the delights of Montana Ave, you'll find unique treasures and one-of-a-kind finds. In particular, look for businesses with orange balloons indicating their participation. santamonica.gov/programs/buy-local-santa-monica

"The Nutcracker" Coming to The Broad Stage: Westside School of Ballet, in partnership with Santa Monica College's Public Policy Institute, will stage eight performances of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" at The Broad Stage from Nov. 29 through Dec. 7. SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St. westsideballet.com/nutcracker/

Young Magic Castle Headliners Stage Charity Show to Fight Childhood Cancer: Two recent high school graduates who headline at Hollywood's famed Magic Castle are using their sleight of hand to make a difference in the fight against childhood cancer. Aidan Corcoran and Jacob Martinez will present "Magic for Charity", with 100% of ticket proceeds benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Saturday, Nov. 29, 9 p.m., Illusions Magic Lounge, 1418 4th St. illusionmagiclounge.com

SMC Jazz Ensemble: Led by conductor Frederick Keith Fiddmont, the accomplished musical group will explore "The Masters," a program featuring music that highlights the genius of Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn and Herbie Hancock. Monday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m., SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St. smc.edu/calendar/music.php

AJA's Annual Ugly Sweater Party & Competition: Wear your BEST holiday ugly sweater. Grab a glass & enter their contest for the ugliest sweater! They'll have a catwalk & competition, specialty pricing and more! Winners receive prizes of wine related gifts! Must be 21+ to enter competition. Thursday Dec. 4, 6:30p.m., 1417 2nd St. https://ajavineyards.com/event/2nd-annual-ugly-sweater-party-competition/

Annual King Tides Celebration: "King tides" occur when the orbits and alignment of the Earth, moon, and sun combine to produce the greatest tidal effects of the year. Climate Action Santa Monica is organizing a morning meetup at Heal The Bay Aquarium this Friday to mark the annual occurrence, discuss the relevancy of rising tides in consideration of climate change, and collect images for scientific

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 12

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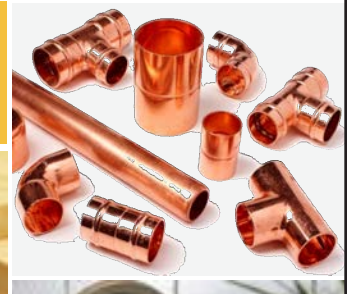
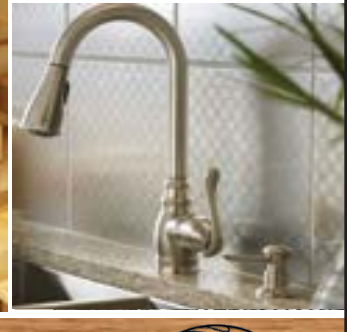
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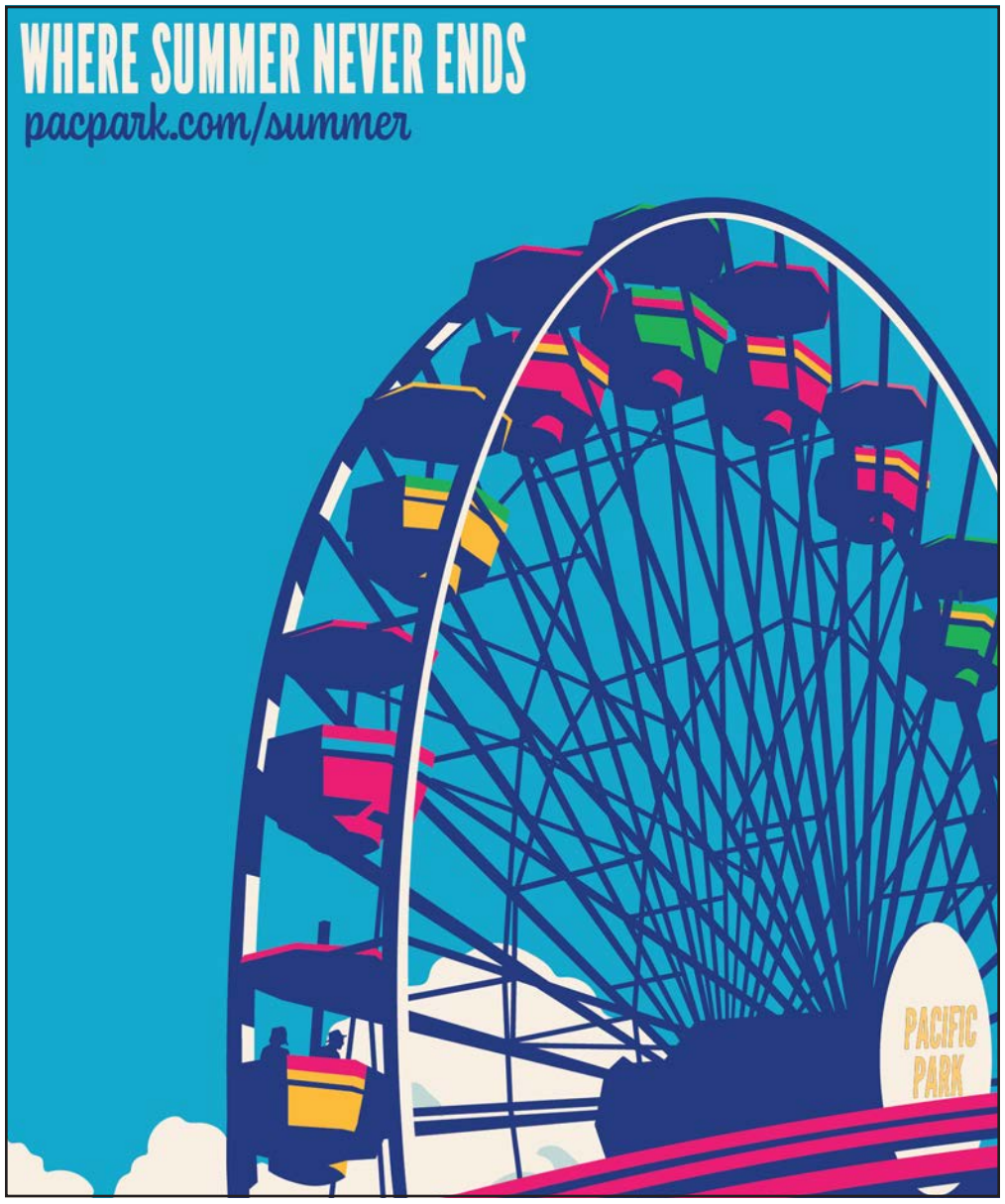


