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**2** Republican in the lead  
For Governor's race.

**3** Community pushback  
On detention facilities.

**4** Gov Newsom  
Writes a book.

**5** California judges  
Defend their role.



Volume 25 Issue 56

WEDNESDAY 2/4/26

[smdp.com](http://smdp.com)

## Santa Monica Council approves scaled-back Memorial Park expansion to address budget gap



Courtesy photo

**PARKS:** The city is making changes to the plan for Memorial Park to keep the project moving forward.

**MAAZ ALIN**  
SMDP Staff Writer

The City Council voted unanimously on Tuesday to approve a revised plan for the Memorial Park Redevelopment and Expansion Project, eliminating

expensive elevated tennis and pickleball courts to save approximately \$17 million amid significant funding shortfalls.

The 7-0 vote certifies the project's Environmental Impact Report and directs staff to proceed with on-grade courts instead of

the originally planned elevated structure, bringing the long-delayed project closer to its \$40 million budget for the initial two phases.

The project, nearly 30 years in development, would expand Memorial Park from 10.3 acres to

13.2 acres by incorporating the former Fisher Lumber site. The park serves as Santa Monica's primary location for baseball and softball and houses the city's only public gymnasium, skate park and

SEE MEMORIAL PARK PAGE 8

**County extends eviction protections for renters impacted by immigration raids**

**MATTHEW HALL**  
Daily Press Editor

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to raise the threshold for formal evictions in unincorporated areas from one month to two months of unpaid rent, offering additional protection to tenants facing economic hardship.

The motion, authored by Supervisor Janice Hahn and co-authored by Board Chair Hilda

SEE RENT PAGE 6

**Council reopens debate over public participation**

**MATTHEW HALL**  
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica City Council is exploring changes to its meeting procedures aimed at improving public participation, though members remain divided on how to balance accessibility with the practical demands of their part-time positions.

Councilmember Lana Negrete brought forward a proposal Jan. 27 requesting three major changes:

SEE MEETING PAGE 11

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# Republican Steve Hilton leads California governor fundraising as large pool of Democrats lag



Photo by Leroy Hamilton

**FORUM:** From left, former U.S. Secretary of Health & Human Services Xavier Becerra, California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, former mayor of Los Angeles and state Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa, and former California state Controller Betty Yee speak during the "Health Matters: A Conversation With Our Next Governor" debate at UC Riverside on Nov. 7, 2025.

Republican Steve Hilton is pulling in more campaign cash than nearly all other candidates in a tepid fundraising cycle for California governor in a wide-open race with no clear frontrunners, campaign finance reports filed Monday show.

Hilton, a commentator and former Fox News contributor who previously worked for conservative British Prime Minister David Cameron, brought in about \$4.1 million in donations in the second half of 2025, according to campaign finance reports. He took a victory lap on social media over the figure, calling it "what momentum looks like." But he also spent more than half that already, and started off 2026 with about \$2 million on hand, only a little more than fellow Republican candidate, Riverside County sheriff Chad Bianco.

Still, his haul was higher than that of several prominent Democrats. Bay Area Rep. Eric Swalwell, boosted by donations from Hollywood entertainers like Jon Hamm, Robert De Niro and Sean Penn, raised about \$3.1 million since jumping in the race in November. That's more than the \$3 million that former Rep. Katie Porter raised from nearly 12,000 mostly small-dollar donors from July to December. Former Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra brought in \$2.6 million, in part by transferring money from prior campaign accounts for other offices.

Hilton was second bringing in campaign cash only to Democratic billionaire and self-funding candidate Tom Steyer, who has

poured \$28 million of his own money into the race since declaring he was running in November.

Steyer has already spent the vast majority of that money — \$26 million — blanketing the state in TV and digital ads to become more recognizable. He's far outspent his competitors, most of whom are not expected to spend big until the final weeks of the June primary race, but a poll released last week by an environmental group showed he's garnering only about 8% of likely voters' support.

Starting 2026, Becerra had the most cash on hand, about \$3.8 million. Former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Porter had \$3.4 million and \$3.2 million, respectively.

Political strategists say most of the candidates aren't raising money quickly enough to be competitive with just four months left.

"No one but Steyer will be anywhere close," Democratic strategist Garry South said.

It takes tens of millions of dollars to run a statewide campaign in California in large part because the state is home to several of the most expensive media and advertising markets in the country. In the 2018 gubernatorial election, which he won handily, Gov. Gavin Newsom's campaign spent \$30.7 million between January and Election Day, the equivalent of more than \$40 million in 2026. That doesn't include money from

# Trump's \$45 billion expansion of immigrant detention sites faces pushback from communities

With tensions high over federal immigration enforcement, some state and local officials are pushing back against the Trump administration's attempts to house thousands of detained immigrants in jails, converted warehouses and privately run facilities in their communities.

Federal officials have been scouting cities and counties across the U.S. for places to hold immigrants as they roll out a massive \$45 billion expansion of detention facilities financed by President Donald Trump's recent tax-cutting law.

The fatal shootings of Renee Good and Alex Petti by immigration enforcement officers in Minneapolis have amplified an already intense spotlight on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, increasing scrutiny of its plans for new detention sites.

A proposed ICE facility just north of Richmond, Virginia, drew hundreds of people last week to a tense public hearing of the Hanover County Board of Supervisors.

"You want what's happening in Minnesota to go down in our own backyard? Build that detention center here, and that's exactly what will happen," resident Kimberly Matthews told county officials.

As a prospective ICE detention site became public, elected officials in Kansas City, Missouri, scrambled to pass an ordinance aimed at blocking it. And mayors in Oklahoma City and Salt Lake City — after raising concerns about building permits — announced last week that property owners won't be selling or leasing their facilities for immigration detention.

Meanwhile, legislatures in several Democratic-led states pressed forward with bills barring or discouraging ICE facilities. A New Mexico measure targets local government agreements to detain immigrants for ICE. A novel California proposal seeks to nudge companies running ICE facilities out of the state by imposing a 50% tax on their proceeds.

## THE NUMBER OF ICE DETENTION SITES HAS DOUBLED

More than 75,000 immigrants were being detained by ICE as of mid-January, up from 40,000 when Trump took office a year earlier, according to federal data released Tuesday.

In a little over a year, the number of detention facilities used by ICE more than doubled, to 225 sites spread across a combined 48 states and territories. Most of that growth came through existing contracts with the U.S. Marshals Service or deals to use empty beds at county jails.

Trump's administration now is taking steps to open more large-scale facilities. In January, ICE paid \$102 million for a warehouse in Washington County, Maryland, \$84 million for one in Berks County, Pennsylvania, and more than \$70 million for one in Surprise, Arizona. It also solicited public comment on a proposed warehouse purchase in a flood plain in Chester, New York.

Federal immigration officials have toured large warehouses elsewhere, without releasing many details about the efforts.

