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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Volume 25 Issue 30 MONDAY 12/29/25 smdp.com

The Year in Review: Setback for school separation and the City heads for a fiscal cliff

EDITOR'S NOTE: Today is the second part of our annual Year in Review coverage summarizing news from April, May and June.

APRIL

Malibu School Separation setback — A county report recommended against the creation of an independent Malibu School District, stating it fails eight of nine state criteria. The report cited concerns regarding financial viability for both districts and equitable asset division, suggesting the separation should not proceed without significant new agreements.

Santa Monica Place Management Change — Prism Places was appointed to manage Santa Monica Place after Macerich defaulted on a $300 million loan. The firm, experienced in repositioning distressed assets, aims to revitalize the mall by balancing global brands with local businesses and utilizing event-driven strategies to draw visitors.

Downtown Zoning Changes — The City Council approved zoning amendments to aid downtown recovery, eliminating restrictions on community assembly spaces and standardizing digital signage rules. These changes aim to fill vacancies by allowing businesses more flexibility regarding hours and signage, matching standards of competing regional districts.

County Votes to Replace LAHSA — Los Angeles County supervisors voted 4-0-1 to create a consolidated homeless services department, centralizing functions from 14 county departments and absorbing LAHSA operations by July 2026. The restructuring, modeled after Housing for Health's successful program, aimed to improve accountability and efficiency amid criticism of LAHSA's contract delays and funding issues.

Bail Reform Success — A year after implementing the Pre-Arraignment Release Protocols (PARP), which eliminated cash bail for non-violent offenses, a court report showed a 10% reduction in new criminal activity. The system prioritized risk assessment over financial means, keeping high-risk individuals detained while releasing low-risk suspects.

SMMUSD Federal Funding — District officials warned that potential federal education cuts under the Trump administration could impact vulnerable students. While federal funds comprise a small percentage of the overall budget, they support critical services for low-income and special needs students at the district's Title One schools.

Edison Award — SMMUSD's Edison Language Academy, a Spanish dual immersion school,



SMDP Photo

CLOSURE: Rite Aid was among the business closures.

SEE **APRIL** PAGE 2

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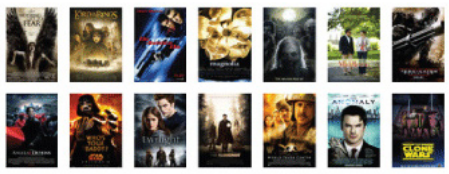
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APRIL

FROM PAGE 1

was named a 2025 California Distinguished School by the state Department of Education. Principal Elizabeth Ipina said the recognition affirmed dual immersion education's impact. Edison was among 336 statewide schools honored for closing achievement gaps and demonstrating exceptional student performance.

Beach Violence Concerns — Santa Monica City Council requested staff explore implementing a nighttime beach curfew following recent violence. Mayor Lana Negrete and councilmembers cited murders, rapes, accidental deaths, and maintenance equipment incidents involving sleeping beachgoers as reasons for the proposed restrictions, which would require coordination with state agencies overseeing Santa Monica State Beach.

New Rules for Nuisance Property — Santa Monica City Council introduced an ordinance strengthening public nuisance laws, expanding violation definitions and creating correctable citation programs offering 50% fine reductions. Code Enforcement Manager Daniel Mick said changes would address problem properties better. Council members questioned enforcement capacity and repeat violator tracking. Staff announced plans for a vacant properties task force.

Fatal Dog Attack — The community mourned a toy poodle named Dublin after it was killed in a vicious dog attack on Main Street. The incident has devastated the owners and sparked outrage and concern among residents regarding pet safety in public spaces. The owner of the violent dog fled the city and due to lax laws over dog attacks faced no charges.

Rent Control Report — The Rent Control Board's annual report indicated a slight increase in units returned to the market but highlighted ongoing affordability challenges. While eviction notices decreased and buyout agreements hit a record low, high market rents continue to make housing inaccessible for many income levels.

Entertainment Zone Approved — The City Council approved a permanent downtown "entertainment zone" allowing open alcohol consumption during permitted events. Overriding the police chief's request for a pilot program, the council established the zone to boost economic recovery and foot traffic on the Third Street Promenade.

Freeway Shooting — SMPD investigated an early morning shooting near Lincoln and Pico Boulevards. A driver was fired upon by an unknown suspect but suffered only non-life-threatening injuries from shattered glass.

Santa Monica Rejects Olympic Volleyball Venue — Negotiations to host the 2028 Olympic beach volleyball tournament in Santa Monica ended, with the event moving to Long Beach. City officials cited a projected $1.45 million financial shortfall as the reason for failing to reach an agreement with LA28 organizers.

Palisades Rebuilding Stalls — A Palisades resident warned that rebuilding was stalling due to high costs and policy barriers, with data showing a glut of unsold lots compared to other fire zones. There were fears that without policy changes, the recovery would be slow and property values will decline.

Rite Aid Closure — Rite Aid closed its second location in Santa Monica, reducing pharmacy access for residents. The closure follows the company's broader financial struggles and restructuring efforts nationwide.

Soil Contamination — Preliminary testing in the Palisades fire zone revealed isolated hotspots of arsenic and cadmium, likely predating the fire. Meanwhile, soil samples from the Eaton fire zone showed elevated lead levels, attributed to older housing stock in the area.

DTSM Breaks With City Hall — Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. approved a $9.39 million budget, eliminating $1.2 million for city parking structure maintenance despite warnings from Assistant City Manager Susan Cline. The balanced budget avoided reserve withdrawals and shifted security funding to outreach services. The decision defied the city and was the start of tension between the organizations that culminated later in the year.

Bomb Threat Arrest — Santa Monica resident Davis Darvish, 40, was arrested early Sunday after threatening to bomb Coachella Festival. Cathedral City police tracked his Tesla using license plate recognition technology following a casino security report. No explosives were found in his vehicle. Darvish was jailed on $1 million bail for making bomb threats.

Fogo de Chão Opens — Brazilian steakhouse Fogo de Chão opened a new location on Ocean Avenue. The restaurant features an enclosed patio design to manage street noise while offering its signature



SMDP Photo

RECOVERY: Local leaders were still focused on wildfire recovery.

SEE **MAY** PAGE 4

all-you-can-eat meat service and a South American-focused wine list.

Asterisk Development — Developer Jacmar Companies proposed "Asterisk Santa Monica," a 13-story residential project on Santa Monica Blvd. The modern design includes 100 units, with 16 designated as affordable, utilizing density bonuses to increase housing stock.

Fire Recovery Summit — Local leaders gathered at the Luskin Summit to mark 100 days since the Palisades fire, emphasizing the need to close gaps in aid. Officials highlighted the progress made but stressed that legislative changes are needed to ensure a fair and fast recovery.

Construction Labor Shortage — Experts warned that labor shortages and logistical challenges threatened to delay wildfire rebuilding. Developers proposed a "Builders Alliance" to share resources and called for self-certification of permits to accelerate the process and prevent displacement.

Sling Pilot Academy — Sling Pilot Academy opened its fourth flight training center at Santa Monica Airport Thursday, drawing aviation leaders and community supporters. The academy offered career pathways with starting salaries of $100,000, emphasizing aviation's economic benefits despite the airport's uncertain future beyond 2028.

Waymo Complaints — Residents complained about noise from a Waymo charging station, citing disturbances from backup beepers and cleaning operations. The city has limited jurisdiction but was working with Waymo on mitigation measures like planting sound buffers and adjusting operational hours.

Bank of America Closure — Bank of America announced the closure of its downtown Santa Monica branch, directing customers to online services. The site is slated for redevelopment into a major affordable housing project by mid-2026, marking a significant shift for the downtown area.

Bill to Protect Mobile Home Residents After Disasters Advances in State Senate — California's Senate Housing Committee passed SB 749, authored by Senator Ben Allen, requiring mobile home park owners to offer land to resident groups or nonprofits before conversion after disasters. The bill responded to January's Palisades Fire, which displaced thousands. It aims to protect residents who own homes but not underlying land from permanent displacement following natural disasters.

Local Teens Leverage Santa Monica Community for a Global Impact — Crossroads students Melese Light-Orr and Shiv Munjal raised over $120,000 for Ethiopia's Kololo School, which they helped establish in 2011. The school provided education and daily meals to children in Kembata. They organized a May 3 benefit concert at the Crow to raise $20,000 for solar panels, rallying 50 students and strong Santa Monica community support.

Fireworks Show Fizzles Out as Cash-Strapped Organizers Cancel Annual Event — Santa Monica College cancelled its July 4 Celebrate America fireworks event due to funding shortfalls after traditional sponsors withdrew. The event cost approximately $100,000 annually, previously split between sponsors and the college. College officials explained they couldn't use general funds for non-educational events, ending Santa Monica's only public fireworks display.

