

Gary Limjap
(310) 586-0339

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

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
CalRE # 00927151

2 **Gov. Newsom**
LGBTQ stance.

3 **Budget gaps**
At local governments.

4 **Shari Davis**
Named Woman of the Year.

8 **Real Estate Map**
Ocean Park gems.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 82 THE WEEKENDER 3/14-3/16 smdp.com

Zbur withdraws home defense bill that would have redefined allowable homicide

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Assemblymember and Democratic Caucus Chair Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) has withdrawn his bill to redefine allowable homicide in self defense saying fear and confusion has created a false impression of the bill.

The proposed legislation, Bill 1333, would implement a "duty to retreat" provision requiring individuals to attempt withdrawal from dangerous situations before using deadly force outside their homes. It would also limit self-defense claims for those who initiated confrontations and prohibit homicide justification solely for property or habitation defense.

Gun safety advocates praised the measure as necessary to prevent extremism and vigilante violence. Supporters from Moms Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety called it a blueprint for other states.

Critics, including Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco, condemned the bill as criminalizing home defense and protecting criminals. Bianco, who is running for governor as a Republican,

SEE **ZBUR** PAGE 6

LA County Supervisor proposes consolidating homeless services under new department



Devyn Hamilton

HOMELESSNESS: The reported failures of LAHSA has prompted new calls for a change in approach.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath on Thursday proposed creating a new county department to consolidate homeless services beginning July 1, 2025, following a scathing report detailing the failings of the current system.

A court-ordered audit of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) released recently uncovered significant financial mismanagement and accountability failures. The 158-page report details billions in poorly tracked taxpayer dollars, with auditors estimating at least $2.3 billion in homeless spending by LAHSA and local governments was inadequately documented. Due to incomplete records, auditors could analyze only one-third of the total budget, suggesting actual mismanagement may be substantially higher.

Auditors reported substantial difficulty tracking payments,

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 9

Three arrested for wildfire fraud

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Federal authorities have charged three people with defrauding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by filing fraudulent claims for disaster relief following devastating January wildfires.

Hedeshia Robertson, 36, of Lakewood; Tyrone D. Barnes Jr., 38, of Paramount; and Joyce Turner, 55, of Rosharon, Texas, face federal charges for allegedly submitting false claims for properties they neither owned nor occupied during the Eaton and Palisades wildfires, according to the Justice Department.

"These defendants allegedly made false and fraudulent claims to FEMA for emergency benefits related to wildfires that devastated Los Angeles County two months ago," said Acting United States Attorney Joseph McNally. "These false claims resulted in badly needed disaster-relief money being denied to actual wildfire victims while these defendants allegedly used property information to illegally line their own pockets."

The Eaton and Palisades wildfires, which started in January, burned nearly 60,000 acres, destroyed more than 16,000 structures and killed 29 people. President Biden approved a Major Disaster Declaration the following day, enabling FEMA to provide financial assistance to affected individuals.

SEE **FRAUD** PAGE 12

Buy Local SANTA MONICA
buylocalsantamonica.com
Support your community!

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

KEEP IT MOVING
Professional Movers
You Pick the Location
We will take care of the rest
Call us Now:
(310) 430-3226

City of Santa Monica
WOODLAWN
Cemetery
Mausoleum
Mortuary
FD #2101
Helping families honor, remember, and celebrate life.

• Traditional Burial • Green/Natural Burial • Cremation
• Funeral Planning & Mortuary Services
ALL IN ONE LOCATION
1847 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 ▪ (310) 458-8717 (on-call - 24/7)
woodlawn.cemetery@santamonica.gov ▪ www.woodlawnsm.com

Think Positive |+| for all your printing needs.
positive + existence
PRINTING & DESIGN EXPERTS

We've Moved!
1703 Stewart St., Santa Monica, CA 90404
POSTERS · TRADE SHOW · BROCHURES · MARKETING COLLATERAL
RESTAURANT PRINTING · CALENDARS · BANNERS · STATIONARY · SIGNAGE · VINYL BANNERS



Vote for
Robert J. Tobias
as your Most Loved
Santa Monica Lawyer!
Practicing Personal Injury law in Santa Monica for 50 years!
310.451.4849
1541 Ocean Ave #200, Santa Monica, CA 90401

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Gavin Newsom made it clear to California's LGBTQ community where he actually stands



Photo by Meera Fox, Getty Images

ELECTION: California Governor Gavin Newsom greets parade participants during the San Francisco Gay Pride parade on June 30, 2019.

On the first episode of his new podcast, Gov. Gavin Newsom broke some news last week: He no longer aligns with the Democratic Party on trans rights.

He invited right-wing provocateur Charlie Kirk onto his show, unprompted, and proceeded to agree with him on whether trans athletes should be able to compete in girls' sports. The interview seemed intentionally designed to show how much they had in common — like when Newsom complained about how weird it was when people shared their pronouns in a meeting.

It was Newsom's show, released on his feed, meaning none of it was an accident. It is his brand now. He wants the public to know that he agrees with Kirk.

Well, that now includes my family. We are, in most ways, totally boring. We walk our first-grader to school — or rather, she runs and we keep up. We FaceTime my sister and her toddlers in LA for two minutes before someone gleefully presses the red button. We cook every night since it's expensive to live in California.

It's worth it for us because we need particular legal protections. I'm a lesbian, my partner carried our child, and she's known for decades that she's not a man or a woman. We are both on our child's birth certificate, but I got a second-parent adoption just in case. My spouse had gender-affirming surgery a year ago.

You might wonder about what pronouns she uses if you were, like, in a meeting with her.

There are 2.8 million of us in this state, the largest LGBTQ population in the country. We live here for a reason. Some of us grew up here and are glad to be able to stay. Some of us landed here seeking peace and safety. I've lived in Missouri, Texas, Florida, Connecticut and New York, and calculate my geographic safety level almost unconsciously.

Wildfires notwithstanding, California is where I feel the most relief.

Some of us are young, and some of us remember the old days. We know how it feels to be a political pawn, like when California voted against gay marriage in 2008, or when George W. Bush got reelected for bashing gay rights in 2004. I owe many layers of my life's happiness to the queer and trans people who fought before me, and I do not forget them.

Newsom himself sailed into the governor's office on the memory of the same-sex marriages he ordered in San Francisco in 2004, defying a federal ban and ingratiating himself with Californians who found him courageous.

But instead of leading with a vision of California many people actually want, he's decided to scapegoat trans people for an imagined Midwest voter in a future presidential run. It's the 2024 right-wing script on repeat: They push creepy political ideas until liberals, in an attempt to sound tough, adopt them instead of shutting them down. (I wish I could forget when former Vice President Kamala Harris bragged about her Glock.)

It's a trap, however, because then those creepy ideas become mainstream, and Newsom is falling for it.

This trap has real consequences for the LGBTQ community. Trans athletes

SEE **NEWSOM** PAGE 12

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's cities and schools face big budget gaps, few options



Photo by Gabrielle Lurie, San Francisco Chronicle via AP

DEFICIT: Mayor Daniel Lurie speaks about the state of San Francisco's economy at the Chamber of Commerce's annual CityBeat breakfast in San Francisco on Feb. 26, 2025.

California's state budget is mired in what fiscal authorities call a "structural deficit," meaning its revenues cannot keep up with spending mandated by current law.

For several years, Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature have papered over the chronic gap between income and outgo with gimmicks, including on- and off-budget borrowing and creative accounting, plus dips into "rainy day" funds set aside for emergencies.

Those maneuvers merely postpone the day of reckoning, because the administration and the Legislature's budget analyst, Gabe Petek, project yearly multibillion-dollar shortfalls indefinitely.

The state's dilemma has several roots, most notably an erroneously high multi-year revenue forecast in 2022 that led to a belief that there would be an immense budget surplus and to sharply increased spending. The administration later pegged the revenue error at $165 billion over four years.

That factor was exacerbated by what Petek dubbed "a sluggish economy."

"Outside of government and health care, the state has added no jobs in a year and a half," Petek noted in a November fiscal overview. "Similarly, the number of Californians who are unemployed is 25% higher than during the strong labor markets of 2019 and 2022."

State government is not alone in facing chronic budget deficits. The state's major cities and many school districts are also feeling the pinch of stagnant revenues and inflation, especially with rising worker salaries. Add the horrendous Los Angeles wildfires and President Donald Trump's potentially huge federal spending reductions and the budget gaps could become even wider.

A few days ago, Matt Szabo, the City of Los Angeles' chief administrative officer, and city Controller Kenneth Mejia bluntly warned the city council that LA is several hundred million dollars short of covering its budgeted expenditures — not even counting the likely effects of wildfires on revenues and spending.

"The city is facing significant headwinds," Szabo said, adding "immediate spending reductions required."

"The city of L.A., financially, we are in trouble," Mejia told the council in a letter. He added, "The city is estimated to overspend by $300 million over budget. So when you have less revenues compared to your budget, and you have more expenses over your budget — that's a big gap that we have to fill."

San Francisco's new mayor, Daniel Lurie, says he wants to "eliminate $1 billion in overspending" over the next three years to cover an $876 million deficit over two years. "The era of one-time or Band-Aid solutions is over," Lurie told other officials after taking office in January.

A number of smaller cities, including Sacramento, are also dealing with significant deficits.

