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Volume 24 Issue 108 WEDNESDAY 4/23/25 smdp.com

Rent control inventory grows for fifth consecutive year

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The number of rent-controlled units in Santa Monica saw a small increase in 2024, marking the fifth consecutive year of growth in the city's protected housing stock, according to the annual report presented to the Rent Control Board.

The report, delivered to the Rent Control Board during its recent meeting, showed a net gain of 65 controlled units, bringing the total to 27,668 at year's end. The increase was attributed to units returning to the rental market after previously being withdrawn under the Ellis Act, temporary exemptions expiring, and new registrations including some accessory dwelling units.

Despite this positive trend, the lasting impact of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act, which went into effect 26 years ago, remains evident in unit prices. Approximately three-quarters (75.8%) of rent-controlled units in Santa Monica have been rented at market rate at least once, leaving just 20.7% occupied by long-term tenants who moved in before 1999.

The report documented a decrease in Ellis Act activity, with only 14 units withdrawn from the rental housing market in 2024, while 34 previously withdrawn

SEE **RENT** PAGE 8

Pali High comes to DTSM







Matthew Hall

PALI: Palisades High School officially opened for in-person education on Tuesday. Students returning to campus said they generally didn't enjoy remote learning and were looking forward to an in-person experience with their friends. Fears regarding traffic were largely unfounded as students arrived via the train or the designated drop off in the adjacent parking lot. Classes will take place at the former Sears Building through the end of the school year and officials hope to return to their main campus once repairs are complete. Debris removal at the original school was completed last month, and with Palisades High School now returning to in-person instruction, all eight public schools that were damaged by the Eaton and Palisades fire have resumed in person instruction.

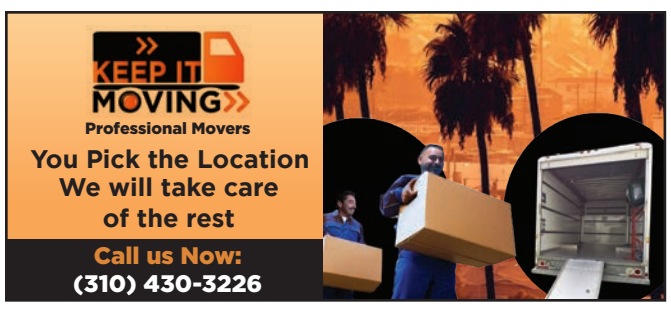
Self-certification, AI tools and builder alliances proposed as wildfire rebuilding strategies

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

At the second and final panel of the "Strategies in Rebuilding" theme at this year's Luskin Summit, a coalition of experts laid out an ambitious framework to accelerate the rebuilding process across Los Angeles County in the aftermath of the January wildfires. The proposals include streamlining permitting through self-certification, using artificial intelligence to speed up approvals and launching a builders' alliance to bring down construction costs and provide options for homeowners grappling with financial uncertainty.

The session was mediated by Gadi Kaufmann, CEO of RCLCO Real Estate Consulting, who described the effort as a cross-sector collaboration between UCLA, USC and the Urban Land Institute, along with private developers, academics and local residents. Following an earlier industry summit with representatives from all of those organizations, six working groups were formed to address key components of recovery including permitting, financing, infrastructure and vertical rebuilding. A central goal emerged: to make rebuilding feasible for the thousands

SEE **BUILDER** PAGE 7



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A new program trains college students for jobs helping homeless Californians. Can it survive?



Photo by Alisha Jucevic for CalMatters

SMC: Santa Monica College in Santa Monica on April 16, 2025. Santa Monica College launched a new Homeless Service Work Certificate Program last year in partnership with Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

With more than 187,000 people sleeping on California's streets and in its shelters, the state's homeless services industry is struggling to hire enough qualified workers to help them.

Last year, Santa Monica College set out to fix that: It heralded the state's first-ever community college program aimed at training the next generation of homeless service workers. But the program has fallen victim to many of the same challenges that have long stymied progress on homelessness in California, including unreliable funding, high attrition rates and political turmoil.

In fact, it's not clear if the much-needed program will persist.

"We know the value added when somebody is adequately trained before they're deployed," said Vanessa Rios, a senior advisor for workforce development with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, which funds the community college program. "It would be a disservice to our system should we not fund and support this effort. Where the dollars (will) come from, I don't know."

It's the front-line jobs, where staff interact face-to-face with unhoused clients, that often are the most difficult for agencies to fill or keep filled. That includes doing outreach in encampments, staffing homeless shelters, and working as a case manager trying to find permanent housing for clients.

More than 8,000 people worked in the homeless services sector in Los Angeles County in 2022, a report by consulting firm KPMG and United Way of Greater Los Angeles found. But the county still had more than 1,300 open positions and would need more than 2,200 workers on top of that — so, more than 11,500 altogether — to meet the needs of Los Angeles County's homeless population.

Even compared to other major U.S. cities such as Atlanta, Chicago or Houston, homeless service workers in Los Angeles have a higher turnover rate, according to a more recent KPMG report.

It's an issue all over the state. Most nonprofits that provide homeless services in California can't help everyone who asks, in part because they struggle to recruit and retain staff, according to a 2024 study by the UC Berkeley Terner Center for Housing Innovation.

The new community college program was supposed to fill those holes by giving students the specific skills they need to succeed in homeless services. But amid perennial state budget uncertainty and questions about the region's homeless services, Rios couldn't say if her team will be able to fund another round of students at Santa Monica College.

The state's Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention fund initially supported the program with roughly $750,000. That fund is the main source of flexible money that California cities and counties use to combat homelessness. Once the $750,000 runs out, it's not clear whether it will be renewed. Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed budget, released in January, did not include any new money for Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention, although the Legislature could still add some.

That uncertainty is a major problem. For years, nonprofits, cities and counties have said a lack of consistent state funding hampers their ability to fight homelessness. While Newsom has poured billions into the cause, it has largely been in one-time grants — not the predictable, ongoing funding that service providers say they need in order to plan long-term programs.

At the same time, the agency that funds the community college program is in crisis. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority — a joint agency of the city and county of LA — has all but imploded. Earlier this month, the LA County Board of Supervisors voted to pull its money out of the joint agency, following a scathing audit of its work. Three days later, the head of the agency said she would resign. Now, the city is considering pulling out as well.

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 8

GeniusFest starts Thursday

DEVYN HAMILTON
SMDP Intern

A theatrical festival to celebrate revolutionary minds is hosting their first annual "GeniusFEST" from Apr. 24 - 27 with various showtimes at the Santa Monica Playhouse to show three different original plays, Einstein!, Hedy!, and Shakespeare's Last Night Out.

The GeniusFEST idea was created by Heather Massie, Jack Fry, and a few other performers who wanted to write plays based off of scientific and educational icons. Their intent was to create a humorous awareness of the personal lives of revolutionary minds.

"Since our shows brought these geniuses to life, might it not be our mission to bring awareness to the dramatic stories behind these historic achievements, these revolutionary ideas from all types of visionaries that have transformed our world," according to their website.

Einstein!, written and played by Fry, is the "personal" account of how Einstein proved his general theory of relativity in the midst of his exciting personal life. Fry researched Einstein for years in the making of this play, and since publication has traveled through North America and performed in many cities. The reviews of the play account it as educational and entertaining at the same time, and note the engagement with the audience.

Hedy! – The Life and Inventions of Hedy Lamarr is a one woman show about the actress Hedy Lamarr who also started the wireless revolution. The play goes through Lamarr's life and includes several other characters that are all portrayed by Massie. It includes different historical events such as World War II that influenced Lamarr's life. Lamarr worked with George Antheil in 1942 and was a large part in blocking Axis powers from interfering with Allied radio systems. Splash Magazine notes it as highly entertaining.

Shakespeare's Last Night Out is based on the story that Shakespeare died from a fever because of a night of heavy drinking. It follows Shakespeare all night and includes several songs, and is a solo performance by Michael Shaw Fisher.

This year, GeniusFEST is raising money for the fire victims. GeniusFEST is partnering with the Luz Maria Foundation to raise money for the victims of the Los Angeles Fires. There will be an opportunity to make a donation when purchasing a ticket and there will be a collection box in the Playhouse courtyard to donate clothing, books and non-perishable food items. https://www.luzmariafoundation.org

Ticket information is available online at https://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, and the showtimes of the festival are:

Thursday, April 24: 5 p.m. HEDY, 8 p.m. SHAKESPEARE

Friday, April 25: 2 p.m. HEDY, 5 p.m. EINSTEIN

Saturday, April 26: 2 p.m. EINSTEIN, 5 p.m. SHAKESPEARE, 8 p.m. HEDY

Sunday, April 27: 2 p.m. SHAKESPEARE, 5 p.m. HEDY, 8 p.m. EINSTEIN

COMMUNITY NEWS

LOS ANGELES

ADL Report Shows Rise in Antisemitic Incidents in Los Angeles

Antisemitic incidents increased by 6% in Los Angeles during 2024, according to the Anti-Defamation League's annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents released recently.

