

Gary Limjap
(310) 586-0339

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

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
CalRE # 00927151

2 **Improving your health?**
Keep it simple.

3 **Put with the old**
Managing transitions.

4 **Cosmic wonders**
For the New Year.

5 **About Town**
Where to celebrate

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 25 Issue 32 SPECIAL EDITION 12/31/25 - 1/1/26 smdp.com

Year in Review: City manager aims to revitalize Santa Monica

EDITOR'S NOTE: Today is the last part of our annual Year in Review coverage summarizing news from October, November and December.



SMDP Photo

CRIME: The City tried to change perceptions around crime and safety in the latter part of the year.

OCTOBER

Ina Bakes Studio Opens in Venice — Two Santa Monica pastry chefs, Carolina Sigbaum and Sabrina Sin, launched Ina Bakes Studio in Venice. Their pop-up events featured handcrafted desserts, building on their online connection and shared culinary expertise to create a community gathering space.

Priest Completes 3,800-Mile Bike Ride — Jesuit Father Matthew Ruhl cycled 3,800 miles to Santa Monica Pier, raising awareness and funds for 112 crumbling Catholic schools in Belize. His "Lighthouse Ride" highlighted dire conditions affecting educational infrastructure serving 32,000 students.

Council Expanded Off-Site Housing Program — Santa Monica City Council expanded a pilot program allowing developers to build affordable housing off-site or pay fees. Councilmember Jesse Zwick argued this flexibility was necessary due to high construction costs and interest rates.

Malibu Extended Franklin Fire Emergency — Malibu City Council extended its emergency declaration for the Franklin Fire to address ongoing debris and sediment buildup. This marked the sixth extension since the fire began, highlighting continued recovery challenges.

Foundation Awarded $2.52M Grant — Santa Monica Education Foundation awarded a $2.52 million grant to SMMUSD. This funding, raised through community participation rather than just major donors, supported various school programs and curriculum enhancements for local students.

196-Unit Building Debuts on Broadway — Related California opened a 196-unit luxury residential building at 700 Broadway. The development replaced a former Vons and featured extensive amenities, including an Equinox gym and a new upscale grocery store.

County Launched Immigration Impact Grants — Los Angeles County launched a $5,000 grant program for small businesses impacted by federal immigration enforcement. The fund helped retailers recover from economic disruptions caused by enforcement activities affecting workforce and foot traffic.

Police Recovered $500K in Stolen Nike Merchandise — LAPD recovered $500,000 in stolen Nike merchandise from a Santa Monica business. Detectives executed a search warrant as part of a cargo theft investigation involving railroad and port police.

$35.5M Pier Bridge Replacement Approved — City Council approved a $35.5 million contract to replace the 86-year-old Santa Monica Pier Bridge. Construction was slated to begin in late 2025, aiming for completion before the 2028 Olympics.

Former Student Becomes Math Teacher — Jasson Martinez, a former Santa Monica High School student, returned to the campus as a math teacher. His journey highlighted the district's success in inspiring students to pursue education careers within their community.

Malibu Schools Installed Backup Generators — Malibu schools completed installation of emergency generators across all four campuses. Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton confirmed the move ensured power during outages after the district faced 22 days of fire-related closures.

SEE **OCTOBER** PAGE 2



TAXES
ALL FORMS, ALL TYPES, ALL STATES
BACK TAXES • BOOKKEEPING • SMALL BUSINESS
SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
(310) 395-9922
100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1753 • Santa Monica 90401

Buy Local SANTA MONICA
buylocalsantamonica.com
Support your community!

Trying to improve your health and wellness in 2026? Keep it simple

The new year is a time when many try to start new good habits and commit to improving health and wellness.

But resolutions, lofty as they may be, can turn daunting quickly with all the advice and sometimes contradicting information coming at you from news reports, advertisers, influencers, friends and even politicians.

But they don't have to be.

This year, The Associated Press got the downlow on all manner of health and wellness claims and fads. The good news is that the experts mostly say to keep it simple.

As 2026 arrives, here's what you can skip, what you should pay attention to and how to get credible information when you are inevitably faced with more confusing claims next year.

PROTEIN AND FIBER ARE IMPORTANT, BUT YOU PROBABLY DON'T NEED TO PAY MORE

When it comes to your diet, experts say most people can skip the upcharge. If you're eating enough, you're probably getting enough protein and don't need products that promise some big boost.

And it's true that most people could use more fiber in their diets. But, please, ditch the "fiber-maxxing" trend. Instead, eat whole foods such as fruits, vegetables, beans and whole grains.

A GOOD SKIN CARE ROUTINE IS NOT EXPENSIVE OR COMPLICATED

That 20-step skin care routine and $200 serum some TikToker sold you on? Dermatologists say you really don't need it. Stay away from the beef tallow and slather on a good sunscreen instead (yes, even if you have darker skin), they say.

And the same rule for simplicity applies to that hourlong "everything shower." The best showers are simple and short, dermatologists say, no "double cleansing" required.

THERE ARE MANY SIMPLE WAYS TO GET THAT WORKOUT IN

If the gym and all its equipment feel intimidating, you can drop the illusion that a good workout requires either. This year, the comeback of calisthenics put the focus back on no frills, bodyweight workouts you can do in the comfort of home. Research shows calisthenics helps with muscle strength and aerobic conditioning. You may eventually need weightlifting or other equipment, but it is a great place to start to build consistency and confidence.

BE WARY OF WELLNESS FADS AND TREATMENTS — THEY ARE OFTEN TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

Even if you imbibe too much this New Year's Eve, doctors say you can do without " IV therapy " which have vitamins you can get more easily and cheaper in pill form — if you even need more, which is unlikely if you have a balanced diet. You're pretty much just paying for "expensive urine," one doctor said.

Same for "wellness" focused products like microbiome testing kits that generate information that doctors can't actually act on. And if you don't have diabetes, there's scant evidence that you need a continuous glucose monitor.

TO IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH, GO BACK TO THE BASICS

The idea of a panacea pill, product or routine can be enticing. But science already knows a lot about how to improve mental and physical health, and they are tried and true:

1. Whether you're in the city or the country — walk more. Research shows walking is great for physical and mental health. It's so good for you, doctors are literally prescribing time in the outdoors to their patients.

2. Take steps to get certain health metrics under control, like high blood pressure, which often goes undiagnosed and is known to cause a range of health problems down the road. Prioritize getting enough sleep, and make sure your family does too. Don't just eat right — eat slower.

3. Give your mind some care too. Set better boundaries with your technology and regain and retrain your attention span. Build out your social networks and invest in all forms of love for the people around you.

These lifestyle changes don't just make you feel better in the moment. Research shows they impact your life for years to come, by lowering the risk of dementia and many other health issues.

DON'T KNOW WHO TO TRUST? START WITH YOUR DOCTOR

It can be tough to know who to listen to about your health, faced with compelling personal stories on social media from people who swear something worked from them, or clever marketing and advertising from companies that scare you or promise an easy fix.

Doubts have been raised this year about established medicine, including the safety of food dyes, fluoride dental treatments,hepatitis B shot for newborns, and hormone therapies for menopause.

While the medical system is not perfect, your doctor remains the best person to talk to about prevention, health concerns and potential treatments.

If you can't get to a human doctor and turn to Dr. Google instead, be sure to follow these tips and never use it to diagnose yourself. When you do get that doctor's appointment, you can make the most of it by bringing a list of written questions — and don't hesitate to ask for any clarification you need.

By DEVI SHASTRI AP Health Writer

ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!
Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

OCTOBER

FROM PAGE 1

City Terminated Civic Auditorium Negotiations — City Council voted to end exclusive negotiations with Revitalization Partners Group for the Civic Auditorium restoration. Councilmembers cited lack of financial documentation after nearly two years of discussions regarding the $360 million project.

Council Approved Signature Events Program — Council unanimously approved a "Signature Events" program to streamline permitting for major community festivals. The initiative reduced bureaucratic hurdles and costs for organizers, ensuring city support for events boosting local culture.

2025 Water Quality Report Approved — City Council approved the 2025 Water Quality Report, confirming Santa Monica's drinking water met all safety standards. While some voluntary advisory levels were exceeded, the supply complied with federal and state regulations.

County Provided $31.7M in Emergency Grants — Los Angeles County distributed $31.7 million in emergency grants to over 3,400 households impacted by 2025 wildfires. The rapid-response program provided financial aid for housing, food, and essentials just weeks after devastation.

Commission Approved Controversial Condo Project — Planning Commission approved a controversial condo project despite resident concerns. The decision reflected ongoing tensions between state housing mandates and local community preferences regarding density and neighborhood character.

Two Commissioners Resigned — Two Santa Monica commissioners resigned, citing internal conflicts and issues with city leadership. These departures complicated the city's efforts to fill volunteer board positions and highlighted friction within local governance.

County Protected Benefits from Federal Changes — LA County Supervisors approved a plan to protect 1.7 million residents from losing Medi-Cal and CalFresh benefits due to new federal work requirements, aiming to prevent a crisis in 2026 and 2027.

