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Fire survivor.

8 **Take It Down Act**
Law targets online videos.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 113 WEDNESDAY 4/30/25 smdp.com

Future of Santa Monica Airport sparks debate over parks and affordable housing

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

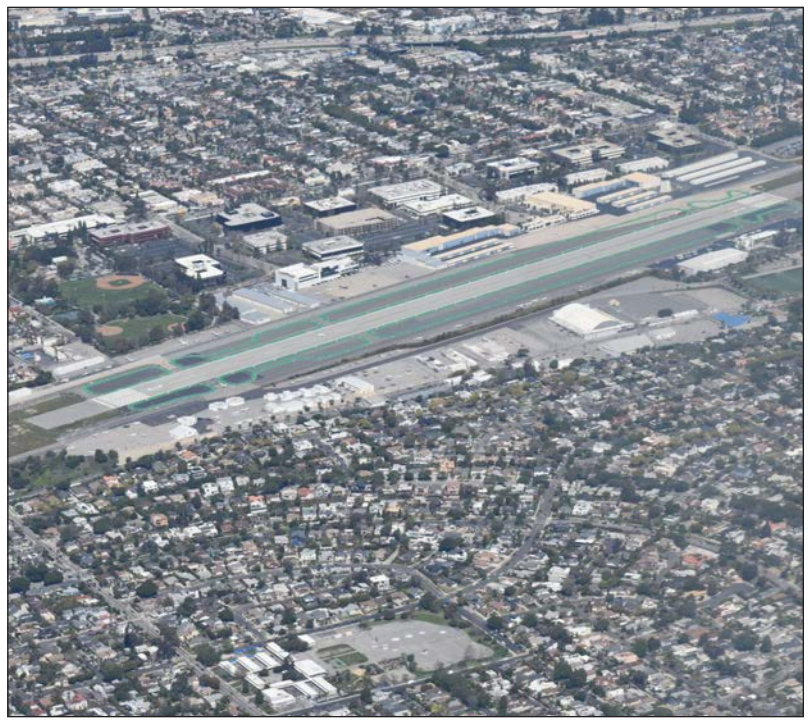
Santa Monica is approaching a historic turning point as community leaders, activists and elected officials begin weighing the future of the Santa Monica Airport, a 227-acre site slated for aviation closure in 2028.

At a meeting of the Santa Monica Democratic Club held last Wednesday, the group launched an ad hoc committee dedicated to studying potential uses for the land and drafting a formal position ahead of critical decisions by the City Council. After decades of political battles over the airport, the new debate hinges on a difficult question: Should the site become a massive urban park or help ease the city's affordable housing crisis or attempt to do both?

"The airport land provides us with a chance to leave a legacy for generations to come," said Frank Gruber, speaking on behalf of the Santa Monica Airport2Park Foundation. "A legacy like those that have been passed down to us, a legacy of optimism, of public and civic generosity and inclusion that is part of who we are as Santa Monicans."

Gruber, a longtime planning commissioner and activist, urged club members to support transforming the entire open portion of the airport into a "Great Park," warning that any attempt to divide the land or introduce housing could fragment public support

SEE **AIRPORT** PAGE 11



Scott Snowden

AIRPORT: Debate is raging over the future of SMO.

Race is on to shape affordable housing near 17th Street/SMC Metro station

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The City's future affordable housing landscape near the 17th Street/Santa Monica College Metro Station is beginning to take shape, with four development teams submitting plans to transform surface parking lots along Colorado Avenue into new residential communities.

According to Metro's project

SEE **DEVELOPMENT** PAGE 7



Steinberg Hart

HOUSING: Street-level view of the Bridge Housing and Steinberg Hart Architects proposal looking southeast.

Santa Monica prepares to celebrate Cinco de Mayo

DEVYN HAMILTON
SMDP Intern

Westside organizers are preparing for Cinco de Mayo public celebrations around the city from May 3 - 5 including a community parade, food festivals, live performances, and cultural markets to support the holiday. The celebration involves neighborhood groups, local performers, restaurants, and Latinx vendors to highlight the event in creative and accessible ways.

Cinco de Mayo celebrates the Mexican army's victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. The holiday is a relatively minor observance in Mexico, but in the United States it has come to represent a broader celebration of Mexican-American culture, especially in areas like Los Angeles with large Latinx communities.

Venice will hold its Historical

SEE **CINCO** PAGE 8

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USA Volleyball tabs 3-time Olympic medalist April Ross to head beach coach with LA Games looming

USA Volleyball has named three-time Olympic medalist April Ross as head of coaching for the beach national teams, turning to one of the country's most successful beach volleyball players after the Americans had their first-ever medal shutout in Paris.

The national governing body said the southern California native will work to improve the performance of "our top American athletes on the international stage" as it looks ahead to hosting the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

"I'm honored to join USA Volleyball in this new role and look forward to working with our coaches and athletes to continue the legacy of success on the international stage," Ross said. "I've always believed in the power of collaboration, and I'm excited to be part of a team that shares that vision."

Ross, 42, won a silver medal in London, a bronze in Rio de Janeiro and a gold medal in Tokyo — with three different partners; she also won back-to-back NCAA indoor volleyball titles at Southern California.

"April brings a unique combination of elite-level experience, deep technical knowledge, and a passion for mentoring," said Sean Scott, director of beach national teams. "She's competed at the highest levels and understands what it takes to succeed. I'm excited to work alongside her as we continue to build a world-class coaching culture that supports our athletes' growth and prepares them to win at the highest level."

The Americans dominated beach volleyball after the sport that was conceived on the coasts of Hawaii and California was added to the Olympic program in 1996, winning seven of the first 14 Olympic gold medals. But the haul has sputtered as the generation that included Ross and three-time gold medalists Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh Jennings aged out.

The U.S. women failed to medal in Paris for the first time since 2000; the American men have not medaled at all since 2008.

USA Volleyball said Ross will be based at the beach volleyball training center in Torrance, and work to improve the quality of coaching and training at all levels of the national team program.

"April's leadership and dedication to the sport are unmatched, and we are thrilled to have her in this new role," USA Volleyball President and CEO John Speraw said. "She is a true champion and a mentor who understands the value of collaboration and developing the next generation of elite athletes. We are confident that her expertise will continue to elevate U.S. Beach Volleyball on the global stage, especially as we look ahead to LA 2028."

By JIMMY GOLEN, AP Sports Writer





OPINION **UNMUTED**

Devan Sipher

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Are you ready for Bourbon Street on the Promenade?

Well, ready or not, the City Council is opening the taps and hoping the good times will roll. Last week, the Council requested that open containers of beer, wine, and distilled spirits be allowed on the Promenade seven days a week from 8 a.m. until 2 a.m.

I'm not convinced that transforming Santa Monica into New Orleans or South Beach is the best path forward, but making the Promenade an "entertainment zone," to use the correct terminology, isn't necessarily a bad idea. Given the dire economic situation the city is facing, I'd say the Council's decision is 50% the bold action they repeatedly gave themselves credit for–and 50% a Hail Mary.

The Council might argue that their goal isn't to transform the identity of Santa Monica, and Bourbon Street was never mentioned. But Beale Street in Memphis was cited by Councilmember Jesse Zwick as a place to emulate, and Beale Street has suffered multiple shootings and numerous vandalized vehicles in the past year, despite omnipresent metal detectors and a heavy police presence. Yet the Council clung to the notion that an entertainment zone will eliminate safety problems rather than amplify them.

