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Find the words.

Toxic pesticide remains in widespread use across California despite 2005 phaseout recommendation

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Twenty years after federal officials recommended phasing out methyl bromide due to serious health risks, the toxic pesticide remains in widespread use across California, with some communities facing exposure levels nearly double state safety recommendations, according to new University of California research.

The pesticide, a known developmental, neurologic and respiratory toxin, is currently used in 36 of California's 58 counties — home to more than 35 million people — primarily for fumigating shipping containers at ports and freight facilities, researchers from UCLA and UC Irvine found.

The study, published in the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Research Communications, reveals that port communities face the highest exposure risks. In western Long Beach, air monitoring between 2023-24 showed average methyl bromide levels of 2.1 parts per billion, nearly double the state's 1.2 ppb recommendation. On at least two occasions, hourly levels exceeded 900 ppb.

"These levels translate to a 'hazard quotient' of 1.6; values greater than 1.0 suggest an increased risk of negative health effects," said study co-author Dr. Yoshira Ornelas Van Horne, assistant professor in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health's Department of Environmental Health Sciences.

The affected Long Beach neighborhood is home to an elementary school, 600 residences

SEE PESTICIDE PAGE 11

Pier businesses must give priority to former employees under new hiring rules



SMDP Photo

PIER: The Right to Return was approved at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica City Council voted 6-1 early Wednesday to adopt new worker recall and retention protections for hospitality businesses on the city-owned Pier, siding with labor unions and worker advocates over local businesses who said the rule would hurt operations and trigger lawsuits.

The ordinance amends the city's existing worker recall law and adds new retention requirements for Pier hospitality businesses with five or more employees. It requires employers to rehire laid-off workers when positions become available and mandates that new operators retain existing employees for 90 days after taking control of a business or if they are taking over from an already closed business owners must first offer

jobs to individuals who previously worked in Santa Monica.

The vote came after several hours of debate, with Councilmember Lana Negrete casting the sole dissenting vote. The measure passed with modifications removing attorney fee provisions from enforcement mechanisms and removal of a clause that would have allowed business owners to reject

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 6

California Democrats have new plans for confronting ICE: Taxes, lawsuits and location bans

California Democratic senators advanced a measure Tuesday that would make it easier for people to sue federal agents over civil rights violations, a bill shaped by fears of the Trump administration's immigration enforcement practices.

The bill from Sens. Scott Wiener and Aisha Wahab, both Bay Area Democrats, took on additional significance after federal agents gunned down Alex Pretti, a U.S. citizen and ICU nurse, in Minnesota last weekend. Senators discussed the measure on the floor for more than 90 minutes before voting along party lines, 30 to 10, to send it to the Assembly.

"It's a sad statement on where we are in this country that this has to be a partisan issue," Wiener said just before the vote on his bill, which is also known as the "No Kings Act". "Red, blue, everyone has constitutional rights. And everyone should have the ability to hold people accountable when they violate those rights."

It's among several bills lawmakers are moving forward in the new year to confront an escalation of aggressive immigration enforcement tactics and to protect immigrant communities. They include bills that would tax for-profit detention companies, prohibit law enforcement officers from moonlighting as federal agents and attempt to curb courthouse arrests.

Those efforts follow a slate of legislation signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom last year to resist the Trump administration's mass deportation campaign in California, including a first-in-the nation measure to prohibit officers from wearing masks and others that limit

SEE ICE PAGE 5

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance that would (1) Permanently Adopt Economic Recovery Interim Zoning Ordinance 2825 (CCS) and (2) Amend the Text of Article 9 Zoning and Planning of the Santa Monica Municipal Code to Promote Economic Recovery and Increase Land Use Flexibility in the City's Downtown and Citywide Areas by Streamlining, Simplifying, and Modifying Land Uses and Limitations, Updating Standards for Specific Uses and Activities, Including Alcohol Permits and Review, Modifying Definitions, Adding Flexibility for Certain Non-Conforming Uses, and Making Other Minor Changes, Corrections, Clarifications, and Clerical Amendments. Additionally, amendments related to the applicability of Resource Recovery and Recycling requirements and trash enclosure dimensional standards are proposed to remove barriers for new and existing businesses, facilitate process streamlining and updated standards for objectivity.

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the Planning Commission's January 21, 2026 recommendation to adopt proposed amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance (Santa Monica Municipal Code Article 9 Planning and Zoning) that would (1) Permanently Adopt Economic Recovery Interim Zoning Ordinance 2825 (CCS) and (2) Amend the Text of Article 9 Zoning and Planning of the Santa Monica Municipal Code to Promote Economic Recovery and Increase Land Use Flexibility in the City's Downtown and Citywide Areas by Streamlining, Simplifying, and Modifying Land Uses and Limitations, Updating Standards for Specific Uses and Activities, Including Alcohol Permits and Review, Modifying Definitions, Adding Flexibility for Certain Non-Conforming Uses, and Making Other Minor Changes, Corrections, Clarifications, and Clerical Amendments. Additionally, amendments related to the applicability of Resource Recovery and Recycling requirements and trash enclosure dimensional standards are proposed to remove barriers for new and existing businesses, facilitate process streamlining and updated standards for objectivity.

DATE/TIME: TUESDAY, February 24, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

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

HOW TO COMMENT:

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

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

Address your comments to: City Clerk
Re: Economic Zoning Amendments

VIA EMAIL: councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: 1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please visit the [Planning Commission webpage](#) (January 21, 2026 Planning Commission Meeting Agenda) or contact Steve Mizokami by e-mail at steve.mizokami@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 or (310) 917-6626 TDD at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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

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

Former teacher opens community-focused gym on Pico Boulevard



Courtesy photo

FITNESS: The studio offers one-on-one personal training and small group sessions for two to five people, focusing on strength training for clients ages 12 to 80 and older.

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

A new fitness studio is bringing a personalized approach to wellness in Santa Monica, with an emphasis on making exercise accessible to residents who may feel intimidated by traditional gyms.

Spry Fitness, located at 2222 Pico Blvd., opened its doors this month under the ownership of Evan Spry, a Santa Monica resident who transitioned from teaching history to pursuing his passion for fitness and community building.

"As a fitness professional, I wanted to have the leverage to create a hospitable community for residents in the area to go to a gym where they feel truly known," Spry said. "Starting my own gym made this goal possible."