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SAFETY

FROM PAGE 1

and held close to the front of the body, avoiding storing phones or wallets in back pockets, and keeping bags on laps when dining or resting.

Vehicle security also remains crucial during the holiday rush. Police advise locking car doors every time, keeping windows fully closed, and placing shopping bags out of sight. Parking under good lighting provides additional protection.

Package theft continues to plague neighborhoods during the holiday delivery season. Police recommend tracking packages and bringing them inside promptly, shipping to staffed addresses when possible, and using secure pickup options or parcel lockboxes.

For residents traveling during the holidays, police suggest using timers for indoor lights to mimic typical routines, ensuring all doors, windows and side gates are locked, and waiting to post travel photos on social media until returning home.

Police also emphasized responsible celebration, encouraging those enjoying festive beverages to plan safe rides home and to watch out for friends.

Throughout the season, residents and visitors will see increased numbers of officers on foot, on bicycles and in marked units seven days a week across key areas including retail corridors, the Pier and Promenade, transit hubs and neighborhood centers.

The enhanced deployment aligns with the city's Realignment Plan, which prioritizes restoring public confidence, supporting business vitality and ensuring safe, welcoming public spaces.

"Our mission remains consistent: Protect public safety. Serve with fairness. Build trust through every interaction," said Lt. Lewis Gilmour.

The holiday strategy focuses on four core priorities: crime prevention and enforcement, addressing homelessness with compassion, traffic safety, and community engagement.

Holiday-focused efforts include high-visibility patrols in major retail corridors, strengthened presence at the Pier, Promenade and Santa Monica Place, and ongoing efforts addressing retail theft, burglary, robbery and disorder-related crime. Police are coordinating closely with business owners, private security and regional law enforcement.

The department's Homeless Liaison Program will increase coverage in high-traffic locations, working with county outreach teams and service providers while enforcing laws related to disorder, trespassing, narcotics and public safety concerns.

With heavier pedestrian and vehicle traffic during the season, police will focus on DUI and impaired-driving enforcement, increased visibility at high-volume intersections, and speed and crosswalk enforcement near shopping areas and school zones.

Officers will also participate in business walks, retailer outreach, residential security assessments, youth programming and community events throughout the season.

The department also announced it has received a $285,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety to support enforcement and education programs aimed at reducing serious injuries and deaths on roads. The grant program runs through September 2026.

The funding will support DUI checkpoints and patrols, high-visibility distracted driving enforcement operations, enforcement focused on dangerous behaviors threatening people biking or walking, and operations targeting top violations causing crashes including speeding, failure to yield, stop sign and red-light running, and improper turning or lane changes.

The grant will also fund community presentations on traffic safety issues, collaborative enforcement with neighboring agencies, and officer training including Standard Field Sobriety Test, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement and Drug Recognition Expert certification.

"Through focused traffic enforcement and education, we're working toward a future where everyone will be safe on California roads," said California Office of Traffic Safety Director Stephanie Dougherty.

Residents who see suspicious activity are encouraged to call 911 for emergencies or 310-458-8491 for non-emergency dispatch.

editor@smdp.com



SHOP REOPENS

FROM PAGE 3

The reception from both Brentwood residents and displaced Palisades community members has been overwhelmingly positive, though tinged with longing for the original location.

"It has been a very strong welcome from Brentwood and bittersweet from the Paliskates because they are happy we are open but still want us to come back to the Palisades," Simpson said.

As Paliskates moves forward, Simpson has expanded the store's vision. The shop is developing a full Paliskates product line, creating new merchandise in the wake of the fire's destruction.

"We have made so many new products post-fire. We are branching out and are developing a full Paliskates line," Simpson said.

The milestone of being the country's longest-running female-owned skate shop has taken on new significance for Simpson after rebuilding from scratch.

"I am even more determined to keep the store alive," she said.

Paliskates has built its reputation as Los Angeles' premiere destination for skateboarding and surfing culture. Simpson founded the shop with a mission to reflect the independent spirit of skate and surf culture: irreverent, strong, athletic and inclusive.

The Brentwood location marks a new chapter for Paliskates, but the shop's core mission remains unchanged — providing a home for the extended skateboarding community that has grown around it for more than two decades.

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EVENTS

FROM PAGE 1

Drive, distributing thousands of candy canes throughout the city.

The event, sponsored by the Santa Monica Police Officers Association and Santa Monica Firefighters Local 1109, will make stops at one location per police beat.

Santa's schedule includes Douglas Park at 2400 California Ave. from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., Christine Reed Park at California Avenue and Seventh Street from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Virginia Avenue Park at 2200 Virginia Ave. from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., and Clover Park at Ocean Park Boulevard and 25th Street from 2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Children are encouraged to watch and listen for the lights and sirens of public safety vehicles, while parents should bring cameras.