Race Is On To Shape Affordable Housing Near 17th Street/SMC Metro Station — Four development teams submitted proposals to transform Metro parking lots near 17th Street/Santa Monica College Station into affordable housing, ranging from 180 to 347 units. Community Corporation of Santa Monica, West Hollywood Community Housing, Bridge Housing, and Decro Corporation presented plans exceeding Metro's 50 percent affordability requirement, with construction potentially starting by 2027.

MAY

Parking Overhaul Debated — Consultants proposed replacing downtown's 90-minute free parking with flat rates to raise revenue. Business leaders opposed the plan, fearing it would deter visitors. The DTSM board recommended maintaining the grace period and exploring evening flat rates instead.

Samohi Students Get a Call From the Highest Flying Alumni — Santa Monica High graduate Jonathan Kim, now a NASA astronaut orbiting Earth, virtually spoke to SMMUSD students. Kim became a Navy SEAL, earned a Harvard medical degree, and joined NASA in 2017. He launched April 8, 2025 for an eight-month mission, making Samohi the only U.S. high school producing two unrelated astronauts.

As Academics Argue Over Minimum Wage Impact, Business Owners Say The Cost is Wearing Them Down — California's $20 fast-food minimum wage sparked intense debate between economists and business owners. A pair of academic studies contradicted each other on lost jobs. However, local business owners reported dramatic impacts, with all her Los Angeles County locations showing negative sales for 12 consecutive months after the April 2024 increase. The businesses reduced employee hours, raised prices, and depleted 30% of their capital reserves built over 40 years.

Crayola Donation — Epic Entertainment Group donated $60,000 worth of Crayola supplies to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Santa Monica. The gift aims to foster creativity and joy for local children following recent wildfires and community hardships.

Gelato Flagship Opens — Brazilian-born Italian gelato brand Bacio di Latte is opening a flagship location near the Promenade. The shop features daily in-house production using organic dairy and seasonal fruit, designed with a rustic Italian kitchen aesthetic.

Skateboarding Takeover — Street League Skateboarding (SLS) brought a free "Takeover" event to the Santa Monica Pier, recreating a famous skate spot for a single-day competition. The event featured top pros and blends high-stakes skating with a festival atmosphere.

Cyclist Assault — A cyclist reported being shoved off his bike and assaulted by a stranger on the Third Street Promenade. The victim criticized the slow police response and lack of intervention by nearby security, highlighting safety concerns in the district.

Promenade Shooting — A man was fatally shot during an attempted robbery inside a closed store on the Third Street Promenade. The victim killed one suspect, and police arrested a second suspect, Karen Melikyan, charging him with homicide and conspiracy. In an unrelated case, a man was hospitalized after being shot during an altercation in the Fairmont Miramar Hotel driveway on the same night.

Outlandish Expands — Santa Monica-based retailer Outlandish said it was expanding to Brazil through a partnership

SEE **MAY** PAGE 4



Weather

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/12/29	Mon	04:22 AM	5.45	H
2025/12/29	Mon	11:46 AM	0.47	L
2025/12/29	Mon	5:51 PM	3.01	H
2025/12/29	Mon	10:22 PM	1.90	L
2025/12/30	Tue	05:09 AM	5.98	H
2025/12/30	Tue	12:41 PM	-0.41	L
2025/12/30	Tue	7:07 PM	3.23	H
2025/12/30	Tue	11:19 PM	2.11	L
2025/12/31	Wed	05:57 AM	6.47	H
2025/12/31	Wed	1:30 PM	-1.13	L
2025/12/31	Wed	8:05 PM	3.51	H
2026/01/01	Thu	12:16 AM	2.21	L
2026/01/01	Thu	06:46 AM	6.83	H
2026/01/01	Thu	2:15 PM	-1.64	L
2026/01/01	Thu	8:50 PM	3.72	H
2026/01/02	Fri	01:11 AM	2.15	L
2026/01/02	Fri	07:34 AM	7.08	H
2026/01/02	Fri	3:00 PM	-1.88	L
2026/01/02	Fri	9:33 PM	3.88	H
2026/01/03	Sat	02:03 AM	2.04	L
2026/01/03	Sat	08:21 AM	7.12	H
2026/01/03	Sat	3:43 PM	-1.89	L
2026/01/03	Sat	10:16 PM	3.99	H
2026/01/04	Sun	02:53 AM	1.95	L
2026/01/04	Sun	09:07 AM	6.91	H
2026/01/04	Sun	4:26 PM	-1.67	L
2026/01/04	Sun	10:59 PM	4.09	H
2026/01/05	Mon	03:45 AM	1.91	L
2026/01/05	Mon	09:53 AM	6.47	H
2026/01/05	Mon	5:07 PM	-1.27	L
2026/01/05	Mon	11:42 PM	4.18	H
2026/01/06	Tue	04:39 AM	1.95	L
2026/01/06	Tue	10:39 AM	5.82	H
2026/01/06	Tue	5:45 PM	-0.73	L
2026/01/07	Wed	12:25 AM	4.27	H
2026/01/07	Wed	05:37 AM	2.02	L
2026/01/07	Wed	11:27 AM	5.01	H
2026/01/07	Wed	6:22 PM	-0.09	L
2026/01/08	Thu	01:10 AM	4.36	H
2026/01/08	Thu	06:44 AM	2.09	L
2026/01/08	Thu	12:19 PM	4.14	H
2026/01/08	Thu	6:57 PM	0.60	L
2026/01/09	Fri	01:58 AM	4.44	H

Daily Lottery

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

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 12/22
1 14 16 18 19

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

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

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

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

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Classifieds

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025267425 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. AERO WYSE, 2. AERO WISE, 3. AERO WISDOM, 8033 SUNSET BLVD #453, LOS ANGELES, CA 90046, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): SOMNIUM REM, LLC, 8489 CRESCENT DRIVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90046. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. s/ JESSE MOWRY, MANAGING MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/2/2025. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/08/2025, 12/15/2025, 12/22/2025, 12/29/2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025272313 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CALIBRA ADVISORY, 21485 COLINA DRIVE, TOPANGA, CA 90290, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): MEK PROPERTIES INC., 21485 COLINA DRIVE, TOPANGA, CA 90290. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 12/2025. s/ MARK KITCHING, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/8/2025. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish on: December 15, 22, 29, 2025 and January 5, 2026.

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00612 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main St., Santa Monica CA 90401. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Gustavo Aminadab Barreno filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name: Gustavo Aminadab Barreno to Proposed name: Gustavo Guevara Ramos. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 01/16/2026, Time: 8:30a, Dept.: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. Date: 12/01/2025. s/ Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/09/2025, 12/16/2025, 12/23/2025, 12/30/2025

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00612 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main St., Santa Monica CA 90401. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Gustavo Aminadab Barreno filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name: Gustavo Aminadab Barreno to Proposed name: Gustavo Guevara Ramos. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 01/16/2026, Time: 8:30a, Dept.: K. A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, specify paper: Santa Monica Daily Press. Date: 12/01/2025. s/ Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish on December 08, 15, 22, 29, 2025.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00616 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 Santa Monica Courthouse TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Lauren Haley Kells Harold filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name: Lauren Haley Kells Harold to Proposed name: Haley Kells Harrold. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING Date: 01/23/2026 Time: 8:30 AM Dept.: K. A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation (for resident of this county) printed in this county. Date: DEC 03 2025 s/ LAWRENCE H. CHO, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: December 08, 15, 22, 29, 2025

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00610. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Santa Monica Court, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Daniel Enku Enku filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name: Daniel Enku Enku to Proposed name: Semaii Ehssen. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 01/09/2026, Time: 8:30 a.m., Department: K, Room: A-203, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Santa Monica Court, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press. Date: November 26, 2025. s/ Hon. Lawrence Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/08/2025, 12/15/2025, 12/22/2025, 12/29/2025

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00615 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Samuel Francis Leghart filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name: Samuel Francis Leghart to Proposed name: Samuel Francis Cubedo. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING Date: January 23, 2026 Time: 8:30 AM Dept.: K. The address of the court is the same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press. Date: December 2, 2025 s/ Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: December 15, 22, 29, 2025 and January 05, 2025.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25STCP04178. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. Petition filed: December 11, 2025. To All Interested Persons: Petitioner Kayla Renee Hutchison filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name: Kayla Renee Hutchison to Proposed name: Kayla Renee Hinkston. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: January 10, 2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept.: 45, Room: 529. The address of the court is same as noted above: Los Angeles Superior Court, 111 N. Hill Street, Room 102, Los Angeles, CA 90012. A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation: Santa Monica Daily Press, for resident of this county, printed in this county. Date: December 11, 2025. s/ Virginia Keeny, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: December 15, 22, 29, 2025, January 5, 2026.