The report documented 532 incidents of antisemitic harassment, vandalism, and assault in Los Angeles last year, up from 503 in 2023. This represents a 277% increase in the area over the past five years, rising from 141 incidents in 2020.

"The rise in antisemitism here in Los Angeles is alarming, but sadly not surprising given the wave of hate we've seen across the country," said Jeffrey I. Abrams, ADL Los Angeles Regional Director. "Jewish Angelenos are being targeted in the streets, in their neighborhoods, and especially on campus – simply for being Jewish."

The data showed significant increases in harassment (375 incidents, up 15%) while vandalism decreased by 12% to 139 incidents. Assaults remained unchanged at 18 incidents. Campus-related incidents more than doubled, jumping 146% from 39 in 2023 to 96 in 2024.

Nationally, ADL recorded 9,354 antisemitic incidents in 2024, a 5% increase from 2023 and a 344% increase over five years. This represents the highest level since ADL began tracking this data in 1979, averaging more than 25 incidents per day.

The violence was highlighted last June when protesters blocked people from entering Adas Torah Synagogue in the Pico-Robertson neighborhood, resulting in separate attacks on a Jewish man and a pro-Israel protester. In response, the Jewish Security Alliance, co-chaired by ADL Los Angeles, met with local officials including Mayor Karen Bass to address the violence.

ADL encourages reporting incidents at www.adl.org/report-incident and urges contacting legislators to increase funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, enhance Holocaust education, and affirm the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism.

The complete dataset is available on ADL's H.E.A.T. Map at www.adl.org.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

GET IT DAILY...



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

WEDNESDAY *FAIR*
SURF: Waist to chest 3-4FT

Surf continues to slowly trend up - small/fun waves to be found. Light AM wind. SSW swell (215-195) will be partially shadowed but surf should still be kinda fun (by spring/summer standards), with still a touch of NW swell mixing in. Clean to lightly crumbled conditions for the morning thanks to light/variable to light SE wind and widespread knee-waist high surf can be expected. Top SSW/combo spots in the south half of the county hit chest-shoulder high. PM onshores pick up from the SW but will again be pretty mellow with manageable crumble/bump.

THURSDAY *FAIR*
SURF: Thigh to stomach 2-3FT+

Fun size expected but the points may have AM crumble due to E wind. PM onshores mellow. Fun-zone SSW swell is on track to bump a notch from Wednesday and top out. Waist high surf can be expected for many breaks, with sets up to chest-shoulder high for standouts. Keeping a close eye on conditions as E wind could make for a crumbly start at the points, but there is potential for it to be light enough and with enough N for a decent start. Breaks west of Dume have higher confidence on a decent morning window. PM SW to W onshore wind should be pretty manageable.

Weather

Wednesday: Patchy drizzle and fog before 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 60. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 63. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
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

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: 4/21
4 33 45 46 51
Power#: 25
Jackpot: 151 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/18
5 13 15 17 28
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 50 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 4/19
8 24 41 45 46
Mega#: 27
Jackpot: 20 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/21
2 20 26 33 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/21
EVENING: 4 9 2
Draw Date: 4/21
MIDDAY: 4 3 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/21
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:49.06

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Santa Monica Daily Press

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Young ideas

Editor:

Kudos to Staff Intern Devyn Hamilton for an excellent take on the debate over use of SM Airport Land. Asking SAMO students, the people who will soon be facing the area's affordable housing shortage, where they stand on the issue was a great idea.

Older people like myself, who found a place to live in Santa Monica years ago and are housing secure, often have a hard time realizing the city isn't the economically diverse place it used to be. Younger people know they are facing a very different housing future. Their voices need to be heard.

Vivian Rothstein, Sunset Park Resident

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.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's economy was already sluggish before Trump's global tariffs



Photo by Carlin Stiehl for CalMatters

ECONOMY: Commercial trucks pass by a warehouse in front of a residential neighborhood along Drumm Avenue in the Wilmington neighborhood of Los Angeles on Dec. 2, 2024.

Last week, Gov. Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Rob Bonta filed a lawsuit challenging the legality of President Donald Trump's broad imposition of tariffs on imported goods.

"President Trump's unlawful tariffs are wreaking chaos on California families, businesses, and our economy, driving up prices and threatening jobs," Newsom said in a statement.

The tariffs could have all of those negative impacts, but California's economy was already sluggish.

As Gabe Petek, the Legislature's budget analyst, said in a January response to Newsom's state revenue forecast, "These gains are not tied to improvements in the state's broader economy, which has been lackluster, with elevated unemployment, a stagnant job market outside of government and healthcare, and sluggish consumer spending."

California has more than a million unemployed workers and its unemployment rate is tied for second-highest among the states.

"Jobs growth remains concentrated in government and government supported health care and social services while other private industries in total continue to shed jobs," according to the Center for Jobs and the Economy, an arm of the California Business Roundtable trade group.

Virtually every major segment of California's economy has been facing stiff headwinds in recent years, but the only one enjoying political notice has been Southern California's film industry, which is seeing other states and nations lure production away with lower costs and subsidies.

"Those business decisions have considerable consequences for the industry's thousands of middle-class workers: the camera operators, set decorators and lighting technicians who make movies and television happen," the New York Times reported.

Newsom and the Legislature are planning a major increase in state subsidies to keep production in California, but it may be too little and too late.

Meanwhile, "The substantial loss of technology jobs in the Bay Area so far this year is a huge shock to the Bay Area economy and labor market," Scott Anderson, chief economist with BMO Capital Markets, recently told the East Bay Times. "The technology job loss trend has been in place for some time now, but the deterioration in the first two months of the year is concerning."

Tariffs could hit Southern California's most important economic driver — the twin ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and the warehouse complexes in the region's interior — especially hard. But

SEE **ECONOMY** PAGE 11

A Fox News host? A sheriff? Is there a Republican who can finally win statewide in California again?

After more than a decade being exiled from the governor's office in California, Republicans are eyeing growing voter frustration with the dominant liberal politics of the state as a launching pad for a comeback next year.

Though lacking the statewide profiles of a deluge of Democratic contenders, a pair of GOP hopefuls with devoted conservative followings has jumped into the open 2026 gubernatorial race in recent months, hoping to persuade voters that only a radical shakeup can fix California's problems.

"I don't think there's any other way of describing California today, other than the sick man of America," said Steve Hilton, a former Fox News host and onetime political adviser to British Prime Minister David Cameron who officially announced his candidacy on Monday. "It's just undeniable that we're in a terrible, terrible mess in California and we have to change direction."

Hilton is kicking off his campaign today with an event in Huntington Beach, the city that has remade itself over the past few years into the bulwark of conservative resistance in California. He follows Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco, a hero of the right for defying state mandates during the COVID pandemic, who entered the race to succeed termed-out Gov. Gavin Newsom in February.

Both believe that voters have grown sick of a generation of one-party Democratic rule in Sacramento and are banking on appeals to cut taxes and regulations — which they blame for making California unaffordable — to reach across traditional partisan lines.

"We are being led down a path of complete government control and socialism," Bianco said in an interview. "This is no longer Democrat versus Republican. We're at a point where it's sane versus insane."

But conservative candidates face a steep climb in a state that has not elected a Republican to statewide office since Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger won a second term in 2006.

California Democratic Party Chairperson Rusty Hicks said the gubernatorial race is about more than just who can deliver for Californians. Voters know the governor has a powerful platform to stand up to the Trump administration and they won't want a Republican in a role that is also critical to the future of the rest of the country and the whole world, he said.

"I certainly applaud them for continuing to try," Hicks said. "But time and time again, we see California voters see their policies for what they are, which is not in line with the values of Californians."

SLASHING TAXES AND REGULATIONS

More than 20 people have already filed a statement of intention to run for governor in the 2026 primary as Republicans — though few will be serious candidates and some may never qualify for the ballot at all, which requires paying a filing fee or submitting thousands of signatures from registered voters.

