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Find the words.

Volume 25 Issue 93

MONDAY 3/30/26

smdp.com

# Crime drops as police are fully staffed for first time in two decades thanks to realignment plan

**MAAZ ALIN**  
SMDP Staff Writer

Major crime in Santa Monica fell 12.5% last year, the city's police department reached full staffing for the first time in more than 20 years, and the prosecution rate on criminal cases climbed to nearly 90% — results that city officials on Tuesday held up as evidence that the sweeping Realignment

Plan adopted in October 2025 is fundamentally changing how public safety is delivered in the city.

The data, presented to the City Council by Police Chief Darrick Jacob during a nearly four-hour meeting, showed improvements across every metric the department tracks, driven by what Jacob described not as a temporary surge

SEE CRIME PAGE 6

## 2025 Year-End Results

Metric	2024	2025	Change
Part I Crime	4,793	4,194	▼ 12.5%
Calls for Service	128,820	124,848	▼ 3.1%
Total Arrests	2,804	3,446	▲ 22.9%
Traffic Citations	2,835	5,723	▲ 102%
Officer-Initiated Activity	40%	43%	▲ 7.5%

*Less crime + More proactive activity = Prevention-focused model working*

Courtesy Image

**CRIME:** Santa Monica reports 12.5% drop in major crime and full police staffing for the first time in 20+ years.

## Santa Monica Teen Robotics Team wins SoCal regional title, heads to World Championship

**MAAZ ALIN**  
SMDP Staff Writer

Built in a borrowed garage with borrowed tools, a Santa Monica teen robotics team has earned a spot on the world stage.

SaMoTech, a community-based team of students from Santa Monica High School, won the Southern

SEE ROBOTICS PAGE 7

## UCLA heat maps reveal stark disparities in who suffers most during extreme heat

**MAAZ ALIN**  
SMDP Staff Writer

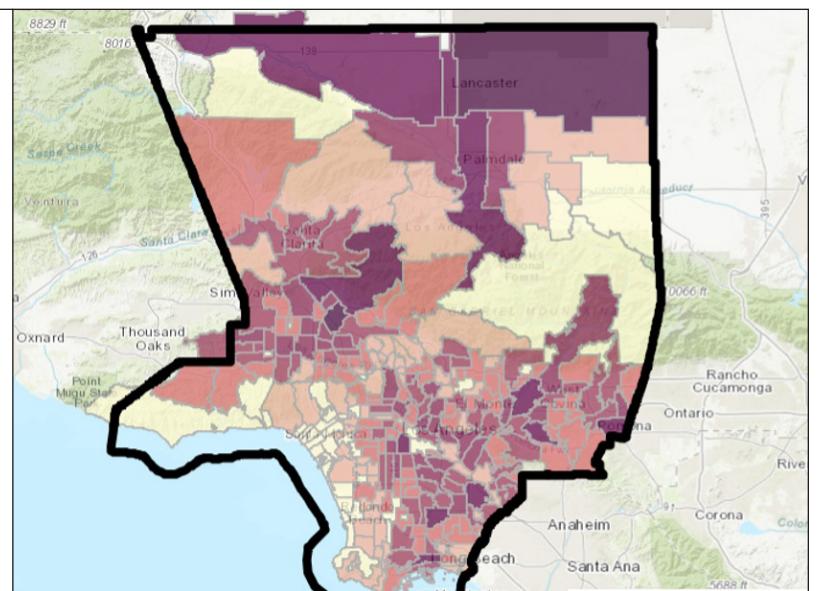
As a rare early-season heat wave sent temperatures soaring across Southern California, new research from UCLA reveals a troubling reality: extreme heat does not threaten all communities equally.

Heat maps developed by the UCLA Center for Healthy Climate Solutions show that emergency room visits during heat events cluster disproportionately in lower-income communities with less tree cover, including South Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley and East Los Angeles. Formerly redlined

neighborhoods — areas once systematically denied investment — are often several degrees hotter than better-rated neighborhoods in the same city.

“Heat maps reveal something temperature data alone can't: which communities are most vulnerable to heat-related health impacts,” said Dr. David Eisenman, a physician and professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and co-director of the center. “Knowing who is hit hardest is essential for planning targeted interventions — especially as heat waves grow more

SEE HEAT PAGE 6



UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

**HEAT:** Extreme heat impacts SoCal communities unequally amid rare early-season heat wave.

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# A new homelessness strategy is sweeping California

Maybe the way out of California's homelessness crisis is to prevent it in the first place, rather than focusing only on people who have already lost their housing.

That's the thinking behind a program in Santa Clara County — and others like it around the state — that has gained traction and will soon test its strategy beyond California.

These prevention programs have found that with a payment of several thousand dollars, aid organizations can head off someone's homelessness. That both prevents the trauma that comes with losing a home, and saves the state or local government the potentially tens of thousands of dollars it takes to help someone after they become homeless.

The Santa Clara County program by nonprofit Destination: Home recently inspired the launch of 10 more pilot projects throughout the country, marking the first large-scale, multi-state test of this strategy. If it works in those test counties, advocates will push for a nationwide program.

Meanwhile, a bill introduced this year in California would require the state to come up with a broad homelessness prevention strategy.

"The single most obvious answer to homelessness is to not let it happen in the first place," said Jennifer Loving, CEO of Destination: Home.

Focusing on prevention marks a significant shift in thinking. Traditionally, cities, counties and the state reserve their resources for helping the people in most dire need — those currently living on the street — get back on their feet. The problem with

that strategy is that for every one person they move into housing, multiple other people fall into homelessness. That leaves cities spinning their wheels without meaningfully lessening the problem.

But prevention has its own challenges: The aid is most effective when it goes to people imminently at risk of losing their housing, and determining exactly who that is can be tricky. Several Bay Area communities use a questionnaire to evaluate how likely someone is to wind up homeless unless they get help. A Los Angeles County program uses artificial intelligence.

"The risk is you give out a lot of precious resources to people who otherwise would be able to prevent homelessness on their own, and that takes away from things like emergency shelters or transitional shelters or permanent supportive housing," said Jim Sullivan, director of the University of Notre Dame's Lab for Economic Opportunities. His team evaluated Santa Clara County's prevention program and found that people who received prevention funds were 78% less likely to become homeless than people in similar situations who got no funds.

Even among the people who didn't get prevention funds, the overall rate of homelessness in these studies tends to be small (in Santa Clara County, 4.1% of people who didn't get help became homeless, compared to 0.9% who did get help). That's because, despite the very visible humanitarian crisis on the streets of California, statistically speaking, homelessness is still extremely rare, said Janey Rountree, executive director of the California Policy Lab at UCLA, which helped develop a similar program in Los Angeles

County. The vast majority of people are able to keep a roof over their head by getting help from family or friends.

## HOW HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION WORKS

Destination: Home helped launch Santa Clara County's first homelessness prevention program in 2017. At the time, there wasn't much help available for people on the brink of homelessness. Families staring down looming evictions were told to call back once they actually ended up on the street.