Summons

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) Case No. 25STCV30883. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: RONALD S. BARAK, an individual; and DOES 1-100, inclusive. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: SPECIALIST ROOFING AND REPAIR, LLC, a California limited liability company, doing business as ROOF REPAIR SPECIALIST. 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: Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney is: Hee J. Kim, LITIGATION, P.C., 527 W. 7th Street, Suite 935, Los Angeles, CA 90014. Tel: (424) 284-2401. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/29/2025, 01/05/2026, 01/12/2026, 01/19/2026

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm **LOCATION** 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

MAY

FROM PAGE 3

with MindgruveMacarta. The move supports TikTok Shop's Latin American launch, leveraging Outlandish's live shopping expertise developed at its Third Street Promenade studio.

Archer Aviation Arrives — Archer Aviation was named the official air taxi provider for the LA28 Olympic Games. The company plans to use its electric "Midnight" aircraft to ferry passengers between venues, significantly reducing travel time compared to cars.

PCH Master Plan Announced — Caltrans unveiled a long-term Master Plan for PCH in Malibu, proposing lane reductions and new sidewalks. Residents and officials expressed concern about implementing major changes during fire recovery, fearing increased congestion and safety risks.

Waymo Recall — Waymo issued a voluntary recall of over 1,200 self-driving vehicles following low-speed collisions with roadside barriers like gates and chains. The company resolved the issue through a December 2024 software update affecting its fifth-generation system. NHTSA investigated 16 collisions between 2022-2024, none causing injuries. Waymo continued operating in multiple cities despite the recall.

Federal Agencies Tout Record Setting Pace To Clear Firedamaged Property — Over 5,000 properties across Eaton and Palisades burn areas were cleared of fire debris in what officials called America's fastest major disaster cleanup. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA and California removed over 2 million tons of debris in three months, with 2,500 additional properties cleared awaiting final approval.

Lawmakers Work To Protect Kids Online — Senate leaders reintroduced the Kids Online Safety Act, bipartisan legislation requiring social media platforms to protect minors from harmful content. The bill previously passed the Senate 91-3 in 2024 but stalled in the House. Advocates including bereaved parents urged passage, citing continued deaths from online challenges and fentanyl purchases facilitated by social platforms.

Heal the Bay Report — The Santa Monica Pier received an "F" grade for water quality in Heal the Bay's annual report. Officials cited bird feces and urban runoff as causes, while the city noted that most of its coastline remains clean.

Ready to Succeed Graduation — Nonprofit Ready to Succeed celebrated the graduation of 27 foster and first-generation college students. The program provides mentorship and career coaching, and graduates received a surprise $54,000 gift to split to help launch their careers.

Shore Hotel Opens New Restaurant — The Shore Hotel opened Shoreside, a California-coastal restaurant and bar, following a year-long renovation. Executive Chef Todd Bohak, a Santa Monica native, led the sustainable concept featuring a fully electric kitchen with induction cooktops and energy-efficient equipment. The space included ocean views, a 16-seat marble bar, and stretched from the lobby to an open-air patio.

DTSM Budget — Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. board members voted to reallocate $400,000 for parking structure maintenance and $150,000 for entertainment zone events while reducing lighting and winter decoration budgets. The changes shifted from enhanced zone maintenance to custodial services, with total parking costs reaching $628,000 compared to last year's $1.2 million, representing significant savings.

Ballet Honors Firefighters — Westside Ballet of Santa Monica honored firefighters at its "Masters of Movement" performances featuring NYC Ballet principals Tiler Peck and Roman Mejia. The Gala recognized first responders with the Huntley Community Arts Award, with proceeds supporting the Fire Relief Scholarship Fund for 55 affected ballet families who lost homes in 2025 LA-area fires.

More Mall Closures — True Food Kitchen and Aesop closed Santa Monica Place locations as Prism Places assumed management of the financially distressed mall. The property, under court-appointed receiver Trigild after Macerich's $300 million loan default, faced nearly 70% vacancy. The closures reflected broader challenges as the once-flagship shopping center struggled to maintain tenants despite pop-up attractions.

Airport Options Released — The city released three potential options for the future of the Santa Monica Airport site, envisioning varying mixes of housing, parkland, and water features. A public survey was opened to gather feedback on the proposals.

City Manager Contract Announced — The City Council unanimously appointed Oliver Chi as the new City Manager with a salary over $410,000. Chi, formerly of Irvine, will oversee the city's budget and recovery efforts, with the contract including housing assistance.

Post Office Food Drive — The National Association of Letter Carriers held its annual "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive. Residents were encouraged to leave non-perishable food by mailboxes for collection to support local food banks during the summer months.

Turf Debate at SMMUSD — A controversy erupted over SMMUSD's plan to install synthetic turf at Franklin and Grant elementary schools. The district cited durability and safety, while parents and environmentalists opposed it due to concerns about heat and plastic materials.

Sexual Assault at SMC — A student at Santa Monica College reported a sexual battery in the library. The suspect asked for a kiss before grabbing the victim.

Beach Bathroom Vandalism — Santa Monica police arrested Jairo Navarette, 49, a homeless man, for vandalizing Ocean Front Walk public restrooms by flushing trash down toilets. The damage cost the city approximately $10,000 in April repairs alone, with individual incidents costing $1,500-$2,500 each. Navarette was booked on felony vandalism charges following his Sunday arrest near Ocean Avenue.

Monsignor Torgerson Anniversay — Monsignor Lloyd Torgerson Pastor celebrated 60 years of priesthood with half of that spent at Monica's Church. Torgerson is a Los Angeles native ordained in 1965. After serving at Holy Trinity in San Pedro and earning a Masters from Fordham, he directed Youth Ministry for 11 years and Religious Education for the LA Archdiocese until 1987. Has been at St. Monica for 30 years, serving as pastor for 25 years.

Insurance Criticism Following Wildfires — State Farm faced mounting criticism over delayed smoke damage claims following LA-area fires, prompting Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara to demand answers. Fire survivors, lawmakers and advocates asked Lara to investigate the company, which simultaneously sought a

SEE **YEAR** PAGE 6

COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

Santa Monica Resident Tackles "Bloody Broadway" in New Book

Longtime Santa Monica resident Amnon Kabatchnik has penned a new volume in his critically acclaimed award-winning reference series. "Bloody Broadway: Plays of Menace, Murder, and Mystery, Volume I" is now available in hardcover, trade paper and eBook editions.

In his latest work, Kabatchnik focuses on Broadway's development, beginning with the stage contributions of actor-director-playwright William Gillette. Gillette's major success was "Sherlock Holmes," a compilation of Arthur Conan Doyle short stories crafted into a cohesive plot.

"Bloody Broadway" examines the period from 1900-1930, including prolific melodramatists such as Hal Reid, Clyde Fitch, Owen Davis, George M. Cohan, Elmer Rice and John Willard, who created four-act plays featuring flamboyant villains, brawny heroes and damsels in distress.

Kabatchnik details how acts of crime began emerging in works by notable playwrights including August Strindberg, Maxim Gorky and Bertolt Brecht through psychological insights. He also examines works from England that came to Broadway, including plays by W. Somerset Maugham, J.B. Priestley and Daphne du Maurier, followed by French playwrights Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus and Jean Genet, Hungarian Laszlo Fodor, German Ernst Toller, Spanish Garcia Lorca and Italian Ugo Betti.

The book also examines American novelists including Damon Runyon, James Baldwin, Arthur Miller and William Faulkner, as well as Nobel Prize winners Eugene O'Neil, John Steinbeck and Ernest Hemingway.

"Bloody Broadway" examines 79 plays presented chronologically. Each entry includes a plot synopsis, production data, opinions by critics and scholars, and biographical sketches of playwrights and key actors and directors.

Kabatchnik, a legendary drama professor, esteemed historian, celebrated director and multiple award-winning writer, has earned high critical acclaim for his previous works, which won honors in the Benjamin Franklin Awards, the ForeWord Book of the Year Awards and the Independent Book Publishers Award.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Malibu

City of Malibu Appoints Joseph "Joe" Irvin as Next City Manager

The Malibu City Council has announced the appointment of Joseph D. "Joe" Irvin as the city's next city manager following an extensive and competitive recruitment process. Irvin will begin his tenure March 2, 2026.

Irvin brings more than 20 years of executive municipal leadership experience and currently serves as city manager for the City of South Lake Tahoe. He was selected following a comprehensive search of highly qualified candidates across the region and nation.

The City Council identified Irvin's depth of experience, leadership style and demonstrated ability to manage complex, environmentally sensitive communities as key factors in his selection.



Courtesy photo
HIRED: Joseph Irvin is coming to Malibu.