The studio offers one-on-one personal training and small group sessions for two to five people, focusing on strength training for clients ages 12 to 80 and older. Operating by appointment only from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, Spry Fitness distinguishes itself with a family-friendly and dog-friendly atmosphere designed to put newcomers at ease.

Spry said he deliberately chose Santa Monica for his business because of its strong sense of community.

"I chose Santa Monica as the location for my gym, one, because I am a Santa Monica resident," he said. "But two, Santa Monica is the most neighborhood-like area I have found in LA. I am attracted to the community Santa Monica has to offer because many residents in Santa Monica have lived here for a long time, and I want to be ingrained in this loyal community."

The gym is positioned between Lo/Cal Coffee and Lazy Daisy Cafe, placing it in the heart of a walkable neighborhood corridor.

For Spry, opening the studio represents the culmination of a career transformation that began with his work as a secondary school history teacher. Despite finding fulfillment in education, he felt drawn back to the athletic lifestyle of his youth.

"I originally started my professional career as a secondary school history teacher," Spry said. "Growing up with an athletics background, I felt like I was missing out on the healthy lifestyle that could be possible as a trainer. Therefore, with more education, and a leap of faith, I decided to start working as a contractor for different gyms. Through this process, I built up the confidence to start my own gym to expand my reach."

That confidence now fuels his mission to welcome clients who might otherwise avoid fitness facilities. Spry said many people share similar concerns about returning to exercise after a long absence or entering a gym for the first time.

"I would say to people who are intimidated by gyms or who haven't worked out in years that most of my clients said the same thing before they began to work with me," he said. "Those thoughts and experiences are more common than some may think, but no one is alone here at Spry Fitness, and I am here to guide them through every step."

The business has enrolled in the BuyLocal program and is participating in recognition for Most Loved local businesses, reflecting Spry's commitment to integrating into Santa Monica's small business community.

Interested residents can schedule a complimentary consultation by calling or texting Spry at (949) 290-8515 or emailing evanspryfitness@gmail.com. More information is available about services and scheduling options for both individual and small group training sessions.

The studio's appointment-only model allows Spry to provide focused attention to each client while maintaining the intimate, non-intimidating environment he envisioned when launching the business.

For Santa Monica residents seeking a personalized approach to fitness in a neighborhood setting, Spry Fitness offers an alternative to larger commercial gyms, with an owner who lives in the community and understands its character.

maaz@smdp.com

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press

editor@smdp.com

Los Angeles won't be tweaking its 'mansion tax.' Now the debate is likely to go statewide

Los Angeles will be keeping its controversial "mansion tax" just the way it is, thank you very much.

On Tuesday morning, L.A.'s city council rejected an eleventh hour proposal to place a re-write of the city's four-year-old tax on high value real estate sales onto the June 2026 local ballot.

The decision, made after a heated session brimming with arcane procedural objections and spirited public comment from tenant activists and union members, effectively quashes the hopes of real estate developers, commercial landlords and a growing caucus of housing construction advocates and Democratic state elected officials who see the highest-in-the-state transfer fee as both an investment killer and an urgent political liability — both in Los Angeles and across California.

A sizable majority of the city's voters approved the tax, known as Measure ULA, in 2022. It places a 4% tax on property sales between \$5 million and \$10 million and a 5.5% tax on transactions above that. So far, the tax has raised more than \$1 billion in revenue dedicated for affordable housing development and support for cash-strapped renters.

Any changes to the tax would require sign off from the electorate, which today's vote ensures won't come anytime soon. It also kicks a broader multibillion dollar debate over fees on property sales to state lawmakers.

Hanging over the debate is the specter of a proposed statewide proposition that would sharply cap municipal transfer taxes, while also restricting other local taxes. That campaign is being organized by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, which campaigns for lower taxes, and is racing to gather signatures ahead of a late February deadline. If it qualifies, it would appear on the November 2026 ballot.

A growing caucus of Democrats and their political allies argue that local opposition to ULA has juiced political support for that more far-reaching anti-tax prop, one they see as a fiscal disaster.

Should a statewide anti-tax proposition qualify, many believe that lawmakers will be forced to offer up concessions, in the form of broader statewide restriction on transfer taxes, to convince the backers of the Howard Jarvis measure to remove it from the ballot. That might include the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association itself, or perhaps The California Business Roundtable, a major business coalition that has ponied up most of the funding for the campaign so far.

Such grand bargains between state legislators and ballot measure backers are relatively common fare in the California capitol in the months leading up to an election.

Councilmember Nithya Raman, author of the motion, alluded to that possible outcome as she implored her colleagues to put the local measure on the ballot.

"There are real threats to ULA from statewide ballot initiatives that threaten to take away transfer taxes entirely across California, from planned legislative action in Sacramento and from local ballot initiatives, all of which are likely to make far deeper cuts

to ULA's revenues," she said.

Raman also noted that the measure, which she backed in 2022, has resulted in economically and politically disastrous "unintended consequences."

"Voters were sold a 'mansion tax' and ignoring the very real impacts on apartment construction — apartments that people want and need and want to move into — doesn't protect Measure ULA, it weakens it," she said.

Because the transfer tax doesn't distinguish between what types of developments are subject to the tax, it has also fallen upon large apartment, mixed-used and commercial projects along with actual mansions. In the years since, apartment sales have declined significantly within the city compared to surrounding municipalities that do not have the tax.

The tax's defenders counter that claims of a Los Angeles real estate market implosion are overblown. Building permits, citywide, increased by 60% between the fall of 2024 and the fall of 2025, according to data analyzed by United to House LA, a coalition of unions, affordable housing developers and private development skeptics.

Jesse Zwick, regional director of the Housing Action Coalition, a pro-development advocacy group that backed the measure, and a Santa Monica councilmember, called that claim "disingenuous," noting that 2024 represents an historic lowpoint for permits.

"Even a dead cat bounces," he said. "If you look at L.A. vis-à-vis other cities in L.A. county, we are still deeply in deficit."

Raman's proposed ballot tweak would have exempted new apartments, condos, commercial and mixed-used projects from the transfer tax for the first 15 years after construction in effort to reduce the financial penalty on new development. State housing regulators have tasked the city with planning for an additional 456,643 new units through 2029 to make up for a chronic deficit.

The measure would have also exempted households affected by natural disasters, such as the Palisades and Eaton fires, and reduced some of the restrictions on how revenue generated by the tax can be used for affordable housing developments.

Defenders of the current tax decried the proposal, which was introduced on Friday, as rushed and poorly considered.