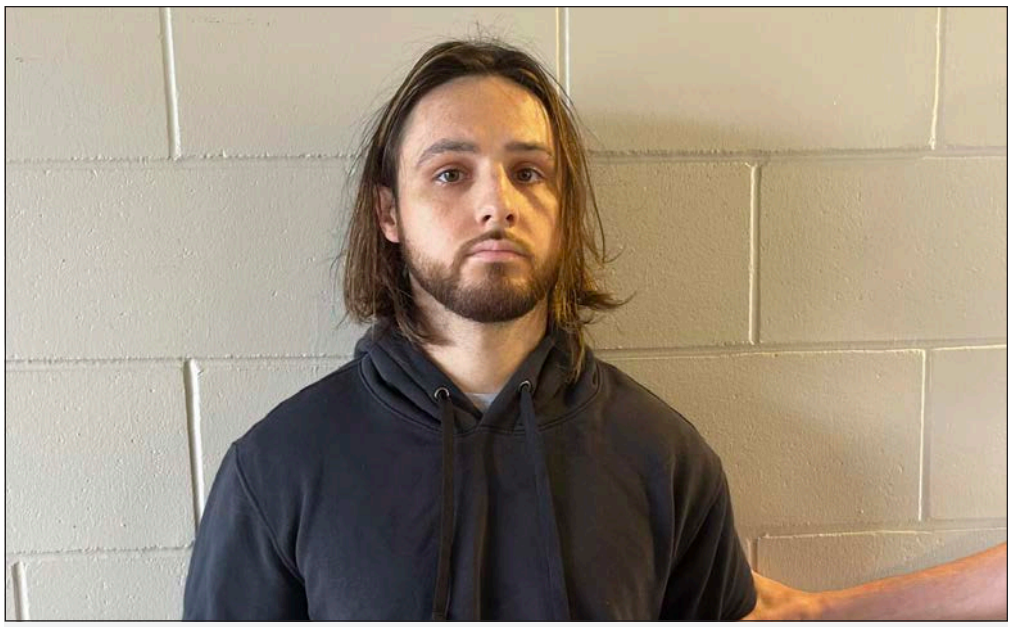
Mad Creators Camp Launched — Two local mothers launched "Mad Creators Camp" to provide arts education during school closures. The camp offered creative alternatives to traditional drilling, helping working parents manage childcare during teacher training days.

District Updated Transit Policies — SMMUSD updated six transportation policies to align with new state laws and prepare for electric buses by 2035. Changes included fee exemptions for low-income students and stricter drug testing for drivers.

Angel Awards Raised $438K — The inaugural Angel Awards Gala raised over $438,000 for Upward Bound House to fight family homelessness. Celebrity chefs and stars gathered at Santa Monica Proper Hotel to support the nonprofit's housing services.

Supervisor Canceled Ocean Avenue Projects — Supervisor Lindsey Horvath canceled two interim housing projects on Ocean Avenue due to lack of community engagement. She directed the Department of Mental Health to find alternative sites, acknowledging broken trust with residents.

District Reported Strong Teacher Retention — SMMUSD reported strong teacher retention rates, attributing success to comprehensive support programs. The district updated employment policies to ensure equal opportunity and build a workforce reflecting diverse student population.



SMDP Photo

SUSPECT: Jonathan Rinderknecht was arrested for starting the Palisades Fire.

Council Approved Housing Project Standards — Council approved new transparency standards for supportive housing projects. Initiated by Mayor Negrete, the measure required better coordination and community engagement protocols following backlash over recent surprise announcements.

Study Warned of Sea Level Rise Risks — A new study warned Malibu faced severe risks from sea level rise, threatening Highway 1 and thousands of homes. The assessment highlighted vulnerability of the city's narrow beaches and critical infrastructure.

State Enacted Car Buyer Protection Law — California enacted a comprehensive car buyer protection law creating a three-day return period for used vehicles. Authored by Sen. Ben Allen, the legislation banned deceptive practices and mandated transparent pricing.

Malibu Marked PCH Crash Anniversary — Malibu officials marked two years since four Pepperdine students were killed on PCH, highlighting safety improvements. The city saw reduced collisions thanks to new speed cameras and traffic signal synchronization.

Ocean Avenue Facility Sparked Concerns — A proposed mental health housing facility on Ocean Avenue sparked community

SEE **YEAR** PAGE 4

Out with the old: With 2026 nigh, here's some wide-ranging intel on managing transitions

It's that time — December's waning days, when we prepare to turn the calendar page. Many Americans take stock, review goals accomplished and unmet, ponder hopes and plans. How's our health? What's up with our money? What about the country? Will the coming year look like the departing one year, or be something entirely different?

ARE WE READY?

It can be an overwhelming period. So The Associated Press reached out to professionals with varying expertises — home organization, risk management, personal training, personal finance, and political science — to talk about their perspectives on changes and transitions.

And for something a little different, we gave each interviewee a chance to ask a question of one of the others.

So let's talk endings and beginnings.

THE CHANGE EXPERT: MILESTONES STIR EMOTIONS

Transitions are professional organizer Laura Olivares' working life. As co-founder of Silver Solutions, she works with senior adults and their families to help make sure they're in safe environments, whether that means decluttering a lifetime of possessions, downsizing to another home, or helping families clear a house after a loved one's passing.

She offers this: Changes, even exciting ones, can unearth sadness or grief over places, things and people left behind. Acknowledging those feelings can help smooth the move from one chapter to another.

> "When you let go of something that was meaningful to you, it deserves a moment"
> - Laura Olivares

"When you let go of something that was meaningful to you, it deserves a moment," she says. "Whatever that moment is, could be a second, could just be an acknowledgement of it. Or maybe you set it on the on the mantle and you think about it for a while and when you're ready to let it go, you let it go."

NEXT QUESTION: Certified personal trainer Keri Harvey asked: "What small weekly habits can I build that will help me stay organized during the year?" Olivares' tips: In December, do a brain dump of thoughts, ideas, and goals. Then, before Jan. 1, schedule out tasks that move those priorities forward over the course of 2026. Olivares suggests three tasks on each of three days, so nine tasks per week.

THE ACTUARY: PLANNING IS IMPORTANT — BUT SOMETIMES FICKLE

Probably no group of people think more about the future than actuaries. Using data, statistics and probabilities, they devise models on how probable it is that certain events happen, and what it could cost to recover from them. Their work is vital to organizations like insurance companies.

Listen to R. Dale Hall talk, though, and he sounds almost ... philosophical. He's managing director of research at the Society of Actuaries. Asked how the general public could think about a new year, he readily brings up strategies like mapping out risk scenarios and how to respond.

There's a balance to be struck, he says: We can't control or predict everything and must accept the possibility of something unexpected. And the past isn't always a perfect guide; just because something happened doesn't mean it must again.

"It's the nature of taking risk, right? That yeah, there are going to be uncontrollable things," Hall says. "There are ways to maybe diversify those risks or mitigate those risks, but no one has that perfect crystal ball that's going to see three, six, nine, 12 months into the future."

NEXT QUESTION: From personal finance educator Dana Miranda: "Thinking about the variables we consider when making decisions or plans, how might the juxtaposition of the holiday season with the new year affect the way people are evaluating their finances and setting goals at the beginning of each year? ... What do you recommend they do to ensure the holiday experience doesn't skew financial goal-setting?"

Hall's advice: Keep 'em separate. He recommends people enjoy the holidays and hold off on financial goals until January.

THE PERSONAL FINANCE AUTHORITY: BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT MONEY

In her work as a financial writer and a personal finance educator, Miranda encourages people to make conscious choices around their spending and saving, and understand that there's no absolute rule.

Miranda, author of "You Don't Need a Budget," says details are key. What works for one person may not work for another. And it's something Americans should consider as another year of goals and resolutions approaches. Insisting that the same technique works for everybody can leave people feeling stuck, Miranda says.

"We tend to be not good at talking about the nuances and that leaves people with, 'Here's the one right rule. It's not possible for me to achieve that perfection, so I'm just going to feel ashamed of every move that I make that is not moving toward that perfect goal.'"

NEXT QUESTION: From Jeanne Theoharis, a political science professor,

SEE **TRANSITION** PAGE 8



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **61.9**

WEDNESDAY
POOR
SURF: 0-1ft
Shin to knee

Still tiny but a little bump up from Mon/Tue. Lighter wind and clean - most rideable later AM. Slight increase in WNW and SSW swell. Mostly knee high with the odd thigh high set on the better tides (mainly the lower in the later morning and afternoon). Winds look light all day, offshore early morning, weak sea breeze for the afternoon, so pretty clean all day.

THURSDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Very small surf continues - conditions look ok right now. Another big board/lower tide day. Very small/flat on the earlier morning deep high tide (esp at the points). More rideable for the small wave gear for the later morning. Could be a transition day for wind/weather but conditions look ok at this point.

Weather

Wednesday: Showers likely, mainly after 10am. Cloudy, with a high near 63. Northeast wind around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.
Wednesday Night: Rain. Low around 57. Chance of precipitation is 100%.
Thursday: Rain. High near 61. Chance of precipitation is 90%.
Thursday Night: Showers likely, mainly before 4am. Cloudy, with a low around 58.