Only two, including Bianco, have reported raising any money for their campaigns so far. While the first fundraising report of 2025 is not due until the end of July, major donations are filed with the state on a rolling basis.

Leo Zacky, a poultry farm heir and perennial candidate who received 1.3% of the vote in the 2022 gubernatorial primary and 0.1% in the 2021 recall election, seeded his campaign last month with $50,000 of his own money.

Meanwhile, since launching his campaign in February, Bianco has reported more than $380,000 in major contributions — enough to solidify himself as an early frontrunner for conservative voters, but a far cry from the millions that some Democratic contenders have already raised.

That leaves an opening for Hilton, 55, a native of the United Kingdom who moved to California in 2012 with his wife, a public relations executive for tech companies. Hilton has a built-in audience from hosting the weekly commentary program "The Next Revolution" on Fox News from 2017 to 2023, and Silicon Valley connections that could provide the money he needs to spread his message more broadly.

Hilton said his campaign will focus on practical solutions to rebuild a "ladder of opportunity," so that every Californian can have a great job and a great home — though many of them are ideas that the Democratic supermajority in the Legislature is unlikely to ever support.

He would eliminate the state income tax for Californians below an unspecified income level. He wants to boost housing development by simplifying building codes, ending lawsuits under the infamous California Environmental Quality Act, and promoting construction of single-family homes. He believes the state needs mandatory phonics education and more accountability for teachers based on test scores to improve student achievement.

Though he has had a long career in politics, Hilton has never held elected office himself, which he argues is an asset.

"I would ask people, how good are the machine politicians in Sacramento who are involved in this one-party rule? How is that working?" Hilton said.

Bianco, 57, was a longtime sheriff's deputy in Riverside County who ran for sheriff in 2018 out of frustration with what he called a "pro-criminal" approach to public safety in California. During his two terms as chief law enforcement officer of Riverside County, he has been a controversial but locally popular figure, refusing to enforce Newsom's COVID lockdown orders or apologize for his brief affiliation with the far-right Oath Keepers militia.

He said he's now running for governor because, like many Californians, he is tired of how the government has failed a state that people otherwise love. Many of his priorities align with Hilton's: Bianco would

SEE **GOVERNOR** PAGE 11

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Name Change

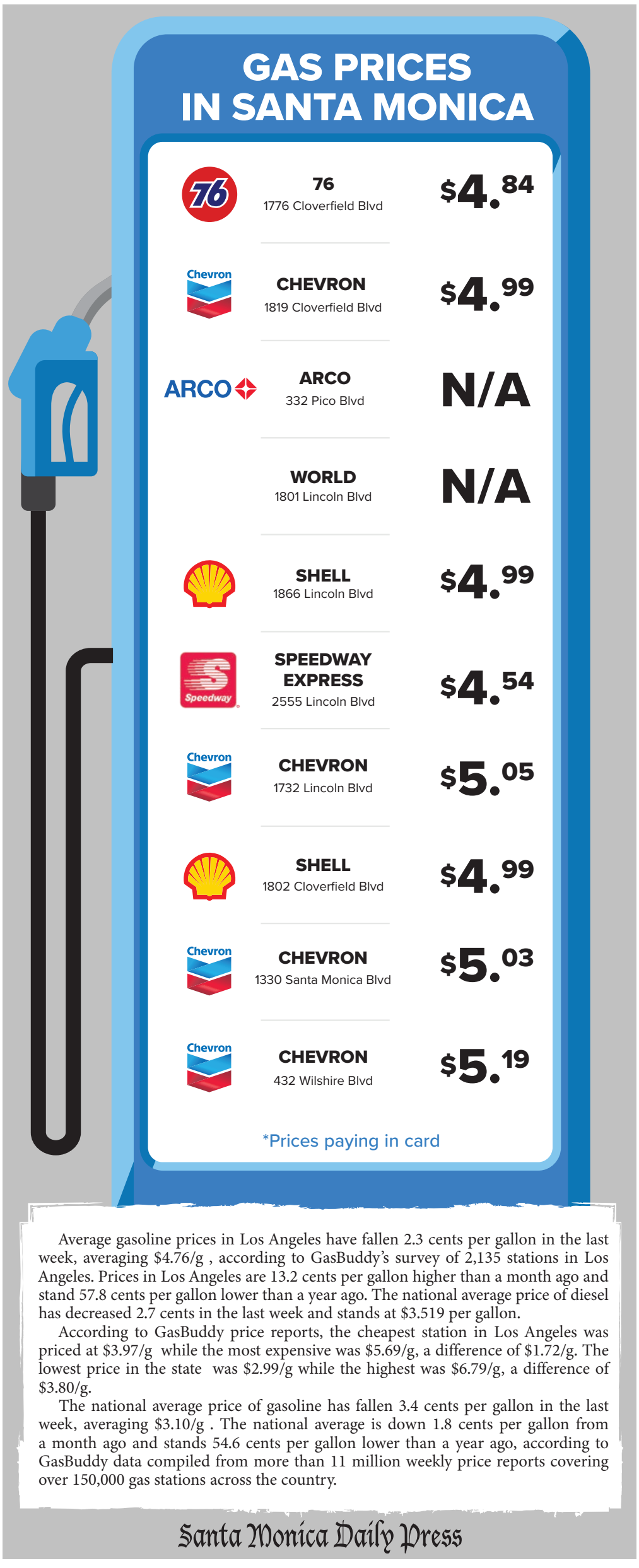
Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00182 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Mohsen Moradi Ganjeh and Ryan Moradi Ganjeh for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Mohsen Moradi Ganjeh this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Mohsen Moradi Ganjeh to Mason JohnRyan Moradi Ganjeh to Ryan John . 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

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 03/19/25 2025056079
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CURRENCY ADVISORY GROUP, 16030 VENTURA BLVD SUITE 320, ENCINO, CA 91436 . Los Angeles
Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON.
The full name of the registrant(s) is/are THE CULTURE CAPABILITY, INC, 16030 VENTURA BLVD SUITE 320, ENCINO CA, 91436
If corporation or LLC- Print State of DE
This is Business is Conducted: a Corporation . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2025 . Registrant /Corp/LLC THE CULTURE CAPABILITY, INC , LLC Title: PRESIDENT THEODORE CHUNG. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 03/19/2025 NOTICE: 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).

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



Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 2.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.76/g , according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 13.2 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 57.8 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 2.7 cents in the last week and stands at $3.519 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.97/g while the most expensive was $5.69/g, a difference of $1.72/g. The lowest price in the state was $2.99/g while the highest was $6.79/g, a difference of $3.80/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 3.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.10/g . The national average is down 1.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 54.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMUNITY NEWS

SANTA MONICA

SMC Wind Ensemble to Present Spring Concert

The Santa Monica College Wind Ensemble will present its annual spring concert on Wednesday, May 7, at 8 p.m. at The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage.

Under the direction of Kevin McKeown, the ensemble will celebrate the 150th birthday anniversary of two prolific composers for the wind band — Gustav Holst and Charles Ives.

The program features six compositions, including "A Somerset Rhapsody" by Gustav Holst, "Melodious Thunk" by David Biedenbender, "Fu Mon" by Hiroshi Hoshina, "Zoom" by Scott Boerma, "Dum Spiro Spero" by Chris Pilsner, and "From Every Horizon" by Norman Dello-Joio.

Tickets are $10 general admission with a service charge. All students with valid ID receive free admission. Advance tickets can be purchased online at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-3005 Monday through Friday. Tickets will also be available 45 minutes before the performance at The Broad Stage Box Office.

The SMC Performing Arts Center is located at 1310 11th Street at Santa Monica Boulevard. Free parking is available on the premises, and seating is first-come, first-served.

For more information, contact the SMC Music Department at 310-434-4323. All performances are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SANTA MONICA

Santa Monica to Host Two Cultural Celebrations in May

Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade will host two major cultural celebrations in May, showcasing the city's commitment to diversity.

The Cinco de Mayo celebration will take place Sunday, May 4, from 3 to 6 p.m. on the 1200 block of the Promenade. Hosted by Maria Sanchez, the event will feature live Mariachi music, Ballet Folklorico performances, and Latinx-owned vendors curated by Molcajete Dominguero.

Performance highlights include Maria Sanchez & The Midnight Grove (3-4 p.m.), Santa Monica Ballet Folklorico (4-4:45 p.m.), and Mariachis de America (4:45-6 p.m.). Latinx market and food vendors will be available from noon until 6 p.m.

