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Students talk to astronaut.

3 **Grants frozen**
For green energy.

4 **Democrats fight**
Over housing.

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What's for sale?

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 115 THE WEEKENDER 5/2-5/4 smdp.com

As academics argue over minimum wage impact, business owners say the cost is wearing them down









Darryl Harvey

FOOD: Fast food workers have a higher minimum wage than other industries.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Controversy continues to swirl around California's minimum wage requirements with a recent study prompting a counter study from academic circles and business owners doubling down on criticism of the rules as destructive to their industry.

While economist Christopher Thornberg's March 2025 analysis claimed the Fast Act resulted in over 23,100 lost jobs across the industry, a new academic study is

SEE **WAGE** PAGE 10

Crayola donation brings color and creativity to Santa Monica's children

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Hundreds of students in Santa Monica are receiving a boost of color and creativity this week, thanks to a donation of $60,000 worth of Crayola products from Epic Entertainment Group to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Santa Monica.

The donation includes tens of thousands of art supplies, which are being distributed across the

SEE **CRAYOLA** PAGE 15

Sexual assault reported in SMC Library

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica College Police Department issued a crime alert Wednesday following a sexual battery incident that occurred in the college's main campus library.

According to police, at approximately 11:30 a.m. on April 30, a suspect approached a student in the library, tapped the victim on the shoulder and asked for a kiss. When the victim attempted to leave, the suspect grabbed the victim's groin area without consent before fleeing in an unknown direction.

The suspect was described as a male with black hair, approximately 18-25 years old. No additional

SEE **ASSAULT** PAGE 12



Courtesy photo

SUSPECT: The suspect is wanted for grabbing a woman at SMC.

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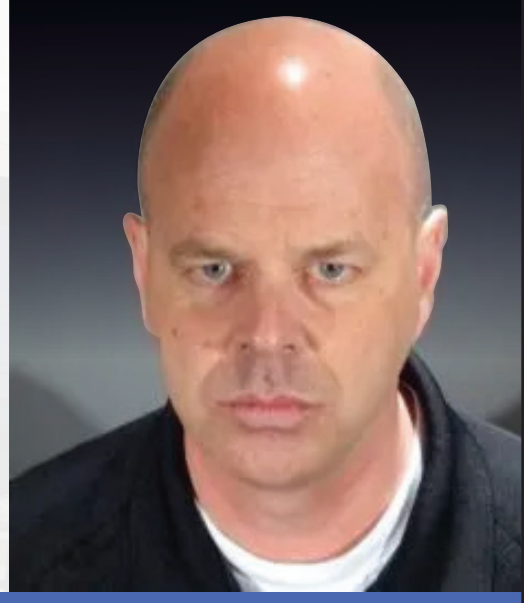
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Eric Uller sexually abused hundreds of children over almost 30 years while masquerading as a police officer at Santa Monica PAL.
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Samohi students get a call from the highest flying alumni



Devyn Hamilton

NASA: Students received a call from space this week.

DEVYN HAMILTON
SMDP Intern

With academics out of this world, Jonathan Kim graduated from Samohi to become a Navy SEAL, doctor, and now a NASA astronaut currently in orbit. Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) students were given the special opportunity to interview Dr. Kim through a virtual live feed from space on April 29 during school hours.

Students submitted pre-recorded questions for Kim during the assembly. A large portion of Kim's answers referenced his journey to figuring out his career path.

He graduated from Samohi in 2002 and enrolled in the U.S. Navy where he became a Navy SEAL. During his service, Kim was deployed to the Middle East twice and earned both a Silver Star and Bronze Star with Valor for his service in Iraq. His experiences in the field inspired him to pursue a medical career and after graduating from the University of San Diego in 2012, he went on to Harvard Medical School where he earned a medical degree in 2016. By 2017, Kim had been selected as one of NASA's astronaut candidates, and began the rigorous training. Funnily enough, Kim stated that the most difficult skill he had to learn–out of wilderness and survival training, robotics, flight training, and more–was the Russian language.

Kim entered space on April 8, 2025 for an eight month expedition as a part of Expedition 72/73, and as of Tuesday had been in orbit for 21 days. This marks a historic milestone for Samohi, being the only high school in America to produce two non-related astronauts.

> As a kid, I've always wanted to be an astronaut, but I never took it seriously. I would say it wasn't until medical school in my late 20s that I really thought of being an astronaut as something realistic that I could do
> - Jonathan Kim

Randy Bresnik graduated from Samohi in 1985 and after being commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1989, Bresnik became a NASA astronaut in 2004.

The high school prides itself on its education quality, and State Senator Ben Allen spoke virtually at the assembly, thanking NASA for their cooperation in letting SMMUSD

SEE **NASA** PAGE 5

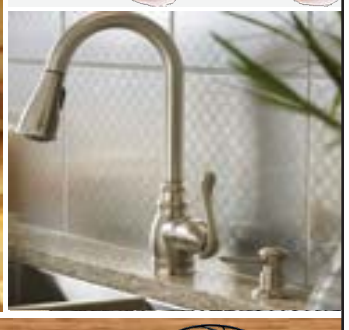
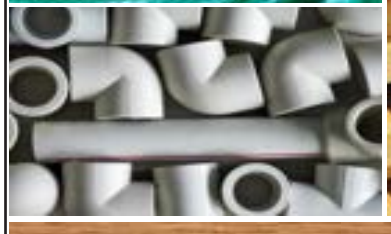
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Grants for LA clean trucks frozen in Trump effort to defund green energy

