- **Record-tying 4th Time** Male Athlete of the Year.
- 4th WNBA MVP A'ja Wilson Wins.



- **Chase Sui Wonders** Detour led her to Hollywood.
- SMC 35-Year Streak Top UC Transfer Institution.

Volume 25 Issue 27

TUESDAY 12/23/25

smdp.com

Santa Monica approves self-certification pilot to fast-track building permits

MAAZ ALIN SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica City Council unanimously approved a groundbreaking self-certification pilot program Tuesday, Dec. 16, that will allow businesses to obtain building permits in as little as one day, bypassing the traditional review process that can take weeks.

The program, launching in April 2026, represents what city officials

say is the most expansive selfcertification effort in the region, eliminating not just building code review but all city staff review for qualifying commercial tenant improvement projects.

"This is very unique," said Jing Yeo, community development director. "Most cities only do the building code portion of this. We are removing all staff reviews that includes fire, public works, city planning and mobility review from

certain classes of projects."

The council modified staff recommendations during the meeting to expand the program's reach, lowering experience requirements for participating architects and adding restaurants with some limitations.

Under the program's first phase, licensed architects who have completed at least two similar

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 6

From ashes to action: Elaine Culotti's plan for the Palisades to rebuild and break away from Los Angeles

When the Pacific Palisades fire tore through hillside neighborhoods last year, Elaine Culotti wasn't just watching homes burn. She was watching her faith in the City of Los Angeles collapse alongside them. In the days that followed while the smoke still clung to the air, state officials reassured residents that California had ample resources to clear debris. The numbers looked comforting, but something about them bothered Culotti. She has

built a career in real-estate by understanding scale, logistics, and construction. When she looked more closely at the state's figures, she realized the numbers weren't for the Palisades or L.A. County -they were for the entire state of California.

"It was misleading as people who lost everything were told help was coming and it wasn't." said Culotti,

SEE **ELAINE** PAGE 7

Toy drives anchor the season of giving





CHURCH: The Church in Ocean Park was one of several local institutions holding toy drives this month. The church gathered toys as part of a larger effort organized by Santa Monica resident and State Senator Ben Allen.







Contact dina@smdp.com (310) 573-8342





Shohei Ohtani is the AP's Male Athlete of the Year for record-tying 4th time

Shohei Ohtani is catching up with more legends.

The baseball superstar ends 2025 by winning The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year for the fourth time, tying him with Lance Armstrong, LeBron James and Tiger Woods for most among male honorees.



Receiving this award multiple times is something truly special

- Shohei Ohtani



"Receiving this award multiple times is something truly special," Ohtani said in Japanese in an exclusive interview with the AP

Ohtani received 29 of 47 votes in balloting among sports journalists from the AP and its members after his two-way dominance culminated in a repeat World Series title for his Los Angeles Dodgers – delivering perhaps the greatest single-game individual performance in sports history along the way. He previously won the award in 2024, his first season with the Dodgers, and in 2023 and 2021, when he was with the Los Angeles Angels.

The AP honor has been given out since 1931. Multisport standout Babe Didrikson Zaharias won six times over the 1930s, '40s and '50s, the most by a man or woman.

The ultra-competitive Ohtani's latest win broke a tie with Michael Jordan, who along with Woods, he followed while growing up in Japan.

"Last year, I said I wanted to win this award again, and I will work hard so that I can win it again next year as well," he said.

Swedish-American pole vaulter Armand Duplantis, who won his third consecutive world title and has set the world record 14 times, including four times in 2025, was second with five votes in balloting announced Tuesday. Carlos Alcaraz, the world's topranked tennis player who won titles at the French and U.S. Opens, was third with four.

The AP Female Athlete of the Year will be announced Wednesday.

OHTANI RETURNS TO TWO-WAY SUPREMACY

Ohtani has shown remarkable consistency since joining the Los Angeles Dodgers on a then-record \$700 million, 10-year contract in December 2023.

He won his fourth career Most Valuable Player award (second with the Dodgers) by unanimous vote, the first player in major league history to do so.

This year, he posted a 1.014 OPS and hit 55 home runs. Returning to the mound for the first time since 2023, he had a 2.87 ERA and 62 strikeouts in 47 innings over 14 starts.

Ohtani saved his best for the postseason. In Game 4 of the National League Championship Series against the Milwaukee Brewers, he pitched six scoreless innings with

Brewers, he pitched six scoreless innings with 10 strikeouts and hit three home runs to earn MVP honors. He said it was his greatest game in a career full of incredible feats.

"If you think about it in terms of a single game, I'd say that's probably true," he said. "It was a crucial game in the postseason, and I personally feel I played quite well in that game."

DOES HE SURPRISE HIMSELF?

"Well, yes, there are times when I feel that way about myself, and of course there are times when I think I'm not good enough," he said, "so I suppose athletes experience both kinds of feelings."

ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER CHAMPIONSHIP FOR OHTANI AND THE DODGERS

Ohtani showed he's human in Game 7 of the World Series. He singled in the first inning and then took the mound on short rest, but he struggled with his command. He gave up a three-run homer to Toronto's Bo Bichette along with five hits in 2 1/3 innings.

But he and the Dodgers raised a second straight World Series trophy after outlasting the Blue Jays in the most scintillating Series in recent memory.

"Shohei obviously has the weight of the world on his shoulders as far as expectations, being probably the face of baseball, certainly when you're talking about the world," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said after Game 7. "It's just really special what he's done. Just a great person and a great competitor."

Ohtani's presence has been transformative for MLB's global reach. Game 7 of this World Series averaged 13.1 million viewers in Japan, the most-watched World Series game on a single network there ever, and 51 million watched worldwide to make it the most-viewed since Game 7 of the 1991 World Sories

HOW DOES OHTANI KEEP TOPPING HIMSELF?

"I think the higher your goals are, the more you have to do, and the more you want to do,"

SEE MALE ATHLETE PAGE 8



A'ja Wilson wins AP Female Athlete of the Year following historic 4th WNBA MVP

A'ja Wilson stood atop the WNBA again in 2025, winning an unprecedented fourth MVP as her Las Vegas Aces earned a third championship in four seasons.

For that, she earned The Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year on Wednesday for the first time in her career. It's the second consecutive year a basketball player won the award after Caitlin Clark was honored in

"It's an honor when you think about the group of women who have won before," Wilson said in a phone interview. "Just to have my name be a part of it, I'm blessed."

