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2 **Camping arrests**
With few results.

3 **Tough on crime**
Are Democrats?

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

4 **Restaurant Review**
Pacific Catch.

5 **Retail theft**
$4.4M recovered.

Volume 24 Issue 106 MONDAY 4/21/25 smdp.com

100 days after fire, officials vow resilient recovery as rebuilding begins across LA's burn zone

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

One hundred days after wildfire swept through Pacific Palisades, Altadena and parts of Malibu, local, state and federal leaders gathered on Friday afternoon at Will Rogers State Beach to outline the scale of the devastation and the scope of the response.

The press conference, led by State Senator Ben Allen and framed by the charred hills behind the Palisades Bowl mobile home park, featured a parade of high-level speakers. But beneath the usual declarations of resilience, the message was more pointed: rebuilding is underway, but hard policy work lies ahead to ensure no community is left behind.

"We've got a long way to go," Allen said, standing beside residents still unable to access the remains of their homes. "There's been enormous progress, but also enormous gaps. And we have to close them, fast."



Scott Snowden

PALISADES: L-R LA City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto, LA Mayor Karen Bass, Senator Ben Allen, Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, LA County Assessor Jeff Prang.

Mayor Karen Bass described the city's wildfire recovery as "the fastest in modern California history," citing a permitting process that kicked off just 57 days after the fires, compared to 123 days after the Camp Fire in 2018. She also noted that the Palisades branch library, destroyed in the fire, was cleared for rebuild in just six days, down from the original 30-day estimate.

Yet speed hasn't solved everything. Thousands remain displaced, traffic chokes the Pacific Coast Highway and for many residents, the trauma hasn't passed.

"Recovery is months ahead of schedule," Bass said, adding, "But

SEE **RECOVERY** PAGE 7

Downtown 'entertainment zone' anchors light City Council agenda

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica City Council will consider creating an entertainment zone on the Third Street Promenade at its April 22 meeting, allowing customers to drink alcohol in designated areas during special events.

The proposal for a one-year pilot program comes after Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 969 last September, which allows local governments to establish entertainment zones where restaurants and bars can sell alcohol to-go for consumption in public spaces.

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 7

Rush of new students for Pali High's first day could snarl Downtown traffic

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Palisades Charter High School will begin in-person classes at its temporary "Pali South" location in downtown Santa Monica on Tuesday, bringing approximately 2,500 students to the former Sears building at 4th Street and Colorado Avenue.

City officials are warning residents and commuters to avoid the downtown area during peak

SEE **PALI HIGH** PAGE 5



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SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BID NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SMMUSD invites sealed proposals for: BID #25.24 – Lincoln Middle School Walk-In Cooler and Walk-In Freezer Replacement. All proposals must be electronically submitted via Secure Bids at https://colbisecurebids.com/o/smmusd/BID2524 on or before: Thursday, May 22, 2025 12:00 P.M. BID forms and specifications may be obtained in the link provided within this notice.

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What happens after a homeless person is arrested for camping? Often, not much



Photo by Adam Perez for CalMatters

COURT: Wickey Two Hands, 77, awaits Fresno Superior Court Judge Brian Alvarez's decision on April 10, 2025.

Wickey Two Hands sat at the defense table on a recent Thursday morning, holding in his lap the red baseball cap he'd doffed out of respect for the judge.

The 77-year-old homeless man was supposed to be the first person tried in court under an ordinance Fresno passed last year making it a crime to camp in all public places. Over the past six months, he'd spent hours in a courtroom, arriving early for each hearing. He'd packed up and moved his campsite multiple times, trying to find out-of-the-way spots where he could avoid getting arrested again.

But instead of sending Two Hands' case before a jury, the judge — on the day trial was supposed to begin — dismissed all charges. The reason? The city waited too long to prosecute.

Two Hands' case shines a spotlight on a contradiction seen around the state in recent months. California cities are passing ordinances left and right that allow police to arrest or cite unhoused people for camping on their streets and sidewalks, or in their parks. Police are making arrests. But when it comes to prosecuting, trying or sentencing people for violating these ordinances, some cities haven't been able to follow through. In many cases, prosecutors aren't filing charges. If people are charged, their cases often are dismissed quickly. Two Hands' case was a rarity for how close it came to trial. But in the end, it too was thrown out.

That has some wondering: what's the point of arresting people at all?

Two Hands' case was set to be a bellwether to see if Fresno's camping ban — under which police have made several hundred arrests already — would hold up before a jury. The city and county — as well as Two Hands' lawyer, activists and even local journalists — invested a considerable amount of resources in the case before it was ultimately dismissed last week without a trial or any public hearings on its merits.

"They wasted a lot of time and money pursuing this case," said Ron Hochbaum, a law professor at the University of the Pacific who specializes in homelessness and poverty law. "When you think about all the people who were involved, from police to the city attorney's office to judges and court clerks and so on. That's probably hundreds of hours of work and thousands of dollars wasted. And that money would be better spent by simply offering Mr. Two Hands housing without arresting him."

CalMatters analyzed the resources that went into prosecuting Two Hands' case:

SEE **CAMPING** PAGE 11

California Republicans want to get tougher on crime. Are Democrats shifting their way?



Photo by Martin do Nascimento, CalMatters

CRIME: An inmate at San Quentin State Prison on March 17, 2023.

Republican state Sen. Brian Jones has been trying to block sex offenders from being released from prison through California's elderly parole program for several years. Last week, for the first time, his bill to do so made it out of its first committee.

It was just one of many votes Senate Bill 286 will have to survive in a long road ahead in the Capitol, but it caught Jones' attention. In a Legislature dominated by Democrats who often shelve Republican tough-on-crime proposals, the approval from the Senate Public Safety Committee was unanimous.

"I don't think it would have passed a committee last year," said Jones, the Senate minority leader.

California's Democratic legislators — who for years have been passing progressive measures designed to reduce sentences and lessen mass incarceration by emphasizing more rehabilitative solutions to crime — were dealt a blow last fall when an overwhelming majority of voters approved Proposition 36.

The measure backed by business owners, police and Republicans, increased sentences for some drug and theft crimes, partially undoing more lenient measures that voters approved just 10 years ago. Though many Democrats opposed the measure, they're now tasked with providing funding to carry it out.

Jones, of San Diego, said he's seeing Democrats inching toward stricter incarceration measures as a result. He said he saw a window to bring back the legislation this year.

"The smart Democrats are getting it," he said. "The voters spoke overwhelmingly."

The Public Safety Committee also gave unanimous approval this month for another bill Jones authored, SB 379, that would add regulatory guardrails before the Department of State Hospitals releases sexually violent predators. It's his fourth year in a row pushing that measure; the proposal passed the Senate and died in the Assembly last year, after failing to clear a single committee both years before that. SB 432, authored by a different Republican senator to increase penalties for selling or giving fentanyl to minors, also got unanimous approval in the committee this month.

Freshman Sen. Jesse Arreguín, an Oakland Democrat who chairs the committee, said his fellow Democrats don't intend to return to an era of overcrowded prisons or harsh penalties for lower-level crimes. But he acknowledged they're also shifting their thinking in response to their voters, and called that approach "pragmatic."

"That was the direction I was given as chair of the Public Safety Committee, was that we need to provide more balance in terms of how we look at criminal justice policy," he said, referring to the Democratic caucus. "Just focusing specifically on restorative justice and prevention, and not focusing on accountability (for offenders), that's not where the voters are now."

