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2 The water doesn't lie
Neither should officials

3 Shield voting rights
Before courts limit them



4 High gas prices
Limit oil use

5 Surf museum
Opens in Venice

Volume 25 Issue 113

MONDAY 4/27/26

smdp.com

As Los Angeles looks to 2028, Santa Monica positions itself as a global stage for sport, storytelling, and community impact



Malibu extends parking enforcement contract with LAZ Parking for three more years, totaling \$3.76M

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Malibu City Council voted unanimously April 13 to extend its parking enforcement contract with LAZ Parking for three additional years and approved an immediate funding increase, citing increased enforcement needs that were identified as the program rolled out

SEE MALIBU PAGE 6

Santa Monica Planning Commission moves to fill housing gap for Middle-Income workers with cottage court plan

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Planning Commission voted unanimously this week to forward a sweeping "Missing Middle Housing" proposal to the City Council, recommending the city formally define a category of housing designed for middle-income workers who earn too

SEE PLANNING PAGE 7

SPORTS: The recent event focused on the importance of athletics to local culture and the economy.

MICHELLE EDGAR
Special to the Daily Press

At a time when Los Angeles is not just preparing to host the world, but redefining how a city shows

up on the global stage, a gathering inside Hangar 7 at the Santa Monica Airport offered a powerful preview of what that future could look like.

Hosted by Local Action Marketing and the European

Business Association at UP.Labs, the event convened an international and cross-sector community across diplomats, city leaders, athletes, brands, and media, all aligned around a shared premise; that sport,

when activated intentionally, can serve as one of the most powerful engines for local action and global impact.

What unfolded was not just a

Michelle Edgar

SEE EBA PAGE 7

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The water doesn't lie. Neither should our elected officials.

Santa Monica Pier is the second most polluted beach in California. The Palisades Fire put lead, arsenic, and beryllium into our bay. Our storm drains fail state health standards on a documented, recurring basis. The Mayor told North of Montana residents this bill is about concert permits. It is not.

BY ASHLEY OELSEN

Part One of this commentary established how this city secretly co-sponsored AB 1740, how Councilmember Dan Hall testified for it in Sacramento on Earth Day, and how Sacramento named Santa Monica alone among all California coastal cities. To read that column, visit www.smdp.com.

WHAT THE MAYOR TOLD NORTH OF MONTANA RESIDENTS

On April 2, 2026, Mayor Caroline Torosis appeared before the North of Montana Association via Zoom to discuss AB 1740. The North of Montana neighborhood sits directly adjacent to the coastal zone this bill would deregulate. The residents in that meeting had a direct and material interest in understanding what the bill permits.

What they were told, by multiple accounts of those present, did not include a substantive discussion of the bill's development provisions. There was no explanation of building expansions up to 150% of existing footprint without Commission review. No discussion of density bonus stacking and the towers it could enable on corridors adjacent to their neighborhood. No accounting of the 55-year deed restrictions that make those changes permanent. No mention that the bill had already been amended to apply to Santa Monica alone. What residents heard was a conversation focused on event permitting: the World Cup, the Olympics, the concert permit process. The bill's text authorizes something permanently different.

THE MAYOR'S CONTRADICTIONS, IN HER OWN WORDS

Mayor Torosis, who serves simultaneously as Santa Monica's mayor and as Senior Deputy for LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, has offered two public justifications for AB 1740: coastal event permitting and economic recovery. Both are contradicted by her own documented statements.

At the council meeting where the city approved the Goldenvoice beach festival and Olympic hospitality frameworks, Mayor Torosis said from the dais: These events are taking place in our coastal zone and we can't just set up shop and do them. In the same meeting, she continued: Making sure that we have a streamlined process, if we need to get a local coastal development permit or not,

is so important for economic recovery.

In the first statement, she acknowledges that Commission oversight is required. In the second, she frames whether to seek a permit at all as central to economic recovery. The Deputy City Manager resolved the problem she named before she finished naming it: city staff was appearing before the Commission the very morning after that vote to shepherd the World Cup activation through the existing permitting process. The process was working. Economic recovery does not require its removal.

"ECONOMIC RECOVERY" AND WHAT IT ACTUALLY MEANS

The economic recovery framing is the most seductive argument because Santa Monica's financial strain is real. The city faced a projected \$29.6 million structural deficit. The Realignment Plan was adopted in October 2025 to address it.

But a temporary deficit does not justify permanent deregulation. The beneficiaries of removing coastal oversight are not Santa Monica's economy in the abstract. They are the specific developers who will build specific projects on specific parcels along Wilshire, Colorado, and Santa Monica Boulevard, projects with 55-year deed restrictions that permanently reshape the coastal zone long after the Olympic revenue has been collected and the structural deficit resolved. The financial pressure that makes economic recovery compelling as a political argument is temporary. The deregulation being offered in its name is not. Trading permanent environmental oversight for a temporary budget problem is not recovery. It is a fire sale of public trust, conducted under time pressure, without a vote.


Mayor Torosis also serves as Senior Deputy for LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell while championing legislation that accelerates coastal development in the city she governs. The county and city have overlapping interests in this coastline. That dual role deserves public disclosure before this bill advances further.

THE CITY HAS NOT EARNED THIS AUTHORITY

Stripped of the events and economic recovery framings, the core claim of AB 1740 is that local control of Santa Monica's coastal zone will produce better outcomes than independent state oversight. The condition of our own shoreline makes that impossible to sustain.

In Heal the Bay's most recent Beach Report Card, Santa Monica Pier ranked second on the statewide list of California's most polluted beaches, trailing only a beach adjacent to a sewage outfall near the Tijuana River. Since 2024, the Los Angeles County Department of Public

SEE GUEST COMMENTARY PAGE 8



RFP NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SMMUSD invites sealed proposals for: **RFP #26.36 – Districtwide AHERA Inspection**. All proposals must be electronically submitted via Secure Bids at <https://colbisecurebids.com/o/smmusd/2636> on or before: **Thursday, May 28, 2026 2:00 P.M.** RFP forms and specifications may be obtained in the link provided within this notice.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California must shield voting rights before the Supreme Court limits them

The affirmative right to vote is not listed anywhere in the Constitution. This omission led to states disenfranchising women and non-whites for the majority of our history.

After the inclusion of women in 1920, the most important democratic expansion was the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and amendments in 1975 and 1982 to ensure all Americans an equal right to vote.

In 2013 the Supreme Court gutted Section 4b of the Voting Rights Act, ending key protections. Then in 2021 it limited Section 2 of the act. Now in 2026 the court will decide Louisiana v. Callais, to determine if federal protections for majority-minority districts are allowed to continue.

If the court strikes down key elements of the Voting Rights Act, it will have devastating consequences for voting rights in California.

As the most diverse state in the country, California has the most Voting Rights Act-protected districts of any state. From Congress to the state Legislature, to county commissions and local school boards — districts that legally give Latino, Black, Asian and White voters in California an opportunity to elect candidates from their communities could suddenly come under fire and be eliminated.

However, the state of California can take matters into its own hands. While the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee the right to vote, Article 1, Section 4 prescribes “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof.” Thus the ultimate body in control of voting rights is none other than the California state Legislature.

Earlier this month, a statewide poll by UC Berkeley Institute for Governmental Studies reported that two-thirds of Californians feel democracy is under attack and want the state Legislature to pass a renewed California Voting Rights Act.

California should take action now and enshrine full voting protections into state law, not wait and see what the Supreme Court does with the federal Voting Rights Act.