Wilson is only the fifth basketball player to be honored as the Female Athlete of the Year since it was first presented in 1931, joining Sheryl Swoopes (1993), Rebecca Lobo (1995), Candace Parker (2008, 2021) and Clark.

A group of 47 sports journalists from the AP and its members voted. Wilson received 17 votes, tennis star Aryna Sabalenka was second with nine and Paige Bueckers was third with five.

'The things she's done on the court have never been done. To me, she's in a category all her own," Aces coach Becky Hammon said of Wilson. "People always ask who's on your Mount Rushmore? I'm saying she's on Everest there's nobody up there with her."

Shohei Ohtani won the AP Male Athlete of the Year on Tuesday for the fourth time.

Hammon has been impressed with everything about Wilson in her four years coaching in Las Vegas.

"Her relatability, her being down to earth makes her a great superstar," Hammon said. "Her skill set is unmatched, but she's also the easiest player to coach. To have that mixture of humility, grace and skill, there's a reason why she's doing things that have never been

This season was different for Wilson and the Aces, who had cruised to their previous two titles as a heavy favorite. This year, with a month to go, the Aces were sitting at .500 and were in danger of missing the playoffs after coming off a record 53-point loss against Minnesota.

Wilson rallied her team to wins in the final 16 regular-season games to secure the No. 2 seed, and Las Vegas went on to win the

"This season I found myself through the adversity and mud we went through," she

Despite her numbers being on par with her unanimous MVP season the year before, Wilson heard the chatter that she wasn't playing as well and that she wasn't the frontrunner to repeat as the league's top player.

The 29-year-old used that as fuel on the court. She led the league with 23.4 points and 2.3 blocks per game.

'The way they talk about us, the way they talk about me, I'm ready for that, I'm ready for the noise," Wilson said. "It's always going to be something. If we sit here and try to please everybody, we're going to go insane. I'm just going to continue to prove why I'm one of the greatest and why my team is part of a dynamic dynasty."

Wilson raised her game even further in the playoffs, helping the Aces survive decisive winner-take-all games in the quarterfinals and semifinals. She then helped Las Vegas sweep Phoenix in the WNBA Finals, hitting the winning shot in Game 3.

"It's fair to say the expectations for her are so sky high now, she'll be compared to a degree to the unanimous MVP she was the year before," ESPN analyst Rebecca Lobo said. "Even though she wasn't unanimous MVP this year, the journey she had this season was different and she was playing the best basketball of her career in the playoffs."

"Every year, you wonder how she'll get better, and she always does."

Wilson became the first player in either the WNBA or NBA to win the MVP, Defensive Player of the Year, Finals MVP and lead the league in scoring in the same season.

Wilson broke a tie with Swoopes, Lisa Leslie and Lauren Jackson, who all won the WNBA MVP three times. She plans to have another relaxing offseason as she won't play overseas or in Unrivaled, the domestic 3-on-3 league.

Wilson became a free agent at the end of the season and could be in for a significant raise as the league and players union negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement, but she is widely expected to return to the Aces.

She's already crossed one thing off her bucket list, meeting her idol Beyonce at the Formula 1 race in Las Vegas last month.

"It was super cool, Beyonce is someone that I've always wanted to meet because I just admired her work," Wilson said.

The Aces great is that way herself for so many. She launched a shoe and clothing line with Nike. Her shoe sold out minutes after it went on sale.

'It's amazing, something that I think about every day when I look around and see people just wearing my shoe. Every day it's a gentle reminder that you know it's a special moment that we're living in and I'm so grateful when I look back on it.

By DOUG FEINBERG AP Basketball Writer

GET IT DAILY





Surf report

WATER TEMP: **62.2**

SURF: 0-1ft

Down day before a bit more action through the second half of the week. Little NW swell leftovers on tap early, then may see some building S windswell over the afternoon. Wind doesn't look great - could be light early then SE trending S flow builds through the day.

WEDNESDAY

SURF: 4-5ft

Chest to head

Chunky blend of SE/S windswell and small W swell. Wind outlook worth monitoring (but mostly bad). Chunky SE/S windswell through the morning and should still have some decent size for the open expo sures early. Modest new NW swell shows through the day, looking strongest late. Wind outlook from the Euro is a lot better than the GFS so I wouldn't write the day off entirely. Might be a window to track down early.



Weather

Tuesday: A 40 percent chance of showers after 10am. Cloudy, with a high near 62. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday Night: Showers. The rain could be heavy at times. Low around 58. Breezy, with a south southeast wind around 25 mph. Wednesday: Showers. The rain could be heavy at times. High near 62. Breezy, with a south wind 20 to 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: Showers. Low around 56. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 100%.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/12/23	Tue	12:00 AM	3.49	Н
2025/12/23	Tue	03:58 AM	2.66	L
2025/12/23	Tue	10:11 AM	5.55	Н
2025/12/23	Tue	5:48 PM	-0.40	L
2025/12/24	Wed	12:41 AM	3.59	Н
2025/12/24	Wed	04:50 AM	2.73	L
2025/12/24	Wed	10:52 AM	5.16	Н
2025/12/24	Wed	6:23 PM	-0.12	L
2025/12/25	Thu	01:24 AM	3.77	Н
2025/12/25	Thu	05:55 AM	2.75	L
2025/12/25	Thu	11:40 AM	4.61	Н
2025/12/25	Thu	7:01 PM	0.24	L
2025/12/26	Fri	02:08 AM	4.05	Н
2025/12/26	Fri	07:22 AM	2.63	L
2025/12/26	Fri	12:43 PM	3.95	Н

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



Draw Date: 12/20 4 5 28 52 69 Jackpot: 1.6 M

Draw Date: 12/19

1 11 27 39 59

Jackpot: 100 M

1 13 22 31 37



Draw Date: 12/21 EVENING: 9 6 9

Draw Date: 12/21

Draw Date: 12/21 MIDDAY: 8 3 9



1st: 07 - Eureka 2nd: 06 - Whirl Win 3rd: 03 - Hot Shot Race Time: 1:45.28

Draw Date: 12/21

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

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Classifieds

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25LBCP00483. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 275 Magnolia, Long Beach, CA 90802. Petition of Allison Danielle Lefebvre for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Allison Danielle Lefebvre filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Allison Danielle Lefebvre to Allison Danielle Ferreri. 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 not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 1/26/2026, Time: 8:30am, Dept: 525. 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 MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: Dec 12.Nicole Heeseman, Judge of the Superior Court, SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/16/2025, 12/23/2025, 12/30/2026,