"They will be very well structured detention

facilities meeting our regular detention standards," ICE said in a statement, adding: "It should not come as news that ICE will be making arrests in states across the U.S. and is actively working to expand detention space."

## DETENTION SITE FOES FACE LEGAL LIMITATIONS

State and local governments can decline to lease detention space to ICE, but they generally cannot prohibit businesses and private landowners from using their property for federal immigrant detention centers, said Danielle Jefferis, an associate law professor at the University of Nebraska who focuses on immigration and civil litigation.

In 2023, a federal court invalidated a California law that barred private immigrant detention facilities, finding it infringed on federal powers. A federal appeals court panel cited similar grounds in July while striking down a New Jersey law that forbade agreements to operate immigrant detention facilities.

After ICE officials recently toured a warehouse in Orlando, Florida, as a prospective site, local officials looked into ways to regulate or prevent it. But City Attorney Mayanne Downs advised them in a letter that "ICE is immune from any local regulation that interferes in any way with its federal mandate."

Officials in Hanover County also asked their attorney to evaluate legal options after the Department of Homeland Security sent a letter confirming its intent to purchase a private property for use as an ICE processing facility. The building sits near retail businesses, hotels, restaurants and several neighborhoods.

Although some residents voiced concerns that an ICE facility could strain the county's resources, there's little the county can do to oppose it, said Board of Supervisors Chair Sean Davis.

"The federal government is generally exempt from our zoning regulations," Davis said.

## KANSAS CITY TRIES TO BLOCK A NEW ICE DETENTION SITE

Despite court rulings elsewhere, the City Council in Kansas City voted in January to impose a five-year moratorium on non-city-run detention facilities. The vote came on the same day ICE officials toured a nearly 1-million-square-foot (92,903-square-meter) warehouse as a prospective site.

Manny Abarca, a county lawmaker, said he initially was threatened with trespassing when he showed up but was eventually allowed inside the facility, where a deputy ICE field office director told him they were scouting for a 7,500-bed site.

Abarca is trying to fortify Kansas City's resistance by proposing a countywide moratorium on permits, zoning changes and development plans for detention facilities not run by the county or a city.

"When federal power is putting communities on edge, local government has a responsibility to act where we have authority,"

SEE TRUMP PAGE 6



## Surf report

WATER TEMP: 61.0

WEDNESDAY | SURF: 1-2ft  
POOR

Knee to thigh

Smaller surf off fading old swell. Light winds for nice conditions and a good early tide push. Old WNW is down to leftovers, mainly running thigh to waist high, standouts should still have some chest+ sets in the AM. Later morning high tide slows the smaller surf. Winds looking light all day, offshore early morning, W sea breeze in the afternoon. Some fog potential, but doesn't look as bad as Tuesday.

THURSDAY | SURF: 1-2ft  
POOR TO FAIR

Knee to thigh

Waves rebound as overlapping WNW swell moves in, most size in PM. Winds looking light, best in AM. Surf picking up as the first in another good run of WNW swells starts to fill in, showing best over the afternoon, with widespread chest to shoulder high waves. Standouts get better sets before dark. Offshores due much of the morning, followed by a light afternoon W sea breeze.

## Weather

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 84. North northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 61. North northeast wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph.

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 83. North wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/02/04	Wed	04:25 AM	1.19	L
2026/02/04	Wed	10:22 AM	5.33	H
2026/02/04	Wed	5:00 PM	-0.32	L
2026/02/04	Wed	11:26 PM	4.64	H
2026/02/05	Thu	05:14 AM	1.24	L
2026/02/05	Thu	11:03 AM	4.55	H
2026/02/05	Thu	5:26 PM	0.32	L
2026/02/05	Thu	11:59 PM	4.63	H
2026/02/06	Fri	06:06 AM	1.34	L
2026/02/06	Fri	11:48 AM	3.73	H
2026/02/06	Fri	5:48 PM	0.98	L
2026/02/07	Sat	12:33 AM	4.56	H
2026/02/07	Sat	07:11 AM	1.46	L
2026/02/07	Sat	12:44 PM	2.95	H
2026/02/07	Sat	6:03 PM	1.60	L
2026/02/08	Sun	01:13 AM	4.45	H

## Daily Lottery

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



Draw Date: 2/2  
3 8 31 60 65  
Power#: 4  
Jackpot: 80 M



Draw Date: 2/2  
1 8 23 24 36



Draw Date: 1/30  
11 34 36 43 63  
Mega#: 13  
Jackpot: 323 M



Draw Date: 2/2  
EVENING: 0 7 1  
Draw Date: 2/2  
MIDDAY: 8 9 3



Draw Date: 1/31  
6 24 29 32 41  
Mega#: 13  
Jackpot: 25 M



Draw Date: 2/2  
1st: 02 - Lucky Star  
2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit  
3rd: 04 - Big Ben  
Race Time: 1:41.41

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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 #4512 93% SULFURIC ACID FOR WATER RESOURCES DIVISION**

Submission Deadline is February 27th, 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://secure.procurennow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.


**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING  
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION**

**SUBJECT:** Planning Commission Recommendation to the City Council Regarding Amendments to the Text of the City's Zoning Ordinance to Align Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.31.125, Duplexes and Lot Splits on Parcels Zoned for Single-Unit Residential, and other applicable sections as necessary with State Law as Modified by Santa Monica's 6th Cycle Housing Element.

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider a resolution recommending to the City Council that the Council adopt amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance to modify the City's implementation for the allowance of duplexes and lot splits on parcels zoned for single-unit residential to align with State law requirements, as modified by Santa Monica's certified 6th Cycle Housing Element for parcels greater than 10,000 square feet.

**DATE/TIME:** WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

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

**HOW TO COMMENT**

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

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

Address your comments to: **Ross Fehrman, AICP, Acting Planning Manager**  
Re: Duplex and Lot Splits

**VIA E-MAIL:** [planningcomment@santamonica.gov](mailto:planningcomment@santamonica.gov)  
**VIA MAIL:** City Planning Division  
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28  
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**MORE INFORMATION**

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

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

**ESPAÑOL**

Este 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](mailto:ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov).

**GUEST COMMENTARY**

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# *Gavin Newsom's autobiography adds struggle to a story of a politically privileged past*

There's a well-worn playbook for politicians who yearn to occupy the White House. One of its most common tools is to write a book, or have a book written, to introduce the presidential supplicant to voters.

Historians trace the practice to Thomas Jefferson, whose 1785 book, "Notes on the State of Virginia," predated his first campaign for president in 1786.

Using the book as a conscious tool of image-building is a more recent phenomenon, however, leading critic Jaime Fuller to lament the banality of such tomes in his 2019 Literary Hub article.

"These modern election books sag under wet folksiness. They are boring," Fuller wrote.

"The current fashionable campaign book takes the form of a memoir, often ghostwritten, that unsuccessfully tries to argue that a candidate had a relatable American upbringing despite the fact said upbringing made them want to be president," he added.