Palisades Village will host its annual Christmas tree lighting Saturday, Dec. 6, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 15225 Palisades Village Lane in Pacific Palisades.

Santa Claus will light the 50-foot white fir from Mt. Shasta at 5:30 p.m., followed by artificial snowfall. The tree is decorated with 3,000 lights and more than 1,500 ornaments.

The event continues despite the property's temporary closure, maintaining a community tradition. Activities include live musical entertainment, ornament making, children's holiday crafts, face painting and balloon twisting. Hot cocoa, coffee, food from the Sunset Smash food truck and treats from King Cone will be available. Community partners including Steadfast LA will participate.

The Venice Chamber of Commerce will host its 14th Annual Venice Holiday Sign Lighting Celebration Saturday, Dec. 6 from 6-9 p.m. at Windward Avenue and Pacific Avenue. The free, family-friendly event will illuminate the iconic VENICE Sign in festive holiday colors as the community gathers to kick off the holiday season.

The California Heritage Museum will host Miracle on Main Street on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 2311 Main Street.

The event features children's activities, Santa Claus and a tree lighting on the Heritage Museum lawn, along with carolers and street-wide festivities extending into the evening.

Santa Monica's 70-year-old nativity scene tradition returns Sunday, Dec. 7, to 2311 Main Street. The nonprofit Santa Monica Nativity Scenes will display five of its 14 life-size biblical dioramas depicting Jesus's birth story.

Founded in 1953 by businessman Herb Spurgeon and local churches, the displays were once central to Santa Monica's identity, with police wearing "City of the Christmas Story" patches. The vintage scenes traditionally appeared in Palisades Park alongside Wilshire Boulevard parades.

A 2003 city ordinance restricting overnight park displays created challenges for the tradition. In 2011, following complaints, only three scenes were permitted in Palisades Park. A 2012 lawsuit seeking to restore the display failed, forcing the organization to relocate to various sites including Ocean Park Boulevard, Mount Olive Lutheran Church and Calvary Baptist Church.

No scenes appeared in 2023 due to funding shortages, but the event returned to Main Street in 2024. The displays maintain their understated, vintage character rather than competing with modern light shows.

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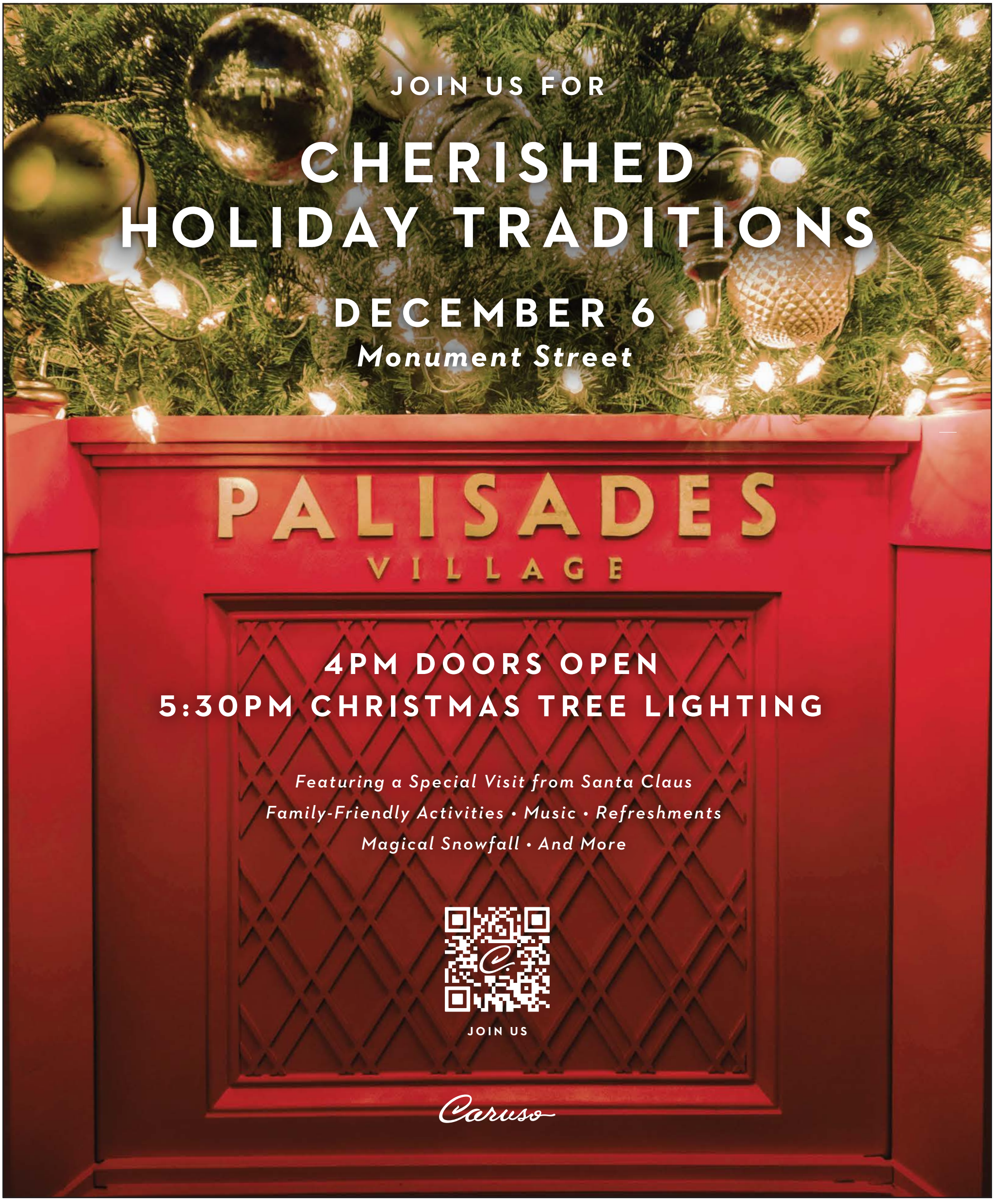


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GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 5

organizations made clear in their testimony that school attendance is down, church pews are half-empty, summer youth programs struggled to stay afloat and businesses are suffering for want of employees and customers.