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

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 12/29
11 19 34 48 53
Power#: 21
Jackpot: 45 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/26
9 19 31 63 64
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 138 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/27
6 9 33 37 40
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 15 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/29
1 8 13 17 20

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/29
EVENING: 8 5 0
Draw Date: 12/29
MIDDAY: 2 8 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/29
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:47.53

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Devan Sipher,
Miles Warner.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Maaz Alin
maaz@smdp.com

LEGAL ADVERTISING
legal@smdp.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

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

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

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

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

Santa Monica Daily Press

The moon and sun figure big in the new year's lineup of cosmic wonders

The moon and sun share top billing in 2026.

Kicking off the year's cosmic wonders is the moon, drawing the first astronauts to visit in more than 50 years as well as a caravan of robotic lunar landers including Jeff Bezos' new supersized Blue Moon. A supermoon looms on Jan. 3 and an astronomical blue moon is on the books for May.

The sun will also generate buzz with a ring-of-fire eclipse at the bottom of the world in February and a total solar eclipse at the top of the world in August. Expect more auroras in unexpected places, though perhaps not as frequently as the past couple years.

And that comet that strayed into our turf from another star? While still visible with powerful backyard telescopes, the recently discovered comet known as 3I/Atlas is fading by the day after swinging past Earth in December. Jupiter is next on its dance card in March. Once the icy outsider departs our solar system a decade from now, it will be back where it belongs in interstellar space.

It's our third known interstellar visitor. Scientists anticipate more.

"I can't believe it's taken this long to find three," said NASA's Paul Chodas, who's been on the lookout since the 1980s. And with ever better technology, "the chance of catching another interstellar visitor will increase."

Here's a rundown on what the universe has in store for us in 2026:

> "2026 will be an exciting year for space weather enthusiasts
>
> - Rob Steenburgh

NEXT STOP, MOON

NASA's upcoming moonshot commander Reid Wiseman said there's a good chance he and his crew will be the first to lay eyeballs on large swaths of the lunar far side that were missed by the Apollo astronauts a half-century ago. Their observations could be a boon for geologists, he noted, and other experts picking future landing sites.

Launching early in the year, the three Americans and one Canadian will zip past the moon, do a U-turn behind it, then hustle straight back to Earth to close out their 10-day mission. No stopping for a moonwalk — the boot prints will be left by the next crew in NASA's Artemis lunar exploration program.

More robotic moon landings are on the books by China as well as U.S. companies. Early in the year, Amazon founder Bezos is looking for his Blue Origin rocket company to launch a prototype of the lunar lander it's designing for NASA's astronauts. This Blue Moon demo will stand 26 feet (8 meters), taller than what delivered Apollo's 12 moonwalkers to the lunar surface. The Blue Moon version for crew will be almost double that height.

Back for another stab at the moon, Astrobotic Technology and Intuitive Machines are also targeting 2026 landings with scientific gear. The only private entity to nail a lunar landing, Firefly Aerospace, will aim for the moon's far side in 2026.

China is targeting the south polar region in the new year, sending a rover as well as a so-called hopper to jump into permanently shadowed craters in search of ice.

ECLIPSES

The cosmos pulls out all the stops with a total solar eclipse on Aug. 12 that will begin in the Arctic and cross over Greenland, Iceland and Spain. Totality will last two minutes and 18 seconds as the moon moves directly between Earth and the sun to blot out the latter. By contrast, the total solar eclipse in 2027 will offer a whopping 6 1/2 minutes of totality and pass over more countries.

For 2026, the warm-up act will be a ring-of-fire eclipse in the Antarctic on Feb. 17, with only a few research stations in prime viewing position. South Africa and southernmost Chile and Argentina will have partial viewing. A total lunar eclipse will follow two weeks after February's ring of fire, with a partial lunar eclipse closing out the action at the end of August.

PARADING PLANETS

Six of the solar system's eight planets will prance across the sky in a must-see lineup around Feb. 28. A nearly full moon is even getting into the act, appearing alongside Jupiter. Uranus and Neptune will require binoculars or telescopes. But Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn should be visible with the naked eye shortly after sunset, weather permitting, though Mercury and Venus will be low on the horizon.

Mars will be the lone no-show. The good news is that the red planet will join a six-planet parade in August, with Venus the holdout.

SUPERMOONS

Three supermoons will lighten up the night skies in 2026, the stunning result when a full moon inches closer to Earth than usual as it orbits in a not-quite-perfect circle. Appearing bigger and brighter, supermoons are a perennial crowd pleaser requiring no equipment, only your eyes.

The year's first supermoon in January coincides with a meteor shower, but the moonlight likely will obscure the dimmer fireballs. The second supermoon of 2026 won't occur until Nov. 24, with the third — the year's final and closest supermoon — occurring the night of Dec. 23 into Dec. 24. This Christmas Eve supermoon will pass within 221,668 miles (356,740 kilometers) of

SEE **COSMIC** PAGE 8

YEAR

FROM PAGE 2

concern. The project, managed by St. Joseph Center, aimed to house individuals with acute needs but faced criticism over transparency.

Ankle Monitors Found on Beach — Several disabled ankle monitors were found abandoned on Santa Monica beach, raising concerns about unsupervised criminals. Police stated tracking was managed by county or state agencies, advising residents to report findings.

Coastal Commission Approved Gladstones Project — Coastal Commission approved a Frank Gehry-designed replacement for Gladstones restaurant. The project involved celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck but faced opposition from residents concerned about parking and traffic in the fire-prone area.

City Joined Disaster Preparedness Lawsuit — Santa Monica joined a legal challenge against federal requirements linking disaster preparedness funds to immigration enforcement. The city argued emergency funding should not be conditional on cooperation with federal agents.

Authorities Arrested Palisades Fire Suspect — Authorities arrested Jonathan Rinderknecht for starting the devastating Palisades Fire. Investigators alleged he used a lighter in a dry brush area, and digital evidence suggested he generated images of burning cities beforehand.



SMDP Photo

ARREST: SMPD arrested a suspect after a violent hit and run on Wilshire.

Report Called for LAFD Reforms — An independent report called for major LAFD reforms following the Palisades Fire, including better staffing policies and technology for recalling off-duty firefighters. The review highlighted failures in communication and resource deployment.

City Avoided Major Rain Damage — Santa Monica avoided major damage from the first significant October rain, experiencing only a minor water main break. The storm served as a test for the city's infrastructure ahead of winter.

Residents Held No Kings Protest — Residents gathered at Palisades Park for a "No Kings" protest against perceived authoritarianism under the President. The peaceful demonstration joined nationwide rallies advocating for democratic norms and opposing executive overreach.

Organizations Provided Shutdown Relief — Military relief organizations provided interest-free loans to service members unpaid during the government shutdown. Nonprofits like the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society stepped in to prevent financial crises for military families.

Fire Damage Caused PCH Closures — Ongoing repairs from fire damage continued to cause lane closures on Pacific Coast Highway. Caltrans advised caution as crews worked to restore the roadway and stabilize slopes before winter rains arrived.

Plan Warned of $1.5B Disaster Losses — A new hazard mitigation plan warned Santa Monica faced $1.5 billion in potential losses from natural disasters. Sea level rise posed the greatest long-term financial threat, alongside risks from earthquakes and wildfires.

Massive Vons Supermarket Opened — A massive new Vons supermarket opened in Santa Monica to eager crowds. The store, located at Lincoln and Broadway, was the city's largest full-service grocer, offering extensive amenities and community service focus.

Newsom Signed Pet Rescue Bill — Gov. Newsom signed three bills by Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur addressing pet rescue during disasters, transgender identity documents, and sterile syringe access. AB 478 required cities to establish pet rescue procedures during evacuations.

Groups Demanded Zwick Investigation — Neighborhood groups demanded an investigation into Councilmember Jesse Zwick's new job with a housing coalition. Critics alleged a conflict of interest, while Zwick maintained his employment didn't compromise his council duties.

Sister City Delegation Visited — A delegation from Fujinomiya, Japan, visited Santa Monica to celebrate their long-standing partnership. The cultural exchange included visits to local schools and reaffirmed the bond between the two sister cities.

State Prepared for Special Election — California prepared for a unique special election focused solely on redistricting. Secretary of State Shirley Weber addressed security and monitoring concerns as voters decided whether to return map-drawing power to Legislature.

Council Approved Chi's Revitalization Plan — City Council unanimously approved City Manager Oliver Chi's revitalization plan to address budget deficits and operational efficiency. The plan reorganized departments and funding strategies to stabilize the city's financial future.

SEE **NOVEMBER** PAGE 6

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

New Year's Week Food & Events

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes tons of New Years Food & Events options, a Route 66 Centennial Kickoff , and much more!



Courtesy image

ROUTE66: The kickoff begins this week.