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS STILL ADVANCING

So far, the shift hasn't been enough to

SEE **CRIME** PAGE 6



Weather

Monday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 66.
Monday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.
Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 65.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2025/04/21	Mon	03:42 AM	4.18		H
2025/04/21	Mon	11:44 AM	0.03		L
2025/04/21	Mon	6:58 PM	3.56		H
2025/04/21	Mon	11:37 PM	2.65		L
2025/04/22	Tue	05:11 AM	4.30		H
2025/04/22	Tue	12:26 PM	-0.13		L
2025/04/22	Tue	7:12 PM	4.01		H
2025/04/23	Wed	12:36 AM	1.91		L
2025/04/23	Wed	06:19 AM	4.50		H
2025/04/23	Wed	1:02 PM	-0.18		L
2025/04/23	Wed	7:33 PM	4.56		H
2025/04/24	Thu	01:25 AM	1.07		L
2025/04/24	Thu	07:18 AM	4.64		H
2025/04/24	Thu	1:36 PM	-0.09		L
2025/04/24	Thu	7:58 PM	5.17		H
2025/04/25	Fri	02:11 AM	0.21		L
2025/04/25	Fri	08:12 AM	4.68		H
2025/04/25	Fri	2:10 PM	0.13		L
2025/04/25	Fri	8:27 PM	5.76		H
2025/04/26	Sat	02:57 AM	-0.57		L
2025/04/26	Sat	09:04 AM	4.58		H
2025/04/26	Sat	2:43 PM	0.45		L
2025/04/26	Sat	8:58 PM	6.25		H
2025/04/27	Sun	03:43 AM	-1.17		L
2025/04/27	Sun	09:56 AM	4.35		H
2025/04/27	Sun	3:17 PM	0.85		L
2025/04/27	Sun	9:33 PM	6.57		H
2025/04/28	Mon	04:32 AM	-1.51		L
2025/04/28	Mon	10:51 AM	4.02		H
2025/04/28	Mon	3:53 PM	1.29		L
2025/04/28	Mon	10:11 PM	6.64		H
2025/04/29	Tue	05:24 AM	-1.58		L
2025/04/29	Tue	11:51 AM	3.66		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: 4/16
20 24 42 43 49
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 131 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/15
6 10 13 24 63
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 112 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 4/16
12 19 23 33 41
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 19 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/17
6 11 13 33 37

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/17
EVENING: 7 1 4
Draw Date: 4/17
MIDDAY: 1 2 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/17
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:46.44

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RFP NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SMMUSD invites sealed proposals for: RFP #25.16 Districtwide Fire Protection System Testing, Alarm Testing, Maintenance, and Inspection Services. All proposals must be electronically submitted via Secure Bids at https://colbisecurebids.com/o/smmusd/2516 on or before: Thursday, May 22, 2025 2:00 P.M. BID forms and specifications may be obtained in the link provided within this notice.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: 24ENT-0103 (Variance) and 24ENT-0104 (Waiver)
1923 La Mesa Drive
APPLICANT: Rudy Valner, Starview Partners LLC
PROPERTY OWNER: Starview Partners LLC

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following request:

Variance and Waiver to allow a two-story, 375 square-foot addition to the rear of an existing single-unit dwelling in the Single-Unit Residential (R1) zoning district. The proposed Variance request is to allow the addition to exceed the 28-foot building height limit as measured from Segmented Average Natural Grade (SANG), and the Waiver request is to waive the minimum upper-story stepback requirement for the addition.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025, AT 6:00 PM**

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

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

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

Address your comments to: Liku Abera, Associate Planner
Re: 24ENT-0103 and 24ENT-0104

VIA E-MAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

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

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

ESPAÑOL
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

RE-VIEW

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Pacific Catch: A Fresh Wave in Santa Monica Dining



Jason Trott

PACIFIC CATCH: Good food and good service make for a great experience.

While chatter about restaurant closures swirls on the Westside, new openings like Pacific Catch at Second and Wilshire deserve the spotlight. It's not aiming for the upscale polish of Water Grill, but it nails a different vibe—spacious, relaxed, with private rooms ideal for groups or those who need a quieter corner to catch every word.

Early reviews mentioned shaky service, but my regular visits paint a different picture. The staff here holds their own against Santa Monica's best—friendly, attentive, and quick. We've even bonded with a server, Hannah, who goes out of her way to make every visit smooth, whether it's a casual drop-in or a planned gathering.

Just last week, I brought friends for a small party, and Pacific Catch delivered. The fish and chips, priced at $24, came as a hearty portion, crispy and paired with a pile of fries that didn't disappoint. I switched things up with the clam chowder, expecting the usual creamy standard. Instead, it was a briny, clam-packed surprise—light, fresh, and maybe even better than the traditional kind. My standby, the $35 miso black cod, was as stellar as ever, its delicate umami flavors hitting all the right notes. We added Thai Brussels sprouts for a spicy kick and split a pineapple upside-down cake that disappeared fast.

A couple of dishes miss the mark—the lobster's forgettable, and the Korean barbecue's sticky glaze is a pass for me. But the Mexican corn and Japanese glazed eggplant sides? Those are must-orders, bursting with bold, balanced flavors.

Pacific Catch is a welcome addition to Santa Monica—big enough to handle a crowd, inviting enough to feel like your own find. I'm not worried my praise will pack it out; there's plenty of space to go around. Absolutely worth a visit.

Merv Hecht, like many Harvard Law School graduates, went into the wine business after law. In 1988, he began writing restaurant reviews and books. His latest book "The Instant Wine Connoisseur, 3rd edition" is available on Amazon. He currently works for several companies that source and distribute food and wine products internationally. Please send your comments to: mervynhecht@yahoo.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SANTA MONICA

Venice Community Housing, Community Corp Break Ground on Affordable Housing Project

Venice Community Housing and Community Corporation of Santa Monica broke ground Wednesday on the 20th Street Apartments, a new affordable housing development in Santa Monica that will provide 78 units for low-income families and individuals who have experienced homelessness.

"Venice Community Housing is proud to expand its service area to Santa Monica and to have begun construction on these much-needed homes," said Erika Lee, executive director of VCH.

The project marks Community Corporation's first collaborative development with another nonprofit housing provider.

"Working together with Venice Community Housing, we can do even more to address our city's housing crisis and the urgent need for inclusive, environmentally sustainable homes," said Tara Barauskas, executive director of Community Corporation.

Several officials attended the groundbreaking, including Santa Monica Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Torosis, who emphasized the importance of such partnerships to maintain economic diversity and address homelessness.

The development, designed to meet LEED Gold standards, will feature solar panels, Energy Star appliances, 151 bike parking spaces, and is located near the 17th Street/SMC Expo line. Residents will have access to community amenities including a rooftop garden and outdoor play areas.

Financing comes from multiple sources including state housing programs, federal and state tax credits, and Bank of America as the senior construction lender.

Construction is expected to be completed by mid-2027.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SACRAMENTO

California Crime Rates Show Decline in 2024, Preliminary Data Suggests

Violent and property crimes in California decreased in 2024, according to preliminary data analyzed by the Public Policy Institute of California.

The analysis shows violent crime dropped by 4.6% and property crime fell by 8.5% compared to 2023 figures. The data, compiled from 29 California law enforcement agencies, indicates robberies decreased by 5.2% and aggravated assaults by 3.9%. Homicides fell by 5.9%.

Vehicle theft saw a significant reduction of 11.9%. Burglary and larceny decreased by 13.6% and 18.6% respectively when compared to pre-pandemic levels.

The decreases in California closely mirror trends in other states, where property crime declined by a similar 8.4%.

Since 2019, California has invested $1.1 billion to combat crime and improve public safety. In 2023, Governor Newsom announced an investment to fight organized retail crime, with $267 million distributed to 55 communities to hire more police and make more arrests.

The California Highway Patrol has collaborated with local law enforcement to target high-crime areas, focusing on reducing vehicle theft and organized retail crime. Since this initiative began, nearly 6,000 arrests have been made, about 4,500 stolen vehicles recovered, and nearly 300 firearms confiscated across Bakersfield, San Bernardino and Oakland.