Throughout his career, Irvin has built a strong record in emergency management, wildfire response and evacuation operations, environmental stewardship, community development, strategic planning and organizational effectiveness. His professional background includes service with four cities: Sequim, Washington; Marco Island, Florida; Healdsburg, California; and South Lake Tahoe, California.

"Joe Irvin brings the right combination of experience, judgment and values to guide Malibu through its next chapter," said Mayor Marianne Riggins. "His leadership reflects a genuine people-first approach, a steady hand during emergencies and a thoughtful, strategic perspective on long-term community priorities."

Mayor Riggins also expressed appreciation for Interim City Manager Candace Bond's professionalism, steadiness and commitment during the transition period.

Irvin is widely recognized for building positive organizational cultures, strengthening internal operations and fostering effective partnerships with regional, state and federal agencies. His accomplishments include leadership during large-scale wildfire emergencies, advancement of housing and infrastructure initiatives, environmental restoration and planning efforts, and modernization of emergency communications systems.

"I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve the City of Malibu," Irvin said. "Malibu is an extraordinary community defined by engaged residents, dedicated public servants and an unparalleled natural environment."

Irvin is a Credentialed City Manager through the International City/County Management Association. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Resource Management from California State University Channel Islands and a Master of Public Administration from The Evergreen State College.

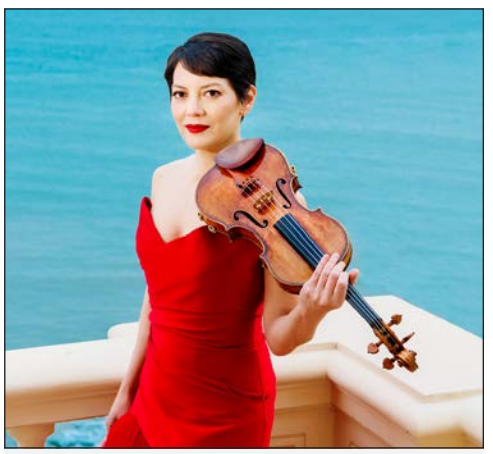
EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Pacific Palisades

Artists Unite for Concerts Marking Anniversary of Devastating Fires

One year after devastating fires affected Pacific Palisades and Altadena, talented artists from the area will join with St. Matthew's Church and School for Community Prayer Services and Concerts of Remembrance, Healing and Renewal on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026.

The events will take place at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 1031 Bienveneda Ave., Pacific Palisades, with concerts at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Community prayers will precede each concert at noon and 6 p.m.



Courtesy photo
MUSIC: Grammy Award-winning violinist Anne Akiko Meyers, a former Pacific Palisades resident who led the artistic planning for the concerts, will perform at both shows.

Grammy Award-winning violinist Anne Akiko Meyers, a former Pacific Palisades resident who led the artistic planning for the concerts, will perform at both shows. The 1 p.m. concert features Meyers and members of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, conducted by Grant Gershon, with music by Bach, Morten Lauridsen and Eric Whitacre.

The 7 p.m. concert features Meyers with The Pacific Strings, conducted by Lucinda Carver, and music by J.S. Bach and Whitacre.

Both events consist of a prayer gathering led by the clergy of St. Matthew's, followed by refreshments on the patio and a concluding concert. Everyone is welcome to attend the concert, the service or both.

Gershon is currently in his 17th season as artistic director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale and also serves as resident conductor for LA Opera. Carver is a professor of piano, harpsichord and instrumental conducting at the USC Thornton School of Music.

Proceeds from the concerts will benefit four Palisades-based performing arts organizations impacted by the fires: Chamber Music Palisades, Palisades Symphony and Chorale, St. Matthew's Music Guild and Theatre Palisades.

Tickets are not required to attend. A donation of $45 is suggested for the concerts and may be made at the door or online at https://www.musicguildonline.org/event/special-event-2025/. All donations are fully tax deductible.

Free parking will be available at the church.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

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(310) 393.8284
WILSHIRE BLVD. 15TH ST. 14TH ST. ARIZONA AVE.
WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM

YEAR

FROM PAGE 4

17% rate increase. The company received approximately 12,500 fire-related claims and paid over $3.12 billion, expecting total payouts exceeding $7 billion.

School Opening Delayed — The reopening of the Ocean Park neighborhood school, housing Muir and SMASH, was delayed until 2026 due to construction timelines. Students remained displaced while the campus underwent significant renovations.

Spirit Awards Depart Santa Monica Due To Anticipated Pier Bridge Construction — The Film Independent Spirit Awards relocated from Santa Monica to Hollywood Palladium for its February 15, 2026 ceremony, ending decades at the beachside location. Organizers cited Santa Monica's Pier Bridge replacement project as a factor. The move represented the second major film event departing Santa Monica recently, following the American Film Market's relocation to Las Vegas in 2024.

Beacon Hotel Closes, Guests Out Of Pocket As It Preps For Relaunch As 'The Eden' — The Beacon hotel on Ocean Avenue abruptly closed in April, canceling reservations without notice as parent company Sonder faced financial troubles. The historic Art Deco property, formerly Hotel Shangri-La, was set to reopen in early June as The Eden. International guests lost money on currency exchanges, while Sonder struggled with debt restructuring and potential Nasdaq delisting.

Gov. Gavin Newsom Urges Cities And Counties To Ban Homeless Encampments — Governor Gavin Newsom urged California cities to clear homeless encampments, unveiling a statewide blueprint for camping bans that local governments could adopt. He released $3.3 billion in voter-approved funds for housing and treatment. The model ordinance prohibited persistent camping and encampments blocking sidewalks, requiring officials to offer shelter before clearing sites. Major cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco already began clearing encampments following a Supreme Court ruling that eased restrictions. Critics argued bans disrupted housing efforts and caused people to lose documents and case manager contacts. A 2024 audit revealed California spent $24 billion over five years on homelessness without consistently tracking effectiveness.

Local Rules Already Surpass State Proposals — Santa Monica's anti-camping ordinance imposed stricter regulations than Governor Gavin Newsom's May 2025 statewide model ordinance. The local law prohibited camping in virtually all public spaces at any time, treating violations as criminal misdemeanors with fines up to $500. Newsom's model focused on preventing permanent encampments rather than banning all outdoor sleeping, required 48-hour written notices before clearances, and mandated shelter offers before enforcement. Santa Monica's zero-tolerance approach allowed immediate citations for single-night camping, while the state model permitted temporary camping up to three days. City officials emphasized a "lead-with-compassion" enforcement philosophy despite the stricter legal framework.

Stabbing Near Santa Monica Pier Follows Fight Between Two Unhoused Individuals — A man was hospitalized in stable condition Saturday night after a stabbing near the Santa Monica Pier at Ocean and Colorado Avenues. Police said the incident stemmed from a dispute between two individuals believed to be experiencing homelessness. A suspect was detained nearby without resistance, and the intersection temporarily closed before reopening.

SMC Student Deported — A Santa Monica College student was apprehended by ICE agents near his West Los Angeles residence on May 5 and subsequently deported. College officials confirmed the student was physically safe and planned to seek legal counsel. The incident occurred off-campus. SMC reaffirmed its commitment to protecting all students regardless of immigration status and maintained policies restricting information sharing with immigration authorities without court orders. Santa Monica police confirmed they do not participate in immigration enforcement operations.

City Faces Budget Shortfall — Santa Monica faced a $60 million budget shortfall over five years due to slow economic recovery. The city planned to use reserves and Measure K funds to maintain services while addressing structural deficits.

PCH Reopens — PCH reopened early after accelerated debris cleanup from the Palisades fire. While accessible, the road had reduced capacity. Officials warned of ongoing repairs and urged caution in the construction zones.

Jewelry Thief Arrested — Santa Monica police arrested Craig Anthony Richey, 58, on April 23 for a home invasion robbery on La Mesa Drive where $56,000 in jewelry was stolen. The suspect displayed a firearm during the incident. Detectives tracked the stolen items leading to Richey's arrest and booking for first-degree robbery. The investigation continued.

Therapist Arrested — Physical therapist Fernando A. Salazar was arrested for sexual battery alleged to have occurred during a session.

Ballet Honors — Westside Ballet's gala honored alumnus Andrew Veyette and featured performances ranging from classical to contemporary. The event celebrated the company's legacy and community contributions, including scholarships for aspiring dancers.

Marina Culture Jam — Marina del Rey celebrated its 60th anniversary with the "Marina Culture Jam," a free festival featuring music, art, and cultural performances at Burton Chace Park to engage the community.

JUNE

Entertainment Zone Debut — Downtown Santa Monica launched an entertainment zone allowing alcohol consumption in designated areas, starting with seven participating restaurants. Additionally, a proposal was made to host "Futpool" events for the 2026 FIFA Club World Cup to further revitalize the area.