Ring in the New Year - East Coast Countdown Celebration: Enjoy a family-friendly New Year's Eve celebration in Downtown Santa Monica, concluding with an "East Coast Countdown" to accommodate earlier bedtimes. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 8:30 – 9:30 pm downtownsm.com/events-calendar/8958/ring-in-the-new-year-east-coast-countdown-celebration

55th Annual Santa Monica Playhouse New Year's Eve Musical Revue: The long-running, one-night-only musical comedy revue rings in the New Year with an upbeat, family-friendly musical show. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 6 & 9:30 p.m. www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/new-years-evemusical-revue.html

New Year's Eve shows at The Crow: Join an absolutely stacked lineup featuring stand-up comics, dazzling drag artists, and (yes) real, actual clowns for a two-hour burst of pure, symbolic joy. Pull My Finger: Family-Friendly Comedy Show is Wednesday, Dec. 31, 5p.m. and New Year's Eve Cabaret & Comedy Show is Wednesday, Dec. 31, 8p.m., 2525 Michigan Ave. crowcomedy.com

The Bungalow Santa Monica - New Years Eve Spectacular: Keep a glass in hand from their premium open bar while the room fills with music and a little mystery. DJ Steve 1Der keeps the groove alive all night long. Classic Big Top touches drift through the space and bring the celebration to life in true Bungalow style. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 101 Wilshire Blvd. https://www.tixr.com/groups/thebungalowsm/events/the-bungalow-santa-monica-new-years-eve-spectacular-163448

New Year's Eve MASSIVE Beach House Music Festival: Ring in 2026 with a large-scale music festival, featuring house music and dancing right in the heart of Downtown Santa Monica. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 8p.m., 1212 3rd Street Promenade https://www.eventbrite.com/e/massive-nye-beach-house-music-festival-tickets-1970765777492

New Year's Eve Santa Monica Pub Crawl: Participate in a festive NYE bar crawl, which includes VIP entry and exclusive drink specials at some of Santa Monica's most famous destinations. Wednesday, Dec. 31 eventbrite.com/e/santa-monica-new-years-eve-pub-crawl-party-2026-tickets-1145215493369

New Years Eve at Hotel Casa del Mar: Dance your way into 2026 by the sea with a lavish Roaring '20s–themed New Year's Eve celebration. General Admission tickets are $225 per person plus tax and gratuity, and include three premium drink tickets, passed appetizers, late-night bites, a midnight champagne toast, and a festive balloon drop. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 9p.m., 1910 Ocean Way eventbrite.com/e/the-new-years-party-of-the-century-at-hotel-casa-del-mar-tickets-1974534400545

Bodega Wine Bar's New Year's Eve: No cover bash at 814 Broadway, 8p.m. - 1:30a.m. with a live DJ, drink specials, Jell-O shots and good vibes all night. instagram.com/bodegasantamonica

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 11

CLEAN HEALTHY WATER
in your home or office
• Earth Friendly home water systems
• Reverse Osmosis drinking water (removes pharmaceuticals, impurities)
• Whole home water softeners
• Water filtration
Puroserve®
855-864-6800

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

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

NOVEMBER

FROM PAGE 4

Study Found Count Underestimated Population — New research from RAND Corporation indicated the official Los Angeles homeless count missed up to 32% of the unsheltered population. The study raised serious concerns about resource allocation in the homelessness capital.

Officers Prevented Pier Suicide Attempt — Santa Monica police officers responded to a distress call at Santa Monica Pier on September 27. An officer grabbed an individual attempting to jump into the ocean, with assistance from Harbor Guard and bystanders.

Malibu Ordered Aggressive Fire-Risk Camping Enforcement — Malibu City Council unanimously approved an emergency declaration targeting unpermitted camping in fire-prone areas, directing law enforcement to arrest violators. The move conflicted with LA County Sheriff's Department policy against criminalizing homelessness.

Yacht Club Secured Waterfront Site — California Yacht Club obtained a license agreement from Los Angeles County to use the former Tony P's Dockside Grill location in Marina del Rey. The club planned to create a restaurant following a fire.

City Reformed Organization Funding — Santa Monica City Council unanimously approved reforms prohibiting city-funded neighborhood organizations from endorsing political candidates, with violations resulting in five-year program bans. Funding shifted to an equity-based model calculated by household numbers.

Study Estimated Billions in Fire Losses — January 2025 Los Angeles wildfires could result in $5.2-10.1 billion in economic losses through 2029, destroying 16,000+ structures. Job losses were estimated at 28,000-55,000 job-years, affecting 6,800+ businesses.

County Adopted Fire Response Reforms — LA County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted all recommendations from McChrystal Group's review of January's fires that killed 31 people. Reforms included restructuring the Office of Emergency Management into a full department.

SMC President Accepted to Stanford — David Duncan, 21, left high school to care for his grandmother but returned at Santa Monica College. As Associated Students president, he led during wildfires and political tensions, securing disaster relief. He was accepted to 23 universities.

County Moved to Declare Immigration Emergency — LA County Board of Supervisors approved a motion to declare a local emergency responding to federal immigration enforcement operations. The proclamation would empower the county to expedite contracting and hiring for support services.

City Hosted Two Major Free Festivals — Santa Monica hosted two major free festivals: Day of the Dog on Main Street featuring dog races and costume contests, and Off the Hook Seafood Festival on the pier with tastings from 25+ restaurants.

State Expanded Wildfire Mortgage Program — California significantly expanded its CalAssist Mortgage Fund, raising Los Angeles County income limits to $211,050 annually. The program provided grants up to $20,000 covering three months of mortgage payments for wildfire-affected homeowners.

City Issued 354 Fire Rebuild Permits — Malibu issued 354 permits for repairs and reconstruction following the Franklin and Palisades Fires, with 92 planning applications approved. The city launched a Fee Waiver Program eliminating municipal fees for like-for-like rebuilds.

NOVEMBER

Malibu PCH Safety Funding — Malibu City Council approved $1.6 million for Pacific Coast Highway safety upgrades. The funding supported speed detection technology and infrastructure to slow traffic, responding to hazardous conditions and recent tragedies on the coastal road.

Los Angeles "Rattiest City" Ranking — Los Angeles topped a national "Rattiest City" list. Pest control experts warned of structural damage and disease risks, advising residents to seal gaps and reduce clutter to prevent rodent infestations.

SMC Holiday Food Drive — Santa Monica College Foundation hosted its 9th annual holiday event, providing free groceries to 2,400 students facing food insecurity. The initiative grew from a small backyard dinner to a massive campus distribution effort.



SMDP Photo

PARADE: A mask making workshop prompted a beachfront parade.

Ukraine Convoy Mission — Recent Santa Monica High graduate Brody Wilkes drove 1,300 miles to deliver a vehicle to Ukrainian forces. Moved by the soldiers' spirit, he planned to organize another convoy mission to support the war effort.

Día de los Muertos Exhibition — Students from six area schools created altars at Santa Monica History Museum for a Día de los Muertos exhibition. The collaborative event honored the deceased while building cultural bridges among local youth.

Veterans Day Ceremony — Santa Monica held its annual Veterans Day ceremony on the Pier, featuring a Chinook helicopter flyover and military performances. The event honored veterans and recognized first responders involved in the Palisades Fire recovery.

County Sustainability Plan — Los Angeles County adopted the 2025 Our County Sustainability Plan. The comprehensive initiative targeted accessible streets, clean air, affordable housing, and a shift toward renewable energy to combat climate change.

SMC Science Building Opens — Santa Monica College opened a new LEED Gold-certified Mathematics + Science Building. The facility united four departments under one roof and featured a planetarium with a high-tech telescope, transforming undergraduate science education.

GO Campaign Launch — Santa Monica nonprofit GO Campaign launched its #35toThrive initiative to fund grassroots projects for vulnerable children globally. The campaign supported education and safety, leveraging a "Local Hero" model to empower community leaders.

Malibu Senior Center Decision Deferred — Malibu City Council deferred a decision to designate a room exclusively for seniors, voting instead to study programming expansion over 90 days. The council opted for further review despite proponents' arguments.

Magic for Charity Show — Two young Magic Castle headliners, Aidan Corcoran and Jacob Martinez, organized a charity show at Illusions Magic Lounge. Ticket proceeds from the event benefited St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to fight childhood cancer.

Waymo Operations Halted — Santa Monica ordered Waymo to stop overnight charging operations at two facilities following noise complaints. Residents reported sleep disturbances from beeping vehicles and light pollution, prompting the city to declare the operations a nuisance.

Nutcracker Ballet Returns — Westside Ballet returned to the Broad Stage for its 52nd Nutcracker season. The production featured New York City Ballet principals and student dancers, blending Balanchine traditions with new visual elements.

Improv Documentary Released — A new documentary, "Homegirls in Outer Space," chronicled the journey of two Black women in L.A.'s improv comedy scene. The film followed their audition for a residency at the Westside Comedy Theater.

Paliskates Reopening — The beloved skate shop Paliskates reopened in Brentwood after being displaced by fire. While the community welcomed the return, the owner and patrons expressed longing for the original Palisades location.

Route 66 Song Contest Launched — Santa Monica launched a song contest for the Route 66 Centennial. Musicians from ten countries were invited to compete for a $10,000 prize by creating original music celebrating the highway's 100th anniversary.

Illegal Gambling Sentencing — A Santa Monica man was sentenced to 21 months in prison for running an illegal sports betting operation. He admitted to tax evasion and money laundering involving millions of dollars in wagers.

Digital Billboard District Proposal — Planning commissioners reviewed a proposal for a digital billboard district on Third Street Promenade. The plan for 16 displays aimed to generate revenue but faced opposition regarding historic preservation.