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP006007 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, CA 90401. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Adel Etian Hanna Abdou filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name: Adel Etian Hanna Abdou to Proposed name: Adel Etian Hanna. 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. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING Date: 01-09-26 Time: 8:30 AM Dept.: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the etition in a newspaper of general circulation

(for resident of the county) printed in this county (specify paper): Santa Monica Mirror (for other petitioners) printed in the county in which petitioner resides or, if no county, in the local subdivision or territory where petitioner resides. Date: NOV 25 2025 s/ LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: December 2, 2025, December 9, 2025, December 16, 2025, December 23, 2025

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AP Breakthrough Entertainer: Chase Sui Wonders' Harvard astrophysics detour led her to Hollywood

You don't need to major in astrophysics at Harvard to become an actor — but it doesn't necessarily hurt, either.

"I thought that's what you go there to do. It's like why are you paying all this money to go to this fancy school if you're not going to study a hard science to try to save the world? ... But I was quickly humbled," chuckled Chase Sui Wonders, who began failing classes within her first few weeks. Her college application essay had been about making movies, so she decided she "might as well just pivot back to what I know best."

That calculated redirection paid off for the magna cum laude graduate who's now a standout cast member of the Emmy-winning comedy "The Studio," a cynical and satirical take on the film industry.

Wonders, who also starred in the "I Know What You Did Last Summer" reboot earlier this year, is one of The Associated Press' Breakthrough Entertainers of 2025.

"The attention's definitely weird, but can feel good," said the 29-year-old, flashing her warm smile throughout the interview. "The warm smile throughout the interview. most energizing thing about the whole thing is when you get recognition, the phone starts ringing more, and these other avenues are opening up that I always kind of dreamed about."

"The Studio" amassed an astounding 23 Emmy nominations in its debut season, taking home a record-breaking 13 wins. But Wonders may not have seemed like an obvious choice for comedy with her past roles, including the 2022 film "Bodies Bodies" and her breakout role, the teen-themed series "Genera+ion," which was canceled by HBO Max after one season. But all it took was one virtual video audition to land the role of Quinn Hackett, the hyper-ambitious, cutthroat assistant-turned-creative executive under studio head Matt Remick, played by the show's co-creator and co-executive producer Seth Rogen.

"I had always ... felt like, 'I think I'm kind of funny," she laughed, acknowledging feeling she had to prove herself working alongside comedic heavyweights like Rogen, Catherine O'Hara, Kathryn Hahn and Ike Barinholtz. "That pressure felt really daunting and scary. But I think, hopefully, I rose to the occasion."

Despite mere degrees of separation from

Hollywood as the niece of fashion designer Anna Sui, an acting career seemed unattainable growing up in Bloomfield Township, a Detroit suburb. Born to a father of Chinese descent and a white mother, Wonders and her siblings were primarily raised by their mom after their

An extremely shy child and self-described tomboy, she developed a love for sports — she won high school state championships in both ice hockey and golf — and spent much of her childhood making videos with her siblings. Thanks to her mother encouraging her to take performance arts classes, she was able to break out of her shell. But coming from an achievement-driven family, all signs pointed to a career in business.

A corporate track nearly began after struggling to break into the industry, and she even considered taking a job in Beijing to begin her adult life in the business world. But with only a week to decide on the job offer, she decided to give Hollywood one more shot. Three months later, she booked 'Genera+ion."

"There have been different moments in my life where I've been seriously humbled," said Wonders, who has aspirations of directing. "It just has taught me just not to take it all too seriously. ... I do feel absurdly lucky that I get to be on set with all my friends and telling a bunch of jokes and being a weirdo on screen.'

Next up for Wonders is the Gregg Arakidirected "I Want Your Sex," starring Olivia Wilde, and she'll star in A24's horror thriller "October." She'll also appear in the upcoming "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" reboot, with Oscarwinning filmmaker Chloé Zhao directing the pilot. And of course, a second season for "The Studio" is in the works.

Red carpets and magazine covers couldn't be a more antithetical life for the girl who assumed she'd climb the executive ranks at one of the major car companies headquartered in Detroit. Instead, she's climbing the Hollywood ladder — and she wouldn't tell her younger self to speed up the process.

"It's so fun how life surprises you," said Wonders. "I wouldn't tell her anything. I would tell her it's all going to make sense in the rearview mirror — but no spoilers."

By GARY GERARD HAMILTON Associated Press





OPINION

UNMUTED

Devan Sipher

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

May your days be merry and bright—but mostly bright

At the final City Council meeting of the year, there was a unanimous vote to have 1,000-square-foot digital signs installed at 16 locations on or near the Promenade. Santa Monica will receive a minimum of \$500,000 per sign per year. Given the city's financial distress, that's a lot of ka-ching for a little bling.

Still, Councilmember Barry Snell sensibly questioned the number of illuminated displays and suggested a limited rollout in order to consider any potential negative effect. Staff pushed back, describing the plan as basically just a trial program. But the leases are for 30 years, so if the program doesn't work out, it seems less of a trial than a life sentence.

"The residents of this city are going to be stuck with this decision for a very long period of time," said Stanley lezman, a board member of Downtown Santa Monica Inc. (DTSM), when details of the proposed ordinance were presented at a DTSM board meeting in November. The board voted against supporting the ordinance as drafted, but there was no mention of their objections at the City Council meeting or in the staff report, which only referred to the more favorable response of the Planning Commission.

It's less than five months since the Council purged half of the DTSM board members, and this is the first time there's been daylight between the two organizations since then. The Council has every right to disagree with DTSM's recommendations, but support for any project should be inclusive of risks and challenges, not in denial of them.

DTSM raised valid concerns about the impact of the proposed Times Square-wattage on neighboring residential and commercial tenants, something Councilmember Snell also asked about. The board was additionally skeptical about staff's assertion that digital screen advertisements will attract crowds to the Promenade. It's certainly possible, but when we're inundated by ads on our phones, computers and televisions every day, it seems a bit of a stretch.