With a budget of \$1 million secured through donations, the program helped 200 households that first year. Over the following years, the nonprofit got results — and buy-in from county officials. Now, the program has an annual budget of \$30 million (most of which is publicly funded) and serves 2,500 households per year.

The program appears to be making a dent. Prior to its existence, for every homeless person who got housing, another three lost their homes. Now, for every one person housed, the math works out to 1.7 people losing their homes, according to Destination: Home.

People who apply to the program hear about it in different ways, including through food banks and other service providers, by word of mouth and through outreach workers in eviction court. Then they fill out a questionnaire designed to assess how likely they are to become homeless. Multiple factors could put them at greater risk: if they have experienced domestic violence, have been homeless before or are disabled, for example. If they check off enough risk factors, they qualify for aid.

Over the past year, people accepted into the program received an average of about \$6,500 (including if they returned multiple times for help), most of which went directly to rent, security deposits and other housing expenses. Participants can use the money to address whatever problem is threatening their housing, including fixing their car so they can get to work, paying for a hotel while they are between apartments, covering medical expenses or paying down a credit card debt if the large monthly payment is hurting their ability to pay rent.

Participants can come back for help multiple times if they need, and many do.

"We're providing temporary assistance to folks that are facing long-term, systemic problems, and we don't expect that hanging out with us for a few months is all of a sudden going to increase the supply of affordable housing or living-wage jobs," said Erin Stanton, director of family assistance at Sacred Heart Community Service, which coordinates the aid.

Now, Destination: Home is expanding its prevention model to 10 new places across the country, including San Mateo County in California, as well as Miami-Dade County, Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; Austin-Travis County, Texas; communities in Alaska and multiple tribal communities in Minnesota. The idea is to see if the model can be successful outside of Santa Clara County and to see how it might be tweaked depending on the community it is serving. The needs in an economically depressed community, or one saturated by addiction, will be different

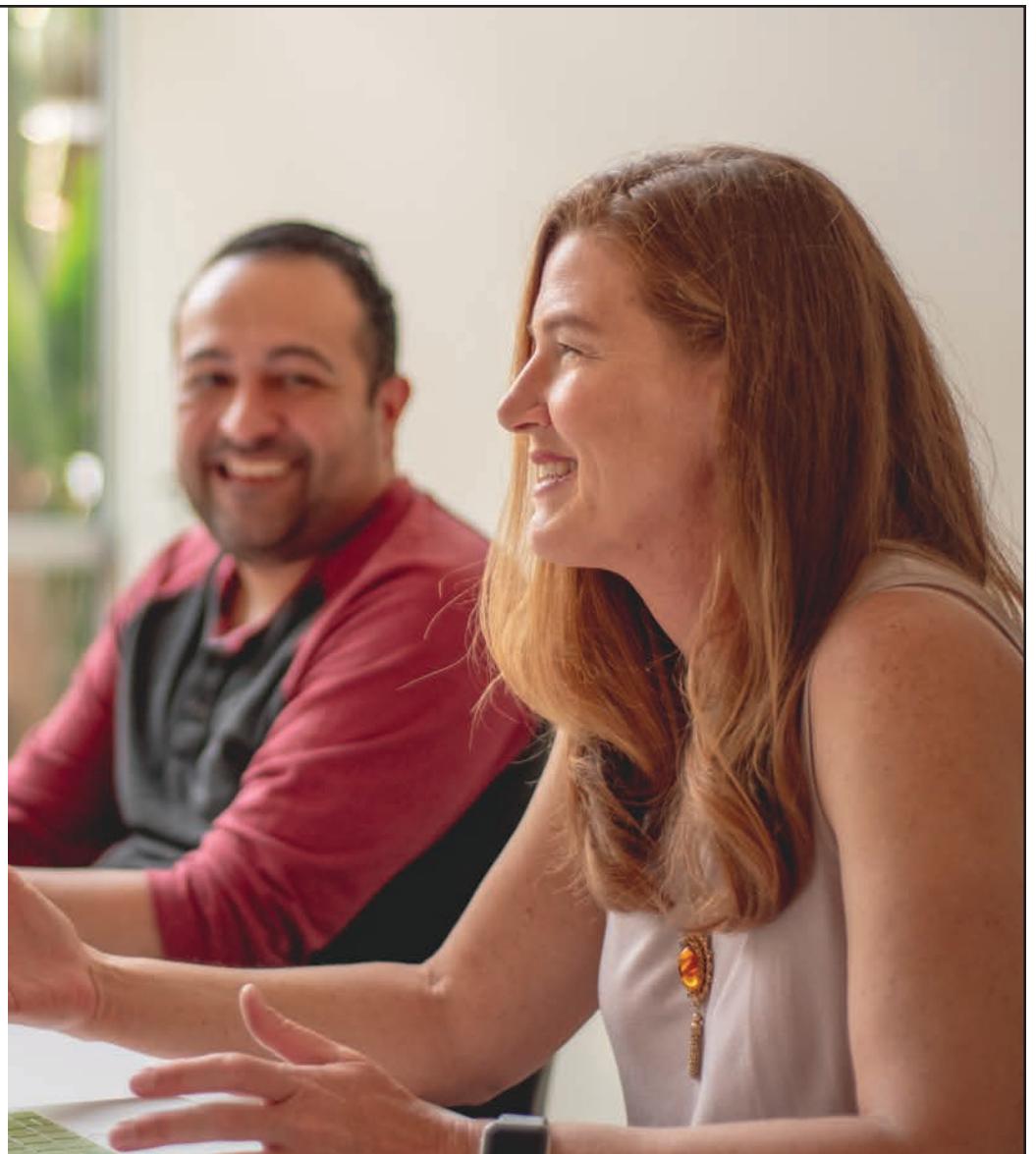
SEE HOMELESS PAGE 11

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# California's budget bleeds red ink with added pressure to cover Trump's cuts

Nine months into the 2025-26 fiscal year, state tax revenues are running several billion dollars ahead of projections in the budget that Gov. Gavin Newsom signed last June.

That's a bit of good news, because the budget had a hefty gap between projected general fund income and outgo, a continuation of what budget officials call a "structural deficit" that has plagued recent budgets.

Spending has persistently outstripped revenues, with the difference bridged by a variety of on- and off-book loans, accounting gimmicks and raids on emergency reserves totaling \$125 billion so far, according to Gabe Petek, the Legislature's budget analyst.

Newsom's proposed budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year contains a \$21 billion general fund shortfall that he would shrink to \$3 billion by employing an array of the same stopgap measures.

Newsom has promised that when the budget is revised in May, it will not only close its latest gap but end the deficit cycle that otherwise would continue indefinitely, according to Petek and Newsom's budget writers.

The recent uptick in revenues, cited in a report from Petek's office, slightly improves the income/outgo imbalance but falls way short of closing it, unless it becomes a major windfall, as Jason Sisney, a budget advisor to legislative leaders, believes it could.

