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Vs. fighting with Trump.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 110 THE WEEKENDER 4/25-4/27 smdp.com

Bill to protect mobile home residents after disasters advances in State Senate

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Legislation aimed at protecting mobile home park residents from displacement in the wake of natural disasters cleared a key hurdle Tuesday, passing out of the California Senate Housing Committee with broad support.

Senate Bill 749, authored by Senator Ben Allen (D-Pacific Palisades), seeks to expand affordable housing protections by making it more difficult for landowners to convert mobile home parks to market-rate uses following disasters like wildfires, floods or earthquakes. The bill is a direct response to the devastating January wildfires that tore through Pacific Palisades, Altadena and parts of Malibu, displacing thousands and leaving entire communities in legal and logistical limbo.

"The Palisades Fire that ripped through my district in January exposed tragic vulnerabilities that

SEE **HOME** PAGE 5



Scott Snowden

FIRE: Little remained of the Palisades Bowl mobile home park after the Palisades fire ripped through it.

Los Angeles fire recovery must be ground-up, say philanthropy leaders

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

At the closing session of the 2025 Luskin Summit, focusing this year on equitable recovery and resilience, leaders from prominent philanthropic organizations

SEE **LUSKIN** PAGE 16

With negotiations to split the school district poised to restart, financial fears are again at the forefront

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Perhaps the only feature of Santa Monica life more predictable than the tides is perpetual confusion over the status of Malibu's petition to carve out its own school district.

As of this week, the proposal remains mired in delays and controversy with declarations of intent, but little actual progress towards resolving the long

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 14



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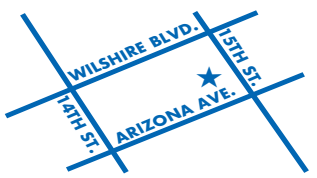
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Teens Rock for Reproductive Rights: Battle of the Bands fundraiser set for April 26



Courtesy photo

BANDS: The music based fundraiser will be held this weekend.

BY ARABELLA JOAQUIN
SMDP Intern

This weekend, a group of high school students will turn music into a movement.

Ten teen bands plan to take the stage for Battle of the Bands, a benefit concert organized by Natalie Pianko, Indie Buckle, and Violet Lieberman to raise funds for Planned Parenthood at the Pauhouse Gallery, April 26. Student organizers hope to raise over $1,000 to support Planned Parenthood's healthcare services and send a message about the power of music.

Through grassroots fundraising efforts, including a bake sale and GoFundMe campaigns, Pianko, Buckle, and Lieberman raised $1,000 to cover venue costs ensuring that 100% of ticket proceeds go directly to the cause of Planned Parenthood.

Organizers originally envisioned a small cul-de-sac concert, and it quickly grew into a full-scale event in the heart of Hollywood.

"We ended up having to say no to four bands because so many said yes," said Buckle. "We brainstormed a lot and eventually decided on Planned Parenthood. My mom suggested it, and it just clicked," Lieberman added. "We hit our cap at 10 bands, with each performing a 15-minute set," Lieberman said.

The battle of the bands event has a diverse lineup of music, from death metal to rock and indie.

"There's something for everyone," Buckle said.

The audience will get a vote about who was their favorite artist, and the winner will receive a trophy. Tickets at the door range from $10 to $20, with 100% of proceeds going to Planned Parenthood healthcare services. The teens were also intentional about creating a safe, sober space for the competition.

SEE **BANDS** PAGE 5

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Judge bars Trump from denying federal funds to 'sanctuary' cities that limit immigration cooperation

JANIE HAR
Associated Press

A federal judge in California on Thursday barred the Trump administration from denying or conditioning the use of federal funds to "sanctuary" jurisdictions, saying that portions of President Donald Trump's executive orders were unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge William Orrick issued the injunction sought by San Francisco and more than a dozen other municipalities that limit cooperation with federal immigration efforts.

Orrick wrote that defendants are prohibited "from directly or indirectly taking any action to withhold, freeze, or condition federal funds" and the administration must provide written notice of his order to all federal departments and agencies by Monday.

One executive order issued by Trump directs Attorney General Pam Bondi and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem to withhold federal money to sanctuary jurisdictions. The second order directs every federal agency to ensure that payments to state and local governments do not "abet so-called 'sanctuary' policies that seek to shield illegal aliens from deportation."

At a hearing Wednesday, Justice Department lawyers argued that it was much too early for the judge to grant an injunction when the government had not taken any action to withhold specific amounts or to lay out conditions on specific grants.

But Orrick, who was nominated by President Barack Obama, said this was essentially what government lawyers argued during Trump's first term when the Republican issued a similar order.

"Their well-founded fear of enforcement is even stronger than it was in 2017," Orrick wrote, citing the executive orders as well as directives from Bondi, other federal agencies and Justice Department lawsuits filed against Chicago and New York.

San Francisco successfully challenged the 2017 Trump order and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the lower court that the president exceeded his authority when he signed an executive order threatening to cut funding for "sanctuary cities."

There is no strict definition for sanctuary policies or sanctuary cities, but the terms generally describe limited cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ICE enforces immigration laws nationwide but seeks state and local help in alerting federal authorities of immigrants wanted for deportation and holding that person until federal officers take custody.

Leaders of sanctuary jurisdictions say their communities are safer because immigrants feel they can communicate with local police without fear of deportation. It is also a way for municipalities to focus their dollars on crime locally, they say.

Besides San Francisco and Santa Clara County, which includes a third plaintiff, the city of San José, there are 13 other plaintiffs in the lawsuit, which include Seattle and King County, Washington; Portland, Oregon; Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota; New Haven, Connecticut; and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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Surf report — WATER TEMP: 61.7

FRIDAY *FAIR*
SURF: 3-4ft Waist to chest

Size stays up from a mix of old and new SSW swells. Stronger onshore W wind likely builds, esp PM. Plenty of size sticking around as the SSW swell from Thu lingers and a new pulse starts building. Lighter wind is possible for the early window but westerly flow could pick up pretty quickly. Okay for the points but bad news for spots west of Dume as it could get lumpy, fast. I'd aim for the AM window as the best chance for decent conditions region wide, then the wind-protected points will be the call in the later AM and PM.

SATURDAY *FAIR TO GOOD*
SURF: 3-4ft Waist to chest

Decent to fun morning as SSW swell mix continues. Light early wind, breezier onshore westerlies PM. More SSW swell slowly builds on top of previous swells and surf size should be close to previous days but also slowly increases. Look for widespread waist high surf to continue, with top exposed breaks to chest-shoulder high. Light/variable to lightly onshore wind in the morning with moderate to potentially breezy W wind in the afternoon for increasing bump.

Weather

Friday: Patchy drizzle and fog before 11am. Partly sunny, with a high near 60. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50. West southwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southeast after midnight.
Saturday: Rain likely, mainly after 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59.
Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/04/25	Fri	02:11 AM	0.21	L
2025/04/25	Fri	08:12 AM	4.68	H
2025/04/25	Fri	2:10 PM	0.13	L
2025/04/25	Fri	8:27 PM	5.76	H
2025/04/26	Sat	02:57 AM	-0.57	L
2025/04/26	Sat	09:04 AM	4.58	H
2025/04/26	Sat	2:43 PM	0.45	L
2025/04/26	Sat	8:58 PM	6.25	H
2025/04/27	Sun	03:43 AM	-1.17	L
2025/04/27	Sun	09:56 AM	4.35	H
2025/04/27	Sun	3:17 PM	0.85	L

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: 4/23
15 44 63 66 69
Power#: 20
Jackpot: 168 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/22
25 39 49 52 65
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 60 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 4/23
19 27 29 40 45
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 21 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/23
4 27 28 30 34

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/23
EVENING: 1 4 6
Draw Date: 4/23
MIDDAY: 0 6 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/23
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:47.24

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

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

- **RFP # 438 CULTURAL CAMPS & CLASSES.**
- **Submission Deadline Is MAY 21, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.

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.

Most Americans expect higher prices as a result of Trump's tariffs, a new AP-NORC poll finds

JOSH BOAK AND AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX
Associated Press

Americans' trust in President Donald Trump to bolster the U.S. economy appears to be faltering, with a new poll showing that many people fear the country is being steered into a recession and that the president's broad and haphazardly enforced tariffs will cause prices to rise.

Roughly half of U.S. adults say that Trump's trade policies will increase prices "a lot" and another 3 in 10 think prices could go up "somewhat," according to the poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

About half of Americans are "extremely" or "very" concerned about the possibility of the U.S. economy going into a recession in the next few months.

While skepticism about tariffs is increasing modestly, that doesn't mean the public is automatically rejecting Trump or his approach to trade. However, the wariness could cause problems for a president who promised voters he could quickly fix inflation.

> "I'm not a huge fan of it, especially considering China and going back and forth with adjustments on both ends"
> - Matthew Wood

TRUMP SHOWS VULNERABILITY ON THE ECONOMY

Three months into his second term, Trump's handling of the economy and tariffs is showing up as a potential weakness. About 4 in 10 Americans approve of the way the Republican president is handling the economy and trade negotiations. That's roughly in line with an AP-NORC poll conducted in March.

Matthew Wood, 41, said he's waiting to see how the tariffs play out, but he's feeling anxious.

"I'm not a huge fan of it, especially considering China and going back and forth with adjustments on both ends," said Wood, who lives in West Liberty, Kentucky, and is unemployed. "Personally, it hasn't affected me as of yet. But, generally, I don't know how this is going to come to an end, especially with the big countries involved."

Still, Wood said he changed his registration from Republican to independent, having been turned off by Trump's attitude and deference to billionaire adviser Elon Musk. Wood voted for Trump last year and said he's willing to give the president until the end of the year to deliver positive results on tariffs.

About half of U.S. adults, 52%, are against imposing tariffs on all goods brought into the U.S. from other countries. That's up slightly from January, when a poll found that 46% were against tariffs. Driving that small shift largely appears to be adults under age 30 who didn't previously have an opinion on tariffs.

Trump supporter Janice Manis, 63, said her only criticism of Trump on tariffs is that he put in a partial 90-day pause for trade negotiations with other countries.

"Actually, I think he shouldn't have suspended it," said Manis, a retired sheriff's deputy from Del Rio, Texas. "Because now China is trying to manipulate all of these other countries to go against us, whereas if he would have left all the tariffs in play then these countries would be hit hard. But, oh, well, things happen."

SKEPTICISM REMAINS ABOUT TRUMP'S TARIFF APPROACH

Not quite 100 days into Trump's second term in the White House, people around the country are bracing for possible disruptions in how they spend, work and live. The U.S. economy remains solid for the moment with moderating inflation and a healthy 4.2% unemployment rate, yet measures such as consumer confidence have dropped sharply.

Trump has used executive actions to remold the global economy. He's imposed hundreds of billions of dollars a year in new import taxes — albeit partially suspending some of them — launching a full-scale trade war against China and pledging to wrap up deals with dozen of other countries that are temporarily facing tariffs of 10%. Financial markets are swinging with every twist and turn from Trump's tariff pronouncements.

Many Americans are not convinced this is the right approach. About 6 in 10 say Trump has "gone too far" when it comes to imposing new tariffs, according to the poll.

Stocks are down this year, while interest charges on U.S. government bonds have climbed in ways that could make it more costly to repay mortgages, auto loans and student debt. CEOs are scrapping their earnings guidance for investors and seeking exemptions from Trump's tariffs, which hit allies such as Canada and even penguin-inhabited islands.

