

Gary Limjap
(310) 586-0339

In today's real estate climate ...
Experience counts!
garylimjap@gmail.com www.garylimjap.com

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
CalRE # 00927151

2 **New Law Bans**
Federal agents from wearing masks.

3 **National Settlement**
Aetna to cover IVF treatments.

4 **California should fund**
Help students get to college.

5 **California Senior Healthcare**
Solution hides in plain sight.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 25 Issue 29 THE WEEKENDER 12/26 - 12/28 smdp.com

The Year in Review: 2025 began with a generational disaster

EDITOR'S NOTE: Today we begin our Year in Review coverage summarizing the year's news. Today's paper covers January, February and March.

JANUARY

Homegrown homeless deterrent device, the Blue Chirper, makes Promenade debut — A Santa Monica resident created the "Blue Chirper," a device emitting a high-pitched sound to deter loiterers. The device was shown to successfully prevent people from camping inside garages and other private spaces. Barney's Beanery installed the device to address homeless individuals occupying their patio as did other businesses and residents.

City's Black pioneer honored with Virginia Avenue Park plaque — Family and city officials honored Lloyd C. Allen, a Black pioneer and entrepreneur in Santa Monica, with a plaque at Virginia Avenue Park. Allen, who owned a local vacuum repair shop, was celebrated for his resilience and community impact. His grandson spoke of Allen's vision for safe play spaces.

School board serenades Deputy Superintendent with emotional send-off — SMMUSD Deputy Superintendent Dr. Mark Kelly retired after 25 years, receiving an emotional send-off from the Board of Education. Officials praised his leadership and grace, while State Senator Ben Allen presented a resolution. Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton thanked Kelly for his guidance and personal friendship during their tenure.



SMDP Photo

PALISADES FIRE: The Palisades Fire tore through the area in January leaving scars that have yet to heal.

Homeless man struck by car at same Wilshire intersection where veteran was killed — Wilshire Blvd was the site of two dangerous car crashes. In the first incident, a veteran was struck and killed in late December and a homeless man was subsequently struck by a vehicle in the same area. Police said they were investigating the incident, which occurred shortly after the city implemented new "daylighting" laws to improve pedestrian visibility at intersections.

H&M set to leave the Third Street Promenade — Clothing retailer H&M left the Third Street Promenade. The departure was one of several closures that raised concerns about the City's economic future and in particular the future of retail in the Downtown area.

Sandwich shop All'antico Vinaio opens — Famous Italian sandwich shop All'antico Vinaio opened a Santa Monica location on Wilshire Boulevard. The shop, known for its Tuscan flatbread called schiacciata, has locations in Italy and New York. Owner Tanya Bastianich Manuali said the shop offers a rustic Italian aesthetic and freshly baked bread daily.

SEE **YEAR IN REVIEW** PAGE 6







New California law bans federal agents from wearing masks in showdown over immigration raids

A series of immigration raids across California in 2025 had one thing in common: Most of the federal agents detaining people wore masks over their faces.

> We initially were under the understanding that, oh, they're only targeting folks who were not citizens
>
> - Mark Gonzalez, Assemblymember

In January, the state of California and its largest county will ban law enforcement officers from covering their faces, with a few exceptions, putting local and state police at odds with masked immigration agents.

The state law gives law enforcement officers a choice: If they cover their faces, they lose the ability to assert "qualified immunity," the doctrine that protects officers from individual liability for their actions. That means they can be sued for assault, battery, false imprisonment, false arrest or malicious prosecution, and the law adds a clause that says the minimum penalty for committing those offenses while wearing a mask is $10,000.

Assemblymember Mark Gonzalez, a Los Angeles Democrat who co-authored the law, said it was necessary to rein in anonymous federal agents.

"We initially were under the understanding that, oh, they're only targeting folks who were not citizens," Gonzalez said, "And then actually over time you learn they don't give a shit who you are, they're attacking you no matter what, with no due process."

The Trump administration has sued to block the bill, and more than a century of federal court precedent is on its side. An 1890 Supreme Court case provides that a state cannot prosecute a federal law enforcement officer acting in the course of their duties.

The Trump administration said in its brief to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California that forcing agents to reveal their identities would put the agents at risk.

During Immigration and Customs Enforcement "actions, individuals can be heard threatening to doxx and find out who officers and their family members are and where they live," the administration's lawyers said in the Nov. 17 brief. "There are even public websites that seek and publish personal information about ICE and other federal officers to harass and threaten them and their families."

Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the UC Berkeley School of Law, said the issue may not be as cut-and-dried as one or two Supreme Court cases. He pointed to a 2001 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that allowed the case of a federal sniper who killed a woman during the 1992 Ruby Ridge, Idaho, standoff to go to trial.

"It basically says that a federal officer can be criminally prosecuted for unreasonable actions," Chemerinsky said. "Federal officers, by virtue of being federal officers, do not get immunity from all state civil and criminal laws."

Brian Marvel, president of an organization that represents California police unions, said the law will make life harder for local cops and county sheriffs' deputies. The organizations that represent police chiefs, sheriffs, agents in the Attorney General's office and California Highway Patrol officers opposed the law, too.

"I think that the state has put us in a tenuous position with this battle they're having with the Trump administration," said Marvel of the Peace Officers Research Association of California. "We don't want to be in the middle of this fight. But unfortunately, (with) the desire for higher name recognition and elections in 2026, they decided to create things that are much more political and not geared toward legitimate public safety issues."

Marvel said another drawback of the law is giving "a false sense of hope to the immigrant community in California" that the law will force federal agents to leave the state.

Los Angeles County supervisors have also approved a local mask ban on law enforcement for unincorporated areas of the county, a measure that will go into effect in mid-January, unless a court decision comes sooner.

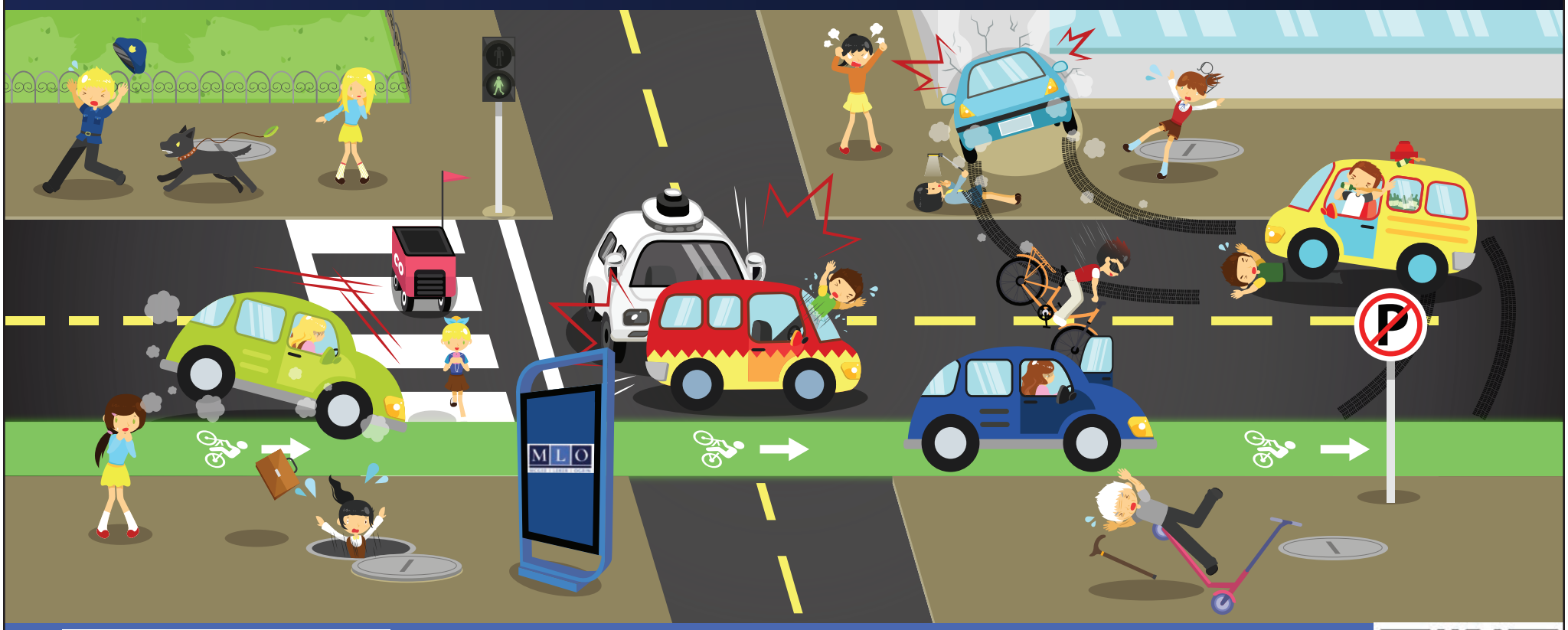
Gonzalez noted that masks have played a significant role in recent California history. First,, during the pandemic California temporarily made masks mandatory in public and at work. Then, a couple of years later, a rush of smash-and-grab robberies were harder to solve because the suspects all wore masks. Now, California finds itself in its third back-and-forth over face coverings.

The law provides exemptions for N-95 or medical-grade masks to prevent infection transmission, and permits undercover operatives to wear a mask.

"This is specifically aimed to federal agents because we gotta combat these kidnappings somehow," Gonzalez said, "and this was our way in."

Nigel Duara, CalMatters Justice Reporter

It's crazy out there. If you get hurt and someone else was at fault, call us for a free consultation.



MLO
MCGEE | LERER | OGRIN

Personal Injury Attorneys
+
Sexual Abuse

Free confidential consultation
(310) 231-9717
www.mcgeelerer.com

Ad. No guarantee of outcome. Each case is different.

Aetna to cover IVF treatments for same-sex couples in national settlement

Like many young girls, Mara Berton and June Higginbotham both knew from an early age they wanted families and to become mothers. But as lesbians, they were excluded from accessing the fertility treatment insurance benefits offered to heterosexual peers.

Instead, like many other same-sex couples, Berton and Higginbotham had to pay $45,000 out of pocket to conceive while heterosexual colleagues with the same insurance plan had many of those costs covered.

"We knew it wasn't right," Berton said in an exclusive interview with CalMatters. She joined a class action lawsuit challenging the policy. "What we're fighting for is about family building and having kids…It was really important to both of us, I think, that other couples not have to do this."

Last week, in a landmark settlement, U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of California Haywood Gilliam, Jr. approved a preliminary agreement for the class action lawsuit requiring Aetna to cover fertility treatments for same-sex couples — like artificial insemination or in vitro fertilization — as they do with heterosexual couples. It is the first case requiring a health insurer to apply this policy nationally across all of its enrollees. An estimated 2.8 million LGBTQ members will benefit, including 91,000 Californians.

Under the settlement, Aetna will also pay at least $2 million in damages to California-based members who qualify. Those who may be eligible must submit a claim by June 29, 2026.

"I truly hope that this is the first of many insurers to change their policy," said Alison Tanner, senior litigation counsel for reproductive rights and health at the National Women's Law Center. "We were looking at that as an issue of inequality — that folks who were in same-sex relationships were being treated differently."

Roughly 9 million additional Californians will soon have access to mandated fertility benefits under a new law taking effect in January. The law applies to state-regulated plans — which Aetna is not in this case — and amends the definition of infertility to include same-sex couples and single people.