"No one counsels humility about revenue projections more than me, but I think the odds are that general fund revenues for the budget window will be somewhere between \$15 billion and \$40 billion above the governor's January 9 projections," Sisney says in a recent email.

The sharp differences over revenues hinge on expectations of whether the stock market continues its mostly positive recent performance, buoyed by artificial intelligence companies, or if it falters. California's budget is inordinately dependent on taxes on wealthy taxpayers' investment profits and therefore is highly sensitive to stock market gyrations.

With the April 15 deadline for income

tax returns nearing, everyone associated with the budget awaits new revenue data. Meanwhile, the administration and legislators are besieged with pleas from those with stakes in the budget, seeking more money than Newsom's proposed budget offers.

On Wednesday, mayors of the state's largest cities warned that Newsom's budget — which would slash the traditional \$1 billion allocation for programs to battle homelessness to \$500 million — would "reverse the progress cities have made in reducing unsheltered homelessness."

The mayors don't just want a return to \$1 billion; they seek a multi-year commitment with annual adjustments for inflation, the latest chapter in a long-running dispute. Newsom has chided cities for not spending money effectively to reduce the number of homeless people on the streets, while mayors complain that without multi-year aid, they cannot make long-term programmatic commitments.

Meanwhile county officials, citing \$6 billion to \$9.5 billion in reduced federal aid in President Donald Trump's "one big beautiful bill," this week asked Newsom and legislators for \$6.4 billion over two years to offset the losses, "in order to prevent our safety net from crumbling."

Filling the financial holes from Trump's reductions in federal aid is also a high priority for groups representing California's poor families, with the state's Medi-Cal program a major concern. They have not only sought backfill from a state budget already leaking red ink but proposed tax increases for ongoing financing, including a tax on the wealth of California's billionaires that may be on the November ballot.

What we have, therefore, is a budget with chronic, multibillion-dollar deficits that's under additional pressure due to federal aid reductions, and it must be finalized in less than three months by a governor now in the last year of his reign who is contemplating a campaign for the White House.

It should be interesting.

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist



## Weather

**Monday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 71.

**Monday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.

**Tuesday:** A slight chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 66.

**Tuesday Night:** A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2026/03/30	Mon	02:24 AM	0.87	L
2026/03/30	Mon	08:21 AM	5.16	H
2026/03/30	Mon	2:48 PM	-0.43	L
2026/03/30	Mon	9:05 PM	4.94	H
2026/03/31	Tue	03:04 AM	0.41	L
2026/03/31	Tue	09:02 AM	4.99	H
2026/03/31	Tue	3:15 PM	-0.11	L
2026/03/31	Tue	9:29 PM	5.18	H
2026/04/01	Wed	03:41 AM	0.07	L
2026/04/01	Wed	09:41 AM	4.70	H
2026/04/01	Wed	3:39 PM	0.29	L
2026/04/01	Wed	9:52 PM	5.33	H
2026/04/02	Thu	04:17 AM	-0.14	L
2026/04/02	Thu	10:19 AM	4.33	H
2026/04/02	Thu	4:01 PM	0.72	L
2026/04/02	Thu	10:14 PM	5.38	H
2026/04/03	Fri	04:53 AM	-0.22	L
2026/04/03	Fri	10:58 AM	3.91	H
2026/04/03	Fri	4:22 PM	1.15	L
2026/04/03	Fri	10:37 PM	5.33	H
2026/04/04	Sat	05:30 AM	-0.18	L
2026/04/04	Sat	11:39 AM	3.48	H
2026/04/04	Sat	4:41 PM	1.57	L
2026/04/04	Sat	11:00 PM	5.19	H
2026/04/05	Sun	06:10 AM	-0.02	L
2026/04/05	Sun	12:27 PM	3.05	H
2026/04/05	Sun	4:56 PM	1.94	L
2026/04/05	Sun	11:25 PM	4.97	H
2026/04/06	Mon	06:56 AM	0.23	L
2026/04/06	Mon	1:31 PM	2.67	H
2026/04/06	Mon	5:04 PM	2.26	L
2026/04/06	Mon	11:54 PM	4.70	H
2026/04/07	Tue	07:56 AM	0.50	L
2026/04/08	Wed	12:33 AM	4.38	H
2026/04/08	Wed	09:25 AM	0.67	L
2026/04/09	Thu	01:38 AM	4.06	H
2026/04/09	Thu	11:00 AM	0.58	L

## 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>

<p>Draw Date: 3/25 7 21 55 56 64 Power#: 26 Jackpot: 166 M</p>	<p>Draw Date: 3/25 4 5 17 24 38</p>
<p>Draw Date: 3/24 4 13 52 53 69 Mega#: 10 Jackpot: 70 M</p>	<p>Draw Date: 3/25 EVENING: 2 9 9</p>
<p>Draw Date: 3/25 14 21 33 38 45 Mega#: 6 Jackpot: 10 M</p>	<p>Draw Date: 3/25 1st: 02 - Lucky Star 2nd: 07 - Eureka 3rd: 10 - Solid Gold Race Time: 1:49.57</p>

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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City of  
**Santa Monica**

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

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Amendments to the Text of the City's Zoning Ordinance to Align Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.31.125, Duplexes and Lot Splits on Parcels Zoned for Single-Unit Residential, and Other Applicable Sections as Necessary with State Law as Modified by Santa Monica's 6th Cycle Housing Element.

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to adopt amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance to modify the City's implementation for the allowance of duplexes and lot splits on parcels zoned for single-unit residential ("SB 9") to align with State law requirements, as modified by Santa Monica's certified 6th Cycle Housing Element for parcels greater than 10,000 square feet. On March 4, 2026, the Santa Monica Planning Commission adopted Resolution Number 26-005 (PCS) recommending adoption of the proposed amendments.

**DATE/TIME:** TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

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

**HOW TO COMMENT:**

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

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

Address your comments to: **City Clerk**  
**Re:** Duplexes and Lot Splits

**VIA EMAIL:** [councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov](mailto:councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov)  
**VIA MAIL:** 1685 Main Street, Room 102  
Santa Monica, CA 90401

**MORE INFORMATION:** If you want more information about this project, please contact Ross Fehrman, Planning Manager, by e-mail at [ross.fehrman@santamonica.gov](mailto:ross.fehrman@santamonica.gov). For disability-related accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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

**ESPAÑOL:** 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](mailto:ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov)

# Classifieds

## Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00135. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica CA 90401. Petition of Claire Joy Summers for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Claire Joy Summers filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Claire Joy Summers to Claire

Summers Goldberger. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 05/01/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall

be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 10/10/2025. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 03/30/2026, 04/06/2026, 04/13/2026, 04/20/2026

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

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Pacific Palisades

#### Maria Shriver to Keynote 20th Annual Think Pink Fundraiser

Maria Shriver, award-winning journalist, author and women's health advocate, will deliver the keynote address at the 20th annual Think Pink for Women's Wellness on April 29 at the Bel-Air Bay Club in Pacific Palisades.