Trump seemed to recognize the drag from tariffs as he highlighted this week the possibility of a deal with China. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had also said in a closed-door speech that the situation with

SEE **TARIFF** PAGE 7

HOME

FROM PAGE 1

threaten the ability for mobile home residents to return to their community after a natural disaster," Allen said. "The residents of the Palisades Bowl and Tahitian Terrace mobile home parks lost everything and we need to do everything we can to help them."

Mobile homes represent the nation's largest source of unsubsidized affordable housing and are often one of the few remaining entry points into homeownership for lower- and middle-income Californians. But in the wake of disasters, residents face a unique set of challenges: they own their homes but not the land beneath them. Without stronger legal protections, they risk permanent displacement when landlords seek to redevelop damaged lots.

SB 749 would strengthen state law by requiring park owners who plan to close or convert their properties to first offer the land for sale, at fair market value, to resident organizations or qualified nonprofit housing entities certified by the Department of Housing and Community Development. These entities must have a mission of preserving affordable housing.

Officially introduced in the California State Senate on February 21, Allen spoke of the bill last week during a press conference held at Will Rogers State Beach, where local, state and federal officials gathered to mark 100 days since the fire. Standing near the charred remnants of the Palisades Bowl, Allen emphasized the urgent need for legislative change. "There's been enormous progress, but also enormous gaps," he said, adding, "And we have to close them, fast."

Community members echoed that urgency. John Brown, co-chair of the Palisades Bowl Community Partnership, described a post-fire reality filled with uncertainty and frustration. "We were homeowners, but not landowners," he said. "Now, we can't even sift through the ashes of our lives without asking permission."

> The Palisades Fire that ripped through my district in January exposed tragic vulnerabilities that threaten the ability for mobile home residents to return to their community after a natural disaster
> - Ben Allen

Brown said residents have faced locked gates, stalled cleanup and what he called a "deafening silence" from ownership, who have floated the idea of turning the area into temporary worker housing for the rebuild. "We're not temporary," he said. "This is our home, or it was."

SB 749 is part of a broader package of bills introduced by Allen and his colleagues, including SB 610 to cap rent hikes in mobile home parks after disasters and SB 658, which gives public agencies first right of refusal to purchase fire-damaged land to prevent speculative takeovers.

The bill now heads to the Senate Judiciary Committee for further consideration in the coming weeks.

Allen represents California's 24th Senate District, which includes the Westside of Los Angeles, the coastal South Bay, Hollywood and the Santa Monica Mountains.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

BANDS

FROM PAGE 2

"The age limit is 13-21, so it can really be a space for teens," said Buckle. "Because it's really about the music, the message, and being together," Lieberman added.

While not officially sponsored by Planned Parenthood, the organization is providing informational materials and stickers, which will be available at the event. The team plans to give a short speech about Planned Parenthood's services and why this issue matters.

"We're hoping to educate people, even just a little," said Buckle. "This is about access, about rights, about being informed."

Looking ahead, the group already has big dreams.

"We want to do this again—maybe even make it biannual," Pianko said. "Next time, we'd love to add student art or use a bigger venue so we don't have to turn bands away." But for now, the focus is April 26—a night of music, purpose, and teen-powered action. "Even if people come just for the music," Lieberman said, "they'll leave knowing they helped support something important."

Want to witness LA's next generation of rock stars while supporting a great cause? Head to Pauhaus gallery on April 26. Be part of something that rocks musically and socially. As Buckle puts it , "Even if you just come for the music, you're still making a difference and going to have an awesome time doing it."

Tickets are available online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/battle-of-the-bands-benefit-la-for-planned-parenthood-tickets-1271820733049.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
ORDINANCE NUMBER 2810 (CCS)
(CITY COUNCIL SERIES)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA AMENDING SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 1.09.010, 1.09.020, 1.09.120, 13.06.030, 13.06.040, 13.06.050, AND 13.06.090, AND ADDING SECTIONS 1.09.025, 1.09.045, 1.09.170, 13.06.055, 13.06.095, AND 13.06.110 TO THE SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2810 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2810 (CCS) ("the Ordinance") amends various sections of Santa Monica Municipal Code Chapters 1.09 and 13.06 related to issuance of administrative citations for violations of the municipal code, and the identification and abatement of public nuisances. The Ordinance modifies the definition of "responsible party" for the purpose of issuing administrative citations for violations the municipal code and for holding persons accountable for maintaining public nuisances. The Ordinance codifies procedures for the City to issue notices of violation to responsible parties for certain building-related violations before issuing administrative citations. The Ordinance further provides a process for responsible parties to pay 50 percent of an administrative fine for a citation issued for a first offense within a thirty-six-month period that is a correctable offense and is not an immediate threat to the public, if the responsible party corrects the violation within the time required by the City and pays the reduced fine within 30 days of providing proof of correction of the violation. The Ordinance clarifies service requirements for administrative citations and review hearing notices and decisions, authorizes recovery of costs related to administrative enforcement, and makes it a misdemeanor for a party to refuse to identify himself or herself, making issuance of an administrative citation impossible. The Ordinance also declares numerous specific violations related to the maintenance of real property and the operation of businesses to be public nuisances, and provides a process for the City to notify a party responsible for maintaining a public nuisance of their obligation to abate the nuisance with recommended actions to do so.

The ordinance was adopted on April 22, 2025, and shall become effective 30 days after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.





City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

FY25-26 Annual Paving Project
SP2717

Bids will only be accepted through the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL, OpenGov or https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via OpenGov immediately after bid close time.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK: N/A

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $6,500,000
CONTRACT DAYS: 365 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $6,700 Per Calendar Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have an **Class A General Engineering Contractor** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SANTA MONICA

Epic Entertainment Group Donates $60,000 in Crayola Products to Local Boys & Girls Clubs

Epic Entertainment Group will donate more than $60,000 worth of Crayola products and host a creativity-focused event for Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica to support youth affected by recent wildfires.

The event aims to inspire artistic expression and promote mental wellness among local children and families.

Each child will receive a Crayola creativity kit filled with art supplies to continue emotional healing through creative expression at home.

"As parents ourselves, Steve and I deeply understand the vital role that creative expression plays in emotional and mental well-being, especially during challenging times," said Charity Hill, Co-Founder of Epic Entertainment Group.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica CEO Brynja Seagren expressed appreciation for the partnership, saying, "When we encourage creativity, we nurture resilience and emotional strength, empowering kids to overcome hardships with confidence and imagination."

The hour-long event will feature engaging creative activities in a supportive environment for children and families to explore art as a therapeutic outlet.

For more information about Epic Entertainment Group, visit EpicEntertainmentGroup.com and follow on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn. To learn more about Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica, visit smbgc.org.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SANTA MONICA

SMC Percussion Ensemble to Perform Free Concert May 9

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present a free concert featuring the SMC Percussion Ensemble on Friday, May 9, at 1 p.m.

The performance will be held in the Music Hall at the SMC Performing Arts Center, located at 1310 11th Street at Santa Monica Boulevard. Free parking is available on premises, with seating on a first-arrival basis.

Under the direction of SMC music instructor Megumi Smith, the ensemble will showcase a creative and unique performance of percussion music featuring a variety of styles and instruments.

For more information, call 310-434-4323. All performances subject to change or cancellation without notice.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

CYPRESS

Fire Disaster Grants Available to Veterinary Professionals

Veterinary professionals affected by the recent Palisades and Eaton fires can apply for disaster relief grants through the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association.

The SCVMA Foundation is offering reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses related to clinic losses, animal rescue efforts, property damage, and emergency animal boarding.

Eligible applicants include veterinarians, veterinary students, registered veterinary technicians and students, and veterinary staff. Reimbursement covers expenses such as food, water, clothing supplies, shelters, costs for caring for injured or displaced animals, and fire damage to personal or business property in affected zones.

"Due to limited funds, there may be a cap on the amount of funds distributed," said Jennifer Hawkins, DVM, executive director of the SCVMA. While membership is not required, preference may be given to SCVMA members depending on demand.

Applications are available at www.scvma.org/foundation and must be received by Sept. 30.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SANTA MONICA

Lincoln Middle School Honored by LA Clippers for Reading Challenge Success

Lincoln Middle School has been recognized by the Los Angeles Clippers after placing in the top three of more than 160 schools in the Read to Achieve Minutes Challenge, competing with only their seventh-grade students.

The six-week literacy initiative challenges students to read at least 500 minutes and track their progress to build consistent reading habits and foster a love of learning.

"I'm incredibly proud of our students," said Principal Jose Cuevas. "Programs like Read to Achieve help students see reading through a different lens, and our Lincoln Lions truly rose to the occasion."

As part of the celebration, former Clippers star Craig Smith visited the school to speak with students, share his journey, and answer questions. Students also received Clippers merchandise to commemorate their achievement.

The effort was coordinated by seventh-grade humanities teachers Amanda Lopez and Jody Howard, whose leadership helped bring the program to life.

"We hope to continue to build upon this and place first next year when this challenge is brought to us again," said Cuevas.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

LOS ANGELES

UCLA Study: Simple Changes in Climate Communication Increase Impact Awareness by 12%

A new UCLA study has found that presenting climate data in binary form, such as whether a lake froze or not each winter, significantly increases people's ability to see the impact of climate change compared to showing gradual temperature increases.

Researchers discovered that people adjust "disturbingly fast" to gradual climate changes, contributing to climate apathy among those who don't regularly experience climate-driven disasters.

"People are adjusting to worsening environmental conditions, like multiple fire seasons per year, disturbingly fast," said incoming UCLA communications professor Rachit Dubey, senior author of the study published April 17 in Nature Human Behavior.

The research showed that study participants who viewed binary data (like lake freezing patterns) perceived climate impacts 12% higher than those who only saw gradual temperature changes over decades.

"It's not just warmer winters; it's also a loss of ice hockey and white Christmases. It's not just hotter summers; it's the disappearance of a swimming hole due to drought," said lead author Grace Liu, a Ph.D. student at Carnegie Mellon University.

The researchers hope their findings will help climate communicators, data visualization professionals, policymakers, and journalists better convey the real-world impacts of climate change by focusing on binary events and emotional connections to lost traditions.

> "People are adjusting to worsening environmental conditions, like multiple fire seasons per year, disturbingly fast"
>
> - Rachit Dubey, UCLA communications professor

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

VENICE

Venice to Host Annual Historical Cinco de Mayo Parade & Festival

The Venice Community Resource Center invites the public to the Historical Venice Cinco de Mayo Parade & Festival on Saturday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The celebration will take place on 7th Avenue between California Avenue and Broadway, with the parade starting at 10 a.m. at California Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard.

The festival will feature food trucks, traditional Folklorico dancers, horses and Charros, Banda and Aztec dancers, performances by Venice High School Band and Santa Monica College Cheerleaders, classic cars, DJ music, the Venice Baby Dog Rapper, piñatas, raffles, and a photo booth.

Hosted by Laura Ceballos, Director of Historical Venice Cinco de Mayo Parade & Festival, the event honors Mexican-American culture and the historic Battle of Puebla while celebrating the rich heritage of the local community.

The family-friendly celebration will be held at Oakwood Recreation Park, offering a day filled with activities, food, and a festive atmosphere.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

TARIFF

FROM PAGE 4

China is not "sustainable."

WIDESPREAD CONCERN ABOUT RISING GROCERY PRICES

About 6 in 10 U.S. adults are "extremely" or "very" concerned about the cost of groceries in the next few months, while about half are highly concerned about the cost of big purchases, such as a car, cellphone or appliance. Less than half are highly concerned about their ability to purchase the goods they want — a sign of the economy's resilience so far.