Former Daily Press Office To Become 132 Units Of Housing — The former Santa

SEE **JUNE** PAGE 8



SMDP Photo

BATHROOM: Vandalism at the beach cost the city $10K per month.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Development Review Permit (25ENT-0179)
1752 Cloverfield Blvd
APPLICANT: Matt McGlashan, Cypress Equity Investments
PROPERTY OWNER: 1752 Cloverfield Venture, LP

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following request:

Development Review Permit (DRP) to allow a new Tier 2, three-story, 45' high, 56,963 square-foot (above grade) personal storage facility in the Industrial Conservation (IC) zoning district. The project will include four levels of subterranean floor area for personal storage use and surface level loading spaces. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.40.020(B), a DRP is required for new construction that exceeds Tier 1 maximum limits.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026 AT 6:00 PM**

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to planningcomment@santamonica.gov or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

You may also comment in-person at the Planning Commission hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

Address your comments to: **Shira Moch, Acting Senior Planner**
Re: 25ENT-0179

VIA E-MAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Shira Moch by e-mail at shira.moch@santamonica.gov. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia pública para revisar aplicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a shira.moch@santamonica.gov

JUNE

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Monica Daily Press office building at 1640 5th Street received approval for conversion into 132 residential units. The project transformed the historic property into housing, marking a significant redevelopment in downtown Santa Monica. The conversion represented part of ongoing efforts to increase residential density and adapt underutilized commercial buildings for housing purposes.

Malibu High School Seniors Face Prosecution After Overnight Vandalism Spree — Malibu High School seniors faced potential prosecution after an overnight vandalism spree damaged school property. The incident involved significant destruction requiring costly repairs. School administrators and law enforcement investigated the matter, with students potentially facing criminal charges and disciplinary action. The vandalism occurred during traditional senior activities, prompting discussions about appropriate celebrations and consequences for destructive behavior.

Malibu Works To Save Its Struggling Businesses — Malibu took emergency steps to aid struggling businesses after the Palisades Fire and Pacific Coast Highway closure devastated local commerce. The city implemented fee waivers, expedited permits, and financial assistance programs. Business owners reported dramatic revenue losses as tourists avoided the area. Officials worked to accelerate recovery and restore economic activity.

Santa Monica City Workforce Hovers At 6% Vacant With New Hiring Freeze In Place — Santa Monica's city workforce hovered at 6% vacancy with a new hiring freeze in place due to budget constraints. The freeze affected multiple departments as the city faced ongoing fiscal challenges. Officials implemented the measure to control personnel costs while maintaining essential services. Some positions remained exempt from the freeze.

Water Rates to Increase by 20% Next Year — Santa Monica water rates increased by 20% for the following year to fund infrastructure improvements and maintain aging systems. The rate hike addressed rising operational costs, drought management programs, and necessary repairs to water distribution networks. City officials cited the increases as essential for ensuring reliable water service and meeting state conservation requirements.

Four Rescued Sea Lions Returned to the Wild as Marine Crisis Eases — Four rescued sea lions were returned to the wild as the marine mammal crisis eased along California's coast. The animals recovered at rehabilitation facilities after stranding due to malnutrition and illness. Marine Mammal Care Center staff reported improved ocean conditions and food availability enabled successful releases, marking progress in addressing the environmental crisis.

Santa Monica Animal Shelter Fundraiser — Santa Monica Animal Shelter's fundraiser returned Saturday featuring pet adoptions, auctions, and family activities. The event raised funds for shelter operations, medical care, and community programs. Attendees participated in adoption drives, silent auctions, demonstrations, and entertainment while supporting the shelter's mission to care for homeless animals and promote responsible pet ownership.

Santa Monica Landlord Settles Harassment, Discrimination Cases for $685,000 — A Santa Monica landlord settled harassment and discrimination cases for $685,000 after tenants alleged intimidation tactics and civil rights violations. The settlement resolved claims involving multiple tenants who reported hostile living conditions, illegal eviction attempts, and discriminatory practices. City officials emphasized the outcome as accountability for landlords who violated tenant protection laws.

Living Wage for All Coalition Launches in Santa Monica with Push for $30 Countywide Minimum — The Living Wage for All Coalition launched in Santa Monica, pushing for a $30 countywide minimum wage. Organizers argued existing wages failed to match the region's high cost of living. The coalition gathered support from labor groups, community organizations, and workers demanding legislation to establish higher wage standards across Los Angeles County.

Council Limits Public Comment Duration During Meetings — Santa Monica City Council limited public comment duration during meetings, reducing individual speaking time to manage lengthy sessions. The policy change sparked debate about civic engagement and access to government. Officials defended the measure as necessary for efficient meetings, while critics argued it restricted public participation in local decision-making processes.

Moon-Bound Messages Launched from Santa Monica's Fairmont Hotel — Moon-bound messages were launched from Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel as part of a lunar time capsule project. Participants submitted personal messages, artwork, and cultural artifacts for spaceflight to the moon. The initiative combined space exploration with community engagement, allowing residents to contribute to humanity's permanent lunar archive.

Will Rogers 5th Graders Close the Year with International Baccalaureate Presentations — Will Rogers Elementary fifth graders closed the academic year with International Baccalaureate exhibition presentations showcasing research projects and learning. Students presented inquiry-based work to families and community members, demonstrating skills developed through the IB Primary Years Programme. The culminating event highlighted students' critical thinking, collaboration, and communication abilities.

SEE **REVIEW** PAGE 8



SMDP Photo

KINGS: Santa Monica welcomed peaceful protest at Palisades Park..

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Tentative Subdivision Map (25ENT-0248)
817 16th Street
APPLICANT: Josh White
PROPERTY OWNER: MWDF 830 Santa Monica, LLC

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following request:

Tentative Subdivision Map to allow an airspace subdivision of a parcel for the purpose of constructing a new four-story, eight-unit residential condominium development (six market rate units; two affordable units) in the R2 (Low Density Residential) zoning district. The two existing dwelling units will be demolished as part of the project. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.54.070(B), the Planning Commission is the responsible authority to approve, conditionally approve, or deny tentative subdivision map applications.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026, AT 6:00 PM**

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to planningcomment@santamonica.gov or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

You may also comment in-person at the Planning Commission hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

Address your comments to: **Laylee Hokmollahi, Assistant Planner**
Re: **25ENT-0248**

VIA E-MAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Laylee Hokmollahi by e-mail at laylee.hokmollahi@santamonica.gov. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia pública para revisar aplicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov.

REVIEW

FROM PAGE 7

From Lava Pits to Wand Battles, Dream Park Aims to Reboot the Promenade with Mixed Reality — Dream Park aimed to revitalize Third Street Promenade with mixed reality attractions featuring lava pits, wand battles, and immersive experiences. The entertainment concept combined physical spaces with augmented reality technology to create interactive adventures. Developers positioned the attraction as a draw for families and tourists, offering innovative entertainment to boost foot traffic downtown.

Santa Monica Is Not Actually a Sanctuary City, but It Does Oppose Immigration Crackdowns — Santa Monica clarified it was not officially a sanctuary city but opposed immigration enforcement crackdowns. City leaders explained local police did not participate in federal immigration operations per state law. Officials emphasized community trust and public safety priorities while distinguishing their policies from formal sanctuary city designations, addressing confusion about the city's immigration stance.

Santa Monica Advances Cannabis Retail Ordinance with Social Equity Focus — Santa Monica advanced a cannabis retail ordinance prioritizing social equity applicants affected by past drug enforcement. The framework established licensing criteria, location restrictions, and support programs for equity businesses. City officials aimed to create opportunities for communities disproportionately impacted by cannabis criminalization while regulating the emerging retail market and generating tax revenue.

As Local Crime Rises and Falls, Homelessness Remains the Driving Factor — Santa Monica crime statistics fluctuated with homelessness remaining the primary driving factor behind incidents. Police data showed connections between unhoused populations and property crimes, public disturbances, and quality-of-life complaints. Officials discussed enforcement approaches, social services, and housing strategies to address the intersection of homelessness and public safety concerns.

No Kings Protest Comes to Santa Monica — A "No Kings" protest arrived in Santa Monica on Saturday as demonstrators gathered to express opposition to concentrated political power. Participants rallied peacefully, voicing concerns about democratic institutions and governmental accountability. The event reflected broader national movements advocating for systemic reforms and challenging executive authority in the political system.

Palisades Fire Map Offers Stark Look at Destruction, Raises Deeper Questions About Recovery — A Palisades Fire map provided stark visualization of destruction while raising questions about recovery challenges. The detailed mapping showed structure losses, burn severity, and infrastructure damage across affected neighborhoods. The data informed discussions about rebuilding timelines, insurance adequacy, fire prevention measures, and long-term community resilience planning for future disasters.

