

- 2 **Wildfire survivors**  
Face tax bills.
- 3 **No help from leaders**  
In Governor's race.

- 5 **A sad passing**  
Services for Don McCowan.
- 6 **Tariff refunds**  
For businesses.

## Lawmakers move to shield LA Metro from housing law

**MATTHEW HALL**  
Daily Press Editor

A state Senate committee is weighing legislation that would exempt some jurisdictions, including Los Angeles County's transit agency, from a new housing law, as cities across California scramble to adapt to a sweeping new mandate requiring dense residential development near public transit stops.

SB 1361, authored by Sen. María Elena Durazo and scheduled for a Senate Housing Committee hearing Tuesday, would prevent SB 79 from applying to planned but not-yet-operational transit stops in jurisdictions that had already committed by Jan. 1, 2026 to build at least 10,000 housing units — at least half of them income-restricted — by 2032.

### WHAT SB 79 DOES

Signed into law in 2025 as the Abundant and Affordable Homes Near Transit Act, SB 79 requires that housing development be permitted by right on sites zoned residential, mixed-use or commercial within one-half mile of qualifying transit stops in counties with more than 15 passenger rail stations. The law, authored by Sen. Scott Wiener of San Francisco, sets minimum height, density and floor area ratio standards that vary based on proximity to the stop and the type of transit service it receives.

Near a Tier 1 stop — defined as a heavy rail or very high frequency commuter rail station in an urban transit county — projects within one-quarter mile can rise up to 75 feet and reach densities of up to 120 dwelling units per acre. Projects adjacent to those stops face even higher ceilings. Tier 2

SEE SB1361 PAGE 7

## Santa Monica College wins approval for Cloud Computing bachelor's degree

**MAAZ ALIN**  
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica College has received final approval to offer a Bachelor of Science in Cloud Computing, becoming one of a growing number of California community colleges authorized to grant four-year degrees in high-demand fields.

The California Community Colleges Board of Governors and the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges granted the approvals, clearing the way for the program to launch in Fall 2027. The degree will be SMC's second baccalaureate offering, following its B.S. in Interaction Design, which launched as part of a landmark statewide pilot program in 2015.

The new degree arrives at a moment of surging employer demand. A labor market study commissioned by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office found that the Los Angeles region generates an estimated 2,777 job openings annually in cloud-related occupations, with 65% of those positions requiring a baccalaureate degree. Median annual earnings in the field exceed \$150,000.

"This new baccalaureate degree marks an important moment for Santa Monica College, in fulfilling our mission of continuing to be a leader in preparing students for careers, as well as transfers," said SMC Superintendent/President Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery. "By providing



Santa Monica College / Amy Williams Photography

SEE SMC PAGE 8 **CAMPUS:** Santa Monica College's Main Campus at 1900 Pico Blvd.

# Venice Cinco de Mayo Parade returns, carrying decades of Chicano History

**MAAZ ALIN**  
SMDP Staff Writer

In a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood where organizers say history is being steadily erased, a parade will wind its way through what remains of one of Los Angeles' oldest Mexican-American communities — and for Laura Ceballos, that act alone carries the weight of decades.

The Historical Venice Cinco de Mayo Parade & Festival returns Saturday, May 2, to the Oakwood neighborhood, marking roughly 13 years since its revival in 2013 after lying dormant for nearly three decades. The free, family-friendly event steps off at 10 a.m.



Courtesy Image


**PARADE:** Historical Venice Cinco de Mayo Parade & Festival returns May 2 in Oakwood, free festivities 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

at California Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard, proceeding north on Lincoln, west on Rose Avenue and south on 7th Avenue before concluding at Oakwood Park, 767 California Ave., where a street festival runs until approximately 6 p.m.

The celebration is the work of Ceballos, a Venice native and Chicana community organizer and activist who resurrected the parade after it was discontinued around 1984 due to lack of funding. Ceballos, who has spent years working to preserve Mexican-American and Chicano history in Venice, frames the mission in

SEE VENICE PAGE 11

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## NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has posted a list of unclaimed checks – any stale dated check older than three years as of **March 31, 2026** – and claim forms on the City’s website at <https://santamonica.gov/unclaimed-property-notice> and at the following physical location: the Public Notices board in the City Hall Lobby. If said funds are not claimed by **June 5, 2026**, these funds will become the property of the City of Santa Monica in accordance with California Government Code Sections 50050 – 50056. These funds may be released to the depositor, their heir, beneficiary or duly appointed representative provided a claim form has been completed with the required information detailed below and an original signature.

Required claim information includes name, address, phone number, tax identification number, amount of claim, and grounds on which claim is founded. Claims must be submitted to the Finance Department, Attn: Financial Operations, 1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 09, Santa Monica, CA. 90401 or by email to [finance.mailbox@santamonica.gov](mailto:finance.mailbox@santamonica.gov). Once a claim is submitted; the Finance Department will determine the validity of the claim and if additional information is required to process the claim. The City of Santa Monica reserves the right to deny any claim that is submitted with incomplete or invalid information.

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## Wildfire survivors who lost their homes could face another blow from taxes on settlement payouts

Thousands of survivors of the 2025 Eaton Fire in Altadena, California, have elected to accept an upfront settlement from the utility accused of causing it, forgoing future litigation for a faster payment that could help them rebuild or relocate.

But unless a bill moving through Congress becomes law, that money could be taxed as income, taking big bites out of their payments and possibly disqualifying them from other government benefits.

“There was this terrifying disbelief,” Bree Jensen, communications director for the Eaton Fire Long-Term Recovery Group, said of informing fellow residents about the tax.

Thousands more who are suing the utility face the same prospect, as well as fire survivors in Colorado, Hawaii and Oregon after a tax exemption on wildfire-related compensation expired at the end of 2025.

In recent years, Congress has shielded wildfire settlements from taxes, but legislation to do so was short-lived and a struggle to pass, leaving gaps between laws that risk saddling some survivors with a possible tax burden on their compensation. A bipartisan House bill to extend the tax relief passed out of committee last month, but the timeline for bringing it to a floor vote and when the Senate will take action are unknown, leaving survivors in financial limbo.

“We have to assume we don’t have that money, so we’re making decisions, choosing cheaper materials, forgoing the solar,” said one Altadena homeowner, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because she fears compromising her expected settlement of about \$700,000. If that money counts as income, she expects taxes would take 37%.

The homeowner hoped accepting a settlement would get her family home faster, after she, her husband and their four pets spent more than a year hopping between relatives’ houses and rentals.

“All we wanted was to rebuild a comfortable house and get out of the situation we were in,” she said, adding their construction costs alone are estimated to reach \$1 million.

As survivors watch lawmakers lock horns over the Iran war and the record-long Department of Homeland Security shutdown, some worry extending disaster tax relief will be de-prioritized.

“People have low expectations of anything actually getting done,” said Jenn Kaaoush, a 2021 Marshall Fire survivor and town council member in Superior, Colorado.

### COMPENSATION HAS BECOME CRUCIAL TO REBUILDING

Utility equipment is believed to have sparked some of the deadliest and most destructive fires in recent years. Multibillion-dollar settlements have become common after these fires but take years to resolve.

As construction costs soar and insurance becomes more expensive and difficult to secure, compensation from lawsuits has become a critical component of how many households start over.

“It’s the difference between towns

getting rebuilt and not getting rebuilt, quite frankly,” said attorney Doug Boxer, who has represented more than 17,000 Californians in cases against utilities and is part of the LA Fire Justice coalition suing Southern California Edison and its parent company, Edison International, on behalf of more than 2,000 clients.