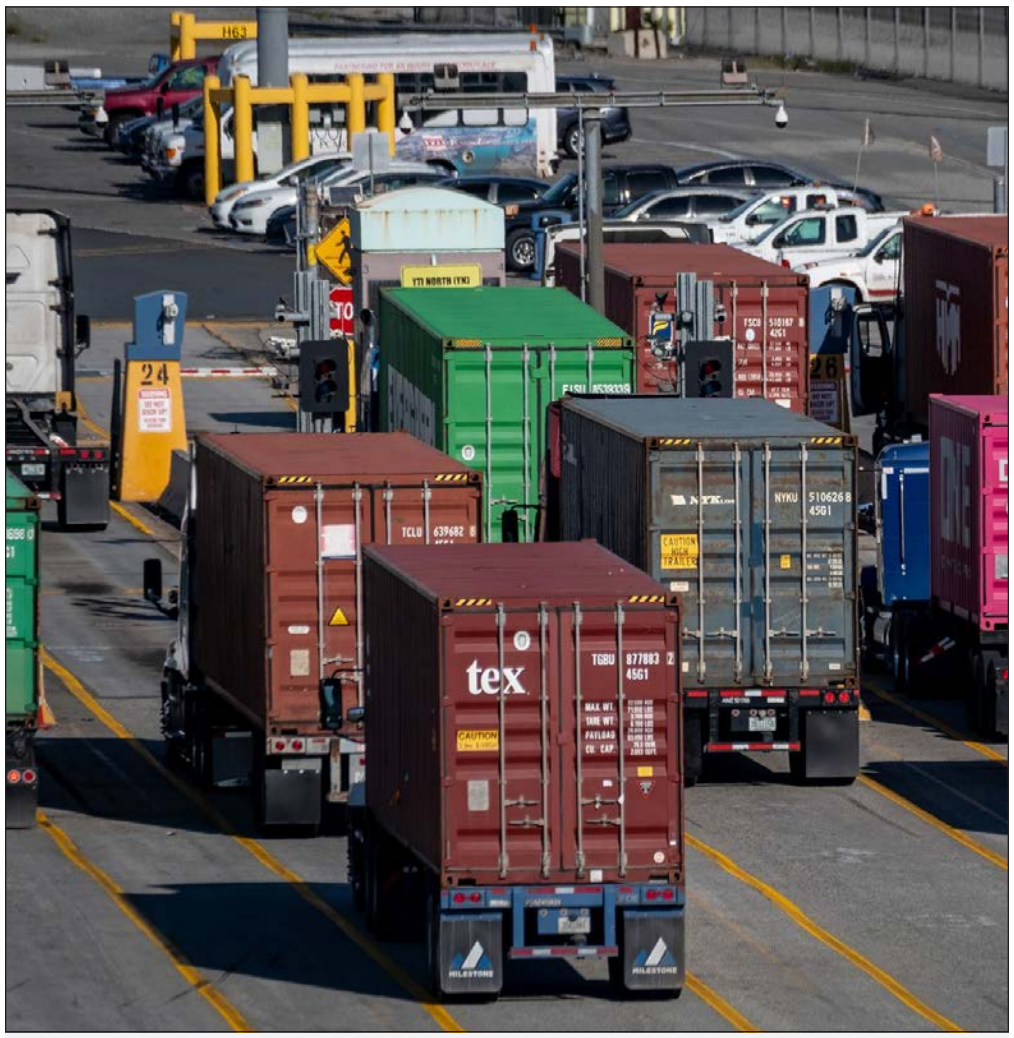


Photo by Joel Angel Juarez for CalMatters

TRUCK: Semi-trucks exit Yusen Terminals at the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro on Feb. 11, 2025.

The Trump administration has frozen $250 million in grants to a nonprofit helping companies replace diesel trucks at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, part of a broad federal effort to claw back $20 billion in green energy funding.

The program by Climate United, announced last October, would offer affordable leases for new electric heavy-duty trucks operated by small fleets and individual truckers serving the ports.

Communities near the ports, including Wilmington, San Pedro and Long Beach, have been battling for years to clean up noxious fumes that waft into their neighborhoods from the long lines of trucks carrying cargo to and from the massive ports.

The freezing of the funds comes after California had to abandon a regulation that phased out diesel trucks because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under President Donald Trump wouldn't approve it.

The grant, which would have funded about 500 electric trucks, remains frozen by Citibank, which holds the funds, as a legal dispute plays out between the EPA, the bank and Climate United, a nonprofit based in Maryland.

"We don't have any money at all, not even operational money," Climate United spokesperson Brooke Durham told CalMatters in an interview. "We are having to raise philanthropic grants to be able to cover operational expenses and payroll.... and then all of the projects are in limbo."

The EPA had threatened to terminate the contracts, and climate groups sued over not being able to access the money when it was frozen. The groups argued that the EPA and the bank were illegally withholding the money because Congress had appropriated it through the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. A federal judge ordered Citibank to pay some of the funds, but then an appeals court blocked that decision as the case continues.

> "We don't have any money at all, not even operational money"
>
> - Brooke Durham

In a March announcement, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin accused the $20 billion federal green energy grant program of "misconduct, conflicts of interest, and potential fraud...I have taken action to terminate these grants riddled with self-

SEE **TRUCK** PAGE 12



Surf report — WATER TEMP: **61.9**

FRIDAY
FAIR

SURF: 2-3ft+
Thigh to stomach

Modest S swell reinforcements keep fun surf in the water. Clean start, fog possible. Down from Thursday as SSW swell drops out and gives way to fresh S swell. Widespread knee-waist high surf with better breaks going chest-high. Largest surf for beachbreaks west of Pt. Dume. Clean morning conditions likely from light/variable wind. Bumpier afternoon for beachbreaks west of Dume as moderate W wind kicks up, easing some through the evening — points stay on the cleaner side all afternoon.

SATURDAY
FAIR

SURF: 2-3ft+
Thigh to stomach

Fun SW swell the 3rd-4th. Growing potential to see increased NW wind & swell too. Recent storm activity in the SW Pacific looked good with satellite confirmed seas of 40'. New SW swell (215-200) fills in through the day and into the 4th as a result. It's partially shadowed for North LA but will still be fun-size: waist-shoulder high at the better breaks. The NW swell mix - mainly short period - looks larger on the latest run of the charts. However, it also looks like we'll see rising NW wind. Decent AM conditions for most of the regions, points okay in PM.

Weather

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 66.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 56.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 64.
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. Breezy.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2025/05/04	Sun	03:11 AM	4.40	H
2025/05/04	Sun	10:57 AM	-0.11	L
2025/05/04	Sun	6:11 PM	3.87	H
2025/05/04	Sun	11:23 PM	2.54	L
2025/05/05	Mon	04:42 AM	4.11	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

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Draw Date: 4/30
1 2 3 57 59
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 44 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/29
16 33 40 51 57
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 80 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 4/30
1 2 7 11 37
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 23 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/30
9 24 27 28 37

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/30
EVENING: 9 7 0
Draw Date: 4/30
MIDDAY: 3 9 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/30
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:41.75

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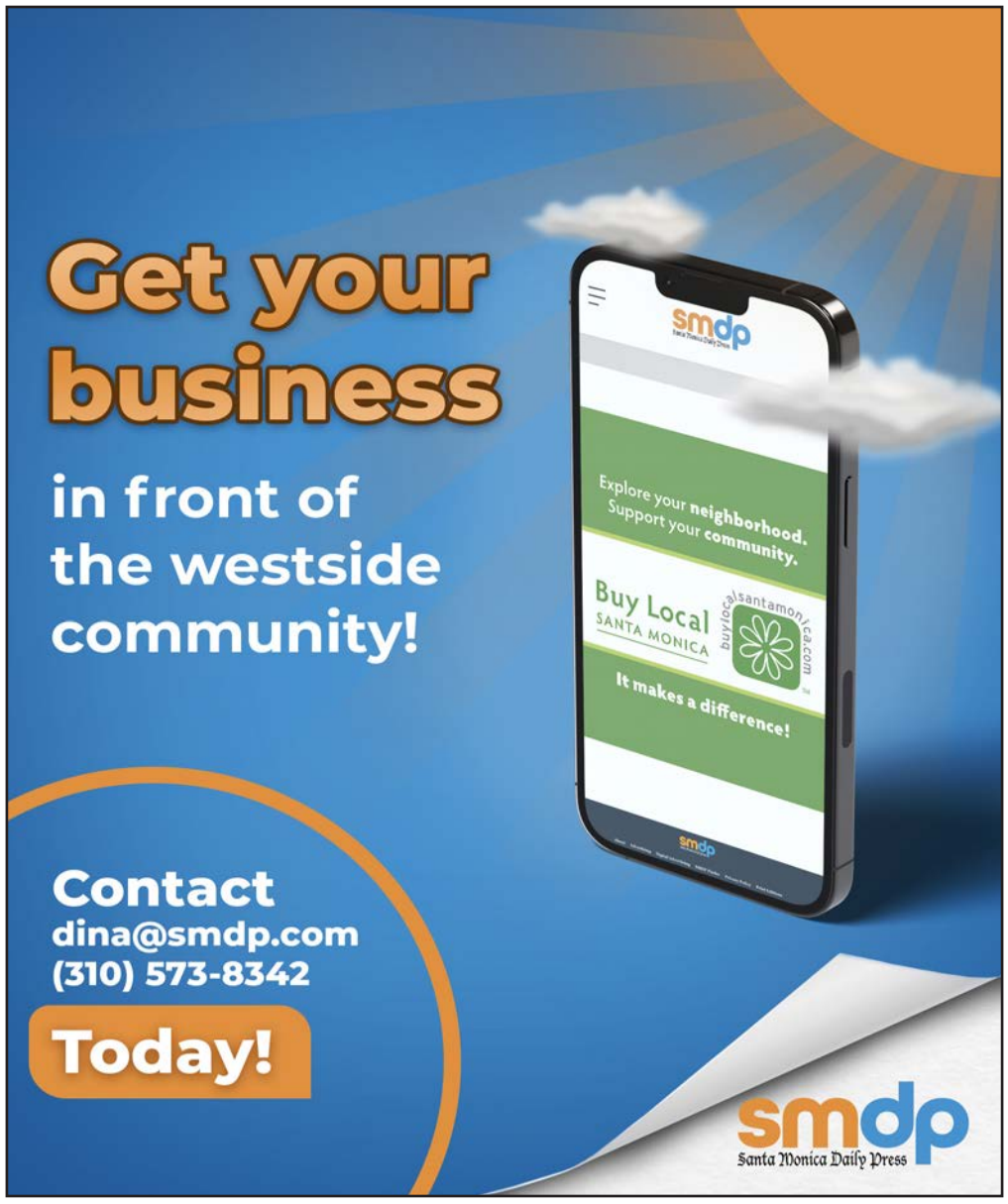
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Santa Monica Daily Press



