

Santa Barbara Happenings

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8 Story 270 Unit Apartment Building Proposal Behind SB Mission One Step Closer to Approval

The eight-story apartment complex project includes 270 units between the Santa Barbara Mission and the Museum of Natural History. The complex includes 54 low-income units, 445 parking spaces, and 255 bike spaces. It would also feature amenities for residents, such as lobbies, a gym, a pool, and decks. The City of Santa Barbara rejected the application on May 12th. Developer So Cal Industries will have until August 10th to respond to the issues.

Mayor Randy Rowse disapproves of the proposal, claiming the city is facing too much pressure from the state to add and approve housing projects. Mayor Rowse highlights the detrimental impacts the project will have on the community in this historic location and advocates for its protection.

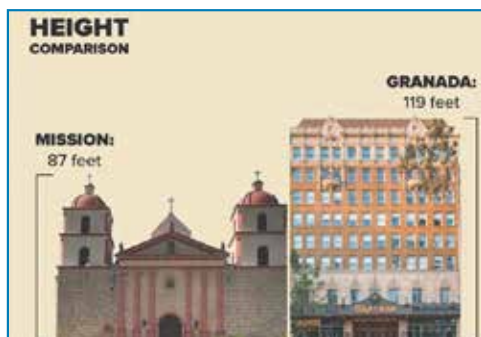


Image: Independent.com

Cottage Health Offers Assistance to Employees for Housing

Cottage Health offers housing support to certain employees who provide a minimum of 5% of their funds as a down payment. The support, which can reach up to 40% of the price of their home, maxes out at \$500,000.

The program is designed to incentivize talented individuals and health experts from all around the region who were previously deterred by the high cost of local housing. Cottage Health reports the program has already helped some employees close offers on homes they purchased.

Cottage Health hopes to open two sites to help provide more employees with housing by 2029. One site, at 2415 De La Vina St., currently the

location of the Cottage Rehabilitation Hospital, expects to have 44 homes. The other, located near the Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital, has scheduled 160 new units.

SB City Council Members Outline Their Three-to-Five-Year Plan

The City of Santa Barbara hired financial consultants to assist the council in creating a three-to-five-year plan for the city. The group brought the council together to brainstorm their aspirations and objectives for Santa Barbara in the next three to five years. It was less than successful. The seven-member council each stated one thing they wanted to see in the next few years:

- Mayor Randy Rowse wants to allow vehicles to access State Street
- Councilman Eric Friedman wants a clear financial plan that will help councils in the future budget better
- Councilman Mike Jordan would like financial stability.
- Councilman Oscar Gutierrez wants to see more free parking.
- Councilwoman Kristen Sneddon wants to stabilize rents.
- Councilwoman Wendy Santamaria wants rent control along with additional housing to be built to help business owners and employees afford living in Santa Barbara.
- Councilwoman Meagan Harmon wants housing justice. (whatever that means?)



Image: santabarbaraca.gov, (L-R: Oscar Gutierrez, Wendy Santamaria, Eric Friedman, Mayor Randy Rowse, Mike Jordan, Kristen Sneddon, Meagan Harmon)

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California Taxes and Regulations Cause the Highest Gas Prices in America

Gasoline prices are determined by five factors: costs of refining, prices of crude oil, distribution and marketing, taxes, and regulations. The taxes and regulations here in California add more than \$1.30 per gallon to the cost of gasoline, double the national average, and is one of the major reasons why California leads the nation in average gas prices. When factoring in a mix of the high gas tax, environmental requirements, regulations, surcharges, and other California-specific standards, Californians simply pay more. Experts further warn that California's climate mandates will cause a drop in fuel supply by 20 percent by the next year.

Compared to a state like Texas, which charges nearly two dollars less than California for gas, the mass exodus from California becomes even more expected.

L.A. County's Homeless Project Leaves Rooms Vacant and People Still Homeless.

Los Angeles County purchased 2,157 rooms intended to address the homelessness crisis. However, only 29% of those rooms have become occupied, after the county spent \$550 million on the properties. Similarly, the City of L.A. purchased 1,237 units for \$820 million, with 56% of the units being currently occupied, a better rate than the county, but still an ineffective use of taxpayer funds.

Problems with contract delays, bureaucratic delays, unexpected costs, and ill-advised deals have all led to the program's current failure. Even allegations of fraud plague the program, with lawsuits claiming \$114 million dedicated to the program were mysteriously lost. Due to these issues, countless motels and units remain empty while thousands still live on the streets of Los Angeles.

What we have been doing for the last ten years is not working. If we really want to fix the problem, we need to change our approach.

The Future of American Mathematics: Competing With the Rest of the World

The National Association of Scholars (NAS) and Freedom in Education (FIE) announce publication of the Archimedes Standards—a comprehensive set of model preK–12 mathematics standards designed to restore academic rigor, intellectual honesty, and instructional clarity to America's classrooms.

Currently, math instruction in America has been guided by standards that are vague in content, fragmented in structure, and often rooted in experimental pedagogies rather than educational substance. As a result, national performance has suffered: 73% of eighth-grade students fall below

the targeted proficiency level in mathematics, and in every state across the country, less than 37% of eighth graders meet grade-level benchmarks. Internationally, the United States now ranks thirty-fourth in mathematics despite vast expenditures on education.

The Archimedes Standards respond. The standards equip students to think logically, master foundational skills, and approach the world with the confidence of clear reasoning. Inspired by the legacy of Archimedes—a thinker whose logic and creativity shaped the ancient and modern worlds—these standards return mathematics to its rightful place: as the cornerstone of rational thought, scientific progress, and economic strength. Faster please.

Space Startup Promises New Faces in Santa Barbara County

Praxis, a startup backed by some of Silicon Valley's boldest names, has announced plans to build "Atlas" — a \$17.4 billion "defense-oriented spaceport city" — at Vandenberg Space Force Base in Santa Barbara County. Its pronounced focus will be AI-powered weaponry.

According to reports, Atlas will support 50,000 residents, create 20,000 jobs—and supposedly turbocharge U.S. defense innovation.

But...50,000 new residents in SB County? I think the Board of Supervisors and some locals may have thoughts on that.



Image: Praxisnation.com

Property Rights are the Bedrock of Society, Critical to Individual Liberty and Economic Prosperity.

Property rights have evolved throughout history, from the philosophical debates between Plato and Aristotle to practical implementations like the Magna Carta, which established that "the crown's authority stopped where private property began." Modern property rights were advocated for by the early economists, John Locke and Adam Smith, who held strong beliefs about individual liberty.

The global alignment towards individual property rights is evidence of their efficacy, particularly the failure of traditional communism. The Soviet Union's command-and-control state is not a "viable alterna-

tive to voluntary exchange between business and individuals.” While China has emerged as a successful example of a communist society, it has adapted its top-down structure through special economic zones and strengthening individual property rights. As the economy and property rights have increased, so has the quality of life, underscoring the connection between civil and property rights.

Effective methods of mitigating abuses of private property rights include resurrecting constitutional barriers, fortifying federalism, and increasing reliance on common law. Constitutional barriers are primarily defined by the Fifth Amendment, “America’s property rights wall,” affirming that no one may be deprived of their property without just compensation. The court system is designed to act as “mortar” for this “wall,” filling in the cracks as they appear. Federalism “is rooted in the knowledge that our political liberties are best assured by limiting the size and scope of the national government.” Strengthening federalism is an effective strategy to limit government overreach and, in turn, enhance individual rights.

Every person needs to be involved and knowledgeable about their own property rights. Policy makers must grasp the importance of every individual’s personal property rights and understand how critical these rights are to a free society.

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