"This motion represents tens of millions, if not over a hundred million dollars, in cuts to ULA revenue for homelessness prevention programs and affordable housing solutions," said Joe Donlin, director of United to House LA. Researchers at UCLA and the Rand Institute estimate that roughly 13% of the revenue generated in the tax's first year and a half came from the types of new developments that would have been carved out by Raman's proposal.

He also dismissed the idea that the city should preemptively rewrite its transfer tax to head off the Howard Jarvis-backed initiative. "There have been many boogymen trotted out to try to scare the public into giving tax breaks for developers," he said.

Technically, the L.A. council did not kill



Surf report WATER TEMP: 61.5

THURSDAY
FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Fun run of WNW swells kicks off. Plan around (to avoid) the early AM high tides. The first in a series of better WNW swells is due in to close out the workweek, joined by modest off-season SSW swell. Not a big combo but surf is fun at average breaks with size in the waist high zone, focal points pushing chest high as the AM high tide drops a bit. Some very deep high tides to deal with during the early morning windows. At this point winds look like they'll stay light long enough to take advantage of the tide drop mid-morning.

FRIDAY
FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Fun combo of swells with potential offshore flow. Work around the big tide swings. WNW swell holds/slowly eases as a bit more SSW swell mixes in. The points are in play and combo breaks west of Dume have occasional peaky shape when the swells cross up. Deep high tide is an issue early but drops quickly, eventually getting drained out.

Weather

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 76. North northeast wind around 10 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 55. North wind around 10 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 80. North wind around 10 mph becoming west northwest in the afternoon.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/01/29	Thu	05:47 AM	6.13	H
2026/01/29	Thu	1:26 PM	-1.26	L
2026/01/29	Thu	8:10 PM	3.56	H
2026/01/30	Fri	12:23 AM	2.28	L
2026/01/30	Fri	06:43 AM	6.49	H
2026/01/30	Fri	2:09 PM	-1.60	L
2026/01/30	Fri	8:42 PM	3.85	H
2026/01/31	Sat	01:18 AM	1.94	L
2026/01/31	Sat	07:32 AM	6.71	H
2026/01/31	Sat	2:47 PM	-1.72	L
2026/01/31	Sat	9:14 PM	4.09	H
2026/02/01	Sun	02:07 AM	1.61	L
2026/02/01	Sun	08:18 AM	6.71	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: 1/26
21 31 51 60 63
Power#: 18
Jackpot: 43 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/27
1 4 22 33 39

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/27
4 20 38 56 66
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 303 M

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/27
EVENING: 4 8 8
Draw Date: 1/27
MIDDAY: 9 5 0

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 1/24
6 14 15 33 37
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 23 M

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/27
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:42.60

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Santa Monica Daily Press



**CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

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

BID #4511 PURCHASE OF RENEWABLE DIESEL FUEL

Submission Deadline is March 2, 2026 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

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



**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: An Interim Zoning Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Santa Monica Extending Regulations Established by Interim Zoning Ordinance 2844 (CCS) Amending Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.21.130, Resource Recovery and Recycling Standards, to update applicability thresholds and standards for resource and recycling room dimensions in order to further economic recovery efforts by facilitating a Self-Certification Building Permit Pilot Program.

A public hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Santa Monica to extend Interim Zoning Ordinance ("IZO") Number 2844 (CCS) amending Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.21.130, Resource Recovery and Recycling Standards, to update applicability thresholds and standards for resource and recycling room dimensions in order to further economic recovery efforts by facilitating a Self-Certification Building Permit Pilot Program. The Council adopted the IZO on January 13, 2026, which will expire on April 13, 2026, unless extended by Council in accordance with Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.46.090(C).

DATE/TIME: TUESDAY, February 24, 2026, AT 5:30 PM

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

HOW TO COMMENT:

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

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

Address your comments to: City Clerk
Re: RRR IZO Extension

VIA EMAIL: councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: 1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please contact Shira Moch by e-mail at shira.moch@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 or (310) 917-6626 TDD at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

DineLA, Leonard Cohen Tribute Concert, & Grammy Events

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes the final week of DineLA, Leonard Cohen Tribute Concert, & Grammy Events, and much more!

High Vibe Yoga: This space is about learning to work with cannabis in its most authentic expression, using it as a plant medicine to go deeper into your body, your breath, and your mind. It's meant to be a safe space to explore what it feels like to move with cannabis intentionally: to heal, to listen, to release, and to reset. This practice blends mindful cannabis use with slow & deep stretching, sound, and meditation. Thursday, Jan. 29, 6:30p.m., MUD\WTR :gather, 2515 Main St. widget.hellowalla.com/enrollments/100379

Lily King in Conversation: Lily King delves into her new novel, Heart the Lover, which explores topics of desire, friendship, loss and the lasting impact of first love. Lily King is the New York Times bestselling author of six novels, including Writers & Lovers. Her work has won numerous awards, including the New England Book Award for Fiction. Jan. 30, 6:30 pm Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lily-king-in-conversation-tickets-1977745799927>

Faux Sweets Launches Japanese Food-Replica Workshops in Venice Beach Faux Sweets, founded by Japanese American artist Mae Hirota, is launching hands-on food-replica workshops at Venice Beach's Albion Garden beginning January 2026. The series will teach participants to create hyper-realistic Japanese-style food replicas. Saturday, Jan. 31, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. is the Mini Cherry Pie Skillet Workshop, and 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. is the Very Berry Pancakes Workshop <https://www.smdp.com/faux-sweets-launches-japanese-food-replica-workshops-in-venice-beach/>

The Remedy By Comedy at The Crow: ❤️ Have a laugh at a show uniting healthcare providers, patients, and caregivers to laugh at the absurdities of the system while supporting each other. Saturday, Jan. 31, 6p.m., 2525 Michigan Ave. [eventbrite.com/e/the-remedy-tickets-1917941948999](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-remedy-tickets-1917941948999)

Clay & Matcha! 🍵 Enjoy a warm, playful morning of clay at Couplet's new café where slow sips and creative hands meet. You'll spend the morning handbuilding ceramic mugs or tumblers, drawing inspiration from everyday rituals, cozy moments, and taking time to pause. Your ticket includes a complimentary matcha to enjoy while you create. 🍵 525 Santa Monica Blvd. [instagram.com/p/DTgSvo8EoWV](https://www.instagram.com/p/DTgSvo8EoWV)

Carb Loaders x Bluey's Run Club: Log some miles with great people and some good ol' post run grub. Sunday, Feb 1 @ 10a.m., 1814 Berkeley Ave. [instagram.com/p/DTwA35WEqbC](https://www.instagram.com/p/DTwA35WEqbC)