Unprecedented vote shows Dems fractured over housing policy



Photo by Fred Greaves for CalMatters

GOVERNMENT: State Sen. Maria Elena Durazo during the Senate Committee on Health at the Capitol Annex Swing Space in Sacramento on April 9, 2025.

One of the most controversial housing bills of the year has lived to be voted upon another day, but only by surviving the Legislative equivalent of two back-to-back prison breaks.

Last week, Senate Bill 79, a bill by San Francisco Democratic Sen. Scott Wiener to boost apartment and commercial construction around major public transportation hubs, passed the Senate Housing Committee over the strenuous objections of its chair, Sen. Aisha Wahab, a fellow Democrat from Fremont.

That was a notable development in its own right. Chairs tend to get their way on the bills that pass through their committees. When a majority of a committee's members decide to buck legislative decorum and tradition and steamroll that committee's chair, it's often taken as a sign that California's dominant Democrats are unusually divided over an issue; that the issue at hand is especially contentious; that the legislators either aren't receiving clear guidance from legislative leadership or are willing to ignore that advice; or some combination of all of the above.

Fast forward to this week and it happened again.

In the Senate Local Government Committee, Sen. María Elena Durazo, a Los Angeles Democrat, urged a no vote on Wiener's bill.

She didn't get her way. The bill passed with the backing of all the other Democrats on the committee. Durazo voted "no" with the two Republicans.

A chair getting "rolled" is an unusual spectacle in Sacramento. In the typically arcane and perfunctory proceedings of the Legislature, this bit of human drama pops up once or twice a year. For it to happen twice in a row for the same bill is without any obvious precedent.

"Extra unique" is how Chris Micheli, a longtime California lobbyist and public commentator on the Legislative process, described the situation. "Beyond the particular bill at hand, it could give an indication that there is a philosophical split in the caucus."

So far Senate President Pro Tem Mike McGuire, a Santa Rosa Democrat, has refused to comment publicly on where he stands on the divide within his caucus, whether the two chairs speak for him and whether he plans to intervene to smooth things over.

For some advocates, the silence from McGuire has been deafening.

"The Assembly seems to recognize the urgency of this moment and Governor Newsom has routinely signed with great

SEE **HOUSING** PAGE 7



NASA

FROM PAGE 2

students take part in this interview.

Dr. Kim emphasized the importance of following passions and staying open to unexpected opportunities. He told students that a clear plan is beneficial, but it's also important to be flexible and adaptable.

"As a kid, I've always wanted to be an astronaut, but I never took it seriously. I would say it wasn't until medical school in my late 20s that I really thought of being an astronaut as something realistic that I could do," said Kim. "And I think the most important lesson from that is you don't always have to know or have your whole life planned out and figured out, but it is important to follow your passions and work hard."

This idea was repeated by different speakers who reassured students that a strict life plan wasn't necessary for success. This idea resonated with students.

"I think it was really inspiring to hear that he didn't exactly know where he was going to start. And a lot of the kids right now don't know where they are going to go to college, or don't have that idea of what they want to pursue later in life, like, I know kind of what I want to do, but I'm not sure where to go to college or what I want to study. And it was really inspiring to be able to hear, like, you don't have to know right away," said sophomore Ameeya Flanagan.

Officials thanked NASA for the opportunity saying it is inspiring for teens to be able to see somebody similar to them and someone given similar opportunities become successful.

"It's important because what we need our kids to understand is that there are students that came before them that sat in the same seats that they are sitting in now, and that those students took the education that was provided to them and they used it in a way to nurture their hopes and their dreams," said Antonio Shelton, SMMUSD Superintendent and former Samohi Principal.

> It's important because what we need our kids to understand is that there are students that came before them that sat in the same seats that they are sitting in now, and that those students took the education that was provided to them and they used it in a way to nurture their hopes and their dreams
>
> - Antonio Shelton, SMMUSD Superintendent and former Samohi Principal



Devyn Hamilton

SAMOHI: The event at Samohi allowed students to ask questions of an astronaut.

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City of Santa Monica

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- **Submission Deadline Is May 23, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

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

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

SANTA MONICA
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
SANTA MONICA CITY HALL

DATE/TIME: Monday, May 5, 2025, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 250

PUBLIC HEARING:
1036 22nd Street – 25ARB-0052: Side Yard Setback Modification
Review a modification to a required side setback for a portion of an addition to an existing one-story, single-unit residential dwelling located in the Single-Unit Residential (R1) Zoning District.

More information is available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ (en espanol tambien at (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431#).

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@santamonica.gov. Comments received **prior to 12 p.m.** on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Architectural Review Board prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

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.

TRANSLATION SERVICE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. Please contact planning@santamonica.gov at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

SERVICIO DE TRADUCCIÓN DISPONIBLE A PEDIDO. Comuníquese al planning@santamonica.gov al menos 72 horas antes de la reunión programada.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia pública para revisar aplicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov

US House votes to block California's nation-leading vehicle emissions rules

The Republican-controlled U.S. House voted Thursday to block California from enforcing first-in-the-nation rules phasing out the sale of new gas-powered cars by 2035.

The move comes a day after the chamber voted to halt California standards to cut tailpipe emissions from medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, as well as curb smog-forming nitrogen oxide pollution from trucks.

"The passage of these resolutions is a victory for Americans who will not be forced into purchasing costly EVs because of California's unworkable mandates," House Republicans Brett Guthrie of Kentucky and Morgan Griffith of Virginia, said in a statement. "If not repealed, the California waivers would lead to higher prices for both new and used vehicles, increase our reliance on China, and strain our electric grid."

California for decades has been given the authority to adopt vehicle emissions standards that are stricter than the federal government's. Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2020 announced plans to ban the sale of all new gas-powered vehicles in the state by 2035, as part of an aggressive effort to lower emissions from the transportation sector. Plug-in hybrids and used gas cars could still be sold.

State regulators then formalized the rules, some other states announced plans to follow them, and the Biden administration approved the state's waiver to implement them in December, a month before President Donald Trump returned to office.

This week's House votes fell largely along party lines, though some Democrats joined Republicans to advance them. That would be against the advice of the Senate Parliamentarian, who sides with the U.S. General Accountability Office in saying California's policies are not subject to the review mechanism used by the House.