Although the staff report stated the displays would be turned off each night at 1 a.m., the Council signed off on language allowing them to operate until 2 a.m. There could be a good explanation for the change, but none was offered and none of the council members inquired about it. Currently, there are few residents who will be impacted by the late-night luminance, but the Council is also promoting increased high-rise

Santa Monica Daily Press

At the final City Council meeting of e year, there was a unanimous vote have 1,000-square-foot digital signs stalled at 16 locations on or near the housing in the city and downtown would seem an obvious location. It sometimes seems like the left hand gets amnesia about what the right hand is doing.

However, the more likely explanation is that council members are juggling a vast number of topics with extensive details to keep track of. They deserve support for their effort to revitalize downtown, and city staff deserve credit for coordinating a complex project. It's easy to nitpick, but it's noteworthy that the proposed displays are far more streamlined and less obtrusive than the initial submitted designs. There's also other bright news, not measurable in lumens.

The Council announced plans for major sports and music events over the next three years, including Club France, the home base for the French contingent at the 2028 Olympics. With the City Manager's assistance, the Council is attempting to reboot Santa Monica's image, returning the city to the international conversation and to travelers' wish lists. There's no guarantee they will succeed, and some of their plans seem like gambles. But playing it safe isn't going to solve our problems, nor is kneejerk opposition.

I was reminded of the thin line between constructive and unconstructive criticism by Mia Negrete, a daughter of former Mayor Lana Negrete. The younger Negrete spoke eloquently at a recent Council meeting about her experience as a 15-year old witnessing ruthless attacks on her mother and other elected leaders. "There are other ways to express your concerns about the city," she reminded the public, "so let's take those routes in the future."

I like to think of these columns as an opportunity to offer my observations and to appeal to the better angels in all of us, whether in a leadership role or not, because I believe we're equally responsible for creating the civic community we wish to inhabit.

"Santa Monica's best days are ahead of us," said our new mayor, Caroline Torosis, in her inaugural speech. "We will get there by focusing on what works, fixing what does not, and building a city that feels safe, clean, welcoming, and full of opportunity for everyone."

That seems as bright of a holiday wish as we could hope for. Merry Christmas if you observe and a very happy new year!

Devan Sipher can be reached at Unmuted.SMDP@amail.com

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4508 CUMMINS ENGINE PROPULSION SYSTEM OVERHAULS AND REPAIRS. Submission Deadline is January 8, 2026 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

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LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

projects in Santa Monica over the past 15 years can self-certify that their plans comply with all applicable codes. The architect assumes full liability for the project's compliance.

Projects must be non-structural commercial tenant improvements — interior renovations of existing commercial spaces that don't alter the building's structure or exterior. Staff estimates these projects account for approximately 30% to 36% of the city's building permits.

"The trade-off will be that the city may collect less plan check fees, as it's based on cost recovery of staff time," Yeo told the council. "Obviously, a plan check's not happening."

The program aims to address two key goals: reducing staff workload on routine projects so they can focus on complex developments, and accelerating the city's economic recovery by helping businesses open faster.

In a significant modification to staff recommendations, the council voted to include restaurants in the self-certification program for building code compliance, though public works review will still be required. Staff had initially recommended excluding all food and beverage uses, citing concerns about industrial waste systems, grease traps and trash enclosure requirements.

"These things are also very, very expensive and hard to fix once they're built," Yeo said. "Better to catch those things early."

However, Councilmember Jesse Zwick pushed for the compromise, noting that restaurants are crucial to the city's vision for revitalizing downtown and other commercial areas.

"Obviously, restaurants are high on that

The trade-off will be that the city may collect less plan check fees, as it's based on cost recovery of staff time

- Jing Yeo, community development director

list," Zwick said. "Additionally, restaurants are struggling in general right now."

The modified approach allows restaurants to self-certify building code portions while still requiring public works staff to review waste management systems and trash enclosures, with staff committing to one- to two-week turnaround times for those reviews.

To ensure accountability, the program includes a "three strikes" provision. Licensed professionals who commit three violations — such as working outside the project scope, not adhering to building codes, or failing to recycle construction materials — will be permanently disqualified from the program. Violations can be appealed to the Building and Fire Life Safety Commission.

All projects will still undergo the

Permit Process - Existing vs Proposed

Existing Building Permit Process:

Building Permit Application

Building & Initial Plan Check Review (-3 weeks)

Building & Mobility

Permit Issuance

Proposed Self-Certification Permit Process:

Self-Certification Building Permit Application

Administrative Review (1 hour)

Permit Issuance Inspections

Inspections

Permit Issuance Within 1-5 business days)

Fire Building & Safety

Item 12-A December 16, 2025

Courtesy City of Santa Monica

PROGRAM: Launching in April 2026, represents what city officials say is the most expansive self-certification effort in the region, eliminating not just building code review but all city staff review for qualifying commercial tenant improvement projects.

standard inspection process during and after construction to verify code compliance.

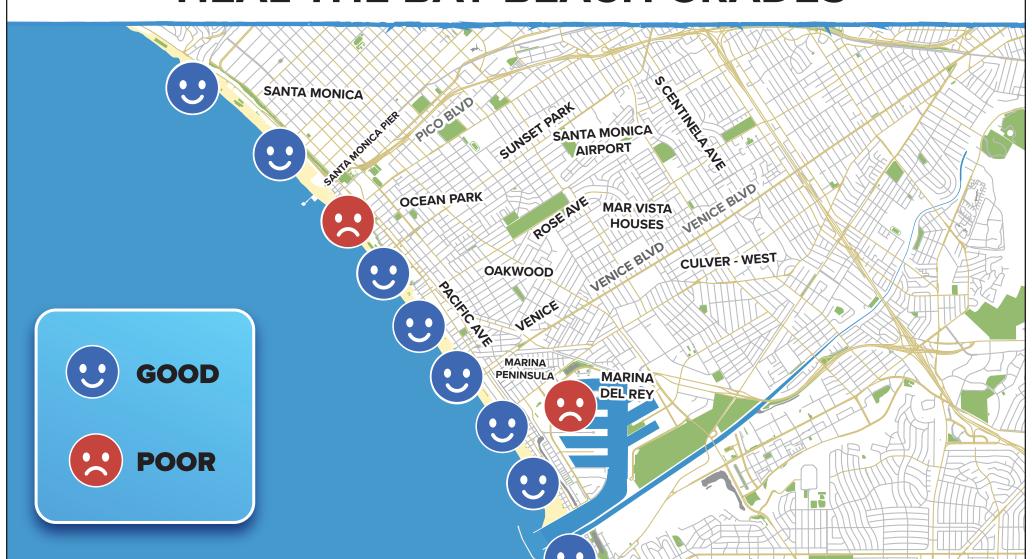
The council directed staff to implement two additional phases within a year. Phase 2 will cover detached accessory dwelling units and is set to launch six months after Phase 1. Phase 3 will include single-unit dwellings and additions, launching six months after Phase 2. Staff indicated the timeline could be compressed depending on the performance of artificial intelligence plan-check tools currently being developed.