The educational event benefits Providence Saint John's Health Center.

"Maria Shriver is a long-time supporter of Saint John's as well as an activist for women's health, and we are delighted she will be participating in Think Pink in such a prominent role," said Janis Gallo, president of the health center's Irene Dunne Guild, which produces the event.

The event returns to Pacific Palisades after last year's edition was relocated to Santa Monica in the aftermath of the Palisades fire.

Shriver's connection to Saint John's spans decades. The hospital named its specialized newborn care unit the Maria Shriver Nursery in 2004 to honor her role as a patron, and her four children were born at the facility. She is a former first lady of California, founder of the nonprofit Women's Alzheimer's Movement and co-founder of the Cleveland Clinic Women's Comprehensive Health and Research Center.

Shriver will participate in a conversation about women's health and the newly reimagined Maria Shriver Labor, Delivery and Family Wellness Center at the hospital.

Think Pink is the primary fundraising event of the Irene Dunne Guild, now in its 39th year as a major support group of Saint John's.

The event runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and includes morning sessions on menopause, skin health, heart care and gut microbiome. A luncheon follows in the Upper Bel-Air Bay Club's dining room overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Boutique shopping will be available throughout the day.

Tickets are \$195 per person and are expected to sell out. For more information, visit [iredunneguild.org](http://iredunneguild.org). Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/think-pink-for-women-s-well-319205>

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy photo

**EVENT:** Maria Shriver to keynote the 20th annual Think Pink for Women's Wellness on April 29 at Bel-Air Bay Club.

### West LA

#### Amy Ephron Returns to Mystery Genre with "Unseasonably Cold"

Bestselling author Amy Ephron returns to literary fiction with "Unseasonably Cold," a period mystery set in 1939 New York City, due May 12 from The Sager Group.

The novel follows the disappearance of socialite and columnist Jane Abbot and the suspicions, secrets and deceptions that envelop her best friend Liza and their social circle. Set against the backdrop of impending war in Europe, the story explores the turbulence beneath high society's polished surface.

"In a way, 1939 is almost a mirror for our time, where the divide between the wealthy and the working class is so severe and the backdrop and fear of an impending war, guilt and grief, ripples underneath the often-times cool façade," Ephron said.

"Unseasonably Cold" is Ephron's tenth novel and her first literary fiction work since "One Sunday Morning," which won Booklist Best Fiction and Best Historical Fiction honors. Her novel "A Cup of Tea" spent 37 weeks on the Los Angeles Times bestseller list.

The book has earned praise from fellow authors, including Adriana Trigiani, who called it "atmospheric, propulsive, captivating," and Benjamin Dreyer, who described it as "altogether intriguing — haunting, even."

Ephron, a 2026 Pushcart Prize nominee, will embark on a media and national tour this spring and summer. The book is available for pre-order in hardcover and e-book wherever books are sold. <https://www.amazon.com/Unseasonably-Cold-Amy-Ephron/dp/1958861936>

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### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### Downtown Santa Monica

### Gourmandise School Offers Summer Cooking Camps for Kids and Teens

The Gourmandise School will offer weeklong hands-on cooking and baking summer camps for young chefs beginning June 15.

The camps provide kids and teens the opportunity to learn essential culinary techniques while preparing a range of dishes in a professional kitchen environment.

Kids ages 8-11 and teens ages 12-16 can choose between cooking or baking-focused camps. Kid camps run 2.5 hours per day while teen camps run 3 hours per day, with morning and afternoon sessions available.

Kids can choose between two rotating menus: Cooking the Classics, featuring savory favorites, and Classic Bakeshop, focused on sweet baking staples. Teens can explore cooking camps such as Cooking Fundamentals and Global Street Food, or baking camps including Baking Fundamentals and The Art of Baking.

Returning campers can try new menus including World Cuisines and Great British Bakeoff. The school is also offering its first combination camp, Sweet & Savory Skills, which includes both cooking and baking recipes.

Under the guidance of chef instructors, students work in pairs to mix, knead, sauté and bake, learning culinary techniques and life skills such as teamwork, organization and kitchen responsibility. At the end of each camp week, students receive printed and emailed recipe packets to recreate dishes at home.

“Our summer camps give young cooks the chance to explore the kitchen in a fun, hands-on environment,” said Sabrina Ironside, owner of The Gourmandise School. “Students not only learn how to cook and bake, but also gain confidence, creativity, and teamwork skills they’ll carry with them for years.”

Students can enroll in multiple weeks, as the school offers various camp themes with different menus and techniques.

Weeklong camps range from \$625 to \$695 depending on the menu. Registration is available at <https://thegourmandiseschool.com/summer-camps/>

“

Our summer camps give young cooks the chance to explore the kitchen in a fun, hands-on environment

- Sabrina Ironside, owner of The Gourmandise School

”

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Bereangere Altier

**SUMMER:** The Gourmandise Schools’ weeklong camps offer immersive culinary experiences for young chefs.

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**HEAT**

FROM PAGE 1

frequent and severe.”

The findings carry urgent implications as record high temperatures have already been broken on the first day of the current heat wave, which is expected to continue. Latino and Black communities face elevated risk of heat-related illness, due in part to the physical characteristics of their neighborhoods.

Census tracts with the least access to air-conditioned public spaces such as libraries and shopping malls saw a 38 percent increase in heat-related deaths for every degree Celsius rise in maximum temperature, according to UCLA research. The protective effect of walkable access to cooled spaces held even after researchers adjusted for social vulnerability.

Some neighborhoods in the northeast San Fernando Valley experience twice the rate of excess emergency room visits compared to the Los Angeles County average during heat events.

Yet the research also points to solutions. UCLA researchers found that increasing tree canopy and improving the reflectivity of roofs and pavements could reduce temperatures by up to 2 degrees Celsius during heat events. Under plausible scenarios, such interventions could prevent 25 to 50 percent of heat-related emergency room visits, with even greater benefits in the most vulnerable communities.

Heat remains the leading weather-related cause of death, yet it often escapes public attention.

“Heat kills quietly,” Eisenman said. “There is no dramatic footage or visible destruction for the cameras. A person dies alone in a hot apartment, and the death certificate may say cardiac arrest, not heat.”

Outdoor workers, older adults and people without air conditioning face the greatest danger. Many cardiac, blood pressure and psychiatric medications impair the body’s ability to regulate temperature, putting older adults on these drugs at particular risk

without their knowledge.

Eisenman urged residents to reject the assumption that living in Southern California provides natural immunity to heat waves.

“Your body only adapts to heat through repeated exposure to it, and most people on the California coast simply do not get that exposure because the weather is so mild most of the year,” he said. “The assumption that we already know how to handle heat is one of the things most likely to get people killed.”