Some people are afraid to venture out because they lack proper documentation. Others are afraid because they simply "look illegal."

That apparently was the case for Andrea Velez. The daughter of Mexican immigrants, Velez was born in the United States and is, therefore, an American citizen.

On June 2, her mom dropped her off at work in the fashion district. But before Velez could get inside, she was rushed by ICE officers, who took her into custody. She was not carrying any proof of American citizenship — few people do — and ICE was not interested in her driver's license. She was handcuffed and detained.

Denied food, she was told she could only have water if she purchased a cup. She was rebuffed in her requests to contact family or a lawyer. Velez was held two days, until June 4.

To be clear, Velez had committed no crime and is a native-born American citizen. Her only offenses were to come to work and to be Latino.

She asked the officers who arrested her for their names but was denied that, too. "They told me I didn't need to know their names," she said in response to questioning by Congress members who participated in the hearing.

One member questioned her more deeply, wondering if she had done anything to warrant such treatment. Velez said she had not been carrying any weapons and had neither attacked nor threatened any officer. She is 4 feet, 11 inches tall.

The treatment described by witnesses at the hearing should shock the conscience, but some consciences appear too hardened to be moved.

As Mayor Karen Bass and Rep. Robert Garcia, who presided over the session, noted, the cruelty of these policies is not a defect — it is the point.

"It was over the top from Day 1," Bass told me after the hearing, "the way they dramatized it by pulling up on the street and jumping out with rifles at a woman selling fruit. There's no way in the world you can tell me they thought she was a criminal ... It was designed to terrorize. It was to go in and inflict maximum damage."

These wanton attacks on the fabric of Los Angeles life have had at least one positive effect: In a city that has sometimes seen Black and brown residents turn against each other, this episode has been unifying, something many speakers remarked on, and that was reinforced by the proceeding itself: Garcia, a native of Peru and naturalized American citizen, sat next to Bass, the first Black woman to serve as Los Angeles's mayor.

Support for immigrants came from a broad range of speakers: from Rep. Maxine Waters to immigrant groups, from union leadership to prominent Japanese-Americans. including some who drew parallels to the 1942 internments that were carried out under the same legal authority Trump is using now for his anti-immigrant actions.

Monday's hearing was packed, and speakers were often interrupted by cheers and applause. As witnesses concluded their sometimes-harrowing stories, others stepped forward to hug and comfort them. A session called to collect evidence became an opportunity to demonstrate solidarity.

One of the day's loudest expressions of support came for Waters, when she used her time to denounce Trump, whom she called a "low-down, no-good, filthy president." The audience — white, Black, Asian, Latino, old and young — cheered loudly for that. Give him his due: Trump has brought Los Angeles together.

Jim NewtonCalMatters Contributor

EDGE

FROM PAGE 2

adapted for residential use, the unit uses an air-dam system to keep cold air contained without requiring a drain—merging chef-level performance with high-end home design.

Other luxury design innovators further enriched the weekend's narrative. Fire Clay Tile, a vertically integrated California tile and bath company celebrating 40 years, launched a new collection featuring ceramic knobs, faucets, and showers. Poppy, an independent wallpaper and textile studio, demonstrated the rising demand for natural fibers and hand-printed surfaces, with early inquiries already emerging from Palisades homeowners. Eilersen, a century-old Danish furniture house, showcased its endlessly reconfigurable modular sofas, while California Design Living highlighted custom, hand-made rugs from an 83-year family legacy.

Art and culture also played a central role with James Lostlen, a fourth-generation stone artist from Joshua Tree whose sculptural works reveal the natural beauty and integrity of Mojave Desert rock. His practice hollowing the center to contrast weathered exteriors with polished interiors, mirrors the symbolic process of rebuilding: honoring what was, revealing what can be. In Little Tokyo, conversations with a three-partner art collective sparked ideas around revitalizing Santa Monica's Bergamot Station through First Thursday gallery activations, artist workshops, and potential collaborations with KCRW aimed at reinvigorating public engagement with the arts district.

Throughout both events, one theme resonated deeply: rebuilding is no longer a reactive process - it is a strategic, forward-looking collaboration between designers, builders, innovators, insurers, and community voices. The convergence of fire-resilient materials, sustainable design practices, luxury home innovations, and local artistic expression reflects a broader shift toward public-private partnerships that anchor resilience in both physical structures and cultural identity. As Los Angeles continues to confront fire risk, climate pressure, and evolving community needs, the innovations showcased at Rebuild LA and West Edge demonstrate a powerful new chapter - one where design protects, inspires, and rebuilds with purpose.