The latter comment pretty well describes the book carrying California Gov. Gavin Newsom's name, but ghostwritten by veteran California journalist Mark Arax. It'll be published this month.

According to accounts by journalists given pre-publication copies of "Young Man in a Hurry: A Memoir of Discovery," Newsom's autobiography dwells on his life prior to running for governor. It's clearly aimed at moderating, or humanizing, his long-standing image of benefiting socially, financially and politically from his ties to the wealthy Getty family.

Newsom wants us —particularly folks in other states — to believe his early life was a struggle to balance his patronage by billionaire Gordon Getty, achieved through his father's long career as a Getty family consigliore, with the divorce of his parents, his mother's financial struggles and her suicide to end the misery of

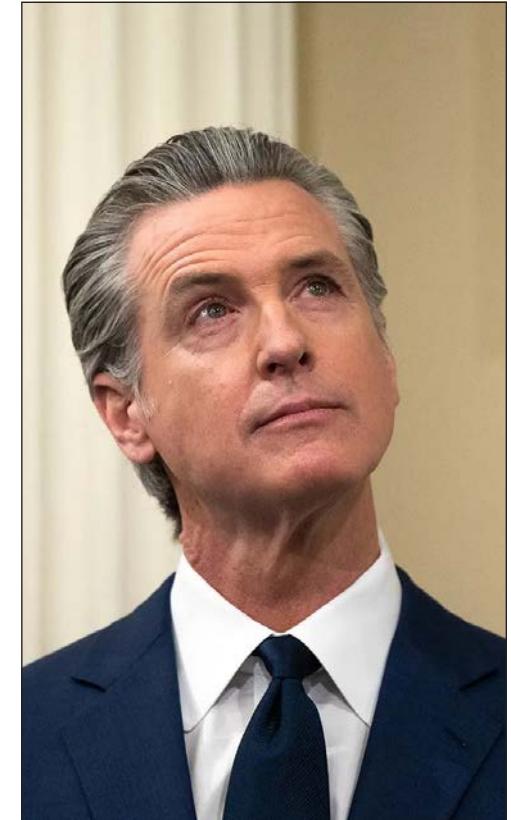


Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters  
**GOV:** Gavin Newsom prior to speaking during the State of the State address in the Assembly chamber at the state Capitol in Sacramento on Jan. 8, 2026.

cancer.

"This is me taking the mask off," Newsom said in an interview with Politico. "And it's not just me taking a mask off and then sanitizing what's underneath. It's scrutinizing what's underneath. It's stress-testing it, and it's trying to crack it open further and further."

Newsom's account of his pre-gubernatorial life also touches on less savory aspects, such as the breakup of

SEE NEWSOM PAGE 11


**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 #4514 SEWER DIVERSION UNIT CLEANING AND HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL**

Submission Deadline is March 3rd, 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://secure.procurennow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

## GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# California judges defend their independence and the rule of law



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr. for CalMatters

**COURT:** A judge's bench at Placer County Superior Court in Roseville on Jan. 23, 2026. Judges increasingly are facing threats, including impeachment, doxing or violence.

When the rule of law is under attack, judges are among its natural defenders. But the very nature of their positions prevents them from doing or even saying much outside of their courtrooms. They have to avoid any appearance of bias or partisanship.

That's why it was so noteworthy, nine years ago, when California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye stuck her neck out by calling on Trump administration officials to stop making immigration arrests in courthouses. Court is a place where witnesses, litigants, criminal defendants and anyone else should be encouraged to come without fear, in pursuit of justice, Cantil-Sakauye wrote. Using court as "bait" for arrests undermines that purpose, she said.

Her letter resonates today, as the second Trump administration fuses its escalated immigration enforcement with a broad attack on the judiciary, particularly against judges who rule that any individual patrol, arrest, imprisonment or deportation violates due process and other constitutional principles.

#### ATTACKS ON JUDGES

Trump has called judges who rule against him "crooked." Attorney General Pam Bondi named three who should be removed because in her opinion they cannot be impartial (meaning they ruled against the president). White House aide Stephen Miller branded judges who block Trump actions as "communist." Elon Musk, who briefly had a powerful although unofficial role with the Trump administration, called for "a wave of impeachments" against judges who slowed his attempted mass firings of federal workers.

The verbal abuse was so virulent and the impeachment threats so frequent that U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts told them to knock it off. He reminded the president that the proper response

to an unfavorable ruling is appeal, not impeachment. But the administration paid Roberts no more heed than it did Cantil-Sakauye in 2017.

In the face of such attacks, can judges offer anything with more teeth than a strongly worded letter? No, given the limits imposed by judicial conduct code. That leaves it to others to defend the third branch of government and the rule of law.

As it happens, some retired judges (including Cantil-Sakauye, who now heads the Public Policy Institute of California after her term on the bench ended in 2022) have stepped up.

Before examining whether their efforts amount to much, let's consider whether they're necessary. Federal judges have lifetime appointments, and recriminations against them could easily be dismissed as just so much political blather, predating the Trump era by two centuries. Impeachment and removal of federal judges is rare. House Speaker Mike Johnson's recent statement of support for actual impeachment of U.S. District Court Judge James Boasberg for his ruling in an immigration case will most likely amount to nothing. Rep. Andy Ogles' childish "wanted" poster picturing judges he wants impeached was a quasi-successful bid for attention that won't oust any judge.

The rub is that we live in an era in which political blather can quickly turn into intimidation and violence, and can threaten basic American institutions of liberty. Remember that Trump's fact-free insistence that the 2020 election was stolen from him led thousands of his supporters to ransack the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in an effort to prevent the certification of his successor. It was blather with a dangerous bite, and it instantly, if perhaps temporarily, damped much of Americans' hard-won confidence in the

SEE JUDGES PAGE 7

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contact: [dina@smdp.com](mailto:dina@smdp.com)



**smdp**  
Santa Monica Daily Press



**TRUMP**

FROM PAGE 3

he said.

As other ICE proposals have surfaced, officials in Social Circle, Georgia; Merrillville, Indiana; El Paso, Texas; and Roxbury Township, New Jersey, have raised concerns about a lack of water and sewer capacity to transform warehouses into detention sites.

Officials in Leavenworth, Kansas, are seeking to hold private prison operator CoreCivic to its requirements. A city planning commission on Monday advanced a three-year permit that would be needed for CoreCivic to reopen a shuttered prison as an ICE detention facility capable of housing up to 1,000 detainees.

Nationally, it remains to be seen whether local governments can deter ICE facilities through building permits and regulations.

"We're currently in a moment where it is being tested," Jefferis said. "So there is no clear answer as to how the courts are going to come down."

**NEW MEXICO TARGETS EXISTING ICE FACILITIES**

The Democratic-led New Mexico House on Friday passed legislation banning state and local government contracts for ICE detention facilities, sending it to the Senate. Similar bills are pending in Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island.