Santa Monica's program goes further than similar initiatives in other California jurisdictions. The City and County of Los Angeles both offer self-certification programs, but only for building code review and limited to single-family homes impacted by the Eaton and Palisades fires. Chicago and San Diego County offer programs for small commercial projects, also limited to building code review.

The program also includes amendments to construction waste recycling requirements, shifting from an upfront deposit system to fines assessed only for non-compliance, reducing the financial burden on small businesses at the start of projects. The council also approved changes to trash enclosure requirements to align with new state mandatory organics recycling laws, which require accommodating three waste streams instead of two.

maaz@smdp.com

HEAL THE BAY BEACH GRADES



ELAINE

FROM PAGE 1

which was the moment was her call to take action.

Culotti, a developer known for creating the House of Rock in Santa Monica and recently a Discovery+ standout in "Undercover Billionaire," suffered enormous personal losses in the fire with roughly 20% of her real estate portfolio, a blow that altered not just her finances, but her sense of how a major city responds to its own citizens in crisis. She watched her neighbors confront a maze of bureaucracy while attempting to rebuild, all while the city issued conflicting messages and offered no clear timeline for debris removal.

"It felt like nobody understood the scale of the disaster not the officials, not the departments in charge, not the people making the decisions," she said. "If the people in charge don't understand the size of the problem, they certainly can't solve it."

Culotti did what she has always done: she built a plan. Working with FEMA, Cal OES, ABC, and the Army Corps of Engineers, she designed a concept she called "Debris on Rail." Instead of overwhelming local landfills - many in communities already weary of absorbing Los Angeles' waste - her plan shifted debris from the Palisades, Malibu, and Altadena onto rail lines, moving it to a dedicated processing facility in Puente Hills. She believed this approach would not only avoid environmental and political backlash, but prevent the costs that will come when those communities inevitably refuse the next round of fire waste.

Her proposal was verified at multiple levels. She even flew to Washington, meeting with Appropriations staff in the Lee Zeldin That was when
I realized Los
Angeles isn't just
overwhelmed - it's
structurally incapable
of responding to
a disaster of this
magnitude

- Elaine Culotti

office to secure federal alignment. The plan was ready, scalable and feasible. However, California declined to adopt it.

"That was when I realized Los Angeles isn't just overwhelmed - it's structurally incapable of responding to a disaster of this magnitude," she said. "If we stay under this system, nothing changes."

For Culotti, the consequences go far beyond one fire. They seep into property valuation, lending, permitting, and the ability of residents to rebuild their lives. "How do you value real estate if you can't sell it, rent it, repair it, or build on it? How do you keep paying mortgages, security, maintenance, brush clearing, insurance with no path forward?" she asks. "No industry can survive like that. And no homeowner should be asked

Her conclusion was for the Palisades must become its own city. Advocating for secession requires infrastructure that the Palisades currently doesn't have. Culotti has been working to open a community center that could serve as a civic hub for education, coordination, and recovery resources. She recounts an example involving the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. "DWP tried to penalize us for creating a space where neighbors could gather and get help for free," she said. "They treated it as if we were running a commercial enterprise."

This is where her vision expands beyond the post-fire crisis. Culotti believes the Palisades can become what she describes as a "pilot city," a model for what local governance could look like when it's sized correctly and accountable to the people who live there. The community's demographic profile, civic engagement, and volunteer culture, she says, make it positioned to prove what intentional self-governance can accomplish. "We share very little with the rest of Los Angeles," she said. "Our priorities, our scale, our challenges—they're completely different. We need governance that reflects who we are."

That belief led her into a statewide project that has consumed the last several years of her life: a documentary titled "M-A-Y-O-R: Mayors Matter." Traveling city by city, she has interviewed 52 mayors across California to understand what works and what doesn't at the municipal level. Her biggest takeaway? Size determines success.

"There is a natural size for a city," Culotti said, "A sweet spot where a mayor can actually govern. Los Angeles is far beyond that. No mayor—Karen Bass or anyone else—can succeed in a system this overrun. It's not about her. It's about the architecture of the

iob."

Her documentary has also illuminated a deeper truth about California's political climate: people on both sides of the aisle want far more of the same things than the news cycle suggests. "Mayors aren't arguing about culture wars - They're fighting for water rights, infrastructure, response times, budgets, safety. They're desperate for Sacramento to understand their reality," she said.

Those insights have sparked another possibility Culotti once would have dismissed: a gubernatorial run in 2026.

She is cautious when talking about it. With roughly 50 people expected to enter the race, she believes none of the likely candidates has the experience, operational understanding, or roadmap needed to "right the ship."