Previously, Aetna's policy required enrollees to engage in six to 12 months of "unprotected heterosexual sexual intercourse" without conceiving before qualifying for fertility benefits, according to the class action complaint. The policy allowed for women "without a male partner" to access benefits only after undergoing six to 12 cycles of artificial insemination unsuccessfully depending on age.

Lawyers argued that the policy fundamentally treated LGBTQ members differently and effectively denied them access to the benefit, which can be prohibitively expensive for many people.

In an email, Aetna spokesperson Phillip Blando said the plan provides infertility benefits in accordance with each member's plan, coverage rules and applicable law.

"Aetna is committed to equal access to infertility coverage and reproductive health coverage for all its members, and we will continue to strive toward improving access to services for our entire membership," Blando said.

MEDICAL INFERTILITY DEFINITION INCLUDES LGBTQ

Berton, who was the lead plaintiff in the case, said she was blindsided by the policy. She had consulted with a fertility clinic and decided to move forward with donor sperm and artificial insemination, when a representative from Aetna called and said she did not meet the definition of infertility.

She appealed the decision multiple times; she was rejected. The experience felt "dehumanizing," her wife Higginbotham said.

Insurance had dictated Berton attempt 12 rounds of artificial insemination before she would be eligible for benefits. Her doctors recommended no more than four rounds.

Sean Tipton, chief advocacy and policy director for the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, said a policy like that could only be designed to dissuade people from accessing their health benefits. Doctors typically recommend three to four cycles of artificial insemination before IVF, but Tipton said there have also been studies showing it is more efficient and cost effective to go straight to IVF.

In 2023, the society updated its medical definition of infertility to include LGBTQ folks and individuals who don't have partners. They did so in part to stop insurers from denying claims like Berton and Higginbotham's.

"The driving force was a realization that it takes two kinds of gametes to have kids," Tipton said. "Regardless of the cause of that absence, you have to have access in order to be treated for a fertility issue."

Since the definition changed, Tipton said more employers and insurers are covering benefits for LGBTQ folks or single people. They have also leveraged the definition to enact statewide benefits expansions, including California's upcoming fertility benefits mandate.

Berton and Higginbotham said they also worried about running out of donor sperm that matched Higginbotham's Jewish and Native American heritage – and was limited in supply.

"I don't feel like your insurance should be involved in those types of decisions and kind of determine your journey," Berton said.

The couple pulled together money from family members and decided to proceed even without coverage. After four unsuccessful rounds of intrauterine insemination, they moved on to IVF, partially to give themselves the best chance of conceiving with the donor they chose.

The experience was "all consuming" and emotionally difficult as Berton endured hormone injections, egg retrievals and a miscarriage. But today, she and Higginbotham have two healthy twin girls whose favorite thing is to play on the swings and "take every book off of their shelf" for their mothers to read.

The couple achieved their family dreams before the lawsuit concluded. Even so, Higginbotham said she hopes the settlement will help other LGBTQ couples across the country.

"I know people that don't have children, that wanted children, because the stuff isn't covered. I know people that their timeline was delayed and maybe they have fewer kids than they wanted," Higginbotham said. "The settlement is such a huge step forward that is really righting a huge wrong."

Kristen Hwang, CalMatters Health Reporter



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **62.4**

FRIDAY — ***FAIR TO GOOD***
SURF: 4-5ft
Chest to head

Pumping W swell likely. Conditions may improve after rugged Christmas Day but don't look great. A stout coastal storm looks likely through the middle of the week setting up a pumping round of W/WNW swell between Christmas and New Years for the third year in a row.
It'll likely be a bit raw but the wind outlook is at least somewhat promising. Will need to monitor the winds - you should expect some fluctuation in the forecast as the reputable models still aren't in great agreement and this is going to be a pretty dynamic situation.

SATURDAY — ***FAIR***
SURF: 3-4ft
Waist to chest

Another pumping morning of WNW swell before backing down. Wind outlook needs watching. Looking likely the pumping W/WNW swell from Friday continues to hold good size into Saturday morning before backing down. Similar to Friday, the wind outlook is convoluted and will continue to shift around over the next few days as the models grapple with a very dynamic pattern as a few areas of low pressure push into the region.

Weather

Friday: Showers. High near 58. Chance of precipitation is 90%.
Friday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48.
Saturday: A slight chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 57.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/12/26	Fri	02:08 AM	4.05	H
2025/12/26	Fri	07:22 AM	2.63	L
2025/12/26	Fri	12:43 PM	3.95	H
2025/12/26	Fri	7:42 PM	0.68	L
2025/12/27	Sat	02:53 AM	4.44	H
2025/12/27	Sat	09:12 AM	2.18	L
2025/12/27	Sat	2:16 PM	3.32	H
2025/12/27	Sat	8:30 PM	1.15	L
2025/12/28	Sun	03:37 AM	4.92	H
2025/12/28	Sun	10:40 AM	1.39	L
2025/12/28	Sun	4:10 PM	2.98	H
2025/12/28	Sun	9:25 PM	1.57	L
2025/12/29	Mon	04:22 AM	5.45	H

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: 12/22
3 18 36 41 54
Power#: 7
Jackpot: 1.7 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/19
1 11 27 39 59
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 100 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/20
1 13 22 31 37
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 13 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/22
1 14 16 18 19

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/22
EVENING: 9 5 4
Draw Date: 12/22
MIDDAY: 6 8 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/22
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:47.22

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Devan Sipher,
Miles Warner.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Maaz Alin
maaz@smdp.com

LEGAL ADVERTISING
legal@smdp.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

2219A Main St Santa Monica, CA 90405
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

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

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC
© 2023 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.

Santa Monica Daily Press

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California should tax million-dollar, part-time homes to help first-gen students get to college

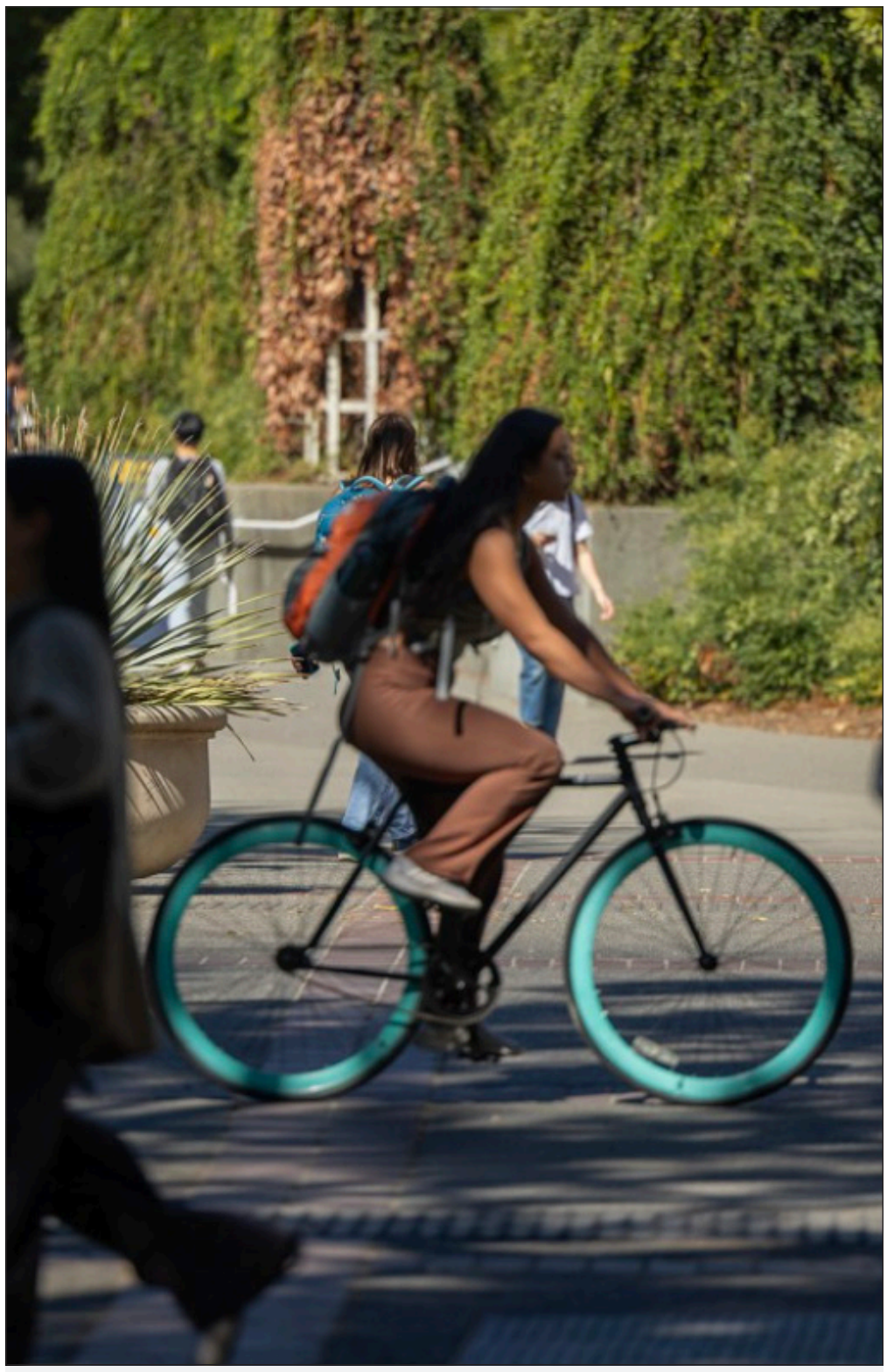


Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

TAX: Students walk and ride bicycles on campus at the University of California, Davis on Oct. 3, 2023.

Getting into college is harder than ever. Every year, Americans spend about $500 million on "educational consultants" who help students navigate applying to college. Most first-generation, low-income students don't have access to those resources.

California should fund an effective college pipeline program for these first-generation students to ensure they all get a shot at college.

In the U.S., college consulting is booming. Tutoring for the SAT or ACT can cost up to $1,000. One-on-one coaching can range from $50 to $100 an hour.

For students seeking the Ivy League, Lakhani Coaching in New York says its average customer spends $58,000 — and 20% of its clients invest more than $100,000 — on college coaching services.

First-generation, low-income students like myself struggle just to pay the costs of submitting college applications — if fee waivers aren't available.

In my case, had it not been for USC's Bovard Scholars program, I wouldn't be attending Stanford University. Bovard is a selective program where high-achieving students receive free support in test preparation and in applications to top universities.

Again, most first-generation, low-income students don't have access to that support.

There are a lot of us in California, where Black and Latino families make up 44% of all households but 55% of the poorest families and 12% of the richest. By contrast, White and Asian families make up 52% of all households, 40% of the poorest and 83% of the richest.

When looking at who goes to college soon after high school, 85% of Asian students are enrolled, as are 68% of white students. But only 55% each of Black and Latino students enroll within a year of graduating and enrollment is lowest among all low-income students, at 54%.

The numbers show Cal State schools have higher acceptance rates and are highly attended by Black and Latino students. On the other hand, UC schools tend to have lower acceptance rates and more often enroll Asian American and white students. Similarly, Stanford University is the 21st most attended school among Black students and 39th among Latino students.