It was left to Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) to express the caution that was missing from the Council's discourse. It's unsurprising that DTSM board members, gathered for their monthly meeting, supported creating the entertainment zone, since they represent business owners who stand to profit from it. But the board members raised questions about potential challenges from inebriated revelers, underage drinking, noise pollution, vandalism, litter, and drunk driving, which coincidentally are the problems reported by other cities with entertainment zones.

City staff didn't include this in their report. Nor did they mention that the city of El Dorado, in Arkansas, recently revoked its entertainment zone due to rowdiness, fighting, speeding on neighboring streets, and the smuggling of outside alcohol into officially permitted containers. The police chief said he lacked the manpower to properly monitor the zone.

Perhaps this is why Santa Monica Police Chief Ramon Batista requested a minimum of four police officers be assigned to the entertainment zone and that it be established as a pilot program for the first year. But the Councilmembers unanimously voted to override the police chief and make the entertainment zone permanent from day one. They also disputed the need for police officers, suggesting that private security could be sufficient. Again it was left to a DTSM Board Member, Jon Farzam, to express reservations about the viability of private security enforcing municipal regulations.

The Council should be commended for trying to simplify and streamline permitting procedures, given the city's reputation for doing the opposite, and just because the Council is allowing bars to serve alcohol outdoors 18 hours a day doesn't mean any establishment is ever going to do so. By allowing the maximum amount of hours, the Council is avoiding the kind of micromanaging that bureaucrats often get wrong, and they're instead delegating business decisions to business owners. The problem is the Council is also delegating their responsibilities for public safety.

I've purposely avoided writing about the new Council the past few months, because I wanted to give the Councilmembers time to find their footing, a task made more difficult by the fires and their aftermath. Putting aside their personal ambitions (and some of them display their ambitions more conspicuously than others), I believe the Councilmembers are sincerely committed to helping improve the city. But if we want to know what happens when politicians move fast and break things without considering the consequences, we unfortunately have too many current examples.

I know the Council desires far more than drunken revelry on the Promenade. Beer gardens, wine tastings, and live music events were proposed and could indeed revive the area. However, such activities aren't included in the ordinance, which only specifies the public consumption of alcohol. As DTSM board member Leo Pustilnikov put it, "Aside from seeing double, is there anything else that's part of the entertainment zone?" He was informed that there's not.

I wish the Councilmembers had discussed both the pros and cons of the entertainment zone, rather than competing with each other to prove who was the most gung ho. Councilmember Caroline Torosis, to her credit, noted that the staff had not provided any projections for costs or revenues. Nevertheless, she too joined in the increasingly giddy acclamation as the Council exponentially expanded the proposed zone from three days a year to three days a week to every single day. It was ballsy. It was also the kind of recklessness one expects from spring breakers, not elected officials, but maybe they're trying to prepare us for what's coming.

Devan Sipher can be reached at Unmuted.SMDP@gmail.com.

More than 50,000 Los Angeles County workers take to picket lines demanding higher pay

More than 50,000 Los Angeles County workers demanding higher pay walked picket lines again Tuesday, and the strike could mean closures or disruptions at libraries, healthcare clinics and administrative offices across the nation's most populous county.

The two-day walkout that began Monday evening followed failed negotiations with the county for a new contract after the last one expired in March, according to the Service Employees International Union Local 721.

> This is the workforce that got LA County through emergency after emergency: the January wildfires, public health emergencies, mental health emergencies, social service emergencies and more
> - David Green

The union represents employees including public health professionals, social workers, parks and recreation staff, custodians, clerical workers and others serving a county of 10 million residents. It's the first time all of its about 55,000 members are on strike, the union said.

Marchers wore purple and hoisted signs reading "We are the safety net!" A huge crowd marched through downtown LA streets while others gathered at dozens of sites countywide, including Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and offices of the Department of Children and Family Services.

"This is the workforce that got LA County through emergency after emergency: the January wildfires, public health emergencies, mental health emergencies, social service emergencies and more," union leader David Green said in a statement. "That's why we have had it with the labor law violations and demand respect for our workers."

The labor action is set to last until 7 p.m. Wednesday. Until then members of the public could experience closures or delays at libraries, some healthcare clinics, beach bathrooms and public service counters at the Hall of Administration. Services in the medical examiner's office and public works department may also be affected, according to the county. But hospitals and most county offices will remain open.

The union has accused the county of 44 labor law violations during contract negotiations, including surveillance and retaliation against workers engaging in union activity and contracting out work that's supposed to be done by union members.

LA County says it's facing "unprecedented stresses" on its budget, including a tentative $4 billion settlement of thousands of childhood sexual assault claims, a projected $2 billion in impacts related to the LA wildfires in January, and the potential loss of hundreds of millions in federal funding.

"We do not want to negotiate ourselves into a structural deficit — which could lead to layoffs and service reductions," spokesperson Elizabeth Marcellino said in a statement from the chief executive office. "We are trying to strike a balance: fair compensation for our workforce while sustaining services and avoiding layoffs in the midst of some of the worst financial challenges we have ever experienced."

The city of LA is facing similar financial woes — Mayor Karen Bass's recently proposed budget includes 1,600 layoffs of city workers amid a nearly $1 billion deficit.

About 150 county workers picketed outside Los Angeles General Medical Center on Monday.

Lillian Cabral, who has worked at the hospital since 1978, said the strike was a "historic moment" that involved staff from the emergency room and radiology departments to custodians.

Cabral is part of the bargaining committee and said she was frustrated by a process that has been filled with long delays and little movement from the county.

"It's so unfair to us, it's so unfair to our patients, and to our clients and our community," Cabral said.

The strike caused short staffing that led to long lines at the county's Department of Public Social Services. Staff members on hand said they could print out some paperwork and process documents but couldn't give out case updates or handle other issues usually dealt with by social workers participating in the strike.

Michael Euring, 54, said he couldn't pick up his mail or a new public assistance card. He didn't know why the strike was happening but was frustrated by the disruption in services.

"I have a 7-month-old son, and I'm a single father," Euring said. "The mail that I need is here. I can't get an EBT card, can't access my benefits to feed my child."

Lauren Punch, a supervising clerk at the office who joined the walkout, called the situation "100% preventable." She wants a salary increase as well fewer people to supervise.

"It's disrespectful to the community that we're charged to take care of," Punch said. "It's a shame that there are people out here with disabilities that we're not able to service fully."

By JAIMIE DING, Associated Press



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **60.6**

WEDNESDAY — ***FAIR TO GOOD*** | **SURF:** 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder

Holding to slow easing SSW swell. Light wind in the AM, PM onshores for manageable bump. Close in size to Mon PM-Tue but gradually losing some size through the day. Widespread waist-shoulder high surf continues, while standouts see head high to slightly larger sets. Negative low tide early- most breaks will improve on the tide push through mid to late morning or so. Light wind early with light to moderate onshore W wind in the PM for manageable bump.

THURSDAY — ***FAIR TO GOOD*** | **SURF:** 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder

Smaller but still fun. Light AM wind & clean. Fog possible. SSW swell fades slowly. Exposed breaks trend down to waist to occasional chest sets. Top S exposed breaks hit shoulder high. Light/variable wind in the morning and generally clean. Light to moderate SW to W wind picks up for the afternoon for light crumble.