Republicans used the Congressional Review Act, a law aimed at improving congressional oversight of actions by federal agencies, to try to block the rules. The Trump administration in 2019 revoked California's ability to enforce its own emissions standards, but Biden later restored the state's authority.

But the California standards cannot legally be blocked using the Congressional Review Act, the U.S. Government Accountability Office, a nonpartisan congressional watchdog, wrote in a letter to Congress in March.

Newsom said the effort is another signal of Republicans' ideological shift over the decades from an era in which former presidents Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan signed landmark environmental laws to one in which Trump is pushing for environmental rollbacks on everything from clean air to clean water and climate change.

"Clean air didn't used to be political," Newsom said in a statement. "Our vehicles program helps clean the air for all Californians, and we'll continue defending it."

A spokesperson for the California Air Resources Board, which passed the vehicle emission standards, said the agency "will continue its mission to protect the public health of Californians impacted by harmful air pollution."

It is unclear what will happen in the Senate. The Senate Parliamentarian in April reaffirmed the GAO's findings that California's Clean Air Act waivers are not subject to the Congressional Review Act, according to California Sen. Adam Schiff's office.

"We will fight this latest attack on California's power to protect its own residents, and I will urge my colleagues in the Senate to recognize the severe implications of proceeding with this violation of states' rights, as well as the dangerous precedent it would set by flouting the unanimous opinion of Congress' trusted arbiters," the Democrat said in a statement.

Dan Becker, director of the Center for Biological Diversity's Safe Climate Transport Campaign, called the use of the Congressional Review Act a "backdoor move" that "shows just how recklessly Republicans behave."

"Republicans may regret opening this Pandora's box, inviting attacks on many other non-rules in the future when they're no longer in charge," Becker said in a statement.

But the American Petroleum Institute and the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers applauded Thursday's vote, calling it a "huge win for U.S. consumers."

"California's unlawful ban should never have been authorized, and Governor Newsom should never have been allowed to seize this much control over the American vehicle market," Mike Sommers, the institute's president and CEO, and Chet Thompson, the manufacturers group's president and CEO, said in a joint statement.

By SOPHIE AUSTIN Associated Press/Report for America. Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro in Washington and Trân Nguyễn in Sacramento contributed to this report. Austin is a corps member for The Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues. Follow Austin on X: @sophieadanna

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HOUSING

FROM PAGE 4

enthusiasm even the most difficult housing bills to reach his desk, but the Senate appears more isolated from the rest of California on housing than it has in recent years," Jim Wunderman, president of the Bay Area Council, which co-sponsored SB 79, wrote to McGuire late last week. "As 'one of our own,' a member of the Bay Area Caucus, and President Pro Tem of the Senate we feel compelled to write to you to share our deepening concern that the progress that we need on housing may ultimately stall in the Senate."

McGuire's office did not respond to a request for interview before this story was published.

After the caucus, Wiener downplayed the idea that there are irreparable divisions within the party.

"You have two chairs who have just a different perspective and that's normal and, you know, I appreciate that we've been able to go through this process very respectfully," he said. "We're all grown ups."

As for McGuire: "He'll weigh in when he needs to weigh in," said Wiener.

McGuire is termed out of the Legislature next year, an expiration date which may limit his influence.

The increasingly public philosophical split within the Democratic caucus was apparent in both committee hearings. Wiener is a prolific housing legislator whose views align with the broader "Yes In My Backyard" movement that sees California's housing affordability crisis as the product of an overall housing shortage. For that group, which includes Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas and Assembly Appropriations Committee Chair Buffy Wicks, making it easier to build more homes more cheaply, quickly and densely is the policy north star. Wicks said as much at a recent legislative hearing.

"'I'm like a one-trick pony," she said during a debate over a statewide rent control bill. "We've got to make it easier to build more housing in California and that has been really my sole focus since I've been here."

Wahab and Durazo represent a different faction of the Democratic Party. Both have stressed that they aren't opposed to new housing construction and that they share the view that the state faces a severe housing shortage. But they are more skeptical of the private development that tends to be a byproduct of the YIMBY movement's proposed legislation, and believe state law that encourages it should come with terms and conditions.

Wiener's bill would allow housing developers to build apartment, condo and mixed-use towers on or near train, subway and light rail stations, ferry terminals and at the intersection of heavily used bus lines, regardless of what local zoning or building design rules specify. It would also remove barriers to transit agencies that want to do the same on their own land.

"If we leave decisions about what to build up to market-rate developers who do not have the broader public interest in their minds, it's the wrong way to go," Durazo said. "While I want to help members move their legislation forward, sometimes bills go against our core values and amendments won't address that."

"We are aligned on the vast majority of issues," Wiener said in response. "In this one, unfortunately, we are deeply not aligned and I do not believe that building more housing near public transportation, housing of every variety, goes against our core values."

The bill doesn't require private developers to set aside a share of units for low-income residents. Last week, Wahab called the lack of an explicit affordable housing requirement a "sweetheart deal" for the housing industry. Some affordable housing and anti-gentrification activists have turned out to oppose the bill, arguing that expanding opportunities for private development would come at the expense of affordable housing opportunity and turbocharge displacement.

The bulk of studies that have looked into the question have found that new market-rate housing reduces neighborhood rents and tends to ease displacement pressures.

Wiener has stressed that apartments and condos are inherently more affordable than single family housing and that the bill would not preclude other state and local affordability requirements that developers might be subject to from applying. In the committee hearing today, Wiener said that he is "exploring the possibility" of including a minimum affordability requirement.

The bill is also opposed by many local governments and neighborhood groups that resent the state's usurpation of their land use authority and opponents of dense development. Ditto the State Building and Construction Trades Council, an umbrella group representing many unionized construction workers, who regularly oppose housing bills that lack stringent labor standards, and some environmental justice advocates.

Another Wiener bill, Senate Bill 607, which would make it easier for urban multifamily housing projects to avoid environmental review — a priority of many Assembly Democrats — also survived, despite Durazo's "no" vote.

Both bills are now scheduled to go to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

This latest legislative kerfuffle could be a sign of things to come. This year, Assembly Democrats have put forward a vast package of housing bills aimed at speeding up development. Though some are eye-glazingly technical, others may incite the same Dem-on-Dem infighting that broke out over Wiener's bill.

"(SB 79) could foreshadow tough sledding for some of the Assembly bills," said Micheli.