California was the first state to pass its own Voting Rights Act, signed into law in 2002, which has been heralded

by the ACLU as “one of the state’s most significant civil rights laws and a powerful tool to combat vote dilution.” However, today many of these protections are outdated amid new, strict court decisions and federal crackdowns on voting rights.

In the past 10 years, many other states — from Washington to New York to Minnesota — have passed their own robust Voting Rights Acts. California can do the same, setting an example for the nation of how to protect the voting rights of all people, regardless of party registration, race, ethnicity or place of birth.

Already President Donald Trump has issued executive orders attempting to curtail voting rights, to limit vote-by-mail and erect new barriers to registration and voting. He has called for Republicans to nationalize elections and take over voting in 15 states. He has seized ballots in Georgia and Arizona, and his followers — including Riverside Sheriff Chad Bianco — have seized ballots in California.

In response to Trump’s actions, Gov. Gavin Newsom, Senate Pro Tem Monique Limón and Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas said in a joint statement, “We will not stand by while he sows distrust and seeks to undermine the fundamental right to vote ... United across branches of government, we will work together to protect our free and fair elections this November.”

According to the Berkeley poll, California voters do not want to see our elected leaders standing by. When asked about the state of democracy, just 9% of Californians said democracy is not in any danger, while 67% feel it is under attack and another 23% think it is being tested.

That’s why the California Democracy Partnership — a group of labor leaders, civil rights, community organizations and racial justice organizations — supports the California Voting Rights Act of 2026. It would stop discriminatory practices, challenge voter suppression, tackle vote dilution and give voters the power to fight back.

California voters need legislative leaders and the governor to turn their words about protecting free and fair elections into action.

Matt Barreto is faculty director of the UCLA Voting Rights Project.



Weather

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 67.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2026/04/27	Mon	01:36 AM	1.01	L
2026/04/27	Mon	07:23 AM	4.29	H
2026/04/27	Mon	1:34 PM	0.24	L
2026/04/27	Mon	8:00 PM	5.08	H
2026/04/28	Tue	02:20 AM	0.45	L
2026/04/28	Tue	08:14 AM	4.18	H
2026/04/28	Tue	2:05 PM	0.57	L
2026/04/28	Tue	8:25 PM	5.35	H
2026/04/29	Wed	02:58 AM	-0.00	L
2026/04/29	Wed	08:58 AM	4.03	H
2026/04/29	Wed	2:31 PM	0.93	L
2026/04/29	Wed	8:48 PM	5.54	H
2026/04/30	Thu	03:33 AM	-0.32	L
2026/04/30	Thu	09:39 AM	3.84	H
2026/04/30	Thu	2:54 PM	1.28	L
2026/04/30	Thu	9:11 PM	5.64	H
2026/05/01	Fri	04:07 AM	-0.51	L
2026/05/01	Fri	10:19 AM	3.64	H
2026/05/01	Fri	3:17 PM	1.61	L
2026/05/01	Fri	9:34 PM	5.64	H
2026/05/02	Sat	04:41 AM	-0.57	L
2026/05/02	Sat	11:00 AM	3.43	H
2026/05/02	Sat	3:39 PM	1.89	L
2026/05/02	Sat	9:58 PM	5.57	H
2026/05/03	Sun	05:17 AM	-0.52	L
2026/05/03	Sun	11:45 AM	3.21	H
2026/05/03	Sun	4:01 PM	2.14	L
2026/05/03	Sun	10:25 PM	5.43	H
2026/05/04	Mon	05:57 AM	-0.38	L
2026/05/04	Mon	12:37 PM	3.01	H
2026/05/04	Mon	4:24 PM	2.37	L
2026/05/04	Mon	10:54 PM	5.22	H
2026/05/05	Tue	06:41 AM	-0.17	L
2026/05/05	Tue	1:41 PM	2.85	H
2026/05/05	Tue	4:45 PM	2.57	L
2026/05/05	Tue	11:28 PM	4.95	H
2026/05/06	Wed	07:31 AM	0.07	L
2026/05/07	Thu	12:09 AM	4.64	H

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at <http://www.calottery.com>

<p>Draw Date: 4/22 24 29 32 49 63 Power#: 11 Jackpot: 118 M</p>	<p>Draw Date: 4/23 15 17 30 34 35</p>
<p>Draw Date: 4/21 1 36 43 56 58 Mega#: 7 Jackpot: 150 M</p>	<p>Draw Date: 4/23 EVENING: 9 1 6 Draw Date: 4/23 MIDDAY: 3 1 6</p>
<p>Draw Date: 4/22 1 3 23 31 45 Mega#: 16 Jackpot: 14 M</p>	<p>Draw Date: 4/23 1st: 09 - Winning Spirit 2nd: 05 - California Classic 3rd: 02 - Lucky Star Race Time: 1:45.09</p>

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**CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4518 BUILDING HVAC MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICE.
Submission Deadline is May 18, 2026 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (<https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.



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

SUBJECT: Approval of the FY 2026-27 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 as the City Council considers approval of the 2026-27 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. The Annual Action Plan delineates the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of \$1,120,953.00 in CDBG and \$486,060.07 in HOME funds to address the City's housing and community development high-priority needs as specified in the Council-adopted 2025-29 Consolidated Plan. Plans and associated documents can be viewed at <https://www.santamonica.gov/community-development-block-grant-and-home-investment-partnership-programs>. The 2026-27 Annual Action Plan is due to HUD on June 1, 2026.

DATE/TIME: TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

Check agenda at www.smgov.net/council/agendas prior to meeting to confirm start time

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. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the meeting via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written comments received from the public by 12 PM on the day of the City Council meeting will be distributed to the City Council prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments. You may also comment in person at the City Council hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment in person. All written comments shall be made part of the public record and will be included in the final submission to HUD.

ACCOMODATIONS

Agendas and reports are accessible on the City's webpage at www.smgov.net/council/agendas. They are also available at the City Clerk's Office and in alternate formats upon request at (310) 458-8211 or clerk@santamonica.gov.

City Hall and the Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible. If you require any special disability related accommodations to either attend or provide public testimony at a Council meeting (i.e. sign language interpreting, access to an amplified sound system, remote option, etc.), please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 or TDD: (310) 917-6626 or via email at clerk.mailbox@santamonica.gov at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting. Best efforts shall be made to accommodate requests received after the 72-hour deadline.

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 el repaso del Plan de Acción Anual del Año Fiscal 2026-27. Si necesita más información, por favor llame a Lupe Madrid en el Departamento de Vivienda y Servicios Humanos al número (310) 458-8310.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The solution to high gas prices is using less oil, not delaying California's climate programs

Since Trump's war on Iran began, Californians have watched gas prices jump dramatically, forcing families to cut back on necessities. It's a stark reminder of the pitfalls of relying on volatile commodities to power our lives and businesses.

Yet in one of the more egregious examples of an arsonist crying at the fire, Chevron and other fossil fuel companies have seized this moment to try and lobby against California climate policies, in an attempt to pass the blame for their own high prices.

As a market analyst who has spent more than four decades advising governments and businesses on energy issues, I have significant expertise in market manipulation. I can say with certainty that these oil industry claims about climate policy being the driver of high gas prices are false and dangerous.

Understanding why Californians pay a premium for gas and how the state can most effectively inoculate consumers from volatile fossil fuel prices matters now more than ever.

Oil is a global commodity. Geopolitical disruptions like we're seeing now send prices soaring — which is great for oil company profits and terrible for consumers. While oil companies are set to make a multibillion-dollar windfall from recent events, Californians can expect to pay more not just for gas, but also for food, air travel and electricity.