Last August, Newsom signed bipartisan legislation to strengthen penalties for property crimes. California law allows for up to three years of jail time for organized retail theft, with a felony threshold of $950 - the 10th toughest threshold nationwide.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SACRAMENTO

California Retail Crime Task Force Reports $4.4 Million in Recovered Goods

Governor Gavin Newsom announced that California's Organized Retail Crime Task Force conducted 211 investigations since January, resulting in 383 arrests and the recovery of nearly 41,000 stolen goods valued at $4.4 million.

In March alone, the California Highway Patrol-led task force made 174 arrests and recovered $2,134,742 in stolen merchandise.

"The state remains committed to supporting businesses through continued retail theft enforcement, which month after month yields strong results," Newsom said.

In February, CHP officers dismantled a retail theft ring in the Bay Area, recovering stolen merchandise valued at more than $779,000. The following month, officers apprehended a suspect involved in the theft of 137 beauty items worth over $19,000 in Lincoln.

Recent data suggests crime rates are falling. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, property crime dropped by 8.5% and violent crime by 4.6% in 2024 compared to 2023.

Since its formation in 2019, the task force has been involved in over 3,700 investigations, leading to approximately 4,200 arrests and the recovery of more than 1.3 million stolen items valued at over $56 million.

Last August, Newsom signed bipartisan legislation to strengthen penalties for property crimes. California's felony threshold of $950 is the 10th toughest nationally, with penalties including up to three years jail time for organized retail theft.

The state has distributed $267 million to 55 communities to combat organized retail crime, enabling local jurisdictions to hire more police and secure more felony charges against suspects.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

PALI HIGH

FROM PAGE 1

hours if possible, as the influx of students is expected to significantly increase traffic congestion.

The school day will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2:46 p.m., creating anticipated traffic peaks between 7-8:30 a.m. and 2:30-4 p.m. This schedule coincides with nearby Santa Monica High School, further compounding traffic concerns in the downtown corridor.

In an online post, city officials said the first week of the new activation of this previously vacant corner will undoubtedly come with learning and adjusting. They've asked for community patience as they observe and address traffic flow, drop-off procedures and other logistics at the temporary campus.

Santa Monica has developed a comprehensive traffic and mobility plan to manage the transition, including deploying changeable message signs, stationing traffic safety personnel at key intersections, and adjusting signal timing to improve traffic flow.

The Santa Monica Police Department will deploy motor and traffic officers to monitor drop-off and pickup times. Los Angeles School Police will patrol the campus and immediate area during school hours, while Pali High will maintain 24/7 security guards on site.

Students will access the campus through multiple transportation options. Many will hopefully arrive via public transit, including the Metro E Line and Big Blue Bus, both of which are free for students with a registered GoPass. Others will be dropped off by parents at a designated lot behind the downtown Metro E Line station, with entrance on 5th Street.

The school has also arranged nine private charter buses to transport students from various locations. These buses will drop off students at the main entrance via the driveway on Colorado Avenue.

For families choosing to drive students to school, officials have established a specific route and protocol. The preferred path involves exiting the I-10 westbound at 4th/5th Street, turning onto 5th Street, then turning left into the drop-off lot. The area is designated for active loading and unloading only, and vehicles waiting or parked there will be directed to exit immediately.

Students can use a pedestrian tunnel from the drop-off lot to safely cross under 4th Street directly into the Pali South parking lot, avoiding foot traffic at the busy 4th and Colorado intersection.

Limited parking passes have been allocated to students and teachers in Parking Structures 5 and 6, located at 4th Street and Broadway and 2nd Street between Broadway and Santa Monica Boulevard, respectively.

For commuters driving into downtown, officials suggest exiting at Lincoln Boulevard for a smoother route, though they note that one lane in each direction will be closed on Lincoln between Broadway and Santa Monica Boulevard on Monday and Tuesday, potentially causing additional delays.

Palisades Charter High School's relocation to Santa Monica comes after devastating wildfires in the Pacific Palisades damaged portions of the school's original campus. Following the fires, students initially shifted to virtual learning before city officials and school administrators worked to establish the temporary location.

The school will operate at the Santa Monica site through the end of the academic year on June 6 with plans to return to its Palisades location when repairs are complete.

Santa Monica teams have worked across all city departments to facilitate the rapid transition, with an emergency order approved by the City Council expediting the process. Their efforts have focused on helping students return to in-person learning as quickly and safely as possible.

Physical education classes will be held at Historic Belmar Park, while after-school sports and other activities will take place at various parks, libraries and city facilities throughout Santa Monica.

editor@smdp.com

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA HOUSING 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. These plans will be due to HUD 60 days following the release of 2025 funding allocations, which is expected to occur in mid-May. Prior plans and reports are available at https://www.santamonica.gov/community-development-block-grant-and-home-investment-partnership-programs.

DATE/TIME: THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025 AT 6:15 PM
Check agenda at https://www.santamonica.gov/housing-commission 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 hhs@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 are wheelchair accessible. If you require any disability related accommodations (i.e. sign language interpreting, access to an amplified sound
system, etc.), please contact rene.ortega@santamonica.gov at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
Translation service available upon request. Please contact rene.ortega@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.



CRIME

FROM PAGE 3

worry Tinisch Hollins, executive director of Californians for Safety and Justice, a group that advocates for reduced imprisonment and pushed for the 2014 sentencing changes that voters approved.

She pointed to bills her organization has sponsored that are also advancing through the Legislature, including legislation to expand the state's efforts to clear criminal records to give past offenders second chances, and to require that the California Department of Corrections apply more good behavior credits to reduce prisoners' time served. With the state tight on cash, she said she doesn't believe lawmakers will be eager to significantly increase imprisonment and sees a "consensus that we shouldn't go back that way."

"Even Prop. 36 wasn't a referendum on reform," Hollins said. "There's still plenty of support for different approaches to public safety that really address the root cause and prevent crime from happening in the first place."

Any stricter measures the Legislature approves this year will ultimately be narrow, with Republicans pointing to extreme examples to push their case.

Jones' elderly parole bill targets a program the Corrections Department first created in 2014, in response to a court order to reduce prison crowding, that allows prisoners who are older than 60 and have served at least 25 years of their sentences to petition for release.

He tried in 2019 to restrict those convicted of sex offenses from being eligible; the bill never got a hearing. In 2020, lawmakers quietly lowered the eligibility for some prisoners to age 50, if they've served at least 20 years, though many have not been approved for release. The following year, Jones proposed a bill undoing that change for sex offenders, which went nowhere.

Between January 2021 and June 2024, the Board of Parole Hearings released 1,762 people through the elderly parole program, corrections spokesperson Emily Humpal wrote in an email. Department data analyzed by CalMatters show that while more people have been released under the elder program since 2021, the rates at which the board grants parole fluctuate between 14% and 20% each year, hovering just above the board's overall parole-granting rate. The department would not immediately provide a breakdown of their convictions, nor of how many of those released were between the ages of 50 and 60.

Now, 12,303 people currently imprisoned – nearly 14% of the prison population – are eligible for either form of elderly parole, Humpal said.

Jones' bill would bar those convicted of sexual felonies such as rape and child sexual abuse from parole eligibility at age 50. It would not affect their eligibility upon turning 60, or the parole eligibility date in their original sentences.

He also proposed blocking the earlier eligibility from people convicted of murder, but Arreguín's committee removed that provision with Jones' agreement before voting to advance the bill.

Proponents of the measure, including San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan, say victims shouldn't be forced to relive the trauma of parole hearings and the prospect of their abusers' release before the end of their original sentences.