Weather

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 66. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the morning.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 55. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 65.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/04/30	Wed	06:19 AM	-1.41	L
2025/04/30	Wed	1:00 PM	3.34	H
2025/04/30	Wed	5:13 PM	2.15	L
2025/04/30	Wed	11:39 PM	6.06	H
2025/05/01	Thu	07:20 AM	-1.06	L
2025/05/01	Thu	2:23 PM	3.17	H
2025/05/01	Thu	6:05 PM	2.55	L
2025/05/02	Fri	12:35 AM	5.51	H
2025/05/02	Fri	08:28 AM	-0.65	L
2025/05/02	Fri	4:02 PM	3.24	H
2025/05/02	Fri	7:21 PM	2.87	L
2025/05/03	Sat	01:43 AM	4.91	H
2025/05/03	Sat	09:46 AM	-0.33	L
2025/05/03	Sat	5:20 PM	3.53	H
2025/05/03	Sat	9:31 PM	2.94	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: 4/28
26 43 51 56 60
Power#: 24
Jackpot: 30 M

MEGA MILLIONS — Draw Date: 4/25
38 40 60 62 70
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 70 M

SuperLotto Plus — Draw Date: 4/26
8 31 33 35 42
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 22 M

Fantasy 5 — Draw Date: 4/28
9 22 28 32 38

Daily 3 — Draw Date: 4/28
EVENING: 2 8 8
MIDDAY: 5 6 2

Daily Derby — Draw Date: 4/28
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:41.59

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to the Text of the Santa Monica Municipal Code to Authorize Commercial Cannabis Uses Within Certain Zoning Districts.

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider a Resolution recommending to the City Council that the City Council adopt an Ordinance amending the text of the Municipal Code to authorize commercial cannabis uses within certain zoning districts.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

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

HOW TO COMMENT

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

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

Address your comments to: **Tony Kim, Principal Planner**
Re: Cannabis Ordinance

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

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

ESPAÑOL

Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's battle over data privacy and algorithm protections reaches a crossroads

Let's say you work in the food service industry for a large company, whose scheduling software assigns shifts to workers. For you, which shifts you receive mean everything because much of your salary depends on tips. But in the eyes of the algorithm, you could be deprioritized and miss out on lucrative weekend shifts based on mysterious data. Without your knowledge, information such as when you take a break, how fast you turned over a table or where you live could work against you.

Shouldn't you have the right to know the logic behind the algorithm, and the right to opt out of its automated decision?

Californians were on track to have novel protections against automated decisions under rules drafted by California's top privacy agency, the California Privacy Protection Agency. But this month, the privacy board proposed substantially narrower privacy regulations, including deleting specific protections — like the example above — surrounding criminal justice, education, essential goods like food, and employment matters if they were made by automated decisions.

Some members even suggested deleting the automated decision-making language altogether. The five-member board also committed to deleting other rules aimed at giving people control of their personal information in the training of artificial intelligence and in targeted advertising.

We are at a major crossroads in California's battle over data privacy protections. After the establishment of the landmark California Consumer Privacy Act and its 2020 voter-enacted California Privacy Rights Act, forces within the privacy agency and Gov. Gavin Newsom, under pressure from powerful business interests, are pushing to scale back these seminal protections. A key hearing is scheduled for Thursday.

After the departure of the protection agency's first leader, Ashkan Soltani, and the very questionable dismissal of privacy-facing board member Vinhcent Le, there has been a shift away from the pro-consumer mission statement of the small but influential agency. The new head of the agency is Tom Kemp, a tech entrepreneur. The real estate developer who spurred the state's data privacy law is now among some of its biggest skeptics.

But wouldn't you want to know if algorithms, not people, were deciding sensitive aspects of your life and at least have the option to stop it? Automated decisions dictate everything from how we get jobs to essential services or mortgages, for example, in rapid, nonchalant and unaccountable fashion.

The privacy agency's board members already recommended loosening opt outs for targeted advertising and training data that feeds artificial intelligence systems. Without opt-outs, companies can indefinitely train AI models on your personal data without consent, and because you said the word baby, the algorithm thinks you're a parent and bombards you with parenting ads on every feed.

Californians complain about this stuff all the time.

The privacy agency doesn't have to listen to the governor. Board members just have to read the voter-passed Proposition 24 and the privacy act statute, which directs them to draft regulations in the interest of privacy — not in favor of the interests of a few large tech companies.

More importantly, the right to privacy is enshrined in the first article of the California Constitution. By letting algorithms and AI take the reins, we relieve ourselves of responsibility — a comfort that comes at the cost of our own control.

We are supposed to be in a new era of privacy, and California is supposed to be leading that charge. Instead, we're willingly moving to the back of the line. We've heard these industry threats for decades now — that regulations will be too costly — yet tech companies have only grown and remain rooted in our state after 20 years of dominance.

We can't afford to let their tactics scare us.

Justin Kloczko is a tech and privacy advocate at Consumer Watchdog. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GET IT DAILY...

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

One faction scores win in Capitol's perpetual 'tort wars' while another battleground looms



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

LAWMAKERS: The state Capitol on May 31, 2022.

One of the state Capitol's perpetual conflicts, dubbed "tort wars," pits personal injury attorneys and their allies, such as labor unions, against business groups and their insurers over laws governing which activities can be subjected to damage-seeking lawsuits.

Over the years, as one side seeks to expand the universe of civil wrongs (torts) that can be brought to court and the other seeks to freeze or even shrink such opportunities, titanic political clashes have erupted either in the Capitol or the ballot arena.

One highlight — or lowlight — of the never-ending duel occurred in 1987 when private negotiations over a tobacco war truce moved from the Capitol to Frank Fat's restaurant, a Sacramento political hangout. Then-state Assembly Speaker Willie Brown hopped from table to table. The result was the infamous "napkin deal" that gave something to each faction and suspended hostilities for a few years.

Overall, tort wars have been something of a standoff as each side claimed occasional victories and suffered occasional losses. But they continue because the potential stakes are many billions of dollars. Well-heeled participants will spend millions on lobbying fees, campaign contributions to legislators and ballot measure battles to prevail.

Three years ago, the warring factions were headed for a very expensive showdown with dueling ballot measures. The pro-litigation side had qualified a measure for the 2022 ballot that would, if passed, have virtually repealed a 1975 law limiting pain and suffering damages in medical malpractice suits to $250,000.

In response, the Civil Justice Association of California, an umbrella organization of business and insurance interests, proposed a countermeasure that would have limited lawyers' shares of personal injury damages to 20%.

The standoff resulted in a quickly enacted compromise that preserved the cap on malpractice damages but gradually raises it. The two ballot measures were shelved.

Legislative sessions usually see at least one effort by one or both of the factions to change tort law. This year's example is Senate Bill 799, carried by Sen. Ben Allen, an El Segundo Democrat, and backed by trial lawyers, labor unions, local governments and Attorney General Rob Bonta. SB 799 would extend California's False Claims Act to high-dollar tax disputes, thus allowing lawyers to go after taxpayers deemed to be scofflaws and collect fees if they win.

Its introduction sparked an intense effort by business and insurance groups, via the Civil Justice Association of California and the California Taxpayers Association, to strangle the measure.

The bill easily cleared the Senate

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 6

Kiwanis Field Day



Fran Lyness

FIELD: Kiwanis of Santa Monica hosted Community Field Day this week with a fun-filled day featuring games, activities, and lots of laughs with neighbors and friends.