The two most volatile components of our gas bills — crude oil prices and the margins oil companies charge — are controlled by the oil industry, not the state. California's price premium over the rest of the country is a result of market concentration. A handful of firms — just five major refineries — have a lock on nearly all in-state refining capacity. When global supplies tighten, that concentration gives those firms enormous pricing power.

While the rest of the country saw prices increase roughly 102 cents since the start of the war, California saw a jump of 120 cents. That difference is market structure leading to an inflated price.

Unfortunately this isn't a new phenomenon. In fact, Californians have paid mystery surcharges to the oil industry for close to 10 years, to the tune of \$59 billion, with no adequate explanation. That's one reason Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state Legislature established a new gas price transparency program in

2024 to prevent price gouging.

We've seen the refineries' pricing power in action during supply disruptions in the past. In fact, the biggest California-specific price spikes in the past decade have come from refinery failures: a 2025 fire at the Martinez Refinery sent prices up 42 cents per gallon, a 2019 Valero shutdown added 61 cents per gallon over 44 days, the 2015 ExxonMobil Torrance explosion cost California drivers nearly \$2.4 billion over 40 days and the 2012 power outage at an Exxon-Mobil refinery raised California gasoline prices 48 cents in just one week.

California's climate programs — such as cap-and-invest and the Low Carbon Fuel Standard — accounted for less than 6% of gas price increases from 2019 to 2023. That's a small fraction of what a single refinery accident can do.

The climate programs are not only one of the smallest line items in a gas bill; they are paying dividends that will help shield consumers from volatile prices in the future.

Since 2013, California's cap-and-invest program has generated \$34 billion in revenue and funded over 500,000 projects — zero-emission school buses, wildfire prevention, safe drinking water — all while the state's gross domestic product grew by a staggering 81%.

Over the next 20 years, this program is expected to generate \$56 billion to benefit utility ratepayers.

The oil industry and their allies are seeking to distract scrutiny away from their own market power. California's vulnerability to high gas prices comes from its limited supply routes and highly concentrated refining market.

And the oil industry — from whom President Trump requested \$1 billion — is a key part of the system that drives these egregious price spikes while also being the sole beneficiary of them.

Ultimately, the only real hedge against high gas prices and oil price volatility is using less oil. That's exactly what California's climate programs are helping consumers do. It's what a faster, clean energy transition actually delivers — genuine protection from oil chaos, not more exposure to it.

Robert McCullough is the principal of an energy consulting firm with clients from California to Quebec.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Venice

Venice Beach’s First Surf, Skate, and Snow Museum Opens April 29

The Chameleon Museum and Gallery, the first Los Angeles institution dedicated to preserving the history of surf, skate, and snow culture, will hold its grand opening Wednesday, April 29, at 7 p.m. at 6 Rose Ave. in Venice Beach. Admission is free.

Founded by Venice-based photographer Niles J. Buckner, the nonprofit museum occupies a storefront steps from the Venice Boardwalk and Venice Skatepark. Its permanent collection spans vintage surfboards, the Dogtown skateboarding revolution, and the origins of snowboarding, alongside photography, fine art, and rotating exhibitions from the Venice Beach Art Block.

Opening night will showcase work from nine artists with roots in the Venice and Santa Monica creative community, including boardwalk painter Mark Narens, photographer Kris Rose, and street artist Jason Sedillos. Special appearances by legendary hip-hop artists — names to be announced before the event — will add a live music element to the evening.

“Venice Beach shaped surf, skate, and snow culture for the entire world, but there’s never been a permanent home to tell that story,” Buckner said. “The Chameleon Museum changes that.”

Central to the museum’s mission is The Chameleon Initiative, a youth empowerment program offering free and low-cost programming covering creative skills, life skills, and action sports instruction in surfing, skateboarding, and snowboarding.

“We want kids from Venice and across LA to walk in here and see a future they didn’t know was possible,” said Corey Naughton, executive officer and co-founder.

Regular museum hours begin April 30 at 11 a.m. More information and donation opportunities are available at chameleonmuseum.org.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

GALLERY: Chameleon Museum, LA’s first surf, skate, and snow culture gallery, opens April 29 in Venice Beach.

SMMUSD

Samohi Students Named Finalists in International Conrad Challenge

Three Santa Monica High School students have been named finalists in the 2026 Conrad Challenge, an international innovation and entrepreneurship competition drawing more than 1,500 student teams from around the world.

Landon Kummer ‘28, Brandon Kirbyson ‘26 and Tobin Palmer ‘26, competing as team Aphelion, were selected as one of five finalist teams in the Aerospace and Aviation category.

Their project focuses on improving satellite steering technology. The team designed a two-degree-of-freedom steering system that reduces weight, cost and power consumption compared to current satellite positioning systems. Students developed a working prototype and conducted performance testing, demonstrating measurable improvements in mass and energy efficiency. The team also produced a business plan and website to support bringing the innovation to market.

The project was developed through Samohi’s Project Lead the Way program and supported by the school’s Nanoengineering Club.

Judges praised the project’s depth and execution, calling it “one of the strongest innovations” in the competition and citing its “authentic engineering validation.”

The team will travel to Space Center Houston in April to present their work to industry professionals and compete for top honors at the Conrad Challenge Innovation Summit.

“This recognition reflects the level of innovation and real-world problem-solving our students are capable of,” said Samohi Principal Marae Cruce. “They are not only designing advanced technology, they are thinking like engineers, entrepreneurs and leaders.”

The Conrad Challenge is an annual global competition challenging high school students to develop solutions to real-world problems across multiple STEM fields.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Rob Kirbyson

FINALISTS: Three Samohi students named finalists in 2026 Conrad Challenge innovation competition.

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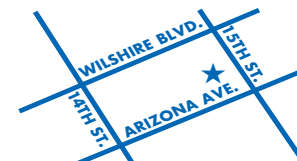
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RFP NOTICE

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MALIBU

FROM PAGE 1

across the city.

The council authorized Mayor Bruce Silverstein to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with LAZ Parking California, LLC, expanding the scope of work and increasing total compensation to \$3,762,557 for the full term of the agreement, which now runs through June 30, 2029.

The vote also approved a \$135,000 increase to the current contract, which runs through June 30, 2026, bringing the two-year total to \$1,228,164.

Since LAZ Parking launched the city's parking enforcement program on July 3, 2024, the team has issued 64,778 citations covering a wide range of violations, from obstructing roadways to unauthorized handicap parking. Through February 2026, the program had generated \$2,833,128 in revenue. Citation revenue was \$1,611,471 for fiscal year 2024-2025 and is on track to net \$1.8 million in fiscal year 2025-2026, according to city staff.

"No additional appropriations are needed," city staff noted in the agenda report. Funding for the contract amendment is drawn from existing allocations within the Public Safety Services and Emergency Management budget.

Council member Doug Stewart, who said he felt like "one of the fathers of this" program before the contract was awarded, called the effort a success on multiple fronts. "This was a solution to all those problems," Stewart said, citing illegal parking on residents' driveways, blocked fire hydrants, and RVs along PCH. "The lucky thing about it is it has turned a profit — it's been revenue positive. So it solves our problems, it's added to the city's budget, and I just think it's a great structure."

Stewart made the motion to approve the contract extension.

Among the enforcement priorities that drove the program's profile was a crackdown on recreational vehicles along Pacific Coast Highway. City staff credited the program with significantly reducing the proliferation

of RVs along the highway. Officers issued 603 oversized vehicle citations under the Malibu Municipal Code, along with 2,960 citations for parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant and 105 citations for parking in a fire lane — violations that city officials said directly support the city's strategic plan objective of reducing injury and fatal collision on Pacific Coast Highway.