The Otero County Processing Center, 25 miles (40 kilometers) from downtown El Paso, Texas, is one of three privately run ICE facilities that could be affected by the New Mexico legislation. The facility includes four immigration courtrooms and space for more than 1,000 detainees. The county financed its construction in 2007 with the intent to use it as a revenue source, and plans to pay off the



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**NEWS****RENT**

FROM PAGE 1

L. Solis, directs County Counsel to draft an ordinance modifying the county's existing Rent and Tenant Protections Ordinance. The change would require tenants to owe at least two months of Fair Market Rent before landlords can proceed with eviction.

"This is a modest but necessary increase," Hahn said. "With this additional month, I hope we can give families some breathing room while not putting the entire burden on landlords who depend on rental income to pay their own bills."

Hahn acknowledged the measure would face criticism from both tenant advocates and landlords, calling it a middle-ground approach to a contentious issue.

The proposed ordinance would apply to unincorporated areas under the county's direct jurisdiction, home to about 1 million residents. Fair Market Rent, established annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, varies by unit size and ZIP code.

County Counsel has 30 days to return to the board with the proposed ordinance.

Supervisors cited the economic impact of recent federal immigration enforcement actions as a driving factor behind the measure. Some communities have experienced decreased economic activity as families lost breadwinners and businesses lost customers and employees.

"In the face of inhumane federal actions and ongoing threats to immigrant families, the county has taken concrete steps to protect renters," Solis said. "These are not symbolic gestures, but real action that meets the needs of those impacted."

Solis emphasized that tenants would still owe back rent to landlords, but the higher threshold provides "important protection against eviction" while the county mobilizes

other resources to help families remain housed.

The move builds on earlier action the county took in October 2025, when supervisors declared a local emergency in response to federal immigration raids. The declaration is typically reserved for natural disasters but empowered the county to mobilize resources and request state and federal aid for impacted communities.

The county also launched an Emergency Rent Relief Program in late 2025 to aid residents affected by immigration raids and other emergencies. In September 2025, the board approved nearly \$30 million for rent and mortgage relief targeting two groups: residents who lost homes or income in January 2025 wildfires, and immigrant families facing financial hardship due to federal immigration raids.

The program, administered by the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, provides eligible households up to six months of rent assistance, capped at \$15,000. Applications opened Dec. 17, 2025.

The county's tenant protection efforts have drawn both support and opposition. Tenant advocates, labor organizers and immigrant-rights groups have rallied pressing the county for stronger protections that don't force tenants to disclose immigration status.

Landlord associations have pushed back, arguing eviction moratoriums strain housing providers. They cite the COVID-era eviction ban as a cautionary example, claiming many tenants never repaid rent, leaving small landlords carrying the debt.

Hahn urged cities throughout Los Angeles County to implement their own tenant protection ordinances, noting that while the county can only act in unincorporated areas, individual cities have authority to enact similar measures.

editor@smdp.com

a Republican has a serious chance of winning this race."

The lukewarm fundraising figures candidates reported on Monday reflect voter uncertainty in an unusually quiet race for governor. Some donors, Democratic strategist Andrew Acosta said, haven't narrowed down their candidate of choice yet and may be withholding support until it's clear who will remain in the race.

"I don't think we've ever had a gubernatorial race like this," Acosta said. "The race is in flux and there's a lot of people who are struggling to see how this is all going to end."

Acosta pointed out that the uncertainty has made the race particularly susceptible to be shaped by wealthy spenders, like Steyer's entrance into the race or the recent entry of San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, a moderate who could command sizable support from deep-pocketed Silicon Valley donors. Mahan has not reported any donations yet since he declared his run last week.

"There's going to be a bunch of hand-wringing from Democrats soon that someone's gotta get out," Acosta said. "It's February. People have got to get moving."

Jeanne Kuang, CalMatters Capitol Reporter

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**JUDGES**

FROM PAGE 5

integrity of elections.

**ACTUAL OR IMPLIED THREATS**

There is little reason to believe that a president who showed himself so willing to undermine free and fair elections would worry about weakening an ostensibly co-equal branch of government which, by design, has little power to protect itself.

So it is not lost on judges that threats against them could be picked up and acted on. The most cited example stems from a California lawyer's assassination attempt against U.S. District Judge Esther Salas of New Jersey that resulted in her son's murder. The killing in 2020 was apparently unconnected to national politics. But since then a number of judges who have ruled against the Trump administration have been sent pizzas in the son's name. The statement is clear: We know how you ruled and we know where you live.

It's important to note that judges are targeted from multiple political quarters, not just the White House and not just by MAGA Republicans. When Gov. Gavin Newsom was unhappy with a federal court ruling on homeless encampments in 2023, he said he considered posting the judge's phone number on a billboard. "Judges must be held accountable," Newsom said on social media.

Held accountable how, exactly? Rulings that are unsupported by law are overturned on appeal. Judicial misconduct can be sanctioned by oversight bodies. Even Trump administration officials haven't directly threatened to dox judges they don't like, notwithstanding the

ominous pizza deliveries.

Unlike federal judges, California state judges are elected and therefore accountable to voters. But that system poses its own dangers to the integrity of the judicial system and the rule of law. If voters are able to oust a judge simply because they don't like a ruling (as Trump would like to do in the federal system), then judges might shape their rulings to win public support, rather than to reflect their best understanding of the law, the facts of the case and the interests of justice.

Does it happen? Yes. Two New York University professors studied criminal sentences from six California counties in the wake of a recall campaign against Santa Clara Superior Court Judge Aaron Persky, after his controversially light 2016 sentencing of a Stanford student convicted of sexually assaulting an unconscious woman. The professors found an "instantaneous" 30% increase in the length of criminal sentences handed down by the 158 judges whose cases were studied. The evidence suggests that elected judges, despite their insistence that they follow only the law, may alter their rulings when under political pressure.

Nor is it rare for elected prosecutors or sheriffs to deflect blame for crimes committed on their watch by pointing the finger at judges whose rulings complied with all laws. Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco, currently a candidate for governor, led a misleading campaign to pressure a judge in his county to resign (she didn't) after a defendant she ordered released, in accordance with the law, killed a sheriff's deputy.

**BLAMING JUDGES**

Retired Santa Clara Superior Court Judge LaDoris Cordell resigned from San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins' Innocence Commission in protest of Jenkins' sharp criticism of judges. Jenkins formerly blamed her predecessor for public safety problems in San Francisco, but began blaming judges when she succeeded him.

"The place for a prosecutor to disagree with a judge's ruling is in the courtroom, not on social media and not in the streets pandering to voters," Cordell wrote in her resignation letter.

Being a retired judge, Cordell could speak out against attacks on the independent judiciary in a way that sitting judges cannot.

Other retired judges have begun to stir, and to organize, and to fight back.