SCE and Edison International have acknowledged their power equipment may have sparked the Eaton Fire, which destroyed 9,000 structures and killed 19 people. The utility last year announced a compensation program for those impacted, promising fast payments based on the value of one’s losses, as well as an additional premium for not joining litigation against the utility.

More than 2,800 households have applied for the compensation program. Thousands more are joining lawsuits against the utility. An investigation into the Eaton Fire’s cause is ongoing.

Households can’t afford to lose a chunk of their payments to taxes, said Jensen, whose home also burned. “It sounds like a lot of money, but not in regards to how expensive it is to actually build in the community.”

### A BIPARTISAN BILL WOULD EXTEND TAX RELIEF

Payments related to federally declared wildfire disasters from 2015 through 2026 would not count toward taxable income, according to legislation approved unanimously by the House Ways and Means Committee last month. That would apply to payouts received in 2026 and after.

The measure would extend expanded tax relief for property losses from federal disasters through this year, a provision that helped attract bipartisan support from lawmakers representing states vulnerable to hurricanes and other extreme weather.

Florida Rep. Greg Steube — a Republican who championed the 2024 tax relief bill and introduced its successor with fellow Republican Rep. Doug LaMalfa, now deceased, and with Democratic Reps. Mike Thompson and Jimmy Panetta of California — told The Associated Press he expects the legislation to ultimately pass, but he acknowledged “the exact timeline remains uncertain.”

Steube, whose southwest Florida constituents could benefit from the provision deducting personal casualty losses, has vowed to push the law forward.

Two similar bills were introduced in the Senate, but further action has not been taken.

After lobbying for the past and present bills as executive director of the survivor advocacy nonprofit After The Fire, Jennifer Gray Thompson said she believes lawmakers understand the bipartisan nature of disaster tax relief.

“As these disasters come in quick succession, we are going to have to adapt on all levels, and our tax code will have to adapt along with it,” she said.

# California Democrats can't decide on a governor. Don't count on Newsom or Pelosi for help



Photo by Fred Greaves for CalMatters

**ELECTION:** From left, Betty Yee, Antonio Villaraigosa, Tony Thurmond, Tom Steyer, Katie Porter, Matt Mahan and Xavier Becerra participate in a gubernatorial candidate forum hosted by California Immigrant Policy Center, California Latino Legislative Caucus Foundation, and ACLU California Action at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento on April 14, 2026.

Democrats are searching for a hero to save them in the California governor's race.

So far, no one in party leadership has come to the rescue.

Despite Rep. Eric Swalwell's exit from the race this week, the Democratic field remains unwieldy, with seven major candidates still splitting the field less than three weeks before ballots are sent. Each of them refuses to bow out, regardless of their polling numbers, in the hope they can capture some of the voter attention that Swalwell's demise drew to the race.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, the face of the party in California, is not interested in elevating a successor. Democratic Party Chair Rusty Hicks, who faces criticism for not using his position to cull the field, has relied on party-commissioned polls and vague pleas for candidates to "honestly assess" their campaign's viability, refusing to openly pressure anyone to drop out.

Even former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi — known for urging then-Rep. Adam Schiff to run for Senate and former President Joe Biden to drop his reelection bid — won't intervene.

"People have reached out to me saying, 'Your mom has to do something!'" said Christine Pelosi, daughter of the San Francisco congresswoman and herself a candidate for state Senate.

"I said, 'You know what? She doesn't, though,'" the younger Pelosi said. "She already did that with Biden and Harris. She's not going to — don't look to her to do that again."

Gone is the heyday of the San Francisco-based political machine, a network of political talent that dominated state politics for decades and produced titans such as Pelosi and Newsom, both of whom are moving on from California politics.

Now that pipeline has run dry, and this year there is no obvious heir to Newsom for the party to coalesce behind. No current statewide officeholder joined the fray, and both presumptive favorites — former Vice President Kamala Harris and U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla — opted not to run.

That has made top Democrats loath

to weigh in on the state's first truly open Democratic primary in 16 years. In 2018, Newsom, then the lieutenant governor, was widely viewed as the most likely successor to

“

This has been incredibly frustrating, not to mention scary, with the idea that we could end up with two Republicans

- RL Miller

”

former Gov. Jerry Brown, another product of the San Francisco political machine.

The 2026 race is also only the second time an open field has competed under the top-two primary system, adopted 16 years ago to the chagrin of both parties. That means two Democrats or two Republicans could advance to the general election and lock the other party out.

SEE GOVERNOR PAGE 8



## Surf report WATER TEMP: 64.4

**TUESDAY** | **SURF:** 3-4ft  
**FAIR** | Waist to chest

Building surf off combo of swells. Beachbreaks best wind AM, points stay fairly clean in the PM. We'll be watching a storm right off the California coast for a bump in shorter to mid period NW swell mix. There'll also be peaking long period S swell for the summer/combo exposures - strongest west of Dume. Surf is waist-chest high there, a touch smaller for the sheltered points. Wind looks a little sketchy but could be good enough early - trending from E/SE to S then ultimately Win the afternoon. These types of days are notorious for providing the odd decent window.

**WEDNESDAY** | **SURF:** 2-3ft+  
**FAIR** | Thigh to stomach

Combo of swells provides fun-sized surf but likely some onshore W wind issues. Points do ok. Shorter to mid period NW swell mix that picked up Tuesday PM tops out and holds. S swell continues, showing best at the summer breaks. Top summer/combo spots get into the chest - shoulder high range. Conditions will likely be lower quality with W wind for much of the day. Lightest wind expected early and sheltered points do ok all day.

## Weather

**Tuesday:** Rain after 11am. High near 65. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon.

**Tuesday Night:** Rain likely before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. West northwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 66.

**Wednesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 54.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/04/21	Tue	07:34 AM	-0.89	L
2026/04/21	Tue	2:36 PM	2.99	H
2026/04/21	Tue	6:09 PM	2.47	L
2026/04/22	Wed	12:50 AM	5.49	H
2026/04/22	Wed	08:49 AM	-0.59	L
2026/04/22	Wed	4:24 PM	3.11	H
2026/04/22	Wed	7:30 PM	2.81	L
2026/04/23	Thu	02:06 AM	4.98	H
2026/04/23	Thu	10:12 AM	-0.42	L
2026/04/23	Thu	5:40 PM	3.47	H
2026/04/23	Thu	9:53 PM	2.83	L
2026/04/24	Fri	03:41 AM	4.60	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: 4/18  
 24 25 39 46 61  
 Power#: 1  
 Jackpot: 87 M

**Fantasy 5**  
 Draw Date: 4/19  
 13 16 23 33 36

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
 Draw Date: 4/17  
 38 43 44 49 62  
 Mega#: 8  
 Jackpot: 140 M

**Daily 3**  
 Draw Date: 4/20  
 MIDDAY: 2 6 6  
 Draw Date: 4/19  
 EVENING: 4 3 8

**SuperLotto PLUS**  
 Draw Date: 4/18  
 4 22 27 43 45  
 Mega#: 17  
 Jackpot: 13 M

**Daily Derby**  
 Draw Date: 4/19  
 1st: 03 - Hot Shot  
 2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit  
 3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George  
 Race Time: 1:47.03

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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For Sale	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
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**DBA**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026044784. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: WOLF, THE MOMENTARY, 174 KINNEY ST, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): PASH LOUNGE LLC, 174 KINNEY ST, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 02/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ PAYAM SHOHADAI, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 02/26/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 03/31/2026, 04/07/2026, 04/14/2026, 04/21/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026 073132. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: HODA, 1200 SANTEE ST #1201, LOS ANGELES, CA 90015, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): HODA MEISAMY, 1200 SANTEE STREET #1201, LOS ANGELES, CA 90015. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 03/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ HODA MEISAMY, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/02/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/14/2026, 04/21/2026, 04/28/2026, 05/05/2026