For those without air conditioning, experts warn that fans alone can be dangerous when temperatures exceed 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Above that threshold, fans circulate hot air and accelerate fluid loss without providing meaningful cooling. The most effective immediate steps include applying cold water to the neck, armpits and groin, taking cool showers or getting to an air-conditioned space.

The single most important action during a prolonged heat event, Eisenman said, is checking on vulnerable neighbors and relatives — in person.

“Not a text. Go knock on the door and see them for yourself,” he said. “People who live alone, particularly older adults, are at elevated risk during heat events because no one notices when they begin to deteriorate.”

Analysis of the 1995 Chicago heat wave showed that neighborhoods with stronger social ties had lower death rates even after controlling for socioeconomic factors.

Residents can check their neighborhood’s heat risk using CalHeatScore, a statewide tool that ranks extreme-heat health danger by ZIP code and links users to nearby cooling resources. The UCLA Heat Maps, which visualize community-level health burdens from 2008 to 2018, are currently informing Los Angeles County’s Heat Action Plan.

Climate projections show more frequent and severe heat events coming to Southern California, with more humid nights that make recovery during sleep increasingly difficult.

maaz@smdp.com

**CRIME**

FROM PAGE 1

but as a permanent cultural and operational shift within the Santa Monica Police Department.

“Public safety doesn’t improve on commitment alone,” Jacob said. “It improves when that commitment turns into action.”

When Jacob took over as interim chief in late August 2025, and was sworn in as permanent chief in January, the department was understaffed, reactive, and running below 40% officer-initiated activity. By February 2026, officer-initiated activity had climbed to consistently above 50% of all calls for service, meaning officers are identifying and addressing problems before they escalate rather than simply responding after the fact.

The year-over-year statistics are stark. Part I crimes, the FBI’s category covering violent offenses and burglary, fell from 4,793 in 2024 to 4,194 in 2025, a reduction of 599 incidents. Total arrests increased 22.9%, from 2,804 to 3,446. Traffic citations more than doubled, rising from 2,835 in 2024 to 5,723 in 2025.

“

This is not a target to be met, but rather a baseline that helps guide consistent proactive policing efforts across this organization

- Darrick Jacob, Police Chief

”

The months following the full deployment of the Realignment policing model in December 2025 showed even steeper acceleration. Monthly traffic citations averaged 1,200 during December 2025 through February 2026 — a 400% increase over the 2024 monthly average of 240. Weekly arrests climbed from 81 per week in December to 104 per week in February. Drug-related investigations more than doubled in each of the three months measured, rising between 118% and 169% depending on the month.

“This is not a target to be met, but rather a baseline that helps guide consistent proactive policing efforts across this organization,” Jacob told the council.

Council member Dan Hall noted the timing of the turnaround. “Interesting how those numbers shot up with new leadership,”

he said. Jacob confirmed that he and his command team implemented the changes that produced the results.

A milestone that eluded the department for more than 20 years was quietly achieved in recent months: full sworn staffing. With the council’s prior approval of 10 over-hire positions, the department has stabilized its ranks across patrol and specialized units. As of the meeting, the department had 23 background investigations open and had received 391 new applications since January 2026.

Chi said full staffing allows the department to deploy consistently rather than react to shortages, a structural change that underpins much of the crime data improvement. “For the first time in 20 years, the Santa Monica Police Department is fully staffed,” Jacob said. “Stable staffing numbers allow us to deploy consistently, rather than to react to shortages.”

The gains inside the police department have been matched by a parallel transformation in the City Attorney’s Criminal Unit. Filing rates on legally chargeable cases climbed from a pre-Realignment level of 65–70% to approximately 88% from October through December 2025 — and Chi told the council the improvement had been significant enough that the courts had complained about caseload. “The courts have complained to our city attorney that we are clogging up the court system with the number of cases that we’re filing,” Chi said.

The City Attorney told the council the improvement was the product of close coordination between her office and the police department, including roll-call trainings to ensure officers write police reports that meet legal evidentiary standards required for successful prosecution.

The council on Tuesday also approved several additional public safety measures as part of the broader Realignment update. The city authorized the city manager to negotiate and execute a memorandum of understanding with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority that would allow Santa Monica police officers to enforce fare evasion, conduct rules, and ridership standards on Metro train platforms within the city. Jacob said Santa Monica would be the first jurisdiction in the region to operate under such an agreement, noting that other cities contract with the county sheriff’s department for Metro enforcement and receive inconsistent coverage.

A new downtown police substation at Santa Monica Place Mall began construction March 6, with a target completion date of late March, giving the department a permanent physical presence in the city’s most active corridor. A real-time crime center known as the SMART Center, which enhances coordination between patrol, investigations, traffic, and city partners, is also operational and nearing a formal unveiling.

The council approved a new police captain position to oversee both the SMART Center and the combined Dispatch and Office of Emergency Management bureau, along with two additional lead public safety dispatchers to manage the increased volume generated by the surge in officer-initiated activity.

Jacob closed his presentation by connecting the statistical results to the residents behind them. “What matters most is the trust of the people we serve,” he said. “Public safety is not the finish line. It’s a commitment we make every day.”

maaz@smdp.com

# Classifieds

**Name Change**

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26STCP01242. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles CA 90012. Petition of Jocelin Chavez for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Jocelin Chavez filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Jocelin Chavez to Jocelin Lynne Sanchez. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 04/14/2025, Time: 8:30 Am, Dept: 9. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 03/27/2025. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 03/30/2026, 04/06/2026, 04/13/2026, 04/20/2026

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& security. Dsgn & constr lge RDBS – Wage level \$152,000 to \$155,000. Bachelor’s Degree with 0-2 years exp. IT Proj Mgr to plan, initiate & manage it proj, lead, guide, & monitortech staff- Wage level \$ 240,000 Bachelor’s Degree w 0-5 yrs exp.; Comp. Programmer to create, modify, & test code & scrips for comp. app to run; work specs. Drawn by software & web developers- Wage Level: \$ 85,000-\$ 126,000. Travel/relocation to various unanticipated worksites within the United States is required. International travel is not required. Exact worksite location and frequency of travel (in percentage) can’t be predicted as it may vary/change depending on proj. availability. Bachelor’s degree or equiv. is min. educ. req along with work related experience & major field of study in: CIS,MIS,BusAd,Engng or rel. Intrstd. in any of the psns. above, pls. send resume to: Apolis; Attn: HR, 1299 Ocean Avenue, Suite 470, Santa Monica, CA 90401.

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# ROBOTICS

FROM PAGE 1

California Regional Championship in the FIRST Tech Challenge last weekend, going undefeated across nine matches to claim the title over more than 200 competing teams from Los Angeles and across Southern California.

The victory sends SaMoTech to the FTC World Championship in Houston, April 29 through May 2, where it will face the top teams from more than 8,000 squads representing 81 countries, including powerhouse programs from Romania, China and Italy.