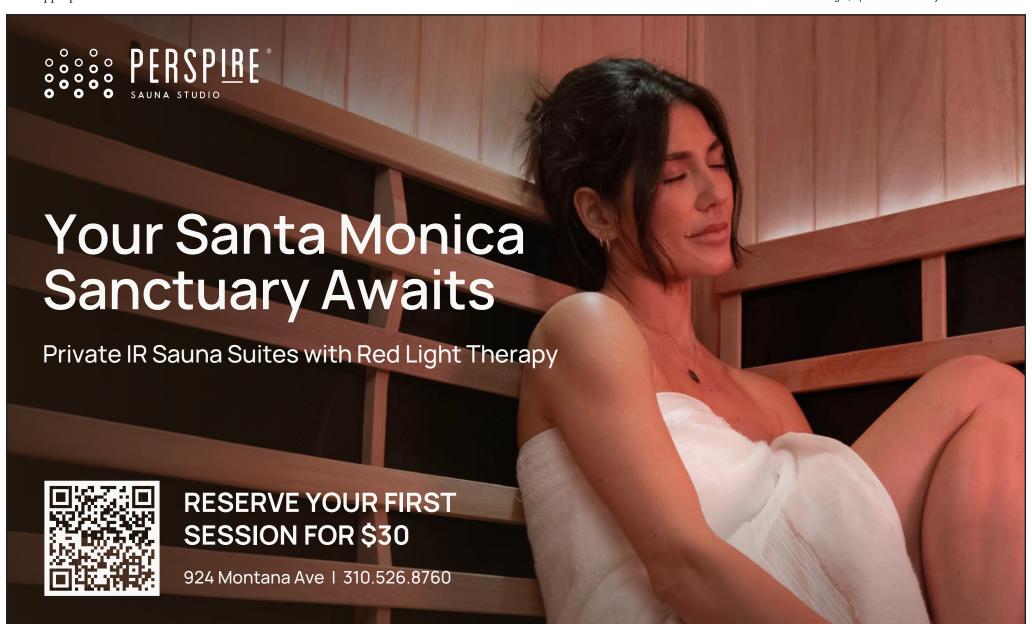
"It's easy to run for governor but It's much harder to fix California. I won't run unless I have a clear, plausible, data-driven path to victory. Not just belief. Not just momentum. A path, but if I don't run, then Mayors Matter becomes the roadmap for whoever does. Because somebody needs to understand how cities actually work."

For Culotti, the future of the Palisades and state depends on rejecting the status quo. "We can't undo the fire. We can't take back the loss. But we can decide what comes next. And what comes next has to work."

Whether she ends up leading a new city, shaping a statewide movement, or launching a gubernatorial campaign, Culotti insists that one thing is non-negotiable: local control is the only path to local survival.

"This isn't about leaving Los Angeles," she said. "It's about living. And I intend to make sure we do."

Michelle Edgar, Special to the Daily Press



COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

Santa Monica College Maintains 35-Year Streak as Top UC Transfer Institution

Santa Monica College has maintained its position as the leading transfer college to the University of California system for the 35th consecutive year, according to 2024-2025 transfer data released by the UC Information Center.

The college sent 995 students to UC campuses during the prior academic year, continuing a record that dates back more than three decades.

SMC also retained its top ranking for African American and Latinx transfers to the UC system and remained the leading transfer institution to the University of Southern California and Loyola Marymount University. Additionally, the college maintained its longstanding position as the top feeder to Columbia University among institutions outside of New York.

Among the 995 UC transfers, 214 were Latinx students and 59 were African American students. UCLA remained the most popular destination, accepting 437 SMC students, followed by UC San Diego with 162 and UC Santa Barbara with 112.

SMC also led all community colleges in transfers to USC and LMU, with 126 and 90 enrolled students respectively.

The college ranked fourth overall in combined transfers to UC and California State University systems, sending 1,991 students to those institutions.

SMC's transfer success extends to the lvy League, with 23 students enrolling at Columbia University in fall 2025 out of 41 admitted—more than any other community college outside New York.

"SMC celebrates another landmark year as the leading California community college transferring students to the University of California, as well as to USC and Loyola Marymount University," said SMC Superintendent/President Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery. "It is a testament to the limitless potential of our focused and motivated students."

Dr. Janet Robinson, Transfer Center faculty leader, expressed appreciation "to the entire SMC campus community, including our amazing students, for the latest transfer achievements."

The SMC Transfer Center supports students through various programs and services. Each fall, the center hosts a College Fair, with 120 colleges and universities participating in 2024, including six Historically Black Colleges and Universities. In spring 2025, SMC hosted its inaugural Nursing School Panel and Resource Fair.

The college offers Transfer Admission Guarantees providing guaranteed admission to students who meet specific requirements at several universities, including six UC campuses, LMU, Arizona State University and multiple HBCUs.

The Scholars Program prepares students—particularly freshmen, first-generation college students and those from underserved communities—for transfer through intensive academic preparation and counseling. For more information about SMC's Transfer Center, visit smc.edu/transfer.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

MALE ATHLETE

FROM PAGE 2

he said. "If you're satisfied with where you are now, I don't think it's possible to achieve your goals without putting in the effort. So, setting goals high is what I believe is most important."

The Dodgers carefully managed Ohtani's return to pitching this year by gradually increasing his workload after rehabbing from elbow surgery in September 2023. His innings were initially capped before he was allowed to make longer starts as he felt better.

"When it comes to feeling nervous, being on the mound definitely makes me more tense," he said. "It's a position where you can single-handedly ruin a game, and at the same time, it's also a position where you can contribute to a win. So, in my mind, I feel that being a pitcher is truly a special role."

At 31, Ohtani has undergone three major surgeries: two on his right elbow and another on his left shoulder. Regardless of the physical and mental wear and tear, he plans on remaining a two-way player his entire career.

"I think it's best to keep doing it right up until the moment I retire," he said.

Ohtani plans to play for Japan in the World Baseball Classic in March.

"I'm still not sure whether I'll be pitching," he said. "I've been given permission to play in the tournament, but as for how much and in

what way, including on the batting side, that's something we'll be discussing."

Winning a third consecutive World Series championship is among Ohtani's biggest goals in 2026

"Staying healthy and appearing in every game without injury, that's the smallest goal I have," he said.

An exciting year off the field, too

Ohtani became a father for the first time when his wife, Mamiko Tanaka, gave birth to their daughter in April. He carefully guards against revealing her name and any details about his home life. No word on how his beloved dog Decoy reacted to having a new sibling, either.

Ohtani's American fans enjoy hearing him speak English on the rare occasions he's done so publicly, including at both World Series celebrations. He understands most of the language, although he uses an interpreter in interviews.

"I think it would be best if I could speak in English, so even if it's just small steps, I want to keep working at it," he said. "Whether it's with fans or in different situations, being able to speak directly in English might help bridge the gap between us."

In the meantime, he'll keep letting his bat and arm speak volumes.