By Ben Christopher. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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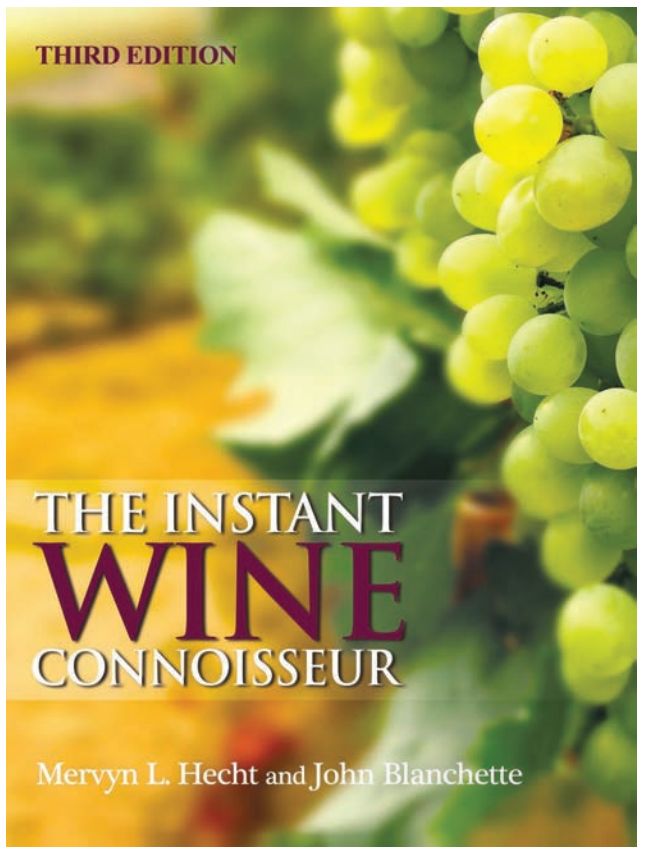
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• Redfin Corporation
Contact: 3106637896

SANTA MONICA

$1,500,000

930 California Ave #105,
Santa Monica, CA

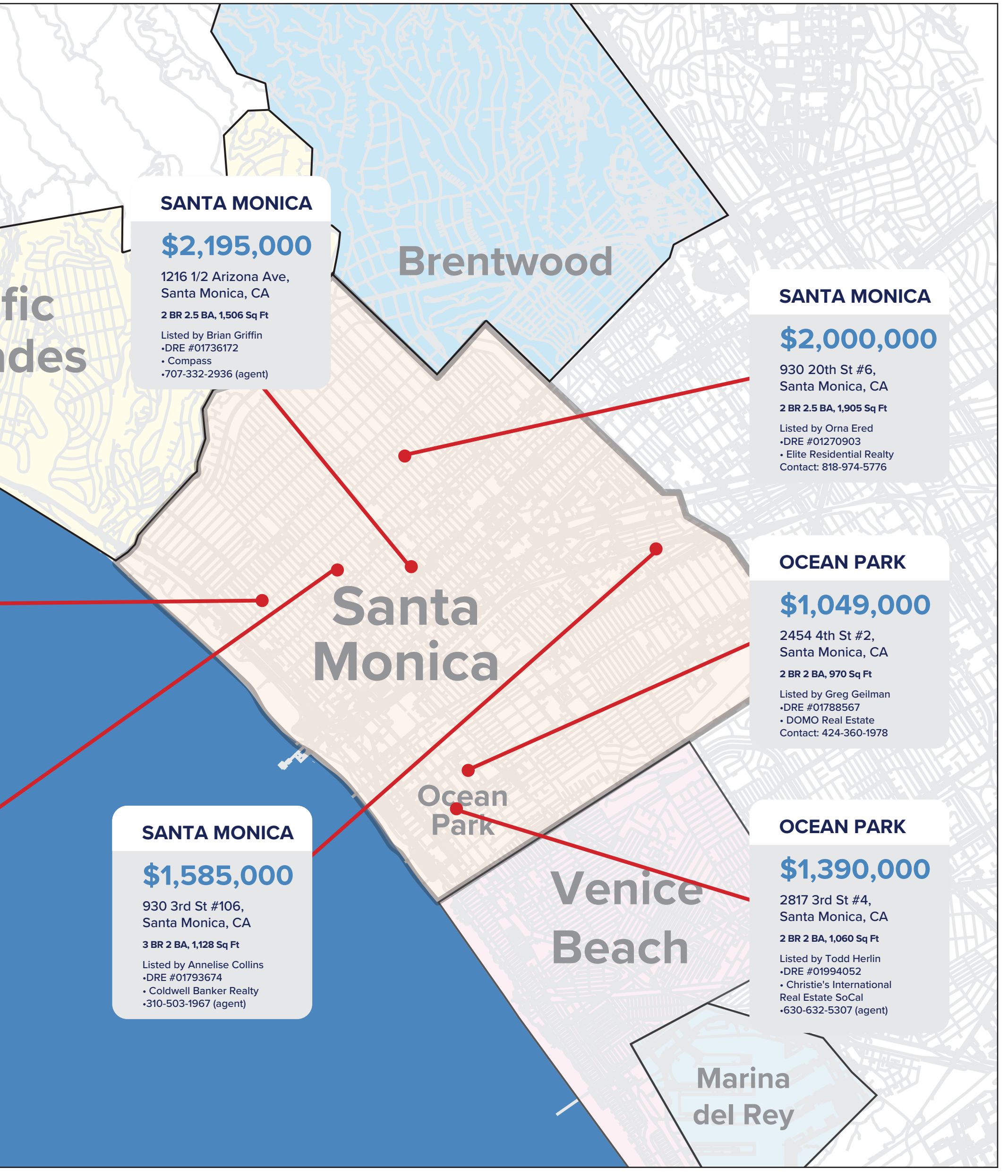
3 BR 2 BA, 1,394 Sq Ft

Listed by Ariela Zaiderman
•DRE #01834684
• JohnHart Real Estate
Contact: 818-414-7587

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SANTA MONICA

$2,195,000

1216 1/2 Arizona Ave,
Santa Monica, CA

2 BR 2.5 BA, 1,506 Sq Ft

Listed by Brian Griffin
•DRE #01736172
• Compass
•707-332-2936 (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$2,000,000

930 20th St #6,
Santa Monica, CA

2 BR 2.5 BA, 1,905 Sq Ft

Listed by Orna Ered
•DRE #01270903
• Elite Residential Realty
Contact: 818-974-5776

OCEAN PARK

$1,049,000

2454 4th St #2,
Santa Monica, CA

2 BR 2 BA, 970 Sq Ft

Listed by Greg Geilman
•DRE #01788567
• DOMO Real Estate
Contact: 424-360-1978

SANTA MONICA

$1,585,000

930 3rd St #106,
Santa Monica, CA

3 BR 2 BA, 1,128 Sq Ft

Listed by Annelise Collins
•DRE #01793674
• Coldwell Banker Realty
•310-503-1967 (agent)

OCEAN PARK

$1,390,000

2817 3rd St #4,
Santa Monica, CA

2 BR 2 BA, 1,060 Sq Ft

Listed by Todd Herlin
•DRE #01994052
• Christie's International
Real Estate SoCal
•630-632-5307 (agent)

City of Santa Monica

SANTA MONICA RENT CONTROL BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

The Board will hold a public hearing to present information on the status of vacant positions at the agency and its recruitment and retention efforts during the Santa Monica Rent Control Board meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, 1685 Main Street.

The agenda and staff reports are available on the Board's website at: www.santamonica.gov/rentcontrol.

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WAGE

FROM PAGE 1

challenging those findings and suggesting the law's impact has been minimal. Meanwhile, franchise owners report significant financial strain since the wage increase took effect.

The debate centers on California's AB 1228, which raised the minimum wage for workers at chain restaurants with 60 or more locations nationwide to $20 per hour - $4 higher than the state's standard minimum wage.

Daniel MacDonald, an economics professor at California State University San Bernardino, released a report this month arguing that Thornberg's methodology was fundamentally flawed.

"The major problem with the method is that a balance of U.S. states is not a proper policy counterfactual for Fast Act analysis," MacDonald wrote. "California's fast food labor market is not like the rest of the U.S."

MacDonald's study suggests comparing California instead with neighboring high-wage states such as Oregon, Washington, and Colorado provides a more accurate picture. Using this approach, he found that while California has experienced declines in fast-food employment, those declines began more than six months before the Fast Act took effect.

The study also examined full-service restaurants in California as an alternative control group, noting that these establishments also pay minimum wage but weren't subject to the Fast Act increase.