**DBA**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.2026065442. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: STUDIO STRATA and STRATA DESIGN COLLABORATIVE, 1528 W Artesia Sq Unit F, Gardena, CA 90248., County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): Melita Manalo Marquez-Libunao., 1528 W Artesia Sq Unit F, Gardena, Los Angeles CA 90248., This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ Melita Manalo Marquez-Libunao, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/19/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 03/31/2026, 04/07/2026, 04/14/2026, 04/21/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026082493. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BADGEBUG, 931 N HOLLYWOOD WY UNIT #2008, BURBANK, CA 91505, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): REA ANGELI GARCIA, 931 N HOLLYWOOD WY UNIT #2008, BURBANK, CA 91505. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 08/2025. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ REA ANGELI GARCIA, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/15/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/21/2026, 04/28/2026, 05/05/2026, 05/12/2026

**DBA**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026071436. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LUSSON PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES, 51 PALOMA AVE APT C, VENICE, CA 90291, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): ROBERT ALAN LUSSON, 51 PALOMA AVE APT C, VENICE, CA 90291. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 08/2015. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ ROBERT ALAN LUSSON, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/01/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/07/2026, 04/14/2026, 04/21/2026, 04/28/2026

**Name Change**

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00166. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Santa Monica Courthouse, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Michelle Shipp for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Michelle Shipp filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Michelle Shipp to Michelle Israel Shipp. 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: 05/22/26, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 04/07/2025. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/21/2025, 04/28/2025, 05/05/2025, 05/12/2025

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

## Voting rights are health rights. That's why California must reject the SAVE Act



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

**VOTE:** Hoon Tau casts a ballot at a polling site at the California Museum in Sacramento on March 5, 2024.

As the U.S. Senate debates the SAVE America Act, the national conversation has focused on voting rights. But for California's communities of color — and for those of us who study what makes people sick and what keeps them well — this legislation represents something more insidious: a direct assault on public health.

As public health researchers at San Francisco State University, we recently hosted focus groups of Asian American Californians in the Bay Area, and Fresno and Orange counties. We asked them about their neighborhoods, health and relationship to civic life.

What they told us was sobering. Again and again, participants described how being shut out of political life — through language barriers, mistrust of government and a lack of safe, centralized community spaces — translated directly into unmet health needs: Clinics that didn't speak their language, mental health services that didn't exist, health policies that ignored them entirely.

One participant put it simply: when your community has no political voice, nobody fights for your health.

This goes beyond anecdotes; this

is science. Political participation is an established social determinant of health and racial equity. Politically engaged individuals report better health and lower rates of physical disability.

Studies of African American communities in racially segregated neighborhoods found that where voter participation was higher, birth outcomes were better. States with higher voter turnout invest more in health infrastructure and Medicaid. The ballot box, it turns out, is a public health intervention.

Now consider what the SAVE Act would do to California.

According to a recent University of Southern California report, nearly 21% of Asian Americans who voted in 2020 did not return to the polls in 2024, the second highest dropout rate of any racial group.

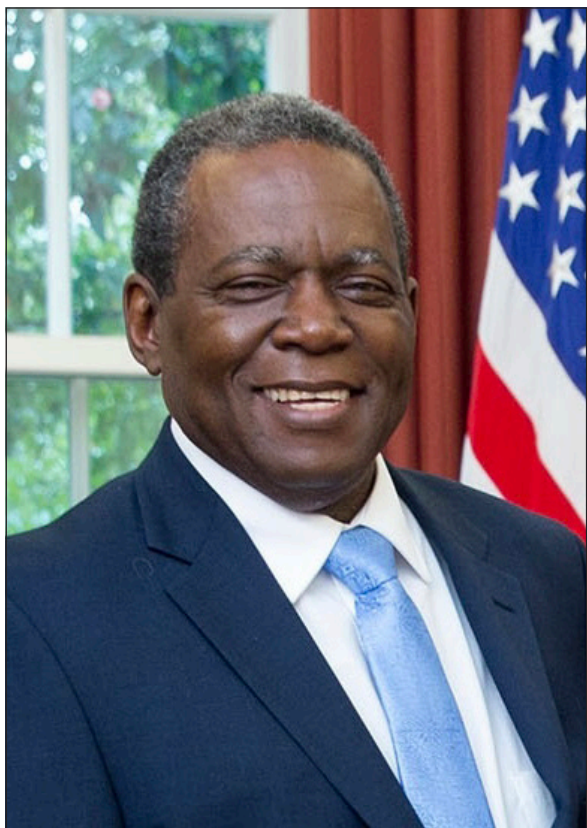
And in the 2024 general election, just 54% of Asian American eligible voters in California cast a ballot — 8 percentage points below the statewide average. Latino eligible voter turnout was even lower, at just 46%.

These communities are already politically marginalized. The SAVE Act

# Don R McCowan, dedicated civil servant and supporter of local youth, dies

Don R. McCowan passed peacefully at home in his native Santa Monica, California on Sunday, April 12, 2026, after a battle with Parkinson's disease. Don was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather and brother.

Don was born on July 17, 1946 in Santa Monica to Hazel and Jack McCowan. He graduated from Santa Monica High School in 1964. He was drafted into the United States Military during the Vietnam War, deployed to Okinawa, and served as an Air Force MP. Following the war, Don returned to Santa Monica, where he attended Santa Monica College and later California



Don R. McCowan

Courtesy photo

listening to his favorite oldies, telling epic tales of his childhood escapades, surprising the room with unexpected Pictionary wins, or simply flashing that million-dollar smile, Don's warmth and larger-than-life charm will be missed by the many friends and family lucky enough to have known him.

Don is predeceased by his son Justin McCowan (9/18/14) and is survived by his wife, Annamarie McCowan, his children, Don McCowan, Kristin McCowan Decall, Jonathan McCowan, and Joseph McCowan, and Felisha McCowan from a prior marriage. He is also survived by his daughters-in-law, Cynthia Neese McCowan and Emily Greenfield McCowan, his son-in-law, Albert Decall, and his grandchildren, Talon McCowan, Sophie McCowan, River McCowan, Charlotte McCowan, Skylar McCowan, Justin Decall and Brooklyn Decall.

In addition, Don is survived by all 11 of his siblings: Jerry McCowan, Alvin McCowan, John McCowan, Jack McCowan, Diane McCowan, Ronnie McCowan, Roslyn McCowan Atherly, Tina McCowan Montes, Steve McCowan, Kevin McCowan, and Donna McCowan as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral Services will be held Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. at St. Monica Catholic Church, 725 California Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90403. View the service online at <https://vimeo.com/event/5880729>

State University, Northridge, where he would meet his wife, Annamarie. Don worked as a bookkeeper before joining the United States Postal Service in 1985. He spent 23 years with the USPS until his retirement in 2008.

Don's true passions were his family and the many years he dedicated to coaching his children's sports, helping out at Troop 2 Boy Scout camps and volunteering and engaging in activities at his parish church, St. Monica.

From 2008 to 2014, Don relished his retirement and being personal chauffeur to his wife and son Justin, until Justin's untimely passing in 2014. Don's greatest joys were fishing with friends on Thursdays and being there for his family. Although health challenges from Multiple Myeloma and Parkinson's impacted his final years, Don still created memorable moments with his children and grandchildren. Whether he was

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# Businesses begin claiming refunds for Trump tariffs struck down by US Supreme Court

A refund system for businesses that paid tariffs which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled President Donald Trump imposed without the constitutional authority to do so launched Monday.