By BETH HARRIS AP Sports Writer

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN





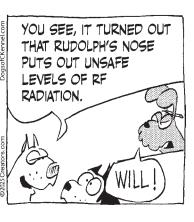


Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART







Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE





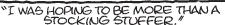
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

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 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6798

Aussie towns and cities

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

Acres	Ducks	Moree	Silos
Albany	Dust	Mt Isa	Snakes
Alpha	East	Newell	Towns
Ashford	Ebor	Nimbin	Tractor
Bega	Eden	Nyngan	Ulong
Clare	Fences	Peel	Valleys
Coonabarabran	Floods	Pests	Vet
Coraki	Gold	Plan	Walcha
Cowra	Illabo	Rain	Winton
Crops	Kempsey	Rice	Yamba
Dairy	Laura	Ross	
Dams	Mail	Scone	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE. **Building approval**



Covering the city by the bay since 2001.







Welcome to your Year of the Satisfying "Click" when everything aligns with a snap, Your values, work, relationships, finances - they all support each other instead of competing. You'll feel purposeful without being rigid, successful without sacrificing joy. More highlights: a breakthrough in passive income, travel that feels transformative, and romance that's both playful and profound. Aquarius and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 21, 3, 10 and 43



ARIES (March 21-April 19). Fairness matters, but life is sometimes too tangled to sort out perfectly. Today calls for decisiveness, not deliberation. Take the quick, clean action you know is needed, trusting that details will settle into a larger kind of justice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Silences are your playground today. If other people want to rush to fill them, let them. As for you, the pause is your friend. Quietness increases your presence. Stillness makes you magnetic.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Accept attention without performing for it. If someone is drawn to you, let them be drawn. You don't expand or shrink to match their interest. You stay yourself. This is star energy: You do not chase. You glow in place.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A project or relationship will seem to reset like a game that goes back to zero with each play. You're wiser and more skilled for the hours you've already put in, so have fun with the fresh chance to rack up points.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The performer isn't always in the mood for the spotlight, but stepping into the costume, hearing the cue and walking onto the stage flips a switch inside them. You'll be applauded for something today, and it's all because you donned the costume and got out there.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you decide to let go of a grievance, it won't be because you're doing the other person a favor. Grudges are heavy baggage to harbor. When you drop it, you'll be lighter and laugh. Then comes a small miracle.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Reading is acquiring knowledge rather easily from others who learned the hard way. Of course, you still have to apply that knowledge to activate it. And you'll do this today, putting to good use the lessons distilled from another person's long road.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). All feelings have something to teach. Defensiveness, for instance, can teach you where the truth is - or teach you what's partially true, or believed to be true. No one is defensive unless there's a vulnerability or something valued to protect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're recognizing a pattern, and how it makes you feel is significant. Sometimes you need time to sit with your feelings, because it's not exactly clear what to do next. It's OK to do nothing for a moment. Just catch your breath.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). That little inner ping of feeling is your inner compass pointing at something important. There's something or someone in your orbit right now that is worth pursuing, and your body already knows it. Pull the thread. It's leading somewhere good.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You learned something that seemed specific to one situation is in fact extremely transferable to other areas of life. It might even feel as though you're no longer a beginner at anything you pick up today, so strong is your footing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Sometimes you only want a thing vaguely, like a fantasy you wouldn't really go after. But now you want something specifically, precisely and with intention. Watch out, world, here you come.

GETTING BETTER by Guilherme Gilioli Edited by Stanley Newman

from

34 Alan of *M*A*S*H*

Moines, IA

44 Removes the rind

46 Bothersome person

47 Potatoes, informally

48 Of punishment

49 Break __ (split)

52 Cpls.' superiors

53 Three-layer cookie

54 Christmas candy

55 Just a single time

50 Actress Close

41 Overly unchallenging

35 Gets a look at

www.stanxwords.com

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

S	E	W	S			Α	R	T			M	Α	M	Α
E	X	I	T		C	L	U	E		R	I	V	Е	R
M	E	N	U		0		L	S		0	N	Е	Α	M
Т	C	Ε	В	U	С	K	E	T		D	T	R	T	Y
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В	Α	N	Α	N	Α		F	L	0	0	R			
0	Р	Α	L	S		В	Ε	E	N			Н	0	P
S	0	D	Α		Н	0	R	S	E		D	Ε	М	0
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C	Е	L	L	0		H	Α	Ι	R	D	R	Y	Е	R
Α	D		0	S		0		N	K		E	Α	S	E
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S	Α	N	K			P	Ε	R			R	Ε	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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Biblical ark builder
- 5 Apex
- 9 Is the right size for
- 13 Ready, willing and ___
- 14 Thick carpet
- 15 Pesto sauce herb
- 16 Expression of sympathy for a pet
- 18 Supermarket path
- 19 Full collection
- 20 Roof overhangs
- 21 Cruel person
- 22 Chess or checkers
- 23 Least possible
- 24 In one's house
- 27 Belittle
- 29 "Scat!"
- 30 Acted boldly
- 32 "That's too bad!"
- 36 Await approval
- 37 Brooks or Gibson of films
- 38 "Tall" story
- 39 Appear to be
- 40 Handed out cards
- 42 Stay out of sight
- 43 Unwraps
- 45 Dramas with sopranos
- 47 Church steeples
- 50 "Attendee" suffix for party
- 51 Tube-shaped pasta
- 52 Shoe bottoms
- 54 Corn on the __
- 57 No later than
- 58 Very large dog

60 Daybreaks

- 61 Change for a \$20 bill

- 2 Woodwind instrument
- 4 She/__ (pronoun pair)
- **5** Feeling very regretful
- 6 Sour-cream dip flavoring
- 8 "Scrambled"

- 62 Ancient Peruvian
- 63 Walk through mud
- 64 PlayStation maker
- 65 Computer whiz

DOWN

- 1 Short snoozes
- 3 Tons (of)

- 7 Lion's hair

- breakfast
- 9 Sunny forecast
- 10 Magazine edition
- 11 Leans a little
- 12 Frozen rain
- 15 __ in the woods (innocent ones)
- 17 Sports squad
- 22 Early-day greeting
- 23 Passing craze
- 24 Egyptian snakes
- 25 "My country, 'tis of
- 26 Sharpen, as a skill
- 27 Zones
- 28 Boxing round signal

- 31 Prayer conclusion
- 33 Animal's hideout
- 56 Parakeet's nose

shape

59 Use a shovel

12 10 14 13 15 16 18 19 21 22 23 25 26 28 30 34 36 38 40 42 39 41 43 45 44 46 48 49 50 47 51 52 55 56 53 57 58 59 61 60 62 63 64 65 CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2025 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