Malibu Seeks Public Input on Speed Camera Program for Pacific Coast Highway — Malibu sought public input on implementing a speed camera program for Pacific Coast Highway to address dangerous driving conditions. Officials proposed automated enforcement to reduce speeding and improve safety along the notorious corridor. The initiative required community feedback and state authorization, with supporters citing frequent accidents and pedestrian fatalities as justification for technology-based traffic enforcement.

Santa Monica Council Approves Shared Bus-Bike Lanes in Split Vote — Santa Monica City Council approved shared bus-bike lanes in a split vote following contentious debate about safety and transit efficiency. The decision allowed cyclists to use designated bus-only lanes on certain routes. Supporters emphasized improved bicycle connectivity while opponents worried about conflicts between buses and bikes, delays to transit service, and rider safety concerns.

Santa Monica Trio Honored as Hometown Heroes for Dramatic Apartment Fire Rescue — Three Santa Monica residents were honored as hometown heroes for rescuing neighbors during a dramatic apartment fire. The individuals entered a burning building, alerting residents and helping people evacuate before firefighters arrived. City officials recognized their bravery and quick action that prevented injuries or deaths during the emergency, highlighting community courage and selflessness.



SMDP Photo

MOST LOVED: The City's best businesses were celebrated at an expanded event.

Finally, Some Good News: Bay Cities Deli Is Back Open — Bay Cities Deli reopened to community celebration after temporary closure, bringing relief to loyal customers. The beloved Santa Monica Italian delicatessen and market resumed operations serving signature sandwiches and groceries. The reopening ended uncertainty about the iconic establishment's future, with patrons eager to return for the famous Godmother sandwich and neighborhood gathering spot.

Long Beach Man Charged in Attempted Sexual Assault of Elderly Woman — A Long Beach man faced charges for attempted sexual assault of an elderly woman in Santa Monica. Police arrested the suspect after investigating the attack on the vulnerable victim. Prosecutors filed felony charges including assault with intent to commit rape and elder abuse, seeking substantial prison time for the alleged predatory crime against the senior resident.

Council Praises Departing Civic Activist Even as She Calls on Them to Do More for Residents — Santa Monica City Council praised a departing civic activist for years of community service while she urged officials to better serve residents. The honored advocate challenged the council during her farewell remarks to prioritize affordable housing, homelessness solutions, and equity. Officials acknowledged her contributions while she maintained accountability pressure on elected leaders to deliver meaningful results.

Summit Explores Human Potential Beyond Technology — A Santa Monica summit explored human potential beyond technology, emphasizing personal development, creativity, and consciousness. Speakers discussed meditation, emotional intelligence, relationships, and purpose alongside technological advancement. The event challenged tech-centric worldviews, advocating for balanced approaches integrating human wisdom, connection, and wellbeing with innovation in the digital age.

Tourism Leaders Tout Economic Boost, Urge Realism at Santa Monica Summit — Tourism leaders touted Santa Monica's economic benefits while urging realistic expectations at an industry summit. Officials presented visitor spending data, job creation, and tax revenue generated by tourism. Speakers acknowledged challenges including infrastructure strain, housing pressures, and quality-of-life impacts, calling for balanced strategies maximizing economic gains while managing tourism's community effects.

Santa Monica Council Reviews Boulevard Safety Study Amid Calls for Bolder Changes — Santa Monica City Council reviewed a boulevard safety study while advocates demanded bolder traffic calming measures. The report recommended improvements to crosswalks, signals, and speed limits. Community members pushed for protected bike lanes, road diets, and aggressive redesigns to prevent pedestrian deaths, criticizing incremental approaches as insufficient for achieving Vision Zero goals.

Santa Monica Woman Celebrates 106th Birthday After Decades of Global Teaching — A Santa Monica woman celebrated her 106th birthday after spending decades teaching internationally. The centenarian shared stories of her career educating students across multiple countries and continents. Friends, family, and former students honored her longevity, contributions to education, and remarkable life spanning over a century of global experiences and dedication to learning.

State Files Price Gouging Charges Against Beverly Hills Realtor — California filed price gouging charges against a Beverly Hills realtor for allegedly exploiting wildfire victims through inflated rental prices. State Attorney General accused the defendant of charging excessive rates to displaced families during the emergency. The case sought penalties, restitution, and accountability for predatory practices targeting vulnerable people during disaster recovery when housing demand surged.

Endangered Fish Return Home After Five-Month Fire Recovery — Endangered northern tidewater gobies returned to Topanga Canyon Lagoon after five months recovering at Southern California aquariums following the Palisades Fire. Biologists rescued the fish when wildfire debris contaminated their habitat. Eight organizations collaborated on the rescue, funded by donations and grants, successfully rehabilitating and releasing the fish to their restored natural environment.

Santa Monica Weather Swings from Deluge to Drought as City Returns to Seasonal Norms — Santa Monica weather swung dramatically from heavy rainfall to drought conditions as seasonal patterns returned. The city experienced flooding followed by extended dry periods, reflecting California's variable climate. Water officials monitored supplies while encouraging conservation. The weather extremes underscored ongoing climate concerns and the importance of drought preparedness despite occasional winter storms bringing temporary relief.

Tova Capital Acquires Downtown Retail Building for $5.1M — Tova Capital acquired a downtown Santa Monica retail building for $5.1 million, adding to its local commercial real estate portfolio. The purchase reflected continued investment interest in the area despite retail challenges. The transaction involved a multi-tenant property with mixed occupancy, with the buyer planning potential repositioning strategies for the downtown location.

Roger Nichols, Who Gave Voice to the Carpenters and Santa Monica's Soul, Dies at 84 — Roger Nichols, legendary songwriter who gave voice to the Carpenters and Santa Monica's musical soul, died at 84. The composer created timeless hits including "We've Only Just Begun" and "Rainy Days and Mondays." His career spanned decades of influential pop songwriting. Friends, musicians, and fans mourned the loss of the beloved artist who shaped American popular music.

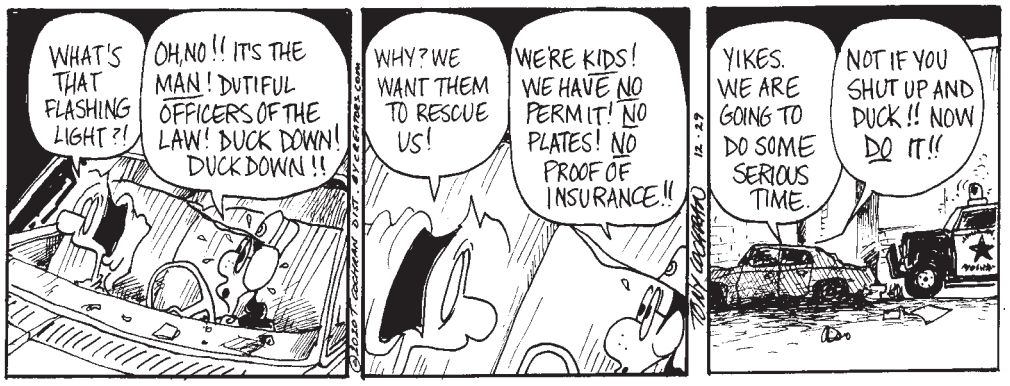
501 Broadway Project Tops Out as the City's Downtown Drive for Density Continues — The 501 Broadway housing project topped out, marking construction milestone as Santa Monica's downtown densification continued. The multi-story development added residential units to the urban core. Officials celebrated progress toward housing goals while the project represented ongoing efforts to increase density, create walkable neighborhoods, and address regional housing shortages through transit-oriented development.