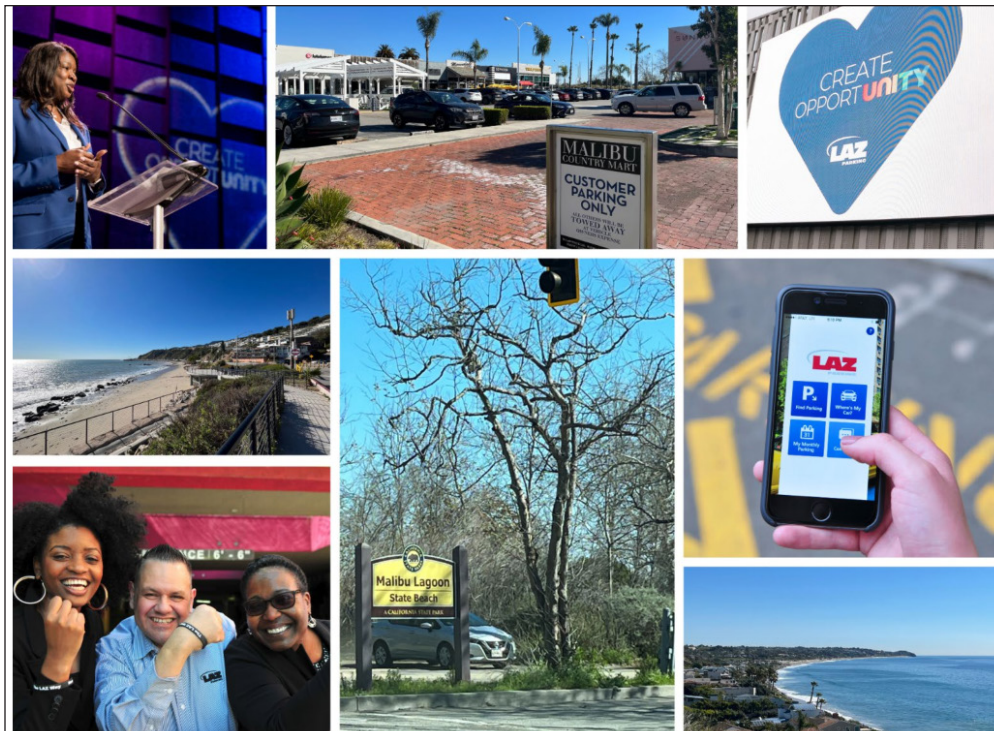
Council member Marianne Riggins seconded the motion and praised the professionalism of LAZ Parking's staff. "I have nothing but compliments for your staff," Riggins said. "They're always polite and friendly and really try and problem solve." Riggins also expressed support for the city exploring a parking app to help direct visitors to available parking areas.

Council member Haylynn Conrad asked about the city's progress on establishing a tow yard before voting to approve. In discussing the prospect of a parking app, Conrad said: "It's kind of this weird roundabout way to make a buck when we don't have parking. So we don't have municipal parking in Malibu, so everybody else parks everywhere, and it's Helter Skelter."

Conrad also asked whether LAZ Parking officers had assisted the city during the Palisades Fire. Public Safety Director Susan Duenas confirmed they had, saying the team patrolled affected areas to serve as additional eyes and ears, calling the Sheriff's Department by radio when needed, before the city brought on Covered Six.

The contract extension expands both the team's headcount and its technological capabilities. Under the new scope of work, LAZ Parking will add one full-time parking enforcement officer to year-round operations and one seasonal hybrid officer — serving as both an enforcement officer and tow officer — from Memorial Day through Labor Day each year. A dedicated tow officer is slated to come on board in the contract's fourth year, coinciding with the city's development of a year-round impound yard at the Ioke Lot.

New equipment funded under the



Courtesy Image

PARKING: Malibu Council extends LAZ Parking contract three years with increased funding for enforcement.

extension includes body cameras for all personnel, an additional patrol vehicle, and Starlink satellite internet service to ensure ticketing device connectivity throughout the city.

The three-year extension is estimated to cost approximately \$2,534,393, broken down as \$822,407 in year three, \$843,444 in year four, and \$868,542 in year five. Each year includes a \$30,000 contingency fund available for special events requiring additional coverage.

The contract also broadens LAZ Parking's role during emergencies. Under an expanded scope of work, enforcement personnel and their vehicles can be deployed to assist the city's Emergency Operations Center at the direction of the EOC director.

The Public Safety Commission had

reviewed the proposed extension at its Feb. 4 regular meeting and recommended the staffing increases ultimately adopted by the council.

The most common violation from July 2024 through February 2026 was failure to display front or rear license plates, which accounted for 43.7% of all citations issued, followed by failure to obey signs, curbs or markings at 23.1%, and expired registration at 9.8%.

The contract was originally signed June 10, 2024. Prior to that, parking enforcement in the city was handled exclusively by Volunteer on Patrol units. LAZ Parking California, LLC is a Connecticut limited liability company authorized to do business in California.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SMMUSD

John Adams Middle School Student Earns Top Honors in Elks Lodge Writing Competitions

A seventh-grade student from John Adams Middle School has earned top honors in two writing competitions hosted by the Elks Lodge, highlighting student voice and critical thinking across the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

Daniela Kadish was awarded first place in the competition themed "What Does Service to Your Country Mean to You" and second place in the competition themed "Drugs Are a Grave Mistake." The contests were introduced to students across the district in late 2025.

The annual writing competitions encourage students to reflect on civic responsibility, personal choices and the impact of their actions through written expression. The Elks Lodge is a national fraternal organization that supports youth programs, scholarships and community service initiatives.

Students from across the district participated in the competitions, with several receiving recognition during an awards ceremony held Feb. 27.

"Opportunities like this allow students to explore important real-world topics while developing their voice as writers," said Dr. Martha Chacon, principal of John Adams Middle School. "We are proud of Daniela for her achievement and the way she represented our school community."

The recognition underscores the district's commitment to fostering student voice, critical thinking and meaningful learning experiences that prepare students for success beyond the classroom.



Courtesy Image

HONORS: JAMS seventh grader wins top honors in two Elks Lodge writing competitions.

LA Country

LA County, Bloomberg Philanthropies launch paid arts internship program for high school students

The Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture has announced a new partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies to bring paid summer internships at local arts and cultural institutions to rising public high school seniors beginning this summer.

The Bloomberg Arts Internship program will place 48 students at 22 local arts and cultural organizations for eight-week paid internships running June 15 through Aug. 7, 2026. The program includes professional development, college preparation support, mentorship, and educational field trips.

Student applications open April 8, with all 48 positions to be posted at lacountyarts.org/BAI-students.

"This partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies expands transformative career opportunities for young people across Los Angeles County," said Los Angeles County Chair and First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis.

Started in 2012, the Bloomberg Arts Internship program operates in Baltimore, Boston, Detroit, New Orleans, New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. This year marks its expansion to Los Angeles County and San Francisco.

Interns will participate in workshops covering writing skills, college application guidance, and career exploration, culminating in a professional portfolio. The curriculum will also incorporate mental health awareness and support.

The program is fully funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies. Given the size and scale of LA County, the department established geographic parameters for eligible organizations, focusing on specific regions such as the San Fernando Valley and South LA to support equity and access for youth who may face barriers traveling to internships.