"The Fast Act should have caused a divergence between employment in limited-and full-service restaurants, but this has not happened," MacDonald wrote, suggesting the law's direct employment impact was "much smaller" than claimed.

McDonald's franchise owner Kerri Harper-Howie, who operates multiple locations across Los Angeles County, tells a different story about the law's impact on her family-owned business.

"The reality is that our industry alone in the state of California was targeted with an overnight 25% increase in the minimum wage," Harper-Howie said. "It is so unheard of, unprecedented for one single industry to be targeted with an overnight wage increase."

Harper-Howie described a dramatic shift in her restaurants' profitability that coincided precisely with the wage increase.

"The vast majority, more than 75% of our restaurants were positive sales in March of 2024," she said. "April of 2024, every single one of my restaurants was at negative sales."

That negative trend continued for 12 consecutive months, only briefly interrupted by a recent Minecraft promotional campaign. Harper-Howie said the timing made it difficult to attribute the downturn to any factor other than the minimum wage increase.

While Harper-Howie avoided layoffs, she had to significantly reduce employee hours as sales declined. She also raised prices, which she believes made McDonald's less accessible to customers in her communities who were still making the standard minimum wage.

"The people who were around us working at CVS and Macy's and Dollar Tree – wherever else – they are not making a wage that was allowing them to afford to enjoy McDonald's in the frequency and the quantity that they were previously able to," she said.

With labor costs representing approximately 30-32% of her business expenses, the 25% wage increase created what Harper-Howie called "massive" financial pressure. Her organization's capital reserves, built over 40 years of family ownership, have declined by 30% in just nine months as they've struggled to cover costs.

"We have been consistently having to shuffle money between accounts," she said. "We're shuffling that just trying to pay our bills."

The conflicting narratives reflect the challenge in evaluating the law's true impact. MacDonald's study notes that even if job losses occurred, other factors might explain why they weren't more significant, including reduced employee turnover, selective layoffs of lower-productivity workers, and modest price increases passed on to consumers.

"It is important to note however that the price increases have been minor and that the gain for workers is much more significant," MacDonald wrote.

Earlier studies from Harvard's Kennedy School and UC Berkeley's Institute for Research and Labor Employment had also concluded the wage increase produced substantial benefits for workers without significant negative employment effects.

But Thornberg argued those analyses were premature and failed to account for the time needed for industries to adapt to such sharp labor cost increases. His study, based on revised employment data from California's Employment Development Department, showed fast-food employment fell 3.2% in the state while growing 0.8% nationally.

Harper-Howie emphasized that many people don't understand the franchised nature of the fast-food industry, with 95% of McDonald's restaurants being family-owned businesses rather than corporate-owned locations.

"People drive down the street and they see those arches, and they think corporate McDonald's, and they think, 'Oh, 25% increase. McDonald's corporate making billions and billions of dollars. They can afford it,'" she said. "And that's not at all the reality."

She noted that many franchise restaurants in California are owned by women and people of color, and these businesses receive no financial assistance from their corporate parents during economic downturns.

"What's happening is that generations of people, women-owned businesses, family-owned, people of color-owned businesses are being targeted for economic hardship," Harper-Howie said.

The uncertainty leaves business owners like Harper-Howie concerned about the future.

"How long we're going to be in this particular financial predicament? I don't know. It's concerning," she said, adding that California voters rejected a ballot measure last November that would have raised the minimum wage for other industries.

"I would love for the playing field to be leveled," Harper-Howie said, "but if California voters have already said no, I don't know how legislators are now going to come back and mandate increase in the minimum wage."

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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

SATURDAY | MAY 3

CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL & PARADE

Join organizes as they celebrate with the historic event. All are invited to participate. Parade begins at 10 a.m. at Lincoln Blvd. and California Ave. Festival begins at 11 a.m. on 7th between California and Broadway. Event features Aztec dancers, Folklorico, Carro, Classic cars and food. Oakwood Park, 767 California Ave, Venice.

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - SATURDAY MARKET

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Santa Monica Farmers Market - Arizona Ave and 3rd Street Arizona Ave and 3rd Street Santa Monica. Santa Monica Farmers Markets create thriving, vibrant communities that are inclusive, connected, and diverse by promoting the prosperity of California farmers and small food businesses, preservation of the agricultural arts and sustainable food systems. The Saturday Downtown Farmers Market is open from 8:00am to 1:00pm, year-round and operates rain or shine. May be closed for selected holidays. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-saturday-market/13357377/2025-05-03T08

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica. Santa Monica Public Library teams up with the Santa Monica Comics Company (formerly of Hi De Ho Comics) to offer comic book giveaways, super activities, prizes, and a mini creator con! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/free-comic-book-day/15513668/2025-05-03T11

ARTISTS & FLEAS: VENICE MARKETPLACE

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Westminster Elementary School 1010 Abbot Kinney Los Angeles. Artists & Fleas in Venice is located in the vibrant, artistic heart of Venice at the corner of Abbot Kinney and Westminster Avenue in the outdoor lot of Westminister Avenue Elementary School. Join 50+ merchants every Saturday (rain or shine!) for a fabulous lineup of art, design, food trucks and vintage. Date: Every Saturday Time: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Location: Westminster Elementary School - 1010 Abbot Kinney Check our website here for a list of vendors. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/artists-fleas-venice-marketplace/14548485/2025-05-03T11

SUNDAY | MAY 4

BEACH WALK & SKETCH

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Annenberg Community Beach House 415 Pacific Coast Hwy Santa Monica. Love the beach? Have an eye for detail? For a peaceful morning, bring your sense of wonder and take to the sands to sketch nature's offerings on our beautiful coastline. We'll provide the binoculars, drawing boards, pencils and newsprint, or bring your own easy-to-carry sketching tools. Comfortable clothing and sun protection recommended. The event wraps with a mini gallery walk where you can share your sketches with your newfound friends. Beach Walk & Sketch is a free event with Nature Nexus Institute. RSVP is requested. In-person RSVP will be available. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/beach-walk-sketch/15541567/2025-05-04T09

2025 KIDICAL MASS FAMILY BIKE RIDE

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Clover Park 2600 Ocean Park Blvd Santa Monica. Enjoy a fun-filled morning with family-friendly activities and a group bike ride for all ages. Wear GREEN for mental health awareness month! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/2025-kidical-mass-family-bike-ride/15541560/2025-05-04T09

DOCTOR DOUGH NY-STYLE PIZZA MADE IN YOUR HOME OVEN

The Gourmandise School and The Curious Palate are teaming up with Doctor Dough, who makes and sells his own New York-style pizza dough, on Sunday, May 4th from noon to 3:00pm to bring you an afternoon of pizza-making and 1/2 off pints of craft beer at The Curious Palate! Guests will make their own personal pies in the Gourmandise kitchens with fresh toppings and NY-style pizza dough from Doctor Dough. Students will receive hands-on instruction and pizza-making tips from the Doctor himself, including how to properly preheat your oven and baking steel; handling and stretching your dough; topping, launching, and slicing; along with fun tips and tricks! Tickets are $22 for this first come, first serve event. There will be additional frozen Doctor Dough balls available for purchase with take home instructions and pizza recipes. This handcrafted, frozen pizza dough gives you the ability to make NY-style pizza from your own kitchen. This local event is great for families, friends, or people looking to spend their Sunday afternoon cooking up something delicious! Conveniently located in the heart of downtown Santa Monica, steps away from ocean views and beautiful views. Doctor Dough: https://www.docdough.com/. The Gourmandise School: https://thegourmandiseschool.com/?srsltid=AfmBOooyxHCZT06N2uNab77N1yOEz4NJz6eBBXf6UQFyw6AVBXK-ix5S. The Curious Palate: https://thecuriouspalate.com/. Tickets: https://www.cookingschoolsofamerica.com/thegourmandiseschool/index.php?page=classes#11266