Retirement savings are a source of anxiety — about 4 in 10 Americans say their retirement savings are a "major source" of stress in their lives. But fewer — only about 2 in 10 — identify the stock market as a major source of anxiety.

"This whole tariff war is just a losing situation not only for the American people but everybody worldwide," said Nicole Jones, 32. "It's revenge — and everybody's losing on it."

The Englewood, Florida, resident voted last year for then-Vice President Kamala Harris, who replaced the incumbent president, Joe Biden, as the Democratic nominee. Jones hadn't given much thought to tariffs until recently, and now, as an occupational therapy student, she also worries about losing her financial aid and facing high amounts of educational debt.

"Things are more expensive for us," she said.

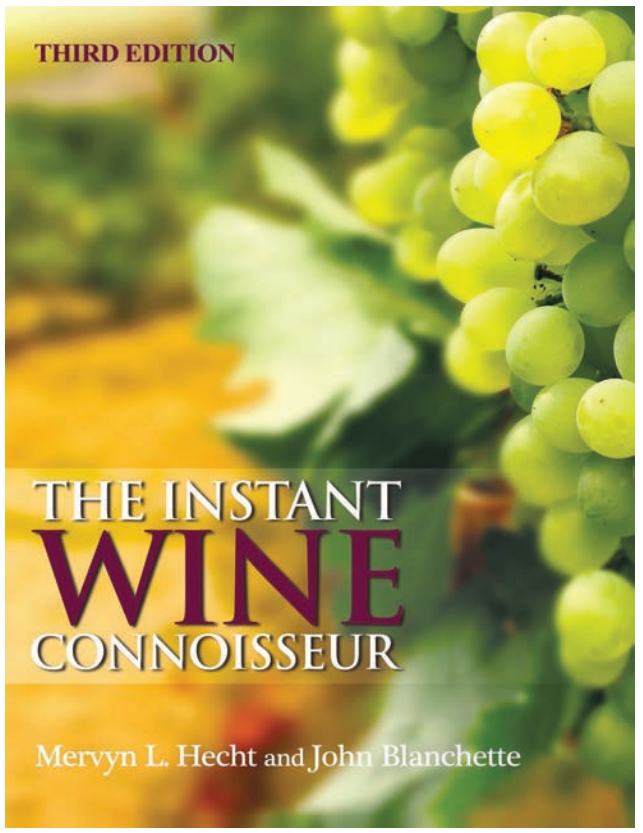
And most Americans still think the national economy is in a weak state.

The difference is that Republicans — who largely thought the economy was in bad shape when Biden was president — now feel more optimistic. But Democrats have become much more bleak about the country's financial future.

"It wasn't all sunshine and rainbows, but we were doing fine," Jones, a Democratic voter, said about the economy before Trump's policies went into effect.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,260 adults was conducted April 17-21, using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for adults overall is plus or minus 3.9 percentage points.

★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



Daily Press Food &Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Increase of Water and Wastewater Service Rates

The public hearing will be conducted pursuant to and in compliance with Article XIIID of the California State Constitution and the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act. This notice is being sent to all property owners, who may submit a written protest to the proposed rate changes. The City of Santa Monica is committed to keeping its customers well informed throughout the process. More information about the rates included in this notice and how to participate is available online at: **santamonica.gov/waterrates**.

How You Can Participate

If you have any questions or comments about the proposed rates, you may participate in the following ways:

Public Hearing Participation. Members of the public are welcome to attend the in-person public hearing on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. Santa Monica, CA 90401. You will have an opportunity to speak, but verbal comments alone do not qualify as a formal protest.

Write. Any property owner that is a part of the City's water and wastewater service area or a customer of record, may submit a written protest to the proposed increases to the service rates. Only one protest will be counted per identified parcel or customer. Each protest must (1) be in writing on letter-sized paper; (2) state that the identified property owner or customer is in opposition to the proposed water and wastewater service rates; (3) provide the location of the identified parcels (by assessor's parcel number or street address or account number); and (4) include the signature of the property owner or customer submitting the protest.

Written protests for each proposed rate adjustment may be submitted by mail to the City Clerk, or at the Public Hearing, so long as received prior to the conclusion of the Public Hearing. Please identify on the front of the envelope for any protest, whether mailed or submitted in-person to the City Clerk, that the enclosed protest is for the proposed Water and Wastewater Service Rates. Protests submitted by e-mail, facsimile, or other electronic means will not be accepted.

Prior to the Public Hearing, please mail or hand-deliver written protests to:

City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk
RE: Public Hearing On Proposed Water and Wastewater Service Rates
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

You may also hand-deliver written protests at the City Council Meeting to the City Clerk prior to the conclusion of the Public Hearing held at the above address. The City Council will hear and consider all oral and written testimony concerning the proposed wastewater service rates.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 53759 there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging the rates in this notice from the date the City Council adopts the resolution approving these rates.

Objections. If, at the conclusion of the Public Hearing, written protests received regarding the proposed increases to the water and wastewater service rates are not presented by a majority (50% plus 1) of property owners of the identified parcels upon which they are proposed to be imposed, the City Council will be authorized to adopt the proposed rates.

A sample protest form, the protest tabulation procedures, and the Water and Wastewater Rate Study are available online at **santamonica.gov/waterrates**.

Proposed Water Rate Charges

Proposed water rates will take effect on July 1, 2025.

	Curent Rates	Proposed Water Rate Schedule FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30
Bi-Monthly Fixed Service Charges						
Single-Family Residential						
3/4 inch	$19.40	$50.06	$58.07	$63.30	$69.00	$73.14
1 inch	$19.40	$50.06	$58.07	$63.30	$69.00	$73.14
1.5 inch	$27.35	$84.00	$97.45	$106.22	$115.78	$122.72
2 inch	$36.89	$124.74	$144.69	$157.72	$171.91	$182.22
All Other Customers						
3/4 inch	$23.46	$70.58	$81.88	$89.25	$97.28	$103.12
1 inch	$23.46	$70.58	$81.88	$89.25	$97.28	$103.12
1.5 inch	$35.48	$125.05	$145.06	$158.11	$172.34	$182.68
2 inch	$49.89	$190.41	$220.87	$240.75	$262.42	$278.16
3 inch	$88.33	$364.69	$423.04	$461.12	$502.62	$532.78
4 inch	$131.58	$560.76	$650.49	$709.03	$772.84	$819.21
6 inch	$251.71	$1,105.41	$1,282.27	$1,397.68	$1,523.47	$1,614.88
8 inch	$684.18	$3,066.13	$3,556.71	$3,876.81	$4,225.73	$4,479.27
Fire Service Charges						
1.5 inch	$74.49	$80.32	$93.18	$101.56	$110.70	$117.35
2 inch	$112.32	$118.85	$137.86	$150.27	$163.80	$173.62
3 inch	$232.10	$240.84	$279.37	$304.51	$331.92	$351.83
4 inch	$452.75	$465.55	$540.04	$588.64	$641.62	$680.12
6 inch	$1,020.13	$1,043.39	$1,210.33	$1,319.27	$1,438.00	$1,524.28
8 inch	$1,776.63	$1,813.85	$2,104.06	$2,293.43	$2,499.84	$2,649.83
10 inch	$2,659.22	$2,712.71	$3,146.74	$3,429.95	$3,738.64	$3,962.96
Commodity Charges All Customers						
Tier 1	$6.61	$6.78	$7.86	$8.57	$9.34	$9.90
Tier 2	$7.67	$7.89	$9.15	$9.98	$10.87	$11.53
Tier 3	$10.93	$12.36	$14.34	$15.63	$17.03	$18.06

Customer Class & Meter Size	Proposed Bi-Monthly Volumetric Rates Tier 1 Breakpoint [1]	Tier 2 Breakpoint [2]	Tier 3 Breakpoint [3]
Single-Family All Customers		**Per Unit**	
	0-10 HCF	11-18 HCF	19+ HCF
Multi-Family All Customers		**Per Unit**	
	0-7 HCF	8-13 HCF	14+ HCF
Non-Residential		**Per Meter**	
3/4 inch	0-10 HCF	11-18 HCF	19+ HCF
1 inch	0-10 HCF	11-18 HCF	19+ HCF
1.5 inch	0-20 HCF	21-36 HCF	37+ HCF
2 inch	0-32 HCF	33-58 HCF	59+ HCF
3 inch	0-64 HCF	65-115 HCF	116+ HCF
4 inch	0-100 HCF	101-180 HCF	181+ HCF
6 inch	0-200 HCF	201-360 HCF	361+ HCF
8 inch	0-560 HCF	561-1,008 HCF	1,009+ HCF

HCF - The unit of measure used for water billing equal to 748 gallons.

1. Tier 1 breakpoint set to assumed indoor consumption for a typical SFR customer using 47 gallons per capita per day (GPCD) with 2.56 people per SFR, 1.78 people per MFR and allocated to non-residential based on 47 GPCD and equivalent meters
2. Tier 2 breakpoint set to volume of Santa Monica groundwater source minus the Tier 1 usage for each customer class.
3. Tier 3 water is set to include all purchased water from MWD.

Fixed and Variable Charges

The proposed water service fee is calculated by combining a fixed charge amount based upon the customer type and water meter size as shown in the Bi-Monthly Fixed Service Charges section in the Rate Table and a variable amount based upon actual water use of the property as shown in the Bi-Monthly Volumetric Charges Rate Table.

The cost for the actual water used will vary by the amount used during each two-month billing cycle as shown in the Bi-Monthly Volumetric Charges Rate Table. The water service fee will continue to be billed bi-monthly directly to all customers on the regular water utility bill.

Recycled Water Commodity Charge

Recycled water service is billed based on the amount of recycled water used and only charged to customers that have a recycled water meter. Proposed recycled water rates will take effect on July 1, 2025.

	Proposed Recycled Water Rate Schedule FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30
Commodity Charges All Customers ($/HCF)					
Uniform Rate	$5.21	$6.04	$6.59	$7.18	$7.61

Estimated Impact

Santa Monica has three major customer classes, including **single-family homes, multi-family units, and commercial**. The estimated combined water and wastewater bi-monthly rate increases for each major customer class, per year over the five year period for water and wastewater services are shown below.