On Sept. 17 — Constitution Day, a fitting day for defense of the rule of law — 104 retired California judges and justices (including Cordell) signed a "Declaration of Judicial Independence" responding to "unjust public criticism that threatens a fair and impartial judiciary." The declaration was written, and the campaign was organized, by retired superior court judges Brett Alldredge of Tulare County, George Eskin of Santa Barbara County, Suzanne Ramos Bolanos of San Francisco, and Judge John Pacheco of San Bernardino County.

The same day, nearly 50 retired federal judges who are part of the Article III Coalition authored their own letter arguing that threats to "intimidate, harass, and pressure judges, and sway their opinions" are an attack on the Constitution.

**DEFENDING A REVOLUTION**

And on Dec. 15, Bill of Rights Day (who knew there was a Bill of Rights Day?), 45 retired state chief justices, including Cantil-Sakauye and her predecessor, Ronald George, signed onto a letter pledging to defend a strong and independent judiciary.

None of the documents called out Trump, or Newsom, or anyone else for their attacks on judges, nor did they suggest any possible consequences of continued attacks. So, just a few more strongly worded letters, just like Cantil-Sakauye's from 2017? Big deal.

But hold that thought.

We are six months away from the 250th anniversary of a particularly strongly worded letter, sent to all mankind and laying out a bill of complaints against tyranny.

The signing of the Declaration of Independence was preceded by years of debates, street protests, committees of correspondence and other actions among people of diametrically different political points of view. It took quite a bit of time before American colonists could join and sign on to a register of grievances that included the king making judges "dependent on his will alone" and obstructing the administration of justice.

There was also something about putting troops in the street without the consent of legislatures.

It's important, and timely, that retired judges have mobilized to defend the ideals of the Revolution. It's good that they have spoken up. Perhaps it's now time for them to speak more loudly, and more often.

Robert Greene, CalMatters Contributor



Starting  
Feb 1

## CHANGES COMING TO YOUR SANTA MONICA RECYCLING AND TRASH 311 REQUESTS

Effective February 1, 2026, please provide your CITY UTILITY ACCOUNT NUMBER when requesting the following recycling and trash services through 311:

- Container requests (damaged or missing containers)
- Rent-a-bin (temporary rental bin)
- Service level changes (changes in collection frequency, size, number of containers)
- Start/stop service (move in/move out and container removal due tenant vacancy)
- Additional pickups

**WHY?**

Account holders or authorized users should be the ones requesting the above services because some of these changes may affect billing or container placement on the property. This also helps us provide better customer service and response time.

**HOW DO I FIND MY ACCOUNT NUMBER?**

- Option 1: top left corner of your utility bill
- Option 2: email [billing.collections@santamonica.gov](mailto:billing.collections@santamonica.gov)

Authorized users may attach account number and written confirmation from account holders to 311 requests.



City of  
Santa Monica

Questions? [santamonica.gov](http://santamonica.gov)  
Services → Recycling and Trash



Santa Monica Daily Press

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## Summons

## DBA

## DBA

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) Case No. 24SMCV03549. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: JASPER HUNTER. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: JESSICA HUNTER. NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center, your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney is: Melissa Fox, Esq., 100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 700, Santa Monica, CA 90401, (310) 555-1234. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/14/2026, 01/21/2026, 01/28/2026, 02/04/2026

## Help Wanted

## Name Change

## Name Change

Amazon.com Services LLC seeks candidates for the following (multiple positions available) in Santa Monica, CA. Apply at: <https://www.amazon.jobs/en/>, referencing job ID AMZ25675.1: Supply Chain Mgr III (Job ID: AMZ25675.1). Facilitate supply chain analysis to identify and recommend improvement opportunities for both new and existing processes scaling processes to standard methodologies across businesses, and leading alignment across organizations. Identify and drive operational improvements by proposing network wide solutions that improve the health of the supply chain. The pay range for this position in Santa Monica, CA is \$115400 - \$160000 (yr); however, base pay offered may vary depending on job-related knowledge, skills, and experience. A sign-on bonus and restricted stock units may be provided as part of the compensation package, in addition to a full range of medical, financial, and/or other benefits, dependent on the position offered. This information is provided by Santa Monica, CA Equal Pay Act. Base pay information is based on market location. Applicants should apply via Amazon's internal or external careers site.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00006. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Fang Shi for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Fang Shi filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Shiyuan Zhang to Simon Shiyuan Zhang. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 02/13/26, 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: 01/06/2026. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/14/2026, 01/21/2026, 01/28/2026, 02/04/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00285. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of HARLOW DOVE COCKRELL for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner HARLOW DOVE COCKRELL filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: HARLOW DOVE COCKRELL to HARLOW DOVE. 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: 02/20/2026, Time: 08:30 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: 01/06/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/14/2026, 01/21/2026, 01/28/2026, 02/04/2026

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

## MEMORIAL PARK

FROM PAGE 1

tennis-pickleball courts.

Despite the cost-cutting measures, the project faces a substantial funding gap of \$45 million to \$58 million, even with \$28 million in secured or pending funding. The city has \$18 million available from Santa Monica College's Measure V bond for Phase 1, pending final agreement, and \$10 million budgeted for Phase 0, an underground stormwater harvesting system.

Staff has submitted four grant applications totaling \$21.75 million, including requests to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (\$6 million), Measure A (\$4 million) and Measure W Safe Clean Water Program (\$11.75 million). However, a \$15 million application to the federal Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program has been placed on indefinite hold.

The revised Phase 1 construction cost estimate ranges from \$34 million to \$40 million, while Phase 2 is projected at \$18 million to \$21 million, according to staff reports.

Council Member Jesse Zwick questioned the value of combination baseball-softball fields that couldn't always accommodate simultaneous games. Staff explained that the current configuration allows perhaps two games at once, while the new combo field design would enable four simultaneous games — two Little League and two adult games, drastically increasing playability.

The approved plan maintains six total fields while adding numerous community amenities, including a 2,800-square-foot off-leash dog run, fitness equipment, a universally accessible playground with natural cork safety surfacing, and barbecue grills. Staff noted that incorporating a seventh field, originally planned, could be considered as part of the future Airport Conversion Project.

All sports fields will feature natural grass rather than artificial turf, following staff analysis of environmental and health impacts. The decision reflects a new city policy stating no new artificial turf sports fields will be installed on city-owned property.

The design firm SWA Group presented renderings showing improved park entries, particularly a new mid-block promenade entrance from Colorado Avenue. The plan also includes an 8-foot-wide shared-use bike path and enhanced pedestrian connections.

Tree removal emerged as a concern during planning. The project requires removing 82 trees, including palms in the middle of planned fields, but will preserve 14 existing trees and plant 110 new native species. Under city policy, 423 restitution trees must be planted, with any that cannot fit on-site planted within a quarter-mile of the park.

The revised plan also increases total parking from the existing 212 spaces to 201 spaces after all phases are complete, with 142 on-site spaces and 59 off-site spaces. The plan proposes angled parking along 16th Street to maximize available spaces.