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 12



Weather

Friday: Rain. High near 54. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east northeast in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west northwest in the evening.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 60. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 15 mph.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/03/14	Fri	04:04 AM	0.65	L
2025/03/14	Fri	10:02 AM	4.94	H
2025/03/14	Fri	4:19 PM	0.06	L
2025/03/14	Fri	10:31 PM	4.79	H
2025/03/15	Sat	04:36 AM	0.49	L
2025/03/15	Sat	10:34 AM	4.54	H
2025/03/15	Sat	4:38 PM	0.46	L
2025/03/15	Sat	10:51 PM	4.87	H
2025/03/16	Sun	05:11 AM	0.42	L
2025/03/16	Sun	11:08 AM	4.08	H
2025/03/16	Sun	4:55 PM	0.88	L
2025/03/16	Sun	11:11 PM	4.89	H
2025/03/17	Mon	05:47 AM	0.43	L
2025/03/17	Mon	11:45 AM	3.58	H
2025/03/17	Mon	5:10 PM	1.31	L
2025/03/17	Mon	11:32 PM	4.83	H
2025/03/18	Tue	06:28 AM	0.54	L
2025/03/18	Tue	12:28 PM	3.05	H
2025/03/18	Tue	5:22 PM	1.71	L
2025/03/18	Tue	11:56 PM	4.72	H
2025/03/19	Wed	07:18 AM	0.72	L
2025/03/19	Wed	1:27 PM	2.55	H
2025/03/19	Wed	5:22 PM	2.05	L
2025/03/20	Thu	12:24 AM	4.54	H
2025/03/20	Thu	08:31 AM	0.89	L
2025/03/21	Fri	01:07 AM	4.33	H
2025/03/21	Fri	10:33 AM	0.82	L
2025/03/22	Sat	02:34 AM	4.14	H
2025/03/22	Sat	11:58 AM	0.45	L
2025/03/23	Sun	04:36 AM	4.25	H
2025/03/23	Sun	12:47 PM	0.01	L
2025/03/23	Sun	8:14 PM	3.30	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: 3/12
11 13 28 51 58
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 378 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 3/11
1 19 26 38 69
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: 277 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 3/12
15 21 29 37 45
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 9 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/12
3 9 35 37 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/12
EVENING: 0 4 3
Draw Date: 3/12
MIDDAY: 2 4 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 3/12
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:43.60

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

Thomas Leffler
thomas@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

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

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

Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

SANTA MONICA
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
SANTA MONICA CITY HALL

DATE/TIME: **Monday, March 17, 2025, 7:00 PM**

LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 250

PUBLIC HEARING:

2307 Lincoln Boulevard (24ARB-0126): Mixed-Use- Multi-Unit Residential + Commercial
To review the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of a seven-story, 88'-tall, housing and mixed-use building consisting of 69 residential units and 1,800 square feet of ground floor commercial space with two levels of subterranean parking located in the General Commercial (GC) Zoning District. Continued with comments on September 16 and November 4, 2024.

601 Colorado Avenue (24ARB-0224): Mixed-Use- Multi-Unit Residential + Commercial
To review the design, colors, materials, landscape and sign program for a twenty-four story, 254'-5" tall, 310,648 square-foot mixed-use housing development project consisting of 264 units (224 market rate units; 40 affordable units) and 4,009 square feet of commercial floor area above two levels of subterranean parking in the Transit Adjacent Zoning District of the Downtown Community Plan (DCP-TA). Continued with comments on January 6, 2025.

1318 4th Street (25ARB-0041): Mixed-Use- 100% Affordable Housing + Commercial
To review the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of a six-story, 75'-4"-tall, 100% affordable housing mixed-use development consisting of 122 residential units and an approximately 20,000 square-foot grocery market on the ground floor above 2 levels of subterranean parking in the Bayside Conservation (BC) Zoning District.

More information is available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ (en espanol tambien at (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431#).

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@santamonica.gov. Comments received **prior to 12 p.m.** on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Architectural Review Board prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

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.

TRANSLATION SERVICE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. Please contact planning@santamonica.gov at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

SERVICIO DE TRADUCCIÓN DISPONIBLE A PEDIDO. Comuníquese al planning@santamonica.gov al menos 72 horas antes de la reunión programada.

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

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

Contact dina@smdp.com today!

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

Santa Monica College to Present "Grease" Musical

Santa Monica College's Theatre Arts Department will stage the musical "Grease" from March 28 to April 6 at the Theatre Arts Main Stage on the college's main campus.

Set in 1959, the musical follows Rydell High School's senior class, featuring the romance between Danny Zuko and Sandy Dumbrowski against a backdrop of rebellious teenagers, hot rods and teen social pressure.

The production is directed by Dr. Adrianne Harrop with music direction by Gary Gray.

Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on March 28-29 and April 4-5, with 2 p.m. matinees on March 30 and April 6.

Advance tickets range from $25 to $30, with discounted $18 tickets for SMC students and staff. Tickets can be purchased online at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-4165. Prices increase by $3 when purchased at the box office on performance weekends.

Parking is free at the campus, located at 1900 Pico Blvd.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Countywide

LA County Expands Mental Health Crisis Response Teams

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health launched a campaign this month to raise awareness of its non-law enforcement crisis response teams that provide 24/7 mental health emergency services.

The department's Field Intervention Teams (FIT) operate under the Alternative Crisis Response Program, sending pairs of mental health clinicians and community health workers to crises without sirens, in plain clothes and carrying county ID badges.

"For too long, 9-1-1 was the only place to call for help when someone experienced a mental health crisis," said Fourth District County Supervisor Janice Hahn. "Now, the County has teams of unarmed, trained mental health professionals responding directly to people in crisis."

The program saw significant growth in 2024, with teams responding to 21,000 calls — a 35% increase from 2023. Officials report 94% of those calls were resolved without law enforcement involvement.

To meet growing demand, the department has doubled capacity over the last two years to 71 teams countywide.

Residents can access mental health crisis support through the department's 24/7 Help Line at 800-854-7771. After assessment, call center staff determine appropriate resources and can dispatch FIT members when needed.

The awareness campaign includes video, billboards, posters and social media content highlighting team members who respond to mental health emergencies.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Sacramento

Shari Davis, Longtime Advocate for Students and Children, Celebrated as Woman of the Year

In celebration of Women's History Month, Senator Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) recognized Shari Davis as Woman of the Year for Senate District 24.

"Shari has been an incredible advocate for local students at all levels for many years now," said Senator Allen. "She is selfless, focused on improving our educational systems through advocacy and political change, and a great educator to boot. Congratulations to Shari on this well-deserved recognition, and thanks for your many years of service and leadership to our community!"

Shari Davis has spent years advocating for and empowering students, children, and vulnerable families within the greater Los Angeles community—currently serving as Co-Director of the Santa Monica College Public Policy Institute. In this role working with the Santa Monica College Foundation, she recently sprang into action in the wake of the LA fires to organize donation drives on behalf of the impacted residents.



Courtesy photo

AWARD: Shari Davis received the award in Sacramento.

Davis recently served on the Board of Directors of The Children's Partnership, a nonprofit focused on equal opportunity and access to services for under-resourced families and children. The nonprofit prioritizes eliminating barriers to improve access to healthcare, affordable housing, broadband and digital literacy, food services, and other resources that provide greater stability for families in need.

Shari has also been instrumental in advancing education initiatives. She has fought for and helped pass 14 local ballot measures that have helped provide quality public schools and early childhood education to the area.

"I have long worked to ensure that all students in our communities have access to quality educational opportunities, by identifying ways to generate adequate financial resources for our public schools," said Davis. "Excellence in education from early childhood through high school and beyond can help prepare current and future generations for successful lives, civic engagement, and to step into important roles of leadership. I am truly grateful for Senator Allen's recognition today of my years of work."

SUBMITTED BY ALLEN'S OFFICE

AI can rip you off. Here's how California lawmakers want to stop price discrimination



Photo by Florence Middleton for CalMatters

AI: The Dreamforce conference hosted by Salesforce in San Francisco on Sept. 18, 2024. Dreamforce is an annual tech conference attracting thousands of participants and is the largest AI event in the world, according to Salesforce.

California lawmakers want to stop artificial intelligence from ripping you off.

In recent weeks they introduced five bills to address the issue, making predictive pricing based on a customer's personal information one of the most popular tech policy concerns in the Legislature this session.

Amazon, ride-sharing apps, travel companies, and retail giants such as Staples and Target have engaged in the practice, which can set different prices for customers based on factors including internet browsing data or where they live. In one recent example published by SFGATE, a person in the Bay Area was offered a hotel room for $500 more than people in less affluent areas.

The pricing isn't based on supply or demand. It's based on predictions made about your eagerness and desires, said researcher Justin Kloczko. In one recent instance he found that Lyft charged his wife $5 more than him for the same ride. Kloczko works at Consumer Watchdog, an advocacy group that cosponsored one of the bills.

"They're literally trying to hack your brain. They're trying to read your mind and what you want," he said. "I think this is happening all the time, it's just really hard to catch."

The package of bills proposed by California lawmakers to regulate AI responds to a call by Speaker Robert Rivas following elections last fall to focus on measures to address the cost of living.

One bill introduced by Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, a Democrat representing Davis, would make it easier for the California attorney general to pursue lawsuits against companies that use a pricing algorithm trained on nonpublic competitor data. Another bill would ban use of algorithms that personalize prices based on perceived characteristics or personal data.

One more, Senate Bill 52, would ban use of algorithms that set prices for rental properties and allow tenants to sue their landlord if they discover use of the technology. The proposal follows the filing of an antitrust lawsuit by eight states against RealPage, a Texas company whose software is used to set rental prices. A 2020 investigation by The Markup and The New York Times found that RealPage used faulty algorithms to automate tenant background checks, falsely accusing people of crimes and denying them a place to live.

State Sen. Melissa Hurtado, a Democrat representing Bakersfield, also reintroduced a bill to prevent algorithmic pricing. The Senate Judiciary committee criticized the previous version of the bill last year because the attorney general already has the power to file suits for violating state antitrust law.