Participating organizations include 826 LA, Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory, Filipino American Symphony Orchestra, Grand Performances, Las Fotos Project, Latino Film Institute Youth Cinema Project, Plaza de la Raza, Street Poets, Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural, and others.

"By connecting high school students with paid internships at LA's extraordinary cultural organizations, we open doors for youth — providing them with real-world experience, arts learning, network building, and skills for the creative economy, or any path they choose," said Kristin Sakoda, Director of the Department of Arts and Culture.

For a full list of internship opportunities beginning April 8, visit lacountyarts.org/BAI-students.

EBA

FROM PAGE 1

networking event. It was a working blueprint for how Los Angeles, and specifically Santa Monica, leading up to global sporting events. “Sport is one of the few global languages that can unify across borders, industries, and communities,” said Ryan Bowling, CEO of Local Action Marketing. “What we are building here is not just access to the Games - it is a platform for long-term connection, storytelling, and impact.”

That vision was matched by a global lens. “For us, every connection is valuable,” said Diana Sarumova, Founder and CEO of the European Business Association. “We are building bridges between the U.S. and Europe; connecting countries, companies, and people across both the public and private sectors.”

66

For us, every connection is valuable

- Diana Sarumova, Founder and CEO of the European Business Association

99

Sarumova, who leads a network spanning more than 65 countries, emphasized Los Angeles as a convergence point ahead of 2028. “Our role is to create the environment for business, investment, and collaboration,” she said. “This is about building a more connected Los Angeles; one that welcomes the world and creates opportunity at every level.”

The setting itself reinforced that future-facing vision. “This space is about bringing together operators, builders, and ideas to solve real-world challenges,” said Jonathan Meyrowitz, UP.Labs People & Special Operations Head, welcoming guests to Hangar 7. “With partners across mobility, energy, and infrastructure, Los Angeles has the opportunity to serve as a launchpad for innovation leading into 2028,” said Meyrowitz.

City of Santa Monica Deputy City Manager Peter James, outlined a proactive strategy positioning the city not just as a host, but as a platform for country houses, brand activations, and cultural exchange. “Santa Monica is not just showing up for 2028,” James said. “We are shaping the experience. From our coastline to our infrastructure, we offer a globally recognized stage with the

ability to deliver authentic, well-executed experiences that benefit both visitors and our local community. Our focus is translating global interest into meaningful, well-managed experiences that means thinking not just about visibility, but about legacy.”

The fireside conversation moderated by CBS Los Angeles sports broadcaster Jaime Maggio, who’s questions grounded the discussion in both the realities of sport and the broader cultural moment facing Los Angeles. She was joined by four-time Olympic gold medalist Lenny Krayzelburg and Paralympic gold medalist and LA28 Athletes Commission member Samantha Bosco, who brought the conversation back to what matters most; the athletes themselves. “Olympians are often seen as having made it, but the reality is, many athletes are still figuring out how to sustain their lives and careers beyond competition. There is an opportunity here for brands and cities to step in and be part of that journey in a real way,” said Krayzelburg.

Bosco reframed sport as something deeper than performance. “Sport gave me a way to redefine what was possible,” she said. “It is about identity, confidence, and community. When people invest in athletes, they are investing in stories that can inspire far beyond the field of play.”

Both emphasized a persistent gap in visibility and support, particularly for Paralympians, pointing to LA28 as a defining opportunity to shift that narrative. “There is progress, but there is still a long way to go in how stories are told and who gets seen,” said Bosco.

Their message resonated across the room - a reminder that the success of 2028 will not be measured solely in medals, but in how stories are told and who is included in them. The broader program offered a practical roadmap for those looking to engage in Los Angeles ahead of the Games, from legal structuring and venue strategy to communications frameworks rooted in discovery, storytelling, and activation.

The event was made possible with support from partners including Business Location Switzerland, Boomtown Brewery, Dulce Vida Tequila, Emporium Thai Market, Empress Gin, Fitoor, OOOMAMI, Tercero Winery, and Wife and the Somm, a coalition that underscored the intersection of global business, local culture, and creative entrepreneurship. The story of 2028 will not be written solely in stadiums, but across neighborhoods, industries, and shared experiences, where sport becomes a bridge between people, place, and possibility. If this gathering was any indication, Santa Monica is not waiting to be part of that story, it is actively shaping it.

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PLANNING

FROM PAGE 1

much for subsidized housing but too little to afford what the market builds.

The plan, presented by Planning Commissioner Shawn Landres at the commission’s April 15 meeting, centers on a “cottage court” development model: clusters of six or seven detached 850-square-foot units arranged around a shared courtyard, designed to read from the street as a large single-family home. The commission voted 6-0 to recommend the City Council adopt a formal definition of missing middle housing and initiate feasibility studies to incorporate the strategies into the city’s next housing element cycle.

Landres framed the proposal around a constituency the city has repeatedly failed to house. “People like a firefighter and a teacher, a police officer and a spouse and nurse raising kids — these folks do not qualify by their income generally for LIHTC housing,” he told commissioners. “They cannot afford the kinds of single-family residences or even most townhomes that are available in Santa Monica, and we do not really have a working program to get them housed.”

The urgency behind the proposal is reflected in stark demographic data. Santa Monica Unified School District enrollment has fallen 24 percent over the past decade, from 11,300 students in 2014 to 8,623 in the 2024-25 school year. The city’s 25-to-44 age cohort — prime family-formation years — shrank from roughly 40 percent of the population in 2000 to roughly 33 percent today. A starting teacher would need to spend 58 percent of gross income to rent a one-bedroom apartment in the city.

Landres cited the failure of previous efforts as motivation for the new approach. “We have tried through our moderate rate housing overlay — nobody’s building to it,” he said. “We’ve tried through our community assembly, congregational affordable housing program — nobody’s building to it.”

The plan targets households earning between 80 and 200 percent of Area Median Income — roughly \$85,000 to \$213,000 annually for a couple — with at least one unit per development deed-restricted as a “workforce covenant” at or below 200 percent AMI. To make such projects financially viable, Landres outlined eight specific regulatory changes, including loosening density limits to one unit per 800 square feet of lot area; creating a tiered fee structure under the city’s Affordable Housing Production Program that rewards developers who include workforce covenant units; splitting the transportation impact fee into separate per-parking-space and per-bedroom components so that car-

free developments are not penalized for vehicle infrastructure costs; pre-approved building plans with a 90-day ministerial review process; automatic R-3 building code classification for cottage court projects, saving an estimated 10 percent on hard construction costs; a revolving low-interest loan fund to bridge financing gaps; streamlined lot consolidation; and alternative compliance pathways for religious congregations to develop housing on tax-exempt land.

The financial case for the local pathway is central to the plan’s design. On a standard 7,500-square-foot lot, a developer building seven cottages under the proposed local program and deed-restricting two units would generate an estimated \$360,000 more in pre-tax profit than building six market-rate units under SB 1123, the state’s existing small multifamily law.

The proposal arrives as Santa Monica prepares to implement SB 79, a state law taking effect July 1 that upzones properties within a half-mile of qualifying transit stops. Landres argued the two programs are complementary, with the missing middle plan filling gaps the state law cannot reach — particularly the roughly 4,200 R-1 and R-2 lots citywide that fall entirely outside SB 79’s transit radius.

Some commissioners questioned the plan’s construction cost assumptions. Commissioner Nina Fresco noted that architects she has spoken with put costs at \$600 per square foot, above the \$475 upper bound in Landres’s analysis. Commissioner Leslie Lambert echoed the concern, telling Landres: “I think your construction costs are low and you think mine are high — so somewhere in the middle, maybe, is the truth. We really need to do the tests.”