Importers and their brokers could begin claiming refunds through an online portal beginning at 8 a.m., according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the agency administering the system.

It's the first step in a complicated process that also might eventually lead to refunds for consumers who were billed for some or all of the tariffs on products shipped to them from outside the United States.

Companies must submit declarations listing the goods on which they collectively put billions of dollars toward the import taxes the court struck down on Feb. 20. If CBP approves a claim, it will take 60-90 days for a refund to be issued, the agency said.

The government expects to process refunds in phases, however, focusing first on more recent tariff payments. Any number of technical factors and procedural issues also could delay an importer's application, so any reimbursements businesses plan to make likely would trickle down to consumers slowly.

The co-owner of a clothing company based in Washington, D.C., said the system seemed buggy on Monday when she tried to create an account on the portal, which was required before companies could do anything else. A lawyer in Northern Virginia said his clients

reported some system delays and lag time.

In a 6-3 decision, the Supreme Court found that Trump usurped Congress' tax-setting role last April when he set new import tax rates on products from almost every other country, citing the U.S. trade deficit as a national emergency that warranted his invoking of a 1977 emergency powers law.

Although the court majority did not address refunds in its ruling, a judge at the U.S. Court of International Trade determined last month that companies subjected to IEEPA tariffs were entitled to money back.

## NOT ALL TAXED IMPORTS IMMEDIATELY ELIGIBLE

Customs and Border Protection said in court filings that over 330,000 importers paid a total of about \$166 billion on over 53 million shipments.

Not all of those orders qualify for the first phase of the refund system's rollout, which is limited to cases in which tariffs were estimated but not finalized or within 80 days of a final accounting.

To receive refunds, importers have to register for the CPB's electronic payment system. As of April 14, 56,497 importers had completed registration and were eligible for refunds totaling \$127 billion, including interest, the agency said.

## SYSTEM REQUIRES ACCURACY

Meghann Supino, a partner at Ice Miller, said the law firm has advised clients to

carefully list in their declarations all of the document numbers for forms that went to CBP to describe imported goods and their value.

"If there is an entry on that file that does not qualify, it may cause the entire entry to be rejected or that line item might be rejected by Customs," she said.

Supino thinks the portal going live will require composure as well as diligence.

"Like any electronic online program that goes live with a lot of interest, I would expect that there might be some hiccups with the program on Monday," she said. "So we continue to ask everyone to be patient, because we think that patience will pay off."

Nghi Huynh, the partner-in-charge of transfer pricing at accounting and consulting firm Armanino, said most companies claiming refunds will have imported a mix of items, and not all will qualify right away.

"It's about having a clear process in place and keeping track of what's been submitted and what's been paid, so nothing falls through the cracks," she said. "Each file can include thousands of entries, but accuracy is critical, as submissions can be rejected if formatting or data is incorrect."

## PATIENCE WITH THE PROCESS

Small businesses have eagerly awaited the chance to apply for refunds. Rebecca Melsky, co-owner of the clothing brand and online store Princess Awesome, said she was unable to register for a portal account Monday

despite trying to submit her CPB import code and company information using two different web browsers.

She said Princess Awesome would file for a refund eventually. The company imports some of its clothes from factories in Bangladesh, China, India and Peru. Melsky estimated it paid \$32,000 in IEEPA tariffs.

"My expectations have been pretty low about whether we were actually going to see any money back to us," she said. "I'm heartened by the fact that there's any system at all, but I'm only slightly more optimistic than I was last week, which was not very."

Justin Angotti, an associate attorney in the international trade practice of global law firm Reed Smith, said his clients ultimately had their declarations accepted Monday, even if it might have taken a few attempts.

"So far, Customs has been very responsive in trying to troubleshoot the issue," Angotti said.

## WILL CONSUMERS SEE REFUNDS?

Tariffs are paid by importers, and some companies pass on the tax costs to consumers via higher prices.

The system starting up Monday will refund tariffs directly to the businesses that paid them, which are not obligated to share the proceeds with customers. However, class-action lawsuits that aim to force companies, ranging from Costco to Ray-Ban maker

SEE TARIFF PAGE 11

## HEAL THE BAY BEACH GRADES



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### LOS ANGELES

#### Another Democrat exits crowded campaign for California governor

Another Democrat is exiting the crowded contest for California governor.

Betty Yee — a former state controller— announced Monday she was suspending her campaign, just over a week after fellow Democrat and former U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell left the race following sexual assault allegations that he denies.

Yee was vying to be the first woman to hold the state's highest office. But she lagged in fundraising and failed to break into the leading tier of candidates in polling since entering the contest in 2024. In a fluid race that many voters have ignored, she tried to pitch herself as a candidate “who focuses on solutions rather than soundbites” or a levelheaded “boring Betty.”

Still, with Yee out, the contest to replace outgoing Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom remains crowded and unpredictable, with no clear leader. Yee's withdrawal leaves six established Democrats and two leading Republicans on a ballot with more than 50 names.

Mail ballots are scheduled to go to voters in early May, in advance of the June 2 primary election. At this stage of the campaign, Yee's name cannot be removed.

Swalwell's exit dramatically reordered the race, since he was among the leading Democrats. Yee, however, had been frozen at the bottom of the field with scant voter support.

Democrats have feared the party's large number of candidates could lead to them getting shut out of the general election in November. That's because California has a primary system in which only the top two vote-getters advance to the general election, regardless of party.

Polling in late March and early April by the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California found a cluster of candidates in close competition: Democrats Tom Steyer and former U.S. Rep. Katie Porter, Republicans Steve Hilton and Chad Bianco, and Swalwell. Other candidates were trailing. The polling was conducted before Swalwell withdrew.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

### California

#### California says Amazon pressured retailers to boost prices on their websites to not undercut it

Amazon used its market leverage to get companies such as Walmart to increase prices on their websites so the e-commerce giant would not be undercut by its competitors, according to a filing unsealed Monday in an ongoing lawsuit by California's attorney general.

Attorney General Rob Bonta sued Amazon in San Francisco Superior Court in 2022 accusing the company of violating the state's antitrust and unfair competition laws. The lawsuit is scheduled to go to trial next year but Bonta is asking the judge to order Amazon to cease its practices immediately.

According to the filing, the alleged price fixing scheme generally begins with the Seattle-based company demanding vendors to fix or look into prices of products on other websites and request that those prices be increased or else face penalties such as promotion restrictions or even removal of products from Amazon's site.

For example, the filing alleges that Amazon, apparel company Levi Strauss & Co. and Walmart agreed to fix prices on khaki pants. Amazon sent the denim retailer links to pants that were priced lower on Walmart.com, saying it “hop(ed) these can get resolved over the next few days.”

The next day, Levi Strauss reported having talked to Walmart to increase prices back to \$29.99, according to the filing.

“This is about protecting Californians from paying more than they should for everyday products, especially at a time when affordability feels farther and farther out of reach,” Bonta, a Democrat, said Monday at a virtual news conference.

In a statement, a spokesperson for Amazon dismissed Bonta's motion as “a transparent attempt to distract from the weakness of its case” with “supposedly ‘new’” evidence.

“Amazon is consistently identified as America's lowest-priced online retailer, and we're proud of the low prices customers find when shopping in our store. Amazon looks forward to responding in court at the appropriate time,” the statement said.

A Walmart spokesperson said in an email that it does “not comment on litigation in which we are not a party. We will always work hard on behalf of our customers to keep our prices low.”

Levi Strauss did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Bonta said that his office is focused on Amazon because “the unlawful conduct stems from and originates from Amazon” but reserved the right to go after other retailers and vendors in the future.