Two weeks later, an Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration will take place Saturday, May 17, on the 1300-1400 blocks of the Promenade. Performances run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., while the SHOPFEST market operates from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This AAPI celebration will feature lion dancers, Tahitian and Hula dancers, Taiko drumming, Chinese and Bollywood dance performances, with DJ Jaw Knee Yeah providing music throughout the day.

The event also includes SHOPFEST, showcasing AAPI-owned small businesses, and the Dogs Only Social Club featuring pet vendors, a VIP doggy lounge, photo opportunities, and giveaways from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Kid-friendly activities include crafts, community art, and a special on-stage rescue pup appearance.

Both events are free and open to the public, offering opportunities to experience Los Angeles' cultural diversity.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

LOS ANGELES

Topanga Beach Bus Service Resumes Following Fire

The Topanga Beach Bus service has resumed operations, reconnecting West Valley and Topanga Canyon residents to Santa Monica after service was suspended due to the Palisades Fire and resulting roadway impacts.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath announced the return of the service in partnership with Los Angeles County Public Works and Caltrans. The bus provides an affordable transportation alternative while Caltrans completes repairs on Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway.

"The return of the Topanga Beach Bus provides a vital transportation option for our Topanga Canyon and West Valley communities as road repairs continue," Horvath said. "Though the beach bus is usually known as an affordable way to enjoy the coast, it's now playing a crucial role in helping our residents stay connected in the aftermath of the Palisades Fire."

Mark Pestrella, Director of Los Angeles County Public Works, emphasized the service's broader significance: "This effort is about more than transportation—it's about equitable access, environmental stewardship, and supporting communities."

Travelers should note that Topanga Canyon Boulevard remains fully closed from Grand View Drive to PCH, but the beach bus can use the road with a Caltrans escort. The service runs seven days a week, with one westbound and one eastbound trip daily until Topanga Canyon Boulevard reopens, after which three daily trips will resume.

The route connects two transit hubs, starting near the Orange Line at Canoga and ending at the Expo Line in Santa Monica, providing a critical transportation link as the community navigates fire recovery efforts.

For information on the Topanga Beach Bus route and schedule, visit https://mcusercontent.com/5c8dabe8a1bb899103d17de83/files/534b86f0-0e71-7883-67d7-c8256e5749a3/TopangaCanyonBrochure_250421.pdf

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

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BUILDER

FROM PAGE 1

of families who lost their homes, without sacrificing dignity or affordability.

"We launched this work with one thing in mind," Kaufmann said. "People want to get back to their communities. They want to rebuild quickly, efficiently and cost effectively. If that can't happen, many will be forced to move on."

According to a survey of fire-affected residents in both the Pacific Palisades and Altadena, more than 80 percent want to return, but that desire comes with a time limit. If the rebuilding process stretches beyond two or three years, many respondents said they would start making other plans. Of the approximately 10,000 homes destroyed, as well as another 8,000 structures including apartments and commercial buildings, as many as 4,000 homeowners are expected to need financial assistance. A funding gap of around $3 billion is projected between what is covered by insurance and what it will actually cost to rebuild.

David Waite, partner at Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP, who chaired the permitting reform workstream, said one of the most effective ways to reduce delays is to allow licensed architects and engineers to self-certify plans for compliance with building codes. Rather than waiting a year for approvals from multiple city or county departments, applicants would be able to submit sealed documents that are reviewed only for completeness and then fast-tracked for inspections.

Waite pointed to Santa Rosa's recovery after the 2017 Tubbs Fire, where the Coffee Park neighborhood was 85 percent rebuilt within three years because that recovery was made possible in part by expedited permitting. "The gold standard is to get through the permitting process in 30 days," he said, adding, "That's what we're aiming for."

Support for the concept has already gained political traction. Los Angeles City Councilmember Nithya Raman introduced a motion to study self-certification earlier this year and the LA City Council approved it unanimously. Waite acknowledged that consolidating up to 13 city departments into a single review process is a major bureaucratic hurdle, but he said the momentum is growing. LA County has already approved a similar consolidation among four departments and the groundwork is being laid for a dedicated inspection unit to oversee certified projects.

Emerging technologies are expected to play a supporting role. One platform, called CanIBuild, allows architects to check zoning compliance in seconds using digital models. Additional tools are in development that could allow AI to assist with full plan checks and help field inspectors access records in real time via mobile apps. "We are not far from having inspectors walk job sites with everything they need on a tablet," Waite said.

However, the challenge is not just regulatory as construction costs remain a major barrier, particularly for middle-income families. Adrian Foley, President of Brookfield Development, introduced a new Builders Alliance that seeks to bring down costs through bulk purchasing, shared labor resources and standardized floorplans. He said the initiative would allow homeowners to choose from production, semi-custom or fully custom home options that could be matched to their specific lot sizes and preferences.

By coordinating among multiple builders, the alliance aims to achieve volume pricing and predictable scheduling. "We're treating this like one unified pipeline," Foley said. "If trades and suppliers know what's coming, they can offer better rates and we can pass those savings on to the homeowners."

The alliance is open to all builders, but questions were raised about equity. Finance professor Andrea Eisfeldt, who lost her home in the Palisades, expressed concern that local builders could be left behind. "There are small businesses based right here that want to be part of this recovery," she said, adding, "We need to make sure they're not crowded out by larger players."

Eisfeldt also highlighted the uncertainty facing many residents who are weighing whether to rebuild. She compared the situation to a financial option, noting that the more uncertainty there is, the more valuable it becomes to wait. Questions remain about the safety of soil, future insurability and the long-term value of rebuilt homes. Preliminary estimates suggest that rebuilding in the Palisades could cost $850 per square foot, while in Altadena the average is closer to $500. For many families, insurance payouts will not come close to covering those amounts.

"Uncertainty is the biggest barrier," Eisfeldt said. "People are waiting because they don't know what the right move is yet."

Transportation challenges add another layer of complexity. With up to 3,000 homes expected to be under construction each year during peak rebuilding, the strain on already fragile infrastructure could be severe. UCLA Professor of Planning Michael Manville said the road networks in areas like the Palisades are ill-equipped to handle large volumes of trucks and workers.

Manville suggested limited overnight construction, managed lanes and one-way traffic loops as possible mitigations, but acknowledged that many of these ideas would face political and logistical resistance. "We're talking about neighborhoods with very few access points and very little tolerance for disruption," he said. "Even small changes could cause massive gridlock."

Despite the daunting obstacles, panelists remained hopeful. By aligning political will, private-sector efficiency and academic insight, they believe it's possible to rebuild thousands of homes within three years and restore communities that many thought were lost.

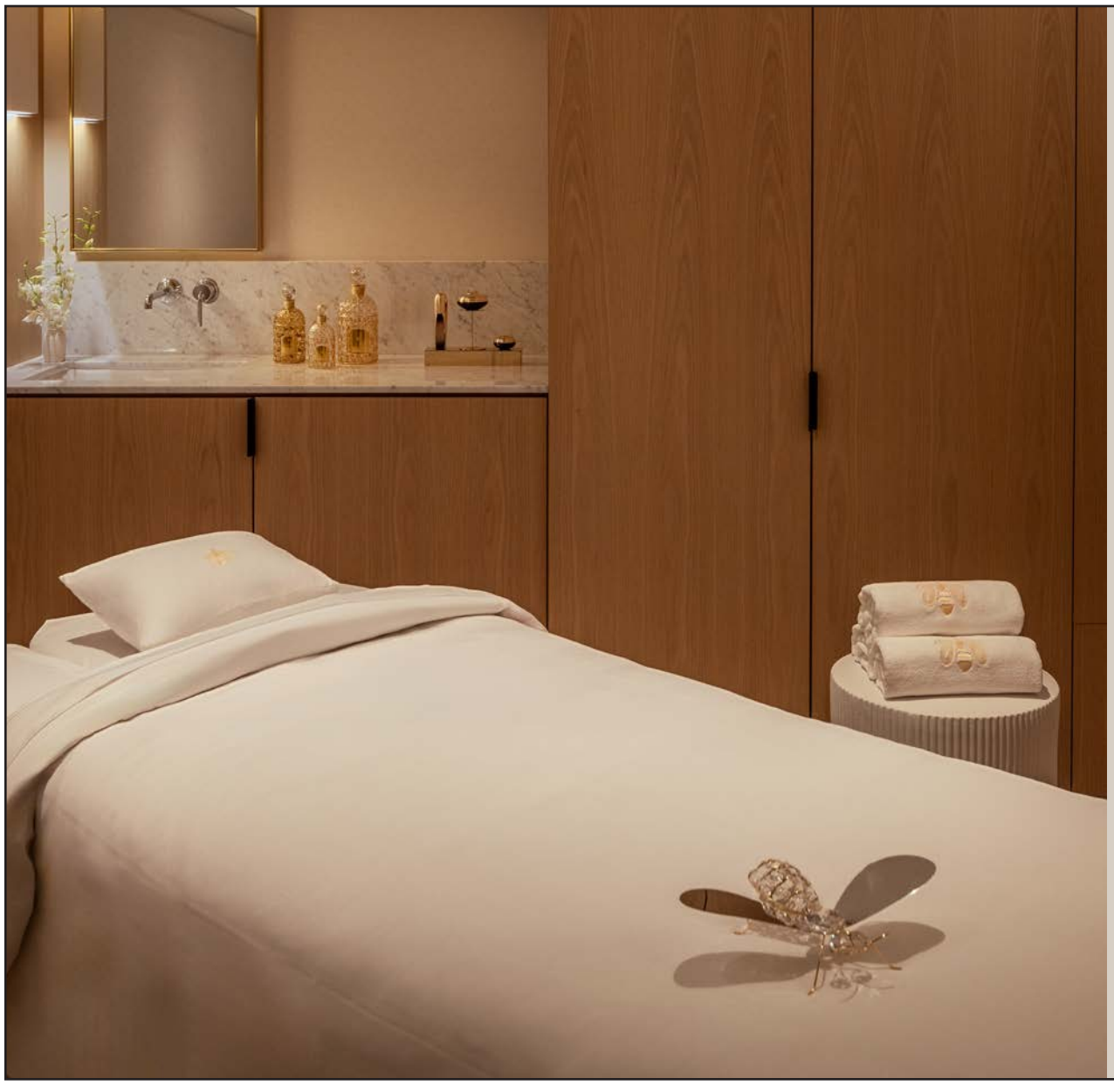
"This isn't just about construction," Foley said, adding, "It's about restoring faith that recovery is possible."