They point to Mary Johnson, who identified herself as the childhood victim of rape and sexual abuse by her uncle. The abuser, Cody Klemp, was originally sentenced in the 1990s to 170 years. In 2023, under the elderly parole program, the Board of Parole Hearings recommended his release — then rescinded the decision last year. His next hearing is scheduled for 2029.

"Suddenly, I was no longer a 49-year-old woman, but I was a 13-year-old trapped and powerless and fighting again," Johnson said in a press conference. "No victim's family should have to fight over and over again to ensure that a dangerous predator serves the sentence that they were given."

CLOSING THE DOORS ON THE REHABILITATED?

A group of criminal justice reform and civil rights advocates including the American Civil Liberties Union opposes the legislation, arguing it would close the door on those who have been rehabilitated in prison and pose less of a public safety risk. Studies have found the chances of re-offense decrease as a defendant ages.

Gary Harrell, who was given a life sentence for his participation in a murder, testified that despite becoming eligible for parole in 1984, he wasn't released until about 40 years later, after he had gone before the parole board about 20 times. He said in the last two decades of his incarceration, he turned his life around, and now works a day job while in his spare time giving homeless Sacramento residents food and hygiene products.

"I have taken so much from others and now it's time to give back and do my part to make the world a better place," he said. "I hope you can see that the people who will be impacted by this bill are people like me who have changed and want to give back."

Arreguín said he proposed removing Jones' exclusion of people convicted of murder to focus the bill on sex offenses.

That tactic has yielded bipartisan backing in the last legislative session.

In 2023, Republican Sen. Shannon Grove of Bakersfield pushed a bill to increase penalties for child sex trafficking. Democrats in the Assembly Public Safety Committee resisted but, after a public outcry, Gov. Gavin Newsom stepped in with rare public comments in support of the legislation, which ultimately won more Democratic support and his signature.

Last year Grove's bill to increase penalties for soliciting a minor for prostitution — targeting the buyers of sex — also prevailed. Senate Democrats carved out exclusions for 16- and 17-year-olds who are allegedly solicited, out of concern it would inadvertently rope in older teenagers who aren't actually involved in or victims of trafficking. (The legal age of consent is 18.) This year, Grove is turning heads with a bill, Assembly Bill 379, co-authored with an Assembly Democrat, to undo those exclusions and apply the changes to all minors.

Jones acknowledged the tactic of focusing on sexual offenses is an incremental step toward tightening criminal sentences overall.

"We're smart enough to know how far we can go," he said.

By Jeanne Kuang. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SACRAMENTO

California Launches Streamlined Process for Wildfire Safety Projects

California has introduced a new online streamlining process to expedite state approval for forest and vegetation management projects aimed at reducing catastrophic wildfire risks.

The process could shorten project approvals to as little as 30 days—saving a year or more of review time for complex projects.

"Peak fire season is still ahead of us, yet this year has already been marked by some of the most destructive wildfires in California's history. We need to move faster and go bigger," Governor Gavin Newsom said.

The initiative advances key actions identified in the Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force's plan for 2025 and builds on statewide efforts to prepare communities ahead of peak wildfire season.

A new Statewide Fuels Reduction Environmental Protection Plan ensures critical wildfire safety projects proceed quickly while maintaining environmental protections. The plan requires compliance with best management practices to safeguard water and air quality, tribal cultural resources, and wildlife habitats.

State leaders are also developing recommendations to expand prescribed and cultural fire practices. On April 11, a virtual briefing provided the public with an opportunity to share recommendations.

California has more than doubled investments in wildfire prevention since 2020, providing over $2.5 billion in wildfire resilience with an additional $1.5 billion to be allocated from the 2024 Climate Bond.

From 2021-2023, the state and its partners treated nearly 1.9 million acres, including 730,000 acres in 2023. Since 2019, CAL FIRE has awarded more than $450 million for 450 wildfire prevention projects.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

"This pilot program is being structured around permitted events to allow the service of alcohol within the entertainment zone, with the goal of holding the first event in conjunction with Pride on the Promenade in June 2025," according to the council agenda.

In the staff report, officials said the potential program is part of Santa Monica's ongoing economic recovery efforts to support existing businesses and attract new ones to the city, especially in the downtown area.

City staff studied San Francisco's entertainment zone on Front Street, which reported significant economic benefits. One participating business saw a 1,500% increase in sales during the area's first event.

According to the report, the Police Department requested the program be established as a pilot to assess its success and make necessary adjustments. The city plans to hold at least three events during the pilot period.

The ordinance would outline the geographic boundaries, operating hours and types of alcohol permitted in the zone. A separate management plan would provide detailed guidelines for operation, including security protocols, sanitation measures and age verification methods.

"By creating a vibrant and engaging public space where families can gather and adults can responsibly enjoy alcoholic beverages purchased from local businesses, the City can attract more visitors, increase foot traffic, and boost spending at Promenade establishments," the staff report states.

The first event is planned for June 21, 2025, in conjunction with Downtown Santa Monica's annual Pride celebration.

The staff is also seeking direction on streamlining the permitting process for entertainment zone events, potentially including standardized plans and self-certification components where appropriate.

The council will consider whether these measures should be pursued "without compromising public safety requirements," according to the agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

A pair of items on the consent calendar reiterate local disaster measures. The first ratifies the city's state of emergency over homelessness and the second addresses January's fires.

A third item on the consent calendar will consider a new ordinance requiring Santa Monica residency for council-appointed members to the boards of three non-profit organizations: Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM), Santa Monica Travel and Tourism, Inc. (SMTT), and the Santa Monica Pier Corporation (SMPC).

The ordinance comes after a January 28 council directive to codify resident representation on these boards.

"Resident representation on the governing boards of DTSM, SMTT, and SMPC is an asset to the community, as residents provide oversight and feedback on programming, operations, and leadership for these critical organizations that help steer the local economy and promote the Santa Monica brand, history, and culture," the staff report states.

Currently, the city council appoints six directors to DTSM's 13-member board, five directors to SMTT's 11-member board, and all seven members to SMPC's board.

Of the six council-appointed DTSM board members, only two are confirmed city residents. All five SMTT appointees are residents, and two of the three listed SMPC members are residents.

If approved, the new requirements would apply only to future appointments and reappointments. The city cannot remove current board members, as these are independent non-profits governed by state law regarding director removal.

Council will meet on Tuesday, April 22 in City Hall at 1685 Main Street at 5:30 p.m.

editor@smdp.com

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

RECOVERY

FROM PAGE 1

every day someone can't return home is a day too long."

Councilmember Traci Park, who introduced more than 50 legislative motions in the wake of the fire, said the city is still grappling with infrastructure shortfalls, insurance delays and the ongoing lack of access to some of the hardest-hit properties.

"We know this isn't abstract," she said, adding, "This is real. It's homes, it's schools, it's the fabric of daily life and it's not going to be rebuilt overnight."

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, whose district includes Altadena and Pasadena, outlined a suite of bills aimed at preventing displacement, closing legal loopholes and preserving affordable housing. Among them are:

SB 610 – co-authored with Allen, this will cap rent hikes in mobile home parks post-disaster and require swift debris removal by landlords.

SB 658 – the "Community Preservation Act" would give nonprofits and public entities the first right to purchase fire-damaged land before outside investors can swoop in.

SB 293 – if passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee, the "Generational Homeowner Protection Act" would help families preserve inherited property by extending the time to update title records, critical for maintaining eligibility for aid and tax relief.

"Altadena is not for sale," Perez said, pushing back against concerns that fire-hit neighborhoods could be targeted by speculators. "We will not let Wall Street turn our pain into profit."