The alleged price fixing involves a wide assortment of goods, including home decor, garden products and pet care, according to the filing.

The hearing for the motion for a preliminary injunction is in July.

BY JANIE HAR ASSOCIATED PRESS

### LOS ANGELES

#### Small plane crashes in parking lot of Southern California auto store

The pilot of a small plane was injured Monday after crashing his aircraft in the parking lot of auto parts store in Southern California, authorities said.

The crash was reported shortly after 11 a.m. by an O'Reilly Auto Parts in the neighborhood of Pacoima in north Los Angeles, according to the Los Angeles Fire Department.

The pilot, a 70-year-old man, was rescued from the plane and taken to a local hospital where he is in critical condition, the LAFD said. Officials confirmed he was the only person on the plane, and no other injuries have been reported.

Photos from local news outlets show a plane upside down in a parking lot, just a few feet away from parked cars. The nose of the plane appears to be destroyed.

Officials said the plane clipped some high voltage lines in the immediate area, and police were evacuating local businesses and residences for safety.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## SB1361

FROM PAGE 1

stops, which include light rail, high-frequency commuter rail and bus rapid transit, carry somewhat reduced but still significant density entitlements.

Projects with more than 10 units must designate between 7% and 13% of units for income-restricted households, depending on the income level targeted. The law prohibits demolition of rent-controlled or deed-restricted units occupied within the past seven years. Projects must also comply with prevailing wage requirements, and those exceeding 85 feet must use a skilled and trained workforce.

California is short an estimated 1.3 million affordable units statewide. In Los Angeles alone, the gap stands at 270,000 units, and nearly one in two county households is cost-burdened.

### WHAT SB 1361 WOULD CHANGE

Durazo's bill would draw a line between existing and future transit infrastructure. Under the proposal, SB 79's development standards would not apply to planned stops that were not yet operational as of Jan. 1, 2026, in jurisdictions meeting the 10,000-unit housing commitment threshold.

LA Metro argues that linking SB 79's automatic upzoning to stations still under construction has become a political liability. The agency has four rail projects under construction and three bus rapid transit projects in final design, all scheduled to open by 2028. According to Metro, local opposition to those projects has intensified since SB 79's passage, with some cities and community groups treating planned transit investments as triggers for state-mandated density increases they would prefer to avoid.

“Local jurisdictions and stakeholder groups that otherwise support transit are expressing resistance to rail and bus rapid transit projects,” the agency wrote in a legislative analysis accompanying the bill, warning that constituent opposition could delay or derail projects serving predominantly low-income riders. Metro reports that 89% of its customers are very low-income and 85% are transit-dependent.

Senate Housing Committee staff, however,

## TAXES

FROM PAGE 2

Still, Gray Thompson said she can't be sure when action will come.

### SURVIVORS IN COLORADO, HAWAII AND OREGON WOULD ALSO BE IMPACTED

Maui residents face similar challenges as they await payments from a \$4 billion settlement with Hawaiian Electric. Only about 180 homes have been rebuilt in Lahaina among 2,200 structures destroyed.

What Lahaina survivors need most is “certainty,” Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen wrote to lawmakers in a letter supporting tax relief.

While the majority of destroyed homes in Superior have been rebuilt, Kaaoush, the town council member, said most survivors are still catching up financially after finding themselves underinsured.

questioned in its own analysis whether the exemption is necessary, noting that SB 79 already authorizes local governments to adopt alternative plans that can exempt certain sites while maintaining equivalent overall housing capacity. The committee analysis suggested Metro could work with the county and individual cities to pursue those existing pathways rather than seeking a statutory carve-out.

The analysis also flagged a six-month implementation gap: SB 79 takes effect July 1, 2026, but changes under SB 1361 would not take effect until Jan. 1, 2027, meaning the law would apply to the affected Metro sites for at least six months regardless.

Housing advocates have come out in opposition arguing the bill would encourage jurisdictions to opt out of state housing policy and undermine SB 79's core purpose of providing certainty for housing production near transit.

### METRO'S BROADER LEGISLATIVE FIGHT

SB 1361 is not Metro's first attempt to reshape SB 79. The agency's board voted in December 2025 to pursue amendments to the law, and earlier this year Metro took an “oppose unless amended” position on SB 677, a Wiener-authored cleanup bill that made technical adjustments to SB 79's definitions but did not address what Metro called fundamental implementation problems.

Chief among Metro's concerns is that SB 79's definition of “light rail transit” — limited to streetcar, trolley and tramway systems — does not accurately describe Metro's A, C, E and K rail lines, leaving it unclear whether those corridors qualify as eligible transit stops under the statute. Metro warned the ambiguity exposes the agency to litigation risk and complicates coordination with local cities.

Metro told lawmakers it was considering several alternative structures, including limiting SB 79 to rail lines already in revenue service, creating an incentive-based framework using state funds, or exempting Los Angeles County entirely given its ongoing transit expansion.

The Senate Housing Committee is scheduled to hear SB 1361 on Tuesday.

editor@smdp.com

She also worries that her constituents could be knocked off income-qualified government benefits for food, health care or veterans' support if their wildfire payments count as income.

“This has second- and third-order impacts on their life that will do harm,” Kaaoush said.

Gray Thompson cautioned that while survivors waiting for relief can defer taxes or amend past returns, resolving issues with government programs, such as qualifying for college financial aid, is much harder. “There's no way to undo that,” she said.

Meanwhile, many in Altadena feel they're continually facing new obstacles to returning home, said another resident who also lost his home and insisted on anonymity because of ongoing litigation.

Being taxed “would just add more pain and suffering for us, really,” he said.

By GABRIELA AOUN ANGUEIRA Associated Press

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## SMC

FROM PAGE 1

a highly affordable pathway that will meet regional needs while enabling our students — who come from diverse backgrounds — to thrive, now, that is a win-win.”

For California residents, the degree is expected to cost approximately \$10,000 annually before financial aid — making it one of the most affordable four-year options in the field available in the region.

The program builds on an existing partnership between SMC and Amazon Web Services. The college currently offers a short-term certificate, a certificate of achievement, and an associate degree in cloud computing, developed in collaboration with AWS. The new baccalaureate will extend that foundation into a full four-year pathway.

“Cloud and AI expertise rank among the most sought-after skills in today’s workforce,” said Valerie Singer, GM of Global Education at AWS. “Programs like Santa Monica College’s Bachelor’s in Cloud Computing are essential because they combine practical cloud and AI training with critical thinking, collaborative problem-solving, and hands-on capstone experiences.”

The curriculum was designed in alignment with industry-recognized certifications, including the AWS Certified Solutions Architect credential, as well as Microsoft Azure and CompTIA certifications.

Howard Stahl, chair of SMC’s Computer Science and Information Systems department and one of the program’s architects, said the degree addresses a persistent gap in the regional talent pipeline.

“Our faculty, in collaboration with

industry partners, have built a curriculum that emphasizes applied learning, combines hands-on tools, industry technologies, best practices, and pairs it with a real-world capstone project to prepare our graduates for a fantastic future in tech,” Stahl said.

California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs James Todd said the approval reflects the system’s broader commitment to workforce-aligned education.

“Developed with regional industry partners, these bachelor’s degrees create direct pathways to high-demand careers,” Todd said. “Statewide, approximately 90% of our baccalaureate graduates work in the same field as their degree and typically double their earnings.”

SMC’s first four-year program offers a useful benchmark. The Interaction Design degree has produced graduates who now work at companies including Google, Meta, PlayStation, and Snap Inc. The cloud computing program is expected to enroll 90 students in its first year, scaling to 360 by its fourth year.