“When we first started in the garage, I just saw it as an opportunity to continue to do robotics like we had in middle school,” said Alexa Kagiwada, one of six founding seniors on the team. “Our team would consistently rank in the top teams in SoCal, California, and even the world. Halfway through our first season, it definitely felt possible.”

For the six founders — all seniors graduating this spring — the regional title caps a four-year journey that began under decidedly humble circumstances. After starting robotics at John Adams Middle School, the students entered Samohi as freshmen and found no district-supported team waiting for them. They built one themselves, operating out of the crowded garage of volunteer coach Chris Rowe, father of two team members.

SaMoTech is now a 10-member varsity squad and a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, funded primarily by the students’ own families, with additional support from matching grants from Yahoo and Boeing and sponsorships from Panasonic and the Santa Monica Rotary Club.

The road to the regional title was not without pressure. In the first qualifying match, SaMoTech’s randomly assigned partner suffered a mechanical failure and could not shoot. Rather than panic, the team adapted.

“We’ve been through this before, we’ve learned to stay calm,” said Brandon Kirbyson, a founding senior and the team’s drive-team driver. “Since we knew our robot has the fastest and most accurate shooter, our partner just played amazing defense allowing us to shoot non-stop. We ended up winning by more than 50 points.”

SaMoTech went on to set multiple high scores throughout the event, finishing as the only undefeated team in the competition.

For the six founders, the win carries extra

weight as their final competitive season. Senior Georgia Rowe reflected on how far the team had come since its earliest days.

“On our middle school team, we were able to get to Regionals once, but we were never one of the top teams,” Rowe said. “Our goals were just to make it as far in the competition as possible. Then once we formed our own team, our end goal was simply making it to Worlds. Now that we’ve achieved that, we have to set entirely new goals, ones that are way higher.”

Getting to Houston, however, will not be easy on the budget. The cost of attending the World Championship has climbed to more than \$20,000 — more than double a typical full season’s expenses — driven by required stays in event-sanctioned hotels, meals for 10 students over six days and the premium pricing that comes with an event drawing tens of thousands of attendees. The team has already secured \$7,000 in local corporate sponsorships to offset costs, with additional fundraising underway.

Beyond the competition itself, the founders say they hope their run inspires lasting change in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, which currently does not support a single FTC team. The middle school program where SaMoTech got its start was discontinued two years ago. Most competing teams in the region are school-based, with paid coaches and, in some cases, academic credit.

“I hope that people in our community see how just six teenagers, fresh out of middle school, can create something they want to see in the community,” Kagiwada said. “Hopefully that leads to some sort of robotics that can be funded by the school district so that others can have the same opportunities that we do.”

The FIRST Tech Challenge, founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen, challenges students in grades 7 through 12 to design, build, program and operate robots in head-to-head competition in both autonomous and remote-controlled modes.

Three of SaMoTech’s founding members are also enrolled in Samohi’s Project Lead the Way engineering program, where they recently placed first in the region and third overall in the NASA JPL Invention Challenge.

The World Championship begins April 29 in Houston.

For more information, visit [samotechrobotics.com](http://samotechrobotics.com).

[maaz@smdp.com](mailto:maaz@smdp.com)



Michelle Martinez

**REGIONAL CHAMPS:** (L-R) Waylon Cox, Georgia Rowe, Camille Choe, Jasmine Martinez, Alexa Kagiwada, Cameron Rowe, Landon Kummer, Andrew Lau, Ari Fienberg, Brandon Kirbyson.

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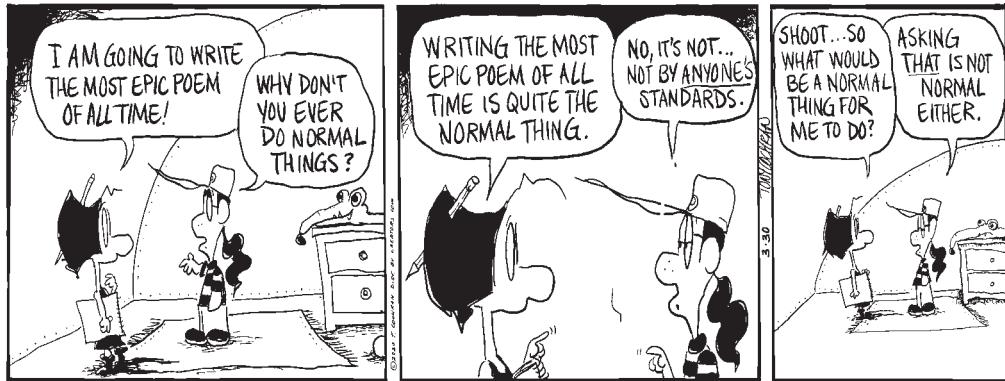
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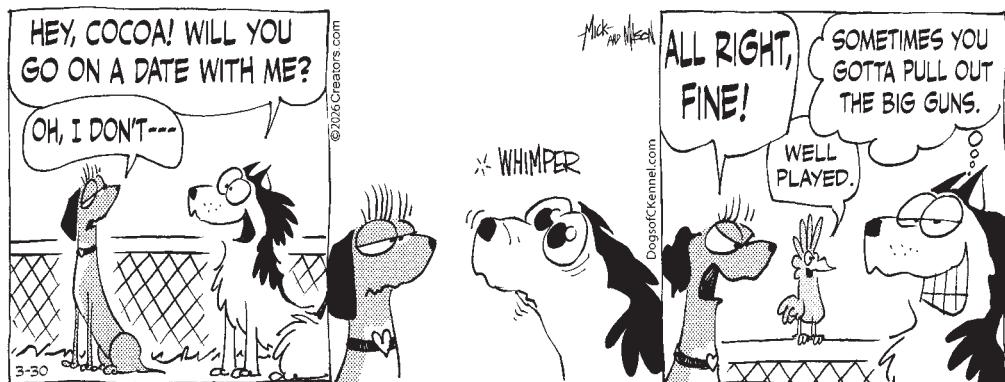
**Agnes**

By TONY COCHRAN



**Dogs of C-Kennel**

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By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



**Heathcliff**

By PETER GALLAGHER



**Strange Brew**

By JOHN DEERING



**FIND THE WORDS**

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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**Down at the local**

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

- |             |         |          |       |
|-------------|---------|----------|-------|
| Ales        | Entree  | Party    | Soft  |
| Beer        | Fosters | Pies     | Stout |
| Booze       | Garden  | Pool     | Till  |
| Cans        | Hock    | Port     | Toast |
| Cask        | Home    | Red ned  | Toddy |
| Celebration | Inns    | Relax    | Tonic |
| Cheap       | Lager   | Retsina  | Vino  |
| Chips       | Lemon   | Rose     | Vodka |
| Cola        | Lime    | Round    | White |
| Complaints  | Madeira | Sake     | Wine  |
| Disco       | Marsala | Schooner |       |
| Drinks      | Noisy   | Sherry   |       |
| Empty       | Open    | Soda     |       |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 30)**

You're showing up strong for your Year of the Clever Turn. When the road moves, you're like a skilled racer hugging the track. You'll see possibilities and your timing for acting on them will be uncanny. More highlights: Your idea finds its environment, lands with the right people and brings new income streams. A love story develops through curiosity, shared adventure and spirited conversation. Taurus and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 7, 33, 18 and 41.