Hit-and-Run Arrest — A suspect in a fatal Santa Monica hit-and-run was arrested in Chicago. The crash killed two people leaving a restaurant; the suspect fled the state but was apprehended by investigators.

Councilmember Email Controversy — A released email suggested Councilmember Torosis was involved in a controversial mental health housing project earlier than admitted. Torosis denied involvement, despite the email linking her to funding discussions.

Restaurant Turnovers — Santa Monica's dining landscape shifted with closures like Blue Plate Oysterette and openings like HomeState. High costs and lease issues drove turnover, though new concepts continued to arrive in the city.

Ebony Beach Club Settlement — The city settled with the family of Silas White for $350,000 over the historic seizure of the Ebony Beach Club. The settlement included renaming a street and a library exhibit to honor White's legacy.

Housing Podcast Launch — The Daily Press launched "A Developing Story," a narrative podcast hosted by filmmaker Brian Peter Falk exploring Santa Monica's housing debate. The series examined zoning battles, displacement, and development history.

DUI Wrongful Death Lawsuit — Parents of a teen killed by an alleged drunk driver filed a $200 million lawsuit against the driver. They aimed to push for stricter DUI laws and accountability following the tragedy.

State Farm Investigation — L.A. County investigated State Farm's handling of wildfire claims after complaints of delays and denials. Officials demanded the insurer honor policies for residents rebuilding after the Palisades and Eaton fires.

Hit-and-Run Accomplice Charged — A woman was charged with aiding the suspect in a fatal Santa Monica hit-and-run to flee to Chicago. She was arrested shortly after the primary suspect was captured by authorities.

School District Split Vote — Votes were scheduled for December on agreements to separate the Santa Monica and Malibu school districts. This marked a major milestone in the decade-long effort to create independent educational entities.

Bankruptcy Filings — Two Santa Monica businesses filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in November. The filings allowed them to reorganize debt while remaining open, reflecting ongoing economic headwinds for local commerce.

Giant Puppet Workshop — A giant puppet workshop at the Church in Ocean Park taught locals to create massive figures for parades and protests. The event fostered community creativity and civic expression through art.

Truly Pizza Expansion — Truly Pizza announced it would open a new location in Venice, expanding into Los Angeles. The pizzeria was known for its artisan pies and community atmosphere.

Baywatch Returns — Fox confirmed "Baywatch" would return for the 2026-27 season, filming on Southern California beaches. The reboot secured a state tax credit, promising to create local jobs and boost the entertainment economy.

Airport Operations Lawsuit — Residents filed a lawsuit against Santa Monica over the approval of a commercial permit for JSX Air at the airport. They alleged the city violated environmental quality acts by bypassing necessary reviews.

Downtown Police Substation Opening — Santa Monica announced a new police substation at Santa Monica Place as part of the

SEE **DECEMBER** PAGE 7

DECEMBER

FROM PAGE 6

city's Realignment Plan. The facility would serve as a command center and community hub, with enhanced patrols addressing crime and disorder.

Malibu Fire Hazard Designation — Malibu City Council unanimously designated the entire city as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The designation allowed stricter fire regulations but sparked debate over impending state vegetation rules requiring tree elimination.

Downbeat 720 Returns — The teen open mic program Downbeat 720 returned to Miles Memorial Playhouse for its 24th year. The free monthly event welcomed high school students to perform poetry, music, comedy and dance.

Deputy City Manager Takes Malibu Post — Christopher J. Smith, Santa Monica's deputy city manager for 14 years, was appointed interim assistant city manager in Malibu. The move came as Malibu struggled with leadership stability.

Storm Brings Heavy Rain — A powerful storm system hit Los Angeles Thursday night through the weekend, bringing 1-2 inches of rain to most areas. The National Weather Service issued warnings for burn scar areas vulnerable to flooding.

Volunteer Coat Drive — A volunteer-run winter coat drive in its fourth year aimed to collect 1,000 coats for Santa Monica College students. Organizers held their main collection event before SMC's Giving Thanks(giving) event.

Malibu Streamlines Fee Waiver Process — Malibu City Council approved delegating facility fee waiver authority to the city manager for amounts up to $10,000 for new events. The change addressed a dramatic increase in fee waivers.

Malibu Strategic Plan Approved — Malibu City Council unanimously approved a 2025-2028 Strategic Plan addressing recovery from devastating wildfires that destroyed $1.6 billion in property. The plan outlined seven major goals and 27 projects.

Gott's Roadside Coming to Santa Monica — Napa Valley-based restaurant chain Gott's Roadside would open a Santa Monica location in summer 2026 at 401 Wilshire Boulevard. The 6,600-square-foot restaurant marked the family-owned business's first expansion outside the Bay Area.

Record November Rainfall — Southern California received 2-13 inches of rain from Thursday through Monday, breaking decades-old records and marking the wettest November in 40 years. Downtown LA recorded 2.8 inches, surpassing a 1952 record.

Council Upholds Historic Status — The City Council upheld the historic "Structure of Merit" designation for a 1923 Craftsman bungalow at 1125 18th Street, denying property owner H. Joseph Naim's appeal. The controversial designation denied demolition plans.

California Roadhouse to Replace Rusty's — The California Roadhouse, a new restaurant from Santa Monica native Sean Ahaus, would replace the recently closed Rusty's Surf Ranch. Opening ahead of Route 66's 100th anniversary, the venue would feature live entertainment.

Holiday Events Begin — Santa Monica's holiday celebrations began December 4 with the official tree lighting on Third Street Promenade. Additional events included the 33rd Annual Candy Cane Drive and the return of the nativity scene tradition.

SMPD Holiday Safety Tips — Santa Monica Police Department increased patrols during the holiday season while advising residents on theft prevention. Police warned against pickpockets and recommended securing vehicles and packages. The department received a $285,000 grant.

DECEMBER

Disaster Preparedness — Santa Monica Council unanimously approved an updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan addressing earthquakes and wildfires. The plan includes 13 mitigation actions like improved evacuation planning and seismic assessments, though residents voiced concerns about emergency evacuation capacity.

Arts Education Legacy — Watercolor instructor Freddie Manseau left a legacy gift after teaching at Santa Monica College for 35 years. He influenced thousands of students, particularly older adults, creating a personal museum in his home and fostering an artistic community.

Entertainment Returns — Scot Nery's Boobietrap variety show returned to Santa Monica's Illusion Magic Lounge after five years. The weekly show featured 15 acts including circus performances, comedy, and magic in 90 minutes of live entertainment.



SMDP Photo

ICE: Willy Bietak produces the annual ice rink in Santa Monica.

School Relocation — Westside Waldorf School opened a new Santa Monica campus for grades 1-8 after fire destroyed its Pacific Palisades location. The facility ended months of student displacement, though fundraising continued for classroom furnishings and materials.

Healthcare Expansion — Sollis Health opened a membership-based concierge medical center in Santa Monica offering 24/7 urgent and emergency care. The facility featured advanced imaging and lab capabilities providing hospital-level services without wait times.

Housing Development Delayed — The Planning Commission postponed voting on new housing subdivision standards due to insufficient public engagement concerns. The proposed rules related to state laws allowing lot splits in single-family zones.

Medical License Revoked — Former Santa Monica physician Salvador Plasencia received 30 months in federal prison for distributing ketamine to actor Matthew Perry. He admitted selling the drug despite knowing Perry's addiction history and surrendered his medical license.

Security Patrols Approved — Malibu City Council voted to deploy armed security guards at Legacy and Malibu Bluffs parks for 120 days. The measure aimed to deter illegal camping, though concerns arose about displacing individuals into fire-prone areas.

Air Quality Research — UCLA researchers found recent wildfires, including the Palisades Fire, caused significant air quality degradation across Los Angeles. Studies emphasized the need for better real-time monitoring as smoke plumes spread dangerous particulate matter.

Leadership Departure — Santa Monica City Clerk Nikima Newsome resigned in January 2026 after six months, continuing a trend of senior leadership departures. Her exit followed resignations of the City Manager, City Attorney, and other department heads.

School District Separation — Malibu City Council approved agreements to separate from Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The historic step established frameworks for revenue sharing and operations toward forming an independent Malibu district.

Mental Health Awareness — Approximately 1,000 people participated in the Out of the Darkness Walk at Santa Monica Pier for suicide prevention awareness. The event featured a bead ceremony representing different types of personal grief.

Crime and Safety — Santa Monica Police handled a violent crash where a BMW struck a building on Santa Monica Boulevard and arrested a suspect involved in a multi-jurisdictional crime spree within 24 hours.

Library Expansion Rejected — Malibu City Council rejected a $13 million county proposal for simple library expansion, opting instead to plan a "world-class" facility. Council members directed staff to utilize the $25 million library fund surplus.

District Budget Outlook — SMMUSD projected multi-million dollar deficits over three years but received positive certification. Enrollment stabilized after years of decline, partially due to families displaced by fires moving into the district.

School Property Acquisition — SMMUSD negotiated to buy a home adjacent to Franklin Elementary for potential campus expansion. Parents protested concerns it might be used for parking, though the district stated no definitive plan existed.