Council Member Lana Negrete raised concerns about displaced programming during construction, particularly for pickleball players. Staff acknowledged that fully accommodating all displaced programming would be challenging and some reduction in programming during construction is expected.

"I wonder if it's feasible to work with the existing indoor outdoor pickleball courts ... so that people don't lose access to free pickleball space," Negrete said, suggesting the city partner with existing facilities to provide free access during slower periods.

Mayor Caroline Torosis asked for clarification before the vote that the approved plan included "the less expensive at grade pickleball courts" that were "value engineered by the Rec and Parks Commission."

Staff anticipates returning to council in spring 2026 with updates on fiscal agreements with Santa Monica College and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, along with a final construction scope and funding strategy. Final design is expected by the end of 2026, with construction potentially beginning in spring or summer 2027, contingent on available funding.

The project also requires a summary vacation of a portion of 16th Street right-of-way to accommodate Combo Field 3/4, a process that typically takes four to six months.

The project gained momentum in 2016 when council identified it as a high-priority initiative. Voters approved Measure V that year, providing up to \$20 million from Santa Monica College. In 2019, council approved the master plan, and in 2020 a design-build contract was awarded but never executed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project was restarted in 2022 with a reduced scope.

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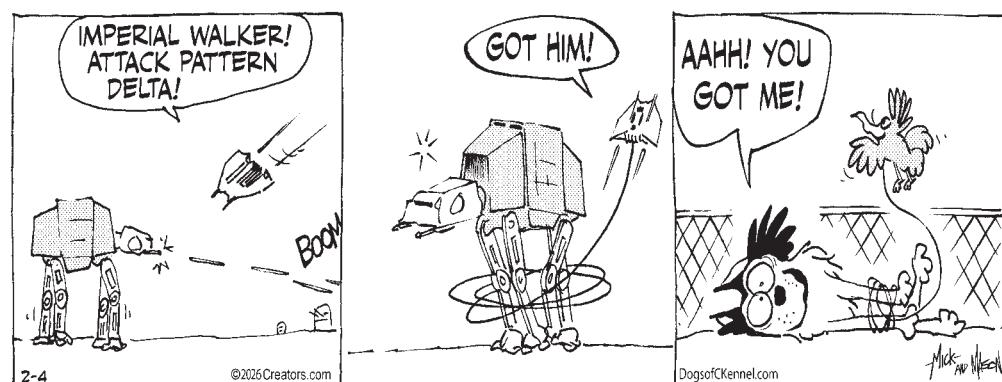
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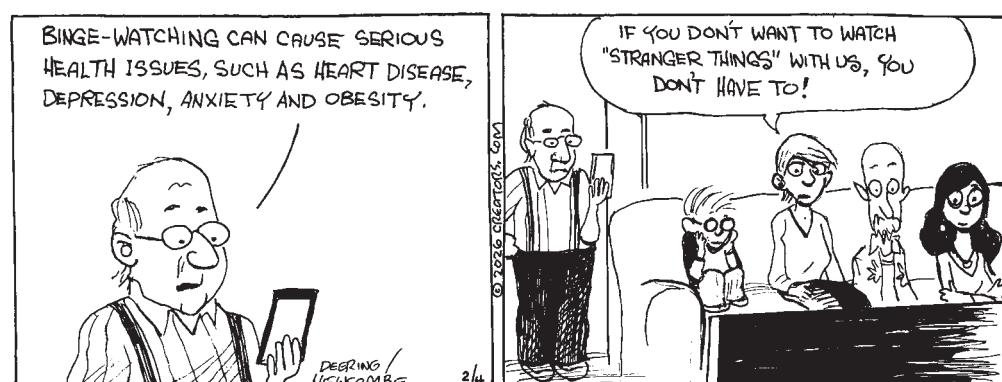
By TONY COCHRAN

## Dogs of C-Kennel



By MICK &amp; MASON MASTROIANNI &amp; JOHNNY HART

## Zack Hill



By JOHN DEERING &amp; 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 21 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6841

## A matter of taste



Angelica

Dried

Pickle

Anise

Eschallot

Pimento

Aromatic

Fennel

Rosemary

Basil

Fragrant

Sage

Black pepper

Garam masala

Sesame

Cajun

Horseradish

Sharp

Cassia

Korma

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Cook

Mace

Sweet

Cumin

Mustard

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Santa Monica Daily Press



## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 4)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You want to know you've made a difference. Today's endeavor might just be the answer because it's an opportunity to serve people what they need. The job may pay you, but it's not about the money.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As much as you wish people would understand you in real time, it will probably take a beat. Expect the lag and know the right audience will catch up to you eventually.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When the world gets noisy, you get quiet - not aloof, not superior, just grounded. You won't feel compelled to fix anything or defend anyone. People will be who they are. It doesn't have to destabilize your own footing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You can hear confessions, complaints or even jabs without flinching at all because you know that information is simply information. What others say is usually more about them than you. You have strong emotional boundaries and social maturity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You already know coping skills that help your mindset. You have insight, gratitude, rituals and regulation techniques. But right now, it's not about using your mind to feel better. You need structural changes that stop life from demanding more of you than it returns.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You value social integrity and will leave interactions clean. No regrets for oversharing, no silent resentments and no replaying conversations wondering what was right or wrong. You simply observe, register what matters and move on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You won't catch everything the first time around, and this is a good thing. If you did, there would be no reason to return. The return visit, the afterthought, the follow-up - that's where it all starts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). To some, "nirvana" suggests bliss. More literally, it refers to the extinguishing of the mental fires that cause suffering. Today's happiness comes from loosening your grip on an unhappy idea.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Doing your favorite activities with talented people is a sweet treat, but you could make it a regular fixture in your life. Making your self-development and joy a top priority in whatever way you can will improve much more than a few hours of your day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're chasing something fast and wild, which makes you incredibly hard to pin down. People would love to have your attention, your work, your commitment and more, but this just isn't the time. You need spontaneity and freedom.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your ambition is a feature, not a flaw. It's a form of optimism that calls a meeting with your strategic mind, your discipline, abilities and tenacious attitude. The gathering culminates in confidence and, ultimately, success.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Could someone else do your job or fill your role in a relationship? Maybe. But no one has your voice, style, timing or appetites. It's what you want that matters today. The more you follow these cravings, the more original you'll be.