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TUESDAY | DECEMBER 23

WALKING MEDITATION

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Los Angeles. Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. We'll meet Tuesday's and Thursdays at 8 am at lifeguard tower 28 in line with Ashland Street (paid parking available in the Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South) We'll walk silently together for approximately 45 minutes on the shoreline (from tower 28 to the rainbow tower at Brooks Street and back). Everyone is welcome to join whether new to meditation or with many years of experience. Please remember to bring sand shoes if you prefer not to walk barefoot, sunscreen, a hat, a jacket if it's cold and water. Looking forward to meeting and meditating with you all. please feel free to reach out with any concerns or questions and please arrive 5 minutes early. Didn't forget to check schedule for any changes or cancellations. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/ details/walking-meditation/16206460/2025-12-02T08

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Come, learn, and have fun every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room at Virginia Avenue Park. Each week there will be something new: Exercise, Talking with Friends, Learning, Guest Presenters, Health & Wellness! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2025-12-02T10

TECH & TASKS

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica. Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes and more. Assistance provided on a drop-in. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tech-tasks/16225799/2025-12-02T16

GELSON'S WEST LA TO HOST TACO TUESDAYS WITH TACOS, MARGARITAS, AND MEZCALS

4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Gelson's 12121 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles. Every Tuesday from 4 PM to 10 PM, Gelson's West LA Wine Bar will be hosting Taco Tuesdays, bringing together a festive blend of flavors and fun. Enjoy a variety of mouthwatering tacos, refreshing margaritas, and smooth mezcals, all served in a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere. The perfect way to spice up the week—gather friends and enjoy a night of great food, drinks, and good times. Prices vary. For more information, visit https://www.gelsons.com/events/view/taco-tuesdays-at-gelsons-west-la-wine-bar. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/gelsons-west-la-to-host-taco-tuesdays-with-tacos-margaritas-

and-mezcals/15309564/2025-12-02T16

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

5:30 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/city-council-meeting/13799967/2025-12-23T17

8PM FREE "ROXY'S GOT BALLS" BINGO TUESDAYS @ TINY'S HI-DIVE IN LOS ANGELES!

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Tiny's Hi-Dive 12012 West Pico Boulevard Los Angeles. 8pm TUESDAYS "Roxy's Got Balls!" Drag Queen BINGO is LIVE & FREE at Tiny's Hi-Dive in Los Angeles w/ Roxy Wood! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/8pm-free-roxy-sgot-balls-bingo-tuesdays-tiny-s-hi-dive-in-los-angeles/14857154/2025-12-23T20

TUESDAY OPEN MIC

10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. The best open mic in Los Angeles! The Tuesday Open Mic is a weekly open mic. Hop onstage and perform your best 3 minutes! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tuesday-open-mic/16004734/2025-12-16T22

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 24

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - WEDNESDAY MARKET

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica Arizona Avenue (Between 4th & Ocean) Santa Monica. One of the largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! 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, and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/12382446/2025-12-17T08

STAR STORIES WITH PAM

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. STAR Stories With Pam Children are invited to share the joy of storytelling and reading with our special STAR volunteer, Pam. Come three times and take home a free book. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/star-stories-with-pam/15607289/2025-12-17T12

VINO & VINYL - WEDNESDAY HAPPY HOUR

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The Venice West 1717 Lincoln Blvd, Venice. Unwind and set the vibe with Vino & Vinyl, our laid-back happy hour at The Venice West. Enjoy half-off bottles of wine, food and bar specials,

and a rotating selection of classic vinyl spinning from 6-7:30 PM. Perfect for music lovers, wine drinkers, and anyone looking to ease into the evening, Venice style. Happy Hour Join us weeknights from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM for our restaurant's Happy Hour, featuring great deals including \$5 beers & snacks, \$10 craft cocktails, and more! Age Requirement All shows at The Venice West are 21+ only, unless otherwise stated. Valid government-issued photo ID is required for entry. Guests who cannot provide proof of age will not be admitted and no refunds will be issued. Parking Please note that residential/street parking is the only parking available near the venue. We strongly encourage rideshare services (Uber, Lyft, etc.) for a safe and convenient experience. Accessibility (ADA) We strive to make The Venice West welcoming and accessible to all guests. If you or someone in your party requires ADA seating or other special accommodations, please reach out to us in advance at info@venicemusicgroup. com so we can best prepare for your needs. Recording Policy To maintain the integrity of the live performance experience, audio and video recording is strictly prohibited during all comedy events unless otherwise specified. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Ticket Policy All ticket sales are final and non-refundable. In the event of a cancellation without a rescheduled date, a full refund will be automatically issued to the original form of payment. By purchasing a ticket, you agree to this policy. Please double-check the event title, time, and location before completing your purchase. For questions, contact us at info@ venicemusicgroup.com. We look forward to hosting you at The Venice West-thank you for supporting live entertainment and our artists! Visit: https://smdp. com/events/#/details/vino-vinyl-wednesday-happyhour/17651745/2025-12-24T18

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 25

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/clublatino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2025-12-25T11

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/14548473/2025-12-25T11

FOOTBALL SHOWINGS AT THE WHALER!

101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 info@venicewhaler.com Does not apply on holidays Santa Monica. Enjoy food & drink specials during every football game! The Whaler shows every college and nfl game on all tvs every week all season! (Sound is only on if that is the only game playing). Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/football-showings-at-the-whaler-/17408731/2025-12-25T00

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 26

DRUNK THEATRE: THE WILDEST IMPROV COMEDY SHOW!

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica. A comedian takes five shots of whiskey in a row and tries to perform an improvised play with five sober comedians. What could go wrong?! Drunk Theatre is the entirely improvised, unpredictable, and crazy comedy show that'll kick your weekend into overdrive. Reserve your spot now as limited seating and space is available. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/drunk-theatre-the-wildest-improvcomedy-show-/15793351/2025-12-26T08

STAR STORIES WITH MISS SANDY

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. STAR Stories With Miss Sandy Children are invited to share the joy of storytelling and reading with our special STAR volunteer, Miss Sandy. Come three times and take home a free book. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/star-stories-with-miss-sandy/15607291/2025-12-26T14

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://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/live-music-fridays-at-the-surfing-fox/14385252/2025-12-26T18

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 27

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://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-saturday-market/13357377/2025-12-27T08



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