MONDAY | MAY 5

ARBOR VENICE MONDAY NIGHT POOL TOURNEY

5:30 p.m. 2907 Main Street CA 90405 Join us at the pool table on the Back Patio Santa Monica. Join in the fun as Arbor Venice takes over Tavern on Main. We'll be showing awesome skateboard and snowboarding footage on our screens and hosting a pool tourney with awesome prizes for the winner each week. Monday $9 Burger+Beer special is a great addition to the festivities. Come and play, hang or whatever suits your mood. All are welcome at Tavern on Main. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/arbor-venice-monday-night-pool-tourney/14639005/2025-05-05T17

TUESDAY | MAY 6

ARBOR VENICE MONDAY NIGHT POOL

4:00 p.m. - 1 0:00 p.m. Gelson's 12121 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles. Every Tuesday from 4 PM to 10 PM, Gelson's West LA Wine Bar will be hosting Taco Tuesdays, bringing together a festive blend of flavors and fun. Enjoy a variety of mouthwatering tacos, refreshing margaritas, and smooth mezcals, all served in a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere. The perfect way to spice up the week—gather friends and enjoy a night of great food, drinks, and good times. Prices vary. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/gelson-s-west-la-to-host-taco-tuesdays-with-tacos-margaritas-and-mezcals/15309564/2025-05-06T16

WEDNESDAY | MAY 7

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/12382446/2025-05-07T08

THINK PINK 2025 FOR WOMEN'S WELLNESS

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Regent Santa Monica Beach 1700 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica. The Irene Dunne Guild will hold its 19th annual Think Pink for Women's Wellness, a fundraiser for Saint John's Health Center, at newly opened Regent Santa Monica Beach on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. As our community continues to recover from the devastating Palisades and Eaton Canyon wildfires, the Irene Dunne Guild is more committed than ever to creating meaningful gatherings and bringing health education and awareness to women and their families. The Irene Dunne Guild, a support group of Saint John's Health Center Foundation, raises funds for women's health programs, nursing scholarships, medical equipment, programs for care givers and family support services. Tickets are $195.00 per person. Think Pink Chairs are Suzanne Caldwell and Sila Vokshoor. For more information, contact Saint John's Health Center Foundation at 310.829.8424. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/think-pink-2025-for-women-s-wellness/15447092/2025-05-07T08

THURSDAY | MAY 8

LUNCHTIME LINE DANCE

12:30 p.m. Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library 501 S. Venice Boulevard Venice. Get fit and meet new friends learning line dances on your lunch break. We will learn new and old dances to various styles, including country, disco, Latin, soul, and more. All levels are welcome. 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/12342961/2025-05-08T12

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE

7:30 p.m. Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center 1310 11th St Santa Monica. Photographer Babak Tafreshi has spent his career documenting the unbelievable beauty of the night sky and working to connect people through the shared experience of simply looking up. From the Milky Way to the animals that come out after dark here on Earth, experience visual stories of wildlife, humanity, and the cosmos. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/national-geographic-live/13765546/2025-05-08T19

FRIDAY | MAY 9

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/14165546/2025-05-09T19

SATURDAY | MAY 10

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

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. Start your weekend with movement, mindfulness, and ocean views as Wellness & Waves returns to the Santa Monica Pier beginning Saturday, April 5 through October 11, 2025, from 8 to 10 a.m. every week. This popular Free fitness series invites the community to embrace self-care and coastal vibes with group runs, yoga, and fusion fitness—all in the most iconic outdoor setting in Los Angeles. Held beneath the famed Santa Monica Yacht Harbor sign, Wellness & Waves kicks off with a breezy group run from 8 to 9 a.m., perfect for runners of all levels. From 9 to 10 a.m., the energy shifts to the west end of the Pier for Yoga and Yoga-Pilates Fusion classes, led by a rotating lineup of celebrated instructors from some of the Westside's top wellness studios. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/free-saturday-morning-fitness-wellness-waves-returns-for-2025-season/15484766/2025-05-10T08

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Name Change

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

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 05/1/25 2025088331 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as EmWell Spa 101 Wilshire Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90401 . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. 202123811298The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Em Style LLC 31481 La Calera St San Juan Capristrano, CA 92675 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Limited Liability Company . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2025 . Registrant / Corp/LLC Em Style LLC Title: CEO Emina Mila . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 05/01/2025NOTICE: 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).

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

ASSAULT

FROM PAGE 1

physical description or vehicle information was provided.

Campus police personnel offered support and resources to the victim, who reported no injuries. The investigation is ongoing under case number 25-82.

Santa Monica College Police Chief Johnnie Adams encourages anyone with information about the incident to contact the department at 310-434-4300.

The crime alert reminds students and staff to remain vigilant about campus safety, including being aware of surroundings, reporting suspicious activity, securing buildings and residences, avoiding poorly-lit areas at night, and utilizing safety resources like the LiveSafe app for virtual escorts.

The notification was issued in compliance with the federal Clery Act, which requires timely warnings when certain crimes are reported on or near college property.

editor@smdp.com

TRUCK

FROM PAGE 3

dealing and wasteful spending." The agency, however, has not produced evidence of those claims.

Zeldin has repeatedly referenced a video by Project Veritas, a conservative group known for recording undercover videos, which secretly filmed a man it said was an EPA employee under the Biden administration saying the agency was "throwing gold bars off the Titanic," meaning it was seeking to disburse funds after Donald Trump was elected but hadn't taken office yet.

Known as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund but also called the "green bank," the grants are awarded to nonprofits, banks and other groups. The $20 billion was awarded for a variety of projects nationwide.

Climate United representatives said Zeldin's accusations don't apply to their programs; the money was allocated before Trump was elected.

Climate United had launched other programs nationwide in addition to the California electric trucks program, according to the lawsuit. The EPA also froze its grants for $31.8 million in loans for solar power projects in rural communities in Arkansas and $63 million for solar power plant projects in partnership with tribal governments and communities. Its initial tribal and community solar projects were supposed to be located in Eastern Oregon and Idaho, according to the suit.

In addition, $30 million to help communities plan projects that "improved energy independence, cut pollution and lower costs" was frozen. Climate United had awarded $6.35 million to 22 projects in 18 states, focusing on tribal communities.

When asked about the freezing of the funds for the port trucks, the EPA press office told CalMatters in an email that it "was not a party to grant agreements with subrecipients within the Biden-Harris 'Gold Bar' scheme, so we wouldn't have that information."

The freezing of the money has meant that the electric truck program cannot move forward at the nation's busiest port complex. The investment was seen as a significant step toward electrifying California's diesel trucks, which are among the biggest sources of air pollution in the LA basin.

The grants were intended to help small operators purchase cleaner vehicles in an industry that operates on a "razor thin profit model," said Matt Schrap, chief executive of the Harbor Trucking Association.

Many small operators can't afford electric trucks. An electric big rig can cost $400,000, compared to less than half that for a new diesel truck. What's more, it's often too difficult for small operators to get them financed, as they are a relatively new technology. Because there is currently no used market for them, banks have trouble assessing their value.

Residents of port communities have long complained of health effects, including asthma and headaches, from diesel trucks, which emit large quantities of soot and other pollutants linked to respiratory illnesses.