Cal State schools promote economic mobility, while the UCs and other elite universities open doors to powerful places in society, said Anthony Lising Antonio, a Stanford professor who specializes in higher education equity. He was quoted in the San Francisco Chronicle.

California already offers some college-going support services to groups of disadvantaged students, such as the Educational Opportunity Program and the Early Academic Outreach Program, but these programs are not accessible to every student.

The state should establish a broad program that provides students with college support. Call it the Earl Warren program, honoring the Californian and Supreme Court Chief Justice who wrote the historic desegregation opinion in the Brown v. Board of Education case.

The new program could be open to all students and give them access to workshops, college-readiness counselors, test prep and support with writing and submitting college applications.

The program wouldn't fall under "DEI initiative" scrutiny by the Trump administration because it wouldn't target a particular ethnic or racial group, though it could focus on an income range, first-generation status or some other disadvantage.

Rather than federal dollars, the new effort would be funded with revenues from a state tax that could be levied on owners of secondary or part-time homes valued at $1 million or more.

It would be similar to Rhode Island's "Taylor Swift tax," which affects people who live most of each year elsewhere. This proposal would exempt full-time residents, while providing resources to help students thrive.

In a state where many people enjoy the benefits of California, non-resident homeowners should contribute to programs that make its communities strong.

Alondra Martinez is a senior at Stanford University studying political science and communications.





GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's solution for senior health care hides in plain sight

You've likely never heard of PACE, but for thousands of California seniors, it's the reason they're still living at home.

PACE stands for Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly, and it is an effective option to support older adults whose goal is to safely age in their own homes. As a physician focused on the field of geriatric medicine (a specialty focused on caring for older adults), I believe in the power of PACE. Unfortunately, it remains one of the most underutilized resources in our long-term care system. Although there are several reasons for this, there also exist several attainable solutions.

Each PACE program is community-based and provides wraparound medical and social services. The goal is simple but powerful: help seniors age with dignity and independence while remaining in their communities as long as possible and simultaneously reducing hospitalizations.

Its comprehensive services range from primary care, physical therapy, social work and dental, to transportation, meals, home care and day center activities.

Some might think PACE seems too good to be true, that it must be available only to those with ample resources. Well, good news! PACE is funded through Medicare and Medi-Cal, making it a feasible option for a wide range of people. Participants qualify for PACE enrollment if they are 55 or older, live within a PACE program's service area and need nursing-home-level care.

PACE sounds nice, but does it actually work? A 2021 study by CalPACE, the state's PACE advocacy association, found that PACE participants were hospitalized 44% less often than similar non-PACE individuals and had 26% less emergency room usage. Additionally, 98% of PACE participants continued to live in the community, and participants overall experienced lower rates of depression, better medication adherence, and higher satisfaction with care.

PACE isn't just the right thing to do for seniors; it's smart public policy. With Medi-Cal costs rising and nursing home capacity strained, PACE relieves stress on the elder care system and budget. For example, PACE enrollment saved California taxpayers $369.4 million in 2024 alone.

Why then are only about 10% of eligible older adults enrolled in PACE?

Unfortunately, PACE remains limited by geography, infrastructure and awareness. Thus far PACE serves less than half of California counties. And starting a PACE program requires significant upfront investment and navigating complex state and federal licensing processes.

Even where programs do exist, many eligible seniors, caregivers and healthcare providers don't know about them. To improve access and use, we should consider focusing state-level funding to help new PACE programs launch — especially in underserved areas — and on streamlining the approval process for PACE centers and investing in outreach to families, caregivers and healthcare professionals.

With nearly one in four Californians projected to be over age 60 by 2030, it's time to take action and invest in more effective and compassionate care models.

Models like PACE hold out hope for a future where every older adult can age with the support, grace and respect they deserve.

Janice Grandi is a primary care physician working in geriatrics



Photo by Lauren Justice for CalMatters

SENIOR CARE: A caregiver helps a client at her home in Orange County on June 7, 2023.

Get the local news that matters to you!

Sign up for The CURRENT

SMDP's free daily newsletter for all your Santa Monica news & events!

POWERED BY smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

INSIDE THE DAILY PRESS PODCAST

smdp.com/pod

ALSO AVAILABLE ON

YEAR IN REVIEW

FROM PAGE 1

Brentwood Man Sentenced to 2 Years in Federal Prison for Insider Trading — A Brentwood man, Shahriyar Bolandian, was sentenced to two years in federal prison for insider trading netting over $650,000. He used non-public information about corporate acquisitions to trade stocks illicitly. A co-defendant was sentenced to probation, and authorities emphasized that financial market manipulation will face severe consequences.

Wildfires burn out of control across Los Angeles — Wind-fueled wildfires killed at least five people and ravaged Los Angeles neighborhoods as overtaxed crews battled three major blazes. Up to 1,500 structures were destroyed from the Pacific Coast to Pasadena, forcing over 100,000 evacuations. Pasadena's Fire Chief said 200-500 structures were damaged by the Eaton Fire as hurricane-force winds carried embers for miles, overwhelming the stretched water system. The Pacific Palisades fire destroyed more than 1,000 structures—the most destructive in LA's modern history—leveling entire blocks. Multiple injuries occurred, including first responders.

President Joe Biden gives impromptu press conference at Santa Monica Airport — President Biden held a press conference at Santa Monica Airport to address the wildfires, joined by Governor Newsom. Biden pledged federal support, including military firefighting assets. The visit highlighted the coordination between state and federal agencies in responding to the devastating fires affecting the region.

As the Palisades Fire continues to burn, officials issue a warning to thieves — Authorities warned that thieves targeting evacuated wildfire zones would face arrest and prosecution. Santa Monica Police increased patrols and road closures to protect empty homes. Sheriff Luna emphasized that anyone found in evacuation zones without cause is subject to arrest to prevent looting and burglary.

The emotional cost of the Palisades Fire — The Palisades Fire caused incalculable emotional trauma as residents returned to destroyed neighborhoods. The scene in Palisades Village is described as apocalyptic, with landmarks and homes reduced to ash. Residents expressed shock and grief, facing the reality of losing irreplaceable possessions and their sense of security.

Ocean health under serious danger during, after Palisades Fire — The Palisades Fire poses long-term risks to ocean health due to toxic runoff and debris. Health officials issued water advisories, warning of contamination from ash and chemicals. Environmental groups emphasize that fire damage extends beyond land, threatening marine ecosystems and water quality for years.

Students return to Santa Monica campuses, Malibu schools remain shut — Many Santa Monica students returned to school following fire closures, except for Roosevelt Elementary which delayed opening by one day. Malibu schools remain closed due to safety concerns and cleaning needs. The district is providing mental health support and excusing absences for families keeping children home.

Evacuation Order Lifted for Santa Monica — As the Palisades Fire consumed 11,802 acres with zero containment, Santa Monica residents faced difficult evacuation decisions. Evacuation orders and warnings extended over the northern part of the city but all residents were concerned about staying or going. Evacuation orders were eventually lifted but impacts like boil water orders and air quality concerns remained far beyond the evacuations.



SMDP Photo

PROTEST: Santa Monica youth came out at several protests in 2025.

Over 40 arrests made in Santa Monica as crime rears its ugly head — Santa Monica Police arrested over 40 individuals in evacuation zones for violations including looting and weapons possession. Police Chief Batista emphasized a zero-tolerance policy for criminals exploiting the disaster. Authorities worked with the National Guard to secure neighborhoods and protect property.

Toxic ash left behind by recent wildfires are an issue moving forward — Experts warned that toxic ash from burned homes posed a significant health risk. The ash contained hazardous materials like lead and asbestos. Residents returning to their homes were urged to wear protective gear and avoid disturbing the debris to prevent inhaling dangerous particles.

As possibly criminal landlords double housing prices, officials warn of legal repercussions — Officials cracked down on landlords inflating rents for wildfire victims, citing price gouging laws. Reports of rent hikes sparked outrage and investigations. Authorities emphasize that taking advantage of displaced residents during a state of emergency is illegal and would be prosecuted.

Man shot to death after overnight argument — A man was shot and killed in Santa Monica following an overnight argument adding to the tension already high due to the recent wildfires.

Attorney General targets criminal price gougers — California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced a strike force to combat price gouging during the wildfire emergency. The task force investigated reports of inflated prices for essential goods and housing. Bonta warned that violators will face strict legal penalties for exploiting the disaster.

Smoke inhalation, starvation just the start for wildlife during Palisades Fire — Local wildlife faced severe threats from smoke inhalation and starvation following the Palisades Fire. Experts warned that habitat destruction will have long-lasting effects on local biodiversity. Conservationists monitored the situation and urged the public to be aware of displaced animals.

Show goes on at Morgan-Wixson to benefit firefighters, evacuees — The Morgan-Wixson Theatre continued its performances to raise funds for firefighters and evacuees. The cast and crew rallied to support relief efforts, demonstrating the arts community's resilience and commitment to helping others.

Malibu schools closed due to fire aim to open — Malibu schools faced fluctuating closures and power outages, frustrating parents and staff. The district said it aimed to reopen campuses as safety allows, navigating road closures and utility issues. Superintendent Shelton emphasized safety as the top priority while acknowledging the stress on families.

Lawsuit puts new spin on 'pickleball court' — A lawsuit was filed regarding ownership and control of the Santa Monica Pickleball Center. Plaintiffs allege that partners reneged on financial commitments and interfered with operations. The case was eventually settled and the courts opened in the formerly vacant parking lot.

California leaders working overtime — State Senator Ben Allen hosted a town hall to discuss government recovery efforts for fire victims. Topics included unemployment assistance and insurance claims. Officials emphasized the importance of verifying contractor licenses to avoid scams and utilizing available state and federal resources.

Local disabled swimmer breaks Paralympic barriers — Tessa Nagy, an intellectually disabled swimmer from Santa Monica, won medals in the U.S. Paralympics Swimming National Championships. Her family advocates for inclusion in athletics. Nagy aims to compete in the 2028 Paralympic Games in Los Angeles.

Hotels offer shelter to Palisades Fire victims — Santa Monica hotels offered discounted rates and shelter to wildfire evacuees. The hospitality industry mobilized quickly to provide safe haven for those displaced. Tourism officials highlighted the community spirit as businesses stepped up to support neighbors in need.

SMC film, journalism students boosted by Golden Globe grant — The Golden Globe Foundation awarded grants to Santa Monica College's film and journalism programs. The funding supported student scholarships and film production projects. Faculty praised the support for helping students gain practical experience and financial relief.

Fire Chief Matthew Hallock talks courage, calamity and just how close Santa Monica came to burning — Santa Monica Fire Chief Matthew Hallock detailed how close the city came to devastation during the Palisades Fire. Santa Monica Fire Chief Matthew Hallock said his department had prepared for the red flag warning by increasing staff, which proved crucial when fires erupted. Firefighters from across the country worked 36-hour shifts battling the blazes, with Chief Hallock noting the winds were unlike anything he had witnessed in his career. Santa Monica came dangerously close to destruction, with crews prepared to make their stand at San Vicente Boulevard. The chief expressed concern about long-term health effects from toxic smoke exposure and praised the community's overwhelming support and donations for affected residents.