Landres acknowledged the uncertainty but argued the question was not whether to debate the numbers, but whether to study them. “Am I wrong by a factor of two?” he said. “I don’t think so. But we need the study to find out.”

The Los Angeles Chapter of the American Institute of Architects submitted a letter of support ahead of the meeting, calling the proposal “one of the most constructive, design-informed, and financially pragmatic housing policy discussions to come before a Southern California planning commission in years.”

The commission’s unanimous recommendation now goes to the City Council, which must formally define missing middle housing and direct staff to conduct an economic feasibility study before any zoning amendments or fee changes can take effect.

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SAVE THE KITTENS



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City of
Santa Monica

**CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID # 4509 Ford OEM Parts and Service

Submission Deadline is May 26, 2026 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY’S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (<https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

Classifieds

DBA

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026075444. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1- INTELLIGENCE WORLDWIDE, 2- 3SIXES BY AANGEL, 3435 OCEAN PARK BLVD. SUITE 107-330, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): MARLON LEON TETT, 3435 OCEAN PARK BLVD. SUITE 107-330, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2025. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ MARLON LEON TETT, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/06/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/13/2026, 04/20/2026, 04/27/2026, 05/04/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026071256. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1-HELEN'S IN-HOME CARE, 2- TOUCHING GOD'S PEOPLE, 3-BEAUTIFUL BLOSSOM,4-ONE ANOINTED TOUCH, 627 HARDIN DR. 4, INGLEWOOD, CA 90302, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): BRENDA JOYCE AKINS, P.O. BOX 207, INGLEWOOD, CA 90306. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ BRENDA JOYCE AKINS, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/01/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/13/2026, 04/20/2026, 04/27/2026, 05/04/2026

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GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 2

Health has issued repeated bacterial advisories at the Pico-Kenter storm drain, the Wilshire Boulevard drain, the Ashland Avenue drain, and the waters surrounding the pier. Stormwater runoff begins in every parking lot, on every rooftop, along every street in the watershed. Every new square foot of impervious surface added to the coastal zone increases the contamination load delivered through the same drains that already cannot meet state bacterial standards. More development above the 300-foot buffer does not stay behind it. The runoff flows beneath it, through concrete pipes, into the water where the county tells families not to swim.

WHAT THE PALISADES FIRE ADDED

The January 2025 Palisades Fire did not stay in the Palisades. What burned entered the watershed. What entered the watershed reached the bay.

Post-fire testing by Heal the Bay at 10 sites across Santa Monica Bay found elevated concentrations of beryllium, copper, chromium, nickel, lead, silver, arsenic, and zinc. PAH concentrations exceeded water quality standards at Topanga and Will Rogers. Heal the Bay was unambiguous: marine mammals, fish populations, and species throughout the food chain remain at serious ongoing risk from bioaccumulation of fire-associated metals. The fire is over. The contamination is not.

The Commission's review process exists to evaluate these cumulative impacts before they become permanent. Removing that review now, in this bay is not a calculated risk. It is an avoidance of accountability.

THE QUESTIONS THAT DEMAND PUBLIC ANSWERS

What specific 2023 council priorities authorized city staff to commit Santa Monica as a named co-sponsor of AB 1740? Who in the City Manager's office made that commitment, under what authority, and when was the full City Council individually informed? Why were residents and environmental organizations not told before this city's name was attached to legislation of this consequence?

Does the City Council endorse a bill naming Santa Monica as the only coastal city in California stripped of Commission protection? Does it support the special statute finding, which is an acknowledgment by the Legislature that this deregulation cannot be justified under any general principle of California law? Why did Mayor Torosis present AB 1740 to North of Montana residents as primarily about event permitting, without substantive discussion of the building expansion, density bonus, and permanent land use provisions that define what the

bill actually does?

And to Councilmember Hall directly: you took public credit for bringing Goldenvoice to our beach. City staff was at the Coastal Commission the next morning, using the permit process you flew to Sacramento to dismantle. If the process works for the concert you are proudest of, what exactly are you dismantling it for?

THE WINDOW, AND WHAT TO DO WITH IT

AB 1740 now moves to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, where a fiscal threshold triggers the suspense file, an opaque process in which the committee chair determines which bills survive without a public vote. That is the last significant kill point in the Assembly. After that: a full floor vote requiring 41 of 80 Assembly members, the entire Senate committee and floor process, and Governor Newsom's desk, where he has 12 days to sign, allow passage without signature, or veto.

Assembly Appropriations. The Senate Natural Resources Committee. The Senate Housing Committee. The Governor's office. The only voices Sacramento heard on Earth Day were in favor of this bill. Write. Call. Show up. The bill is advancing. Silence is a vote.

WHAT IS ACTUALLY AT STAKE

In 1990, Santa Monica voters used the initiative process to override a City Council they believed had betrayed the public trust on coastal development. They understood something that is still true: the ocean does not belong to whoever holds office. It belongs to every person who has stood at the water's edge at the end of a hard week, to every child who has run into the surf on this sand, to every marine species that depends on the chemical integrity of Santa Monica Bay, and to every generation that has not yet arrived to inherit what this one chooses to leave behind.

What AB 1740 actually is, by special statute, for this city alone, on a timeline reaching to 2037, is the transfer of one of California's most significant public trusts to the political machinery that spent years engineering the local outcomes that made this transfer possible. The language is borrowed from legitimate goals. The mechanism is not legitimate. The coast that will absorb the consequences has no voice in a city council chamber, no seat on the Appropriations Committee, and no lobbyist in Sacramento.

The window to stop it is open. It will not stay that way. And when it closes, what happens to this coast will belong to everyone who had a chance to speak and chose not to.

Ashley Oelsen is Founder and Executive Director of The Coastal Alliance, a marine conservation nonprofit, and serves as a Commissioner for Environmental Justice, Sustainability and Environment for the City of Santa Monica.

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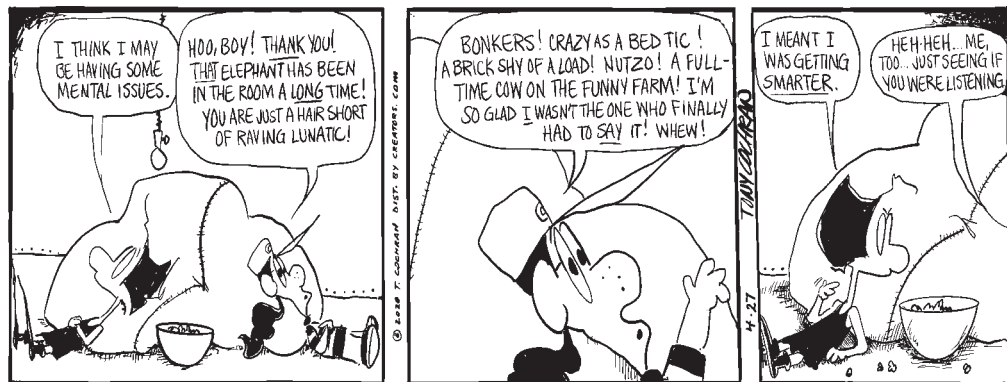
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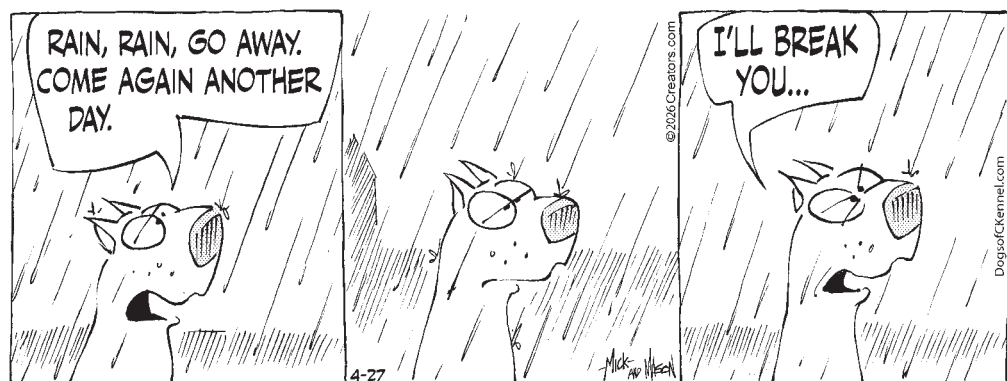
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