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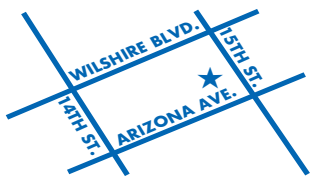
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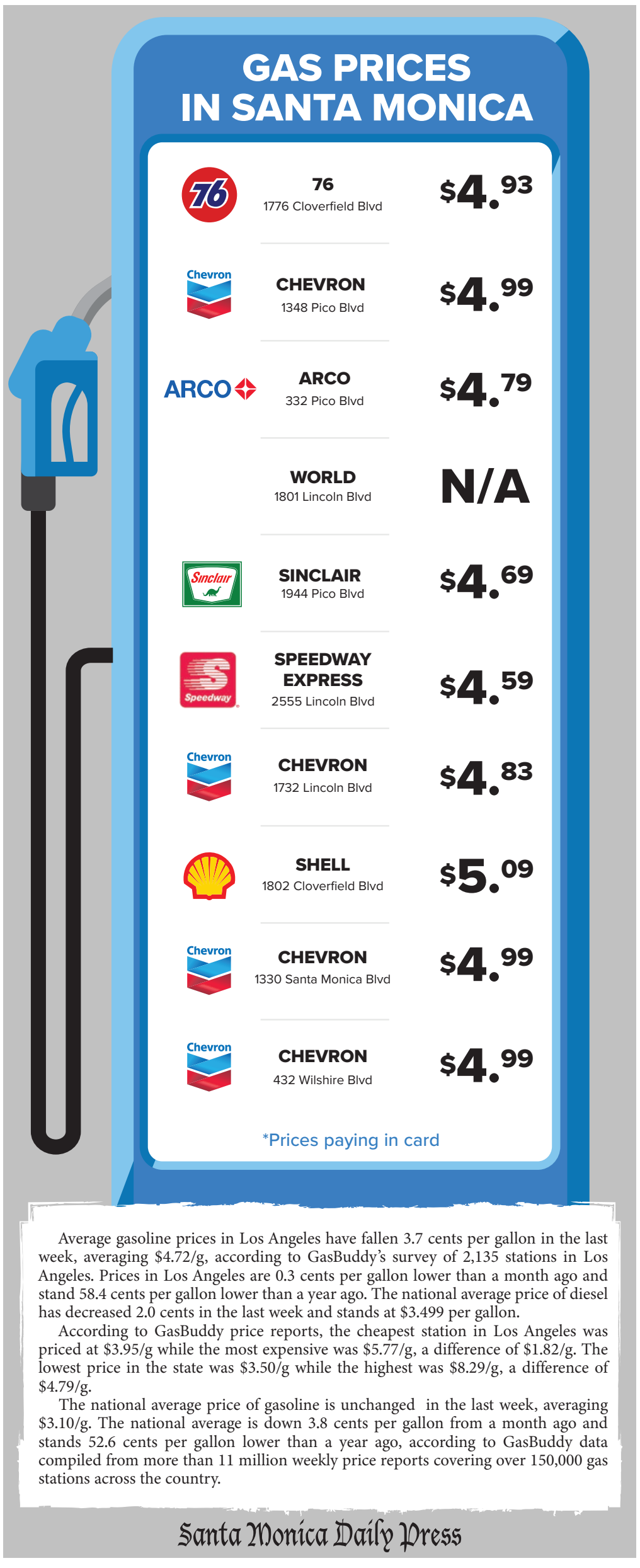
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Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 3.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.72/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 0.3 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 58.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 2.0 cents in the last week and stands at $3.499 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.95/g while the most expensive was $5.77/g, a difference of $1.82/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.50/g while the highest was $8.29/g, a difference of $4.79/g.

The national average price of gasoline is unchanged in the last week, averaging $3.10/g. The national average is down 3.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 52.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

LION'S ROAR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Since January the Santa Monica Pacific Palisades Lions Club has been raising funds to support the Pacific Palisades fire recovery efforts. We have seen pictures of the devastation, but the story below, written by long-time Lion and Pacific Palisades resident, Kingsley Fife, shares the shock and fear that many experienced that day.

President Roosevelt once famously said that December 7 was a Day That Will Live in Infamy. Now I can say that January 7 is a new day That Will Live in Infamy. On that fateful morning a one-hundred-foot-high fire storm driven by 90 mph winds came rushing down from the Highlands and consumed our beautiful town of 30,000 people. What we have left is heartaches and rubble. As one Palisadian put it, "I looked into the swirling fire wall and saw the Devil dancing in hell."

The day started off innocently with me enjoying the LA Times in the kitchen. My wife yelled that there's a fire starting way over in the Palisades Highlands. We went outside and took videos of the super scooper planes dropping water, never thinking that it would ever get over to us. In fact, the smoke color was changing from black to white and we were cheering that it indicated they were putting the fire out. Friends were already calling and saying they were evacuating, and I thought "What an over-reaction."

Then the police and fire department cars started cruising around saying "Evacuate," and we started getting messages on the phone. I went to the back yard and started hosing down our back hill, assured that I would stay and fight the fire if it ever got near us. All the while tornado-like winds were swirling around us. Then twenty minutes later I was up in our back hallway and saw huge flames coming over at the top of our back hill. I ran and screamed to my wife that we have got to get out of here. And we scrambled around the house trying to collect what we needed – a moment of panic and desperation.

While in our cars in the street I wanted to go back and get some shoes but by then the smoke was so thick I couldn't even see our house. I knew if I got out of my car and started breathing this air without a special smoke mask that I would destroy my lungs. We drove down the street and met nothing but gridlock. We parked by the side of the road, praying that we would have a home to return to.



Courtesy photo

KINGSLEY FIFE

By some miracle our house was one of the few that survived.

To support the Palisades fire recovery efforts please make a check to the California Lions Foundation with the designation SM-PP Lions Club – Palisades Fire Relief. Mail to Calif Lions Foundation, Attn: David Hebebrand, 20231 Valley Blvd. #E, Tehachapi, CA 93561. For online donations, go to https://californialionsfoundation.org/contact and complete the online form.

At our next meeting on Wednesday, May 7th we have two members of the Palisades Community Council, Sue Kohl, President and John Padden, Palisades PRIDE, coming to share what the recovery efforts have entailed so far, and the future rebuilding of the Pacific Palisades. If you are interested in being our guest please RSVP to Kingsley at 310-367-2679 or smpplionsclub@gmail.com. The dinner meeting will be a DIFFERENT location, the Santa Monica YMCA, 1332 6th St, Santa Monica, CA 90401 and start at 6:00 pm.

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 5

Judiciary Committee but opponents prevailed in a showdown hearing in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee last week, with just two of the committee's five members (both Democrats) voting for it. Two other Democrats refused to vote, which had the same practical effect as voting "no."

The civil justice and taxpayers groups hailed their win, declaring, "SB 799 would have unleashed shakedown lawsuits against business owners and outsourced the state's responsibility for tax enforcement to the plaintiffs' bar."

There was an ironic coincidence on the issue. As SB 799 was being rejected, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass was visiting Sacramento to plead for state help in dealing with her city's huge budget deficit, citing a huge increase in payouts from liability lawsuits as a major factor.

"Liability settlements have tripled from backed up lawsuits during the pandemic in uncapped damages," Bass said.

City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto accompanied Bass to seek a limit on damages from suits against cities. "We're trying to bring California more into the mainstream and make sure that we don't pay taxpayer dollars out unnecessarily or in disproportionate amounts," Feldstein Soto said.

Their position is a little odd, given that the League of California Cities had supported SB 799.