scott.snowden@smdp.com



Scott Snowden

DAVID WAITE: "The gold standard is to get through the permitting process in 30 days. That's what we're aiming for."



RENT

FROM PAGE 1

units returned to rent control jurisdiction. The Ellis Act, a state law enacted in 1986, allows property owners to exit the rental housing business by evicting tenants and withdrawing units from the market.

Eviction notices filed with the agency decreased to 74 in 2024, down from 85 the previous year and well below pre-pandemic levels that typically ranged from 86 to 112. The most common reason cited for eviction was alleged lease violations, accounting for 35% of notices.

The agency also reported 21 buyout agreements in 2024, the lowest number recorded since tracking began in 2015. Under these agreements, tenants voluntarily vacate rent-controlled units in exchange for financial compensation. The average buyout amount was $62,542, the highest since reporting began, possibly influenced by a new city ordinance requiring buyout offers to match or exceed permanent relocation payment requirements.

According to the report, rent levels continue to pose significant affordability challenges. The median rent for a one-bedroom unit rented at market rate in 2024 was $2,650, while a two-bedroom unit commanded $3,600. Based on the standard that housing is "affordable" if it consumes no more than 30% of household income, a tenant would need an annual income of $106,000 to afford the median one-bedroom apartment.

"To afford a studio, household income would need to be more than $84,000, and to afford a 3-bedroom apartment, household income would need to be above $190,000," the report stated.

The report also highlighted the agency's Public Information Department's work, which handled 11,608 contacts in 2024, primarily by telephone (67%), followed by email (22%) and in-person visits (10%). This represented a decrease from the 13,780 contacts in 2023, when many inquiries concerned the implementation of Measure RC and the resulting Adjusted General Adjustment.

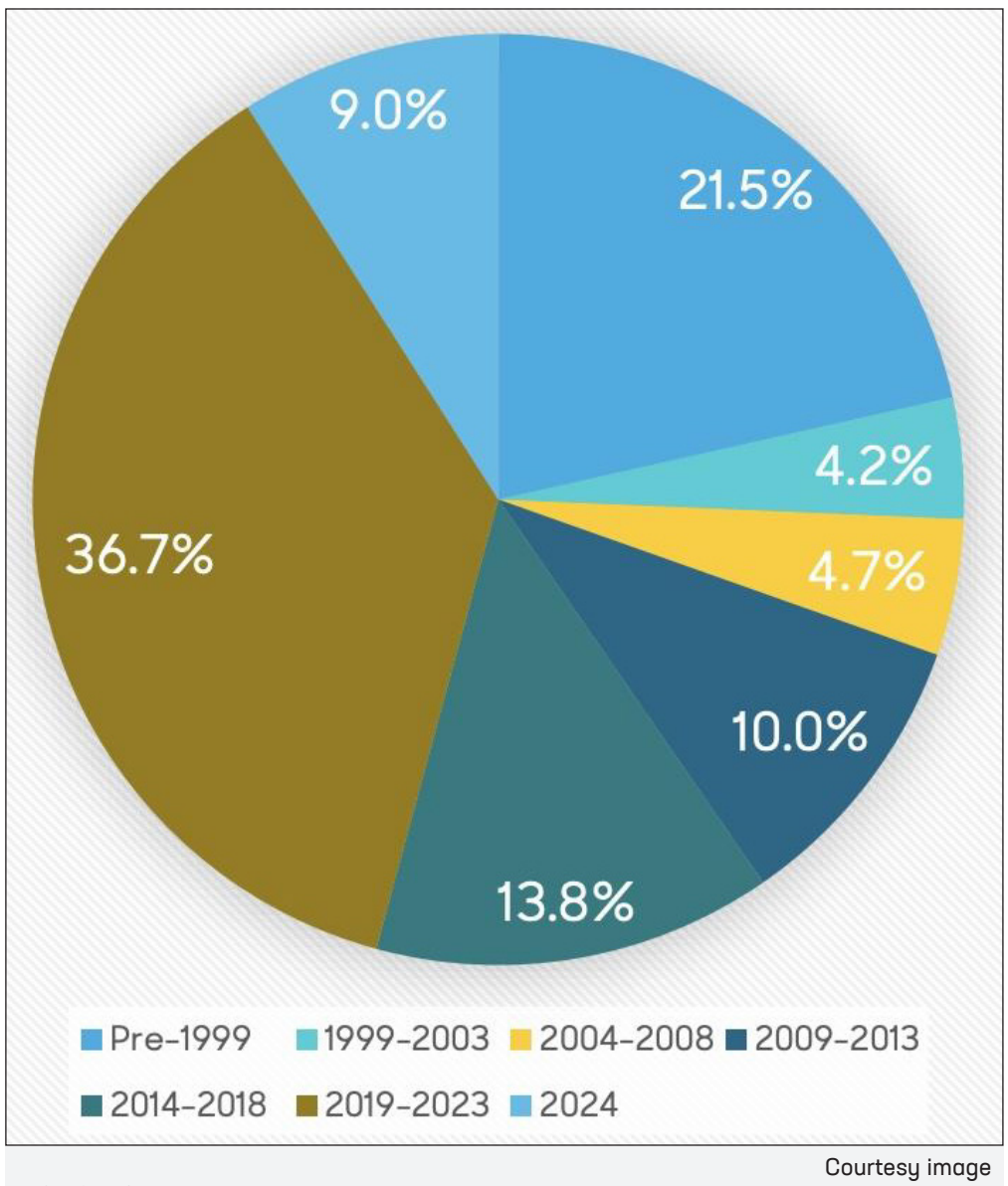
The Hearings Department reported processing 155 petitions, with 95 decrease petitions filed by tenants alleging maintenance issues or reduced housing services. The department's mediation efforts proved successful, with 64% of decreased petitions fully or partially resolved through mediation.

Staff said the Board continues to face challenges balancing tenant protections with market pressures in one of California's most expensive rental markets. With nearly half (45.7%) of controlled units occupied by tenants who moved in since 2019, agency officials emphasized the importance of ensuring new tenants understand their rights under the rent control law.

The annual report also noted several regulatory changes adopted by the Rent Control Board in 2024, including adjustments to housing service valuation formulas and revised hearing procedures.

"Every year, this is such a wealth of information here, and something that I know throughout the year ahead as I have each year, I'm sure I'll reference this report many times," said Chair Kurt Gonska, expressing appreciation for the detailed data compiled by agency staff.

editor@smdp.com



Courtesy image

HOUSING: Most rent controlled units have been rented in the last 10 years.