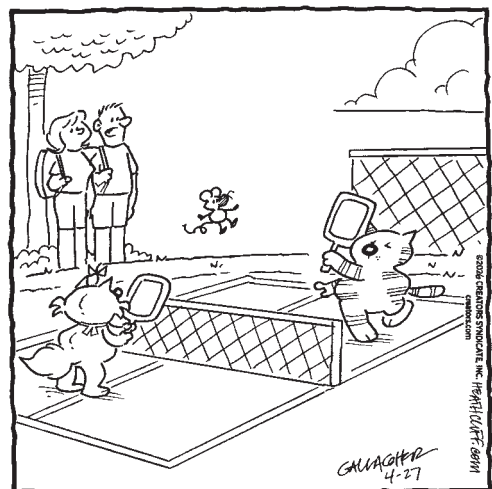


Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

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

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High level sport stars

S	K	L	I	M	D	E	B	M	O	C	W	E	N	S
G	M	E	C	R	A	E	P	Y	S	I	A	D	I	A
S	N	I	M	M	U	C	T	A	P	E	S	R	T	X
S	F	E	T	O	E	C	O	U	R	T	E	E	R	B
R	U	V	D	H	S	G	E	D	O	I	D	T	A	Y
C	L	A	R	K	E	S	A	A	C	T	G	F	M	J
H	T	L	U	K	I	N	O	Z	H	M	M	A	N	O
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R	N	S	O	T	N	U	H	L	T	S	N	C	T	N
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| Aims | Deng | Lewis | Sam Stosur |
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| Churchill | Fulton | Lukin | Scott |
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| Court | Gregan | Nagle | Simmons |
| Croft | Heal | Newcombe | Smith |
| Curry | Hunt | Pat | Thomson |
| Daisy | Johns | Cummins | Titmus |
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 27)

Welcome to your Year of the Magnificent Mind's Eye. You envision it, repeatedly, and it unfolds with uncanny adherence to the dream. Details you couldn't possibly plan fall right into place. More highlights: Life-changing financial moves as you see beyond the immediate. Social motivation leads to increased discipline and a personal victory. Gemini and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 39, 2, 10 and 15.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Compliments are coming. Just smile and say thanks. Inwardly you may feel very far from your goal, but that's not what matters here. Honor those who notice you and the support will keep coming.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In your beautiful mind, you'll hold contradictory truths at once. Something can be beautiful and flawed, painful and meaningful. Your mind resists easy sorting, preferring a wider frame where contradictions are allowed to breathe.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can be honest and direct, and no one is the least bit withholding or offended. In fact, they hardly notice. They'll tell you what you want to know before they even have time to give it a second thought. It's because you're breezy. Your energy feels light and safe.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You ask questions that don't have tidy answers, so they don't end the conversation; they open it. Curiosity is a kind of lantern you carry, illuminating corners, giving you the confidence to continue with a little more information in every step.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It will be so much easier to wrap up unfinished business when you involve others. With a partner or group, you'll make quick work of it and have a little fun, too. And if there's music involved, it's practically a party.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your talent for lifting, supporting and teaching comes back into play today. Even when you're in a position to correct someone or deliver less-than-pleasant news, you'll do it with a light touch and a positive spin.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You return to ideas over time and find they've changed because you have. The same thought meets a different version of you and reveals something new. Intelligence is highlighted in your relationship with thinking, not a single insight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Each age group has its own kind of fun, but there are some kinds of fun that are universal, and today's delights will bring together people of various generations for shared amusement and learning, too.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sometimes placing your trust in the other person is the simplest, easiest thing to do. Today, there are items of small stakes on the table. It will save time to skip the analysis. There's generosity in that.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You do believe that hard work brings success. It's part of how you see yourself. Disciplined, dedicated and even, in some ways, relentless. Now someone you respect is telling you to work less, but more strategically, and they're not wrong.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Being happy seems to be the one duty you can't quite get around to. But can it really keep waiting like this? What if it gets tired of waiting and wanders off? Time to put it further up on the list. How about the top spot?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be offered the conventional wisdom for today's dilemma, and you can politely ignore it, because it doesn't apply. Your situation is unique and the solution, which will come to you in a moment of inspiration, will be just as original.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Newsday Crossword

ON A CAMPING TRIP by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Competitor of Coke
- 6 Tiny bit of water
- 10 Trendy, informally
- 13 Fire-setting crime
- 14 All ___ (fully attentive)
- 15 Colorful part of the eye
- 17 Wet weather outerwear
- 19 Prince William's wife
- 20 Woodwind instruments
- 21 Giant of industry
- 22 Hotel manager's "master" door opener
- 26 Truthful
- 27 Folded egg order
- 28 Bee's attack
- 30 Shoestring
- 31 Polo or pickleball
- 33 Crunchy sandwiches, for short
- 37 Initial poker payment
- 38 Be untruthful
- 39 Island near Maui
- 40 Hoarse-sounding voice
- 41 Regulations
- 43 Newspaper's essay page
- 44 Agenda listings
- 46 Native American carved poles
- 48 Summer's outdoor feast
- 51 Dinner plate garnish
- 52 Electric meter measurement
- 53 Very near
- 55 Sharp point on a farm fence
- 56 Handheld illumination
- 61 Epic tale

DOWN

- 1 ___ for the course (typical)
- 2 Historical period
- 3 Tire pressure measure: Abbr.
- 4 Boy in a family
- 5 Gag that only a few will understand
- 6 Hunter's wooden duck
- 7 Leaf-gathering tool
- 8 Metallic rocks
- 9 L.A. winter clock
- 62 Mom's sister
- 63 Sinister smile
- 64 Machine shop tooth
- 65 Scarlet and crimson
- 66 Diary page writing

setting: Abbr.

- 10 Footwear pair for long walks
- 11 Very angry
- 12 Breads with pockets
- 16 Mailed away
- 18 Assists in a crime
- 21 2,000 pounds
- 22 Of the Arctic or Antarctic
- 23 Maytag's appliance rival
- 24 Splinter groups
- 25 Tubelike insulated bed
- 26 Successful film or song
- 28 Greenhouse's dirt mixtures
- 29 Elm or willow

- 32 Purple fruit
- 34 Tuxedo flap
- 35 Main idea
- 36 Full of lather
- 41 ___ room (play area)
- 42 Secret supply
- 45 Formal neckwear
- 47 Ultimatum ending
- 48 British taverns
- 49 Sir ___ Newton
- 50 Ship's freight
- 51 Fence rails
- 53 Problem-solving hint
- 54 End a plane flight
- 56 Miles away
- 57 Quaint hotel
- 58 Obtain
- 59 ___ Majesty (queen's title)
- 60 Attempt

Sudoku

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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.