Broadstage: A Letter To Leonard Cohen: With a reputation as an essential interpreter of Leonard Cohen's music, the spectacular GRAMMY®-nominated singer-songwriter Perla Batalla takes the stage with A Letter to Leonard Cohen: A Tribute to a Friend—a program inspired by her recently released album of the same name. The heartfelt tribute celebrates Cohen's legacy with an elegant intersection of deeply personal tribute and fearless originality. Sunday, February 1, 7:30p.m., 1310 11th St. [broadstage.org/tickets-shows/calendar/a-letter-to-leonard-cohen-a-tribute-to-a-friend/](https://www.broadstage.org/tickets-shows/calendar/a-letter-to-leonard-cohen-a-tribute-to-a-friend/)

Together in Grief: A Wine Tasting & Intention-Setting Workshop: This is a 90-minute guided workshop with a curated wine tasting, offering space to reflect, honor what you're carrying, and set intentions for the year ahead. This experience is designed for anyone navigating loss, change, or life transitions, or simply seeking a more grounded and thoughtful beginning to the new year. Tuesday, Feb. 3, 6:30p.m., Divine Vintage, 1025 Montana Ave. <https://www.divinevintage.com/products/together-in-grief-a-wine-tasting-and-grief-writing-workshop>

Splatter Studio: This NBC4 video report highlights the immersive, paint-splattering experience where guests don protective gear and unleash their creativity by flinging, dripping, and throwing paint onto canvas and walls. Equal parts art studio and stress release, it's a playful, no-rules activity that's as much about the experience as the finished piece. It has options for kids and adults with a full bar. 321 Santa Monica Blvd. <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/video/california-live/paint-sip-and-create-in-santa-monica/3834517/>

Santa Monica History Museum Opens Exhibition on Food and Cultural Traditions: The show traces the influence of the Great Migration and global immigration on the city's food culture, highlighting how movement, memory and resilience shaped local culinary practices. Food & Family is now open to the public at 1350 7th St., Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ICE

FROM PAGE 1

their access to schools and hospitals.

While some of those laws are facing legal challenges, the new batch of proposals offer “practical solutions that are squarely within the state’s control,” said Shiu-Ming Cheer, deputy director at California Immigrant Policy Center.

Here’s a look at some of the key bills lawmakers are considering:

NO MOONLIGHTING AS A FEDERAL AGENT

Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, a Democrat from Culver City, authored a bill that would prohibit law enforcement from taking a side job as a federal immigration agent.

At a press conference in San Francisco earlier this month, Bryan said the measure is especially timely as the federal administration ramps up its recruitment of California’s local law enforcement.

“We don’t collaborate in the kidnapping of our own community members, but there is a loophole in state law,” he said. “While you can’t collaborate with ICE while you are working in your police shift, you can take a second job with the Department of Homeland Security. And I don’t think that that is right.”

In an interview with CalMatters, he said the legislation is intended to bring transparency and accountability, and to close that loophole.

“The federal administration has created not just a secret police but a secret military at the expense of health care, social safety nets, and key benefits that the American people need and rely on to make it through the day,” said Bryan. “All of those resources have been rerouted to the unaccounted militarized force patrolling our streets and literally killing American citizens.”

KEEP ICE AWAY FROM COURTHOUSES

Sen. Eloise Gómez Reyes, a Democrat from San Bernardino, introduced legislation to prevent federal immigration agents from making “unannounced and indiscriminate” arrests in courthouses.

“The issue is clear cut,” said Gómez Reyes in a statement. “One of the core responsibilities of government is to protect people — not to inflict terror on them. California is not going to let the federal government make political targets out of people trying to be good stewards of the law. Discouraging people from coming to court makes our community less safe.”

The legislation was introduced nearly two weeks after a federal judge ordered that the U.S. Justice Department halt civil arrests in immigration courts across Northern California, ruling that its deportation policies hadn’t addressed the “chilling effects, safety risks, and impacts on hearing attendance.”

Efforts to bolster protections in California courthouses have also been championed by Sen. Susan Rubio, a Democrat from West

Covina, who introduced a bill that would allow remote courthouse appearances for the majority of civil or criminal state court hearings, trials or conferences until January 2029.

TAXING DETENTION CENTERS

Assemblymember Matt Haney, a Democrat from San Francisco, introduced a bill that would place a 50% tax on profits from immigration detention centers. Over 5,700 people are being held in seven immigration detention centers across California, three of which are located in Kern County.

ESCALATING ‘RESISTANCE’

Cheer, of California Immigrant Policy Center, said the early introduction of the bills demonstrates more urgency from the state Legislature to tackle issues around immigration enforcement.

“My hope for this year is that the state can be as bold and innovative as possible seeing the crisis communities are facing from immigration enforcement,” she said.

That means ensuring funding for attorneys to represent people facing deportation, addressing existing gaps in state laws around information sharing with the federal government, and looking into companies that are directly profiting from the business of arresting and deporting people, Cheer said.

Republicans have criticized the measures, which they characterize as overstepping on federal priorities.

“No one likes to see what’s happening in Minnesota. No one wants to see that coming to California,” said Sen. Tony Strickland, a Republican representing Huntington Beach. Instead, he argued, cities and states should jettison their so-called “sanctuary” policies that hamper coordination between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities.

He also criticized Democrats for taking precious Senate time to prepare for hypothetical scenarios rather than addressing existing problems in California.

“At the end of the day, we have a lot of serious issues here in California, and we need to start focusing on California-specific issues.”

Kevin Johnson, an immigration law professor and former dean of the UC Davis School of Law, said state and local governments are trying to figure out how far to go in resisting federal immigration enforcement given Trump’s threats to pull funding from sanctuary jurisdictions.

“While there’s concern and fear in immigrant communities, there’s some solace being given by the support expressed by state and local officials,” he said. “As the Trump administration escalates its aggressive deportation tactics across the nation, California has escalated its resistance.”

By CAYLA MIHALOVICH and MAYA C. MILLER/CalMatters

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COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

applicants who they felt were unqualified for the position.

The new rules expand Santa Monica's 2001 worker recall law, originally adopted after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, to cover hotels on city-owned property and pier hospitality businesses.

Under the recall provisions, employers must offer available positions to workers who performed at least two hours of work per week for six months or more and were laid off after Sept. 9, 2025, for economic reasons. Offers must be made in writing with at least 10 days for workers to respond.