And, finally, Assembly Bill 446 would make it unlawful for retailers to use personal information or make predictions about them based on appearance in order to change the price of goods sold in a retail store. In the rollout of the bill, author Assemblymember Chris Ward cited a $5 million settlement with Target following a lawsuit by the County of San Diego where customers saw higher prices on the Target app if they were in the parking lot. The San Diego Democrat fears that face recognition in tandem with electronic shelving in grocery stores could lead to a future where prices are made on the spot based on a person's appearance or physical characteristics. In a letter to Kroger, the largest supermarket chain in the U.S., members of Congress also expressed concern about the potential for tech-enabled price gouging based on the time of day or weather.

Tweaking and targeting prices can lead to revenue growth of 2 to 5%, according to an initial Federal Trade Commission report released days before the end of the Biden administration. For example, a company could target first-time parents or car buyers with higher priced items or make inferences about a person based on their location or IP address.

Consumer protection is a primary goal of state lawmakers interested in regulating AI, according to a recent analysis by the National Conference of State Legislatures. As Congress fails to act and policy varies wildly from one presidential administration to another, state lawmakers are stepping up. The State of State Tech Policy report published in December by NYU's Center for Social Media

SEE **AI** PAGE 9

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Proposals for:

USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY FEE STUDY
Project No. SP2746

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in the Use of Public Property Fee Study.

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified consultant to conduct a Use of Public Property Fee Study.

RFP questions to be submitted to via OpenGov, no later than 3:00pm on March 27, 2025.

Proposers shall upload RFP via OpenGov, no later than 3:00pm. on April 10, 2025.

RFP Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS
SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BID: 022625SF SMC Parking Structure #3 Repairs

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive up to, but not later than the below-stated date and time, sealed Bid Proposals for the Work of the Project generally described as: provide prevailing wage labor, equipment, materials, supplies, and transportation for repairs to parking structure #3 in accordance with all Bid documents.

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the District bidding website at: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=13721#.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: 04/07/25 by 2:00pm

All Bid Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished by the District. Bid Proposals must conform with, and be responsive to, the Bid and Contract Documents, copies of which may be obtained from the District as set forth above.

Only Bid Proposals submitted to the District via the bidding website, prior to the date and time set forth shall be considered.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK: 03/20/25, 10:00am sharp. Meet outside the SMC Facilities Trailer at Receiving Parking Lot by bleachers 2121 16th St. Santa Monica CA 90405. Bidder attendance at Job Walk is mandatory. Sign-In required & late arrivals not permitted.

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $4,500,000.00

CONTRACT DAYS: 110 calendar days

LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: N/A

The Bidder is required to have at time of bid submission and throughout the duration of the project a CSLB C-32 or B license & CA DIR registration. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the District's Request for Bids.

Substitute Security- In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under this contract.

Post Dates: 03/12/25 & 03/19/25

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: **To Inform Development of the 2025-29 Consolidated Plan and the 2025-26 Annual Action Plan for use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) funds**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing to receive community input to inform the development of the 2025-29 Consolidated Plan and the 2025-26 Annual Action Plan. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides annual CDBG and HOME entitlement funds to the City of Santa Monica. As a recipient of these federal funds, HUD requires the City to develop a five-year Consolidated Plan for housing and community development which identifies high priority needs and the associated goals, strategies, and resources anticipated over a five-year period. The Annual Action Plan delineates the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of CDBG and HOME funds to address the City's housing and community development high-priority needs, as specified in the Consolidated Plan. The plans are due to HUD 45 days prior to the beginning of the new program year. Prior plans and reports are available at https://www.santamonica.gov/community-development-block-grant-and-home-investment-partnership-programs.

DATE/TIME: THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025 AT 6:00 PM
Check agenda at www.smgov.net/rpc prior to meeting to confirm start time

The agenda will also be posted at the Santa Monica Institute (SMI) room, located at 330 Olympic Drive in Santa Monica at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. The agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to a regular meeting and 24 hours prior to a special meeting. Please check the agenda prior to the meeting for changes.

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

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Oral public comment can be given in person on the day of the meeting. Members of the public unable to attend in person, but wishing to provide comment are strongly encouraged to submit written comments via email to RecreationAndArts@santamonica.gov. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 pm on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments. All written comments shall be made part of the public record and will be included in the final submission to HUD.

ACCOMODATIONS
The agenda is available in alternate formats upon request. The City Council Chambers is wheelchair accessible. If you require any special disability related accommodations (i.e. sign language interpreting, access to an amplified sound system, etc.), please contact RecreationAndArts@santamonica.gov at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
Translation service available upon request. Please contact the RecreationAndArts@santamonica.gov at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
Transportation Information: City of Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines and the Metro Expo Line serve City Hall. Parking is available on Main Street, Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

ESPAÑOL Esto es un aviso de audiencia pública para invitar a cualquier parte interesada a participar en la preparación del Plan Consolidado de Cinco Años del Año Fiscal 2025-29 y del Plan de Acción Anual del Año Fiscal 2025-26. Si necesita más información, por favor llame a Lupe Madrid en el Departamento de Vivienda y Servicios Humanos al número (310) 458-8310.

Get the local news that matters to you!

Sign up for The CURRENT

SMDP's free daily newsletter for all your Santa Monica news & events!

POWERED BY smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMUNITY NEWS

WASHINGTON

Don't click on those road toll texts. Officials issue warnings about the smishing scam

State officials are warning Americans not to respond to a surge of scam road toll collection texts.

The texts impersonating state road toll collection agencies attempt to get phone users to reveal financial information, such as credit or debit cards or bank accounts.

They're so-called smishing scams — a form of phishing that relies on SMS texts to trick people into sending money or share sensitive information.

Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill said she received one purporting to be from the statewide GeauxPass toll system.

"It is a SCAM," Murrill posted on Facebook this week. "If you ever receive a text that looks suspicious, be sure to never click on it. You don't want your private information stolen by scammers."

Even states that don't charge drivers tolls have noticed an uptick.

"We do not have tolls roads in Vermont but travelers may mistake these scams for actual toll operators in other states," Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark said in a video public service announcement posted on Instagram.

Cybersecurity firm Palo Alto Networks said last week that a threat actor has registered over 10,000 domains for the scams. The scams are impersonating toll services and package delivery services in at least 10 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Ontario.

While Apple bans links in iPhone messages received from unknown senders, the scam attempts to bypass that protection by inviting users to reply with "Y" and reopen the text.

A warning last April from the FBI said the texts used nearly identical language falsely claiming that recipients have an unpaid or outstanding toll. Some threaten fines or suspended driving privileges if recipients don't pay up.

The FBI at the time asked those who received the scams to file a complaint with its IC3 internet crime complaint center and to also delete the texts. The FBI didn't immediately respond to a request for updated guidance Thursday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco

Meta to start testing crowd-sourced fact-checking, based on X example, next week

Facebook and Instagram parent company Meta Platforms Inc. said Thursday it will begin testing its crowd-sourced fact-checking program, Community Notes, on March 18. It will initially based on a ratings system used by Elon Musk's X.

Meta ended its fact-checking program in January. CEO Mark Zuckerberg said at the time that fact-checkers had become "politically biased," using some of the language that conservatives have long used to criticize his platforms. But media experts and those who study social media were aghast at Meta's policy shift.

The decision "not only removes a valuable resource for users, but it also provides an air of legitimacy to a popular disinformation narrative: That fact-checking is politically biased. Fact-checkers provide a valuable service by adding important context to the viral claims that mislead and misinform millions of users on Meta," said Dan Evon, lead writer for RumorGuard, the News Literacy Project's digital tool that curates fact checks and teaches people to spot viral misinformation.

Meta began fact checks in December 2016, after President Donald Trump was elected to his first term, in response to criticism that "fake news" was spreading on its platforms. For years, the tech giant boasted it was working with more than 100 organizations in over 60 languages to combat misinformation.

The Associated Press ended its participation in Meta's fact-checking program more than a year ago.

Community Notes will replace fact checks, although not right away. Meta said potential contributors in the U.S. can begin to sign up to take part in the program, but the notes they write won't appear immediately.

"We will start by gradually and randomly admitting people off of the waitlist, and will take time to test the writing and rating system before any notes are published publicly," Meta said.

Meta said it won't decide what gets rated or written and the notes "won't be published unless contributors with a range of viewpoints broadly agree on them." And unlike with fact checks, where posts that were determined to be misinformation had their distribution reduced, posts with Community Notes won't be penalized, Meta said.

Fact checks will stay in place outside of the U.S. for now, though Meta says it eventually plans to roll out Community Notes worldwide

BY BARBARA ORTUTAY AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

ZBUR

FROM PAGE 1

referenced voters' recent approval of Proposition 36, which increased penalties for theft and drug offenses.

Zbur said the bill was never intended to limit a crime victim's right to defend themselves but rather targets vigilantes.

"Protecting public safety has always been my top priority. AB 1333 sought to close a dangerous legal loophole that could allow armed aggressors to initiate confrontations in public, kill their victims, and then exploit self-defense laws to escape accountability," he said in a statement. "The bill does not change the long-standing Castle Doctrine and was never intended to affect anyone's ability to protect themselves, their family, or their home. As a father and as the victim of a home invasion myself, I understand how essential the right to self defense is."

He said he worked closely with law enforcement partners and gun safety organizations to strike the right balance of protecting victims from armed vigilantes in public spaces while simultaneously safeguarding the right to self defense.

"Unfortunately, misleading information has fueled fear and confusion about the bill," he said. "I have decided to withdraw AB 1333 from further consideration, once it is referred to committee on Thursday and has been amended to clarify items that caused confusion."

Zbur serves as the Democratic Caucus Chair for the California State Assembly and represents the 51st Assembly District, which includes Universal City, Hollywood, Hancock Park, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Westwood, West Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and other portions of Los Angeles.

editor@smdp.com

HOA HOMEFRONT

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Before Buying into an HOA, Read This

KELLY G. RICHARDSON, ESQ. CCAL

When buying property in a common interest development ("HOA"), one automatically becomes a member. Here are 14 items to consider before closing escrow:

Read the CC&Rs. CC&Rs are covenants automatically binding all association members when they take ownership without need of a signature. Read this document before taking ownership, not after. Look for restrictions regarding how your property is used – Are there pet limits? Can you park RVs in driveways? In a multi-story building, are there restrictions against hard floors? You need to know first, not later.