California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara detailed a grim but predictable pattern: thousands of claims, spotty fulfillment and a system ill-prepared for modern megafires. His office has logged 38,000 claims since the fires, with just over $12 billion paid to date.

Lara is backing several bills, including:

SB 495 – the "Eliminate the List Act" would require insurers to pay full contents coverage without demanding survivors itemize every lost possession.

SB 547 – this will extend non-renewal protections to commercial properties and multifamily housing.

AB 597 – would cap public adjuster fees at 15 percent to prevent gouging of survivors.

"Wildfire survivors should not be re-traumatized by bureaucracy," Lara said. "We need to get them paid, quickly and fairly."

For residents like John Brown who is the Palisades Bowl Community Partnership Co-Chair, legislative change can't come fast enough. Standing beside fellow survivors, Brown shared a deeply personal account of life before and after the fire. His community of mobile home owners still faces locked gates, legal limbo and a landlord unwilling to cooperate with recovery efforts.

"We were homeowners but not landowners," Brown told the gathered assembly of guests and television news crews. "Now, we can't even sift through the ashes of our lives without asking permission."

Allen is sponsoring SB 749, which would give residents in mobile home parks the first right to buy land if owners opt to sell or redevelop. Nonprofits would be next in line, preventing what he called "insult on top of injury."

The bill follows weeks of reported inaction and opacity from park ownership, despite hundreds of displaced residents left with nowhere to go.

"There's been talk of turning this site into temporary worker housing for the rebuild," Brown said. "We're not temporary, this is our home. Or it was."

The air quality aftermath was another flashpoint. Senator Allen was also joined by National Stewardship Action Council Executive Director Heidi Sanborn, who is sponsoring SB 501. This would require manufacturers to create disposal plans for toxic household products. Improper storage of cleaners, batteries and chemicals in homes contributed to dangerously high levels of lead and chlorine in the air following the fire. The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 22, 2025.

"If we don't act, we'll breathe this in again," Allen said.

Sanborn pointed to data from LA County showing that despite spending $14 million annually on household hazardous waste collection, as much as 80 percent still goes unmanaged.

The scope of the rebuilding effort is staggering. According to LA County Assessor Jeff Prang, 14,000 properties were damaged or destroyed. His office has already processed over $8 billion in tax assessment reductions, with total impact expected to hit $20 billion.

But it's not just about speed, Allen emphasized. It's about fairness.

"The fires revealed deep weaknesses in our laws, our systems and our planning," he said. "This is our chance to get it right, not just for today, but for whatever comes next."

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 04/02/25 2025065937The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Dance with Mlss Alice 8424 Santa Monica Blvd #737 West Hollywood, CA 90069 . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Etoile Arts Inc 8424 Santa Monica Blvd #737 West Hollywood, CA 90069 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CAThis is Business is Conducted: A Corporation. . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 03/2025. Registrant /Corp/LLC Name Etoile Arts Inc Title: CEO Alice Fitzgerald . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 04/02/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 03/17/25 2025054359The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Kathryn D. Deal. PH. D. 5522 W 79th St Los Angeles, CA 90045. Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Kathryn D. Deal 5522 W 79th St Los Angeles, CA 90045. If corporation or LLC- Print State of This is Business is Conducted: An Individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 03/2025. Registrant /Corp/LLC Name Kathryn D. Deal Title: Owner Kathryn D. Deal . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 03/17/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 03/19/25 2025055853The following person(s) is (are) doing business as AdTech 1338 N Ogden Dr Los Angeles, CA 90046. Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Messer Media LLC 1338 N Ogden Dr Los Angeles, CA 90046. If corporation or LLC- Print State of This is Business is Conducted: A Limited Liability Company . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2024. Registrant /Corp/LLC Name Messer Media LLC Title: President Scott Messer . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 03/19/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 03/03/25 2025042554The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Kinematic Arts 1014 Broadway 1100 Santa Monica, CA 90401. . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Sparkle Bubble Inc 1014 Broadway 1100 Santa Monica, CA 90401 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Corporation . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 02/2025. Registrant /Corp/LLC Name Sparkle Bubble Inc Title: CEO Julene Renee . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 03/19/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS

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FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 04/17/25 2025077879The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Kitchen Q 725 Arizona Ave Suite 200 Santa Monica, CA 90401 . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are IDA Food, LLC 725 Arizona Ave Suite 200 Santa Monica, CA 90401 . Inc. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Limited Liability Company . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 04/25 . Registrant /Corp/LLC IDA Food, LLC Title: Treasurer Mathew Park . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 04/17/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 04/17/25 2025077950The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Forager Travel 1351 Pine St Santa Monica , CA 90405. . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. 3605265The full name of the registrant(s) is/are O Captain! My Captain!, Inc 1351 Pine St Santa Monica , CA 90405. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Corporation . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 04/2025. Registrant /Corp/LLC Name O Captain! My Captain!, Inc Title: President Micahel Austin Sipes . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 04/17/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 04/14/25 2025074597The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Dr Brett's Sports Therapy 28632 Roadside Drive Suite 152 Agoura Hills, CA . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. 3009523The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Brett P. Darrington Chiropractor Corporation 28632 Roadside Drive Suite 152 Agoura Hills, CA If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Corporation . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. Registrant /Corp/LLC Brett P. Darrington Chiropractor Corporation Title: President Brett P. Darrington . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 04/14/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 04/17/25 2025077822 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Blip 558 10th St Santa Monica, CA 90402. Inc. . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. 2229315The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Bruce Leddy

DBA

Independent Productions, Inc 558 10th St Santa Monica, CA 90402. Inc. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Corporation . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. Registrant /Corp/LLC Bruce Leddy Independent Productions, IncTitle: President Bruce Leddy . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 04/17/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00158 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Deborah Sarah Neary for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Deborah Sarah Neary with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Deborah Sarah Neary to Deborah Neary Chance . 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 05/09/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 7512 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401 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

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Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00159 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Amy Marisa Allen for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Amy Marisa Allen with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Amy Marisa Allen to Amy Marisa Allen Wilkins. 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 05/30/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: - The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 7512 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401 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

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Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25CMCP00059 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Michael Marcel De Carlo for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Michael Marcel De Carlo with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Michael Marcel De Carlo to Michael Marcel Kenne . 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 06/3/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: E Room: 1004 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 7512 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401 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

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Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25TRCP00112 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Victoria Katlin Amato for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Victoria Katlin Amato with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Victoria Katlin Amato to Victoria Katlin Amato-Truan . 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:

Name Change

Date 05/2/2025 Time: 9:30 a.m, Dept: 1 Room: 200 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse One Regent Street Los Angeles, CA 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

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Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00122 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Ma Ramoncita (Pola) Martinez for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Pola Selva with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Ma Ramoncita (Pola) Martinez to Pola Ramona Martinez . 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 04/25/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 7512 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401 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

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Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00172 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Alexandra Lauren Pinkus for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Alexandra Lauren Pinkuswith this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Alexandra Lauren Pinkusto Alexandra Lauren Stodghill . 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 05/16/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 7512 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401 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

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Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00186 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of Johan Mischa Moiallaistein for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Johan Mischa Moiallaistein this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Johan Mischa Moiallaistein to Johan Mischa Mojallali Zuz. 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 05/23/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica CA 90401. . 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

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00166 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Belinda Louise Abner for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Belinda Louise Abnerthis court for a decree of changing names as follows: Belinda Louise Abner to Belinda Louise Phillips. 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 05/16/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 7512 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401 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

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Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00180 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Nicholas Dujmovic for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Nicholas Dujmovic this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Nicholas Dujmovic to Nicholas Shaffer . 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 05/23/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica, Ca 90401. 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

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Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25STCP01312 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Thomas David Garceau for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Thomas David Garceau this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Thomas David Garceau to Tommy David Garceau. 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 09/12/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: 45 Room: 529. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 111 N Hill St 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