The retention requirements mandate that when a hospitality business on the pier changes ownership or control, the new operator must retain existing employees for 90 days and provide performance evaluations at the end of that period.

The provisions apply to businesses providing eating and drinking services, as well as entertainment venues like arcades and amusement facilities. Nonprofit organizations are exempted, as are managerial, supervisory and confidential employees.

The ordinance allows for enforcement through civil action or injunction, with possible damages for violations.

Council members struggled to determine how many businesses would be affected by the new rules, particularly around the threshold of five employees.

Councilmember Jesse Zwick questioned whether raising the employee count to 25 would significantly reduce the ordinance's

scope, but city staff said they lacked detailed employment data for pier tenants.

City Manager Oliver Chi said the Pier has six restaurant leases, nine retail leases, six nonprofit leases and nine concession cart leases. Staff estimated the rules would clearly cover restaurant, retail and nonprofit leases but would need to research individual cart operations to determine if they meet the five-employee threshold.

The majority of the council framed worker protections as essential to the city's economic interests, particularly as Santa Monica prepares to host events tied to the 2026 FIFA World Cup, 2027 Super Bowl and 2028 Olympics.

Mayor Caroline Torosis said the provision balanced the needs of businesses and workers by only applying to a small group of potential employees.

"Want to be very clear that Council provided direction back summer to bring back very targeted worker protections for hospitality on city owned assets, and we have significantly narrowed the scope of what we've asked for, because we are being we are trying to be extremely judicious, given that we are effectuating an economic revitalization for the city," she said.

Councilmember Dan Hall acknowledged the ordinance creates challenges for businesses but said the city has a responsibility to protect workers.

"I personally believe that when commerce happens on public land, the governing body of that property has the right and responsibility to demand a public good on behalf of our community," Hall said. "For me, that means standing for stability and respect for workers who keep this place

running every single day."

Councilmember Ellis Raskin, who made the motion to approve the ordinance, said removing the private right of action would shift enforcement burden to taxpayers.

"It's going to get enforced anyway. It just shifts the burden on the taxpayers," Raskin said, arguing the attorney fees provision wasn't essential since other state law provisions could provide for fees anyway.

Sean Ahaus, CEO and co-owner of California Roadhouse Inc., which was recently selected to operate at 256 Santa Monica Pier, submitted written opposition warning the ordinance could violate his company's due process rights.

Ahaus said his company submitted a letter of intent in July 2025 and received approval from the Santa Monica Pier Corporation in October. The company has since invested substantial resources based on that approval.

"California Roadhouse, Inc. believes that a vested right to complete our improvements in 256 Santa Monica Pier exists," Ahaus wrote. "It is the position of California Roadhouse, Inc. that any new changes to local ordinance(s) should not be retroactive and should be prohibited from negatively restricting or affecting the rights of California Roadhouse, Inc."

Ahaus argued the ordinance would force new businesses to hire all previous staff regardless of qualifications, experience or whether they contributed to the previous business's failure.

"California Roadhouse, Inc. believes that forcing new businesses to hire employees solely based on where they have previously worked, over and regardless of any potential employee's qualifications, and over an

employee's character, integrity and/or merit is a recipe for disaster," he wrote.

Negrete, the lone dissenting vote, criticized the ordinance as "completely anti-business" and "anti-resident," arguing it would discourage businesses from operating in Santa Monica. In a statement after the vote, she expressed concern about policies shaped by organized labor interests rather than community priorities.

"UNITE HERE Local 11 is heavily involved in Santa Monica elections — through endorsements, campaign spending, and paid political organizing. That's legal," she said. "But legality doesn't remove the responsibility to ask: who is shaping policy — and whose voices are missing from the room?"

We did not have meaningful roundtables with small business owners. We did not do a serious economic impact analysis. And we did not clearly distinguish between large hotels and a small business with five employees taking over a space that's been dark for months."

Negrete said that she believed the rules would favor corporate ownership who have the resources to absorb the additional costs the rules would impose and that as a local business owner she said she respects workers but will not support policies that push out small business owners from city property.

The rule will return to council for a second reading and while it can be modified at that time, doing so would likely require it to be brought back for a third discussion.

editor@smdp.com

EVENTS THIS WEEK JAN. 29 - FEB. 5

Thursday, January 29, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica Place Santa Monica.

Westside Digital Mix: 2026 Kickoff Mixer

Meet us on Thursday, January 29, at LouLou — steps from the Western end (or beginning!) of historic Route 66 — America's Mother Road, as Santa Monica celebrates its Centennial! As always, we'll bring together brilliant and engaging humans across media, entertainment, and tech for cocktails, hosted appetizers, and the kind of conversations that only happen here in the Entertainment Capital of the Universe. \$30.00 to \$60.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/westside-digital-mix-2026-kickoff-mixer/17799325/2026-01-29T18>

Saturday, January 31, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica.

Comedy and Magic at The Santa Monica Playhouse

We're doing it again! Come laugh, see incredible magic, and mingle with free drinks in a beautiful courtyard before the show. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/comedy-and-magic-at-the-santa-monica-playhouse/17855996/2026-01-31T19>

Saturday, January 31, 9:30 p.m.

Harvelle's Santa Monica 1432 4th St, Santa Monica.

SMOKESTACK LIGHTNING

Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. Please note, we are 21 and over only! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/smokestack-lightning/17779104/2026-01-31T21>

Sunday, February 01, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Santa Monica Place 395 Santa Monica Pl, Santa Monica.

Weekly Signature Experiences at LouLou

Multiple Dates, 2025 | LouLou, Level 3 Weekly Signature Experiences: Golden Hour - Special prices on signature cocktails and a complimentary bite with your first drink. Tulum Thursday - Enjoy Afro-style beats every Thursday starting at 6pm. Rosé Brunch: A coastal ritual of flowing Rosé, Mediterranean flavors, vibrant rooftop vibes, and a complimentary bottle of French Rosé for groups of 6 or more. *Must be 21+ to enjoy the French Rosé wine. Valid ID required. Saturdays. Pardon My French! Brunch: A chic Sunday brunch with DJs, Live Performances. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/weekly-signature-experiences-at-loulou/17154064/2026-02-01T18>

Saturday, January 31, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Regent Santa Monica Beach | Pacific Garden 1700 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica.