Review the reserves disclosures. Prudent associations set aside money each month to offset the ongoing deterioration of major capital components (roofs, asphalt, paint, etc.). Associations with little money saved in reserves may need special assessments or long-term loans to fund major refurbishments. Underfunded reserve accounts are a form of hidden debt not reflected on the balance sheet.

It isn't about "me," it's about "us." Common interest communities are just that – communities. Shared ownership also means shared control, which means you can't just do anything you want (nor can your neighbors).

Is it managed? California HOA law is so complicated it is difficult to operate one without a professional manager. If the association has volunteer management, it is probably innocently violating many laws (and the board is probably working too hard as free community managers).

The directors on the board are also homeowners and pay the same assessments as you. They volunteer their time to handle things you don't have to worry about. To understand more and be involved, volunteer for the board.

California requires no license or credential to manage associations, so ask about the manager's credentials.

If buying a condominium, understand that "common area," the shared property, is probably a lot more than you think. It may include even the drywall underneath your paint, or the floor underneath your carpeting.

In associations it is NOT better to ask for forgiveness than permission. Check the architectural requirements, as you may be required to apply to the association before making changes to your home or yard.

Never assume it's OK to ignore a certain rule or restriction because the board appears to not enforce it. The board's enforcement actions are normally in closed session, and you may be unaware of the board's actions against violators... until you become one.

HOA managers don't make decisions, unlike apartment managers, but advise the board and then implement board decisions and policies.

Directors have no individual power to make decisions - HOA leadership is a team sport, and boards make decisions by majority vote.

Very small HOAs often operate very informally with less compliance to laws or the documents, more akin to a small partnerships than associations.

Download CAI's informative "First Time Homeowners Guide to HOAs" at www.caionline.org. Use the search box to find this free 5-page publication.

It's all about being good neighbors. Consideration is the key to happy and successful association living. A self-centered focus leads to conflict and unhappiness with one's HOA neighbors.

It's not just paperwork. Look before you leap! Going in with eyes open helps you to embrace the benefits (and responsibilities) of HOA living and increases your chances of enjoying a positive ownership experience.

Kelly G. Richardson CCAL is a member of the College of Community Association Lawyers and Partner of Richardson Ober LLP, a California law firm known for community association advice. Send questions to Kelly@roattorneys.com. Past columns at www.HOAHomefront.com. All rights reserved®.



AGING AND DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

We need to hear from you!

City of Santa Monica

Let's make Santa Monica even more age- and disability-friendly.
The City is developing an action plan to better serve older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers.

WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

Take the survey
ONLINE: SantaMonica.gov/aging-and-disability-action-plan

or

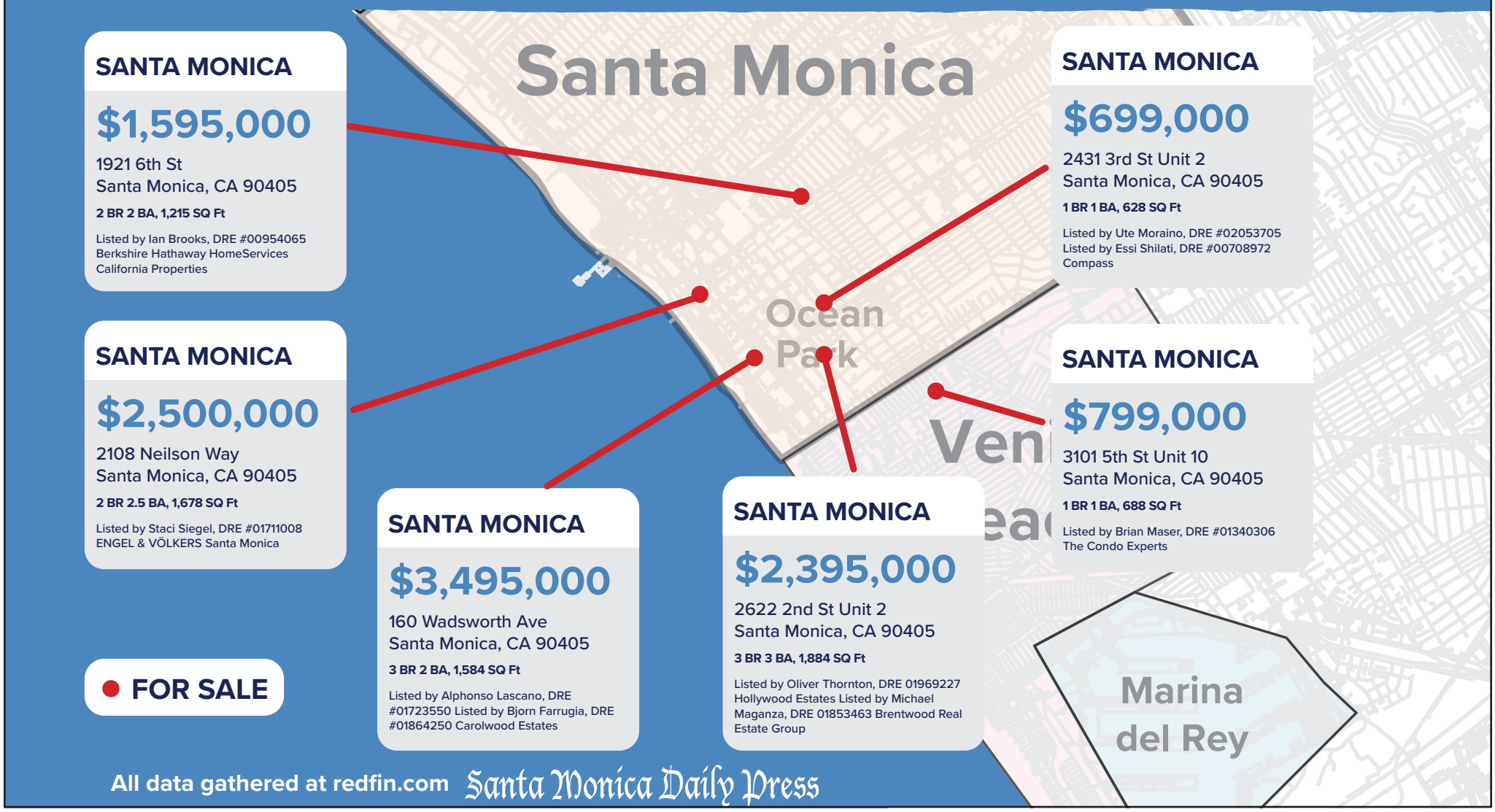
Join the Community Open House
IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL: March 22, 2025 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
SMC Emeritus | 1227 2nd St, Santa Monica, CA 90401

SCAN FOR SURVEY & OPEN HOUSE DETAILS

Learn more about the Aging and Disability Action Plan
CALL: (310) 458-2200 x 5771
EMAIL: HumanServices@santamonica.gov
VISIT: SantaMonica.gov/aging-and-disability-action-plan



Westside NEW LISTINGS IN AND AROUND OCEAN PARK



SANTA MONICA
$1,595,000
1921 6th St
Santa Monica, CA 90405
2 BR 2 BA, 1,215 SQ Ft
Listed by Ian Brooks, DRE #00954065
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties

SANTA MONICA
$2,500,000
2108 Neilson Way
Santa Monica, CA 90405
2 BR 2.5 BA, 1,678 SQ Ft
Listed by Staci Siegel, DRE #01711008
ENGEL & VÖLKERS Santa Monica

SANTA MONICA
$3,495,000
160 Wadsworth Ave
Santa Monica, CA 90405
3 BR 2 BA, 1,584 SQ Ft
Listed by Alphonso Lascano, DRE #01723550 Listed by Bjorn Farrugia, DRE #01864250 Carolwood Estates

SANTA MONICA
$2,395,000
2622 2nd St Unit 2
Santa Monica, CA 90405
3 BR 3 BA, 1,884 SQ Ft
Listed by Oliver Thornton, DRE 01969227 Hollywood Estates Listed by Michael Maganza, DRE 01853463 Brentwood Real Estate Group

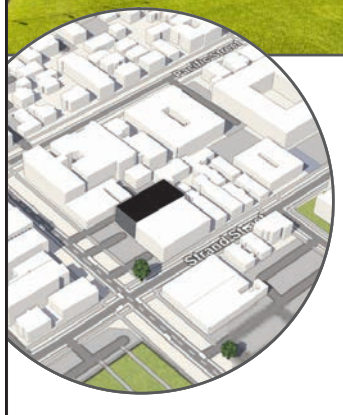
SANTA MONICA
$699,000
2431 3rd St Unit 2
Santa Monica, CA 90405
1 BR 1 BA, 628 SQ Ft
Listed by Ute Moraino, DRE #02053705
Listed by Essi Shilati, DRE #00708972
Compass