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 2

"We're hopeful that we're able to secure funding in the future," said Patricia Ramos, dean of academic affairs for Santa Monica College. "But nothing is guaranteed."

Rios said her team is looking for additional money to support the college program, including from the state and philanthropic partners. If the community college program does continue, it wouldn't accept another class of students until spring of 2026.

'CAN I DO THIS?'

When Tamyra Simpson saw a LinkedIn advertisement about the Santa Monica College program, she thought it was "too good to be true."

Growing up, her grandmother, a substance use counselor, would pick up Simpson at her childhood home in Pasadena and travel to Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles, where they'd serve food to homeless people on Thanksgiving.

"The women in my family, they've always been service-oriented," she said.

Simpson works as a nanny in the wealthy Los Feliz neighborhood near downtown Los Angeles, but said her goal is to eventually work in homeless services.

She was one of about 70 people who applied for admission into the inaugural Santa Monica College homelessness services program, and one of just 27 students who were ultimately selected, said Steven Sedky, who oversees the program. Students take multiple courses over the span of two semesters, where they learn about the history of homeless services, effective practices to help homeless clients, and even strategies to avoid burnout. The program culminates in a paid internship at a relevant nonprofit or agency in Los Angeles County.

Only about half of the students are left, Sedky said — an attrition rate "much higher than we initially anticipated."

Students dropped out for a variety of reasons, he said. One student lost housing, while other students struggled with the commute to class, which includes in-person meetings on Wednesdays.

On Wednesday mornings, Simpson starts her nanny job at 7 am. Then, around 8 am, she begins the hour drive to Santa Monica. If traffic is bad, it can take up to an hour and a half. After class, a little after noon, she drives back to Los Feliz and works another five hours as a nanny.

"I really ask myself, 'Can I do this?'" she said. "But there's so much value in this program, this experience. I don't think I would have changed anything if I could."

After she graduates in June, she'll face a job market rife with its own challenges. An entry-level position at LA-based homeless services nonprofit The People Concern, for example, typically pays between $21 and $25 an hour, said CEO John Maceri. Simpson said she makes about twice that much working as a nanny.

"LA is an expensive place to live," Maceri said. "It's hard to survive."

"This sector does not pay livable wages unless you're in senior management," said Celina Alvarez, executive director of Housing Works. She helped create the Santa Monica College program and teaches a class there. "We've got to do better by (the workers). They are first responders. They don't even have access to mental health support, considering they experience and witness a tremendous amount of human suffering on a daily basis."

Alvarez said between 10 and 15 of the 73 total jobs at her organization are vacant.

At The People Concern, which will host two Santa Monica College students as interns, about 85 jobs are open — about 10% of their total positions. Once the interns complete the program, Maceri said his organization would be happy to hire them.

"The quality of the work is only as good as the quality of the people doing the work," he said. "And we need more folks in the homelessness response system workforce."

A DIFFICULT JOB

Low pay isn't the only thing that makes people wary of jumping into a career in homeless services. The work is extremely grueling and difficult. Burnout is common. A lack of resources makes everything worse. Workers can try their best to help someone, but if there are no shelter beds or housing available, they can't do much. That can be very frustrating, Maceri said.

"Sometimes people have a fantasy of what the work is like, and then get into it and realize 'Oh, this is different than what I thought,'" he said. "I think most people want to help, but the intensity of the work day in and day out is a lot to handle."

A lack of adequate training makes it even harder, as workers may not know how to respond to the specific challenges they encounter in the field. Alvarez gave an example of a newly hired case manager at her organization: The case manager went to a client's house to pick up the client for a psychiatric appointment. Before they left, the client injected themself with an unknown substance. The big-hearted case manager didn't know what the client had injected but took them to their appointment anyway — a dangerous move that could have ended with the client becoming aggressive or even overdosing in the caseworker's car, Alvarez said.

Existing degree programs don't train workers for the realities of what they'll face in the field, such as navigating the bureaucracy of hospitals and nursing homes, or how to reunite a homeless individual with family, Rios said.

The program also tries to prepare students for burnout, by providing counselors who debrief with students after they go out in the field, and teach them techniques to cope with what they see.

But there are some intractable problems this training program can't fix.

For social workers, who have a master's degree, it's more lucrative to work as a therapist in private practice. Even other low-paying industries, such as child welfare, offer special grants or fellowships. In Los Angeles, the county's decision to gut the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority makes it even harder for graduates to imagine this industry as a stable career choice.

Still, as a current student, Simpson is hopeful that the community college program will continue.

"As an inaugural cohort, there are going to be missteps. We're essentially the guinea pigs," she said. "At its core, it's an incredible opportunity."

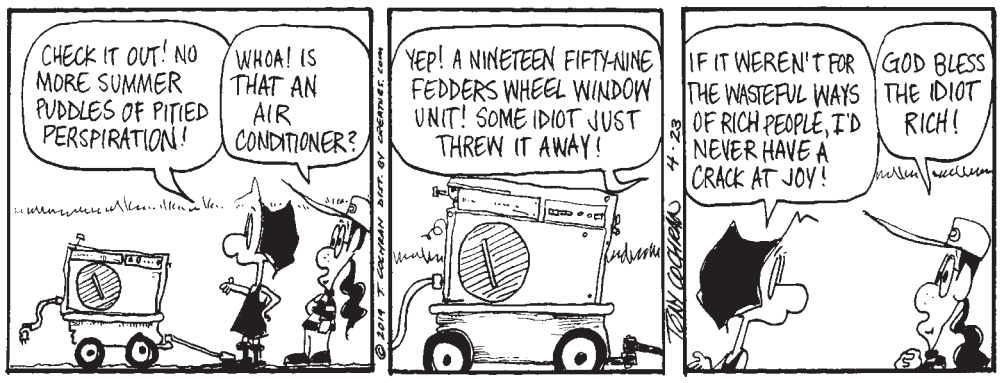
She said she's well-aware of the pay cut that an entry-level job in homeless services might require, and that she's willing to keep her full-time nanny position as long as it takes to find other work.

Given the number of job vacancies, it's unlikely that she'll wait very long.

By Marisa Kendall and Adam Echelman. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

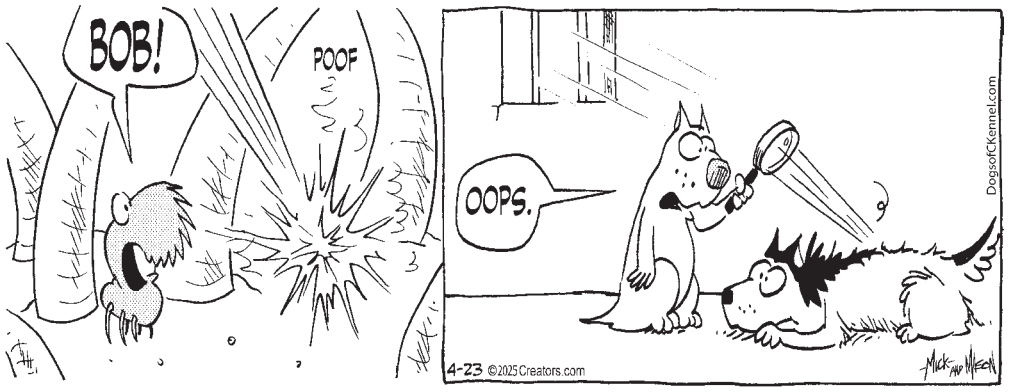
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By TONY COCHRAN



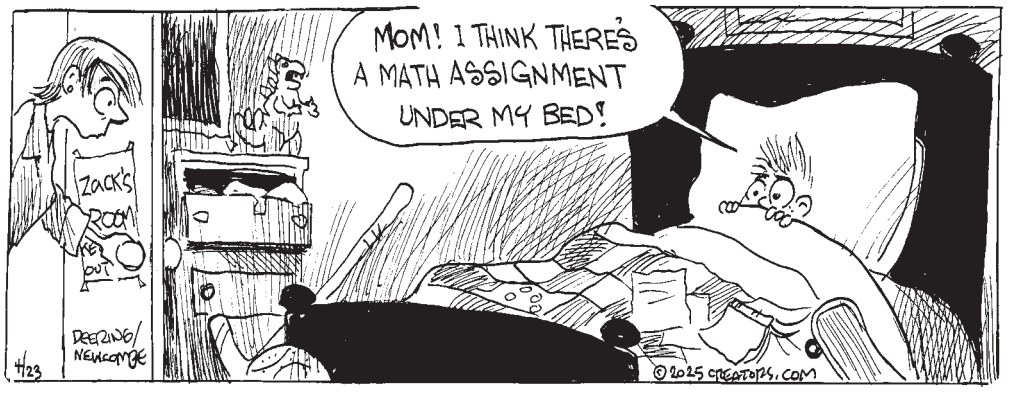
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