The Regent Reset

Welcome to The Regent Reset! The Regent Reset is a curated wellness experience at Regent Santa Monica Beach that blends movement, restoration, and mindful indulgence. \$40.00 —Includes all movement sessions and culinary experiences. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-regent-reset/17903077/2026-01-31T08>

Check out
more events at:
[smdp.com/events](https://www.smdp.com/events)

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

santamonicahistory.org

ONGOING: “Two Bit Circus” Pop-Up; Museum of Illusions; The CUBE VR;

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

DineLA Restaurant Week runs now through Feb. 6 and nearly 50 SaMo restaurants are participating. Here are some examples:

Buffalo Club: Enjoy a prix-fixe menu that highlights refined New American dishes served in its storied Iroquois Room or romantic English Garden Courtyard. Some highlights include crisp duck confit, braised veal breast, orange almond cake. 1520 Olympic Blvd. <https://www.discoverlosangeles.com/eat-drink/the-buffalo-club/dinela>

Cosetta: For the \$25 lunch, the acclaimed modern Italian restaurant is offering their signature smoked Mozzarella Sticks along with Cosetta’s sandwiches and wraps built on Pollack’s house hoagie loaves and “pizza wraps”. Come dinner, \$45 includes starter options of albacore crudo, white bean and emmer soup, or chopped salad, followed by a choice of eggplant parmigiana, porcini-rubbed wagyu tri-tip, or bbq prawns. 3150 Ocean Park Blvd. [discoverlosangeles.com/eat-drink/cosetta/dinela](https://www.discoverlosangeles.com/eat-drink/cosetta/dinela)

Fitoor: A 3-course lunch menu is \$45/person and a 3-course dinner menu is \$70/person. Highlights include Sweet Chili Broccoli, traditional Chicken Seekh Masala, and the Chocolate Nemesis. 1755 Ocean Ave. [discoverlosangeles.com/eat-drink/fitoor/dinela](https://www.discoverlosangeles.com/eat-drink/fitoor/dinela)

The Lobster: Classic oceanfront seafood with Santa Monica Pier views. The restaurant offers a special DineLA prix-fixe with coastal favorites like clam chowder, shrimp tacos and other chef-selected plates paired with Pacific views. 1602 Ocean Ave. [discoverlosangeles.com/eat-drink/the-lobster/dinela](https://www.discoverlosangeles.com/eat-drink/the-lobster/dinela)

Lunetta: Neighborhood favorite for New American with a local twist. Their DineLA prix-fixe option pairs inventive seasonal dishes with good value, giving diners a taste of executive chef creativity for \$35 for lunch and \$68 for dinner. 2424 Pico Blvd. [discoverlosangeles.com/eat-drink/lunetta/dinela](https://www.discoverlosangeles.com/eat-drink/lunetta/dinela)

Venice Steakhouse: This new spot right off Venice Boardwalk comes from a former Petit Trois chef features dry-aged cuts ranging from a ten-ounce baseball steak to a massive porterhouse for two. 1715 Pacific Ave., Venice [discoverlosangeles.com/eat-drink/venice-steakhouse/dinela](https://www.discoverlosangeles.com/eat-drink/venice-steakhouse/dinela)

Further Afield: Grammy Weekend! Events leading up to the 68th Annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 1 at Crypto.com Arena include the multi-day Grammy House with panels and showcases (Jan. 28–31) and the Grammy Museum’s programming and after-party immediately following the awards. Festival parties and private celebrations fill the city around the weekend. [grammymuseum.org/programs](https://www.grammymuseum.org/programs)

Looking Ahead: NBA All-Star Weekend (2/13–15); Lunar New Year at Santa Monica Place (2/21); Frieze LA Art Show (2/26 - 3/1)

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: DineLA, Leonard Cohen Tribute Concert, & Grammy Events

ULA

FROM PAGE 3

the measure outright, but referred it to further debate in committee. But with the June primary ballot deadline rapidly approaching, the delay likely nixes the possibility of the city amending its own tax before a possible statewide measure goes before voters.

“It seems unlikely there will be more action on this issue locally this year,” said Zwick. Between the broader effort to severely cap transfer taxes by anti-tax advocates and the current policy’s supporters, he called Raman’s proposed fix “the best political compromise” that could be achieved this year “absent increased leverage through the statewide tax measures.”

If the statewide tax measure does ultimately become law, it would cost cities between \$2 billion and \$3 billion each year, according to an analysis commissioned by the League of California Cities, a lobbying group.

If and when it qualifies, that may trigger a fresh round of negotiations over state transfer tax policy, said Mott Smith, a commercial developer and board member of the California Infill Builders Association.

“Right now the argument for transfer tax reform is that Measure ULA isn’t working as promised — which, by the way, is a very good argument,” he said. “But once the Howard Jarvis initiative qualifies, and it looks like it probably will, it becomes a conversation about how we preserve \$3 billion of local revenue across the state.”

Asked about the signature gathering effort, Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, merely said that he was “cautiously optimistic.” As for a broader deal, should the measure qualify, he insisted that he was solely focused on his own measure for now.

Ben Christopher, CalMatters Housing Reporter



THURSDAY | JANUARY 29

CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviértase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Cada semana será algo nuevo: Ejercicio, Hablando con amigos, Aprendizaje, Presentadores Invitados, Salud y Bienestar. Hay comida para los adultos mayores que participan durante las dos horas. Para más información llame al (310) 458-8688. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2026-01-08T11>

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://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/oakwood-roots-farmers-and-wellness-market/14548473/2026-01-22T11>

LA TECH 2026

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica Place Santa Monica. Come hang out with tech professionals in LA, make connections, and have a great time at our LA Tech Networking Mixer! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/la-tech-2026/17765030/2026-01-29T18>

FRIDAY | JANUARY 30

NEW EXHIBITION AT THE HISTORY MUSEUM CELEBRATES FOOD & FAMILY

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Santa Monica History Museum 1350 Seventh Street Santa Monica. Explore the evolution of African American and intercultural food traditions in Southern California, tracing the impact of the Great Migration and global immigration on Santa Monica’s culinary landscape. Through the lens of shared meals, recipes, and community gatherings, the exhibition examines how food fosters a sense of belonging, connection, and cultural continuity. Drawn from the archives of the Quinn Research Center and the Santa Monica History Museum, Food & Family features photographs, oral histories, cookbooks, utensils, maps, and other materials that reveal how everyday cooking helped define home and identity for generations of Santa Monica residents. Opening Reception 2pm-4pm on January 24 includes free admission. \$0.00 to \$5.00 Free for Children, Students, Seniors, SNAP/EBT card holders. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/new-exhibition-at-the-history-museum-celebrates-food-family/17896821/2026-01-30T11>



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A woman in blue scrubs is smiling and assisting an elderly man. The man is wearing a light-colored sweater and glasses, and is holding a green dumbbell with his right arm raised. The background is a bright, indoor setting.