By Michelle Edgar, Special to the Daily Press



THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 27

THANKSGIVING IN VENICE 2025- FEED THE HOMELESS
6:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Rose Ave- In between Hampton Dr and Main St 219 E Rose Avenue Los Angeles. THANKSGIVING IN VENICE outreach brought to you by Lost Angel x Havasole #LostAngelsOrg x #Havasole x #MovingForwardTgthr x #VeniceBeach. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/thanksgiving-in-venice-2025-feed-the-homeless/17476025/2025-11-27T06

CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2025-11-27T11

OAKWOOD ROOTS FARMERS AND WELLNESS MARKET
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 685 Westminster Ave Venice. Oakwood Roots Venice Farmers' and Wellness Market is a hub for local foods, wellness classes, and holistic healing. We are dedicated to fostering a strong community, supporting local businesses, and advocating for sustainable practices. Join us in creating a healthier and more connected neighborhood. This is part of a larger effort to revitalize the abandoned parking lots across the street from the park into a community hub, in partnership with Community Corporation of Santa Monica and Hoopbus. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/oakwood-roots-farmers-and-wellness-market/14548473/2025-11-27T11

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FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 28

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS AT THE SURFING FOX
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 120 Colorado Ave CA Contact Info (424) 214-1830 matt.sedgwick@candrpr.com Visit thesurfingfoxsm.com to view menus and learn more Santa Monica. Erinn Alissa performs acoustic folk pop with her guitar Friday nights at The Surfing Fox. Enjoy a night of live music, tasty bites, and Foxtails! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/live-music-fridays-at-the-surfing-fox/14385252/2025-12-05T18

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 29

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - SATURDAY MARKET
8:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m. Santa Monica Farmers Market - Arizona Ave and 3rd Street Arizona Ave and 3rd Street Santa Monica. Santa Monica Farmers Markets create thriving, vibrant communities that are inclusive, connected, and diverse by promoting the prosperity of California farmers and small food businesses, preservation of the agricultural arts and sustainable food systems. The Saturday Downtown Farmers Market is open from 8:00am to 1:00pm, year-round and operates rain or shine. May be closed for selected holidays. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-saturday-market/13357377/2025-11-29T08

SANTA MONICA FARMERS MARKET - VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK/PICO BOULEVARD
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave Santa Monica. The family market in the heart of the Pico neighborhood's Virginia Avenue Park! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/santa-monica-farmers-market-virginia-avenue-park-pico-boulevard/12382447/2025-11-29T08

DADTIME
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Virginia Avenue Park (fitness room inside the Park Center) 2200 Virginia Avenue Santa Monica. Every Saturday morning dads come together to let their young children (0-3) explore, socialize, and learn from uninterrupted play. StrongStart Facilitator on hand to answer questions. Free coffee, and the Pico Boulevard Farmer's Market is just outside! Provided FREE by Early Engagement & SMMUSD. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/dadtime/17327106/2025-11-29T09

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 30

VENICE ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE - SUNDAYS AT SUNSET
Windward Plaza 1501 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Join the Magic of the Venice Electric Light Parade Every Sunday Night! Looking for a unique and vibrant way to end your weekend? The Venice Electric Light Parade (VELP) is here to light up your Sunday evenings! Founded by Marcus Gladney, this family-friendly weekly event celebrates community, creativity, and safe cycling. Bring your LED-lit bicycle and join us for an unforgettable ride along the iconic Venice Beach. Details: When: Every Sunday evening. Meet 45 minutes before sunset. Where: Windward Plaza, Venice Beach. Who: Open to everyone! Bring your bike, lights, and good vibes. Cost: FREE to join! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/venice-electric-light-parade-sundays-at-sunset/14970341/2025-11-30T00

MONDAY | DECEMBER 1

PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! 6pm. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2025-12-01T18

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 7

documentation of the tides for the Coastal Commission." FREE. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 4 and 5 and Jan. 2 and 3. @ Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk

Official City of Santa Monica Tree Lighting Ceremony: 🎄Santa is lighting the tree and taking FREE photos with everyone! Enjoy special performances, hot cocoa, holiday crafts, and more. Thursday, Dec. 4, 6-8p.m., 1351 Third St. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-official-city-of-santa-monica-tree-lighting-ceremony-tickets-1835888514969 https://www.instagram.com/reel/DQ4yOGVgYqt/

ONGOING: Ice at Santa Monica (through Jan. 19); "Two Bit Circus" Pop-Up; Museum of Illusions;

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Holy Basil Santa Monica Soft Opening: Partners and chefs Wedchayan "Deau" Arpapornnopparat and Tongkamal "Joy" Yuon have expanded Holy Basil with a new Santa Monica location. Staying true to their Bangkok and Central Thai street-food roots, the menu will feature dishes like beef tataki, bangkok crab fried rice, pad kee mao moo krob, and rad na mee krob. Joy's signature non-alcoholic program will feature beverages such as the Hibiscus Agave Oolong and the Dragonfruit Rosemary. Saturday, Nov. 29, 5 - 9p.m Thursdays - Sundays instagram.com/holybasil_la

Thanksgiving by the Sea at Hotel Casa del Mar: Savor appetizers such as Baja Bluefin Crudo, Spiced Pumpkin Soup, and Truffled Corn & Sunchoke Succotash. For the main course, delight in Butternut Squash Risotto, Halibut Almondine, or a perfectly roasted New York Strip, among other seasonal selections. And to finish, indulge in an array of decadent desserts - the perfect sweet ending to a memorable seaside celebration. $125/person. 1910 Ocean Way instagram.com/hotelcasadelmar

Charcoal Venice Thanksgiving Dinner: $125/person includes starters like cabbage baked in the embers, lemon zest roasted beets, soup and salad options, choice of smoked turkey or prime rib, side like praline pecan yams, whipped potatoes, braised mushrooms, and seasonal pies. 425 Washington Blvd. charcoalvenice.com

Thanksgiving at Chelsea: Enjoy a menu comprised of classics from their dinner menu along with Thanksgiving additions. Serving in the restaurant from 3pm - 9pm, and offering thanksgiving to go packages from 11am-2pm. 2460 Wilshire Blvd. chelseasm.com/thanksgiving

Chez Jay Thanksgiving: They are offering "Comforting classics like butternut squash soup, a full Thanksgiving platter with all the fixings, seasonal pecan pie and more. Plus, timeless Chez Jay staples like the signature NY steak." 1657 Ocean Ave. https://resy.com/cities/santa-monica-ca/venues/chez-jay/events/chez-jays-thanksgiving-dinner-2025-11-27