Summons

NOTICE (HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE 11488.4 & 11488.5) NOTICE OF INTERESTED PARTY/CLAIMANT (NOTICIA A RECLAMANTE O PERSONA INTERESADA) Cortez Donta Darnell Penn Gale Cameron William Trent Young Joseph Ernest Hanos IIPLAINTIFF HAS FILED A LAWSUIT TO FOREFEIT THE FOLLOWING: $69, 244.00 currency. (EL DEMANDANTE HA COMENZADO UNA ACCIÓN LEGAL PARA EL DECOMISO DE LA SIGUIENTE PROPIEDAD) $69,244.00 currency You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this notice is served on you to file a typewritten response at this court. You may not use a Claim Opposing Forfeiture as a response A letter or phone call will not protect you; your typewritten response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case, and the money and property may be 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 call an attorney referral service or a legal aid office (listed in the phone book). Después de que le entreguen esta noticia usted tene un plazo de 30 DÍAS CALENDARIOS pare presentar una respuesta escrita a máquina en esta Corte. Un reclamo opuesto a este procedimiento de entrega no servirá como respuesta. Una Carta o una llamada telefónica no ofrece protección; su respuesta escrita a menudo tiene que cumplir con las formalidades 169,41es apropiadas si usted quiere que la Corte escuche su caso. Si usted no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puedo perder a/ caso, y /a pueden quitar, a/ dinero y otras cosas de su propiedad sin aviso adicional por parte de la corte. Existen otros requisitos legales. Puede que usted quiera /1 amar a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no Conozco a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de referencia de abogados o a una oficina de ayuda legal. ((vea el directono telefónica).The name and address of the court is:(El nombre y dirección de la corte es)Mendocino County Superior Court 100 North State StreetUkiah, California 95482Case Number (Numero del Caso) 25CV01662The name, address and phone 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 noi tiene abogado, es): C DAVID EYSTER (SBN 113115) MENDOCINO County DISTRICT ATTORNEY Ducan M James. SBN-40505 Deputy 100 North State Street Room G-1 0 (707) 463-421 I Post Office Box 1000 (707) 463-4687 (fax) FOR COURT USE ONLY/SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE) ELECTRONICALLY FILED1/9/2025 11:35 AMSuperior Court of CaliforniaCounty of Mendocinoby C Cynthia Achee Deputy Clerk

GET IT DAILY...

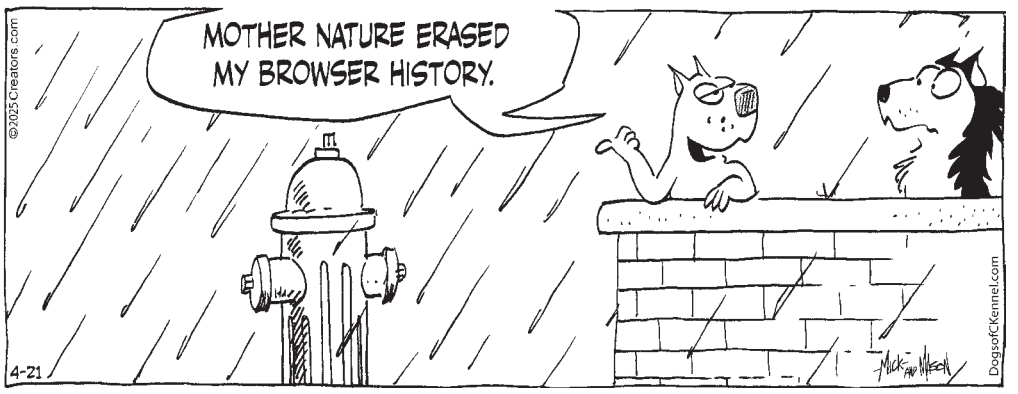
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



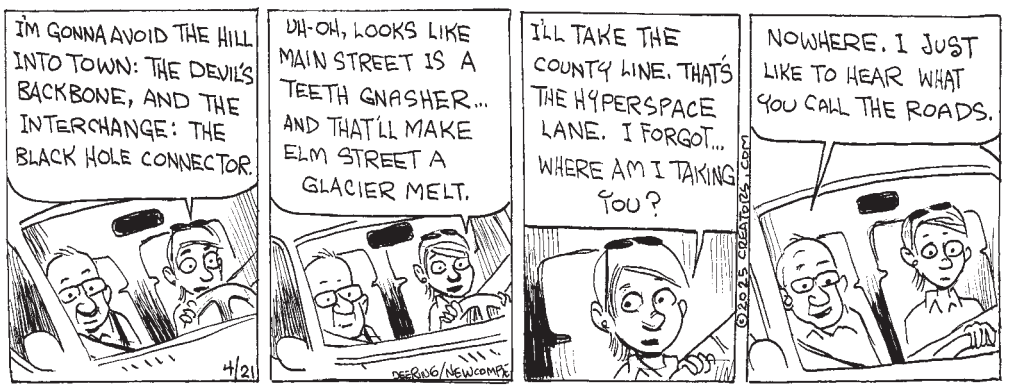
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I TOLD FRANK NOT TO WEAR THAT."

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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6552

Sydney getaway

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

Atop
Banksia
Blaxland
Brisk
Bush
Cafe
Cold
Creek
Famous
Guide
Hazelbrook
Holiday
Horseriding
Lawson
Leura
Line
Mist
Motels
Open
Optic
Parks
Rail
Range
Region
Rock
Rugged
Scenery
Sites
Skyway
Snow
Steep cliffs
Storied
Thrill
Tracks
Views
Walks
Wentworth Falls
York

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 21)

It will be a year of beautiful relationships and productive workflows that keep the good vibes plentiful in your life. Acting fast is your gift, and with your quick responses, you'll move on sweet investments and turn bright ideas into adventures. More highlights: creative and spiritual highs, self-education you will later teach and/or publish, and a sport or fitness goal realized. Gemini and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 28, 1, 18 and 33.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's nothing in your world today that requires your constant vigilance, analyzation or judgment. It's OK to decide not to decide. Calm your mind, and it will reset to a more open perspective when you return to decision-making.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Whether it's a desire that's been shining like a beacon for years or secreted until now, there is possibility and support all around you. See it once and you recognize it everywhere — the positive signs pointing you toward your heart's fond wishes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Since self-awareness is tricky, you may not fully recognize your own strengths and talents. However, when you observe others who lack the qualities or abilities you naturally possess, it becomes easier to see your own value.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People are complex. No one is entirely one thing, so what would be the point in deciding upon one way to interact? Make your rules if you need them to feel secure, but know that your instincts will handle any and all life throws at you in the moment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Not every step you take needs to be a grand victory — progress itself is valuable. Instead of obsessing over immediate success, focus on keeping things moving. You don't have to have everything figured out right now — just keep moving forward.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There is something going on in your life that is too complex to be tackled directly, at least for now. Take an approach similar to that of astronomers studying black holes, observing their effect on the things around them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Often, those who have been there, done that are far less impressed than the uninitiated. But today it's the veterans — those who understand the work and personal cost — who will be your biggest fans, cheerleaders, helpers and mentors.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've tended to your needs and responsibilities without acknowledging or appreciating your own efforts. Just as you would thank someone else for a favor, it's important to recognize and appreciate yourself for all that you do to keep this show on the road.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Relationships are a dance. A bit of pushing and pulling is to be expected in this foxtrot. Even when you're leading, you'd rather pull than push, which goes perfectly with your magnetic personality. You'll enchant!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You know that area of your life that hasn't fully developed or reached its potential yet? Well, everything has its season. Your time is approaching, and when it arrives, you'll see changes in your circumstances that allow this potential to unfold.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People confide in you regardless of your preferences. You'll get unexpected insights and answers to questions you didn't ask, which may include uncomfortable or surprising information that, overall, deepens your understanding of others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Those who don't know what is expected of them will be unlikely to guess it today, so be clear. Don't use clues; use models. If this isn't possible, use words to paint a clear picture of what your desired result looks like.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Newsday Crossword