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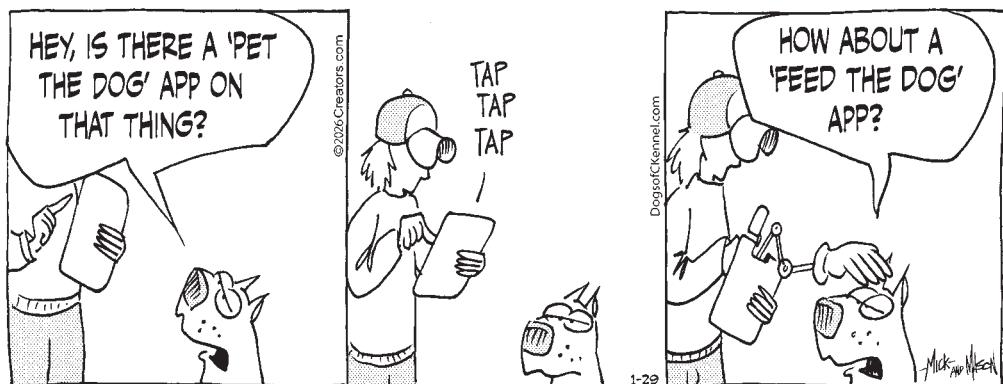
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 26 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6835

Grafton festival

A	H	I	S	T	O	R	Y	M	A	H	Z	T	S	E
C	O	R	I	N	D	I	B	E	A	C	H	S	N	F
I	T	S	U	R	T	L	A	N	O	I	T	A	N	A
I	E	T	L	I	O	P	S	N	U	R	N	V	I	C
C	L	A	R	E	N	C	E	R	I	V	E	R	J	G
C	S	U	P	U	N	A	H	K	L	O	O	K	A	J
N	O	R	K	S	T	R	E	E	T	S	N	R	I	A
E	S	L	C	A	L	I	L	D	P	A	U	C	L	C
D	U	S	O	P	A	L	A	R	E	R	O	D	Y	A
F	O	P	T	U	R	I	E	L	A	W	R	T	A	R
I	M	A	E	R	R	Y	C	L	P	O	A	R	W	A
L	A	R	A	Y	A	A	I	E	U	E	N	I	H	N
C	F	K	A	M	M	N	R	G	H	L	O	A	G	D
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|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Arts | Heat | Open |
| Cafe | Highway | Osprey |
| Clarence River | History | Parks |
| Clifden | Hotels | Rich |
| Colour | Iluka | Rural |
| Corindi Beach | Inns | Southgate |
| Cowper | Jacarandas | Street |
| Dairy | Jail | Ulmarra |
| Drought | Koolkhan | Unspoilt |
| Famous | Lilac | Vast |
| Farm | Maclean | Yamba |
| Gaol | National Trust | |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 29)

Welcome to your Year of the Stellar Fit. You discover where your skills are needed most and step into a role that seems made just for you. Meaningful, energizing work leads to recognition and the compensation you always knew was possible. More highlights: romantic sparkle, memorable gatherings and travel stories you'll tell for years. Leo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 22, 31, 8 and 27.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even when the work is important, you try to appear relaxed because overseriousness seems uncool when there are so many people in the world handling all kinds of challenges. Don't doubt or judge yourself. Your instincts are legendary.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're not wrong or vain to think about the optics of a situation. A reputation is a thing you own, like property. It's an asset that you can leverage. Like all possessions, a reputation requires maintenance. You'll make updates today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The answers are not in the attic of your mind, so no need to crawl through those cobwebs. The world around you will show you every single thing you want to know. All you have to do is slow down and observe.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Balancing work and play is challenging when all you want to do is play and all there is before you is work. But if you can turn the work into play, you're golden. It's done with an attitude. Your approach makes all the difference.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your predictions will be accurate because you are a realist. Friends and loved ones will behave true to form, particularly in the form you have come to learn they tend to take, and not the form hopefully projected upon them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The good life is your current life. It's good because you know this. Your senses take you to a vivid experience of things. To live fully, you don't need to go anywhere or become anything other than what you already are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your talent for organization kicks in. You want to move a mountain, so little by little you will make it move. You can make this clean and orderly. Amazing what a few containers and shelves can do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As generous as you are, it's good to keep reminding yourself that if you're not the one deciding about the people, projects and terms of your life, then it gets decided for you. Stay at the center of your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When something is personal, we can't see it very well, the way we don't see our own backs very well. We need mirrors and the eyes of others to get the whole perspective. Those lenses aren't necessarily correct, but they do give more information.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're looking forward to the day you get to the goal. It doesn't mean you're not engaged now. Of course there is no real success without a journey. What's happening right now inside this work is golden, and you know it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When life comes at you fast and colorful, it inspires excitement and awe. There is just as much of that in the slow shadows of your interior world today. Treasures will gleam in the silence.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a lot happening in your realm today that is not your responsibility, and yet, whatever you do to improve it will make your life much easier. Can you take it on unofficially? Anonymously?

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

S	T	A	B	L	E		T	O	W		G	O	B		
P	A	V	L	O	V		G	A	L	A		U	N	O	
A	T	E	A	S	E		O	D	D	S		L	E	I	
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A	S	H		Y	E	S			S	E	E	I	N	G	

Newsday Crossword

HAPPY ENDING by Lin Josephson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Keeps out
- 5 Psyche sections
- 8 Mis followers
- 11 Dovetail part
- 12 Really remote place
- 14 Start of a social sequence
- 17 Flour source
- 18 Female pheasant
- 19 Culinary guide
- 20 What might follow 14-Across
- 24 Biblical twin
- 25 Most Indians were born there
- 26 Kimono accessory
- 27 Tattered tees, e.g.
- 28 Fast food franchisor founder
- 31 Winter blanket
- 34 Apt adjective after a 59-Across
- 35 What might follow 20-Across
- 38 One of two former UN members
- 41 Something urged
- 42 Small proof of purchase
- 44 White hat wearer
- 46 Never: Ger.
- 48 Show up
- 51 Wealthy, in Juárez
- 52 What might follow 35-Across
- 55 "And yet..."
- 57 "What a surprise!"