Fia Classic Thanksgiving Dinner: $120/person includes a starter, choice of herb roasted turkey or New York strip roast, sides like brown butter sage stuffing and mashed potatoes, roasted Fall vegetables, and pumpkin and apple pie. 2454 Wilshire Blvd. fiarestaurant.com/visit

Jameson's Pub All You Can Eat Thanksgiving: You get your choice of turkey, ham, or prime rib with all the fixin's for $19.99 per person while getting to watch all the NFL Thanksgiving games. 2702 Main St. santamonica.jamesonsirishpub.com

Lunetta Thanksgiving: Enjoy a three-course Thanksgiving menu for $120/person with options like Maine diver sea scallops, roasted butternut squash ravioli, Maryland crab cakemaple herb turkey, braised osso buco, and desserts like pumpkin pie, dark chocolate ganache tart, and French apple pie.2420 Pico Blvd. lunettasm.com

Thanksgiving at Meat On Ocean: The steakhouse will offer a choice of starter (New-England-style clam chowder or mixed organic greens), an entrée consisting of roasted Diestel Family Ranch turkey served with Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, house-made sourdough apple-celery stuffing, traditional cranberry sauce and turkey gravy and a choice of dessert (pumpkin cheesecake with house-made whipped cream and nutmeg or old fashioned chocolate cake with house-made whipped cream and raspberry puree). $75 for adults and $26 for children. 1501 Ocean Ave. meatonocean.com

Papille Gustative Thanksgiving: Enjoy a celebratory feast that includes bread with truffle butter, braised short rib, salmon, butternut squash and scallop risotto, and a chocolate and berry cake. $69/person. 2823 Main St. papillegustativela.com/santa-monica-main-street-santa-monica-papille-gustative-events

Thanksgiving at Orla by Michael Mina: Celebrate the holiday at their on-site fine dining restaurant overlooking the Pacific Ocean, while enjoying timeless holiday classics made with a California twist. Menu offerings include Urfa Spiced Shredded Turkey Leg with a Pine Nut Tabbouleh, Leek and Sweet Potato Stuffing with a Turmeric Butter Poached Turkey Breast, Burgundy Truffle Mashed Potatoes, and more. $65/Person for children and $135/Person for Adults. 1700 Ocean Ave. https://www.opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=1352833&restref=1352833&experienceId=546418



Courtesy photo

WEEKEND: The City is supporting small businesses this weekend.

Thanksgiving by the Sea at Sirena: This Thanksgiving, let Sirena treat you to a holiday feast that's as indulgent as it is effortless. Our chefs have crafted a family-style feast that blends timeless tradition with elevated coastal favorites. Whether you're dining on our heated ocean-view terrace or inside our elegant dining room, you'll enjoy a celebration filled with warmth, flavor, and sophistication. 1415 Ocean Ave. https://www.thegeorgian.com/events-calendar.aspx

Thanksgiving Dinner at Water Grill: The holiday meal starts with a choice of clam chowder and mixed organic greens before an entrée of roasted Diestel Family Ranch turkey served with Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, house-made sourdough apple celery stuffing, traditional cranberry sauce and turkey gravy. For dessert, guests can choose between pumpkin cheesecake made with house-made whipped cream and nutmeg or caramel bread pudding with Alaea red sea salt. $75 for adults and $26 for children. 1401 Ocean Ave. watergrill.com

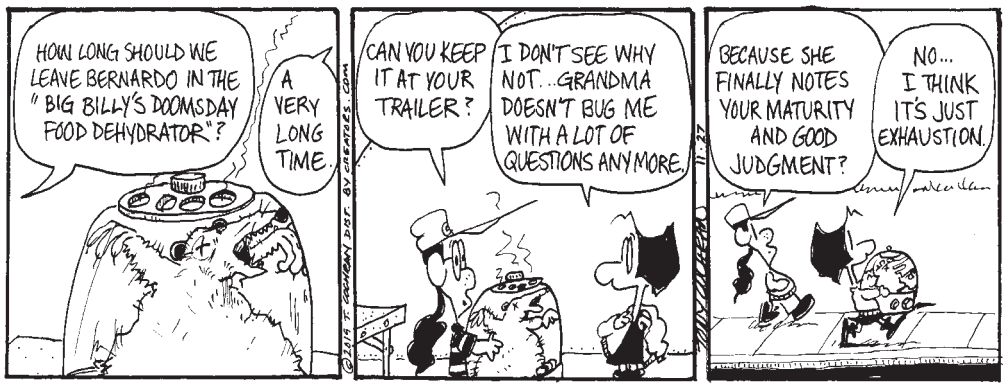
Further Afield: The LA Auto Show: Calling all auto enthusiasts! Check out the coolest innovations in cars for two whole weeks, with plenty of panels, exhibitions, and events to entertain you for 10 whole days. And it's not just about the cars: Get excited for the F1 Watch Party happening on 11/22, plus exciting activations for the full show! Nov. 21 - 30, LA Convention Center eventim.com/campaign/la-auto-show

Looking Ahead: SaMo City Tree Lighting (12/4); Montana Ave. Holiday Walk (12/6); Venice Holiday Sign Lighting (12/6); Main St. Tree Lighting & Holiday Party (12/7); SaMo 150th Anniversary Grand Finale Celebration (12/13); Taylor Swift's Birthday at Ice Santa Monica (12/13); SANTA Monica Pub Crawl (12/13); Meet Me Under the Fig Tree (12/14)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Turkey, Tinsel & Tide Holiday Weekend Guide