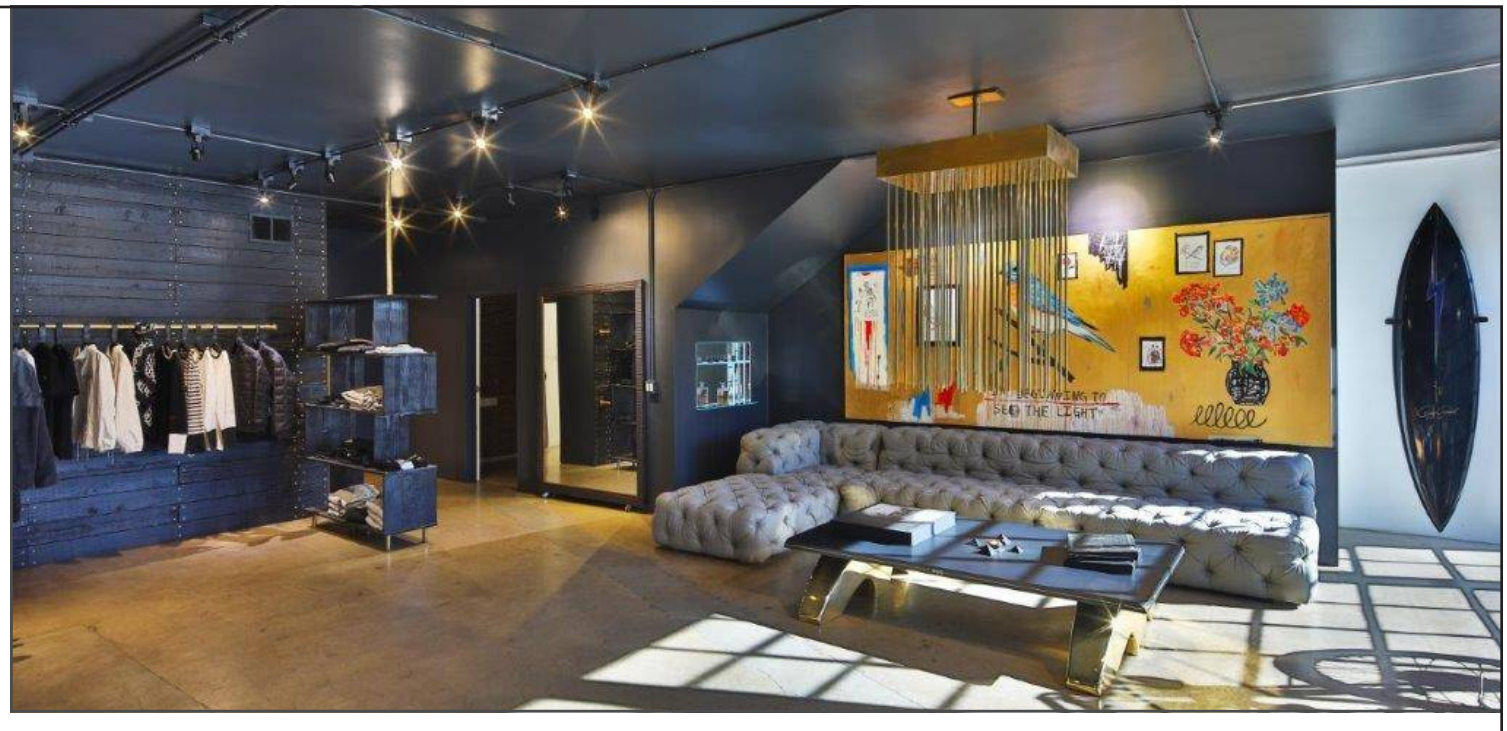
SANTA MONICA
$799,000
3101 5th St Unit 10
Santa Monica, CA 90405
1 BR 1 BA, 688 SQ Ft
Listed by Brian Maser, DRE #01340306
The Condo Experts

● **FOR SALE**

All data gathered at redfin.com Santa Monica Daily Press







Luxury Retail/Creative/Office

2217 Main St, Santa Monica

5,000 sq ft | 3,500 sq ft rooftop deck | 5 offices 2 bathrooms kitchen

Recently renovated building has an elegant appearance. Large glass frame exterior opens up directly into the retail space. To arrange a tour contact Simon at 424 333 2343.

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

services, and outcomes, revealing a complete absence of accountability in the joint city-county agency established to coordinate homeless services across Los Angeles.

The new County proposal would implement recommendations made three years ago by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness to establish a dedicated county entity for homeless service delivery and streamline the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).

"To end the madness of the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles, we must streamline and consolidate our services and resources, and be driven by measurable outcomes," Horvath said in a statement. "This proposal isn't MORE government; it's smarter, more effective government."

The motion, co-sponsored by Supervisor Kathryn Barger, will be heard by the county's Operations Cluster on March 19 before going to the full Board of Supervisors on April 1.

The consolidation comes as Measure A investments replace Measure H, creating what Horvath called "a moment of opportunity to eliminate layers of bureaucracy." The supervisor cited recent audits that underscored "the urgent need for reform and stronger accountability."

The proposal calls for several key actions including:

— Creating the consolidated department by July 1, 2025.

— Merging the county's Housing for Health program with the Homeless Initiative in the Chief Executive Office by April 28, 2025, to serve as the foundation of the new department.

— Transferring LAHSA funding and related staff to the new department by July 1, 2026, while allowing LAHSA to continue administering federally required programs like the Homeless Count.

— Launching a national search for a department director.

— Conducting extensive outreach to inform the department's design and contracting protocols.

County CEO Fesia Davenport, in a February 28 report to the Board of Supervisors, outlined several opportunities associated with creating the new department.

According to Davenport, the consolidation would allow for "more effective braiding and leveraging of different homelessness funding streams" and reduce administrative burdens for service providers through consolidated contracting and standardized systems.

The CEO's report also highlighted potential benefits including earlier intervention for clients, increased county authority over policies and procedures, and improved accountability through centralized reporting of budgets, expenditures, audits and outcomes.

Davenport noted that the new department would be able to leverage experience from the Department of Health Services' Housing for Health program in capturing state and federal revenue, particularly through CalAIM, California's Medicaid reform initiative.

However, the report acknowledged potential challenges during the transition period. These include increased administrative burden, possible service delivery disruptions, difficulties in staff recruitment and retention at LAHSA during the changeover, and costs associated with transitioning LAHSA employees to county positions.

"The County will seek to mitigate these types of potential challenges with comprehensive planning and oversight of the transition and with immediate response if and when unintended outcomes are identified," Davenport wrote.

The motion directs the CEO to work with various county departments, LAHSA, stakeholders and people with lived experience of homelessness to implement steps for establishing the new department.

It also instructs the Department of Human Resources to consult with SEIU 721 on transitioning represented LAHSA workers to the county workforce, addressing concerns about civil service exams and employment requirements.

Additionally, the CEO must establish a process to determine what funding will transfer from other county departments to the new entity and conduct a "full fiscal and budgetary landscape" of existing funding to be transitioned.

Horvath and Barger initially introduced a motion to begin studying this consolidation process in 2024. The CEO's February report served as the foundation for Horvath's current motion to move forward with implementation.

editor@smdp.com

AI

FROM PAGE 5

and Politics found a 163% increase in tech policy proposals by state lawmakers last year compared to 2023. That trend is driven by one-party control in the vast majority of state houses across the country.

In other legislation intended to protect customers, one bill would require disclosure if AI is used to alter the images you see on the real estate website Trulia, and another would require health insurance companies to disclose the number of claims they deny using AI every month. Class action lawsuits filed in 2023 allege that UnitedHealthcare and Cigna used AI to deny people health care services. UnitedHealthcare and Cigna deny those allegations. A recent analysis by the National Conference of State Legislatures found that lawmakers in about a dozen states proposed bills to regulate the use of AI in health care.

Between the pressures of a budget deficit, wanting to keep businesses in California, the governor's future political ambitions, and debate over whether regulation will stifle innovation, lawmakers will have to predict whether Gov. Gavin Newsom may veto AI bills, which is probably part of the reason why a number of them focus on kitchen table issues like whether the tech can raise the price of eggs or housing.

When you look at the slate of 30 AI bills proposed by California lawmakers, there's a clear focus on kitchen table issues such as how AI can facilitate price gouging or raise prices in grocery stores, said Vinhcent Le, who until recently was part of the Consumer Privacy Protect Agency board where he led efforts to create rules that require protections for Californians from AI. He now works at Tech Equity, a nonprofit that is a supporter of one of the bills to prevent algorithms from setting prices.

"I'm pretty excited about the bills we've seen so far but the big questions are where is the governor going to be on these bills and where will the federal government take action and potentially preempt in the policy space," he said.

By Khari Johnson. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
(BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)
YOUR CHOICE
If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge
DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!
WE OFFER UNIQUE SERVICES
*Nitrous Oxide available
*No interest payment plans
*Emergencies can be seen today
*Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$20 EXAM INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
OR
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$99 EXAM AND CLEANING
For New Patients
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
AND OF COURSE WE DO
• Invisalign • Periodontist on Staff • Oral Surgeon on Staff
• Cosmetics and Implants • Zoom bleaching • and more
SANTA MONICA FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. ALAN RUBENSTEIN
1260 15th ST. SUITE #703
(310) 736-2589
WILSHIRE BLVD. 15TH ST. 14TH ST. ARIZONA AVE.
WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM

LUMBER
Bourget Bros. features a full service lumber yard, where everything from landscape timber to drywall will enhance the home of your dreams.



Standard and Custom Windows, Doors and Hardware Available


Bourget Bros. Building Materials
1636 - 11th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404 • (310) 450-6556
bourgetbros.com

EAT AT SANTA MONICA'S BELOVED

BLUE PLATE TACO

SUPPORT LOCAL AND DINE WITH US ON OUR WARM & COZY PARKLET OR ORDER TO-GO! GREAT TACOS, FAMOUS MARGARITAS, SUNSET VIEWS, & SO MUCH MORE.

SANTA MONICA STAPLE FOR 13 YEARS



WWW.BLUEPLATETACO.COM

BLUE PLATE TACO

PARKING VALIDATION AVAILABLE AT SHORE HOTEL



FRIDAY | MARCH 14

PILATES - CORE WORK
Venice Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd. Develop strength, flexibility and balance through the fusion of Pilates mat movement. All levels welcome. Please be early. Class starts on-time at 9:45 a.m. No entry after the first ten minutes.