**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Love and connection matter most today. You may even change your schedule around to honor the order of things. Your priorities reflect your heart, and your loved ones feel it, see it and know it by where, how and when you show up.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). To force yourself to do what you don't want to do is an unsustainable model. It might work once or twice, but you'll rebel soon enough. Instead, build in some luscious rewards as strong motivators to follow through with your intentions.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Laughter and other underrated delights are in store today, and you'll gravitate to those who bring out the lighter side in others. You can find them in ordinary places where people feel free to be themselves.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). People trying to prove their power may not believe they are powerful deep down. The truly competent don't usually need to advertise it constantly. Watch out for the red flag of overcompensation.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You remember both the positive and the negative about a situation, and you're still sorting through the complex mix of associated emotions. This gives you options that a more limited person doesn't have.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Not every interaction will leave you energized, but healthy relationships involve some form of exchange: support, laughter, learning or shared understanding. If you consistently walk away from someone feeling depleted, pause and reflect on what might need attention.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Happiness is difficult to define and nearly impossible to measure, yet it remains a worthy aim. Without it, the other things we can count don't count for much. Today, your attractions, impulses and appetites are hinting at what might make you happy, and you're paying attention.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't want to ruffle any feathers or say anything that might make people feel awkward, but you're still deciding who to trust. A little more information will help. Ask your questions. People who mean well are usually glad to clear things up.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Double up on your gratitude practice today because appreciation multiplies exponentially what it focuses on. When you notice what is working, people and circumstances offer more of it, as though attention itself were a kind of invitation.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People assume you're all discipline and strategy, but today reveals another advantage: you know how to play the long game. What looks like patience to others is actually quiet confidence that the payoff is already on its way.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your originality is not a side effect; it's the main feature. While others try to blend in or follow the script, you wander off and invent a better one. The people who appreciate brilliance will recognize it immediately.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Your imagination is not escapism; it's reconnaissance. The visible world is a work in progress. You keep noticing possibilities floating just beneath the surface. Follow the most intriguing one to discover something beautiful before anyone else does.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

**Newsday Crossword**

**WALKING AT WORK** by Doug Peterson  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Thick carpet
- 5 Much too confident
- 9 Ten-cent coin
- 13 Not bright, as colors
- 14 Leaning Tower city
- 15 Removed the center of, as apples
- 16 Author unknown: Abbr.
- 17 Change for a \$5 bill
- 18 Improving with time, as wine
- 19 Sightseeing group leader
- 21 Magazine edition
- 22 Inventive thoughts
- 23 Voice of Apple devices
- 25 Untidiness
- 28 V-shaped cut in wood
- 31 Wise maxim
- 35 Alert in advance
- 37 \_\_\_ the line (followed orders)
- 39 Interior design style
- 40 "Now \_\_\_ seen everything!"
- 41 Baton-passing race
- 42 British nobleman below duke
- 43 Prayer's last word
- 44 Give a speech
- 45 Some car turns
- 47 Male deer
- 49 Plant sprouting on a ceramic "pet"
- 51 Transported, as students
- 55 Type of seaweed
- 58 Worker delivering documents

- 62 Thin ropes
- 63 Wheel shaft
- 64 Creme-filled cookie
- 65 Wear away
- 66 Whirled around
- 67 Dark-colored wines
- 68 Damp, as morning lawns
- 69 Arrange in some order
- 70 Online crafts website

**DOWN**

- 1 Petty quarrel
- 2 Capital of Vietnam
- 3 For all to hear
- 4 Any literary style
- 5 Wife or husband
- 6 Short skirt
- 7 Pre-owned

- 8 Oxygen and neon
- 9 Person watching pooches
- 10 Colored part of the eye
- 11 Restaurant list
- 12 Border line
- 15 Capital of Egypt
- 20 Video arcade regular
- 24 Rural hotel
- 26 Do laps in a pool
- 27 Rescues
- 29 Pepsi or Coke
- 30 Warmth from a furnace
- 31 "Beverage" suffix for lemon
- 32 Hand out poker cards
- 33 Farmland measure
- 34 Bag carrier for 18

- holes
- 36 Landlord's income
- 38 Change the color of
- 41 Untrustworthy person
- 43 "\_\_\_ was saying..."
- 46 The things nearby
- 48 Not in class today
- 50 Gather in bulk
- 52 Sleeper's noisy sound
- 53 Type of heron
- 54 Homeowners' documents
- 55 Scored 100% on
- 56 Folk knowledge
- 57 Get taller
- 59 Trade fair, for short
- 60 Speak unclearly
- 61 Reddish, as cheeks

**Sudoku**

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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.

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16					17					18			
19				20						21			
	22						23	24					
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## HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 2

from those in a rapidly gentrifying area, for example.

Destination: Home, which raised nearly \$80 million for this effort from private donors, is giving each community \$500,000 to plan their own homelessness prevention program modeled after Santa Clara County's, and then at least \$5 million to run the program for three years. The first programs are expected to launch this fall.

The University of Notre Dame will evaluate the programs to see if they work. If they do, Destination: Home plans to push for a nationwide prevention strategy.

San Mateo County signed on to be a test community because it's an "exciting opportunity," said Amy Davidson, director of the county's Center on Homelessness. The county already runs an emergency financial assistance program, but it doesn't screen participants to determine who is most likely to end up on the street. With Destination: Home's help, the county will launch a second program that more specifically targets people at risk of homelessness.

"It seemed like a really great learning experience for us to try to learn what works really well, and what haven't we done that we could consider doing," Davidson said.

### LOWER RATES OF HOMELESSNESS

Five other Bay Area communities, including San Francisco and Oakland, already have similar prevention programs, which together have served more than 30,000 people. They're supported by the organizations All Home and Bay Area Community Services, which helped fund the programs and developed a standardized online form that evaluates each applicant's risk of homelessness. A sixth program in Marin County is set to launch later this year.

In San Francisco, participants were 40% less likely to end up homeless than those in similar circumstances who didn't get help. Between March 2023 and February 2025, less than 5% of program participants became homeless within a year of receiving prevention funds, compared with 8% of similarly situated people who didn't receive funds.

In Los Angeles County, people helped by the Homelessness Prevention Unit were 71% less likely to later end up in a homeless shelter or use street outreach services. As in Santa Clara County, the overall rates of homelessness are still small: Less than 2% of people enrolled in the program became homeless and used street or shelter services within 18 months, compared to a little more than 6% of people in similar circumstances but not enrolled in the program.