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



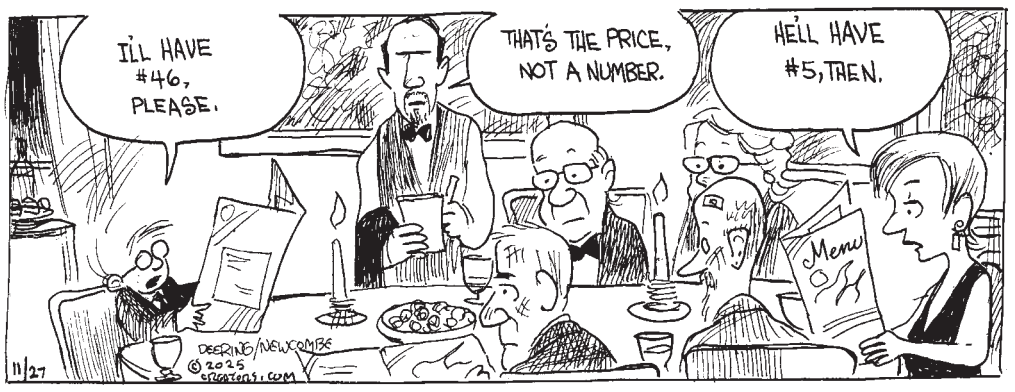
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



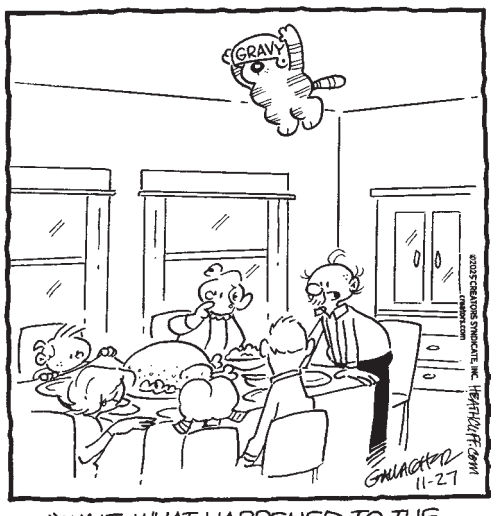
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

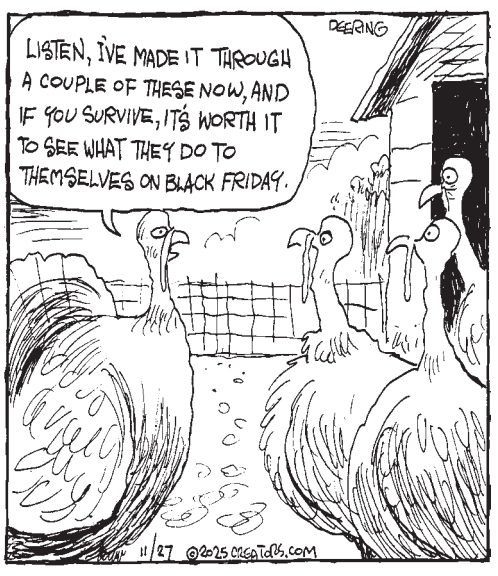
By PETER GALLAGHER



"WAIT. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GRAVY HELMET?"

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6772

Magic of sand and surf

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

Airlie Beach
Alva
Bega
Bells
Bowen
Bronte
Bungan
Cable
Cape Tribulation
Clarkes
Clubhouse
Cooktown
Corio
Curl Curl
Darwin
Eden
Exmouth
Foster
Geelong
Great Ocean Road
Iluka
Kiama
Main
Newport
Noosa
Nowra
Old Bar
Onslow
Perth
Play
Queenscliff
Robe
Rock
Sale
Sand
Tide
Tweed Heads
Wave

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 27)

Welcome to your Year of Sacred Momentum. You'll sense divine timing in motion - one green light after another. What felt stalled will glide and then accelerate, earning money on the way. It comes with a profound sense of contribution to the greater good. More highlights: Partnerships feel destined, good fortune through intuition, and a steady rise in prosperity, health and inner peace. Libra and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 39, 2, 15 and 19.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Thankfully, you have a spirit that begins things. You take the first step when others hesitate, light the torch, and run ahead. You remind everyone that momentum itself is a blessing - energy that turns desire into something real and alive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Thankfully, you know your own appetites, as this allows you to nourish, comfort and soothe yourself. Giving yourself what you need most is a noble act because when you're as strong as you can be, the people around you benefit, too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Thankfully, you stay curious. Every question you ask and every story you share creates connection. Your way with words and wonder keeps the world interesting, reminding everyone that gratitude begins with paying attention to what's worth talking about.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Thankfully, you care so deeply. You sense when someone needs comfort, and you offer it without being asked. Your nurturing energy wraps the world in safety, teaching that gratitude isn't always spoken; sometimes it's simply felt through kindness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Thankfully, you have an instinct for entertaining yourself, as this leads to being the bright spark in everyone's days, including your own. You see what is unusual, funny or worthy of your playful attention and you point it out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Thankfully, you notice details that others miss. You bring grace to systems, order to chaos and meaning to small things. Gratitude flows through every improvement you make, proving that love often hides in practical acts of service.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Thankfully, you bring harmony wherever you go. Your natural sense of fairness and style elevate the tone of every room. Gratitude is your social art; you balance others with kindness and show that peace is something we create together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Thankfully, you feel deeply and aren't afraid of transformation. You know that love, loss and renewal are parts of the same sacred cycle. Gratitude, to you, is found in truth - even when it's shadowy, it still packs a powerful connection.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Thankfully, you're guided by wonder. You roam wide, in body or in mind, believing life is worth exploring. Your gratitude is expansive, turning experience into wisdom and reminding others that freedom itself is a reason to give thanks.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Thankfully, you endure. Your discipline and faith in effort build lasting things like work, trust and legacy. Gratitude shows up for you in steady progress and in the quiet pride of seeing what happens when you don't give up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Thankfully, you think differently. Your original mind and humanitarian heart bring fresh air to stale rooms. You're grateful not just for belonging but for the freedom to be yourself and for the chance to make the world kinder.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Thankfully, you empathize, which brings together people and groups. This is what is essential; shared emotion is the glue that sustains relationships, without which nothing is possible for a human. This is what makes a difference in the world.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