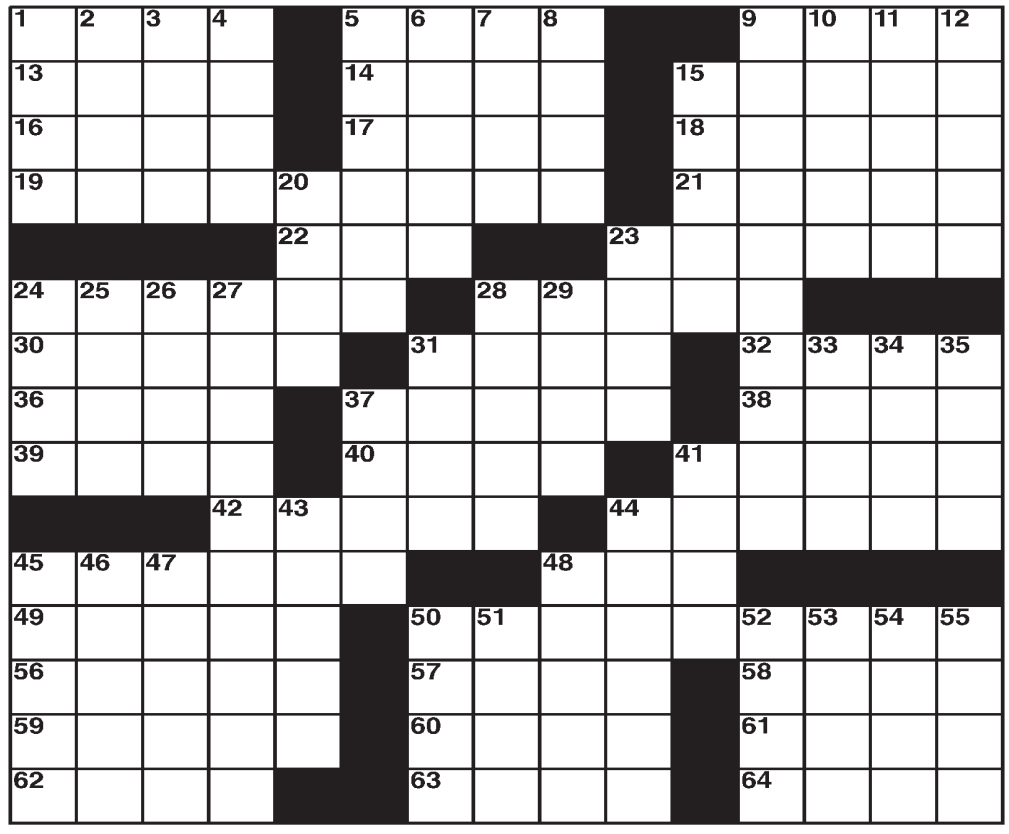
NEEDLE HOLDERS by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Decide not to visit
5 Any number in a spreadsheet
9 Junk email
13 Vessel of 1492
14 Messy heap
15 Charming Southern woman
16 Military truant: Abbr.
17 Skirt-smoothing appliance
18 Look forward to
19 Tall woody plants with needles (cones also)
21 From that time
22 Possesses
23 Weight attached to a fishing line
24 Mail-related
28 Bee attack
30 Not shortened, as a film
31 Locomotive sound
32 Gambling game like lotto
36 Any Hollywood headliner
37 Straighten, as car wheels
38 Collector's __ (sought-after rarity)
39 Bugle or trumpet
40 Drains, as strength
41 Look without blinking
42 Same-age siblings
44 Teaching session
45 Large African desert
48 Bird in a farm coop
49 Suspect's excuse
50 Farm heaps where it's hard to find needles
56 Turnpike fees
57 Finds a purpose for
58 Uninteresting, informally
59 Small bay
60 Lion's hair
61 Not on time
62 Loch __ monster
63 Practice for a bout
64 Looked at closely

DOWN

1 Break like a twig
2 Fuzzy brown fruit
3 Get __ the ground floor
4 Lacking color
5 Shape of a winding staircase
6 Becomes fatigued
7 __ vera gel
8 Change for a $20 bill
9 Mending supplies with needles
10 Thick wooden board
11 Wonderland girl
12 Cab fare calculator
15 Washbowl
20 "You can say __ again!"
23 YIELD or ONE WAY
24 Propel a grocery cart
25 Not fooled by
26 Lasting mark
27 Record players with needles
28 Cruise vessels
29 Pulls hard
31 Large family
33 Airport landing predictions: Abbr.
34 Infamous Roman emperor
35 Prophetic sight
37 South Korea's continent
41 Mailed off
43 Place to wear a bracelet
44 __ of two evils
45 Glossy bedsheet fabric
46 Without assistance
47 Small mountains
48 "Laughing" African beast
50 Sings wordlessly
51 Memo's "right away"
52 Well-skilled
53 Pottery material
54 Middleton married to Prince William
55 Building to store tools



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04/21/25

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

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

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

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

CAMPING

FROM PAGE 2

At 8:40 a.m. on Oct. 14, 2024, two Fresno police officers came across Two Hands and his belongings on the side of the road and arrested him for camping in a public place and illegally possessing a shopping cart.

Over the next six months, Two Hands attended four hearings in three different courtrooms. Before each hearing, he dropped off his belongings at a friend's house and then caught the bus to the downtown Fresno courthouse, sometimes arriving as much as an hour early so he didn't miss anything. After court, an advocate sometimes drove him back to his campsite. On April 10, the day his trial was supposed to begin, he missed work to attend court, skipping his scheduled shift at a wrecking yard and with it, his chance to earn money for food and other necessities for the day.

City and county resources also went into each hearing. Public funds paid for the presence of a judge, a bailiff and staff from the city attorney's office. The city brought on outside law firm Manning Kass to help prosecute the case.

Kevin Little, a private attorney who specializes in civil rights litigation, signed on to defend Two Hands pro bono. Little estimates he spent between 100 and 150 hours on Two Hands' case. He had two additional staff members helping him, and they put in another 50 to 100 hours. The week the case was supposed to go to trial, Little said he spent a couple nights working in his office until 3 a.m.

Another attorney, Patience Milrod, was also in court on April 10. She was there to represent Pablo Orihuela, a Fresnoland journalist who had been covering Two Hands' case and received a subpoena to testify on behalf of the prosecution. Attorney Karl Olson was standing by to contest a subpoena issued to Fresno Bee reporter Thaddeus Miller, according to the Bee.

In addition to Orihuela and Miller, journalists from CalMatters and ABC30 were there to cover the trial.

About two-dozen activists and local community members also showed up at the courthouse — some arriving as early as 7 a.m. despite work and childcare obligations — to support Two Hands on the day his trial was set to start. Activist Wes White drove two-and-a-half hours from Salinas to be there.

After all that, Judge Brian Alvarez dismissed the case. He found that the trial should have started by March 6, and going past that date would violate Two Hands' right to a speedy trial. Two Hands' supporters filed out of the courtroom and filled the hallway, cheering, until a bailiff asked them to keep it down.

"I'm really shocked by how much money and resources they put into this," said advocate Dez Martinez, who recently helped Two Hands get into a shelter. "There was so much money used in this so they can make a point because they don't want to lose a case. It just bothers me that they used that (many resources) and finances into punishing Wickey instead of doing what I did: sit down and talk to him, figure out why does he not want to go inside."