Single-Family Residential
$37.00 (or $18.50 per month)



Multi-Family Residential
$11.00 Per Unit (or $5.50 per unit per month)



Commercial
$150.00 (or $75 per month)

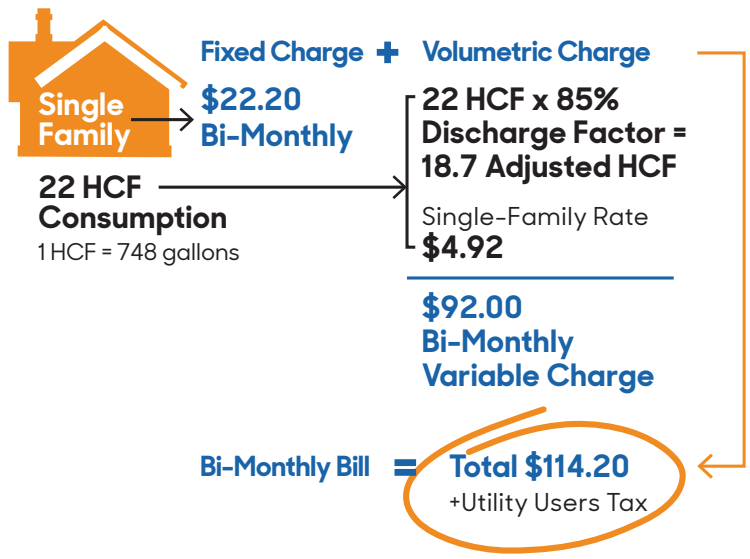
Proposed Wastewater Rate Charges

The proposed wastewater service fee is calculated by combining a fixed charge amount based upon the classification of property as shown in the Fixed Charges Table and a variable amount based upon actual water use of the property as shown in the Variable Charges Table. **Proposed wastewater rates will take effect on July 1, 2025.**

	Curent Rates	Proposed Wastewater Rate Schedule				
		FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30
Fixed Charges ($/Bi-Monthly)						
Residential ($/Dwelling Unit)						
Single-Family	$19.27	$22.20	$23.76	$25.42	$26.94	$28.56
MFR: Duplex + Triplex	$7.76	$8.88	$9.51	$10.17	$10.78	$11.43
MFR: Fourplex + Larger	$5.85	$6.72	$7.19	$7.69	$8.15	$8.64
MFR: Individually Metered	$9.41	$11.03	$11.80	$12.63	$13.39	$14.19
Non-Residential ($/Account)						
MFR: Mixed Use	$188.39	$217.04	$232.24	$248.49	$263.40	$279.21
Commercial Low	$55.06	$62.14	$66.49	$71.14	$75.41	$79.93
Commercial Medium	$117.07	$139.39	149.14	$159.58	$169.16	$179.31
Commercial High	$294.27	$360.09	$385.30	$412.27	$437.00	$463.22
Institutional	$88.78	$100.45	$107.48	$115.00	$121.90	$129.22
Church/Schools	$56.62	$63.82	$68.29	$73.07	$77.45	$82.10
Misc. Industrial	$108.46	$129.27	$138.32	$148.00	$156.88	$166.29
Wastewater Only	$128.54	$135.91	$145.43	$155.61	$164.94	$174.84

Sample Calculation

The following example provides the calculation of the proposed bi-monthly wastewater bill for an average **single-family home** for two months (one billing cycle).



The actual water use is adjusted according to a discharge factor which recognizes various sewage outputs produced by the respective property classes. Each property is classified based on its land use and activity. The wastewater service fee will continue to be billed bi-monthly directly to all customers on the regular wastewater utility bill.

	Curent Rates	Discharge Factor	Proposed Wastewater Rate Schedule				
			FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30
Volumetric Charges ($/HCF) of Average Winter Water Consumption							
Residential ($/Dwelling Unit)							
Single-Family	$4.65	85%	$4.92	$5.27	$5.63	$5.97	$6.33
MFR: Duplex + Triplex	$4.65	90%	$4.92	$5.27	$5.63	$5.97	$6.33
MFR: Fourplex + Larger	$4.65	97%	$4.92	$5.27	$5.63	$5.97	$6.33
MFR: Individually Metered	$4.65	99%	$4.92	$5.27	$5.63	$5.97	$6.33
Non-Residential ($/Account)							
MFR: Mixed Use	$4.65	95%	$4.92	$5.27	$5.63	$5.97	$6.33
Commercial Low	$4.24	93%	$4.43	$4.74	$5.07	$5.38	$5.70
Commercial Medium	$5.55	94%	$6.27	$6.71	$7.18	$7.61	$8.07
Commercial High	$6.50	95%	$7.73	$8.27	$8.85	$9.38	$9.95
Institutional	$4.19	82%	$4.29	$4.59	$4.91	$5.20	$5.52
Church/Schools	$4.19	81%	$4.90	$5.24	$5.61	$5.94	$6.30
Misc. Industrial	$5.16	88%	$5.68	$6.07	$6.50	$6.89	$7.30
Wastewater Only	–	85%	–	–	–	–	–

Questions and More Information

For questions or more information, please contact the Water Resources Division at:

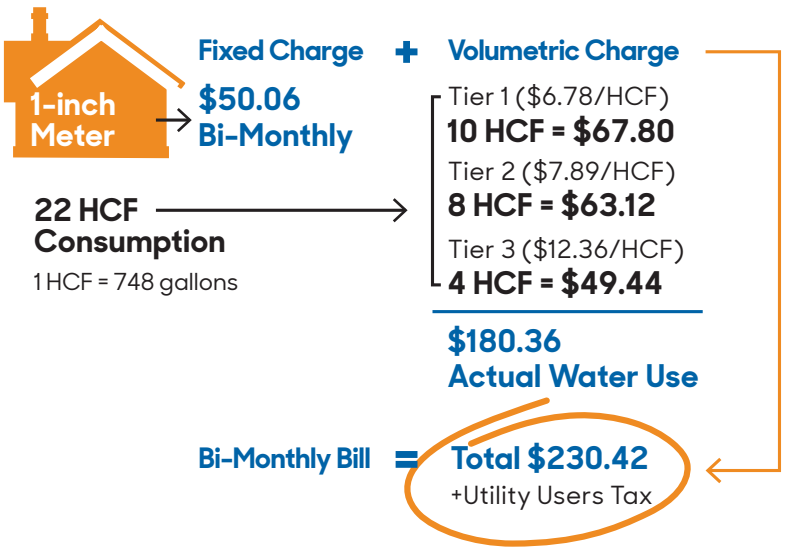
Phone: (310) 458-8531 **Email: water.resources@santamonica.gov**

The Proposed Drought Rates shown below will replace the Commodity Charges shown in the Proposed Water Rate Table to the left if water conservation is mandated. The level of conservation mandated will determine the associated rates.

Mandated Level of Conservation		Proposed Drought Rate Schedule FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30
Commodity Charges ($/HCF)						
	Tier 1	$6.81	$7.90	$8.62	$9.39	$9.96
10%	**Tier 2**	$9.17	$10.64	$11.59	$12.64	$13.40
	Tier 3	$13.78	$15.98	$17.42	$18.99	$20.13
	Tier 1	$7.65	$8.87	$9.67	$10.54	$11.17
20%	**Tier 2**	$10.29	$11.94	$13.01	$14.18	$15.03
	Tier 3	$15.46	$17.94	$19.55	$21.31	$22.59
	Tier 1	$8.72	$10.11	$11.02	$12.02	$12.74
30%	**Tier 2**	$11.73	$13.61	$14.83	$16.17	$17.14
	Tier 3	$17.63	$20.45	$22.29	$24.30	$25.75
	Tier 1	$10.15	$11.77	$12.83	$13.98	$14.82
40%	**Tier 2**	$13.65	$15.84	$17.26	$18.82	$19.95
	Tier 3	$20.52	$23.80	$25.94	$28.28	$29.97
	Tier 1	$12.15	$14.09	$15.36	$16.74	$17.74
50%	**Tier 2**	$16.35	$18.96	$20.67	$22.53	$23.88
	Tier 3	$24.56	$28.49	$31.05	$33.85	$35.88
	Tier 1	$15.15	$17.57	$19.15	$20.87	$22.13
60%	**Tier 2**	$20.38	$23.64	$25.77	$28.09	$29.78
	Tier 3	$30.62	$35.52	$38.72	$42.21	$44.74

Sample Water Rate Calculation

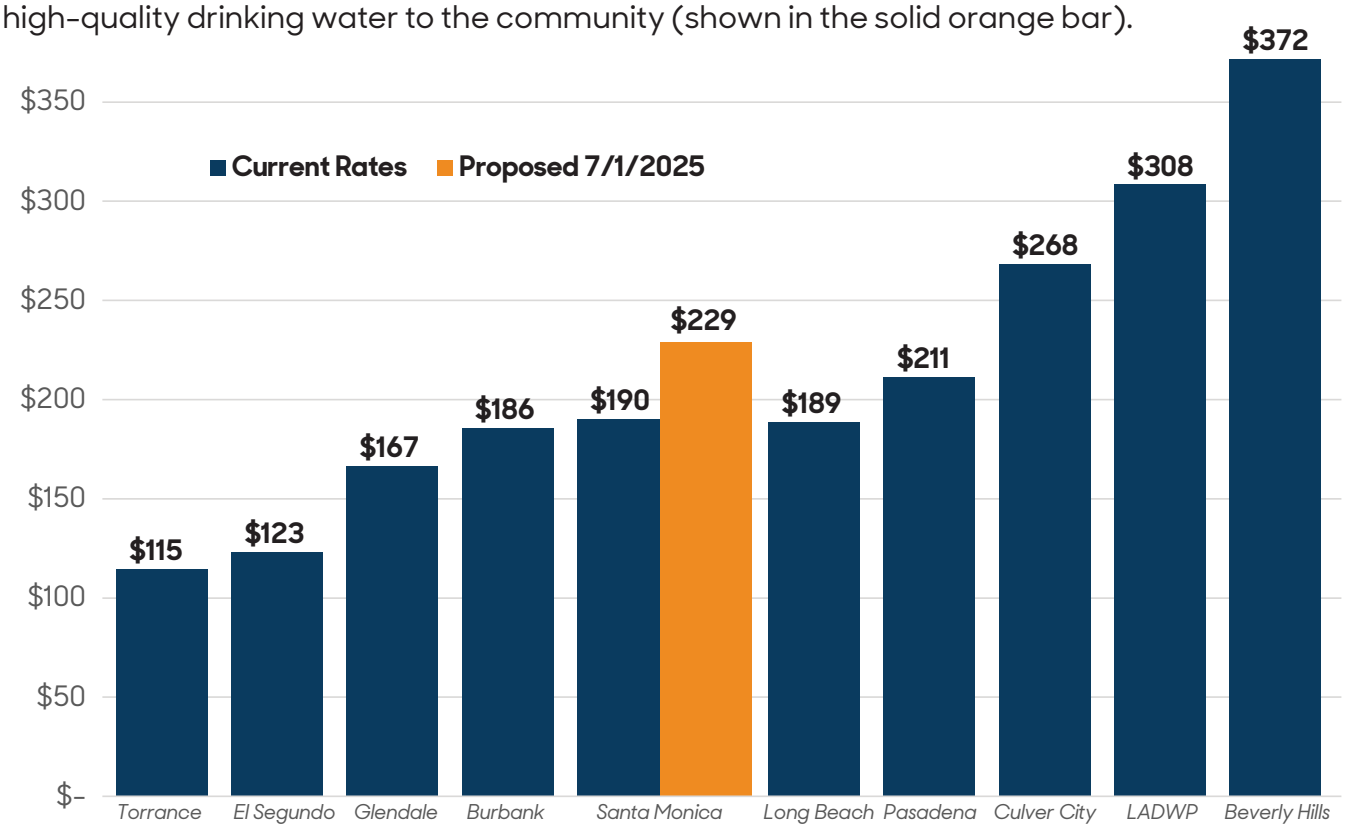
The following example provides the calculation of the proposed bi-monthly water bill for an average **single-family home** for two months (one billing cycle).



The City of Santa Monica is dedicated to providing safe, high-quality water and wastewater services to residents and businesses. In order to effectively complete this mission, we must continue to invest in our infrastructure system.

Comparison of Water Bills (Single-Family Residential)

Even with the potential rate increase, Santa Monica will continue to provide affordable, high-quality drinking water to the community (shown in the solid orange bar).