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

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	
13						14					15			16
17						18					19			
				20						21				
22	23	24	25						26					
27							28	29						
30						31	32				33	34	35	36
37							38				39			
40						41				42	43			
				44	45					46	47			
48	49	50						51						
52							53	54						
55						56					57	58	59	60
61						62					63			
	64					65					66			

CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2026 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 04/27/26

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

LA Country

LA County Department of Mental Health Launches Month-Long Mental Health Awareness Campaign

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health has launched its annual Take Action for Mental Health L.A. County campaign, a month-long series of events and activities marking May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

This year the department is partnering with 84 community-based organizations to host 137 grant-funded mental health events — both in-person and online — throughout May. LACDMH will also host nine large-scale signature events, beginning with a kickoff at Magic Johnson Park on Sunday, May 3, followed by events at community colleges across Los Angeles County.

Events are free and include wellness activities such as meditation, live music, art activities and community resources. The department is partnering with the Los Angeles Dodgers, Los Angeles Football Club, the Los Angeles Lakers, Meruelo Media and Univision to help reduce stigma and encourage residents to seek support.

“Mental Health Awareness Month provides a vital opportunity for us to connect with communities across Los Angeles County and elevate the importance of mental health and wellbeing,” said LACDMH Director Lisa H. Wong, Psy.D. “Through this year’s campaign, we are bringing accessible, culturally responsive wellness activities and resources directly into communities — from our kickoff event at Magic Johnson Park to events at local community colleges — to inspire hope, recovery and wellbeing, particularly among our transition-aged youth and young adults. At its core, this campaign is about strengthening connections, reducing stigma, and empowering communities to prioritize their mental health every day.”

County residents can access mental health support year-round through the 24/7 Mental Health & Substance Use Services Help Line at (800) 854-7771 and the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Walk-in clinics and peer resource centers are also available.

A complete list of campaign events is at TakeActionLA.com. More information about county mental health resources is at dmh.lacounty.gov.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

“Mental Health Awareness Month provides a vital opportunity for us to connect with communities across Los Angeles County and elevate the importance of mental health and wellbeing

- Lisa H. Wong, Psy.D LACDMH Director



MONDAY | APRIL 27

WEEKLY PALISADIANS GATHERING IN SANTA MONICA

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Bardonna 1601 Montana Ave Santa Monica. Displaced Palisadians are welcome to join for connection and discussion. No formal agenda. No RSVP necessary. Organized by Stephanie Kana of Oasis Palisades. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/weekly-palisadians-gathering-in-santa-monica/18461166/2026-04-27T08>

MARION DAVIES GUEST HOUSE TOUR AT ACBH

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. 415 Pacific Coast Highway Santa Monica Santa Monica. Santa Monica Conservancy docents will be on hand to share the rich history of the Annenberg Community Beach House site from the 1920s into present day. Our free 20-minute docent tours are available every weekend on a walk-up basis for individuals and groups of up to six people. Just head to the Marion Davies Guest House, where you will be greeted by a docent. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/marion-davies-guest-house-tour-at-acbh/18690372/2026-04-27T12>

THE GORDONS IMPROV RESIDENCY

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. Welcome to The Gordons Improv Show at Westside Comedy Theater! IMPROV RESIDENT TEAM NIGHT! Check out our current lineup of Resident Improv Teams! These teams perform Long-Form Improv all inspired by a suggestion from the audience. Think of it as a sitcom made up on the spot. Catch them before they are gone! These teams rotate every three months! Get ready for a night filled with laughter, spontaneity, and hilarious moments. Join us for an evening of unscripted comedy where every joke is made up on the spot. Our talented improv performers will have you in stitches as they create scenes, characters, and stories based on your suggestions. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind experience! Grab your friends and come on down to Westside Comedy Theater for a night you won't forget. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-gordons-improv-residency/14863274/2026-04-27T19>

MONDAY CELLAR NIGHTS AT ESTER'S WINE SHOP & BAR

1314 Seventh Street CA 90401 Contact Info hello@esterswineshop.com Santa Monica. Monday Cellar Nights are 4-10 p.m. and are a really cool way to try a glass of something rare or fancy from our high-end collection, without committing to the whole bottle. We've popped open luxurious Champagnes, baller Burgundies, small allocations from top California winemakers. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/monday-cellar-nights-at-ester-s-wine-shop-bar/11526039/2026-04-27T00>

TUESDAY | APRIL 28

LADIES GOLF CLINIC

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Four Wood Golf Club 828 Pico Blvd, Suite 5 Santa Monica. Join us every Tuesday from 9:30–11:00 AM for a relaxed, social golf experience designed for women of all skill levels. Whether you're picking up a club for the first time or looking to build confidence in your game, Matchas & Mulligans is all about learning, connecting, and having fun in a welcoming, pressure-free environment. Led by our in-house golf pros, you'll learn new skills each session. Blend light instruction with

a social atmosphere — the ladies' clinic is perfect for improving your skills while meeting like-minded golfers. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/ladies-golf-clinic/18482158/2026-04-28T09>

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room at Virginia Avenue Park. Each week there will be something new: Exercise, Talking with Friends, Learning, Guest Presenters, Health & Wellness! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2026-04-28T10>

PROFILE PERFECT: LINKEDIN WORKSHOP + HEADSHOTS

11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Career Services Center Student Services Center (SSC Lab 150 A). Don't have a LinkedIn account? Need to update your profile? Not sure how LinkedIn works or how it can help you land internships and jobs? No worries—we've got you covered! Join us to learn how LinkedIn can support your career journey. You'll get expert tips to build or improve your profile, make a strong first impression, and grow your professional network. Plus, receive a free professional headshot to help your profile stand out to employers! Come picture-ready! Please wear business casual attire (a nice shirt, blouse, or polo recommended). Get your photo professionally taken and leave with a polished look for your LinkedIn page! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/profile-perfect-linkedin-workshop-headshots/18612176/2026-04-28T11>

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

5:30 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/city-council-meeting/13799967/2026-04-28T17>

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 29

COSMIC MATCHA AT BOULEVARD - NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE

6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Boulevard Coffee 2321 Abbot Kinney Blvd Venice. Join us to celebrate Astrid & Miyu in Los Angeles. Meet us at Boulevard Coffee, soak up the Venice energy, and explore our latest collections—designed for effortless stacking and self-expression. We can't wait to see you there. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/cosmic-matcha-at-boulevard-neighborhood-coffee/18697697/2026-04-29T06>

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - WEDNESDAY MARKET

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica Arizona Avenue (Between 4th & Ocean) Santa Monica. One of the largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/18330379/2026-04-29T08>

UPCOMING EVENTS

5/3 1p-4p	Magic Johnson Park 905 E. El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles	5/13 11a-2p	Los Angeles City College 855 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles
5/5 11a-4p	Rio Hondo College 3600 Workman Mill Rd., Whittier	5/14 10a-1p	Antelope Valley College 3041 West Ave. K, Lancaster
5/12 11a-2p	Los Angeles Mission College 13356 Eldridge Ave., Sylmar	5/14 11a-2p	Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica
5/12 11a-2p	Long Beach City College 4901 E. Carson St., Long Beach	5/20 11a-2p	Compton College 1111 E. Artesia Blvd., Compton
5/28 10a-2p	Pasadena City College 1570 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena		

Courtesy Image

CAMPAIGN: LA County Mental Health launches Take Action campaign for Mental Health Awareness Month in May.



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Health Center
Providence

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

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

Everything for the
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