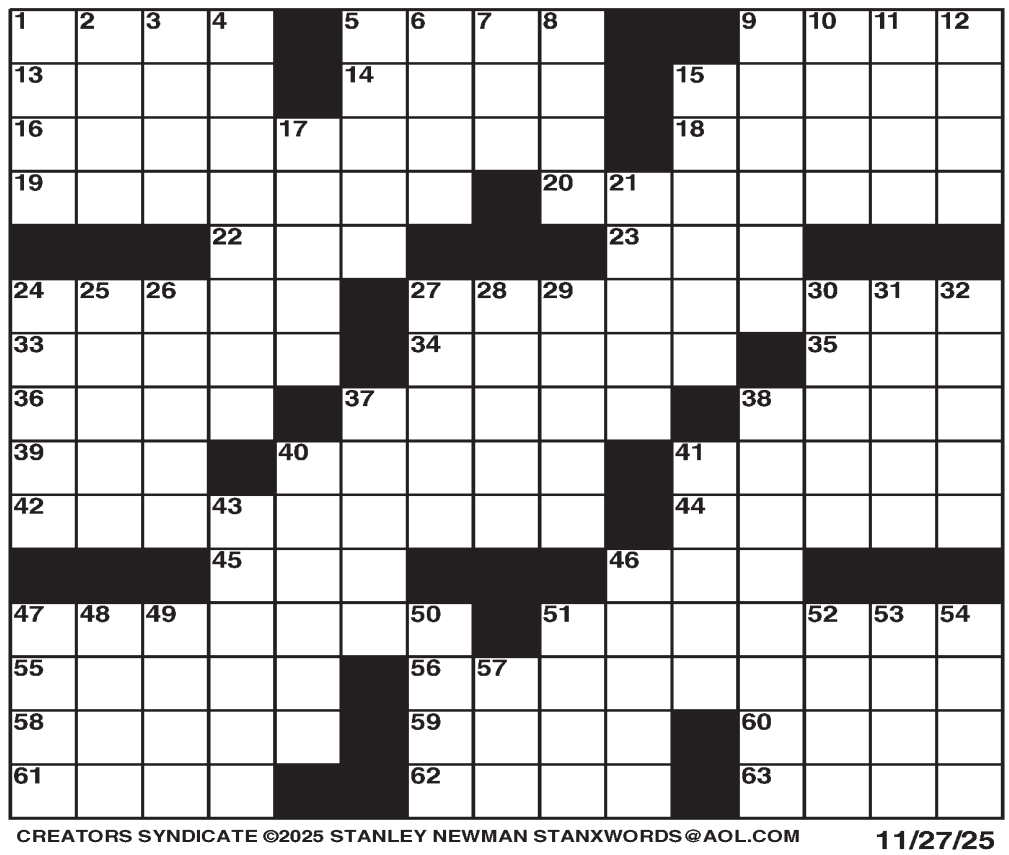
ON THE ROAD by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Inoculations, informally
5 Cover completely
9 Round number
13 Line to the Mideast
14 Savvy about
15 Austin or Houston
16 Handshake alternative
18 In reserve
19 Propaganda battles
20 Mischief makers
22 Slangy suffix
23 Muffin morsel
24 Burn for
27 Tim McGraw's singing spouse
33 Goes unchecked
34 Climbing help
35 Female rabbit
36 Arabian port
37 Laudation
38 Sort of snack chip
39 Lowest amt.
40 Blossom bit
41 Diner bowlful
42 Guitar device for altering tones
44 Molded gold
45 Major stretch
46 Agribusiness designation
47 Informal aspirant
51 Make secular
55 Off somehow
56 Roast beef sandwich au jus
58 Scene of a crime
59 Grasp, as cold cubes
60 Theater level
61 Ballot marks
62 Puts down grown grass
63 Other than those

DOWN

1 All-terrain vehicle
2 Tell-__ (some bios)
3 Treat with great care
4 Cooker set on low
5 Mongoose prey
6 Heavy duty
7 Casino convenience, briefly
8 Best-in-class
9 Culmination
10 Escape roomer's aim
11 Election campaign
12 Georges
15 Sacred scrolls
17 William and Harry's surname
21 *Beauty and the Beast* tea utensil
24 Restrict narrowly
25 Bike spokes
26 Catalyst
27 Champagne glass
28 Actor Quinn
29 Hand tosser's line
30 Cop show procedure
31 Match game of a sort
32 Most trifling
37 Skewered fare
38 Bridge cousin
40 Sentence segment
41 Mockingbird, for instance
43 2030 head count
46 Work crews
47 Friendly gesture
48 Visa rival
49 "Ladies dancing" count
50 Direct-deposit payments, for short
51 Expect back
52 Singular sensation
53 Turns sharply
54 Sport played with white gloves
57 Jumper such as a joey



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11/27/25

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

Saint John's Health Center

Providence



Better is helping our community breathe easier after a disaster.

The Disaster Relief Pulmonary Clinic at Saint John's was founded to help restore the lung health of our community after the January fires. The clinic offers specialized care to first responders and residents, focused on their long-term pulmonary health needs. Helping our neighbors heal is just one of the many ways we do everything for the better.

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