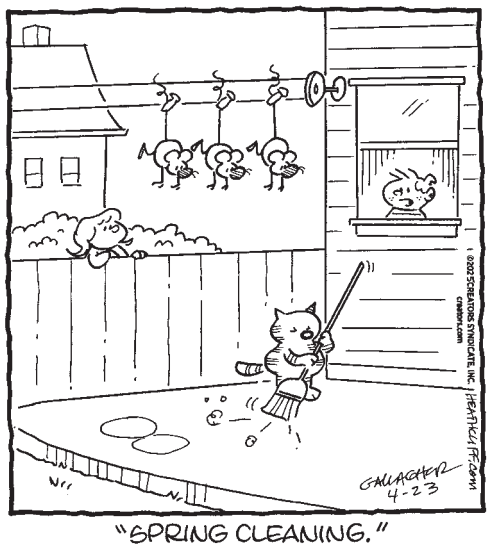
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

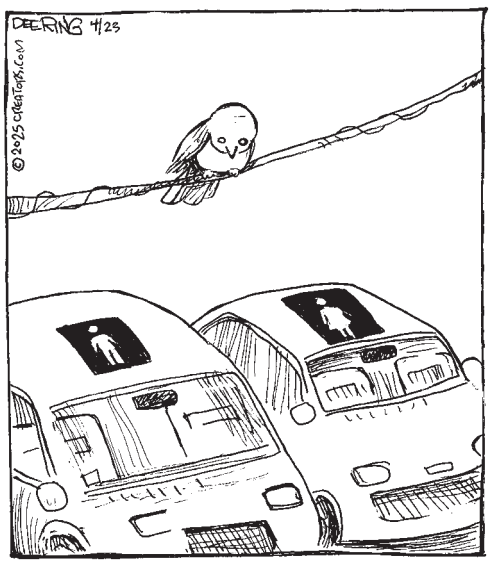
By PETER GALLAGHER



"SPRING CLEANING."

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 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6554

Alley cats

P	C	T	S	Y	R	E	V	I	L	E	D	H	C	S
O	O	E	L	H	O	L	E	S	O	L	O	R	R	C
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Anchor man	Cranker	Lanes	Shoot
Angle	Curl	League	Smash
Aptitude	Delivery	Lose	Solo
Aware	Dirk	Noise	Speed
Ball	Face	Note	Take
Battle	Fail	Perfect	Thumb
Break	Fast	Play	Total
Burner	Foul	Point	Wait
Carry	Game	Power	
Championships	Gutter	Rivalry	
Concentrate	Holes	Roll	
Count	Indoor	Score	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 23)

Your year sparkles with happy news, exciting events and outrageous fun, with you at the center of the story. You live by your optimism and a sense of adventure that extends to your social life and the relationships you seek as well as to your creative endeavors. More highlights: hot tickets, justice served, and a business that booms, keeping your skills sharp and your resources plush enough to be generous. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 28, 5, 7, 30 and 26.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Change will happen exponentially. One move will have three effects, and suddenly, there are nine results, then 27, and on and on. Whatever you give, make sure it's golden and something that will have a benefit when duplicated and amplified.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll be detoured, but that doesn't mean you'll be off course. Maybe it's not for everyone, but this is the right path for you. It will provide just the right amount of challenge and the most fitting rewards.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Trust in the processes you can't control, which will be most of them. All you have to control is one little wheel to get exactly where you want to go. Life is a barge, and the hands on the captain's wheel are yours.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). To be overly focused on seeking approval or trying to be liked by others would only diminish your ability to be graceful in social situations. Instead of relying on others for validation, cultivate your own sense of happiness and comfort.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Balance is key, not just in work but also in play and passion. Overindulging, even in things you love, can lead to burnout or diminish their value. Taking breaks and moderating your intensity allows you to sustain your energy over time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're not always in the mood to compete, but when it's game time, you will rise to the occasion regardless. That winning instinct will kick in as the spirit of competition fuels and quickens you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). By respecting and valuing yourself the way you want others to, you set the standard for how they should treat you. Let go of something you were doing just to gain someone's approval. It signals to others that you won't compromise yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Even though you could point out the problems around you, why not save them for your notebook? You'll put it to good use, jotting down both issues and what's going right — so when the time comes to speak, you'll do so thoughtfully.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You wish for fresh delights. Have you used up all the opportunities for joy in your immediate environment? Of course not, but it takes someone new on the scene to stir things up and reveal the hidden magic still waiting to be explored.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The need for approval and acceptance is primal — a form of intelligence evolved over millennia. It's not a weakness but a fact of the human condition. It's totally natural to care a little more about validation than we want to.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Love is a quality of attention. The opposite of love isn't hate — it's neglect. Where there is a lack of focus and interaction, there's a lack of love. You'll take the initiative to actively engage, listen and nurture connections. Love thrives.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Returning to the basics is in order. It would be easy to get so caught up in advanced techniques or ideas that you overlook the power of the fundamentals. Going back to the core principles will uncover anything you might have missed.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

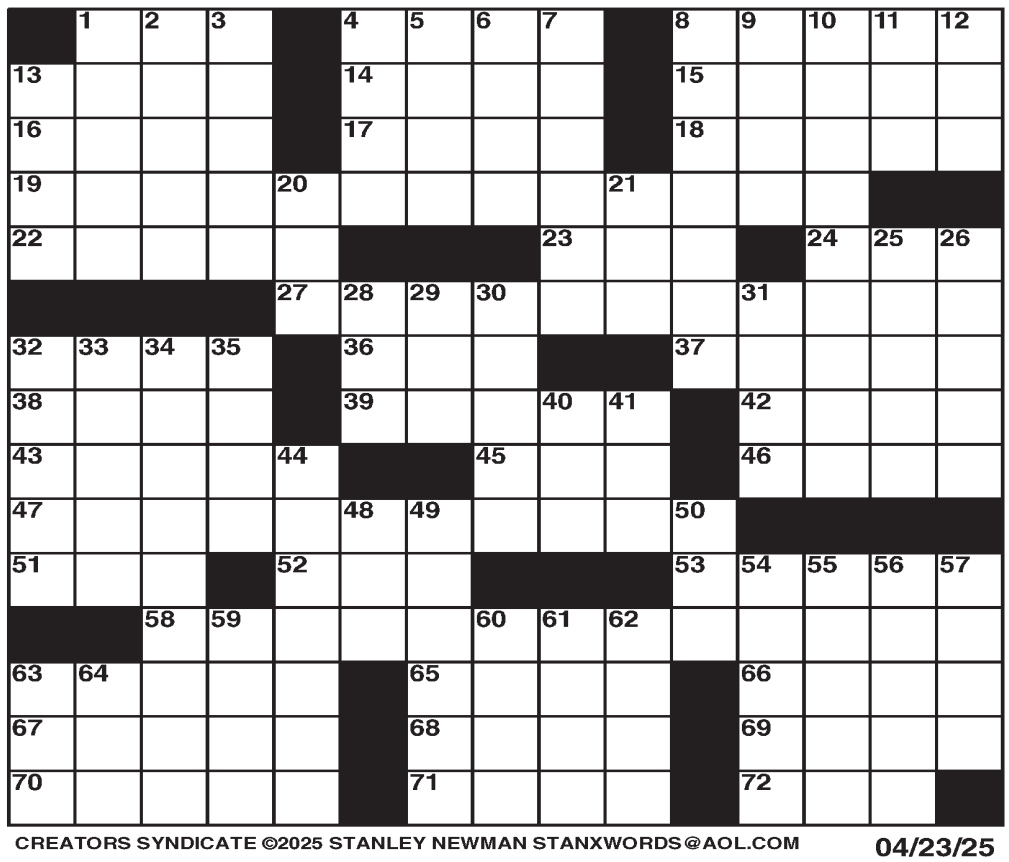
MENTAL ASSETS by Lin Josephson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Auto fuel
4 Untruthful one
8 *Santa* __ (ship of 1492)
13 26-Down-emitting appliance
14 Not doing anything
15 Alter, as the Constitution
16 Cruel Roman emperor
17 Not worth debating
18 Small lizard
19 "Born with it" skill
22 Wyoming or West Virginia
23 "Wow, am __ a roll!"
24 Donkey
27 "Born with it" impulse to react
32 Foolish
36 Bowler's target
37 Have a quarrel
38 Land surrounded by water
39 Drink noisily
42 Actress Jessica
43 Mixes with a stick
45 Underwater vessel
46 Tailor's border
47 "Born with it" logic
51 Final-yr. students
52 Nautical "yes"
53 Dough-rising ingredient
58 "Born with it" courage
63 Velocity
65 It's east of Nebraska
66 Become weary
67 Homes in Spain
68 Touch up, as a manuscript
69 Enthusiastic liveliness
70 Emcee's opening words
71 Wise person
72 Sales agent, for short