Cancer risks possible in the air, water post-fire — Pacific Palisades residents returning after the fire faced water and air contamination risks. Wildfires melted plastics, releasing volatile organic compounds including benzene into water systems, posing long-term cancer risks. However, UCLA oncologist Dr. Fola May noted short-term air pollution exposure shouldn't cause immediate concern, unlike chronic exposure. Firefighters faced greater risks from prolonged exposure, prompting a study of 50 Cal Fire personnel wearing monitoring devices to develop future safety protocols. Meanwhile, the American Cancer Society reported U.S. cancer mortality dropped 34% from 1991-2022, averting 4.5 million deaths, primarily through reduced smoking, improved treatments, and earlier detection.

SEE **JANUARY** PAGE 7

JANUARY

FROM PAGE 6

Sampa's Pizza opens new outlet — Brazilian-themed pizza chain Sampa's Pizza opened a new location in Santa Monica. The restaurant took over the former Dagwoods space on Wilshire Blvd. Owner Gustavo Siqueira said he was excited to bring his unique pizza offerings to the local community.

Pre-fire rent report shows robust year-over-year declines — A report indicated that Santa Monica rents saw significant year-over-year declines in 2024, outpacing national trends. This drop provided some relief to renters prior to the current crisis. However, the fire's impact on housing supply reversed this trend.

SMC hosting fire relief distribution event after thousands volunteer to help — Santa Monica College hosted a large-scale relief distribution event for wildfire victims, supported by thousands of volunteers. The college provided clothing, food, and other essentials to those displaced. SMC Foundation President Lizzy Moore praised the community's overwhelming response and generosity in helping neighbors in need. The event was one of several that demonstrated the ways local organizations worked to to raise funds for fire relief.

Holocaust survivor shares tales of resilience with Samohi — Holocaust survivor Eva Perlman spoke to Samohi students, sharing her story of survival in France during WWII. She highlighted the bravery of those who helped her family and emphasized resilience. Students were moved by her firsthand account of history and her message of hope.

School district works to help students and staff who lost their homes — SMMUSD announced support for students and staff members who lost homes in the Palisades Fire. The district provided counseling, technology, and enrollment assistance for displaced students. Superintendent Shelton expressed the district's commitment to aiding those whose lives have been upended by the tragedy.

LA County Fire Captain reunited with resident he rescued during recent fire — LA County Fire Captain Malcolm Dicks was reunited Friday with Patty Phillips, the Malibu resident he rescued from the Palisades Fire on January 7. Phillips became trapped on a dirt path off Big Rock Road while evacuating with her dog, Koda, surrounded by flames. After 911 couldn't help and other responders deemed it too dangerous, Dicks drove through fire and past downed power lines to save her. Phillips read an emotional letter thanking Dicks for risking his life.

Acclaimed Asian restaurant Cassia closed — Acclaimed Santa Monica restaurant Cassia announced its closure after nearly a decade. The owners cited the challenging business climate. The closure marked the end of a popular dining spot known for its unique blend of Southeast Asian and French cuisine. Bar Monette and Burgette also closed after brief operations in the City while Earth Wind and Flour capped decades of service with its closure. Trendy Holy Basil announced it was planning to open in town.

SMC unveils new master plan — Santa Monica College unveiled a new master plan involving the demolition and replacement of several buildings on its main campus. The project aimed to modernize facilities to better serve students. This ambitious redevelopment reflected the college's long-term vision for growth and sustainability.

Governor suspends Coastal Commission rules to facilitate wildfire rebuilding — Governor Newsom suspended some Coastal Commission rules to expedite rebuilding for fire victims. The order waives certain permitting requirements to allow faster reconstruction of homes. This move aimed to remove bureaucratic hurdles for displaced residents seeking to rebuild their lives on the coast.

Santa Monica prepares for SMMUSD influx — SMMUSD processed enrollment requests for students displaced by the wildfires. The district said it was expediting approvals to ensure children have educational stability. Officials worked to accommodate these new students while managing the needs of existing ones affected by the disaster.

Price gouging charges — A second real estate agent faced charges for price gouging fire evacuees. The agent allegedly attempted to rent a home at a 50% markup. Authorities warned that exploiting disaster victims would be prosecuted, as state law caps price increases during emergencies.

The environmental damage following the Palisades Fire could be disastrous — The Palisades Fire caused severe environmental damage, with toxic debris posing risks to soil and water. Officials said the burning of modern homes releases hazardous chemicals beyond those of a traditional wildfire. They said cleanup efforts must be handled carefully to prevent further contamination of the ecosystem and potential health risks to

SEE **YEAR** PAGE 8

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
(BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)
YOUR CHOICE
If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge
DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!
WE OFFER UNIQUE SERVICES
*Nitrous Oxide available
*No interest payment plans
*Emergencies can be seen today
*Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$20 EXAM INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
OR
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$99 EXAM AND CLEANING
For New Patients
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
AND OF COURSE WE DO
• Invisalign • Periodontist on Staff • Oral Surgeon on Staff
• Cosmetics and Implants • Zoom bleaching • and more
SANTA MONICA FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. ALAN RUBENSTEIN
1260 15th ST. SUITE #703
(310) 393.8284
WILSHIRE BLVD. 15TH ST. 14TH ST. ARIZONA AVE.
WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM

Helping families honor, remember, and celebrate life
City of Santa Monica
WOODLAWN
Cemetery ▪ Mausoleum ▪ Mortuary
1847 14th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404
(310) 458-8717 (on-call - 24/7)
www.woodlawnsm.com
FD # 2101
CEMETERY & FULL SERVICE FUNERAL HOME
• Traditional Burial • Green Burial • Cremation • Pre-Need Planning

Builder's Supply
Since 1947, your local source for a complete selection of Plumbing Supplies, Hardware Supplies and Building Materials.
Bourget Bros. Building Materials
1636 - 11th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404 • (310) 450-6556
bourgetbros.com

YEAR

FROM PAGE 7

residents.

Army says fire damaged neighborhoods could be cleared in under a year — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that clearing fire debris could take less than a year. The cleanup would occur in two phases: hazardous waste removal by the EPA, followed by general debris clearing. Officials urged residents to sign right-of-entry forms to expedite the process.

City Council to discuss emergency ordinances and political rules — Santa Monica City Council discussed extending emergency ordinances related to the fires and new rules on political conduct. Proposals include limiting the use of the city seal in campaigns.. The Council also proclaimed February as Black History Month, honoring African Americans in labor. Events include film screenings and art unveilings. The city emphasized the contributions of Black residents to the community's history and development.

Weeks after fire ravaged LA's Pacific Palisades, residents return to dig for mementos — Los Angeles residents returned to wildfire-ravaged Pacific Palisades for the first time to search through destroyed homes, finding cherished keepsakes among the ash. Officials distributed permits allowing residents into the burn zone before nightfall curfew. The Palisades Fire, which ignited January 7, destroyed over 6,800 structures and killed at least 12 people. Firefighters neared full containment of both the Palisades and Eaton fires after the season's first significant storm. The EPA designated federal parkland as temporary hazardous waste storage, drawing concerns from officials like Supervisor Hilda Solis about potential contamination. Governor Newsom announced recovery initiatives with business leaders to support rebuilding efforts.

Airport housing debate reaches council — The Santa Monica City Council approved five guiding principles for transforming the 192-acre airport site after its mandated closure on December 31, 2028. The principles—developed through nine months of community engagement with Sasaki Associates—focus on environmental sustainability, community connection, economic self-sufficiency, versatility, and historical preservation. Over 1,000 emails and 141 public speakers, mostly park advocates, addressed the council. Some councilmembers pushed for housing to be considered among development scenarios to help meet state-mandated affordable housing quotas. Councilmember Jesse Zwick questioned the validity of self-selected public input data. The city plans to identify a preferred development scenario by December 2025, with any project requiring environmental review and possible remediation of industrial contamination.

Beach safety questions cleared the normally popular coastal zones — Confusion over beach access followed the Palisades Fire as mixed messages and inaccurate headlines circulated. Santa Monica beaches remained open for sand access, but health officials issued a water quality advisory discouraging swimming due to toxic fire debris runoff. Waters from Las Flores State Beach to Santa Monica State Beach were off-limits to swimmers. Earlier closure orders affecting eastern Malibu to Santa Monica beaches had been conflated with rain advisories, creating false reports of beach closures. Mayor Lana Negrete emphasized Santa Monica remained open for business, urging support for local establishments. Debris including lumber washed as far as Redondo Beach.

Dine LA — Dine LA returns with a charitable focus, donating proceeds to wildfire relief. Restaurants across Los Angeles, including 39 in Santa Monica, are participating. The event encourages dining out to support local businesses while aiding recovery efforts.

Flawed emergency alert systems lagged — During the deadly LA wildfires beginning January 7, emergency alert systems failed many residents, with evacuation orders arriving hours after fires started or not at all. In Altadena's Eaton Fire, where 17 people died, western neighborhoods received no warnings despite house fires being reported, with alerts only expanding at 3:30 a.m. Some residents like Susan Lee Streets received no notifications and fled on their own, losing everything. Resources were stretched thin during critical midnight hours as hurricane-force winds grounded air support. LA County officials approved an outside review of alert system failures, echoing similar problems in previous California wildfires including Paradise and Woolsey fires.



SMDP Photo

SOCCER: .The Samohi squad had a great season this year.

FEBRUARY

School board stumped by low grades and high test scores — SMMUSD officials expressed concern regarding over 800 secondary students receiving D or F grades in math during the fall semester, despite improved standardized test scores. Board members were confused by the disparity between classroom grades and testing benchmarks, prompting discussions on grading equity and consistency across the district.

Trump administration rollout leaves school officials disappointed — SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton reaffirmed the district's commitment to being a safe zone for all students following Trump executive orders targeting diversity education and prioritizing school choice. The district plans to adopt a new resolution supporting immigrant students and ensuring no enrollment barriers exist.

State social media bill receives expected legal challenge — A federal court granted a stay halting SB 976, California's law banning "addictive feeds" for minors without parental consent. NetChoice, an advocacy group, challenged the bill on First Amendment grounds, delaying its implementation. The bill aimed to curb algorithmic feeds associated with addiction and mental health harm in children.

Olympic High School students get a jump on college — Santa Monica College launched a dual enrollment program at Olympic High School, offering courses like photography and counseling. The initiative allows high school students to earn college credits and explore career paths while still attending their regular classes, aiming to support student well-being and academic communication.

Residents of Topanga Canyon protest against PCH toxic debris removal site — Approximately 30 protesters gathered at Topanga Beach to oppose the EPA's decision to place a toxic debris sorting site from the Palisades Fire at the former Topanga Ranch Motel location near Topanga Creek. The facility, set to operate 24/7 for up to three months, raised concerns about contamination leaking into the creek and ocean. Residents objected to processing Los Angeles debris at the site, noting the EPA's preferred Will Rogers Beach location had been denied. EPA's Rusty Harris-Bishop explained precautions included gravel pads and sealed containers, acknowledging residents felt excluded from decision-making. The site, part of Topanga State Park, was previously designated for lagoon restoration.