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

DEVELOPMENT

FROM PAGE 1

website, the available parcels span roughly 182,000 square feet of land, currently occupied by a park-and-ride facility and other uses adjacent to the station. The properties sit on the south side of Colorado Avenue, flanking either side of 17th Street. Metro anticipates selecting a development team later this year, with construction potentially starting by 2027.

The four proposals offer a range of designs, unit counts and affordability levels, reflecting both Metro's affordable housing goals and Santa Monica's broader efforts to address its ongoing housing shortage.

Homegrown nonprofit developer Community Corporation of Santa Monica, in partnership with Mithun Architects, submitted a proposal for three buildings totaling 347 residential units. The housing breakdown includes:

- 156 units for renters earning 30 percent of Area Median Income (AMI)
- 111 units for renters earning up to 60 percent of AMI
- 73 units for renters earning up to 80 percent of AMI
- 7 unrestricted units

Community Corp's plan would also provide 101 units of permanent supportive housing and 87 accessible units. Additional features include 3,574 square feet of ground-floor commercial space, 17,900 square feet of community space, 20,000 square feet of open space and parking for approximately 260 vehicles.

In a move that sets this proposal apart, Community Corp would combine an additional parcel to the south at 1625 17th Street, currently owned by the Crossroads School. Prefabricated modular units are proposed for the construction to streamline costs and accelerate delivery. Community Corp recently broke ground on another affordable housing project just a few blocks east on 20th Street.

West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, working with EYRC Architects, proposed building 281 homes across three structures. The units would be distributed as follows:

- 59 units at 30 percent AMI
- 25 units at 50 percent AMI
- 46 units at 60 percent AMI
- 147 units at 80 percent AMI
- 4 unrestricted units

The development would reserve 59 units for individuals with physical, mental or developmental disabilities and would also offer 81 accessible units and 48 units designated for workforce housing.

Other components include 7,322 square feet of community space, 4,885 square feet of retail, 47,000 square feet of open space, 3,300 square feet of office space and parking for 156 vehicles. Prefabricated modular construction would also be used to reduce costs and construction timelines.

Bridge Housing and Steinberg Hart Architects presented a proposal that would deliver 324 homes, including:

- 69 units at 30 percent AMI
- 7 units at 40 percent AMI
- 130 units at 50 percent AMI
- 118 units at 60 percent AMI

The Bridge Housing plan would provide 49 accessible units and 69 units specifically for individuals with disabilities. Like other respondents, Bridge proposes to use prefabricated modular units for efficiency and sustainability.

Decro Corporation and Alliant Communities, with design work led by KFA Architecture, submitted the fourth proposal. Their plan would create 180 total units, divided into:

- 54 units at 30 percent AMI
- 18 units at 50 percent AMI
- 106 units at 60 percent AMI
- 2 unrestricted units

Plans also call for 4,800 square feet of community space, 1,200 square feet of retail space, 18,000 square feet of open space and parking for 210 vehicles. Unlike the other three submissions, this proposal would utilize podium-style construction rather than modular techniques.

The Santa Monica sites are among 17 properties Metro identified last year as priority housing opportunity sites across Los Angeles County. The agency's Joint Development Program aims to create thousands of new homes on Metro-owned land, with a particular focus on delivering deeply affordable housing near transit stations.

Under Metro's guidelines, all new developments on these priority sites must dedicate at least 50 percent of new homes to households earning 60 percent of AMI or below. Several sites, including the 17th Street/SMC parcels, are expected to exceed that minimum threshold substantially.

Metro officials say the 17th Street/SMC project represents a unique opportunity to combine housing, transit access and community-serving amenities in an area where land availability is extremely limited.

Selection of a developer is expected following a detailed evaluation process. Final plans would be subject to public review, local permitting and environmental assessments before construction begins.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

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.





CINCO

FROM PAGE 1

Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival on Saturday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. which begins at California Ave and Lincoln Blvd and travels down 7th Ave to Broadway, ending at Oakwood Recreation park.

The festival will also feature Aztec dancers, a live DJ playing festive music, and a performance by the Venice Baby Dog Rapper. Attendees can enjoy a wide range of interactive activities such as piñata games and raffles throughout the day. There will be a showcase of vintage vehicles on display, while families with young children can take part in games and pose for photos in themed booths. The event is designed to be both celebratory and inclusive, aiming to reflect the community's diversity while keeping traditions in focus.

On Sunday, May 4, Downtown Santa Monica will host Cinco de Mayo on the Promenade from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the 1200 block of the Promenade. This event is organized in partnership with local cultural curators and features live Mariachi performances, Ballet Folklorico, and a Latinx vendor market presented by Molcajete Dominguero. The market and food vendors will operate from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., offering goods, food, and community engagement opportunities for all ages.

The celebration will start with live music from Maria Sanchez and the Midnight Grove, followed by a performance by Santa Monica Ballet Folklorico, and closing with a set from Mariachis de America. Each act brings a different cultural element to the afternoon, emphasizing dance, storytelling, and regional music styles. The market will feature handmade crafts, clothing, accessories, and artwork by independent vendors from around Los Angeles. Food options will include traditional Mexican street foods and contemporary Latin fusion cuisine for a wide range of tastes.

Santa Monica restaurant Socalo, usually closed on Mondays, will open for a one-night-only Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 5. The restaurant, led by celebrity chefs Susan Feniger and Mary Sue Milliken, will offer a special dinner menu for the evening. The event includes mezcal tastings provided by Hedonistas and a lineup of tacos and tlayudas created specifically for the night. Reservations are encouraged due to limited seating, and Socalo will also offer pre-ordered lunch catering for office gatherings or home celebrations. Mezcal tastings will be hosted on the patio. The special menu includes: Carne Asada Tacos, Baja Shrimp Tacos, Carnitas Tacos, Gobernador Shrimp Tacos, Chicken Taco Dorados, Jackfruit Ting Tacos, Barbacoa Tacos, Mushroom Dobladitas, and Tlayudas.

Take It Down Act, addressing nonconsensual deepfakes and 'revenge porn,' passes. What is it?

Congress has overwhelmingly approved bipartisan legislation to enact stricter penalties for the distribution of non-consensual intimate imagery, sometimes called "revenge porn." Known as the Take It Down Act, the bill is now headed to President Donald Trump's desk for his signature.

The measure was introduced by Sen. Ted Cruz, a Republican from Texas, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Democrat from Minnesota, and later gained the support of First Lady Melania Trump. Critics of the bill, which addresses both real and artificial intelligence-generated imagery, say the language is too broad and could lead to censorship and First Amendment issues.

WHAT IS THE TAKE IT DOWN ACT?

The bill makes it illegal to "knowingly publish" or threaten to publish intimate images without a person's consent, including AI-created "deepfakes." It also requires websites and social media companies to remove such material within 48 hours of notice from a victim. The platforms must also take steps to delete duplicate content. Many states have already banned the dissemination of sexually explicit deepfakes or revenge porn, but the Take It Down Act is a rare example of federal regulators imposing on internet companies.

WHO SUPPORTS IT?

The Take It Down Act has garnered strong bipartisan support and has been championed by Melania Trump, who lobbied on Capitol Hill in March saying it was "heartbreaking" to see what teenagers, especially girls, go through after they are victimized by people who spread such content. President Trump is expected to sign it into law.

Cruz said the measure was inspired by Elliston Berry and her mother, who visited his office after Snapchat refused for nearly a year to remove an AI-generated "deepfake" of the then 14-year-old.