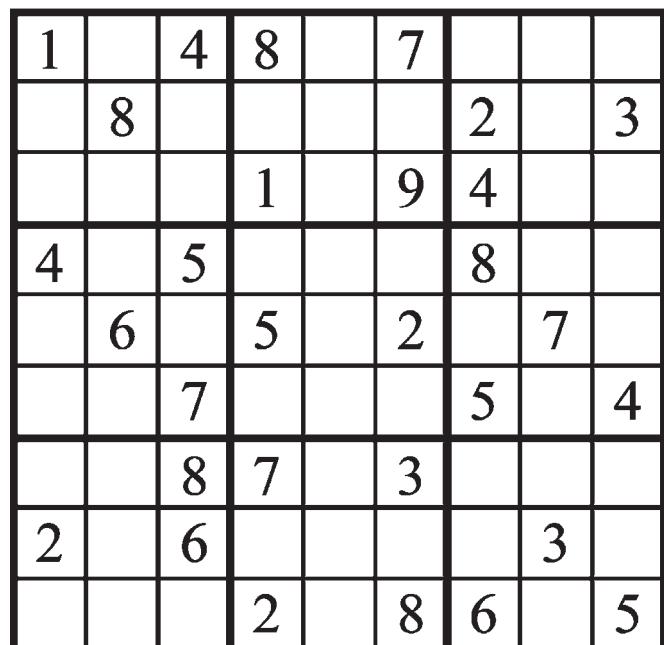
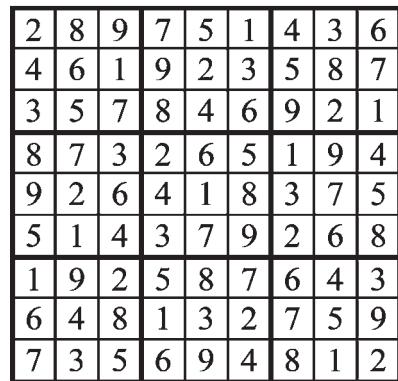
## SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD



## Sudoku

## SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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



## Newsday Crossword

HOW TO GET THERE by Fred Piscop  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
[www.stanxwords.com](http://www.stanxwords.com)

## ACROSS

- 1 Barber's razor sharpener
- 6 Be untruthful
- 9 Retained
- 13 Chicago airport
- 14 Spoil a surprise
- 15 A Great Lake
- 16 Enjoy an easy victory
- 18 Puppy barks
- 19 "Ten gallon" hats
- 20 Surprise victory
- 21 DC. ballplayer
- 22 Single-strand genetic letters
- 23 President before Wilson
- 26 Easily caught baseball pop-up
- 33 Engage in \_\_ of strength
- 35 Any Elvis song
- 36 Aussie hopper
- 37 Square dance female
- 38 Tic Tac mints alternative
- 40 Genesis boat
- 41 Website ID
- 42 Snoopy foe the Red
- 43 River of Paris
- 45 Baby grand's foot lever
- 48 "Sad to say..."
- 49 What Apple phones run on
- 50 Rower's implement
- 52 Large families
- 55 Sit on both sides of
- 60 Shoestring
- 61 Red Cross donation event
- 63 Self-storage rental

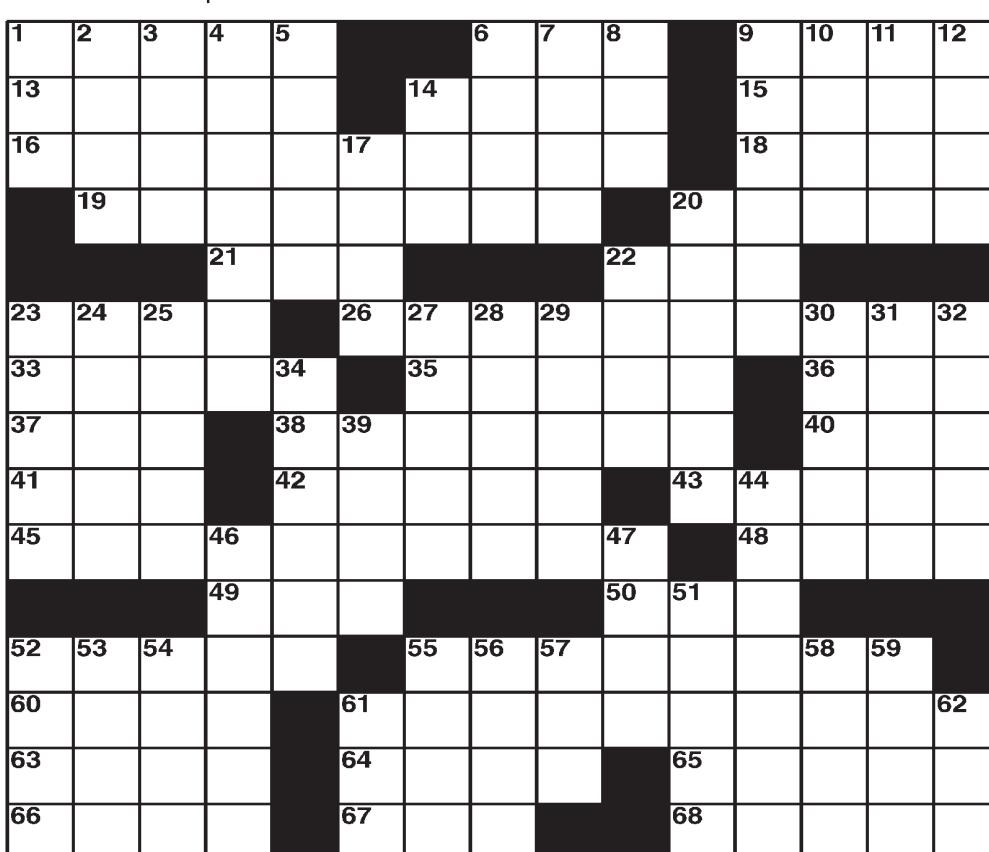
## 64 Grandma's daughter

- 65 Baby grand technician
- 66 Spiraling current
- 67 Birthday girl's new number
- 68 Prophetic signs

## 10 Historical periods

- 11 Piece of plumbing
- 12 Try out
- 14 Early afternoon hour
- 17 Sparkling Italian wine
- 20 Except if
- 22 Actress Tara or former senator Harry
- 23 Prepare to advance, in baseball
- 24 Video game pioneer
- 25 Guy, informally
- 27 University of \_\_ Dame
- 28 What the 40-Across was built for
- 29 Frozen singer Menzel
- 30 Physically weak
- 31 Doone of cookies

- 32 Oxen harnesses
- 34 Prohibitions
- 39 Trips around a track
- 44 Anatomical sound transmitter
- 46 Fourscore and ten
- 47 Laundry batch
- 51 Augment
- 52 Problem solving aid
- 53 End a flight
- 54 Etcher's fluid
- 55 Fake coin
- 56 Voicemail sound
- 57 Go bad, as broccoli
- 58 Toe the \_\_ (do as told)
- 59 Smooth out
- 61 Ram's remark
- 62 EMT's destinations



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**MEETING**

FROM PAGE 1

guaranteeing speakers a minimum two minutes of public comment per agenda item, restructuring when closed sessions occur, and shifting one monthly meeting to a 10 a.m. start time.

"I know it sucks to be here late at night, but this is their only opportunity to talk to the seven council members at one time," Negrete said, noting residents often arrange childcare and travel to City Hall only to receive 60 seconds of speaking time.