Fire, flood risks remain high in CA compared to other states — A new study by DJC Law ranked California second nationwide for natural disaster likelihood, trailing only Texas. The state led in future wildfire probability at 13.89%, having experienced 101,760 fires from 2010-2022—over 10,000 more than Texas. California tied for sixth in flood probability at 3.65%, following the devastating 2022-2023 atmospheric river season that caused 22 fatalities and 6,000 evacuations. The state ranked 20th for tornado probability at 0.58%. The California Legislative Analyst's Office attributed wildfire risk to seasonal rainfall, vegetation types, weather patterns, and increased development in fire-prone areas. Heavy rain was forecast for Los Angeles Wednesday, raising mudslide concerns in burn scar areas.

Teacher arrested for relationship with student — Santa Monica Police arrested Ingo Horst Gaida, 58, of Los Angeles, for an inappropriate relationship with a 16-year-old female Santa Monica High School student. Following an investigation, detectives determined the science teacher and student had been engaged in inappropriate activities since late 2024 at multiple locations throughout Los Angeles County. On February 5, SMPD detectives served arrest and search warrants, taking Gaida into custody on misdemeanor charges of annoying or molesting a child under 18 and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He was released with a citation and promise to appear. Gaida had no prior criminal history. The case was filed with the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office.

Businesses physically unharmed by Palisades fire are getting burned by ongoing economic troubles — Santa Monica businesses experienced severe economic impacts from the Palisades Fire despite the city avoiding physical damage. Several restaurants closed, with many reporting sales comparable to early COVID-19 levels. Beach businesses were hardest hit due to environmental fears but Montana Avenue merchants lost their entire Palisades customer base. The city waived February outdoor dining fees, costing $80,000 in municipal revenue. Loans and support were offered to some businesses and a few did relocate into Santa Monica.

New legislation from Sacramento looks to curb drunk driving — Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris introduced AB 366, requiring all first-time DUI offenders in California to install ignition interlock devices. The bill aims to reduce impaired driving deaths by preventing vehicles from starting if alcohol is detected on the driver's breath, closing a loophole in current expiration policies.

10-year-old Palisades girl keeps karate dream alive despite destruction of her dojo — Ten-year-old Eden Savoian won two bronze medals at the International Martial Arts Competition in Las Vegas on February 1, despite losing her Pacific Palisades home and dojo in the recent fires. The green belt, who had trained for only 18 months at Gerry Blanck's Martial Arts Center, continued practicing at MuDo Integrated Martial Art in Santa Monica after both locations burned. Eden lost her medals, belts, and specialized equipment in the fire. Sensei Blanck provided her a new uniform, belt, and nunchucks for the competition. Over 180 other competitors had also lost homes. The tournament organizers replaced Eden's first medal lost in the fire.

PCH closed again due to fears of landslides — The Pacific Coast Highway closed over due to safety concerns ahead of predicted heavy rainfall. Caltrans and Los Angeles County Public Works closed the stretch from Chautauqua Boulevard to Carbon Beach Terrace after observing slide activity near Big Rock Drive and slippage below Porto Marina Way. Debris basins reached 80% capacity and required clearing before storms. The closure was restricted to essential workers only, though Palisades residents could access homes via Chautauqua Boulevard. Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District staff faced multi-hour commutes approaching Malibu from the north.

Affordable housing project at 14th, Wilshire receives ARB approval — The Santa Monica Architectural Review Board recommended approval February 3 for a 100% affordable housing project at 1217 14th Street. The Hollywood Community Housing Corporation proposal included 82 units—40 for permanent supportive housing and 40 for affordable senior housing aged 55-plus—plus two units for on-site staff. The six-story building would have subterranean parking for 42 vehicles. The ARB approved the design

SEE **FEBRUARY** PAGE 9

FEBRUARY

FROM PAGE 8

with one condition requiring additional upper-floor landscaping. Some residents criticized removal of an existing parking lot, while others supported the project as crucial amid the post-Palisades Fire housing crisis. City Council had authorized negotiating a development agreement with HCHC in December.

Waymo introduces transit credit program for trips to Big Blue Bus stops — Autonomous rideshare company Waymo launched a pilot program offering credits to riders connecting to public transit stops en route to LAX. The initiative encourages multimodal transportation by incentivizing trips to Big Blue Bus stations, aiming to reduce traffic and emissions while integrating autonomous vehicles with public transit.

Learning loss still top concern for Malibu families — Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District offered makeup instructional options for Malibu students who missed nearly all of January due to the Palisades Fire. Despite Governor Gavin Newsom's executive order waiving minimum instructional requirements, SMMUSD proposed online one-on-one tutoring (three hours weekly for six weeks starting February 17) or summer school (19 days from June 23-July 18). A parent survey of 160 responses showed 64.4% preferred tutoring, 25% chose summer school, and 10.6% needed no support. Webster Elementary School students all required makeup instruction after missing time from both the Palisades and Franklin fires. The district enrolled 128 displaced students from 322 requests.

Home of city's first Black physician now historical landmark — The Santa Monica Landmarks Commission designated the Tucker House at 1958 20th Street as a city landmark Monday. Nominated by the Santa Monica Conservancy and Quinn Research Center, the home belonged to Dr. Marcus O. Tucker, Santa Monica's first Black physician who practiced from 1931 until his death in 1944. The house, designed by distinguished architect Paul Revere Williams, met three landmark criteria for cultural, social and architectural significance. Tucker's wife Essie became a successful realtor, owning the Shore Hotel from 1956-1986. Their son Marcus Jr. served as Santa Monica's first Black deputy city attorney from 1963-1965. The designation received unanimous support from residents and community organizations.

Din Tai Fung opening — Din Tai Fung scheduled its Santa Monica Place opening for late February, with reservations available for a soft opening February 20-27. The acclaimed Chinese restaurant chain announced it would donate 100% of profits from soft opening and grand opening weeks to wildfire-affected local restaurants. The 10,615-square-foot location featured indoor and outdoor seating on the mall's third level with Pacific Ocean views. The Taiwan-based company operated seven Southern California restaurants among roughly 175 locations worldwide, earning Michelin stars for its signature xiao long bao soup dumplings. The opening provided a bright spot for Santa Monica Place, whose value had plunged 59% since 2017 amid tenant departures and mortgage default.

McKinley collaboration provides example of positive Prop 28 usage — McKinley Elementary School utilized Prop 28 arts funding to partner with ReDiscover Center for hands-on "PBL Workshop" classes. The funding also supported music education, theatre arts, and dance instruction across various SMMUSD grade levels, providing new equipment and professional experts to enhance student creativity.

PCH closures make more impacts on Malibu school commutes — SMMUSD officials addressed ongoing challenges for Malibu students and staff due to Pacific Coast Highway closures and power outages. The district explored solutions like generators and satellite internet while managing transportation difficulties caused by the Palisades Fire, emphasizing the need for reliable access to campuses.



SMDP Photo

BASEBALL: A little coastal fog didn't dampen spirits for opening day.

Samohi, Saint Monica soccer still alive in playoff brackets — Local high school soccer teams, including Samohi and Saint Monica, advanced in the CIF Southern Section playoffs. Samohi boys' soccer defeated Crossroads, while Saint Monica's Mariners continued a strong defensive streak to reach the divisional championship, shutting out multiple opponents along the way.

School board looks at Dashboard findings, preps for busy meeting — SMMUSD staff presented the 2024 California School Dashboard results, highlighting positive indicators in testing and graduation rates. However, progress for English Learners declined slightly, though the district remains above the state average. The board also reviewed plans to expand middle school sports programs.

Past, present, future of forestry examined by local museum — The Santa Monica History Museum's new exhibit, "Roots & Branches," explored the city's environmental history from a tree's perspective. It covered Indigenous history, urban forestry policies, and the impact of redlining on tree canopy density, while highlighting future plans for sustainable tree species in the city.

School bond dollars put to work with first Measure QS issuance — The SMMUSD Board approved the first $200 million issuance of Measure QS bonds. Funds were allocated for major facility improvements, including a new STEM building at John Adams Middle School and library updates at Roosevelt Elementary, alongside modernization projects at Lincoln Middle School.

Samohi students take fury to City Hall for fiery Trump protest — Over 50 Samohi students walked out of class to protest Trump administration policies targeting LGBTQ+ rights and immigrants. The demonstration at City Hall was part of a coordinated effort with other local schools to advocate for inclusivity and protest threats to diversity education funding. Superintendent Antonio Shelton and union leaders commended students for their civic engagement during the walkout. District officials reinforced their commitment to maintaining safe, inclusive schools despite federal threats regarding diversity initiatives, promising to continue teaching accurate history and supporting student advocacy.

Pacific Coast Highway reopens a month after Palisades Fire forced its closure — Caltrans reopened PCH through Santa Monica and Malibu following closures caused by the Palisades Fire. Motorists were advised to expect delays due to lane restrictions and safety controls remaining in place for repair crews, despite confusion over conflicting statements from local officials regarding the timeline.

Looting legislation passed — Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel introduced AB 469 to make looting during a state of emergency a felony. The bill responded to thefts in fire evacuation zones, aiming to deter criminals who target vulnerable communities during disasters by increasing penalties and closing legal loopholes.

With Valentine's Day on the horizon, Most Loved voting opens for your favorite businesses — Santa Monica's annual "Most Loved" contest began, allowing residents to vote for favorite local businesses. The 12th annual event features new QR code voting tools to help businesses garner support and highlighted the importance of local enterprise to the community.

Local rotary groups pivot to fire relief fundraising — The Marina del Rey Rotary Club, established in July, launched wildfire relief efforts two days after the Palisades Fire began. Its January donation drive with Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club drew nearly 1,000 volunteer donors. The club's Heart of the Harbor initiative transported nearly 500,000 pounds of supplies to distribution points including Boys & Girls Clubs and churches. Corporate partner Niagara Water donated 80,000 pounds of water. The Rotary Club of Santa Monica's 17th annual wine festival was set to benefit its Fire Relief Fund, which had already purchased $25,000 in supplies. The club raised $100,000 toward a $200,000 goal for local relief organizations.

Samohi orchestras to take Walt Disney Concert Hall stage — Santa Monica High School's Symphony and Chamber Orchestras were scheduled to perform at Walt Disney Concert Hall as part of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association's Mahlerthon event. The daylong celebration of composer Gustav Mahler's music included Youth Orchestra Los Angeles, Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles, UCLA Philharmonia, USC Thornton Symphony and Colburn Orchestra. The orchestras planned to perform movements from Mahler's Fourth Symphony and Totenfeier. SMMUSD Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator Tom Whaley facilitated talks with the LA Phil about Samohi's inclusion after the orchestra program had previously impressed during a prior performance at the venue.

After fire delay, April date set for Malibu unification petition vote — The Malibu-Santa Monica school district unification process faced another delay when the Los Angeles County Office of Education postponed its January review due to the Palisades Fire. LACOE's Committee on School District Organization rescheduled final discussion and voting to April. The committee had been reviewing Malibu's feasibility study as part of its 2017 petition to split SMMUSD. Attorney Christine Wood, representing Malibu, emphasized residents' urgency for the split, particularly for rebuilding efforts. LACOE's Dr. Allison Deegan noted that even with committee approval, the petition would face years before reaching the State Board of

SEE **REVIEW** PAGE 9

REVIEW

FROM PAGE 9

Education.