City of Santa Monica

How Gavin Newsom is balancing the fight against Trump with Los Angeles fire relief

Three months into President Donald Trump's second term and the recovery from the firestorm that devastated Los Angeles, Gov. Gavin Newsom finds himself at a precarious juncture.

The olive branch that Newsom extended to Trump in January, as Los Angeles reeled from multiple fires and the president threatened to withhold disaster aid, has yet to deliver on its early promise.

Once a leading voice in the anti-Trump resistance, Newsom traveled to Los Angeles and then Washington, D.C. to meet with the president and lobby for federal assistance. Trump rewarded his outreach with a détente — ceasing reference to the governor as "Newscum" and publicly promising that an "L.A. fire fix" was coming.

But amid ongoing battles over government funding, Congress has to date ignored Newsom's request for $40 billion to rebuild Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, new political pressures are mounting. Increasingly furious with Trump's dismantling of the federal government, Democratic voters are agitating their leaders to speak out — and even Newsom can no longer hold his tongue.

He made his most pointed criticism of the president's agenda since before the fires when he sued last week to stop Trump's sweeping tariffs scheme, calling it the "poster child" of stupidity. It appears to have unleashed Newsom's confrontational side again, in a semi-profane announcement of another lawsuit to stop cuts to AmeriCorps and a commentary blasting the Trump administration for defying court orders that followed in the days after.

The stakes are incredibly high, not only for the future of Los Angeles but also for his gubernatorial legacy.



Photo by Damian Dovarganes, AP Photo

POLITICS: California Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks during a visit to an area affected by the Eaton Fire in Altadena on Feb. 11, 2025.

A POLICY SHIFT THAT IS 'BEYOND ALARMING'

Newsom has sought to strike a balance that can protect his relationship with the president, whose backing will be critical to get any aid package through the Republican-controlled Congress. As he leans anew into the opposition, Newsom is training his ire on the Trump administration while largely avoiding mentioning Trump himself.

"We never want to make this personal. This is about protecting our values," said Bob Salladay, the governor's senior communications adviser.

But Salladay said the threats from the president, particularly the tariffs that could upend California's entire economy, have reached DEFCON 2. Newsom can no longer sit out the fight, despite his ongoing prioritization of securing disaster aid for Los Angeles.

"There's been a tone shift because there has been a policy shift from D.C. that is beyond alarming," Salladay said.

It's not the first time Newsom has had to find a way to set aside differences with his political nemesis for a state in turmoil.

Two days after Newsom won the governorship in 2018 with a campaign that made Trump his primary foil, the deadliest wildfire in California history tore through the town of Paradise. In between filing dozens of lawsuits against the federal government, Newsom also worked closely with Trump to guide California through the early days of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

But working with the president has become more complex than ever, said Mark Ghilarducci, who served as director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services from 2012 to 2022. While Trump always struggled to understand the complexities of disasters and provide an empathetic response, he's become "very extreme in his second term," Ghilarducci said.

In his first term, Ghilarducci said, Trump's impulses were tempered by other high-ranking officials who were reasonable and experienced — experts with authority whom California could engage to ultimately to get what it needed.

When Trump rejected a major disaster declaration request in October 2020 for six wildfires burning across California, Ghilarducci said the Newsom administration made the case that the decision mostly hurt counties that supported the president and he promptly reversed himself.

"Now it's really just slash and burn and destroy," Ghilarducci said. "He's surrounded by people who are much more enablers and sycophants."

Ghilarducci said the political environment is the most challenging he's seen in his four-decade career in disaster response. As Trump gleefully punishes his political enemies, his administration is eliminating departments and programs that would facilitate Los Angeles' recovery, and Congress can barely pull together enough votes to keep the government funded.

"It's something where you need a lot of savvy, strategic, thoughtful tradecraft to be able to navigate all the twists and turns," he said.

WILDFIRE FUNDS IN THE HANDS OF CONGRESS

The Newsom administration remains hopeful that Congress will approve a supplemental disaster relief package by this summer. Its $40 billion wish list includes money for debris removal, public infrastructure repair, housing reconstruction, economic development grants and small business loans.

The governor's office could not provide a comprehensive list of disasters for which California has previously received supplemental disaster relief and how long it took to get the money. But a funding bill that furnished money to recover from the Camp Fire passed in June 2019, about seven months after the blaze ignited.

The bipartisan team of Democratic Sen. Alex Padilla and GOP Rep. Ken Calvert of Corona, with California's entire congressional delegation behind them, is leading the push on Capitol Hill. Early demands to condition aid to Los Angeles on unrelated policies such as water management and voter identification appear to be waning, especially as discussions around a funding bill have broadened to incorporate subsequent disasters in red and purple states, including floods in Kentucky and wildfires in North Carolina.

"From wildfires in California, to hurricanes in the Southeast, natural disasters do not distinguish between red states and blue states, and neither should our support for fellow Americans in their time of need," Padilla said in a statement. "I will continue to push for additional disaster funding at every possible opportunity. I will also do everything I can to maintain bipartisan support for delivering additional relief for our state."

Until then, California has a few more months of fiscal runway, because of a generous major disaster declaration that then-President Joe Biden signed immediately after the Los Angeles fires in January. That order authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reimburse 100% of the costs for cleanup, hazard mitigation and financial assistance for survivors for 180 days. After that, 75% of eligible emergency response costs are reimbursed.

But that account will eventually run out of money, requiring Congress to act to fund a longer-term recovery for Los Angeles.

"Just as all disasters are unique, requests to Congress and timelines are too," Monica Vargas, a spokesperson for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, wrote in an email. "Helping survivors and communities recover remains California's priority."

By Alexei Koseff

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Biden let California get creative with Medicaid spending. Trump is signaling that may end

In 2022, California made sweeping changes to its Medi-Cal program that reimagined what health care could look like for some of the state's poorest and sickest residents by covering services from housing to healthy food. But the future of that program, known as CalAIM, could be at risk under the Trump administration.

In recent weeks, federal officials have signaled that support for creative uses of Medi-Cal funding is waning, particularly uses that California has invested in such as rent assistance and medically tailored meals. Medi-Cal is California's name for Medicaid.

The moves align with a narrower vision of Medicaid espoused by newly confirmed Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services head Dr. Mehmet Oz, who said during his swearing-in ceremony that Medicaid spending was crowding out spending on education and other services in states with the federal government "paying most of the bill."

"This one really bothers me. There are states who are using Medicaid — Medicaid dollars for people who are vulnerable — for services that are not medical," Oz said.

It also fits with broader GOP calls to slim down the federal government. Medicaid is under scrutiny as part of a GOP-led budget process in the House of Representatives that calls for $880 billion in cuts over 10 years to programs including Medicaid.

"The messaging that we want to go back to the basics of Medicaid puts all of these waiver programs in jeopardy," said John Baackes, former chief executive of L.A. Care, the state's largest Medi-Cal health insurer.

CalAIM is authorized under a federal waiver that allows states to experiment with their Medicaid programs to try to save money and improve health outcomes. Under the waiver, California added extra benefits for high-cost users to help with food insecurity, housing instability, substance use and behavioral health challenges.

Roughly half of all Medi-Cal spending can be attributed to 5% of high-cost users, according to state documents.

But in March, the federal government rescinded guidelines supporting Medi-Cal spending for social services. It also sent states a letter in April indicating that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services would no longer approve a funding mechanism that helps support CalAIM, although that money will continue until 2026.

Together, these moves should worry states that operate programs like CalAIM, said Kathy Hempstead, senior policy officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

"Under the Biden administration states were encouraged to experiment with things like that: To prescribe people prescriptions to get healthy food, to refer people to community-based services," Hempstead said. "This administration is not receptive at all to ... that vision of the Medicaid program."

In a press release, CMS said it is putting an end to spending that isn't "directly tied to health care services."

"Mounting expenditures, such as covering housekeeping for individuals who are not eligible for Medicaid or high-speed internet for rural healthcare providers, distracts from the core mission of Medicaid, and in some instances, serves as an overly-creative financing mechanism to skirt state budget responsibilities," the press release states.

These signals from the federal government apply to future applications for Medicaid changes, and do not change California's current programs or funding. The state's CalAIM waiver expires at the end of 2026, and another similar waiver that supports California's efforts to improve behavioral health care expires in 2029.

> We've spent the last few decades in public health and health policy, arguing that so much of health and medical costs is driven by environmental factors — people's living conditions, income, etc.
> - Paul Shafer

According to a statement from the Department of Health Care Services, the agency that oversees Medi-Cal, all programs "remain federally approved and operational."

"We appreciate our Medi-Cal providers and community partners, and together we will push full steam ahead to transform our health system and improve health outcomes," the department said.

Paul Shafer, co-director of the Boston University Medicaid Policy Lab, said decades of public health research show that people have worse health outcomes that require more expensive treatment when their social needs aren't met.

"We've spent the last few decades in public health and health policy, arguing that so much of health and medical costs is driven by environmental factors — people's living conditions, income, etc." Shafer said.

But, Shafer said, programs like CalAIM are relatively recent and the research hasn't had enough time to show whether paying for non-traditional services saves money.



Photo by Anna Moneymaker, Getty Images

HEALTH: Dr. Mehmet Oz speaks during a confirmation hearing with the Senate Finance Committee in the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC. on March 14, 2025.

For example, California's street medicine doctors who take care of people who are homeless say that their patients often cycle in and out of the emergency room — the most expensive point of service in the health care system. They have no place to recover from medical procedures, no address to deliver medications, and the constant exposure to the elements takes years off of their lives, doctors say.

CalAIM gives them options to help their clients find housing.

The federal government's decision not to fund programs like this in the future is a "step backward," Shafer said.

"I think we can all read the tea leaves and say that that means they're sort of unlikely to be renewed," he said.

By Kristen Hwang. Supported by the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), which works to ensure that people have access to the care they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford. Visit www.chcf.org to learn more.

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Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 25SMCP00165 Superior Court of California,County of Los AngelesPetition of Dian Yu for Change of Name.TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Dian Yu with this court for adecree of changing names as follows:Dian Yu to Shengzhi Qiang . The court orders that allpersons interested in this matter shall appear before thiscourt at the hearing indicated below to show cause, ifany, why the petition for change of name should not begranted.Notice of Hearing: Date 05/09/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m,Dept: K Room: - The address of the court is SUPERIORCOURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOSANGELES 1725 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401 Acopy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published atleast once each week for four successive weeks prior tothe date set for hearing on the petition in the followingnewspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:Santa Monica Daily Press

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SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

simmering dispute at the local level and County officials preparing to revote on the issue after failing to properly administer the vote at their last meeting.

On Wednesday, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education directed Superintendent Antonio Shelton to reengage with Malibu consultants and city officials to address ongoing concerns about the proposed school district separation.

> "I think what becomes clear to me is this only works when we work together"
> - Jon Kean, Board Member

The unanimous decision came after extensive discussion of unresolved issues in the three agreements needed to create an independent Malibu Unified School District and promises from the Board that they do in fact want the situation resolved.

"I think what becomes clear to me is this only works when we work together," said Board Member Jon Kean. "We are so close to this. It is clear from this presentation that the ideas behind our mediation have been successful, that we have models and ideas that need to be finalized."

The board declined to outright approve the existing draft agreements despite pleas from Malibu officials, who expressed readiness to move forward immediately.

"On behalf of the City of Malibu, I implore you, approve these agreements tonight," said Malibu City Councilwoman Haylynn Conrad. "We are fully committed to moving them forward at the city as soon as possible. We need to stop playing lip service to these agreements and take action. Now. Let's bring this chapter to a close and work together for the good of our students and both our communities and. You have been committed to this day for years. Know that this is the best way forward, and we are asking you to stand by your word and vote in favor of these agreements today."