Digital Signage Approved — City Council approved a digital display district for Third Street Promenade, allowing digital billboards to generate downtown revitalization revenue. Concerns arose about impacts on historic landmarks and effectiveness in increasing foot traffic.

Unpermitted Housing Facility — An unpermitted sober living facility attempted to open on Ocean Avenue over Thanksgiving, moving in 30 people before city officials intervened. The city issued a notice to vacate and investigated the operators.

Architectural Icon Dies — Renowned architect Frank Gehry died at 96. Known for the Walt Disney Concert Hall and his Santa Monica home, Gehry revolutionized architecture with his deconstructivist style, designing iconic structures worldwide.

Ice Rink Tradition Continues — Willy Bietak, producer of Santa Monica's seasonal ice rink, continued his career creating ice skating experiences globally. Despite warm weather challenges, the rink remained a beloved local holiday tradition.

Airport Operations Extended — The City approved a three-year lease for JSX to operate flights from Santa Monica Airport until its 2028 closure. A resident lawsuit challenged the approval, citing environmental and noise concerns.

Singer Killed at Home — Grammy-nominated singer Jubilant Sykes was found stabbed to death in his Santa Monica home. His son was arrested on suspicion of homicide in what officials considered an isolated incident.

Pier Bridge Construction Begins — Construction started on a $35.5 million project to replace the 86-year-old Santa Monica Pier Bridge. The two-year project temporarily reduced parking capacity as crews utilized adjacent space for staging.

Olympic Events Partnership — Council authorized negotiations for five major entertainment events on the beach and pier through 2028, including a World Cup fan festival and annual music festival expected to boost the local economy.

Abuse Litigation Strategy — Santa Monica shifted strategy in Eric Uller sexual abuse litigation, moving to take "bellwether" cases to trial rather than settling. City officials cited concerns about potential fraud among new claims.

Conflict of Interest Ruling — The FPPC advised Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Zwick must recuse himself from certain housing decisions due to his Housing Action Coalition employment. The commission found a conflict of interest.

Media Platform Redesign — The Santa Monica Daily Press launched a redesigned website to complement its growing digital newsletter. The update reflected adaptation to digital trends while maintaining independent local news coverage.

Coastal Development Changes — Malibu City Council unanimously voted to limit proposed Local Coastal Program amendments to only clarify beachfront property definitions, removing square footage restrictions after fire victims warned measures could devastate property values.

Wildfire Relief Distribution — Los Angeles County distributed $23.4 million in emergency relief funds to all 14,477 eligible applicants affected by January 2025 wildfires. The program provided grants to small businesses, nonprofits, and workers through public-private partnerships.

JSX Service Launches — JSX began 30-seat turboprop passenger service at Santa Monica Airport despite a resident lawsuit. The Dallas-based carrier operated at least six daily flights under a three-year lease approved in October.

Building Permit Reform — City Council unanimously approved a self-certification pilot program allowing businesses to obtain building permits in one day starting April 2026. Licensed architects could self-certify commercial tenant improvement projects comply with codes.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074

or email legal@smdp.com

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

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00645. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Katherine Chen for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Katherine Chen filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Katherine Chen to Katherine Chen Mason. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 01/24/2026, Time: 8:40 A.M., Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 12/17/2025. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/24/2025, 12/31/2025, 01/07/2026, 01/14/2026

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00642. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Richard Bruce Spitznass Jr. for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Richard Bruce Spitznass Jr. filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Richard Bruce Spitznass Jr. to Richard B. Spitznass. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 01/23/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 12/16/2025. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/18/2024, 12/24/2025, 12/31/2024, 01/07/2025.

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00642. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Richard Bruce Spitznass Jr. for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Richard Bruce Spitznass Jr. filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Richard Bruce Spitznass Jr. to Richard B. Spitznass. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 01/22/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 12/16/2025. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/24/2024, 12/31/2024, 01/07/2025, 01/14/2025

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025278452 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MICROFEST RECORDS, 229 Rennie Ave, Venice, CA 90291, LA County. Registered Owner(s): John Schneider, 229 Rennie Ave, Venice, CA 90291. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. s/ John Schneider, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on December 16, 2025. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: December 24, 2025, December 31, 2025, January 7, 2026, January 14, 2026

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025274030. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SUNSET PARK ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY RESIDENTS 2 SPEAR, 2528 29TH ST., SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): TERI DAVIS BERNSTEIN, 2528 29TH ST., SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/2025. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ Teri Davis Bernstein, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/10/2025. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/24/2025, 12/31/2025, 01/07/2026, 01/14/2026

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

To learn how to feature your upcoming event on the SMDP and various digital event calendars

Contact dina@smdp.com today!

TRANSITION

FROM PAGE 3

who asked how Miranda gets people to look beyond the micro and consider the larger system of capitalism. "How does she also get people to think about more collective solutions—like union organizing, pressing City Council or Congress for changes?"

Miranda is quick to make it clear she's not an organizer but says she tries to evoke larger systemic issues when discussing personal finance. "The way that I try to move that needle just a little bit is to always bring in that political aspect to whatever conversation we're having ... to make the systemic and the cultural impact visible."

> We want to be mindful of making sure that we're not asking too much or trying to overcompensate for what we feel like we left behind this past year or what we feel like we left on the table this past year
>
> - Keri Harvey

THE TRAINER: MAKE GOALS ATTAINABLE

When it comes to changes and new years, one of the most popular areas is fitness, the subject of many a (failed) resolution. Personal trainer Harvey, of Form Fitness Brooklyn, says you can make positive, lasting change in fitness (and generally) with one philosophy: Start small and build.

"We want to be mindful of making sure that we're not asking too much or trying to overcompensate for what we feel like we left behind this past year or what we feel like we left on the table this past year," she says. "It's very reasonable to try and have the goal of getting to the gym twice a week, maybe three times a week, and then building from there instead of saying 'Jan. 1, I'm starting, I'm gonna be at the gym five days a week, two hours a day.' That's not realistic and it's not kind to ourselves."

NEXT QUESTION: From Hall: "What advice do you have for me to transition to an even more robust workout schedule in 2026 without falling into the risk of injuring myself by doing too much too soon?"

Harvey emphasized warming up and having a mobility routine, and making the goal attainable by making it fun. "Find things that you actually enjoy doing and try and fit those in as well so that the idea of starting something new or adding to it isn't one that comes with a negative like, 'Oh, I don't want to have to do this,' where you're dragging yourself into it."

THE HISTORIAN: LEARN FROM YOUR PAST

It's not just as individuals that we think about transitions. Nations and cultures have them, too.

We can learn from them if we look at our history honestly and not through the guise of trying to hide the ugly parts, says Theoharis, professor of political science and history at Brooklyn College and the City University of New York Graduate Center.

She points to the story of Rosa Parks, remembered as the catalyst of the Montgomery bus boycotts 70 years ago. But when Parks chose to resist, she didn't know what her arrest would mean or what the outcome would be. Theoharis sees a lesson there for people looking to make change in today's world and even individuals wanting to evolve.

"A number of us would be willing to do something brave if we knew that it would work," Theoharis says. "And we might even be willing to have some consequences. But part of what looking at the actual history of Rosa Parks or the actual history of the Montgomery bus boycott is in fact you have to make these stands with no sense that they will work."

NEXT (AND LAST) QUESTION: From Olivares, who wanted Theoharis' thoughts on today's civil rights battles. Theoharis referenced voting rights, which have been eroded in recent years. At the same time, remembrances of the turmoil during the Civil Rights years have become glossed over by a mythology of America overcoming its injustices.

There's a lesson there about what it takes to make real change for individuals, too, Theoharis says: It's difficult to move forward if you're not honestly addressing what's come before. "Part of how we've gotten here is by that ... lack of reckoning with ourselves, lack of reckoning with where we are, lack of reckoning with history."

By DEEPTI HAJELA Associated Press

COSMIC

FROM PAGE 4

Earth.

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN LIGHTS

The sun is expected to churn out more eruptions in 2026 that could lead to geomagnetic storms here on Earth, giving rise to stunning aurora. Solar action should start to ease, however, with the 11-year solar cycle finally on the downslide.

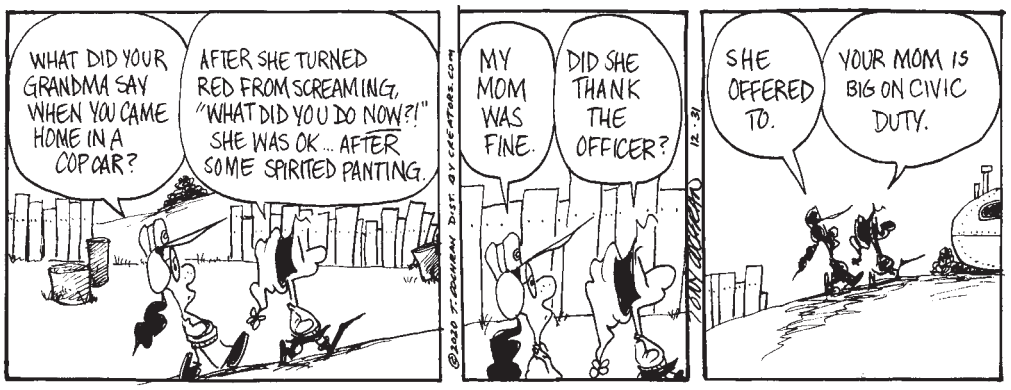
Space weather forecasters like Rob Steenburgh at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration can't wait to tap into all the solar wind measurements coming soon from an observatory launched in the fall.