TWO-STEPPIN' INTO ST. PADDY'S
8 - 11:59 p.m. Brennan's, 4089 Lincoln Blvd., Marina del Rey. Westside's wildest St. Paddy's celebration is kicking things off early with line dancing, discounted drinks and great music. Green attire highly encouraged. Tickets $12, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/two-steppin-into-st-paddys-line-dancing-live-music-get-tin-lucky-tickets-1245242486799.

SATURDAY | MARCH 15

FRUIT TREES IN SALT SPACES
9 - 11 a.m. Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd. Whether Meyer Lemons, Kumquats or Finger Limes are to your liking, a discussion will be held on how to pick a variety that works for small spaces and the maintenance and care that are required for potted fruit trees. Seasonal vegetable seeds will be available and there will be a raffle of a couple small fruit trees for a few lucky folks to take home.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Annex, Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. Haven Neighborhood Services, in partnership with Virginia Avenue Park and Santa Monica Public Library, presents a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. The VITA Grant program is an IRS initiative that supports free tax preparation services for the underserved. Bring the following documents: Physical photo ID, original SSN/ITIN card, 2024 W-2 or 1099 forms, bank routing and account numbers to direct deposit. To schedule an appointment, call 310-458-8688 or email vap@santamonica.gov.

UC MASTER GARDENERS AT PICO FARMERS MARKET
10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Visit with the UC Master Gardeners at the Saturday Pico Farmers Market. The booth is filled with free advice on how to care for plants, how to troubleshoot a gardening problem, and much more. Free seeds and seedlings are available on a limited basis.

HERITAGE MARKET
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 1200 - 1300 Blocks, 3rd Street Promenade. Mosaiq Creative, in collaboration with Downtown Santa Monica, invites you to the HERitage Market, a day dedicated to celebrating women's achievements, creativity and innovation. This exciting event showcases women-owned businesses and brings the community together for a vibrant, family-friendly day filled with shopping, activities and inspiration. Free event, to RSVP visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mosaiq-creative-heritage-market-tickets-1226531702339.

ART-MAKING IN COMMUNITY FOR HEALING
10 a.m. – 12 p.m. 18th Street Arts Center Olympic Campus 1639 18th Street. Santa Monica, CA 90404 Free + Open to the Public. In response to the devastating fires that impacted Los Angeles, join us for a series of community art-making gatherings focused on safety, connection, and healing, entitled Art-making in Community for Healing. The convenings will take place on the third Saturday of the month from 10am-12pm. These open studio-style gatherings provide space to process experiences through creative expression, with licensed mental health and trained arts healing practitioners available for support. The final 30 minutes will be dedicated to optional sharing in community. Each gathering is FREE and welcomes participants of all ages and offers a nurturing environment.

LIGHT AND COLOR COLLAGES
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Miles Playhouse, 1130 Lincoln Blvd. Join Camera Obscura Artist-in-Residence Christian Sampson for "Light and Color Collages." The workshops are inspired by Sampson's work and focus on the interplay of light, color and space; allowing participants to explore concepts like transparency, shadow and reflection. To RSVP, visit https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4y77j1q2esdz572g70yyqy4cxb/202503151100.

AUTHOR EVENT
11 a.m. - 12 p.m. 1113 Montana Ave. Join for a conversation with Amy Griffin and Chanel Miller as they discuss "The Tell," Griffin's newly-released memoir. The conversation will offer a meaningful dialogue about navigating childhood trauma, the transformative impact of memory and the importance of sharing our stories. Ticket plus copy of the book $32, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/author-event-with-amy-griffin-and-chanel-miller-tickets-1226556967909.

COMMUNITY DOG TRAINING CLASSES
12 - 1 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. People's Dog Training, a Love At First Sit program, host their Los Angeles Wildfires Initiative through their Community Dog Training Classes. Class fee is $5, then Pay What You Can after that. Wildfire victims and first responders are always free. Class proceeds are donated to CAMP (Community Animal Medicine Project), who are providing free veterinary services to Los Angeles wildfire victims. Sign up at peoplesdogtraining.com/community-training.

KISS ME, I'M IRISH
2 p.m. - 2 a.m. Britannia Pub, 318 Santa Monica Blvd. Barcrawlerz is a Santa Monica Bar Crawl like no other, featuring the best drink specials in town. This is a two-day event, also taking place 6 p.m. - 2 a.m. on March 17. Tickets $20, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kiss-me-im-irish-santa-monica-st-patricks-day-bar-crawl-2-days-tickets-1111908822219.

LUCKY'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY BAR CRAWL
4 - 11:59 p.m. Get lucky this St. Paddy's Day with a day full of green drinks, shamrocks and epic bar-hoping fun. Tickets $15, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-official-luckys-st-patricks-day-bar-crawl-santa-monica-tickets-1089630025739.

PULL MY FINGER
5 - 6:30 p.m. The Crow, 2525 Michigan Ave. A super silly and high energy show, fun for the whole family. All ages welcome. Stroller parking available. Tickets $15, to purchase visit: https://jetbook.co/e/pull-my-fingerkfzr.

HARLEM QUARTET WITH ALDO LÓPEZ-GAVILÁN
7:30 p.m. BroadStage, 1310 11th St. BroadStage presents the mesmerizing combination of Grammy Award-winning Harlem Quartet and Cuban pianist and composer Aldo López-Gavilán, who shares a special bond with the quartet as the brother of violinist Ilmar Gavilán. For tickets, visit: https://broadstage.org/tickets-shows/calendar/harlem-quartet-with-aldo-lopez-gavilan/.

SUNDAY | MARCH 16

MONIQUE DEBOSE'S MULATTO MATH
2 - 3:15 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. An edgy one-woman show of a mixed race woman sharing her most precious, vulnerable stories of her exploration of family, race and identity. Includes post-show Q&A with Ms. DeBose. Free performance.

MONDAY | MARCH 17

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
7 - 10 p.m. SMI Room, Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr. The Commission on Sustainability, Environmental Justice and the Environment shall act in an advisory capacity on sustainability, environmental programs and policy issues. The Commission closely monitors the Santa Monica's Sustainable City Plan and advises the Council on plan implementation.

THE GORDONS IMPROV RESIDENCY
7 - 10 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater, 1323-A 3rd St. These teams perform long-form improv all inspired by a suggestion from the audience. These teams rotate every three months. Tickets $10, to purchase visit: https://ci.ovationtix.com/34923/production/1126449?performanceId=11576550.

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
7 p.m. Thelma Terry Building - Workshop 3, Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. The Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board (VAPAB) serves as an advisory body to the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Director of Housing and Human Services Department. The Board represents the social and ethnic diversity of the park's neighborhood.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
7 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Architectural Review Board established in 1974, acts "to preserve existing areas of natural beauty, cultural importance and assure that buildings, structures, signs or other developments are in good taste, good design, harmonious with surrounding developments, and in general contribute to the preservation of Santa Monica's reputation as a place of beauty, spaciousness and quality."

MAIN LIBRARY BOOK GROUP
7 - 8:30 p.m. Virtual. This community-led book discussion group meets virtually to discuss a wide range of books, chosen by the members. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. This month's title is "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride.

TUESDAY | MARCH 18

BOOKS & BAGELS
12:30. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd., Venice. Join the third Tuesday of each month for bagels, coffee and tea. There will be a thoughtful discussion of the current selection and other things folks have been reading. Copies available at the front desk. Provided by the Friends of Venice Library. New members welcome.

MYSTERY & THRILLER BOOK GROUP
7 - 8 p.m. Virtual. This community-led monthly book discussion group meets virtually to discuss domestic and international titles in the mystery and thriller genres. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. This month's title is "Finlay Donovan is Killing It" by Elle Cosimano.

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 19:

FREE WALK-IN LEGAL CLINIC
4:30 - 7 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica residents can meet one on one with a lawyer from Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles for help with housing issues. Immediate assistance is available by calling LAFLA directly at 800-399-4529 or visit lafla.org/gethelp.

SELF-COMPASSION DURING CHALLENGING TIMES
6 - 7 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Join for an interactive workshop that will teach real-world tools to instill the self-compassion you need to navigate challenging times.

PLANNING COMMISSION
6 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. Established in 1946, the Planning Commission envisions Santa Monica as a city of wellbeing, sustainability, and equity, and seeks to balance the many needs and priorities within our community in accordance with the City's General Plan and Specific Plans. The Commission acts through open and civil discourse that is informed by public input, impartial analysis, and best practices in land use and planning.

Classifieds

Summons

Summons Cross Complaint (Citacion Judicial - Contrademanda) Sum-110CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso):CVPS2400165 NOTICE TO CROSS DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL CONTRA-DEMANDADO): NED ANDREW WALKER, LORI ANN BONGIORNO PRIMO dba A NEWHERITAGE, LTD, and ROES 1 to 50, InclusiveYOU ARE BEING SUED BY CROSS-PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL CONTRADEMANDANTE): GOLDENVOICE, LLC and COACHELLA MUSIC FESTIVAL, LLC,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 copyserved 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 yourcase. 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 CourtsOnline Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask thecourt 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 maybe taken without further warning from the court.There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorneyreferral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locatethese nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees andcosts on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información acontinuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en estacorte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estaren el formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta.Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en labiblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte quele dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podráquitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio deremisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de unPrograma de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services,(www.lawhelp california.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o elcolegio de abogados locales.