SMC Vice President of Academic Affairs Jason Beardsley said the expansion “opens a bright new pathway to a four-year degree for hundreds of local students” and supports the Chancellor’s Office goal of increasing bachelor’s degree attainment statewide by 30% by 2030.

Applications for the Cloud Computing degree will be accepted ahead of the Fall 2027 launch. Prospective students can submit an interest form at [smc.edu/Cloud](http://smc.edu/Cloud).

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

## GOVERNOR

FROM PAGE 3

Newsom reiterated his lack of interest this week when he issued a statement that said in part, “I have full confidence that voters will choose a candidate who reflects the values and direction Californians believe in.”

## TOO MUCH DEMOCRACY FOR DEMOCRATS?

While grassroots activists have for decades decried the king-making of insider machine politics, the alternative — an abundance of candidates with no clear frontrunner — has proved unappealing too.

The resulting decision paralysis has resurrected calls for a strong leader to step in.

“This has been incredibly frustrating, not to mention scary, with the idea that we could end up with two Republicans,” said RL Miller, a longtime delegate and chair of the party’s environmental caucus. “I really do believe that there has been a failure of leadership at the top.”

Miller theorized that party leaders were overcorrecting after years of backlash following the 2016 presidential election, in which establishment Democrats disregarded the grassroots support for Sen. Bernie Sanders and instead anointed Hillary Clinton.

As more Democratic gubernatorial candidates entered the fray in the last year, Miller said she thought leadership had the “admirable intent” of letting delegates winnow the field themselves.

But anxieties were already spiking before the Democrats’ endorsing convention in February, where none of the nine candidates vying for the gubernatorial nod amassed more than 25% — far short of the 60% needed. Hicks faced repeated questions then about whether he would step in, but insisted it wasn’t his role.

“By the party convention, the alarm bells had been ringing for months,” said Miller, who has consistently voted against Hicks in internal party elections.

After the convention, Hicks released an open letter urging that “every candidate honestly assess the viability of their candidacy and campaign,” and “if you do not have a viable path to make it to the general election” not to file to run. Only one listened, former Assemblymember Ian Calderon, who was polling around 1% or less.

Later, Hicks announced the party would conduct ongoing polls on the race and release them every seven to 10 days through early May, when ballots are sent.

Hicks’ defenders said he was right to abstain from picking favorites. Christine Pelosi said it would be “inappropriate” for the chair to weigh in on the candidates after delegates at the party convention chose not to endorse anyone.

Hicks’ calls for candidates to “consider their viability” was a “somewhat extraordinary and surprising” move, said Paul Mitchell, the architect of the gerrymandered congressional maps that voters approved via Proposition 50 to boost congressional Democrats in the upcoming election.

“It maybe wasn’t surprising for people who think that the Democratic Party chair is like a backroom dealer that’s going to knock heads or something like that,” Mitchell said. “But that’s not the chair’s role in California right now.”

## TOP-TWO PRIMARY ADDS TO TENSION

Both Mitchell and Christine Pelosi blamed the top-two system for much of the drama. The slim possibility that two Republicans could emerge from the primary has spurred many of the calls for leadership to weigh in.

Mitchell argued that since President Donald Trump put a thumb on the scale by endorsing former Fox News host Steve Hilton, there’s less risk that both he and Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco would end up on the November ticket, alleviating some of the pressure on Democrats.

“If it wasn’t a top two, people wouldn’t care,” said Christine Pelosi. “You wouldn’t have the added agita of ‘there’s only two Republicans and there’s a bunch of Democrats.’”

Notably, the state GOP failed to endorse a candidate at its recent convention, indicating that Trump’s nod might not hold as much sway as Democrats assume.

Still, if Hicks is trying to convince rank-and-file Democrats he’s doing enough, it’s not working.

Amar Shergill, the former leader of the party’s progressive caucus, suggested that its weak, decentralized leadership was by design so monied interests could exert more control over who gets elected.

“

Rusty Hicks is furniture that folks with real power use at their discretion

- Amar Shergill

”

“Rusty Hicks is furniture that folks with real power use at their discretion,” Shergill said.

“There’s no sort of anger or animosity towards him as a person,” he said. “If it wasn’t Rusty, it would be somebody else. This is just the political situation right now.”

In an interview, Hicks told CalMatters that he is “doing what is required” to ensure a Democrat wins the race. But when pressed repeatedly, Hicks would not elaborate on what that work entails, if he believes what he’s done so far is working or if he should have had a stronger hand in culling the field, as his critics have suggested.

“I’m not interested in opening up the playbook as to what we will or will not do in the coming days and weeks,” he said.

CalMatters’ Yue Stella Yu contributed to this report. Maya C. Miller, CalMatters Politics Reporter

Santa Monica Daily Press

## Classifieds

## Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00151. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica CA 90401, Santa Monica Courthouse. Petition of Alon Nachshon for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Alon Nachshon filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Alon Nachshon to Alon Meir. 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: 05/15/2026, 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: 10/01/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/07/2026, 04/14/2026, 04/21/2026, 04/28/2026

## Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No.26SMCP00150. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica CA 90401. Petition of Donna Marie Marshall for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Donna Marie Marshall filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Donna Marie Marshall to Donnamarie Fontaine. 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: 05/15/2026, 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: 04/07/2026, 04/14/2026, 04/21/2026, 04/28/2026

## Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26NNCP00096. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 300 East Walnut St., Pasadena, CA 91101. Petition of Nefize Sayula and Carlos Sayula for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Nefize Sayula and Carlos Sayula filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Sophia Alya Sayula to Sophia Elisa Sayula. 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: 04/24/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: P. 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: 02/09/2026. ROBERTO LONGORIA, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/07/2026, 04/14/2026, 04/21/2026, 04/28/2026

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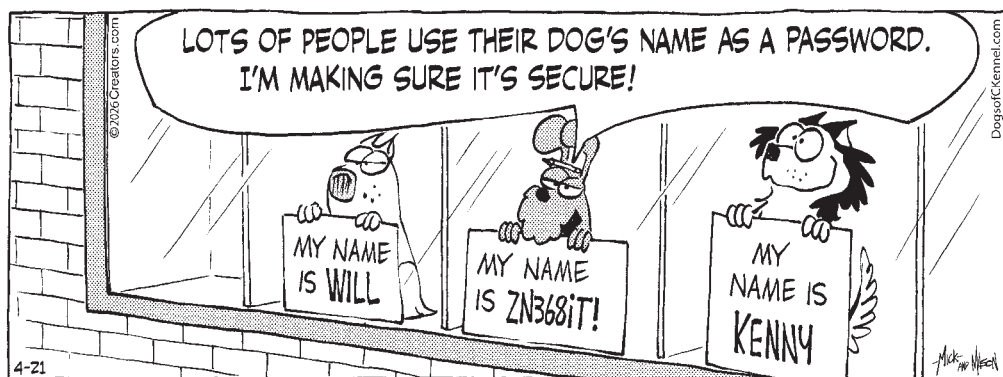
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By TONY COCHRAN