"2026 will be an exciting year for space weather enthusiasts," he said in an email, with this new spacecraft and others helping scientists "better understand our nearest star and forecast its impacts."

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer, The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

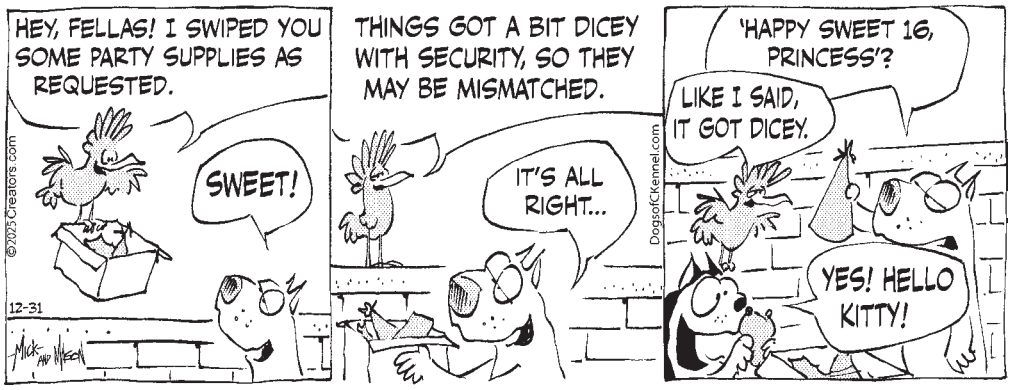
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



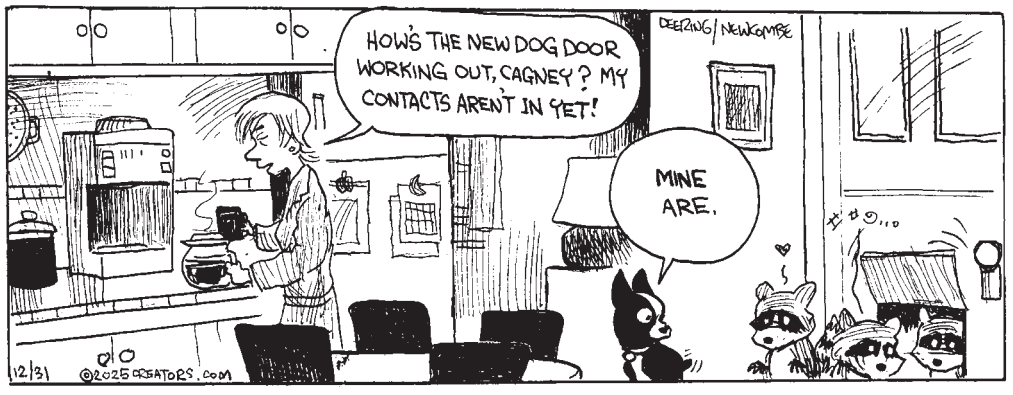
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"SO MUCH FOR HIS NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6806

Fine dining

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

Arborio	Dessert	Lettuce	Salt
Beans	Dine	Lobster	Satay
Beer	Eggs	mornay	Sauna
Bill	Fish	Mints	Seafood
Caviar	Garlic	Nougat	Snack
Chips	Gift	Nuts	Suit
Choko	Glamour	Opera	Sweets
Crab	Host	Peas	Taxi
Crepe	Hotel	Play	Thai
Cruise	Icing	Pork	Tip
Dates	Italian	Raisin	Turkey
Dawn	Jigs	Rice	
Dear	Laughs	Roast	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

It's too hot to work outside

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. 31)

Welcome to your Year of the Unexpected Flex. Your competence shines in moments you never rehearsed for. You'll impress the right people, charm unintentionally and effortlessly deal in incredible complexity. More highlights: a financial win through negotiation, a romance that upgrades your daily life (not just your weekends) and an aesthetic glow-up prompted by a single impulsive purchase. Taurus and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 11, 30, 44 and 7.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Out with thinking you must do everything alone. Independence is admirable, but isolation is exhausting. In with supported ambition. Let others help, teach, collaborate, cheer and lighten the burden. Receiving is as powerful as giving.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Out with perfectionism. It's a trap dressed as ambition, keeping you frozen in place. In with steady progress. Small steps done imperfectly move mountains over time. Let yourself try things. Stop judging yourself for not being flawless.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Out with saying yes out of habit or fear. Default "yes" has cost you too much. In with deliberate choices. Let "I need to think about it" be a complete sentence. Your time and energy are finite resources, not freebies.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Out with guilt. It's the kind of emotion you only need the tiniest twinge of. You get the pang, you correct your behavior, done. In with self-celebration. You're doing so much that's right. Remind yourself every day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Out with shrinking yourself to keep the peace or stay unnoticed. That habit helped you once, but it's outdated. In with presence. Let your voice land, your ideas circulate, your personality take up space. You belong everywhere your feet already stand.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Out with overthinking. That loop has cost you enough energy already. In with intuitive action, gentle, confident and grounded. Trust that you've learned enough to make decisions that support who you're becoming, not who you were afraid to be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Out with comparing your journey to curated snapshots of others. That lens distorts everything. In with self-referenced metrics. If it matters to you, it matters period. Measure your life by how it feels, not how it looks from the outside.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Out with waiting for the perfect mood. That delay is expensive. Instead, just begin. In with starter energy. Do the smallest first step available. Let motion spark inspiration rather than demand inspiration before motion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Out with rushing. That frantic pace burns the wiring. In with sustainable momentum. A calm, rhythmic approach gets you further, and your nervous system will finally feel like a partner instead of an enemy. Plus, you look cool.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Out with tolerating chaos disguised as opportunity. Not everything demanding your attention deserves your attention. In with intentional commitments. Choose only the things that amplify your well-being and future vision.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Out with ineffective coping mechanisms. Think of them as outdated, not shameful. In with gentler regulation. Break tasks down, ask for support and breathe intentionally. Let feeling slightly uncomfortable be OK without needing to squash your emotions or escape.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Out with self-doubt that masquerades as humility. It's not modest to belittle your own skills. In with grounded confidence. Name what you're good at, practice saying it out loud, and let that acknowledgment open doors you've avoided knocking on.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

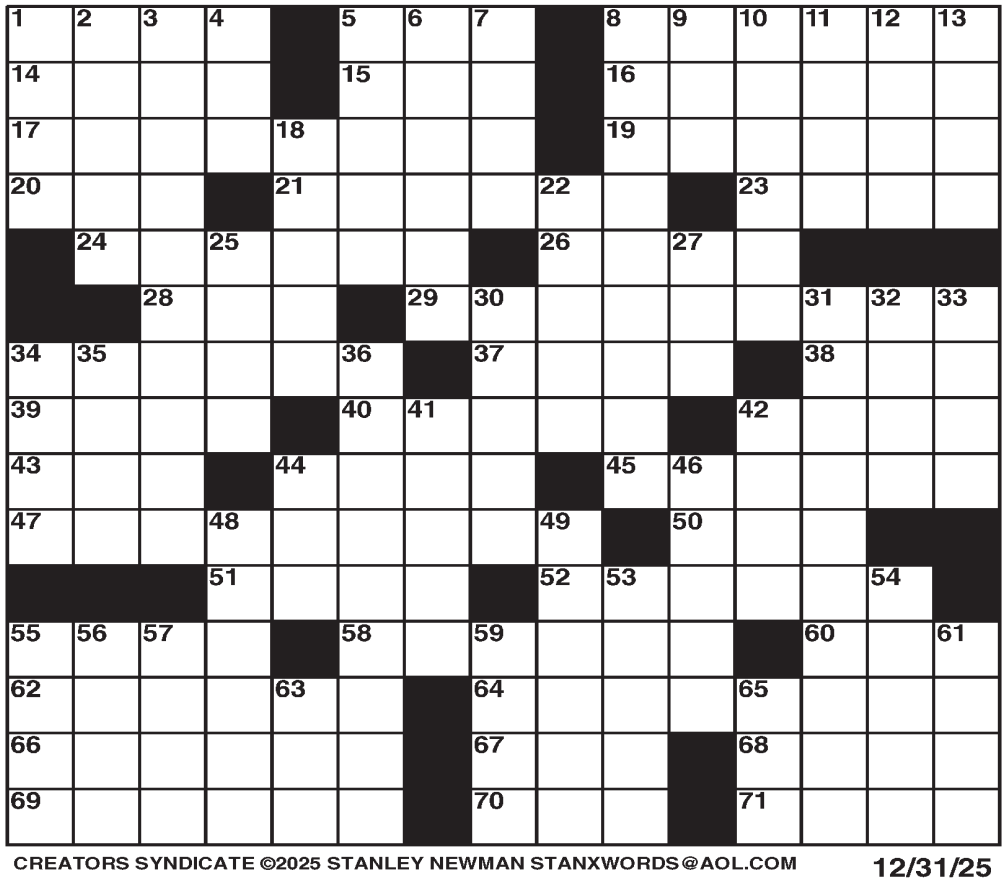
FRONT MEN by Zachary Edward-Brown
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Organ for breathing
5 Baseball hat
8 Angry speech
14 No longer new
15 __ de Janeiro
16 Smoothed out
17 Sections of books
19 Built a home in a tree
20 Informal assent
21 Optimistic
23 Free of clutter
24 __ to the core (evil)
26 Carton-sealing roll
28 Zodiac feline
29 Elaborate weaving of fabric
34 Colonial news announcers
37 Partner in battle
38 Dove's sound
39 Red-__ (frankfurters)
40 National bird
42 Ship off
43 Letters on Forever stamps
44 Extremely scarce
45 Window covers
47 Imperative
50 Notable period
51 Magnum ___ (masterpiece)
52 In possession of
55 Smile widely
58 Jimmy Carter successor
60 Is able to
62 Monet or Manet
64 North coast South American
66 Soccer superstar Messi
67 Large coffeepot
68 Region
69 Reduce in rank
70 Devoured
71 "Hey, over here!"