Summons

AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobrecualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene quepagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.The name and address of the court are (El nombre y dirección de la corte son)— Palm Springs Courthouse3255 E. Tahquitz Canyon WayPalm Springs, CA 92262The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado,es): Thomas P. Gmelich, Esq./ Lena J. Marderosian, Esq./Patrick J. Glinka EsqBRADLEY GMELICH & WELLERSTEIN LLP700 N. Brand Blvd 10th Floor, Glendale, CA 91203Date (Fecha) 09/25/2024Officer/Clerk of Court Clerk By (Secretario Por) Victoria LopezDeputy (Asistente) /s/

Summons (Citacion Judicial) Sum-100CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 22SMCV02465NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO ALDEMANDADO): WESTWOOD PLACE INVESTORS,LLC, a Delaware limited liabilitycompany; ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN,CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OREQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE ESTATE,LIEN OR INTEREST IN THEEASEMENT DESCRIBED IN THISCOMPLAINT ADVERSE TOPLAINTIFF'S RIGHT TITLE ORINTEREST OR ANY CLOUD THEREONNAMED AS DOES 1 through 30,Inclusive and DOES 31 through 60,Inclusive,YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁDEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): AVCOCENTER CORPORATION, aCalifornia corporation,NOTICE! You have been sued.The court may decide against you without your beingheard unless you respond within 30 days. Read theinformation below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summonsand legal papers are served on you to file a writtenresponse at this court and have a copyserved on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will notprotect you. Your written response must be in properlegal form if you want the court to hear yourcase. There may be a court form that you can use foryour response. You can find these court forms andmore information at the California CourtsOnline Self-Help Center(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county lawlibrary, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannotpay the filing fee, ask thecourt clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file yourresponse on time, you may lose the case by default,and your wages, money, and property maybe taken without further warning from the court.There are other legal requirements. You may want tocall an attorney right away. If you do not know anattorney, you may want to call an attorneyreferral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, youmay be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofitlegal services program. You can locatethese nonprofit groups at the California LegalServices Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), theCalifornia Courts Online Self-Help Center(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting yourlocal court or county bar association. NOTE: Thecourt has a statutory lien for waived fees andcosts on any settlement or arbitration award of$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien mustbe paid before the court will dismiss the case.¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentrode 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sinescuchar su versión. Lea la información acontinuación.Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que leentreguen esta citación y papeles legales parapresentar una respuesta por escrito en estacorte y hacer que se entregue una copia aldemandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica nolo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estaren el formato legal correcto si desea que procesen sucaso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formularioque usted pueda usar para su respuesta.Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y másinformación en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes deCalifornia (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en labiblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que lequede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota depresentación, pida al secretario de la corte quele dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Sino presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder elcaso por incumplimiento y la corte le podráquitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable quellame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce aun abogado, puede llamar a un servicio deremisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a unabogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitospara obtener servicios legales gratuitos de unPrograma de servicios legales sin fines de lucro.Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en elsitio web de California Legal Services,(www.lawhelp california.org), en el Centro de Ayudade las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) oponiéndose en contacto con la corte o elcolegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la cortetiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costosexentos por imponer un gravamen sobrecualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valorrecibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión dearbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene quepagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la cortepueda desechar el caso.The name and address of the court are (El nombre ydirección de la corte son)—Santa Monica Courthouse7512 Main StSanta Monica, CA 90The name, address, and telephone number ofplaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono delabogado del demandante, o del demandante queno tiene abogado,es): Ryan C. Squire, SBN 199473rsquire@garrett-tully.comCandie Y. Chang, SBN 215019cchang@garrett-tully.comMichelle Lee, SBN 337576mlee@garrett-tuly.comGARRETT & TULLY, P.C.225 S. Lake Ave., Suite 200Pasadena, California 91101-4869Telephone: (626) 577-9500Facsimile: (626) 577-0813Date (Fecha) 3/14/25

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 25STCP00201 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Stephen Leander Castaneda for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Stephen Leander Castaneda with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Stephen Leander Castaneda to Stephen Leander Smith . The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall 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 04/04/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: 45 Room: 529 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Alhambra Courthouse 111 North Hill Los Angeles, CA 90012. 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

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

FRAUD

FROM PAGE 12

Robertson was arrested Tuesday after being charged in a criminal complaint filed Monday for fraud connected to the Palisades Fire. According to court documents, she allegedly submitted a fraudulent application for FEMA benefits on Jan. 28, claiming damage to a residence in Pacific Palisades that she did not own, rent, or occupy.

Investigators say Robertson submitted a forged Southern California Edison electricity bill as proof of residency. When the utility company was contacted, they confirmed the account number on the bill was neither associated with Robertson nor the property address, and noted discrepancies in font sizes and styles indicating information had been crudely added to a legitimate bill.

The actual owner of the Pacific Palisades property told investigators he has never met Robertson and confirmed she had no association with the property, which he had been renting to another family since 2020.

Despite these fraudulent claims, Robertson received approximately $24,899 in FEMA benefits through direct deposits to her credit union account. She received $13,637 for personal property loss, $3,822 for displacement assistance, $770 for emergency critical needs, and $6,670 for rental assistance.

Court documents reveal Robertson later submitted a letter to FEMA requesting additional financial assistance for childcare, stating, "I have lost both my home and workplace, leaving me in an extremely difficult financial and personal situation."

At the time of her arrest, Robertson was allegedly attempting to obtain additional FEMA benefits by claiming a purported property lease in San Francisco.

In a separate case, Barnes is accused of submitting a disaster relief claim for an Altadena property owned by individuals who did not know him. The actual owners contacted FEMA about potential assistance, which is when they learned another person had already submitted an application for their property. Barnes was indicted by a federal grand jury on February 21.

Turner, meanwhile, allegedly submitted an application claiming her home had been destroyed in the Eaton fire, but investigators found she appears never to have lived in California and had no connection to the address she claimed was destroyed. Court documents state she allegedly forged a lease to make it look like she lived there and received more than $25,000 from FEMA.

According to the criminal complaint, Turner has a history of filing fraudulent disaster claims, having "submitted at least ten other applications to FEMA for disaster relief related to seven other federally declared disasters," including Hurricane Katrina (2005), Hurricane Ike (2008), and Hurricane Beryl (2024).

"These suspects are accused of attempting to defraud the U.S. Government out of disaster relief funds carved out to help those who lost loved ones, pets, and homes…as well as those whose properties were damaged instead of destroyed," said Special Agent in Charge Tyler Hatcher of IRS Criminal Investigation's Los Angeles Field Office.

The fraud cases were investigated by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General and Homeland Security Investigations' El Camino Real Financial Crimes Task Force.

The charge of fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency benefits carries a statutory maximum sentence of 30 years in federal prison. The charge of false, fictitious, or fraudulent claim against the United States carries a statutory maximum sentence of five years in federal prison.

All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

editor@smdp.com

NEWSOM

FROM PAGE 2

were the opening salvo in a playbook already well underway in red states: Elimination of health care for trans kids leads directly to elimination of health care for trans adults, like in Texas bill HB3817. Policing genitalia leads to proposals like Georgia's HB 267, which is about trans athletes but would also restrict parental birth certificate options to "mother" and "father."

Californians do not want any part of regressive laws or the bigotry they embolden. We are proud to live in a place where trans people live freely, where our rights are never in question and where our leaders show up for us.

No one elected Gov. Newsom to befriend right-wing influencers. We need him to represent us, and that includes queer and trans Californians, too.

Tori Truscheit is a queer parent based in Sacramento. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

BUDGET

FROM PAGE 3

Meanwhile many school districts are also facing big budget gaps due to declining enrollment and chronic absenteeism that reduce state aid based on attendance, in addition to the expiration of federal grants meant to cope with COVID-19 and employee union demands for raises to offset inflation-hammered personal budgets.

The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team, a state agency that monitors school district finances, recently issued a report on school systems in various degrees of fiscal difficulty, with those in Oakland and San Francisco on the list of the most troubled.

The agency cited not only enrollment declines, but the jolts of losing federal pandemic aid and rising costs, particularly for fire insurance and electric power, as factors.

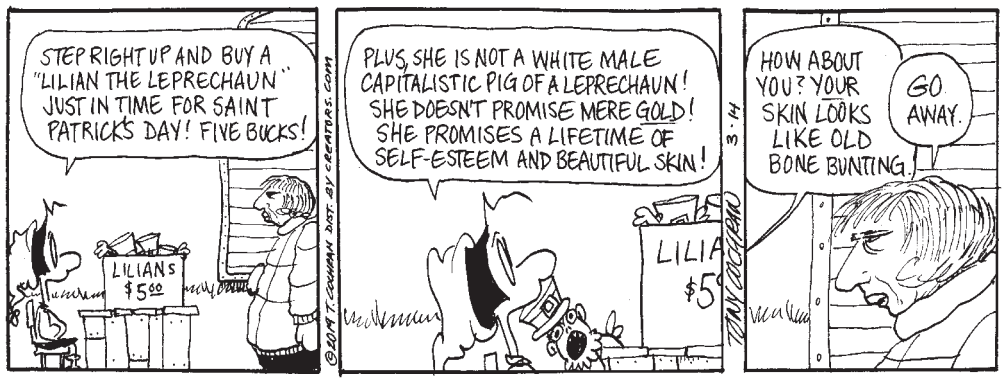
In theory, local officials could seek tax increases as they ponder ways to balance their budgets. However voters facing rising living costs of their own are not likely to approve of that solution.

Therefore the options are either make real spending reductions, which might mean laying off workers and closing schools, or emulate the state's gimmickry and hope the problems solve themselves.