Planning Commission Approves 18-Story Housing Project Despite Environmental Appeal — Santa Monica

SEE REVIEW PAGE 11

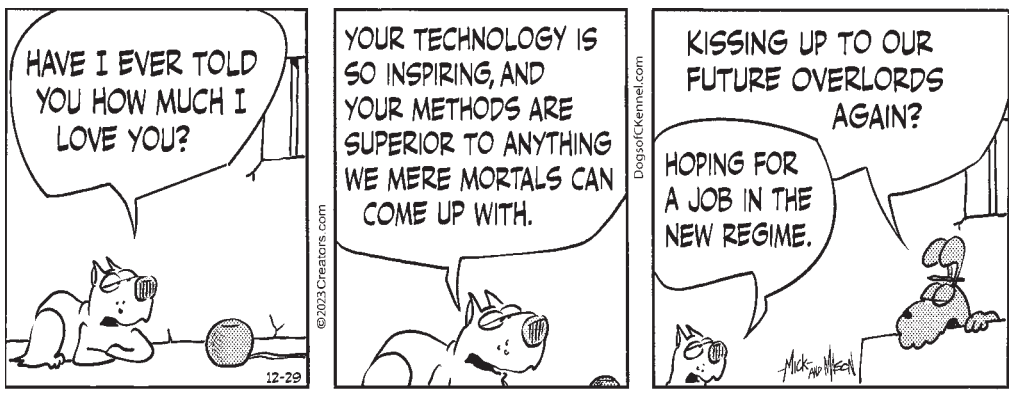
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By TONY COCHRAN



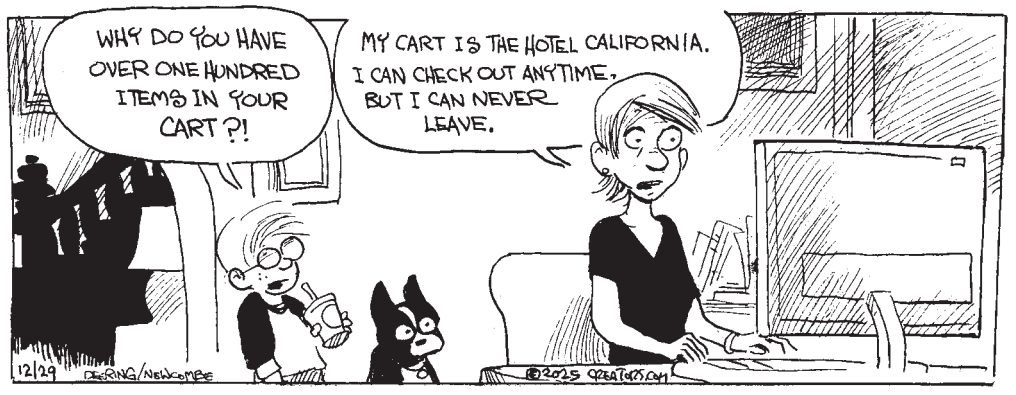
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 15 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6804

Our northern regions

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

Airport	Dirty	Kakadu	Scrub
Arid	Eagle	Link	Skycity
Bait	Emu Creek	Lodge	Casino
Boab	Fire	Pioneer	Stuart
Buffalo	Flat	Plane	Highway
Buses	Gorge	Pools	Swim
Cafes	Grit	Rain	Tackle
Camp	Guide	Rest	Tiwi
Canoe	Gums	Rods	Ubirr
Catch	Heat	Roper River	Unique
Climb	Huge	Route	Uranium
Customs	Inspiring	Rugged	Water

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Backdrops and lighting

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. 29)

Welcome to your Year of Paradoxical Leadership. You don't have to strive for brilliant strategy, knowledge, authority or anything at all. You just show up with your true values and you're wildly influential, often without detection. Sometimes you don't even have the role, but you rule the room anyway. More highlights: Relationships deepen effortlessly. Money comes through a choice that once scared you. A creative experiment becomes your signature. Cancer and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 28, 9, 34 and 41.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). External praise can lift you, but it won't create lasting self-worth. Get ready for a joyful awareness of what's best in you. It won't come from compliments but from inner knowing, self-respect and recognizing your own strength.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Today, it doesn't matter which direction you choose, only that you choose one. You can make it easier by noticing what the people you admire have chosen and letting their paths inspire your next step. One decision moves everything forward.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Because you expect more of yourself than most people do, you can feel like you're failing even when you're doing great. Just know that you're further along than you'd be without your big ambitions. Can you go easy on yourself today?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You glimpse a version of your future that seems so right and real. Indeed, it's OK to take pleasure and pride in the fact that things seem to be shaping up right before your eyes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may temporarily detach from the thing that's not working with an instinctual and subtle step back. Someone may still try and pull your energy, but it's easy to dodge the play. The escape brings a surprising rush of inner power.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There will be a pocket of time today where your creativity flickers awake. It won't demand anything from you; it'll just remind you that your inner world is fully alive and ready for you when you want to journey inward.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When going too fast, it can be hard to keep control. But as any bicyclist knows, going too slow makes it impossible to balance. So go at a comfortable speed, and seek the people and situations that match your pace.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's no need to apologize for needing rest. Those apologies dilute your power. Honor your capacity. Your body and mind have needs. You're allowed to guard your energy without guilt or explanation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll shake off some grogginess and notice your identity reassemble itself differently than yesterday. These adjustments -- partly intentional, partly instinctive -- are turning you into the person who gets the goal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Today, you can relax knowing there's no need to force yourself into a role, give a performance or be impressive in any way. Let your natural gifts and temperament speak for you. "The fragrance of flowers is their prayer." -- Peter Deunov

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Let your feelings be known. Your boldness tells people who you are, and they'll trust you more when they understand you better. Your confidence inspires others to be forthright.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're unsure whether you can do something. That doesn't mean you're incapable; it means you're smart. You're thinking, noticing variables and assessing risk, which is the realistic viewpoint that will ultimately help you succeed.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

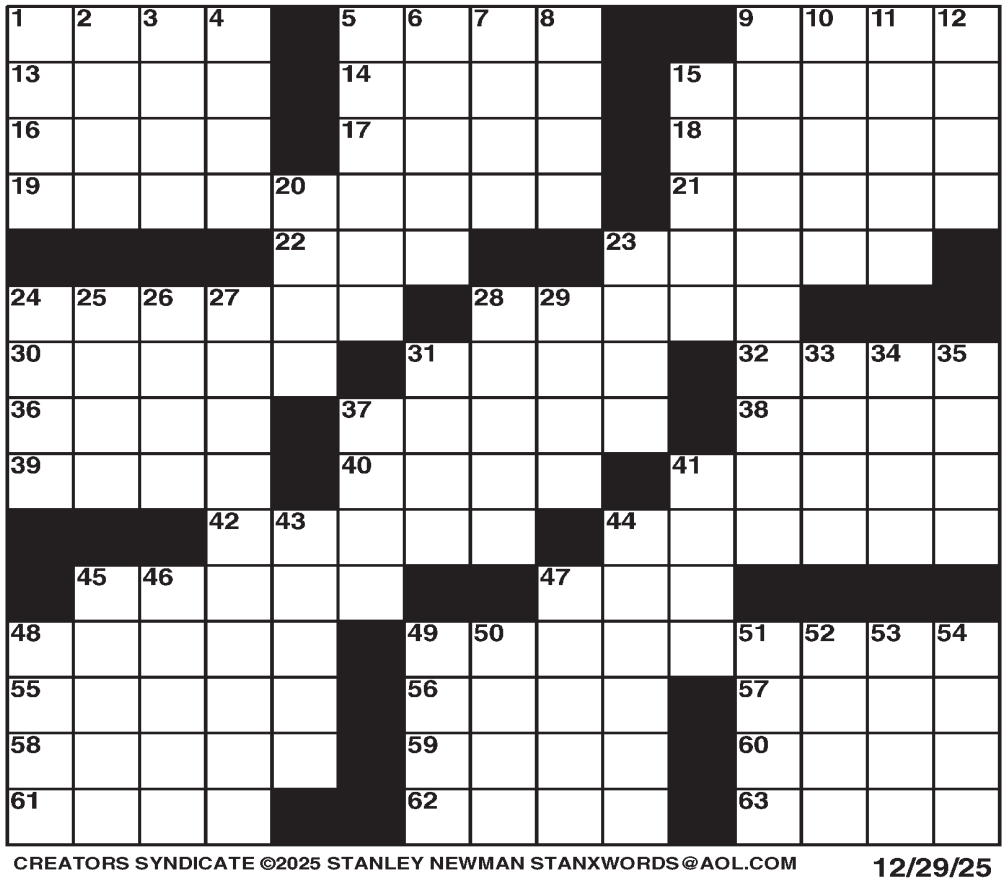
OUTDOOR SEATING by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Insect that stings
5 Online auction site
9 Tree with cones
13 Dot of land in the sea
14 Factual
15 Printer powder
16 Roaring large cat
17 Musical closing passage
18 Command
19 Foldable seat for a backyard
21 Corrosive liquids
22 Color of ketchup
23 Campfire remnants
24 Prepared, as tea
28 Bumps on toads
30 Very quick
31 Cabbie's vehicle
32 Hairpieces
36 Guitarist Clapton
37 Placed a strain on
38 Not doing anything
39 Pack of playing cards
40 Topped with frosting
41 Pig's nose
42 Coins in Spain and Italy
44 Right __ (90-degree shapes)
45 __ code (telegraph system)
47 "It's __-win situation"
48 Small rodent
49 Long seat for an urban green space
55 Film performer
56 Brother of Cain
57 Bold challenge
58 Professional cooks
59 Sandy hill
60 Line on a list
61 __ Lee (frozen dessert brand)
62 Number in a spreadsheet
63 Hauls to a garage