The trial originally was set to start Feb. 20, but the city asked for a delay, which was granted by Judge Carlos Cabrera. Judge Alvarez appeared to disagree with that ruling.

The city blamed Two Hands' team for the case getting thrown out. The defense's subpoena request forced the city to review an extensive amount of documents, which took extra time, Deputy City Attorney Daniel Cisneros told the court. The city also had tried to prevent the case from going to trial by offering Two Hands a plea deal, which it said would come with a shelter bed. Two Hands declined, instead opting to try to clear his name through a trial.

"The City's position is to continue to offer plea deals to defendants who accept housing and services offered by the City," the city attorney's office said in an emailed statement from Noemi Schwartz. "It is unfortunate that this defendant declined the services and housing offered by City at a congregate shelter at Travel Inn and will likely end up back on the streets without shelter and assistance."

Fresno's new camping ordinance went into effect in September, making it a misdemeanor to sit, lie, sleep or camp in a public place. But most people arrested aren't prosecuted, and even fewer come close to a trial. Fresno police made 322 arrests under that ordinance from October 2024 through January 2025. During that time, the city attorney's office filed charges in just 132 camping cases. The defendant failed to show up in court in more than half of the cases in which charges were filed. Only one other case, in addition to Two Hands', was listed as headed toward trial.

It's a similar situation in other cities, from the Bay Area to Southern California. Police in Los Angeles made 238 camping arrests last year, and the city attorney's office declined to file charges in two-thirds of those cases. In San Francisco, nearly four in five illegal lodging arrests made since August 2024 have not resulted in charges, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

"Cities and district attorneys aren't interested in prosecuting the cases because they know they don't have enough room in jail and prisons to incarcerate everyone who is experiencing homelessness," Hochbaum said. And they know slapping someone with a fine won't stop them from sleeping outside, he said.

Instead, he said, many cities are using the threat of arrest to force unhoused people to move when they want to clear an encampment.

For the time being, Two Hands is sleeping inside after five years on the street. Martinez said she got him a 90-day stay at a city-run shelter — with no help from the city attorney's office.

"(It's) a pretty good day in my life," Two Hands said outside the courthouse, after his case was dismissed. "77 seasons I've been here, you know, I think I deserve it."

While Two Hands was hesitant to accept a shelter bed at first, Martinez said after spending months talking to him, getting to know him and showing up at his side to his court dates, she won his trust. She promised to keep fighting to get Two Hands into permanent housing, sign him up for Social Security, help him access health care, and get him whatever else he needs.

"It's not that he wants to stay outside," Martinez said. "He's tired. He doesn't want to die on the sidewalk. He didn't want to be given something and have it be taken away."

Fresno still has yet to try anyone for sleeping outside, but that could change. Little is representing another unhoused man who was arrested for camping — and plans on bringing that case to trial.

"I hope the message the city gets," Little said, "is leave the unhoused alone. Help them and don't prosecute them. But if you are going to choose unfortunately to prosecute these cases, then you better come ready, because we're not backing down."

By Marisa Kendall. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



MONDAY | APRIL 21

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. This community-led, book discussion group meets virtually at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. This book discusses a wide range of books, chosen by the members. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/book-discussions/14712453/2025-04-21T19

WRITERS BLOC PRESENTS CAROL LEIFER IN CONVERSATION WITH HENRY WINKLER

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Moss Theatre 3131 Olympic Blvd

Santa Monica. Comedian and award-winning television writer (Hacks! Curb Your Enthusiasm! Modern Family! The Larry Sanders Show! Seinfeld!) Carol Leifer. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/writers-bloc-presents-carol-leifer-in-conversation-with-henry-winkler/15396383/2025-04-21T19

TUESDAY | APRIL 22

GELSON'S WEST LA TO HOST TACO TUESDAYS WITH TACOS, MARGARITAS, AND MEZCALS

4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Gelson's 12121 W Olympic Blvd,

Los Angeles. Every Tuesday from 4 PM to 10 PM, Gelson's West LA Wine Bar will be hosting Taco Tuesdays, bringing together a festive blend of flavors and fun. Enjoy a variety of mouthwatering tacos, refreshing margaritas, and smooth mezcals, all served in a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere. The perfect way to spice up the week—gather friends and enjoy a night of great food, drinks, and good times. Prices vary. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/gelson-s-west-la-to-host-taco-tuesdays-with-tacos-margaritas-and-mezcals/15309564/2025-04-22T16

LIBRARY TRIVIA NIGHT

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Solidarity Restaurant 1414 Lincoln Boulevard Santa Monica. Test your literary prowess and win books to add to your home library at a pub-style trivia contest! Compete individually or as a team, no reservation. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/library-trivia-night/15241515/2025-04-22T18

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 23

FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY: YOGA FOR EVERYONE!

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Through body awareness, movement, and breath, you will be guided on how to bring your body, mind, and spirit back into balance for overall well-being. All levels are welcome. Generously funded by the Friends of Venice Library. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/friends-of-venice-library-yoga-for-everyone-/14548476/2025-04-23T12

PING PONG FOR GOOD TOURNAMENT & FUNDRAISER CELEBRATING WORLD TABLE TENNIS!

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Pickle Pop 1231 3rd Street Santa Monica. Join us for an exciting night of ping pong, community, and impact as we celebrate World Table Tennis Day with a tournament and fundraiser! Your participation directly supports our mission to bring the therapeutic benefits of table tennis to improve the lives of individuals living with Parkinson's, MS, Alzheimer's, stroke, and other neurodegenerative conditions TODAY. Whether you've been directly impacted by these conditions, want to support a loved one who is, or are a casual fan of the sport, a competitive player, or just looking for a fun evening—there's a ticket option for you! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/ping-pong-for-good-tournament-fundraiser-celebrating-world-table-tennis-/15520720/2025-04-23T18

COME SING WITH THE BAND - LIVE BAND KARAOKE!

9:00 p.m. Harvelle's Santa Monica 1432 4th St, Santa Monica. Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:00PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. Please note, we are 21 and over only! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/come-sing-with-the-band-live-band-karaoke-/15099082/2025-04-23T21

THURSDAY | APRIL 24

ARTS/CRAFTS

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/arts-crafts/14712446/2025-04-24T11

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

Contact dina@smdp.com today!

SANTA MONICA PIER

LA prices got you down? We've got FREE fun!

APRIL 5 - OCTOBER 11

Wellness & Waves

at the Santa Monica Pier

Saturdays

Run 8-9am & Yoga/Pilates 9-10am

*Registration Required

GOOD BODY · shefayoga · Lifeway · PACIFIC PARK SANTA MONICA PIER · SANTA MONICA

APRIL 17

LOCALS' NIGHT

THIRD THURSDAYS AT THE PIER

LIVE MUSIC • ART MART • CAR SHOW • SALSA WAY
KIDS ACTIVITIES • SATTELITE BAR • & MORE!

APRIL 24

SANTA MONICA PIER CORP.

A TALK THROUGH PIER HISTORY

"A Talk Through Pier History" — a one-hour storytelling session sharing fascinating Pier history, memorable tales, and a lively Q&A.

EVERY LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 6-7 PM

WEEKENDS & MONDAYS

SANTA MONICA PIER CORP.

A WALK THROUGH PIER HISTORY

EST. 1909

Discover the captivating history behind Santa Monica Pier with **"A Walk Through Pier History"** Walking Tour! Join us on a remarkable journey through time, as our expert storytellers bring the past to life!

TOUR SCHEDULE

Every Saturday & Sunday @ 10AM
Every Monday @ 6:30 PM (Sunset Tour)

Please note that drop-ins are not accepted. $25/Person
Advance booking is required to ensure an unforgettable experience.

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