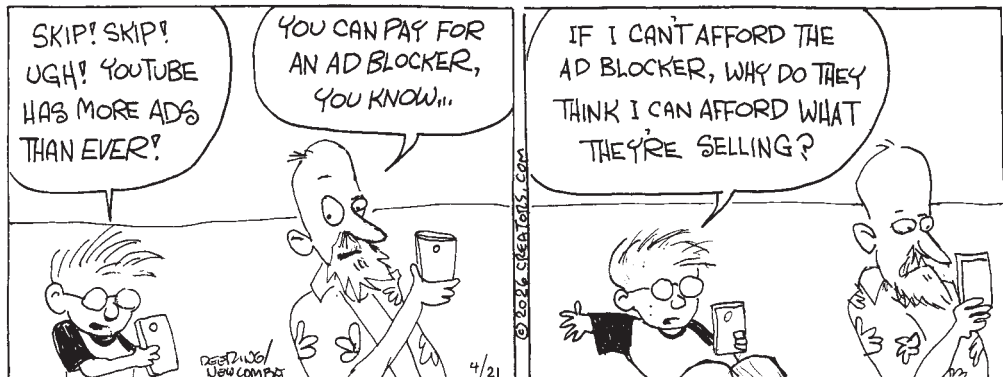
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**Heathcliff**

By PETER GALLAGHER

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**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 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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**1960s music**

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

- |          |         |        |             |
|----------|---------|--------|-------------|
| Acid     | Drums   | Jade   | Patti       |
| Arena    | Dusty   | James  | Piano       |
| Aztecs   | Elvis   | Janis  | Rage        |
| Bands    | Everly  | Jerry  | Shake       |
| Bass     | Fun     | Jump   | Shirelles   |
| Booker T | Gary    | Loud   | Simon       |
| Byrds    | Gene    | Love   | Tina Turner |
| Change   | Hair    | Music  | Troggs      |
| Chuck    | Hippy   | Neil   | Tunes       |
| Col Joye | Hollies | Noisy  | Voice       |
| Cool     | Hosts   | Normie |             |
| Dion     | Hot     | Rowe   |             |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 21)**

Welcome to your Year of the Powerful Gentleness. Your influence is one of steadiness and safety - no flashy fireworks necessary - you still change everything that needs changing. Others feel stronger just by being near you. More highlights: A straight-up, lucky win, applause and speeches celebrating you, a turnaround in your personal life that's a hard-won victory. Pisces and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 13, 29, 50 and 6.

**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You'll be in a competitive environment and yet have the relaxed confidence of James Bond. And you're also as mysterious as a spy, showing up smooth, using the environment to your benefit and keeping everyone guessing.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). There are a lot of true ideas, but which ideas are also helpful? There are a lot of solutions that will work, but which are you likely to follow through with? These are the types of questions you'll answer to effect change.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). When someone tries to correct, define or control your behavior, it will be a waste of energy to let that escalate into a conflict. Choose your response instead of reacting. Set the tone and timing, and you'll have the upper hand.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). This is where you prove your tenacity. If you don't succeed in the task today, you'll succeed in learning what you need to know for the next time. Take notes; it will help you remember and keep you sharp.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). No need to settle for what other people think is interesting. You know what thrills you. Your preferences, appetites and desires will not steer you wrong. The thing that gets your heart racing points to the pursuit that will matter to you.

**VRIGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're starting to think of a certain part of your past a little differently. There's no need to force yourself into a situation to please those around you. If it's a good fit, it will feel natural.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Certain environments get unmanageable when big, greedy, selfish personalities take over. It feels like there's a gorilla running the zoo. You're the one managing reality. You are the one making the hard, adult decisions. Take the keys back. Your peace is not optional.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Willpower isn't always easy to access, which makes today's discipline boost a gift. You'll find it simpler to do what needs doing as inner momentum helps you move past resistance. You're setting yourself up to feel good about it later.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Intense feelings come up. You express them with restraint, which draws people closer instead of overwhelming them. Then, when you're alone, you find even better ways to understand and channel your emotions, perhaps physically or through art.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It occurs to you to wonder, "Am I living, or just existing?" The question puts you in touch with your own yearnings and gifts. It helps you understand what it would take to feel more vital. And today, it will lead to an interesting insight.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's a version of you who would explain until the other person understands, a version who hopes others will rectify unfairness and a version who negotiates your own needs down to keep things smooth. Those versions are done.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a situation where you decide not to engage at full depth. You handle what's required and leave the rest alone. That ability to stop protects your energy and keeps you from burning out under ongoing responsibility.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

**Newsday Crossword**

**UMPIRE'S CALLS** by Guilherme Gilioli  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Athletes who are paid
- 5 "Half" prefix for circle
- 9 Shoeshine spoiler
- 14 Strauss of jeans
- 15 Jogging pace
- 16 Bert's Muppet friend
- 17 Software buyer
- 18 Competes in a marathon
- 19 Stretchy sportswear fabric
- 20 Union's money for walkout workers
- 22 \_\_\_ mignon (beef serving)
- 23 Tennis barrier
- 24 Queued (up)
- 25 Team's good-luck animal
- 29 Remove, as a wooden pin
- 31 Wide neckwear
- 32 Tight-fitting
- 33 Salmon or shark
- 37 "Wherefore art \_\_\_ Romeo?"
- 38 Great Wall's country
- 39 Fully aware of
- 40 Stitched together
- 41 Berets and beanies
- 42 Wise advisors
- 43 Make a swap
- 45 Natural ability
- 46 "Tell me now"
- 48 Vessel for frying
- 49 Sneer (at)
- 50 Formal party dresses
- 56 End of a fable
- 57 Egg shape
- 58 Winnie-the-\_\_\_

- 59 Loosen, as shoelaces
- 60 Sushi grain
- 61 Voicemail signal
- 62 Machine parts with teeth
- 63 Hardly \_\_\_ (rarely)
- 64 Kid's snow vehicle

**DOWN**

- 1 +
- 2 Take a break
- 3 Turn \_\_\_ a new leaf
- 4 Voice of Apple devices
- 5 Urban road
- 6 Spew like a volcano
- 7 Da Vinci's \_\_\_ Lisa
- 8 \_\_\_-bitsy (tiny)
- 9 Photo of the
- 10 Protesting
- 11 Mom's brother
- 12 Discharged, as a cannon
- 13 Heroic act
- 21 Pretzel shape
- 24 Women's links org.
- 25 Rugs with "Welcome"
- 26 Tennis great Arthur
- 27 Trash-hauling boat
- 28 Rural agricultural show
- 29 Join forces
- 30 Women in a convent
- 32 Source of caviar
- 34 Memo starter like "As to"
- 35 Astound
- 36 Party thrower
- 38 Casual conversation
- 42 Bunch of your buddies
- 44 Hunters' weapons
- 45 More lofty
- 46 British teacake
- 47 Major blood vessel
- 48 "There's no \_\_\_ like home"
- 49 Too confident
- 50 Tiresome person
- 51 Tel \_\_\_, Israel
- 52 Selects, with "for"
- 53 Fabric from sheep
- 54 "\_\_\_ of your business!"
- 55 Building for garden tools

**Sudoku**

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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.

	7		4			6		2
4				1			7	
		9			7			3
		4			5	9		6
	8		7	2	9		4	
9		1	8			3		
6			3			5		
	3			5				8
8		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					
25	26	27	28				29	30							
31							32				33	34	35	36	
37							38				39				
40							41				42				
					43	44					45				
		46	47						48						
49							50	51				52	53	54	55
56							57					58			
59							60					61			
62							63					64			

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

**VENICE**

FROM PAGE 1

unambiguous terms.

“History is constantly being erased,” she said.

The parade’s roots stretch to the 1960s, when it emerged alongside the Civil Rights Movement and the broader Chicano Movement. The holiday commemorates the Mexican Army’s 1862 victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla — a victory that ultimately hindered French support for the Confederacy and contributed to the abolition of slavery in the United States.