Los Angeles County's tool is unique because it uses AI to predict who is most likely to become homeless. Participants don't apply to the program. If the AI model picks them out, program staff cold-call them and invite them to participate.

The county is still testing the program, and a detailed analysis is expected next year. In the meantime, local leaders have thrown their support behind it. The county recently poured additional Measure A funding into the program, and is launching a new prevention program focused on young people.

Feeding off the momentum generated by these efforts, a bill introduced this year would require the state to establish a statewide homelessness prevention strategy by July 2027. The state is expecting a budget deficit this year, and Assembly Bill 1924 doesn't come with funding. But supporters say it's still a step forward.

"Now that we have proven models from the Bay Area and LA, we believe that it's time for the state to be doing more to articulate goals and strategies for having a prevention program, with the hope that in the future if there's more budget surplus those strategies could get better funding," said Irene Farnsworth, director of regional homelessness prevention for All Home, which is co-sponsoring the bill by Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, a Democrat from Encino.

### 'THEY WON'T JUST LEAVE YOU HANGING'

Desiré Campusano knows how to hustle. She's crashed with relatives when she couldn't afford rent and worked multiple jobs at once. But in 2021, something unexpected happened: She became an emergency foster parent to two of her young relatives. She felt herself foundering.

That's when she found Santa Clara County's homelessness prevention program. It helped her stay afloat as she navigated moving into her own apartment in Milpitas, changing jobs and suddenly becoming a single guardian to two children.

She asked for help twice that year, once receiving her full rent payment of \$1,575, and once receiving \$1,000 to help her get by. The next year, her rent increased and she asked for help each time she couldn't quite make the payment — for example when the kids got COVID and couldn't go to day care, so she had to miss work and not get paid. She got help four times that year.

"I'd be fine for a month or two, and then I'd need it again," Campusano said.

In 2023, her rent went up again and she had to move out. She went to stay with her godfather in Hollister, but that meant a grueling commute to San Jose for work every day. Then, at the start of 2025, Campusano moved into a subsidized apartment in San Jose. The county's homelessness prevention program helped her secure the apartment by paying her first and last month's rent.

That ongoing support was a gamechanger for Campusano, who finally feels like she's back on her feet. She's now teaching sociology and Mexican-American history at San Jose City College.

"They won't just leave you hanging," she said. "They'll make sure you feel stable."

Marisa Kendall, CalMatters Homelessness Reporter



## MONDAY | MARCH 30

### PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! 6pm-Close. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2026-03-02T18>

### THE GORDONS IMPROV RESIDENCY

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. Welcome to The Gordons Improv Show at Westside Comedy Theater! IMPROV RESIDENT TEAM NIGHT! Check out our current lineup of Resident Improv Teams! These teams perform Long-Form Improv all inspired by a suggestion from the audience. Think of it as a sitcom made up on the spot. Catch them before they are gone! These teams rotate every three months! Get ready for a night filled with laughter, spontaneity, and hilarious moments. Join us for an evening of unscripted comedy where every joke is made up on the spot. Our talented improv performers will have you in stitches as they create scenes, characters, and stories based on your suggestions. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind experience! Grab your friends and come on down to Westside Comedy Theater for a night you won't forget. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-gordons-improv-residency/14863274/2026-03-30T19>

### MONDAY NIGHT SCRAMBLE

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Four Wood Golf 828 Pico Blvd, Suite 5 Santa Monica. Join us for our monthly scramble at Four Wood Golf! Whether you're a seasoned player or just looking for a fun way to kick off your week, this event is all about good competition and great company on the simulators. Time: 7 PM - 9 PM. Tee time: 7:15 PM. Highlights: Team up and play side-by-side with "scramble" rules. Prizes for standout pair. Free for members and 1 guest, \$30 for non-members, free for spectators. Spots are limited—reserve yours today and make it a great Monday night on the course. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/monday-night-scramble/18270208/2026-03-30T19>

### KARAOKE MONDAYS AT THE WHALER

101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 info@venicewhaler.com Does not apply on holidays Santa Monica. Monday night karaoke at Whale. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/karaoke-mondays-at-the-whaler/17408730/2026-03-02T00>

## TUESDAY | MARCH 31

### MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room at Virginia Avenue Park. Each week there will be something new: Exercise, Talking with Friends, Learning, Guest Presenters, Health & Wellness! For more information call (310) 458-8688. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2026-03-03T10>

### GENTLE YOGA WITH KIM

11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Free Community Gentle Yoga created with care for those impacted by the Palisades Fire In case this event has been updated, please visit <https://www.pcrscm.org/event/gentle-yoga-with-kim-2e87b> for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/gentle-yoga-with-kim/18425306/2026-03-31T11>

### WALK-IN TUTORING WITH LAURIE

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Walk-In Tutoring With Laurie Walk-in tutoring is available for any adult who needs help with internet searches, filling out forms, English conversation, reading, writing, resumes, and applications, studying for... Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/walk-in-tutoring-with-laurie/17128550/2026-03-31T14>

### SUSHI-MAKING CLASSES AT SOKO

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Fairmont Miramar - Soko Sushi 101 Wilshire Blvd Santa Monica. This February, discover the art of sushi at Soko with a new hands-on sushi-making class led by Chef Masa Shimakawa. This 90-minute, beginner-friendly experience begins with a sparkling sake welcome drink followed by guided instruction on crafting classic salmon, yellowtail, crab, and tuna rolls. Perfect for couples, best friends, or anyone looking to elevate their Valentine's Day celebration with a playful twist on the traditional dinner date. \$114.00 - \$114 per ticket + tax. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sushi-making-classes-at-soko/17977012/2026-03-24T17>

### COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE X SPIN PR: PARTNERSHIP ACROSS CITIES & LEADERSHIP

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Viceroy 1819 Ocean Ave Santa Monica. Power in Partnership Across Cities & Leadership featuring Traci Park and Lana Negrete in partnership with Spin PR, SMDP, Venbrook, Viceroy. Last year's Community Collective women's event: <https://lamag.com/events/community-collective-rebuild-la-honors-women-leaders/>. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/community-collective-x-spin-pr-partnership-across-cities-leadership/18267131/2026-03-31T18>

### 8PM FREE "ROXY'S GOT BALLS" BINGO TUESDAYS @ TINY'S HI-DIVE IN LOS ANGELES!

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Tiny's Hi-Dive 12012 West Pico Boulevard Los Angeles. 8pm TUESDAYS "Roxy's Got Balls!" Drag Queen BINGO is LIVE & FREE at Tiny's Hi-Dive in Los Angeles w/ Roxy Wood! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/8pm-free-roxy-s-got-balls-bingo-tuesdays-tiny-s-hi-dive-in-los-angeles/14857154/2026-03-03T20>

### TUESDAY OPEN MIC

10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. The best open mic in Los Angeles! The Tuesday Open Mic is a weekly open mic. Hop onstage and perform your best 3 minutes! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/tuesday-open-mic/16004734/2026-03-03T22>

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