Why store fire waste at Topanga and Will Rogers? — EPA Deputy Incident Commander Steve Calanog addressed concerns about using Will Rogers State Beach and Topanga State Park for Palisades Fire debris storage. He explained hazardous materials were sorted on-site, containerized, then transported to central locations where waste was consolidated for disposal across the Western United States. Direct transport would require thousands of trucks and astronomical costs. President Trump ordered bulk debris removal completed by February 25. The EPA installed barriers and containment systems on lined pads to prevent contamination, with continuous air and soil monitoring. Calanog said similar procedures from past fires, including Woolsey, produced no lasting contamination. Storage sites would remain operational for weeks to months after Phase 1 cleanup ended.

New plans call for an 18-story building high-rise at 1437 6th Street — Madison Realty Capital proposed an 18-story mixed-use development at 1437 6th Street. The project utilizes density bonuses to include 173 residential units, with 26 designated as affordable housing, replacing a former Builder's Remedy proposal.

1 **dead and 1 hospitalized after stabbing near the Fairmont Hotel** — A fatal stabbing occurred outside The Bungalow at the Fairmont Hotel, leaving one man dead and another injured. Police said it was an isolated incident and there was no danger to the public. Alfredo Quintero, Ricardo Quintero and Rogelio Arenas were arrested for the assault.

Suspect in January 15 Broadway homicide is now in custody — Police arrested Fabian Mendez for the fatal shooting of a homeless man on Broadway in January. The suspect allegedly chased the victim into the street following an argument before shooting him in the back, then fled the scene.

City Manager David White given traditional Santa Monica City send off — The City Council honored outgoing City Manager David White with a commendation and a replica road sign. White was recognized for his leadership and integrity during his tenure before Elaine Polachek took over as interim manager.

US Army Corps of Engineers begin Phase 2 of the debris removal process in Pacific Palisades — Officials launched the second phase of debris removal in Pacific Palisades following the wildfires. The Army Corps of Engineers and EPA were coordinating efforts to clear hazardous materials and stabilize soil ahead of rain, utilizing pre-negotiated contracts to expedite the cleanup.

Wildfire debris build up on our beaches could potentially equate to an ecological disaster — Significant wildfire ash and debris have washed up on Santa Monica beaches, raising health concerns. Heal the Bay issued advisories, and officials tested materials for toxins like asbestos while warning residents to avoid the ash until safety can be confirmed.

Fred Fitness, the futuristic gym that offers 'AI-powered' personalized workouts, officially opens on 4th Street — A new gym, Fred Fitness, opened on 4th Street, featuring AI-powered personalized workouts. The facility aims to modernize the fitness experience through technology that adapts training regimens to individual users, celebrated with a ribbon-cutting by the Chamber of Commerce.

JAMS turns the page with learning hub modernization — John Adams Middle School celebrated its modernized library Wednesday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Funded by Measure SMS bonds and designed by Berliner Architects, the space featured flexible learning areas, collaboration rooms, upgraded technology, and an outdoor reading deck. Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton emphasized reading as foundational to learning. Chief Operations Officer Carey Upton announced upcoming projects including restroom improvements and a new STEM building planned for two-year construction beginning summer 2025.

Community Corporation celebrates Santa Monica's first modular affordable housing development — The Berkeley Station project, a 13-unit affordable housing development, was assembled using modular construction. This innovative building method aims to reduce costs and construction time for housing low-income families and at-risk youth, marking a first for the city.

Ursula's Costumes closes — Ursula Boschet, owner of legendary costume store Ursula's Costumes at 2516 Wilshire Boulevard, died of pancreatic cancer at 91. The store, which operated for over 50 years serving Hollywood productions and stars, closed permanently after a year of fiscal distress. Born in Stuttgart, Germany, Boschet emigrated to Los Angeles in 1962 and started her costume business after working at Disney. She was survived by two children, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

IKEA opens eagerly-awaited Santa Monica 'pick-up point' — IKEA opened a new "pick-up point" on Wilshire Blvd to serve Santa Monica customers. The smaller format store allows locals to collect online orders and access planning services without driving to larger warehouse locations, aiming to improve accessibility for the Westside.

Palisades High School moves to Santa Monica's Sears Building — Palisades Charter High School planned to temporarily relocate to the vacant Sears building at 302 Colorado Boulevard in Downtown Santa Monica following fire damage. The school planned to use temporary bungalows on its baseball field to eventually return students to the main campus in January 2026.

H&H Bagels opening — Famous New York brand H&H Bagels opened its first West Coast location on Montana Avenue. The shop aims to bring authentic New York-style bagels to the Westside, filling a gap in the local deli culture, with opening week profits donated to wildfire recovery.

Exclusive look at the Shore Hotel's newly renovated bar and restaurant — The Shore Hotel unveiled renovations including a redesigned bar and expanded outdoor dining. The updates aim to create a more lively street-side atmosphere while offering a sustainable, locally sourced menu to guests and locals alike.

EPA explainer: Why store fire waste at Topanga and Will Rogers? — The EPA explained its use of local beaches for temporary fire debris storage, citing safety protocols. Hazardous waste is sorted and containerized on-site before transport to these staging areas, with assurances of no long-term contamination to the sites used.

SEE **MARCH** PAGE 11



MARCH

FROM PAGE 10

MARCH

ZJ Boarding House Closes — Iconic surf shop ZJ Boarding House closed after 37 years as its parent company, Liberated Brands, files for bankruptcy. The store, a Main Street staple, liquidated inventory alongside 120 other locations nationwide. Former owners expressed pride in the community hub they built, while staff face layoffs.

Council Relaxes Gift Rules — The City Council voted 5-2 to research loosening the gift ordinance, allowing officials to attend community events in an official capacity. Proponents argued current strict rules hinder representation, while opponents warned against eroding ethical boundaries and "bright line" rules regarding gifts from lobbyists.

Transportation department moves in sustainability — Santa Monica's Department of Transportation released its 2023-24 annual report showing 11% Big Blue Bus ridership growth to 8.6 million riders. The department expanded its electric bus fleet to 19 vehicles, reducing greenhouse emissions by 22,000 pounds. Infrastructure improvements included 3.8 miles of new bike lanes, 39 curb extensions, 222 refreshed crosswalks, and 37 new parking structure security cameras. A $22.9 million state grant supported the zero-emission fleet goal for 2030.

Cratering customer levels and ballooning legal costs blast a $33 million hole in the city budget — Santa Monica faced a structural deficit requiring $33.2 million from General Fund reserves over five years despite new taxes. The city grappled with legal liabilities from the Eric Uller settlement and voting rights case, declining tourism, corporate exodus reducing daytime population to 60% of pre-pandemic levels, and wildfire impacts. Councilmembers discussed drastic measures, including selling the Fairview Branch Library but agreed on a biennial budget strategy focused on fiscal discipline and leveraging Measure K revenues for public safety.

Google Store Opens — Google opened its sixth physical retail location on the Third Street Promenade. Housed in the historic Keller Building, the 7,100-square-foot store features a minimalist design and offers tech products and repairs. It joins Apple as a key tech retailer anchoring the downtown district.

Electric Aircraft Test — An all-electric Alia CX300 aircraft landed at Santa Monica Airport during a cross-country test of charging infrastructure. The quiet, zero-emission plane demonstrates the potential for electric aviation in logistics and medical transport, highlighting the importance of preserving local airports for future technology.

Army Corps clears half of deferred properties — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed hazardous materials removal at 2,269 of 4,499 Palisades Fire properties deferred by the EPA, marking half the challenging sites requiring specialized equipment. Governor Gavin Newsom deployed over 400 emergency personnel across seven counties ahead of storms forecast to bring heavy rain to burn-scarred areas, raising debris flow and flooding concerns through Friday.

Rainstorms highlight need to clear burned properties — Los Angeles County officials urged wildfire survivors to decide on debris removal options before the March 31 deadline. Over 4,000 rights-of-entry were validated for Phase Two removal, with 242 parcels cleared. The Army Corps worked on 629 parcels. Officials announced evacuation orders for burn areas ahead of storms forecast to bring 1-2 inches of rain, raising debris flow concerns.

Hate Crime Diversion — A judge granted mental health diversion to a man who brutally beat a homeless victim with a pipe in a racially motivated attack. The prosecutor called it the "worst decision in 30 years" but if the defendant completed a two-year program, charges for the attack that left the victim permanently disabled would be dismissed. Christian Hornburg, the victim of the attack, expressed devastation that his attacker was granted diversion instead of prison time. Hornburg, who now requires full-time care, criticized the system for prioritizing the attacker's rehabilitation over justice for the victim of an attempted murder.

Samohi PE Requirements — SMMUSD revised its Independent Study for Physical Education program, increasing required weekly hours from 3.3 to 5 for middle school and 7.5 for high school students. Director Dr. Ashley Benjamin said California Department of Education auditors found the current program non-compliant with state standards.

Santa Monica surfers unite to offer wildfire victims support and supplies — Venice and Santa Monica surf associations created the Santa Monica Helping Hub at 1207 14th Street following the Palisades Fire. President Stephanie Inouye secured the donated space, which served first responders and fire victims with supplies and donations. Hundreds of volunteers contributed, with many displaced residents volunteering despite their losses. The hub initially operated seven days weekly before transitioning to appointment-only weekend operations.

Zbur introduces new legislation to protect pets during a disaster — Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur introduced the FOUND Act, requiring local governments to implement pet rescue procedures during disasters and establish animal reunification systems. The legislation, AB 478, was inspired by Oreo, a Pomeranian who survived five days in Palisades Fire rubble. The bill extended rescued pet holding periods from 72 hours to 90 days and mandated online resources for pet evacuation assistance, addressing coordination gaps highlighted by recent wildfires.

Council advances tenant protections and homelessness strategic plan initiatives — City Council approved several housing and homelessness measures. Council extended the homelessness emergency proclamation and scheduled SaMo Bridge diversion program launch for April at Pico Boulevard and Main Street.

Ultimate Performance Gym opens — Global fitness brand Ultimate Performance opened a "next generation" gym in Santa Monica. Targeting high-net-worth clients with busy schedules, the facility offers data-driven, one-on-one training and nutrition counseling. The company plans further expansion in Los Angeles to meet demand for personalized fitness.

Pavilions Motel Closed — The City revoked the business license of the Pavilions Motel due to persistent nuisance and drug activity. The property was ordered to close for one year after owners failed to meet improvement mandates. A separate civil lawsuit seeks further penalties and security requirements.

SMMUSD Bond Projects — The School Board reviewed construction progress funded by Measures ES and SMS. Key updates included the completion of the John Adams Middle School library and Samohi's

SEE **2025** PAGE 15



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-improv-comedy-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

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://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/santa-monica-farmers-market-virginia-avenue-park-pico-boulevard/12382447/2025-12-27T08

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://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/dadtime/17327106/2025-12-27T09

BEGINNER REFORMER PILATES AT GOOD BODY PILATES STUDIO
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Good Body Pilates Studio 3229 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica Good Body Pilates Studio Santa Monica. Start your Saturday feeling strong, centered, and energized with our Beginner Reformer Pilates Class at Good Body Pilates Studio, taught by expert instructor Kylie. This group class is perfect for those new to Pilates or anyone looking to reconnect with the fundamentals in a welcoming and supportive environment. No experience necessary! Located in the heart of Santa Monica on Pico Boulevard, right across from Trader Joe's, our boutique studio is surrounded by great local coffee shops and restaurants, making it the perfect place to kick off your weekend. Plenty of metered parking available on Pico Blvd, and both metered and free street parking available on Urban Ave.