Her proposal specifically called for ensuring no speaker receives less than two minutes on any agenda item regardless of how many people sign up to speak. She also requested that closed sessions either start at 3 p.m. or move to the end of meetings, rather than occurring mid-agenda, and suggested holding closed sessions on alternate Tuesdays separate from regular council meetings.

The daytime meeting proposal stems from Negrete's belief that evening-only meetings exclude workers in retail, restaurants and other industries with nighttime hours.

"There's a whole workforce that works after the hours of five," Negrete said, adding that restaurants have had to close to bring staff to evening meetings to testify.

Several council members expressed reservations about the proposals, particularly the daytime meetings.

Councilmember Barry Snell said the current meeting demonstrated the challenge, with 60 to 70 speakers potentially requiring hours of additional time if each received two minutes.

"I'm exhausted," Snell said. "To be on council requires us to keep our day jobs. There's just no way around it."

Councilmember Dan Hall warned that daytime meetings would effectively exclude teachers, city employees and anyone with traditional work hours from serving on council.

"We'd end up with a council that is either fully self employed, their own business owners or retired," Hall said. "I don't think that's particularly representative of our community."

He noted the council's \$19,000 annual

**NEWSOM**

FROM PAGE 4

his first marriage to Kimberly Guilfoyle — who later was briefly engaged to Donald Trump Jr. — as well as Newsom's affair with the wife of a close friend and his acknowledged problems with alcohol.

"Is it any surprise that a Democrat considering a presidential run would publish a book emphasizing that he didn't have everything handed to him?" the New York Times asks in its article. "Of course not. Overcoming family hardship has been a quintessential origin story for the last three Democratic presidents."

Interestingly, Newsom's book covers neither what he has done as governor nor any manifesto about what the next president, presumably him, should do.

However, Atlantic magazine attempts to fill in one of those topics — his governorship — in its latest of several recent commentaries on Newsom's ambitions titled "Gavin Newsom's Record Is a Problem."

salary makes it impossible to serve full-time, adding he would need to sponsor a charter amendment for full-time council positions with six-figure salaries before supporting daytime meetings.

Councilmember Ellis Raskin said cities of Santa Monica's size struggle to balance public participation with getting work done, noting some jurisdictions cap total public comment time even on agenda items.

"We're gonna have to make some tough policy choices," Raskin said.

Mayor Jesse Zwick supported moving general public comment, which currently opens meetings, to the end of the agenda to prioritize discussion of items actually before the council.

"I think it's a bit of a fallacy to say that if we give someone an extra minute, suddenly we'll understand so much better what the community thinks," Zwick said.

Hall proposed a substitute motion that council members ultimately supported, directing staff to bring back several options for consideration at future meetings.

The approved motion calls for staff to explore scheduling special closed session meetings on alternate Tuesdays for lengthy agendas, moving general public comment to the end of meetings, and changing speaker time from one minute per section of the agenda to one minute per individual agenda item.

The motion also requests analysis of options to increase collaboration among council members before bringing items forward, such as requiring multiple sponsors for council member requests.

Councilmember Natalya Zernitskaya successfully added a provision requesting staff explore alternative public input methods, such as quarterly town halls potentially held on weekends.

Snell requested that when staff returns with options, the analysis include information about council member compensation in other cities that hold daytime meetings.

All proposed changes would return to council for public comment and further debate before any implementation.

editor@smdp.com

"His new persona as a fighting moderate, a Democrat in tune with the country's shifting desires and ruthless toward the man at the top, deftly speaks to the needs of a party desperate to regain the White House," Marc Novicoff and Jonathan Chait write.

"But Newsom has a problem: He has been a California politician for decades, and has held the state's governorship since 2019. During his tenure, the state has been a laboratory for some of the Democratic Party's most politically fraught policies and instincts, which has left it less affordable and more culturally radical than it used to be. His record not only raises pressing questions about how effectively he could govern as president; it also provides opponents an endless buffet of vulnerabilities across social and economic issues."

If Newsom wants to ride this rollercoaster, he'd better hold on tightly.

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist

**WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 4****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://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/12382446/2026-01-14T08>

**FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY: YOGA FOR EVERYONE!**

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Venice. Through body awareness, movement, and breath, you will be guided on how to bring your body, mind, and spirit back into balance for overall well-being. All levels are welcome. Generously funded by Friends of Venice Library. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/friends-of-venice-library-yoga-for-everyone/17751141/2026-01-14T12>

**THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 5****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. 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>

**BOOK RELEASE FOR THE INVASION OF PANTOMIME BY TIM XONNELLY**

7:30 p.m. Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd. Venice. Please join us to celebrate the release of SoCal/Berkeley poet Tim Xonnelly's new book, *The Invasion of Pantomime*. In these poems, Xonnelly reflects upon the surreal quality of the COVID

pandemic and entering his seventh decade in an increasingly repressive and violent culture in works replete with dream imagery and queer pride. Also reading will be acclaimed authors antmen pimentel mendoza (My Boyfriend Apocalypse) and Roberto F Santiago (Like Sugar). Of The Invasion of Pantomime, Kirk Read says, "Tim Xonnelly's voice is reassuring. No matter how much technocracy encroaches, there are poets wandering the aisles of Costco or navigating the world of online hookups.... All is not lost. There are still poets being poets. This collection is tender and weird and utterly endearing." Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/book-release-for-the-invasion-of-pantomime-by-tim-xonnelly/17913859/2026-02-05T19>

**CHASING MONARCHS**

7:30 p.m. Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center 1310 11th St Santa Monica. Fifty years after the startling discovery that monarch butterflies spend winters in the forests of Mexico, photographer and National Geographic Explorer Jaime Rojo reveals this winged wonder of the insect world in new ways with never-before-seen visuals. Tag along with conservationists and citizen scientists who are helping this species avoid catastrophic threats, all through Jaime's beautiful photos and videos. \$125.00 to \$1,000.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/chasing-monarchs/16112586/2026-02-05T19>

**TRAKTR RECORDS PRESENTS**

8:30 p.m. Harvelle's Santa Monica 1432 4th St, Santa Monica. With JAKAI, MOKAY, P.O.P., JTAPP and AUXIN Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 8:30PM. 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/traktr-records-presents/17821024/2026-02-05T20>

**FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 6****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 \$5.00Free for Children, Students, Seniors, SNAP/EBT card holders. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/new-exhibition-at-the-history-museum-celebrates-food-family/17896821/2026-02-06T11>



# THE MOST LOVED CONTEST IS BACK!

## Voting runs

**February 9th - March 13th!**

- Free for Santa Monica businesses to participate.
  - Powered by real community votes.
  - Citywide recognition across print & digital.

**Shop local. Vote local.  
Celebrate businesses you love!**

For more information on the contest, please contact:

**dina@smdp.com & maya@smdp.com**