Last year the two sides announced plans for three key elements, a Revenue Sharing Agreement, an Operational Transfer Agreement and a Joint Powers Agreement. However, those agreements were never formalized and instead Malibu pursued a decision from County officials to mandate a split.

That petition was rejected recently, restarting discussions about the agreements and a voluntary split.

Financial concerns dominated this week's meeting, with the district's Financial Oversight Committee highlighting potential deficits for Malibu in the first five years after separation and other fiscal vulnerabilities.

Shin Green of East Shore Consulting, the district's consultant, acknowledged concerns about Malibu's financial viability but expressed confidence that solutions are within reach.

"I do believe that there are some minor things that we can clean up in the agreement that will solve those things," Green said. "They are not things that we believe can unilaterally be done. Again, an agreement is between the two parties."

Several board members expressed frustration that negotiations had stalled in recent months, with Kean taking partial blame for earlier setbacks.

"I take my share of blame for that," Kean said, referring to a meeting last fall. "I thought it would be a positive. I was wrong. I think what we've learned from that is, it allowed us to see what happens when we don't work together."

The Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association expressed concerns about protections for educators in both communities and supported efforts to reopen negotiations.

"The agreement establishes a 4% annual growth target for SMUSD's unrestricted general fund revenues. However, it does not account for rising labor costs in both districts," said Claudia Batista, SMCTA president. "There's no plan built in to meet the actual compensation needs of the educators and staff who serve our students daily."

Batista also raised concerns about only one year of job security being guaranteed for Malibu teachers under the current operational transfer agreement, though Malibu representatives stated they would extend that to four years.

Board members debated whether such a promise could be legally binding on a future school board that doesn't yet exist.

The board's direction includes several components: reengaging with Malibu consultants, reaching out to the Malibu subcommittee for new mediation sessions, consulting with the Financial Oversight Committee on risk exposure, holding information sessions with employee unions, and fine-tuning the agreements.

"Let's stop looking backwards," Kean said. "We cannot look backwards and get this completed. This has to be a results and outcome-driven process."

Board Member Stacy Rouse, the only representative from Malibu, suggested providing regular updates at board meetings to maintain transparency about progress.

"I think that kind of level of communication is really helpful to everyone," Rouse said. "I think that can substitute for a date, because then it doesn't just get lost and feel like they say they're working."

The renewed negotiations come as the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization prepares to revote on Malibu's 2017 petition on May 7, after a procedural error in its April 2 meeting. The committee had voted 6-5 to deny the petition, citing staff reports that the proposed split failed to meet eight of nine required criteria.

Despite the setbacks, board members expressed optimism about finding solutions.

"I really do think we can get there," said Board Member Lori Lieberman. "The tone that I heard and the willingness to participate there, that we can get back together and that it will still be there."

editor@smdp.com



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

SATURDAY | APRIL 26

FREE SATURDAY MORNING FITNESS; WELLNESS & WAVES RETURNS FOR 2025 SEASON

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. Start your weekend with movement, mindfulness, and ocean views as Wellness & Waves returns to the Santa Monica Pier beginning Saturday, April 5 through October 11, 2025, from 8 to 10 a.m. every week. This popular Free fitness series invites the community to embrace self-care and coastal vibes with group runs, yoga, and fusion fitness—all in the most iconic outdoor setting in Los Angeles. Held beneath the famed Santa Monica Yacht Harbor sign, Wellness & Waves kicks off with a breezy group run from 8 to 9 a.m., perfect for runners of all levels. From 9 to 10 a.m., the energy shifts to the west end of the Pier for Yoga and Yoga-Pilates Fusion classes, led by a rotating lineup of celebrated instructors from some of the Westside's top wellness studios. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/free-saturday-morning-fitness-wellness-waves-returns-for-2025-season/15484766/2025-04-26T08

ARTISTS & FLEAS: VENICE MARKETPLACE

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Location Westminster Elementary School 1010 Abbot Kinney Los Angeles. Artists & Fleas in Venice is located in the vibrant, artistic heart of Venice at the corner of Abbot Kinney and Westminster Avenue in the outdoor lot of Westminister Avenue Elementary School. Join 50+ merchants every Saturday (rain or shine!) for a fabulous lineup of art, design, food trucks and vintage. Date: Every Saturday Time: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Location: Westminster Elementary School - 1010 Abbot Kinney Check our website here for a list of vendors. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/artists-fleas-venice-marketplace/14548485/2025-04-26T11

SUNDAY | APRIL 27

THE WATERFRONT - SUNDAY REAL FUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Waterfront 205 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Enjoy a bottomless brunch buffet Sundays at The Waterfront! The Waterfront Venice is a full-service restaurant celebrating Californian cuisine with views of the Pacific Ocean. Situated between Rose and Navy on the famous Venice Beach Boardwalk, our food & beverage menus celebrate California with carefully selected seasonal produce from local farms. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-waterfront-sunday-real-funday-brunch-buffet/14894114/2025-04-27T11

SUNDAY MORNING MUSIC / SANTA MONICA

11:00 a.m. Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center 1310 11th St Santa Monica. Salastina joins the Sunday Morning Music / Santa Monica chamber music series with 19th-century German repertoire ¡that's like a warm hug for your soul. On the program: works by Brahms, Schumann, and Wagner celebrating romantic love and domestic bliss. Brian Lauritzen of KUSC puts the program in relatable context between pieces. Winner of San Francisco Classical Voice's Audience Choice Award for "Best Chamber Ensemble," Salastina is a visionary jensemble that honors the rich heritage of chamber music while ¡propelling it into the vibrant landscape of the future. •Pre-Show on The Plaza Pop in for pre-show music on The Plaza with SOL-LA Music Academy! Pre-show on The Plaza takes place 45 minutes before the BroadStage. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/sunday-morning-music-santa-monica/13924523/2025-04-27T11

U-571

7:30 p.m. Aero Theatre 1328 Montana Ave Santa Monica. $12.00 (member) ; $17.00 (general admission) Ticket prices include a $2.00 online booking fee. Aero Theatre | Q&A with filmmaker Jonathan Mostow 25th Anniversary! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/u-571/15550046/2025-04-27T19

VENICE ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE - SUNDAYS AT SUNSET

Windward Plaza 1501 Ocean Front Walk Venice, CA. Join the Magic of the Venice Electric Light Parade Every Sunday Night! Looking for a unique and vibrant way to end your weekend? The Venice Electric Light Parade (VELP) is here to light up your Sunday evenings! Founded by Marcus Gladney, this family-friendly weekly event celebrates community, creativity, and safe cycling. Bring your LED-lit bicycle and join us for an unforgettable ride along the iconic Venice Beach. Details: When: Every Sunday evening. Meet 45 minutes before sunset. Where: Windward Plaza, Venice Beach. Who: Open to everyone! Bring your bike, lights, and good vibes. Cost: FREE to join! Experience the magic of glowing bikes, amazing sound bikes playing great music, and the welcoming energy of the Venice community. The parade follows a strict no-smoking or drinking policy, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all. Why Join? Connect with old and new friends. Celebrate the artistic and cultural spirit of Venice. Enjoy a safe and fun environment for all ages. So, light up your ride, bring your friends, and join us this Sunday at Windward Plaza. Don't forget to turn on your lights and practice safe cycling at night! Let's ride into the sunset together! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/venice-electric-light-parade-sundays-at-sunset/14970341/2025-04-27T00

MONDAY | APRIL 28

THE GORDONS IMPROV RESIDENCY

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. Welcome to The Gordons Improv Show at Westside Comedy Theater! IMPROV RESIDENT TEAM NIGHT! Check out our current lineup of Resident Improv Teams! These teams perform Long-Form Improv all inspired by a suggestion from the audience. Think of it as a sitcom made up on the spot. Catch them before they are gone! These teams rotate every three months!Get ready for a night filled with laughter, spontaneity, and hilarious moments. Join us for an evening of unscripted comedy where every joke is made up on the spot. Our talented improv performers will have you in stitches as they create scenes, characters, and stories based on your suggestions. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind experience! Grab your friends and come on down to Westside Comedy Theater for a night you won't forget. TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED @ https://ci.ovationtix.com/34923/production/1126449?performanceId=11576550. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-gordons-improv-residency/14863274/2025-04-28T19

PIZZA PARTY! A COMEDY SHOW

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The Crow 2525 Michigan Ave Unit F4, Santa Monica. What do you get when you have LA's sauciest comedians and three boxes of hot pizza? A Pizza party! Join us the fourth Monday of the every month for a comedy show with the funniest pepperonies in town... when it when it comes to comedy we deliver! $15.00. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/pizza-party-a-comedy-show/13385486/2025-04-28T19

TUESDAY | APRIL 29

INVESTING FUNDAMENTALS - PERSONAL FINANCE WORKSHOP

11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Workshops are offered via Zoom by the Business Department. Prior registration not required. Open to all SMC students. More information about the free personal finance workshops. Students with disabilities who require accommodations should contact Center for Students with Disabilities at 310-434-4265 or at dsps@smc.edu at least 5 business days prior to the event. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/investing-fundamentals-personal-finance-workshop/15266303/2025-04-29T11

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

4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Gelson's 12121 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles. Every Tuesday from 4 PM to 10 PM, Gelson's West LA Wine Bar will be hosting Taco Tuesdays, bringing together a festive blend of flavors and fun. Enjoy a variety of mouthwatering tacos, refreshing margaritas, and smooth mezcals, all served in a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere. The perfect way to spice up the week—gather friends and enjoy a night of great food, drinks, and good times. Prices vary. For more information, visit https://www.gelsons.com/events/view/taco-tuesdays-at-gelsons-west-la-wine-bar. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/gelson-s-west-la-to-host-taco-tuesdays-with-tacos-margaritas-and-mezcals/15309564/2025-04-29T16

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6255

LUSKIN

FROM PAGE 1

joined grassroots advocates and community members to call for a long-term, coordinated and people-centered approach to disaster recovery in the wake of January's devastating wildfires in the Palisades and Altadena.

While government funding and emergency services remain critical, panelists emphasized that the path forward must include the lived experiences of those directly impacted. From mental health trauma and insurance obstacles to the urgent need for affordable housing and rebuilding support, the challenges facing fire survivors require collaboration across sectors and sustained investment well beyond the immediate crisis.

"We all remember those 10 days when our eyes were glued to our phones, wondering if the fire was coming our way," said Peter Laugharn, president and CEO of the Hilton Foundation. "This isn't going to be our last rodeo. What matters now is building systems that are ready for the next time."

The Hilton Foundation, which has funded disaster relief globally for nearly two decades, pledged support to local efforts while urging the integration of wildfire recovery with homelessness and housing affordability strategies. "These are braided crises," Laugharn said, adding "We must ensure the rebuilding effort amplifies, rather than competes with, ongoing work to house the unhoused."

Other panelists echoed the importance of viewing recovery as more than physical reconstruction. Nina Revoyr, Executive Director for Los Angeles & National Public Safety at the Ballmer Group, said the trauma experienced by children and families must be central to the rebuilding process. "Kids had to literally run for their lives," she said. "We need culturally appropriate mental health resources, especially for youth and a workforce prepared for the rebuilding ahead."

Revoyr noted that while her own home survived, many close friends lost theirs. "It's not about choosing between housing, education, or trauma response," she said, adding, "It's about weaving this tragedy into the work we were already doing."