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 28

SANTA MONICA AIRPORT ANTIQUE MARKET
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Santa Monica Airport 2800-3200 Airport Ave Santa Monica. Noted as One of the Top Ten "Flea Markets' in America, visit the Santa Monica Airport Antique Market, a fun outdoor (and dog-friendly!) marketfull of many great dealers with furniture, antiques, collectibles, art, vintage clothes, jewelry, rugs and much more. A destination for decorators, designers, boutique owners, families with their friendly dogs and collectors of all ages.Shop for ancient to antique, Victorian to Mid-Century, from vintage to the eccentric. Our dealers bring; shabby chic, architectural salvage and industrial furniture, paintings from listed European and American artists, original vintage prints, posters and lithographs, estate jewelry, vintage to couture fashion, books, candelabras, outdoor furniture and garden accessories, rugs from around the world, tribal and African art, sculpture and beads, exotic plants and more. Located next to the Museum of Flying. Occursevery 1st and 4th sunday of every month. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/santa-monica-airport-antique-market/15831601/2025-12-28T08

THE WATERFRONT - SUNDAY REAL FUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Waterfront 205 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Enjoy a bottomless brunch buffet Sundays at The Waterfront! The Waterfront Venice is a full-service restaurant celebrating Californian cuisine with views of the Pacific Ocean. Situated between Rose and Navy on the famous Venice Beach Boardwalk, our food & beverage menus celebrate California with carefully selected seasonal produce from local farms. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-waterfront-sunday-real-funday-brunch-buffet/14894114/2025-12-28T11

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074 or email **legal@smdp.com**

CLASSIFICATIONS
Announcements
Creative
Employment
For Sale
Furniture
Pets
Boats
Jewelry
Wanted
Travel
Vacation Rentals
Apartments/Condos
Rent
Houses for Rent
Roommates
Commercial Lease
Real Estate
Real Estate Loans
Storage Space
Vehicles for Sale
Massage
Services
Computer Services
Attorney Services
Business Opportunities
Yard Sales
Health and Beauty
Fitness
Wealth and Success
Lost and Found
Personals
Psychic
Obituaries
Tutoring

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025268677 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SWISS COPYWRITING SERVICE, 4108 Del Rey Ave, Apt 520, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292, Los Angeles County. Registered Owner(s): Swiss Luster, 4108 Del Rey Ave, Apt 520, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/2022. s/ Swiss Luster, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/3/2025. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to be published 12/5/2025, 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025268656 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MELODY GODFRED, 2632 WILSHIRE BLVD #360, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. AI #ON 3451716. Registered Owner(s): WRITE IN COLOR, INC., 2632 WILSHIRE BLVD #360, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/2018. s/ MELODY GODFRED, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/3/2025. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish: 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 1/02/2026.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025270911. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MITSUHARU HADEISHI LLC, 1460 W 182ND ST, GARDENA, CA 90248, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): MITSU HADEISHI LLC, 1460 W 182ND ST, GARDENA, CA 90248. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 04/2025. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ MITSUHARU HADEISHI, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/5/2025. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025275797. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FOURTH WALL CONSULTANTS, 3201 WILSHIRE BLVD SUITE 301, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): KAITLIN WIECHERT, 3201 WILSHIRE BLVD SUITE 301, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ KAITLIN WIECHERT, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/11/2025. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025270911. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MITSUHARU HADEISHI LLC, 1460 W 182ND ST, GARDENA, CA 90248, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): MITSU HADEISHI LLC, 1460 W 182ND ST, GARDENA, CA 90248. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 04/2025. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ MITSUHARU HADEISHI, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/5/2025. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/19/2024, 12/26/2024, 01/02/2025, 01/09/2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025276548. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: RXO TECHNOLOGIES, 624 EUCLID ST., SANTA MONICA, CA 90402, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): DOUGLAS JAMES MAYERS, 624 EUCLID ST., SANTA MONICA, CA 90402. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ DOUGLAS JAMES MAYERS, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/12/2025. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025280194. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: POWER PULSE PRO ELECTRIC, 715 S KERN AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90022, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): DAVID DIAZ FIGUEROA, 5112 OAKLAND ST APT 206, LOS ANGELES, CA 90032. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/2025. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ DAVID DIAZ FIGUEROA, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/17/2025. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/26/2024, 01/02/2025, 01/09/2025, 01/16/2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025281380. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: E6 ANALYTICS, 859 25TH STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): GLEN SANGONE BOLDT, 859 25TH STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ GLEN SANGONE BOLDT, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/19/2025. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026, 01/16/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025268771. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MACCABEING, 824 10TH STREET, APT 7, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403-1624, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): ODIN PINHAS OZDIL, 824 10TH STREET APT 7, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403-1624. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ ODIN PINHAS OZDIL, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/3/2025. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/26/2024, 01/02/2025, 01/09/2025, 01/16/2025

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00630. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Santa Monica Courthouse, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Patricia Ann Leedy-Kahn for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Patricia Ann Leedy-Kahn filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Patricia Ann Leedy-Kahn to Tish Ann Leedy-Kahn. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 01/23/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 12/10/2025. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25STCP02340. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 North Hill Street, Room 118, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Petition of YANG ZHANG for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner YANG ZHANG filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: JAKE CHENG ZHANG to ANDREW ZHANG. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 01/23/2026, Time: 8:30AM, Dept: 45. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 06/25/2025. VIRGINIA KEENY, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25STCP02335. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 North Hill Street, Room 118, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Petition of YUN MA and CHUNLIN YANG for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner YUN MA and CHUNLIN YANG filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: ALAN JUNHAO PENG to ALAN YUNYI YANG. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 01/23/2026, Time: 8:30AM, Dept: 45, Room: 529. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: JUN 25 2025. VIRGINIA KEENY, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25STCP02338. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 North Hill Street, Room 118, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Petition of QIRAN WANG and HUAYI WEI for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner QIRAN WANG and HUAYI WEI filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: OLIVIA WEI to OLIVIA TSUN. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 01/03/2026, Time: 8:30AM, Dept: 95, Room: 539. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 11/24/2025. VIRGINIA KEENY, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25TRCP00526. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 825 Maple Ave. Torrance, CA 90503. Petition of Layla Marie Toma for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Layla Marie Toma filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Layla Marie Toma to Layla Toma Murad. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 01/30/2025, Time: 9:30 A.M., Dept: N/A. The address of the court is Southwest District - Inglewood Courthouse, One Regent Street, Inglewood, CA 90301. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 12/09/2025. TAMARA HALL, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00652. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Holly Elisabeth Verner for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Holly Elisabeth Verner filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Holly Elisabeth Verner to Holly Elisabeth Michaels. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 01/30/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 12/19/2025. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026, 01/16/2026.

Summons

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) Case No. 25SMCV00899 NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): HELENE BERK IRVIN, an individual; and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): JEFFERY MAROZ, an individual. NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Los Angeles County Superior Court, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): J.Scott Russo, Russo & Duckworth, LLP, 3404 Via Oporto, Ste. 201, Newport Beach, CA 92663 949-752-7106. DATE (Fecha): 02/21/2025. Clerk, by (Secretario) David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court, By W. Lee, Deputy (Adjunto) Clerk. Electronically FILED by Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles 2/21/2025 3:04 PM David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court, By W. Lee, Deputy Clerk. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/05/2025, 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025

Legal Notices

NOTICE INVITING BIDS JOCs 2611GG - 2624FOSNotice is given that bids for Job Order Contracts 2611GG thru 2624FOS will be received by Los Angeles County Public Works on January 22, 2026, by 10:00 a.m. To access the bid documents, visit the link at https://dpw.lacounty.gov/contracts/0pportunities.aspx. For additional information, call (626) 458-2540.12/18, 12/25/25CNS-3991802#SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

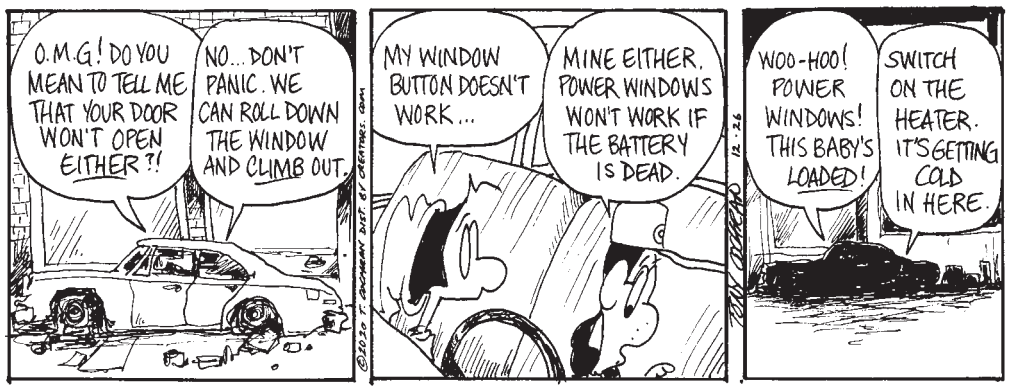
CALL TODAY
AND PLACE YOUR
CLASSIFIED

office **(310) 458-7737**

Santa Monica Daily Press

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THE SLUG PARADE TAKES FOREVER."

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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6801

Theatre experience

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

Adage	Circle	Mask	Sets
Administration	Dress	Melodrama	Sound
Aisle	rehearsal	Opera	Spectators
Arena	Events	Original	Star
Aria	Farce	Plays	Stole
Aside	Free	Quiet	Stylish
Bill	Gags	Races	Suit
Bravo	Gloves	Revues	Ties
Cast	Hats	Ribald	Tune
Control room	Heels	Scene	Unit
	Interval	Script	Wigs

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Road trip stopover

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email legal@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 26)

Welcome to your Year of Sharp Timing. Your quips land, you'll buy and sell auspiciously, you'll say yes in the right moment, pass when necessary, and catch opportunities just before they peak. In relationships, someone meets you exactly where you are time and again. More highlights: a money-saving miracle, a supportive collaboration and a long-awaited green light. Virgo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 8, 20, 13 and 50.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your sense of fun is going strong, and you'll be inclined to say yes to friends intent on roping you into their games and schemes. Going along for the ride will definitely have its perks!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People are curious about you. You'll share, knowing they're unlikely to understand. If they ask why you do what you do or why you did what you did, just shrug lightly. "Because I felt like it" is a complete philosophy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You like to keep your emotional weather private, but today you could go either way. You're sensitive, but you choose when to show it. Process feelings on your own whim. It's really OK to be unpredictable in this and other small, delightful ways.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Follow your body's response to requests of you. If your chest tightens or you feel heavy, don't go. If you feel curious, floaty, or lightly mischievous, go. No rationalizing. No "I should." Only: How does this feel?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're reliable, impressive and talented at solving problems. Do avoid letting anyone come to you every time with the same problem. If you always fix things for them, they never learn, and you become their default crisis manager.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Mismatched intensity feels frustrating and has potential to discourage. But when you're with people who can meet your hustle, your warmth and your creativity, the whole scene brightens. You get things done together and the teamwork creates a sense of belonging.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your creative energy is potent today. Don't let it stay abstract; give it form. What you express now will come to have a life of its own and will spark something in the people who receive it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Too much negotiating hurts a relationship because the longer a negotiation goes on, the more likely you are to accidentally hurt someone's ego by valuing or devaluing the wrong thing. Make a deal or don't make a deal, but keep it short!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Suffering doesn't mean you're doing life wrong. Sometimes it means life is asking too much of you. You're one person doing the work of many. Of course you're going to feel overextended. Your frustration about that is data.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have fans. The interest and admiration will be an energy boost. And don't worry, you don't have to perform for anyone. Simply do what comes naturally and make yourself comfortable... because your comfort makes everyone comfortable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). In the world of entertainment, it's a sin to bore the audience. In polite society, it's the norm. You're in the mood to deliver an experience to people, and it's OK if you go a bit out of the expected for the sake of capturing and holding their attention.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Wondering if someone is good for you? Consider that "good for you" doesn't always feel fun in the moment. Also, your needs are changing so rapidly now, the answer might be different in a few days. Return to the question next week.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