Meta, which owns and operates Facebook and Instagram, supports the legislation.

"Having an intimate image – real or AI-generated - shared without consent can be devastating and Meta developed and backs many efforts to help prevent it," Meta spokesman Andy Stone said last month.

The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a tech industry-supported think tank, said in a statement Monday that the bill's passage "is an important step forward that will help people pursue justice when they are victims of non-consensual intimate imagery, including deepfake images generated using AI."

"We must provide victims of online abuse with the legal protections they need when intimate images are shared without their consent, especially now that deepfakes are creating horrifying new opportunities for abuse," Klobuchar said in a statement after the bill's passage late Monday. "These images can ruin lives and reputations, but now that our bipartisan legislation is becoming law, victims will be able to have this material removed from social media platforms and law enforcement can hold perpetrators accountable."

WHAT ARE THE CENSORSHIP CONCERNS?

Free speech advocates and digital rights groups say the bill is too broad and could lead to the censorship of legitimate images including legal pornography and LGBTQ content, as well as government critics.

"While the bill is meant to address a serious problem, good intentions alone are not enough to make good policy," said the nonprofit Electronic Frontier Foundation, a digital rights advocacy group. "Lawmakers should be strengthening and enforcing existing legal protections for victims, rather than inventing new takedown regimes that are ripe for abuse."

The takedown provision in the bill "applies to a much broader category of content — potentially any images involving intimate or sexual content" than the narrower definitions of non-consensual intimate imagery found elsewhere in the text, EFF said.

"The takedown provision also lacks critical safeguards against frivolous or bad-faith takedown requests. Services will rely on automated filters, which are infamously blunt tools," EFF said. "They frequently flag legal content, from fair-use commentary to news reporting. The law's tight time frame requires that apps and websites remove speech within 48 hours, rarely enough time to verify whether the speech is actually illegal."

As a result, the group said online companies, especially smaller ones that lack the resources to wade through a lot of content, "will likely choose to avoid the onerous legal risk by simply depublishing the speech rather than even attempting to verify it."

The measure, EFF said, also pressures platforms to "actively monitor speech, including speech that is presently encrypted" to address liability threats.

The Cyber Civil Rights Initiative, a nonprofit that helps victims of online crimes and abuse, said it has "serious reservations" about the bill. It called its takedown provision unconstitutionally vague, unconstitutionally overbroad, and lacking adequate safeguards against misuse."

For instance, the group said, platforms could be obligated to remove a journalist's photographs of a topless protest on a public street, photos of a subway flasher distributed by law enforcement to locate the perpetrator, commercially produced sexually explicit content or sexually explicit material that is consensual but falsely reported as being nonconsensual.

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writer

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 03/19/25 2025056079The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CURRENCY ADVISORY GROUP, 16030 VENTURA BLVD SUITE 320, ENCINO, CA 91436 . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are THE CULTURE CAPABILITY, INC, 16030 VENTURA BLVD SUITE 320, ENCINO CA, 91436 If corporation or LLC- Print State of DE This is Business is Conducted: a Corporation . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2025 . Registrant / Corp/LLC THE CULTURE CAPABILITY, INC , LLC Title: PRESIDENT THEODORE CHUNG. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 03/19/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 04/28/25 2025085480The following person(s) is (are) doing business asAcmeDesign 1077 Pacific Coast Highway #342 Seal Beach, CA 90740 . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. 2025303The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Constrium Studios, Inc 1077 Pacific Coast Highway #342 Seal Beach, CA 90740 . If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Corporation . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 04/2025 . Registrant /Corp/LLCConstrium Studios, Inc Title: CEO Anton Goss . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 04/28/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00182 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Mohsen Moradi Ganjeh and Ryan Moradi Ganjeh for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Mohsen Moradi Ganjeh this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Mohsen Moradi Ganjeh to Mason JohnRyan Moradi Ganjeh to Ryan John . The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 05/23/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica CA 90401. . A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press

Lien

Notice of Self Storage SalePlease take notice Trunk Space Storage - Santa Monica located at 1674 20th Street Santa Monica CA 90404 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 5/15/25 at 11:00 AM. Vanessa Acosta. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

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

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

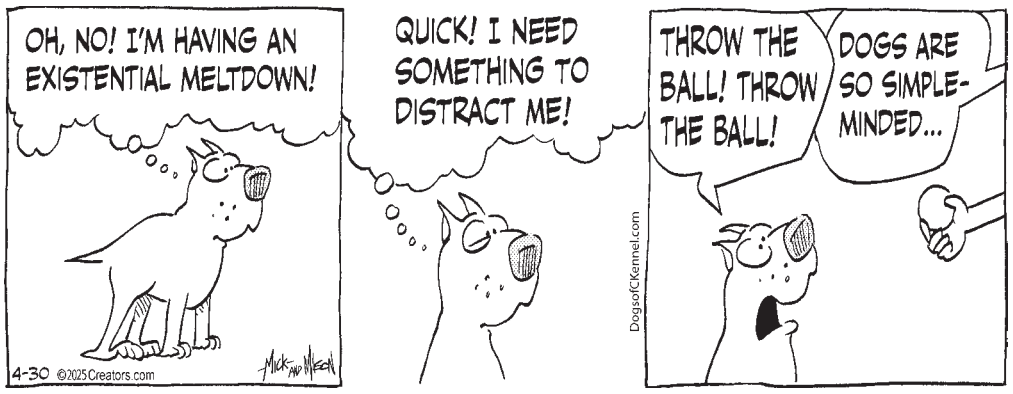
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



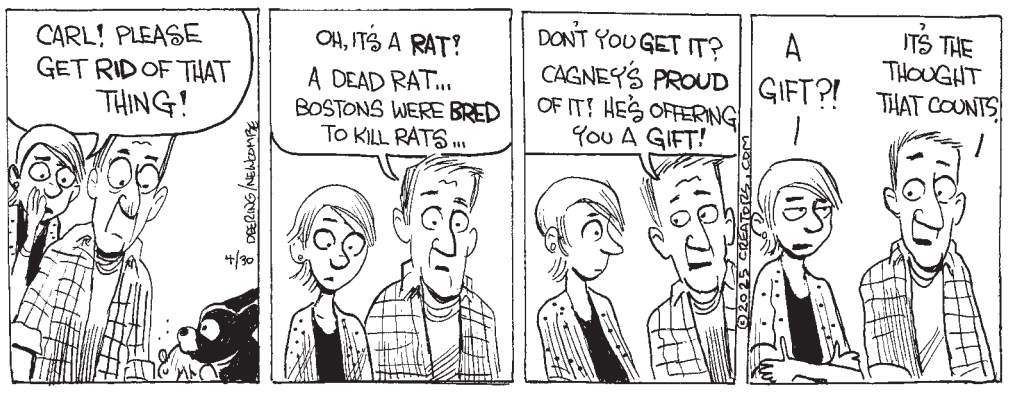
Dogs of C-Kennel

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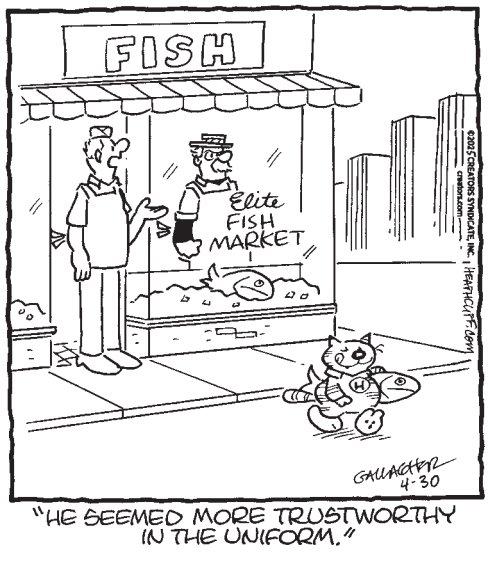
Zack Hill