That layered history is woven into every element of Saturday’s programming. Aztec danzantes, charros on dancing horses, mariachi and banda ensembles, and Grupo La Rosa Folklórico under director Antonia Villalobos are all expected to perform. The Venice High School Band, Drill Team, Folklórico group and MEChA club will march alongside Santa Monica College cheerleaders and a Westside Classics lowrider procession. Live music comes from DJ Joey Bustamante, Venice rapper Baby Dog and the Rhythm Band. Lupita’s Tacos, Tacos de Valiii and Oaxacana Taco Truck will provide food, with piñatas, raffles, face painting and a photo booth rounding out the festivities.

Ceballos also leads the Venice Mexican American Traquero Monument project, which aims to place a permanent marker at Windward Circle honoring the neighborhood’s Latino heritage.

The choice of Oakwood Park as the festival’s home is deliberate. Oakwood has long been the

cultural heart of Venice’s Mexican-American community, a neighborhood historically shared by Latino and Black families whose histories in the area run deep. But that demographic reality has shifted sharply. The neighborhood’s Latino population has fallen from roughly 48% in 2000 to under a third today, while white residency has climbed past 70%. Affordable housing has vanished, rent-stabilized buildings have been demolished and longtime community anchors have been sold off.

Against that backdrop, the parade functions as something more than a festival. It is a living assertion — we were here, we are still here.

Organizers say the event also carries renewed urgency in the current political climate. With Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids continuing to harm community members and traumatize children, Ceballos and fellow organizers see public celebration of Chicano and Mexican heritage as vital to standing in solidarity with immigrant communities and uplifting community members.

The Brown Berets are among the groups expected to participate, alongside informational booths and community vendors.

For Venice locals, the event offers a chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones on familiar ground.

The parade and festival are free and open to the public.

maaz@smdp.com

**GUEST COMMENTARY**

FROM PAGE 4

would cement that marginalization into law.

Approximately 146 million Americans lack a valid passport. Only 21% of Americans earning under \$50,000 possess one, compared to 64% of those earning over \$100,000.

Naturalized citizens — disproportionately immigrants of color who have gone through the very legal process supporters of the SAVE Act claim to protect — often lack easy access to birth certificates or naturalization papers.

Kansas enacted a similar proof-of-citizenship requirement and blocked 31,000 eligible citizens from registering to vote, far more than any noncitizens ever identified.

Meanwhile, noncitizen voting is already illegal and exceedingly rare: Utah’s exhaustive review of over 2 million voter registrations found exactly one confirmed case.

Proponents of the SAVE Act argue this is election security, but this is history repeating itself.

Poll taxes, literacy tests, grandfather clauses — every generation of voter suppression has arrived dressed in the

language of protection and common sense. The SAVE Act is no different. It narrows the electorate by making participation costly, complicated and frightening — particularly for immigrant communities already wary of federal anti-immigration enforcement.

When those communities are pushed further from the ballot box, the consequences reach into every clinic, every school health program, every community health center that depends on political champions to survive.

Silencing votes doesn’t just change elections. It changes health outcomes.

California’s senators must vote no. And the rest of us — researchers, clinicians, community members — must say clearly that voting rights are health rights. Fighting the SAVE Act is not just about democracy. It’s about who gets to be healthy in America, and who does not.

Shaina Sta. Cruz is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Violence Prevention at the University of California, Davis. R. David Rebanal is an associate professor of Public Health at San Francisco State University.

it would return tariff refunds to customers when it receives them from the CPB.

“Supporting our customers as they navigate regulatory changes remains our top priority,” FedEx said in a statement. “We are working with our customers as CBP begins processing refunds and plan to begin filing claims on April 20.”

By MAE ANDERSON AP Business Writer

**TUESDAY | APRIL 21****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>

**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/17128550/2026-04-07T14>

**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-/14857154/2026-04-07T20>

**WEDNESDAY | APRIL 22****BEACH WALK MEDITATION**

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Santa Monica Lifeguard Tower 22 2400 Ocean Front Walk Los Angeles. Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. Developing mindfulness doesn’t have to happen in a quiet room without any distracting sights or sounds. In fact we can develop our mindfulness while out in nature; feeling the warmth of the sun on our backs and the cool ocean splashing around our feet.. Let’s practice meditation in motion while creating a potent wellness experience that enhances mental clarity, alertness, and overall well-being. We’ll meet Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 am at lifeguard tower 22 -see a red, yellow, blue, orange, white FLAG. After some basic instructions we’ll walk silently together for approximately 45 minutes on the shoreline at a natural pace from tower 22 towards the Santa Monica Pier and back. Free—Donations are accepted. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/beach-walk-meditation/16206460/2026-04-01T08>

**DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - WEDNESDAY MARKET**

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica Arizona Avenue (Between 4th & Ocean) Santa Monica. One of the largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica’s farmers markets, widely

considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/18330379/2026-04-01T08>

**TODDLER STORYTIME AND SONGS**

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Toddler Storytime and Songs Join us for storytime on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. We share stories, songs, and movement activities to build early literacy skills for toddlers aged 18 months to 3 years. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/toddler-storytime-and-songs/18526513/2026-04-15T10>

**LOVE AT FIRST BITE**

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The Penmar 1233 Rose Avenue Los Angeles. Join Lox Club for golden hour at Penmar with Levain Bakery and Aperol. Great company, spritzes, and freshly baked cookies making the rounds all night. Ticket includes event entry, one free drink, and Levain Bakery cookies to enjoy there and cookies take home. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/love-at-first-bite/18593250/2026-04-22T18>

**MOMSLA DINNER PARTY**

6:30 p.m. - 8:030 p.m. This is your invitation to Dinner on April 22nd in Santa Monica! Meet Other Moms + Make New Friends. We’re hosting small group dinners all around LA so that Moms can meet up and get to know each other. How Does the MomsLA Dinner Party Work? Take the Quiz. (The quiz asks about your interests, food preferences, and more.) \$15.99 to \$50.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/momsla-dinner-party/18523708/2026-04-22T18>

**JAZZ A GO GO AT LOULOU SANTA MONICA**

7:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica PI #300 Santa Monica. JAZZ A GO GO at LouLou Santa Monica. Every Wednesday · From 7 PM till late - Live Jazz that turns into a Vibe.Music you Feel. People you Meet. Amazing Food. Nights that Flow. JAZZ A GO GO (@jazzagogonight) by Loulou Santa Monica, Gilles Signature & Gilles Los Angeles - curated by the creator of @jazzeclectica. Every Wednesday · From 7 PM till late 🎷 Watch the LouLou experience: <https://bit.ly/loulou-jazz-a-gogo> . Book Now: [bit.ly/booking-loulou](https://bit.ly/booking-loulou) 📍 LouLou Santa Monica JAZZ A GO GO Every Wednesday From 7 PM till late 395 Santa Monica PI #300, Santa Monica, CA 90401(323) 410-2337info@loulousantamonica.comloulousantamonica.com Reserve your table now: [bit.ly/booking-loulou](https://bit.ly/booking-loulou). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/jazz-a-go-go-at-loulou-santa-monica/18476815/2026-04-08T19>

**WINE WEDNESDAY AT THE WHALER**

101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 info@venicewhaler.com Does not apply on holidays Santa Monica. \$15 wine flights & half off bottles of wine all day every Wednesday. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wine-wednesday-at-the-whaler/16952883/2026-04-01T00>



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state-of-the-art gym to  
build a stronger brain.

The FitBrain<sup>SM</sup> gym at Saint John's is pioneering treatments in brain fitness by using innovative technology to gamify physical and cognitive tasks, improving mind-body connection and helping to prevent or slow down the effects of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Sessions at the FitBrain gym are tailored to each patient's individual goals and have been shown to positively impact processing speed and executive functions, as well as enhance balance and mood.  
It's just one of the many ways we treat you for the better.

Everything for the  
Better.™