Andrew King, who begins work next month with the Department of Angels, shared his personal story of losing his mother and his home in the fire. In the days that followed, he became a block captain, guiding neighbors through a maze of FEMA paperwork, insurance claims and housing aid.

"I want you to imagine what it's like to lose everything and then be handed a folder with 35 contacts and told to figure it out," he said. "We need trusted people on the ground who can help navigate the chaos."

King described the Department of Angels' mission to reach 100 percent of those impacted by the fires. "This is about ensuring the recovery is done with us, not to us," he said. "It's about transparency, inclusion and action."

Jennifer DeVoll, CEO of the Pasadena Community Foundation, announced the formation of the Altadena Builds Back Foundation, a new subsidiary focused solely on long-term recovery in Altadena, one of the communities hardest hit.

"People need time to process, but time is also the enemy of cost," DeVoll said. "Some haven't even filed for assistance yet and the deadlines are already passing."

The panelists called for more flexibility from funders and government agencies. Several emphasized that recovery efforts should not rely on repeated surveys or one-size-fits-all approaches. "Let's not keep asking the same questions without doing something with the answers," King said.

The summit also addressed the need to strengthen coordination between city and county agencies, reduce red tape and embrace grassroots groups that have emerged as lifelines during the crisis. Larry Baines of PaliStrong, an all-volunteer group providing daily updates and support to fire survivors, asked how small local organizations could better access funding and institutional support.

"We've been working nonstop for nearly 100 days," he said. "Every day brings something new. But we need fiscal help to keep going."

Revoyr responded by praising such efforts as "the worst club with the best people," a phrase King said resonated deeply with his own experience. "The people who have stepped up are extraordinary," he said.

Looking ahead, panelists urged UCLA and other academic institutions to play a larger role in both analyzing and shaping the region's recovery. "Train future leaders to humanize their work," King said. "And use your research to hold us all accountable."

As the summit drew to a close, attendees were reminded that recovery will be measured not only in dollars or homes rebuilt, but in how effectively public, private and philanthropic sectors can unite behind a common cause.

"We're not just talking about what went wrong," moderator Jacqueline Waggoner said in her closing remarks. "We're talking about how to move forward, smarter, stronger and more united."

scott.snowden@smdp.com

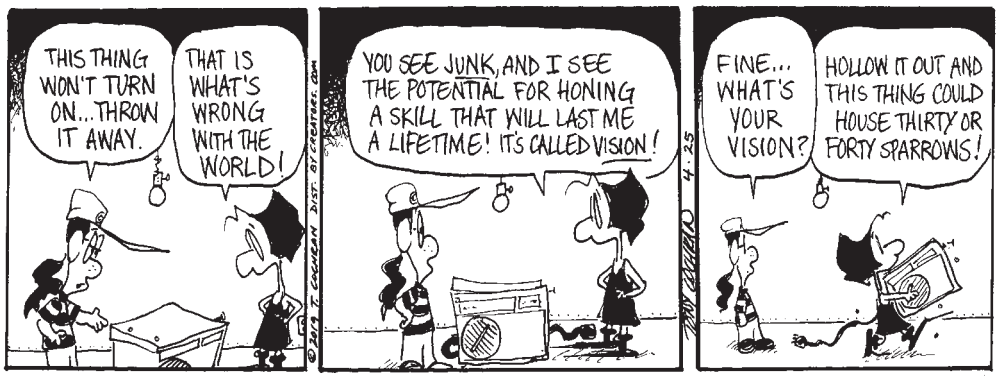


Scott Snowden

FIRE: Leaders from prominent philanthropic organizations say we must rebuild smarter and stronger, while supporting everyone who has suffered.

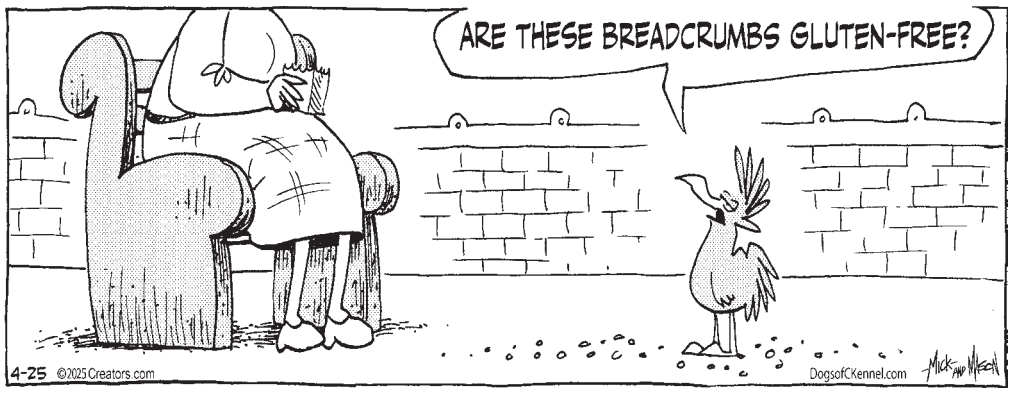
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



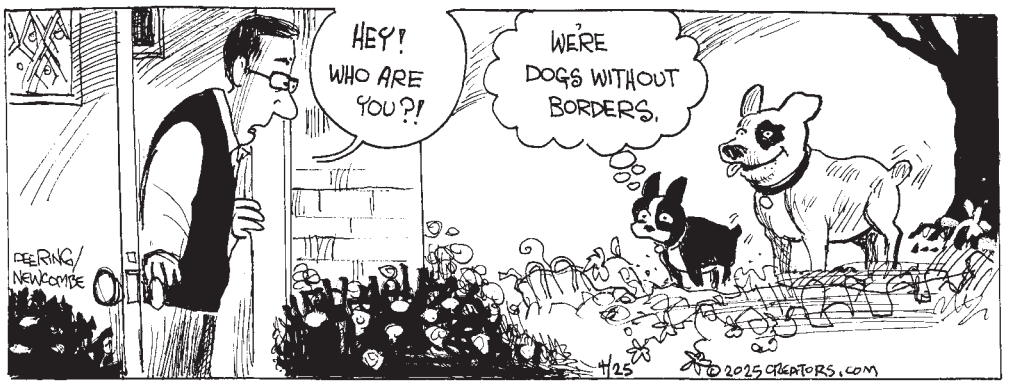
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

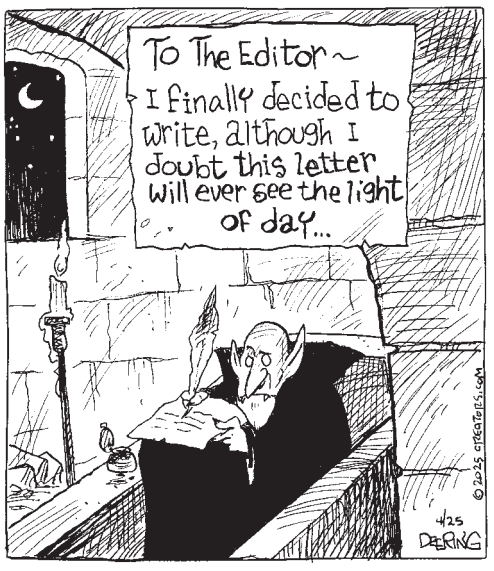
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE LOVES YOUR MUSIC."

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

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Amongst the gumtrees

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

Acacia
Ants
Arid
Bees
Birds
Blackbutt
Brush
Canoe
Care
Cassia
Chair
Chops
Creek
Damp
Edge
Elkhorns
Esky
Fauna
Fish
Flora
Galah
Geraldton
wax
Hats
Hike
Idle
Indigo
Knife
Leaves
Look
Mist
Nests
Oaks
Owls
Palms
Park
Path
Protect
Quiet
River
Rock
Route
Sand
Shade
Slip
Snake
Soil
Spider
Tent
Uncomfortable
Wrens

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 25)

You shape fate with your own hands, sculpting this year into a work of art. There's no hesitation — just bold steps that bring love, fortune and adventure in equal measure. More highlights: You'll master a skill that makes life richer; travel opens your eyes to a new way of being. You'll invest in and teach younger generations. Aries and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 14, 29, 33 and 2.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). No need to force things along or push in any way. The opportunity that's meant for you will unfold naturally without excessive effort. Trust the process will flow like water and the path will reveal itself with ease.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Today highlights the value of your integrity, compassion and emotional intelligence. You'll commit to what you deeply believe in, and it pays you back in multiple ways, including emotionally and financially.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No one ever stopped a tidal wave by holding up their hand like a traffic cop. The best way to handle a strong force isn't to fight it but to move with it strategically. You'll navigate a challenge by adapting, redirecting energy and using the momentum to your advantage.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're perceptive and quick to learn from others, picking up everything you need — whether or not you've experienced it firsthand. This is partly because you lead with optimism, which keeps your perspective open and engaged.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). While those who have been deprived may be forgiven for taking a lot, it's much more contemptible when those with privilege act out of greed, especially at the expense of others who have less. You'll stand up for fairness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Preparation is valuable, but waiting until you feel completely ready can sometimes be a form of procrastination or self-doubt. You already have enough skills, resources and instincts to start. Once in motion, you can adapt and improve. Just go!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You gladly help others in a personal setting. But when the stakes are different, so should be your strategy. In professional or competitive settings, knowledge is power. Be aware: Someone is withholding a resource, technique or insight to preserve their advantage.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's an added layer of complexity when unexpected or unusual things come your way. Just because it appears in your life doesn't automatically mean it's meant for you. Use your intuition and reflection to discern what truly belongs to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Fishing nets may not weigh much when you first fling them in the water, but once they start catching things, they get heavy. The same is true of safety nets. In time, they can become more of an anchor.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Without productive activity, you feel restless and unfulfilled. You'd rather be occupied and adding to your resources. You love today's meaningful work, which provides structure, purpose and social connection.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You previously agreed to a contract, arrangement or informal deal that may not have been ideal but seemed like the best option at the time. Now circumstances have shifted, and you have a chance to improve the terms.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Chasing love? Whatever your reasons, and however sound they may seem to you, it will still benefit you to drop them. Pull back and redirect your energy. The love that's coming to you, you won't have to chase.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