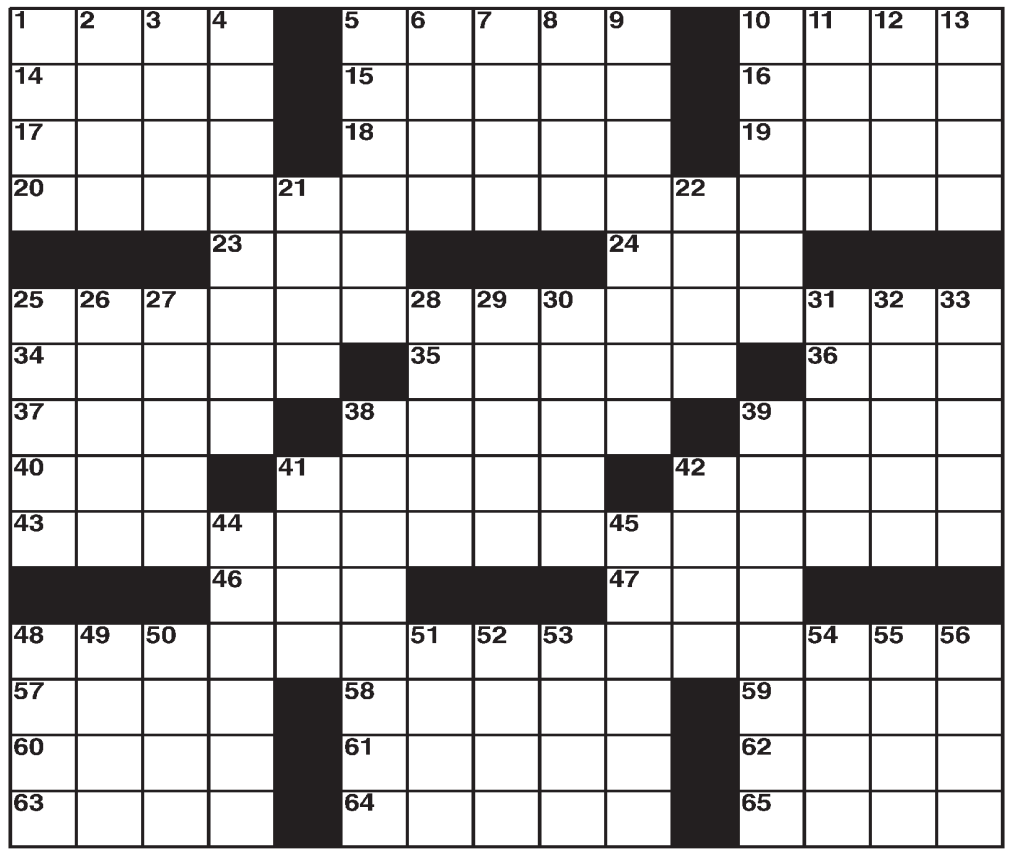
DOOR OPENERS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Souvlaki serve-with
5 Hemingway hideaway
10 Go over poorly
14 Crucifix letters
15 Nautical command
16 *Cherie femme*
17 Match up
18 Underground conduit
19 Derby, for instance
20 Three door openers
23 Fury
24 *Miembra de la familia*
25 Four door openers
34 Some picture frames
35 Bat-making machine
36 Ruler in Rome
37 Surrealist Magritte
38 Express again
39 Nest supporter
40 Hear in court
41 Mischievous person
42 Bottled spirit
43 Three door openers
46 What many vessels hold
47 Mocking remark
48 Three door openers
57 Hover
58 Her and her
59 Bright ring
60 Long ago
61 Gelato flavor
62 Grandiose
63 Fuel from fens
64 Dublin-born poet
65 Finishes with

DOWN

1 Domino spots
2 Take __ the waist (alter, perhaps)
3 Small combo
4 Pellet propeller
5 Non-bidder
6 *Con*, in Cannes
7 Playful growl
8 "Mmm-hmm"
9 Expanding easily
10 Running total of rounds
11 Persian poet
12 Insulation mineral
13 Appliance alert
21 Doctor's orders
22 Victoria's Greek counterpart
25 Computer connections
26 Turn inside-out
27 Country singer Tucker
28 Pupil in Montreal
29 Soup seasoning
30 The least bit
31 Get __ on (learn about)
32 Sound studio creation
33 "Check"
38 Of late
39 Extend
41 Party tray provider
42 Exude elation
44 Dicer, ricer, or slicer
45 Adds beauty to
48 Carpentry class
49 Long division for civil engineers
50 Ancient potato farmer
51 Subcontinental butter
52 Relief dot-gov
53 Barrel of laughs
54 Small peninsula
55 Dismounted
56 Legendary elephant abductors



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2025 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

12/26/25

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

2025

FROM PAGE 11

Exploration Building. Future projects include the Will Rogers Early Education Building (2025) and McKinley Elementary upgrades (2026).

Stalker on Pier — Three female YouTubers were harassed and threatened with death by a stalker while live-streaming on the Santa Monica Pier. The suspect acted aggressively before the women sought refuge in a nearby store while broadcasting the incident.

Homeless Deaths fueled by drugs — Overdoses remained the leading cause of death for LA County's homeless population, claiming 45% of lives in 2023. Despite increased naloxone distribution, mortality rates have plateaued, prompting officials to call for more focused health interventions and faster housing solutions.

Students Aid Fire Victims — First graders at Grant Elementary organized a fundraiser for Red Cross wildfire relief to process their feelings about the disasters. They presented donations to Red Cross representatives, who visited the class to discuss humanitarian work and youth leadership.

Homeless Services Consolidation — Supervisor Horvath proposed a new county department to consolidate homeless services, removing oversight from LAHSA. The move followed audits revealing financial mismanagement and aimed to streamline funding, improve accountability, and leverage state resources for better outcomes.

Wildfire Fraud Arrests — Federal authorities charged three individuals with defrauding FEMA by filing false claims related to the Eaton and Palisades wildfires. The suspects allegedly claimed benefits for properties they did not own, diverting funds meant for actual disaster victims.

Zbur Withdraws Bill — Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur withdrew a bill redefining justifiable homicide and self-defense due to strong opposition that he said was the result of misinformation. While intended to prevent vigilante violence by requiring retreat in public, critics argued it criminalized self-defense in the home. Zbur planned to amend the bill to clarify its intent.

Council looks for solutions to double parking problems in the City — Santa Monica City Council approved a request to develop smart loading zone measures reducing congestion and double parking. The initiative directed staff to draft an ordinance establishing a legal framework and fee schedule for a pilot program exploring public-private partnerships using camera technology to monitor commercial loading zones and invoice users, potentially generating millions in revenue.

Several forward thinking female leaders honored with the Yellow Rose Award — The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica honored Carla Fantozzi, Shari Davis, Ana G. Jara, and Joanne Berlin with Yellow Rose Awards. The women were recognized for advancing inclusivity, education, and advocacy for minorities in Santa Monica. Mayor Lana Negrete presented city commendations, emphasizing community outreach. The honorees also received certificates from California State Assembly and Los Angeles County.

Rent goes up —Santa Monica rents rose 2.9% year-over-year, defying a national decline. The city remains the second most expensive in the region, with median one-bedroom rents at $3,200. High demand persisted despite migration data showing renters looking outside the area.

Plans to replace now demolished Parking Structure 3 advance with an updated 122-unit affordable building — Updated plans for 1318 4th Street showed a six-story, 122-unit affordable housing development by EAH Housing with street-level commercial space and 116 underground parking spaces. Fifty units were designated as permanent supportive housing. The $123 million project, potentially exceeding $1 million per unit, targeted winter 2027 construction start with 2029 completion. The former Parking Structure 3 site remained vacant since November 2022 demolition despite proposed entertainment and pickleball activations.

DA Hochman reinstates the death penalty in LA County — Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman reinstated the death penalty as a prosecutorial option in special circumstance murder cases, ending the previous blanket prohibition. The policy permitted capital punishment in "exceedingly rare cases" after comprehensive review, with enhanced defense presentation opportunities and mandatory victim survivor consultation. Public Defender Ricardo Garcia criticized the decision as racially biased and financially costly. California maintained the nation's largest death row population but hadn't executed inmates since 2006.

Workers' Comp Surge — Santa Monica's workers' compensation liabilities spiked due to catastrophic claims from police and fire departments. A pilot program using a third-party administrator for the Department of Transportation successfully reduced costs, leading the city to consider expanding this model to other departments.

Sion Roy launches campaign — SMC Board Vice Chair Dr. Sion Roy announced his candidacy for State Senate District 24. A cardiologist and educator, Roy aims to replace term-limited Ben Allen, focusing on healthcare access and wildfire recovery.

Big Blue Bus Fare Increase — Big Blue Bus proposes its first fare increase in nearly a decade to cover rising operational costs. The plan includes hiking single-ride and pass prices while eliminating annual passes. The agency argued revenue is needed to maintain service and competitive wages.

Water Rate Hike — Residents faced water bill increases of nearly $20 monthly over five years. Officials said the hikes are necessary to fund critical infrastructure repairs, including aging reservoirs at risk of seismic failure. Officials noted rates remain competitive with neighboring cities.

AI in Schools — SMMUSD is implementing a measured AI strategy focusing on ethics and data privacy. The district is training students on "prompt literacy" and critical thinking while using secure tools to protect student data, emphasizing AI as a supportive educational tool.

Civic Auditorium Deal — The City Council authorized an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with Revitalization Partners Group to renovate the Civic Auditorium. The consortium, including Live Nation and Oak View Group, will fund a $250,000 deposit to explore revitalizing the historic venue closed since 2013.

Paddle Board Workout — A new dry-land fitness program, B-BOARD, launched in Santa Monica using inflatable boards to simulate paddleboarding. The workout improves core stability and balance through instability training, offering the physical benefits of the sport without entering the water.



SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Boost Your Career at SMC!

Classes start February 17
On-campus and online

APPLY TODAY
smc.edu/spring



35 YEARS
#1 IN TRANSFERS

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Sion Roy, *Chair*; Dr. Tom Peters, *Vice Chair*; Dr. Luis Barrera Castañón; Anastasia Foster; Dr. Nancy Greenstein; Dr. Margaret Quiñones-Perez; Rob Rader; Sophia Manavi, *Student Trustee*; Kathryn E. Jeffery, Ph.D., *Superintendent/President*

Santa Monica College
1900 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405
smc.edu