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6561

No one beats the house

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

Action	Clubs	Happy	Luxury	Skip
Amuse	Crib	Hearts	Move	Solo
Beat	Crown	Horses	Odds	Spades
Bets	Deal	Keno	Outwit	System
Bluff	Debt	Kismet	Pack	Taps
Call	Dice	Land	Pawn	Trip
Cards	Envy	Lone	Pick	Two up
Casino	Euchre	Loser	Poker	Watch
Caviar	Face	Lottery	Prize	Winners
Change	Gain	Luck	Rules	
Chess	Gold	Ludo	Shake	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Maintenance work

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 30)

Whether internal or external, any existing blocks to the flow of love and goodness will lift this year. You will freely accept all bounty, compliments, tenderness and support from the world in full knowledge that you either deserve it or will. More highlights: One you admire takes notice and offers you something priceless. A creative endeavor blooms in unexpected ways, and a lucrative career shift will have rewards beyond financial. Romantic sparks fly. Taurus and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 10, 22, 1 and 30.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). With all you're balancing, intentional breaks could be the key to sustaining your momentum. Even short ones, like a quiet walk, a day to recharge or a moment of solitude, could make a huge difference.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Even the hard-boiled pragmatist you know will soften and bend to your whimsical charms — because, bottom line, you're fun. Life's just more interesting when you let that carefree part of yourself take the lead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No matter how well you think you know someone, there's always more to discover. New people entering the scene will act as catalysts, revealing different sides of those you thought you knew well.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're not ready to tackle the problem just yet — at least, not in action. But in thought, you're making major strides. This is a crucial stage! Your strategic brainstorming and inspired notions will be nothing short of brilliant.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll find yourself in a position to give intuitive service — a spontaneous, unplanned act of attention that makes a difference. Caring about a person's preferences and how they need things done suggests deep presence, empathy and a rare kind of generosity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're not avoiding on purpose — your mind's just trying to keep you safe. Distraction is fear in disguise, a clever excuse fear uses to stop you from committing to what you really want. Breathe. You can begin from here.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Problems don't have to drain you. It's the approach that makes all the difference. Curiosity gives you energy, but the trick is to be just interested enough to keep things light so you don't get overwhelmed. Drama is optional — who needs it?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You look at the same view as everyone, but what it means to you is entirely different. And that difference? Gold. If you stay silent, an essential voice goes missing. Speak up. Let them shift to meet the truth only you can offer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You find life exciting without needing any adrenaline-fueled add-ons. Your curious mind naturally gravitates toward subjects of deep fascination — and what you discover might just leave you awe-struck.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your knowledge of cause and effect includes the understanding that not every result is immediate, visible, typical or even logical. By articulating a need, you will also come to know its cost a bit better. This may lead to you changing what you ask for.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's a day to avoid micromanagement. Many assessments aren't necessary for things to proceed well. Relax and observe, resisting the need to judge every detail, which would be an unnecessary energy expenditure.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). All creations have their own lives outside of their creators. You'll never know the whole of what happens as a direct or indirect effect of your contribution because the ripple goes so wide, it will still be resonating years from now.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

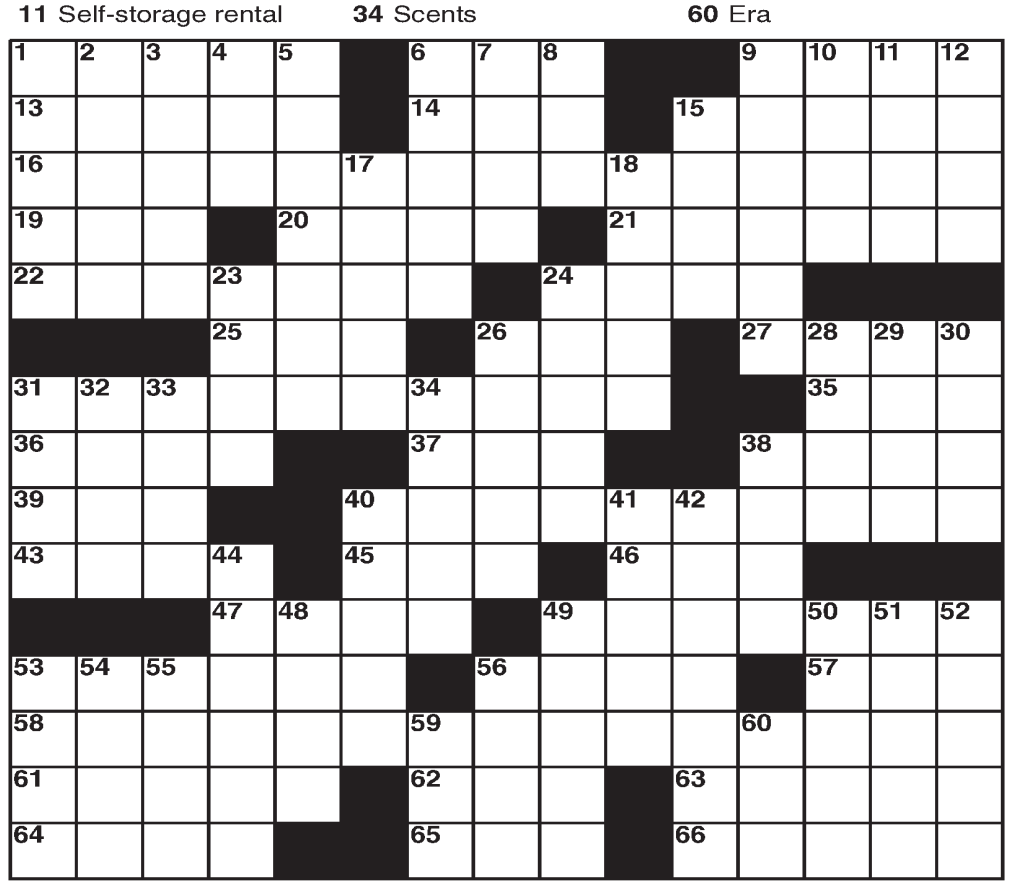
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Initial phase
6 "Love __ neighbor"
9 Speak unclearly
13 "Laughing" African beast
14 Weed chopper
15 Make amends
16 Totally free, as a vacation
19 Caviar
20 City surrounding the Vatican
21 Wasn't honest with
22 Catch in a trap
24 Difference of opinion
25 List-ending abbr.
26 Small fragment
27 Dutch cheese
31 Free, from a bartender
35 Inventor Whitney
36 Second-largest Hawaiian island
37 Rapper Dr. __
38 Large family
39 __ Arbor, MI
40 Free of cost
43 Ararat lander
45 EMT's destinations
46 __-med student
47 Probability stat
49 Any employee
53 Naval engineer
56 Name on elevators
57 "To a..." verse
58 Included free
61 Prefix for national
62 Make inquiries
63 Spurred, with "on"
64 Banquet platform
65 "Annabel Lee" poet
66 In run-down condition