DOWN

- 1 Kerouac persona
- 2 Novelist Patchett
- 3 *Magnétite*, par example
- 4 Look unhappy
- 5 Lodging option
- 6 Grumpy coworker
- 7 Affirmed formally
- 8 Blade wielder
- 9 Smith, for instance
- 10 Plumbing problem
- 11 Malaysians' neighbors
- 13 Cry partner
- 14 Melodic epilogue
- 15 "Inner" opener
- 16 One of an environmental trio
- 21 Certain Fed
- 22 Take no part
- 23 Spam cans
- 29 Alley ender
- 30 ___-de-sac
- 32 Cries of surprise
- 33 Rib tickler

- 36 Painter Magritte
- 37 Pro sports missile
- 38 Bookcase fastener
- 39 Quakes in the cold
- 40 Drops off
- 43 Sweet spheres
- 45 Party dip of a sort
- 47 Move sideways
- 49 Resources
- 50 Extremely small
- 52 Ribs, e.g.
- 53 Far from the ordinary
- 54 Fairway mower maker
- 56 Family member
- 60 Vitamin World rival
- 61 Major CBS franchise
- 62 Grp. of atoms

Sudoku

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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.

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

		1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		
	11						12			13					
14						15								16	
17				18					19						
20			21				22	23			24				
25							26				27				
		28		29	30		31		32	33		34			
			35				36				37				
38	39	40		41					42			43			
44			45				46		47			48		49	50
51						52				53	54				
55				56					57				58		
59							60	61				62			
	63									64					
	65					66				67					

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PESTICIDE

FROM PAGE 1

and parks, and already ranks in the top 25% of California communities for environmental hazards, according to state assessments.

Children face uniformly higher risks than adults due to greater inhalation rate-to-body weight ratios, yet research on fumigation pesticide exposure in children remains limited, the researchers noted.

“Research in rural, agricultural communities have seen an association between proximity to agriculturally applied methyl bromide and restricted fetal growth,” said Dr. Jill Johnston, study co-author and associate professor at UC Irvine’s Joe C. Wen School of Population and Public Health. “Additionally, studies in California have found that an increase in the ambient air concentration of methyl bromide is associated with increased risk of emergency department visits for asthma among children.”

When asked about potential long-term health impacts, Van Horne said, “For children, potential long-term effects on respiratory health are a concern. Additionally, there is concern that prenatal exposure could increase the risk of lower birth weight.”

The U.S. government recommended phasing out methyl bromide in 2005 because of known health and environmental impacts, including cancer, respiratory issues, and damage to kidneys, skin and livers. Agricultural use in California largely ended in 2015, but exceptions allowed for freight container fumigation continue today.

Between 2016-22, the top counties reporting methyl bromide applications were Siskiyou, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Los Angeles. In predominantly agricultural counties, primary uses included soil fumigation and nursery operations. In Los Angeles County, the main application was non-agricultural fumigation for shipping purposes.

“Freight transported in containers is typically fumigated as a means to reduce potential infestations or inhibit the spread of pests,” Johnston said. “In the United States, foreign freight containers with certain

produce, such as grapes, must be treated for pests, and in most cases, methyl bromide use is allowed at permitted facilities.”

Johnston noted that safer alternatives exist but have not been widely adopted.

“These are important precautions, but the reality is there are potential alternatives to methyl bromide that pose lower health risks,” she said.

According to Van Horne, integrated pest management approaches can reduce reliance on methyl bromide, while non-chemical alternatives like inert-gas treatments or cold treatments show potential for pest control. Fumigant alternatives such as ethyl formate have demonstrated effectiveness and are considered less harmful to humans and the environment.

The researchers acknowledged data limitations in their analysis. In Long Beach, only one air quality monitor has tracked methyl bromide levels, and only since 2023.

Van Horne expressed particular concern about notification systems: “There are no systems in place to alert residents or schools nearby that fumigation activities are taking place.”

Despite these limitations, the authors called for better coordination between federal, state and local agencies, improved monitoring and warning systems, and expedited replacement of methyl bromide with less toxic materials.

“This work highlights the ongoing challenge of addressing community health concerns due to fumigation activities, and the lack of comprehensive health and safety assessments,” Van Horne said. “It is clear the potential health burdens for continued methyl bromide use are concentrated in areas near fumigation activities, like Long Beach and the port areas, but it is equally clear there are gaps in information and oversight that need to be addressed; people’s health is at risk.”

The research was funded by the National Institutes of Health through the Southern California Center for Children’s Environmental Health Research and the JPB Environmental Health Fellowship.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025284255. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SUNNY KIDS PEDIATRICS, 903 14TH STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): CINDY TSUCHING HSU, 903 14TH STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 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/ CINDY TSUCHING HSU, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/24/2025. 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: 01/08/2026, 01/15/2026, 01/22/2026, 01/29/2026

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026015156. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LEGACY IN PROGRESS, 2801 OCEAN PARK BLVD #2419, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): ALICIA COLLINS, 2801 OCEAN PARK BLVD #2419, 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 01/2026. 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/ Alicia Collins, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/21/2026. 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: 01/29/2026, 02/05/2026, 02/12/2026, 02/19/2026

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25STCP03988. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 N. Hill St., LA, CA 90012, Stanley Mosk Courthouse. Petitioner Zachary Jamison Karon for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Zachary Jamison Karon filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Zachary Jamison Karon to Jamison Rockmore. 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: 03/09/2026, Time: 8:30am, Dept: 45, Room: 529. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 10/14/2025. Virginia Keeny, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/15/2026, 01/22/2026, 01/29/2026, 02/05/2026

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that Los Angeles County Public Works is requesting proposals from qualified firms to provide On-Call Geotechnical and Special Inspection Services for Various Healthcare Projects (BRC0000603), will be received by Public Works, on February 10, 2026, by 5:30 p.m. The RFP may be obtained by accessing the link at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/contracts/opportunities/> or will be emailed to you upon request by calling (626) 300-2346.1/29/26CNS-4003326#SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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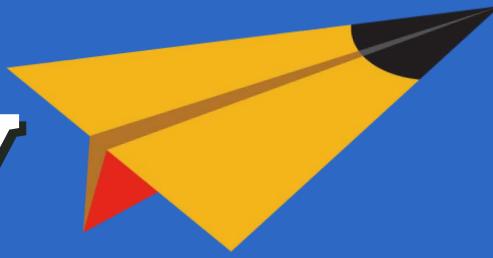
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