DOWN

1 "Boys __ be boys"
2 India's continent
3 Reduce speed
4 Pittsburgh's state, for short
5 Engraved deeply
6 Wide-ranging
7 German auto
8 Twelve-month period
9 Hanging seat near a front door
10 Non-studio film, for short
11 Requirements
12 Makes a mistake
15 Bread that's browned
20 Reputation, informally
23 Dry as a desert
24 Raised, as livestock
25 Very uncommon
26 Long, heroic saga
27 Lightweight wooden seat with cushions
28 Polishes, as a floor
29 Chopped down
31 Mexican food in a shell
33 Highly admired person
34 Scrapbooker's adhesive
35 Full collections
37 Auto wheel
41 Snooty person
43 Software buyers
44 Short sock
45 Chocolate-flavored coffee
46 External
47 Boxing match venue
48 Apple computers, for short
49 Paper tablets
50 Share a border with
51 Polish for publication
52 Western defense alliance
53 Ship's staff
54 Garment edges



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12/29/25

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

Planning Commission approved an 18-story housing project despite environmental appeals challenging the development's impacts. Commissioners determined the project met requirements and benefits outweighed concerns. Opponents cited traffic, shadows, and neighborhood compatibility issues. The controversial approval allowed the high-rise residential tower to proceed toward construction, advancing city densification despite community resistance.

Santa Monica Launches AI-Powered Bus Lane Enforcement as City Expands Surveillance Technology — Santa Monica launched AI-powered bus lane enforcement cameras as the city expanded surveillance technology. Automated systems detected and ticketed vehicles illegally using transit-only lanes. Officials touted improved bus speeds and compliance while privacy advocates raised concerns about expanding automated monitoring. The program represented growing use of artificial intelligence in traffic enforcement and urban management.

California Recovers $65 Million in Stolen Goods as Retail Crime Enforcement Surges — California recovered $65 million in stolen goods as retail crime enforcement intensified statewide. Task forces targeted organized theft rings, making arrests and seizing merchandise. Attorney General officials reported breaking up sophisticated operations reselling stolen products. The crackdown aimed to combat retail losses, protect businesses, and prosecute criminals exploiting vulnerabilities in the retail supply chain.

Five Local Teenagers Earn Eagle Scout Rank from Troop 2 — Five Santa Monica teenagers earned Eagle Scout rank from Troop 2, achieving Scouting's highest honor through leadership and community service projects. The young men completed rigorous requirements including service projects benefiting local organizations. Families and troop leaders celebrated the accomplishments at a Court of Honor ceremony recognizing the scouts' dedication, character development, and commitment to serving others.

Santa Monica Planning Commission Unanimously Approves RAND Building Amendment — Santa Monica Planning Commission unanimously approved an amendment to the RAND Corporation building project. The modification addressed design elements, public space, and operational details for the research institution's facility. Commissioners supported the changes after review and public input. The approval advanced the project toward construction while maintaining compatibility with the surrounding Civic Center neighborhood.

Strongman Pulls 34,680-lb Electric Bus to Kick Off Santa Monica's Pier 360 Festival — A strongman pulled a 34,680-pound electric bus to kick off Santa Monica's Pier 360 Festival, demonstrating remarkable strength. The feat attracted crowds celebrating the event's opening weekend. The festival featured entertainment, activities, food vendors, and family programming. The bus-pulling spectacle provided memorable entertainment while highlighting the city's electric transit fleet and commitment to sustainability.

Council Approves $800M Budget After Divisive Vote on $50,000 for Neighborhood Associations — Santa Monica City Council approved an $800 million budget following divisive debate over $50,000 allocated to neighborhood associations. The contentious vote revealed disagreements about funding priorities and community organization support. Some councilmembers questioned the allocation while others defended empowering grassroots groups. The budget passed despite tensions over how resources should support civic engagement and neighborhood participation.

LA County Reports Historic 22% Drop in Drug Overdose Deaths — Los Angeles County reported a historic 22% drop in drug overdose deaths, marking significant progress in combating the opioid crisis. Public health officials attributed declines to naloxone distribution, treatment expansion, and harm reduction programs. Despite improvements, fentanyl remained a major threat. Authorities emphasized continued investment in prevention, treatment, and overdose reversal efforts to sustain downward trends.

Homeless Man Arrested for Shooting Two Teens and a Santa Monica Police Officer — A homeless man was arrested for shooting two teenagers and a Santa Monica police officer during a violent confrontation. The suspect opened fire, injuring victims before officers returned fire and apprehended him. All wounded individuals survived with injuries. The incident highlighted dangers officers face and sparked discussions about mental health, homelessness, and gun violence intersections.

Malibu Adopts $110.3 Million Budget Focused on Fire Recovery and Infrastructure — Malibu adopted a $110.3 million budget prioritizing fire recovery and infrastructure improvements. The spending plan allocated significant resources to debris removal, emergency services, road repairs, and rebuilding assistance. Officials structured the budget to address immediate disaster needs while maintaining essential city services. The financial framework aimed to support community recovery while strengthening resilience against future emergencies.

Home Prices Rise Near Wildfire Zones Despite Disaster Risk — Home prices rose near wildfire zones despite increased disaster risks, defying expectations that fire threats would depress property values. Real estate data showed strong demand in previously burned areas as buyers weighed location benefits against hazards. Limited inventory, desirable communities, and rebuilding activity drove appreciation. Experts noted insurance challenges and climate risks remained concerns despite market resilience in fire-prone regions.

Malibu Tackles PCH Safety Crisis with Emergency Declaration, Major Road Projects and Federal Enforcement Grant — Malibu addressed Pacific Coast Highway's safety crisis through emergency declarations, major road improvement projects, and federal enforcement grants. Officials implemented speed reduction measures, enhanced signage, and increased patrols following fatal accidents. The multi-pronged approach combined infrastructure upgrades with aggressive traffic enforcement. Federal funding supported technology and personnel to reduce speeding and crashes on the dangerous coastal corridor.

Nordstrom Will Leave Santa Monica Place in August — Nordstrom announced it would close its Santa Monica Place location in August, dealing another blow to the struggling mall. The department store's departure removed a major anchor tenant from the property already facing 70% vacancy. The closure reflected broader retail challenges and Nordstrom's nationwide store consolidation strategy. Officials worried about the mall's future as another significant retailer abandoned downtown.



MONDAY | DECEMBER 29

PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2025-12-22T18. The Gordons Improv Residency 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. Welcome to The Gordons Improv Show at Westside Comedy Theater! IMPROV RESIDENT TEAM NIGHT! Check out our current lineup of Resident Improv Teams! These teams perform Long-Form Improv all inspired by a suggestion from the audience. Think of it as a sitcom made up on the spot. Catch them before they are gone! These teams rotate every three months!Get ready for a night filled with laughter, spontaneity, and hilarious moments. Join us for an evening of unscripted comedy where every joke is made up on the spot. Our talented improv performers will have you in stitches as they create scenes, characters, and stories based on your suggestions. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind experience! Grab your friends and come on down to Westside Comedy Theater for a night you won't forget. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-gordons-improv-residency/14863274/2025-12-22T19

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 30

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

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

TECH & TASKS

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

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

4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Gelson's 12121 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles. Every Tuesday from 4 PM to 10 PM, Gelson's West LA Wine Bar will be hosting Taco Tuesdays, bringing together a festive blend of flavors and fun. Enjoy a variety of mouthwatering tacos, refreshing margaritas, and smooth mezcals, all served in a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere. The perfect way to spice up the week—gather friends and enjoy a night of great food, drinks, and good times. Prices vary. For more information, visit https://www.gelsons.com/events/view/taco-tuesdays-at-gelsons-west-la-wine-bar. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/gelson-s-west-la-to-host-taco-tuesdays-with-tacos-margaritas-and-mezcals/15309564/2025-12-02T16

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

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

TUESDAY OPEN MIC

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

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 31

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - WEDNESDAY MARKET

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica Arizona Avenue (Between 4th & Ocean) Santa Monica. One of the largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/12382446/2025-12-17T08

STAR STORIES WITH PAM

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE PULL MY FINGER: FAMILY FRIENDLY COMEDY SHOW

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. The Crow 2525 Michigan Avenue #Unit F4 Santa Monica. Celebrate ringing in the New Year by laughing with your family and then get the kids to bed early so the real celebrations can begin! Is there a better sound than your kiddo laughing? It's our mission over here at The Crow to make your kids laugh! Join us for an interactive improv show with professional comedians. Stroller parking available :) All ages welcome, best for families with children between the ages of 4 - 11 years old. $18.84. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/new-year-s-eve-pull-my-finger-family-friendly-comedy-show/17555584/2025-12-31T17


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