DOWN

1 Chicago hub
2 Parachute fabric
3 Tennis great Monica
4 U-turn from WSW
5 Paycheck deduction percentage
6 Sitcom intro music
7 Sharpen, as skills
8 "Thumbs up!"
9 Tampa neighbor, for short
10 Washer batch
11 Self-storage rental
12 Perform again
15 "In your dreams!"
17 Place for a rocking chair
18 Exclusive group
23 *M*A*S*H* soda brand
24 Gotten up
26 Scottish accents
28 Local food shop
29 Rickman or Alda
30 Chinese dynasty known for vases
31 Persian Gulf nation
32 Prefix meaning "billionth"
33 Common casserole contents
34 Scents
38 Wearer of a high white hat
40 UPS alternative
41 Of vision
42 Criticizes as worthless
44 Freight train riders
48 Woodland grazer
49 Amount bet
50 Sign fraudulently
51 Narrowly defeated
52 Sounding like oboes
53 Uttered
54 Italian erupter
55 Prefix for virus
56 Roughly
59 Soft knock
60 Era



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04/30/25

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AIRPORT

FROM PAGE 1

and risk prolonging aviation use. Citing the 2014 Measure LC ballot measure, which restricted post-airport development to parks, open space and recreational uses without a public vote, Gruber said that honoring the spirit of LC was critical to maintaining the community's trust.

"We respect the motivations of those proposing housing at the airport site," he said, adding, "Santa Monica needs more housing, but Santa Monica is now getting more housing. More people will mean the need for more parks, especially for people who do not live in single family homes with backyards."

The Airport2Park group framed its argument as one of environmental justice, pointing to Santa Monica's low parkland-to-population ratio compared with other cities and warning that once the land is redeveloped, the chance to build a major new park would be lost forever.

Yet advocates for a different vision are mobilizing. A coalition called Cloverfield Commons, represented at the meeting by community organizer Vivian Rothstein and Santa Monica Forward co-chair Bradley Ewing, presented a competing plan that would divide the site equally between parkland and affordable housing. Under their proposal, about half of the available land would be devoted to low and moderate income housing, while the rest would become green space open to all residents.

> "We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to utilize the land that belongs to us for the benefit of the future of our city"
>
> - Vivian Rothstein

"We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to utilize the land that belongs to us for the benefit of the future of our city," Rothstein said. "I know that organized sports are important, but if you look at Clover Park, it is the passive uses that are really busy and the big sports fields that are empty most of the week."

Rothstein, a Sunset Park resident, argued that the beach should be considered part of the city's open space inventory and said Santa Monica must confront its acute lack of affordable housing with bold action. She described a transformed Sunset Park neighborhood where workers such as firefighters, teachers and city employees could no longer afford to live.

Bradley Ewing emphasized that Santa Monica was already struggling to meet its Regional Housing Needs Assessment obligations under state law. "Santa Monica is looking at probably another 9,000 to 10,000 units that we have to plan for," he said, warning that if the city does not plan proactively, it risks losing control to state enforcement mechanisms.

The Cloverfield Commons proposal, which envisions modest-scale buildings and an income mix ranging from very low to moderate households, also ties housing development to ongoing park maintenance. Rothstein said allowing a nonprofit land trust to lease city-owned land could generate revenue to fund the park without depending solely on philanthropic donations.

However, environmental attorney David Pettit, a member of the city's Sustainability Commission, warned that any major changes to Measure LC or plans to introduce housing would face serious legal hurdles. Speaking as an individual, Pettit said the city's forthcoming Environmental Impact Report would need to thoroughly evaluate every alternative, including full park conversion and housing, or face likely litigation.

"There is no requirement that the city pick the environmentally best alternative," Pettit said. "But if they do not analyze all reasonable alternatives, they are going to lose in court and we will have to do this all over again."

Pettit also cautioned that selling or leasing land for housing might trigger the Surplus Land Act, introducing a competitive bidding process that could undermine local control over what eventually gets built.

Throughout the meeting, several speakers emphasized the high political stakes involved. Gruber, referencing the aviation industry's failed 2014 ballot effort, said that opening Measure LC to amendment before airport closure would likely embolden opponents seeking to preserve aviation use.

"There was a great victory to limit Measure D to 40 percent of the vote," he said. "But consider, with a base of 40 percent who voted to keep the airport, aviation only needs another 10 percent to win."

The club's Airport Committee will meet several times over the coming months before drafting its final recommendation for the full membership to vote on. Meanwhile, Santa Monica residents are left grappling with a choice that will shape the city's environmental, economic and social landscape for generations.

As Gruber put it, the airport land represents a rare and fleeting chance. "Once built on, it would never become available again for public use," he said. "Cut down in size, it will be impossible for a park there to serve both social and environmental needs."

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WEDNESDAY | APRIL 30

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://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/12382446/2025-04-30T08

FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY: YOGA FOR EVERYONE!

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

CHAMBER MUSIC PALISADES CONCERT

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica 1008 11th St Santa Monica. On Wednesday April 30, at 8:00 p.m., in the sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica, Chamber Music Palisades (CMP) presents an evening of French composers, Ibert, Ravel, Saint-Saens, and Poulenc; a world premiere by local American composer Adrienne Albert, "Cross Talk" for flute, clarinet, and piano; Holst "Jupiter" from The Planets for wind quintet and piano; and Rachmaninoff Six Pieces for four-hand piano. Our talented performers are Bernadene Blaha and Kevin Fitz-Gerald returning again this year for a spectacular four-hand piano performance, Jonathan Davis (San Diego and Pacific Symphonies) on oboe, Judith Farmer (Los Angeles Opera) on bassoon, Sergio Coelho (Long Beach Symphony), on clarinet, Amy Jo Rhine (Los Angeles Philharmonic) on horn, and Susan Greenberg, (formerly LA Chamber Orchestra and now Santa Monica Symphony), flutist and co-founder/artistic director of Chamber Music Palisades. Tickets will be available for $35 online at cmpalisades.org or at the door the evening of the concert. Free parking is available under the building across the street, with access from 11th St. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/chamber-music-palisades-concert/15583468/2025-04-30T20

THURSDAY | MAY 1

NOMA MEETS

7:00 p.m. NOMA's meeting Thursday night will feature ANUJ GUPTA, Santa Monica Director of Transportation, speaking on new initiatives, including "Brighter Blue," the City's five-year service improvement plan; the Transit Safety Officer program; Better Blue Bus Stops (including a volunteer Adopt-a-Stop program); and intended zero emissions plans. SUNNY WANG, City Water Manager, follows with a presentation of water projects planned for the city and anticipated new water rates. OFFICER DAVID WANG, NOMA Resource Officer, reports on current crime and prevention in the neighborhood, the meeting concluding with members voting on a slate of new and returning Board members. All are invited to attend at smnoma.org. NOMA Meets on the First Thursday of Each Month at 7pm on Zoom
Next Meeting: THUR. MAY 1st. ZOOM LINK: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81526517066

LUNCHTIME LINE DANCE

12:30 p.m. Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library 501 S. Venice Boulevard Venice. Come kick up your heels and learn line dances in a variety of styles, including Western, pop, Latin, disco, and more! Tuesdays - Intermediate Level. Thursdays - Beginner Level (No experience needed) For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/lunchtime-line-dance/12342961/2025-05-01T12

FRIDAY | MAY 2

THE NIGHT SKY SHOW

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. 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/14165546/2025-05-02T19

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