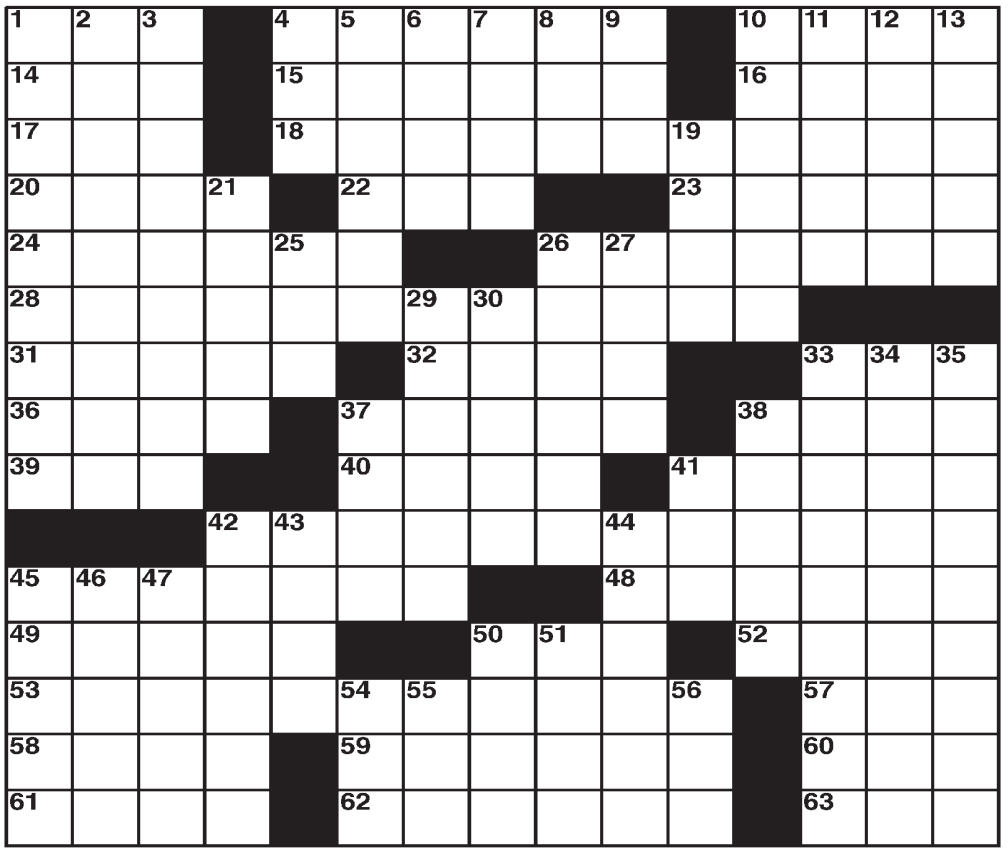
MIDDLE SCHOOL by Kevin Christian
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 NBA Atlantic Division venue
4 Guys' titles, for short
10 Common rhyme scheme
14 Mimicking
15 Uniquely new
16 Turns blue, say
17 Hear clearly
18 "That's not my area"
20 Way down
22 Where wagers are made: Abbr.
23 Greek peace goddess
24 Look to be
26 Side by side
28 Bad at keeping secrets
31 Belgian inspiration for Klee
32 Fairness obstacle
33 Midspring honoree
36 Petty quibbles
37 Violet family flower
38 Mare hair
39 UFO fliers
40 It's west of Cedar Rapids
41 Green Hornet portrayer Seth
42 The ends of the earth
45 What many roll on
48 It rises in Peru
49 Discompose
50 Taoist force
52 Slightly leavened bread
53 Outfielder's acrobatic success
57 Where Forrest Gump served
58 Falco of TV
59 More improbable
60 Bastille Day season
61 Cubs' homes
62 Doesn't seem proper
63 Maritime alert

DOWN

1 New Testament Mary
2 Ponder possibilities overnight
3 Front lawn fence features
4 Persian plaint
5 Admonish urgently
6 Black dust of a sort
7 Shot in the dark
8 Peripheral ring
9 HS department
10 Dearly beloved
11 Via sailboat, perhaps
12 Metaphor for secret spillage
13 Heretofore
19 Need a break
21 Coins with Aztec sun stones
25 Atmospheric starter
26 He married Graf in 2001
27 Overly ornate
29 First First Couple on Twitter
30 Forty follower
33 Waiting room supply
34 Counting-out rhyme start
35 Many of the year's hurricanes
37 Become wearisome
38 Digital character animation method, for short
41 Dream acronym
42 Water sign, unsurprisingly
43 South Pacific surfing center
44 Neutralize
45 Went quickly
46 Put up with
47 Presley contemporary
50 Would-be theme "middle" that didn't fit
51 "__ all be OK"
54 GPS grid
55 Device above a dash
56 MLB slugger's pride

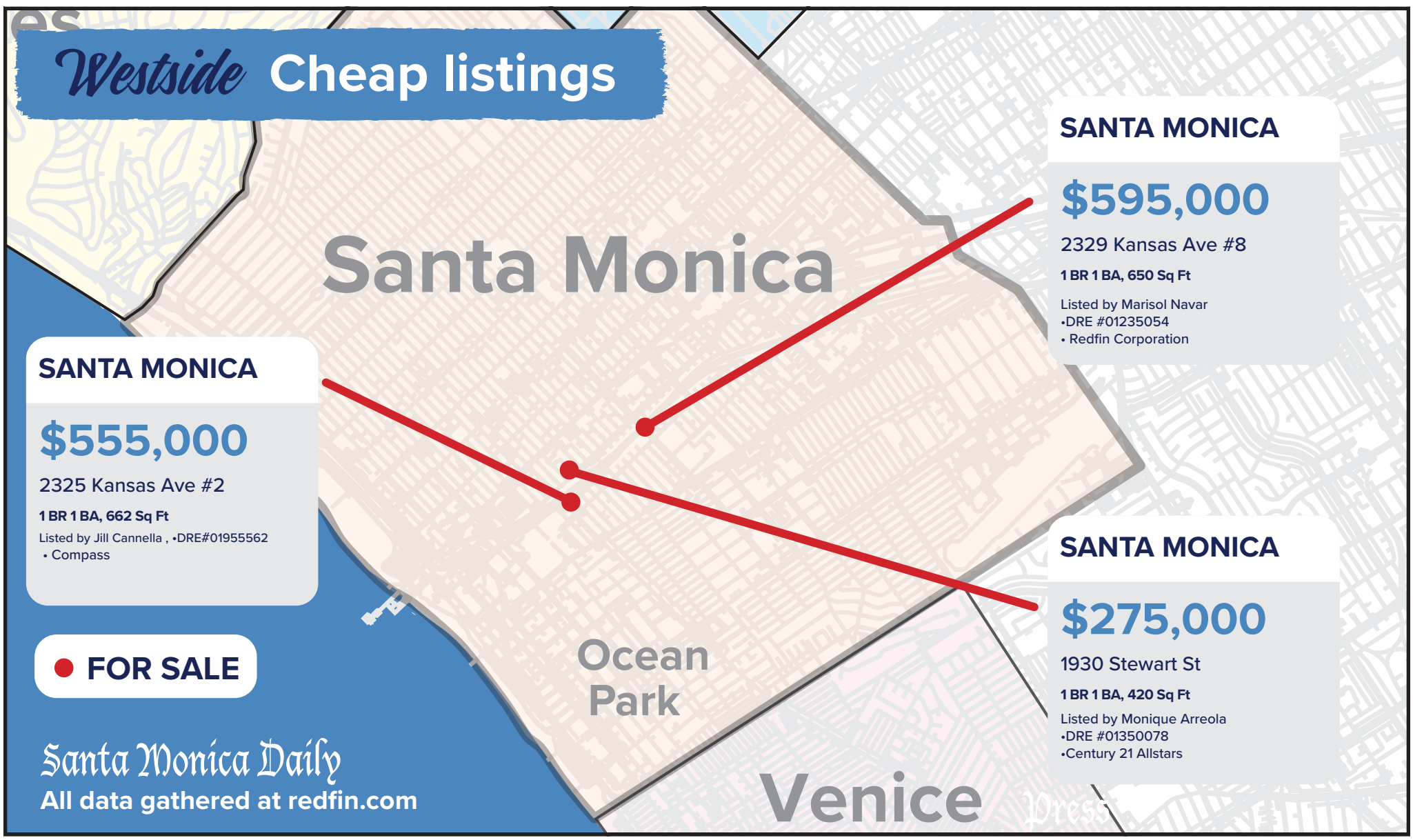


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•DRE #01235054
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SANTA MONICA

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Listed by Jill Cannella , •DRE#01955562
• Compass

SANTA MONICA

$275,000

1930 Stewart St

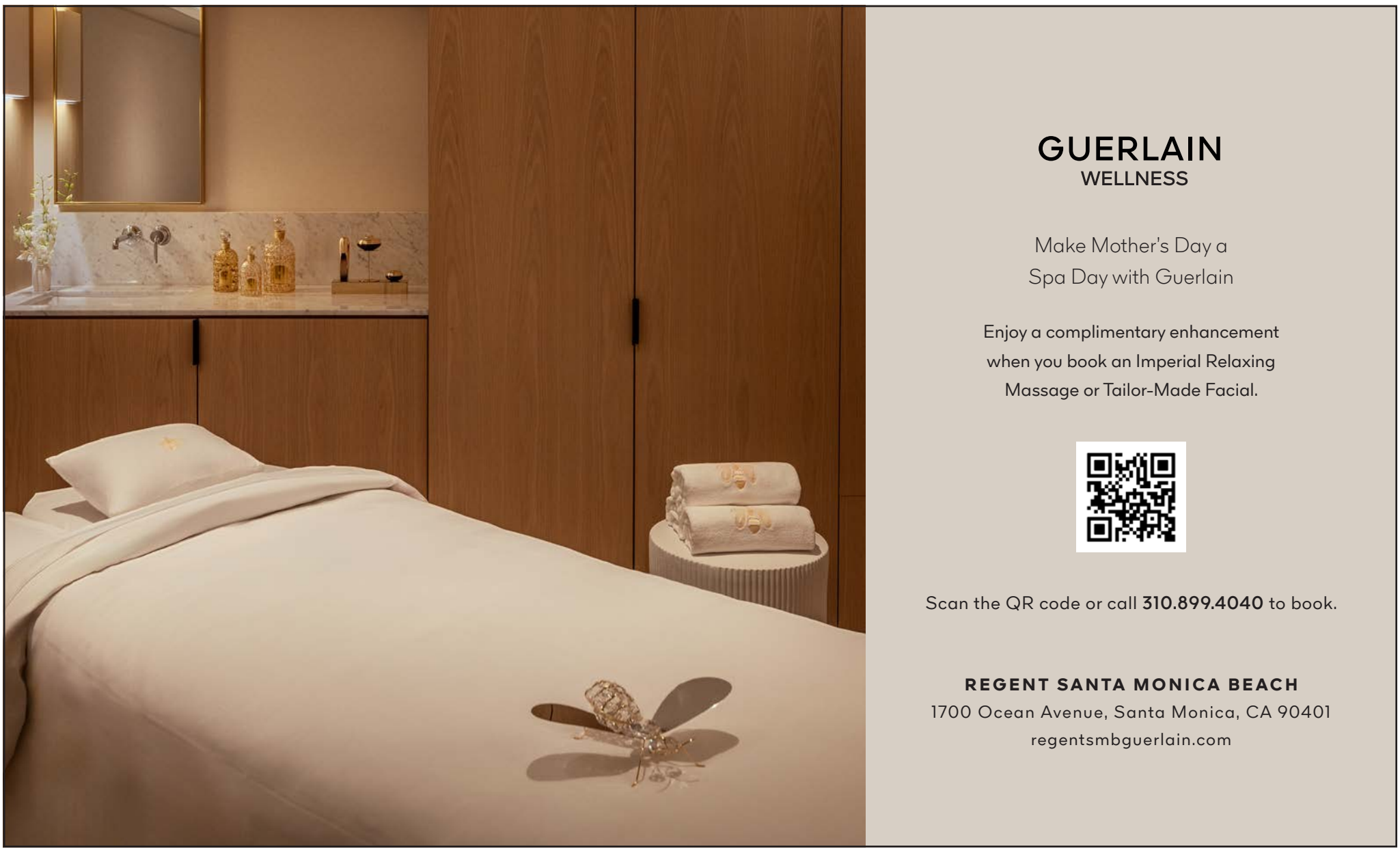
1 BR 1 BA, 420 Sq Ft

Listed by Monique Arreola
•DRE #01350078
•Century 21 Allstars

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All data gathered at redfin.com





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