By Dan Walters. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

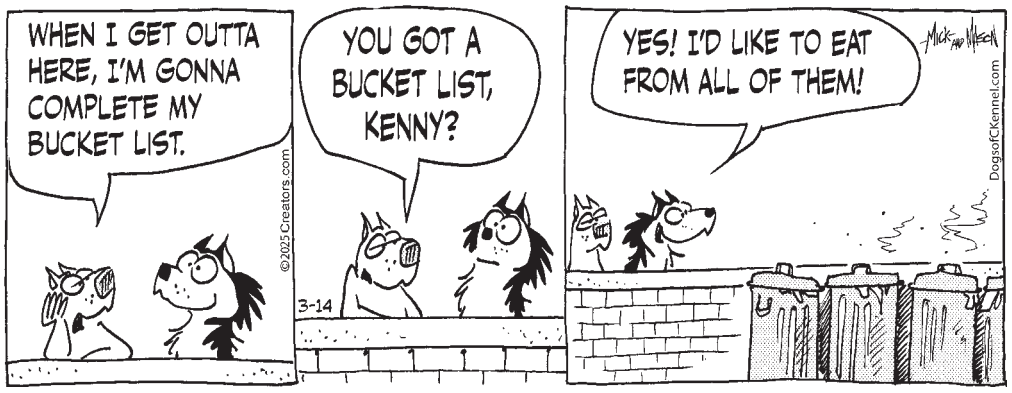
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



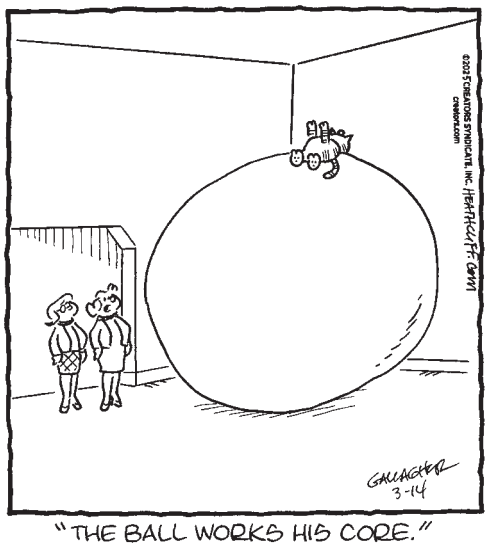
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THE BALL WORKS HIS CORE."

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 27 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6514

WA wildflowers

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

Abundant	Life	Pods
Augusta	Lilies	Pom poms
Banksia	Milkmaids	Rain
Bark	Mingenew	Sandy soil
Broome	Moora	Scrub
Buds	Mullewa	Sturt
Derby	Murchison rose	Swans
Drought	Nannup	Trees
Exmouth	Onslow	Wattle
Harvey	Peas	Wyndham
Hovea	Pemberton	
Leaf	Pink poker	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
I've never heard of it

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MARCH 14)

This is your year of momentum. One small win fuels the next until you're racing toward your dreams at exhilarating speed. More highlights: A creative risk gets attention. A road trip leads to an unexpected opportunity. You'll follow your instincts, say yes to the invite, turn down the wrong path - only to find yourself exactly where you're meant to be. Cancer and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 18, 24, 38 and 50.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It takes a secure person to be humble. The truly mighty don't have to go out of their way to draw attention to their power, because they are too busy using it. Trust the one who makes modest claims and overdelivers on them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's weird, but it does happen... people can be good, enjoyable company and yet be, nonetheless, bad for you. When, for whatever reason, certain people bring out a side of you that's not your favorite, take note and keep seeking the company that lets you shine.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Make it easy for someone to choose the thing that would be good for you, too. Since people lean toward what feels simple and accessible, shape the choice so it aligns with their instincts. What benefits you can also be what feels right to them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your deeply compassionate agenda: Make sure another person never feels abandoned. It's okay to acknowledge that this takes energy. You'd like to think of yourself as effortlessly loyal, but if loyalty were effortless, it wouldn't be a virtue.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There will be pressure to take life at a hurried pace. Rushing for the sake of keeping up drains more than it gives. To move at the speed that lets you stay present, clear and in control, you may need to change lanes or remove yourself from the race entirely.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). No matter how brilliant your work may be, it won't play in the wrong crowd. Even the best ideas fall flat when they're not understood. Don't waste energy forcing appreciation; find the people who are already wired to get it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your talent for emotional detection doesn't always feel like a gift. Sure, it lets you know how others are feeling, but it also gives you more information than you sometimes know what to do with. Today you'll gladly accept the responsibility, because you're truly able to help.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Make sure your boundaries are your own and not imposed on you by your interpretation of what's acceptable to others. Also, don't be afraid to wear emotional armor - not so much to keep the world out, but to keep your own energy intact.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Like actual weather systems, emotional weather systems are unpredictable, always culminating, dissipating and moving. Therefore, no matter what your internal sky looks like, it will change. Every state is a temporary state.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Social stars are on the rise. And while all connections are made by those who are being present to the moment and to one another, for most, this is an easier thing to accomplish in small doses. Have a "graceful exit" script ready.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Of all available options, you're interested in the one that feels the most loving. You will make the choice of compassion, the choice that affords the benefit of the doubt and the choice that leaves room for all you don't yet know.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have courage on tap. You'll bravely step into a new creative identity, making something that exists because you willed it into being. That is a form of magic. And you'll get a well-deserved stroke of luck to start the momentum.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

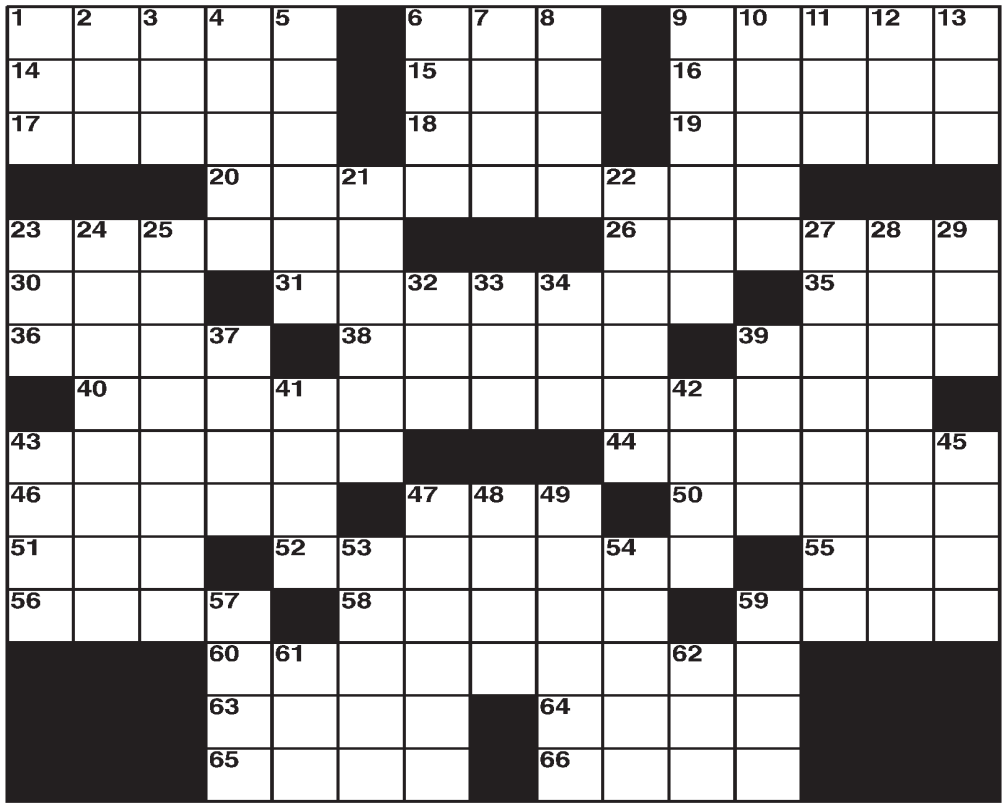
RIVAL'S REMARK by S.N. Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Calibrate, perhaps
6 *Casablanca* costuming
9 Must
14 Monsieur Matisse
15 Wonder-full feeling
16 Midwestern metropolis
17 With 26-Across, speaker of comment
18 First spoken word in Genesis
19 Revved up
20 To whom the comment was spoken
23 Acquiesce
26 See 17-Across
30 Favoring
31 *Dolce*, on music
35 Top-10 baby girl name for 2023
36 Soft rock
38 Legendary story byline
39 20-Across' *The Dragons of* __
40 Start of a comment
43 Scorching
44 Tale's place
46 Not at all familiar
47 Rushdie title
50 Exclamation of expectation
51 Case workers
52 Middle of comment
55 *Macbeth* preposition
56 Speaking of
58 Change at Galileo Airport
59 SFO info
60 End of comment
63 Enticement
64 Slender swimmers
65 Mounts, as gems
66 Farm cart

DOWN

1 Sashimi fish
2 *Toutes __ heures* (hourly)
3 Feminine name ending
4 Elegance of action
5 Popular power sources
6 Football season
7 Milk sources
8 Sorority letter
9 Act moderately
10 Rial spender
11 Cover with graffiti
12 By-way connection
13 Common regatta trophy
21 Finder's fee
22 Many a bridesmaid
23 On-target
24 Grade school supplies
25 Salon employee
27 Opened, say
28 D-Day codename
29 Shuttle, sometimes
32 Rather wide
33 *Cats* finale
34 Certain roaster
37 Restorative treatment
39 Mark permanently
41 Nonstandard negative
42 Suite part
43 Cry of success
45 Seeing things
47 Just browns
48 Speaking of
49 Uprose
53 A generous disposition
54 Jacob's second son
57 Manet medium
59 Artisanal center
61 Any of the 24-Down
62 Patterned after



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2025 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

03/14/25

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

PERSPIRE®
SAUNA STUDIO

Proud to be one of Santa Monica's 'Most Loved' Businesses

Vote for us as Santa Monica's most loved holistic wellness spa!



MOST LOVED 2025 Santa Monica

12TH ANNUAL Most Loved Santa Monica Business Contest

February 10th – March 14th

Vote now for your most loved businesses!

Visit **smdp.com/vote**

Buy Local SANTA MONICA · Santa Monica CHAMBER of COMMERCE · City of Santa Monica · SANTA MONICA TRAVEL & TOURISM · smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

MONTANA AVENUE SANTA MONICA · PICO BLVD Santa Monica · MAIN STREET santa monica · Downtown Santa Monica THIRD STREET PROMENADE · SANTA MONICA PIER