DOWN

1 __ Wall of China
2 Major blood vessel
3 Pig's nose
4 Capital of Peru
5 Much-admired celebrity
6 Very much (of)
7 Keep on file
8 Purplish red
9 Prayer's conclusion
10 Wall calendar shape
11 Ballpoint's contents
12 Needless fuss
13 Rural hotels
20 Bylaw, for short
21 __ Angeles Dodgers
25 Underwater diver's gear
26 Water vapor
28 Increases, as a bet
29 No later than, briefly
30 Occupied, as a conference room
31 Nest egg plans: Abbr.
32 Hockey puck shapes
33 Fur magnate John Jacob __
34 Least sturdy
35 School semester
40 Hurry away
41 *Nova* network
44 Good-for-nothing person
48 Initials for December 31st
49 Weekly TV program
50 Needle's hole
54 "Come in!"
55 Physically nimble
56 Handbag's handle
57 At that time
59 In the vicinity
60 Any fizzy drink
61 Tiny branch
62 At any __ (nevertheless)
63 Biol. or chem.
64 Skillet



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04/23/25

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

ECONOMY

FROM PAGE 4

this sector was already facing rising costs that undercut its competitiveness.

The Goods Movement Alliance, a coalition of business groups, is backing Newsom's challenge to tariffs, but also cites the state's policies, industrial electricity rates twice the national average and high gasoline and diesel fuel prices as negative factors, as well as new pollution controls on ships and anti-warehousing legislation.

California's largest-in-the-nation agricultural industry, including its famous winemaking sector, is also shrinking, largely due to uncertain water supplies, labor shortages and the same high costs for electricity and fuel that the logistics industry faces.

The Public Policy Institute of California has estimated that, "even in the best-case scenario, some 500,000 acres may need to be fallowed in the San Joaquin Valley" due to restrictions on pumping irrigation water from underground aquifers.

Finally, even though government has been California's foremost employment driver — including government-financed medical services — in recent years, it is also facing bleak times. The state budget is mired in what fiscal experts call a "structural deficit" and virtually every major city, some counties and large school districts are in the same pickle. Los Angeles and San Francisco are particularly plagued after several years of overspending and their leaders, such as Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, are warning that layoffs may be inevitable.

Trump's tariffs might make things worse, but California's economic woes predate Trump. Much of it was self-inflicted.

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

GOVERNOR

FROM PAGE 5

like to completely abolish the state income tax, get rid of laws that he said are driving farmers and ranchers out of business, and leave environmental regulation to the federal government.

And echoing the Trump administration's Department of Government Efficiency initiative, Bianco said he wants to eliminate wasteful spending such as the high-speed rail project and multibillion-dollar programs that have not reduced homelessness.

"The number one job of government is public safety," Bianco said. "All the rest of it is fluff."

THE ANTI-TRUMP BUMP

California Republicans have been jubilant since the November election, when they flipped three seats in the state Legislature as President Donald Trump increased his vote share in nearly every county. At a party convention in Sacramento last month, they strategized over how to build on the momentum by leaning into issues such as affordability and crime that appear to be helping them gain ground, particularly among Latino voters.

"That tells us that Californians, on the local level and when it comes to the laws that are being passed in Sacramento, they're looking to Republicans," Corrine Rankin, the newly elected chairperson of the California Republican Party, said in an interview. "They're rejecting the failures that are coming out of the Capitol by the Democrats."

In a February survey by the Public Policy Institute of California, only 48% of likely voters said the state is going in the right direction, compared to 51% who said it's going in the wrong direction — underwater, albeit the highest approval in two years.

To win the governorship next year, Rankin said the state GOP would eventually unite behind a candidate who can help Californians understand how that dissatisfaction is driven by what Democrats in charge of the state are doing.

"We need change here in California. Californians expect change and we're positioned to deliver," she said.

But the modest advances of the last election belie a GOP that is still far from competitive in California. Trump only received about 38% of the vote, losing to Democratic nominee Kamala Harris by more than 20 percentage points, and Republicans lost three U.S. House seats.

The 2026 midterms, in which Democratic anger at the Trump administration could produce an even more liberal electorate, will be a difficult political environment for the California GOP to snap a statewide shutout that dates back to 2010. In 2022, no Republican candidate for statewide office came within 10 percentage points of victory, and most lost by about twice that margin.

Andrew Acosta, a Democratic political consultant who is not working on the governor's race, said there are substantive problems in California for serious conservatives to campaign on. "The Republicans have a lot of fodder if they did it the right way," he said.

But candidates so closely tied to Trump are unlikely to overcome the deep anti-Trump sentiment in the electorate and win the governorship next year, Acosta added. "There's zero chance of these Republicans."

Both Hilton and Bianco are vocal Trump supporters. Hilton's campaign even references the MAGA movement with a "make California golden again" slogan, and he rolled out an endorsement on the first day from Vivek Ramaswamy, one of the architects of Trump's DOGE initiative.

Though some Democratic candidates are already tapping into the fury at Trump to fuel their campaigns, Hilton said the focus is misplaced.

"None of that helps a single person in California," he said. "These are real issues. So if Democrat candidates want to deflect from that and become national political commentators, then good luck with that."

Bianco said Democrats have done "outstanding psychological warfare" for decades convincing people that Republicans cannot win in California, which has suppressed conservative participation in elections. But things have finally gotten so bad, he said, that those frustrated voters will turn out next year and elect a Republican governor.

"We can't blame Donald Trump. Donald Trump doesn't have anything to do with California and the laws that have been passed in the past 20 years," he said. "I believe that the majority of people, of hard-working Californians, have conservative leanings."

By Alexei Koseff. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



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

AUTHOR TALK WITH GREGG HURWITZ
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. The Thrill of Writing Action, Adventure, and Suspense: A Conversation with Bestselling Author Gregg Hurwitz. Do you love action-packed adventure? Are you ready for the thrill? You're invited to a riveting conversation with New York Times bestselling author Gregg Hurwitz as he chats with us about his Orphan X series and his life as a writer of suspenseful storytelling. Orphan X, the series opener, introduces the world to the Nowhere Man. He is a legendary figure spoken about only in whispers. It's said that when he's reached by the truly desperate and deserving, the Nowhere Man can and will do anything to protect and save them. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/author-talk-with-gregg-hurwitz/15307090/2025-04-24T16

EARTHLY ELIXIRS
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Urban Jungle Plants and Pottery 3113 Lincoln Boulevard Santa Monica. Sip garden-fresh elixirs & plant your own herb garden in a lush plant shop oasis. A sensory spring night you won't forget! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/earthly-elixirs/15587714/2025-04-24T18

THAI COOKING IN THE GARDEN
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Merrihew's Sunset Gardens 1526 Ocean Park Boulevard Santa Monica. Cook + Connect + Savor Thai Cuisine with Chef Ma'am Miner at Merrihew's Sunset Gardens. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/thai-cooking-in-the-garden/15520732/2025-04-24T18

FRIDAY | APRIL 25

"A TRIUMPH!" EINSTEIN! 100 YEARS OF GENERAL RELATIVITY
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica. Santa Monica Playhouse and Sew and Sew Productions are proud to present the first annual GeniusFEST From Ideas to Impact – Celebrating Revolutionary Minds, inspiring audiences to engage in their world in a more appreciative and enlightening manner, while at the same time being astounded by the spectacular stories these artists tell. Join us April 25-27 for EINSTEIN! $24.50 to $39.50. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/-a-triumph-einstein-100-years-of-general-relativity/15371275/2025-04-25T17

THE NIGHT SKY SHOW
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Originating Location Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd. The Night Sky Show is a short program with the latest news in space exploration and astronomy. The program uses freeware sky visualization tools to show you the constellations planets and deep sky objects in the Southern California night sky. The show will last about 30 minutes followed by a short Q&A when guests can type questions into a chat box. We will answer as many questions as possible. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-night-sky-show/14165546/2025-04-25T19

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