DOWN

1 *Peanuts* girl
2 Theater attendant
3 Popular pizza style
4 National economic stat: Abbr.
5 Fancy pancake
6 Online lodging site
7 Sit for a portrait
8 Octet of an octopus
9 Suffix for subject
10 Took a break
11 Prefix for freeze
12 Heroic act
13 Small whirlpool
18 One-on-one teacher
22 Coral island
25 Golf pegs
27 Take care of a bill
30 Tantrum thrower
31 Winter Olympics skaters
32 __ of the above
33 Mount Olympus residents
34 Close pal
35 Rights activist Parks
36 Hard-shelled marine reptile
41 Got out of bed
42 Dress of India
44 Sharp door knock
46 Temporary tattoo dye
48 Black-and-white game tile
49 Frozen ___ (dairy dessert)
53 Hockey great Gretzky
54 Oxygen and nitrogen
55 Treadless, as tires
56 Southernmost Great Lake
57 Molecule part
59 Spanish water
61 Free of clutter
63 Film crew's workplace
65 Brief snooze



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2025 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

12/31/25

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

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 5

Champagne at the Stroke of Twelve at The Georgian Room: Enjoy an evening of live musical entertainment, flowing glasses, and celebratory moments that carry us from dinner to the dance floor, and for those staying late, into the new year. They are offering an early seating from 5:30 - 8p.m. and a late seating starting at 8p.m. 1415 Ocean Ave. https://resy.com/cities/santa-monica-ca/venues/the-georgian-room/events/nye-2026-at-the-georgian-room-2025-12-31

Route 66 Centennial Kickoff - The Drive Home VII: As the official Western terminus of Route 66, Santa Monica is expected to host the start of a major vintage car caravan to celebrate the Mother Road's 100th anniversary. This will be a high-profile, historic kickoff event. Saturday, January 3, Santa Monica Pier americasautomotivetrust.org/thedrivehome

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

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

New Years Eve at Cosetta: Enjoy a four or five-course menu of classical italian elegance — plus caviar, truffles, and hanukkah brisket. 3150 Ocean Park Blvd. cosettala.com/nyebash

New Year's Eve at Orla by Michael Mina: Celebrate with a four-course meal while overlooking the Pacific Ocean at Orla by Michael Mina. Diners can enjoy a Mediterranean-inspired menu, enjoy live music, followed by a nightcap in the lobby. Sip on complimentary champagne and receive festive party favors when the clock strikes 12. 6pm - 12am; First Seating: $125 per person plus Tax & Gratuity, Second Seating: $175 per person plus Tax & Gratuity. Schedule your reservation HERE.

NYE at Pasjoli: Ring in the New Year with an elegant multi-course French tasting menu, festive holiday flavors, standout cocktails and wines, and a celebratory midnight toast — the perfect upscale NYE. They are offering an early 3-course menu and a late 5-course menu. More details here.

New Years' Eve at Xuntos: For New Year's Eve ("nochevieja") Spanish-style, Xuntos is pulling out all the stops with a celebratory Tapas Tasting feast showcasing seasonal, premium ingredients. Think shellfish, seafood, jamón, caviar y buenos tiempos para todos! Let's raise a glass together to a maravillosa 2026! 516 Santa Monica Blvd. opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?experienceId=597478&restref=1316665&rid=1316665

Cosetta's New Year's Day Hawaiian BBQ: Enjoy an all you can eat buffet, hula hoops hoedown, 24oz Mai Tai, and more. Thursday, Jan 1, 3150 Ocean Park Blvd. https://www.cosettala.com/nydbbq

Abbot Kinney First Friday Food Truck Fest: About two dozen food trucks are expected to line the street for the monthly event. Friday, Jan. 2, starting at 5p.m. https://www.abbotkinneyblvd.com/

HomeState Grand Opening of SaMo Restaurant: HomeState Santa Monica will celebrate its official grand opening on Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026. 720 Wilshire Blvd. instagram.com/homestate

The Dinner Table at Crudo e Nudo: The Dinner Table is kicking off the new year with a cozy coastal dinner party at Crudo e Nudo , Santa Monica's local-favorite seafood bar just steps from the beach. This Dinner Table gathering will feature a seasonal, family-style three-course meal and rotating seats to help you meet new people across the table through a dinner party experience. Wednesday, Jan 7, 7pm, 2724 Main St. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-dinner-table-at-crudo-e-nudo-santa-monica-tickets-1752193882069

FURTHER AFIELD:

Looking Ahead: LA Art Show (1/7-11); Annual Polar Bear Plunge (1/10); DineLA Restaurant Week (1/23 – 2/6); SaMo Symphony Annual MLK Concert (1/17); Frieze LA Art Show (2/26 - 3/1); DineLA Restaurant Week

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: New Year's Week Food & Events

GET IT DAILY...



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

VINO & VINYL - WEDNESDAY HAPPY HOUR

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The Venice West 1717 Lincoln Blvd, Venice. Unwind and set the vibe with Vino & Vinyl, our laid-back happy hour at The Venice West. Enjoy half-off bottles of wine, food and bar specials, and a rotating selection of classic vinyl spinning from 6–7:30 PM. Perfect for music lovers, wine drinkers, and anyone looking to ease into the evening, Venice style. Happy Hour Join us weeknights from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM for our restaurant's Happy Hour, featuring great deals including $5 beers & snacks, $10 craft cocktails, and more! Age Requirement All shows at The Venice West are 21+ only, unless otherwise stated. Valid government-issued photo ID is required for entry. Guests who cannot provide proof of age will not be admitted and no refunds will be issued. Parking Please note that residential/street parking is the only parking available near the venue. We strongly encourage rideshare services (Uber, Lyft, etc.) for a safe and convenient experience. Accessibility (ADA) We strive to make The Venice West welcoming and accessible to all guests. If you or someone in your party requires ADA seating or other special accommodations, please reach out to us in advance at info@venicemusicgroup.com so we can best prepare for your needs. Recording Policy To maintain the integrity of the live performance experience, audio and video recording is strictly prohibited during all comedy events unless otherwise specified. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Ticket Policy All ticket sales are final and non-refundable. In the event of a cancellation without a rescheduled date, a full refund will be automatically issued to the original form of payment. By purchasing a ticket, you agree to this policy. Please double-check the event title, time, and location before completing your purchase. For questions, contact us at info@venicemusicgroup.com. We look forward to hosting you at The Venice West—thank you for supporting live entertainment and our artists! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/vino-vinyl-wednesday-happy-hour/17651745/2025-12-24T18

THURSDAY | JANUARY 1

CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2025-12-25T11

OAKWOOD ROOTS FARMERS AND WELLNESS MARKET

11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 685 Westminster Ave Venice. Oakwood Roots Venice Farmers' and Wellness Market is a hub for local foods, wellness classes, and holistic healing. We are dedicated to fostering a strong community, supporting local businesses, and advocating for sustainable practices. Join us in creating a healthier and more connected neighborhood. This is part of a larger effort to revitalize the abandoned parking lots across the street from the park into a community hub, in partnership with Community Corporation of Santa Monica and Hoopbus. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/oakwood-roots-farmers-and-wellness-market/14548473/2025-12-25T11

FOOTBALL SHOWINGS AT THE WHALER!

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

ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!
Santa Monica Daily Press
office (310) 458-7737

Share the Stoke

Have you ever tucked your toes in the sand of Mother's Beach on a quiet morning?

You breathe in the cool crisp air with nothing but you and the sound of your paddle dipping in the calm flat water. It's the steady churn that puts your body back into the right kind of rhythm and helps the rest of life feel a little lighter. That feeling is the kind of gift that money can't buy.

But you're in luck because money can buy...
Pro SUP Shop rental packs & memberships.

Choose from five visits, ten visits or go unlimited and give them a stack of incredible mornings.

Let's be honest, most gifts end up collecting dust but people actually remember and use our rental packs again and again.



Located on the Southwest end of the Jamaica Bay Inn parking lot at
4175 Admiralty Wy, Marina del Rey, CA (Entry on Palawan or Marina Lot #10)