Cleaning up diesel exhaust "is a literal case of life and death for a lot of our community members and our loved ones," Paola Vargas, a Carson resident and organizer with nonprofit East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, told CalMatters in December. "Every day matters. Every day we don't have (truck emissions) rules…is a day wasted and a day of harmful impacts for us."

California air quality regulators consider transitioning to zero-emission vehicles an important part of cleaning the state's severe air pollution and reducing the greenhouse gasses that cause climate change.

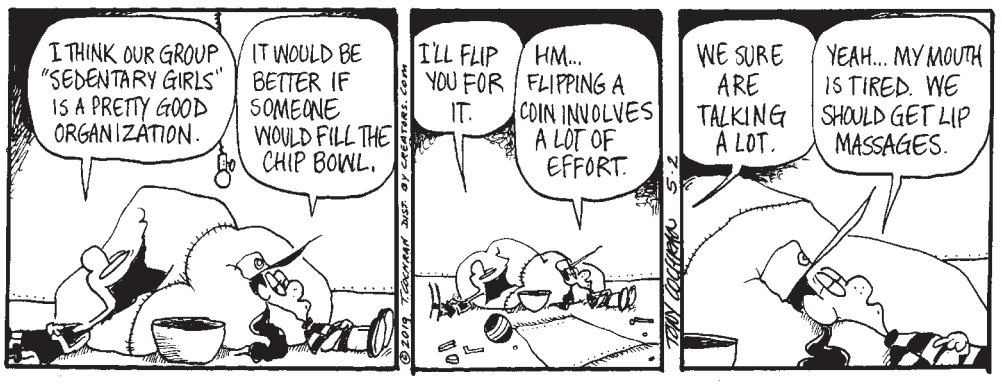
By Alejandro Lazo. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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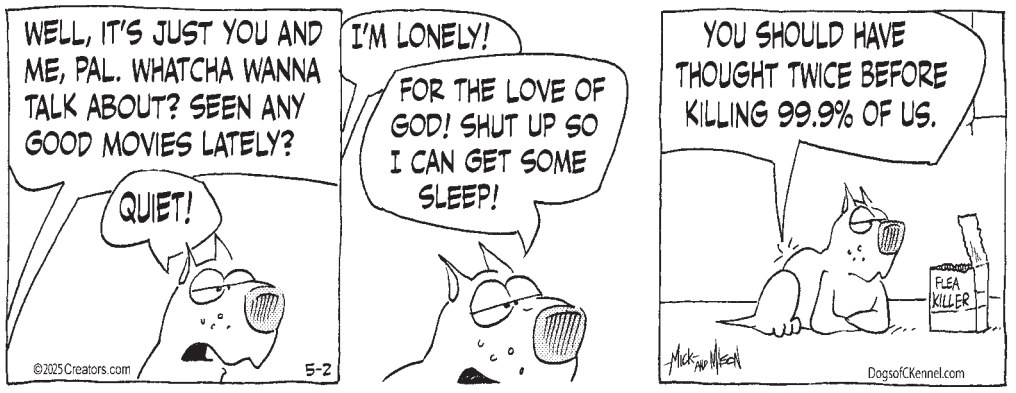
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



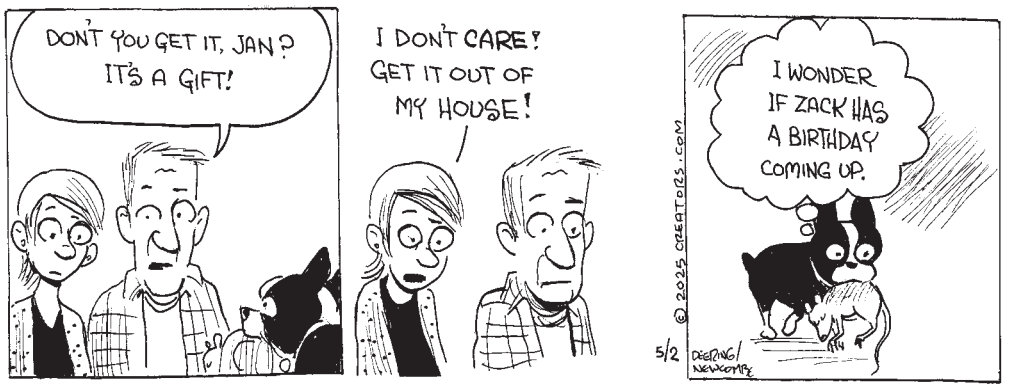
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I WANT ONE OF THOSE SLUG UNIFORMS."

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 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6563

Chess tournament

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

Absolute pin	Fischer	Pawn	Square
Adjust	Gambit	Pieces	Study
Alert	Gardez	Play	System
Bad bishop	Hauptturnier	Position	Tactics
Capped	Hole	Quiet	Take
Catch	Hush	Relax	Test
Chase	Knight	Resign	Time
Draw	Lost	Rook	Tricky
En prise	Move	Rows	White
Fast	Nerves	Safety	Zugzwang
	Pause	Slow	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Some don't have any fur

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 2)

Those challenges that conditioned your grit were all worth it. This year you'll get that prize in hand and feel profoundly grateful for the journey that landed you there. More highlights: You'll enjoy many smooth relationships, raucously fun ones and a few that are just plain magical. Domestic bliss is in store, too, contrasted by vigorous but satisfying renovation. Libra and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 2, 22, 6 and 40.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Life's unpredictability requires you to establish more flexibility in your routine. You have duties and personal endeavors to accommodate. Utilize tools like planners or digital apps to organize tasks in this period of self-discovery and growth.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Conversation is not just about sharing what you already know but also about discovering what's going on in your own mind. It's not just expression; it's exploration. Thoughts will bubble up from deeper layers of your mind.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). New communities and circles intrigue you. You won't know from the storefront what this is all about; you have to step inside and feel the energy. A dozen interactions will tell you everything you need to know.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Success is in the approach. If you overthink, you'll be paralyzed with options, and if you underthink, you could take the wrong action. You'll find yourself in the Goldilocks zone, inclined to give the perfect amount of attention to the task.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). No one knows you like the insiders, and you're the number one insider. Honor this by setting boundaries regarding the advice you receive. Communicate your preferences before you get an influx of unsolicited recommendations from the well-meaning outsiders who couldn't possibly know better than you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Self-reflection has been a valuable tool in your journey, allowing you to navigate challenges and recognize your own strengths. There's a point at which reflection just becomes a paralyzing overthinking that is not helpful. Self-awareness is crucial to keep pushing things forward.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're a fan favorite, radiating grace and selflessly caring for your friends. Your sweetness and smiles come easily because, right now, you feel lucky and trouble-free. Enjoy this moment of harmony and take in every bit of peaceful energy while you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don't forget about the SMART goals: Ensure your objectives are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound. Your action plan includes the "how" and "when" so the process will be less daunting and more structured.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's true both realistically and metaphorically: People who are carrying a lot have a really hard time opening doors. Remember, you can always either put things down for a minute or ask someone to open the door for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your needs, wants and future projections are shifting. Don't be intimidated by accounting; chances are, you're doing just fine. But you won't really know until you shore up the short-term gains against the long-term costs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The people around you will have lively opinions, many of which are worth hearing — but not all, and not all right now. Take some space for yourself to tune into your own wisdom.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A chaotic setting calls you to land your energy. You'll keep yourself settled while executing the tasks at hand, including: stepping up to serve your people, being gracious to strangers and being vulnerable enough to try something new.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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.

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

Newsday Crossword

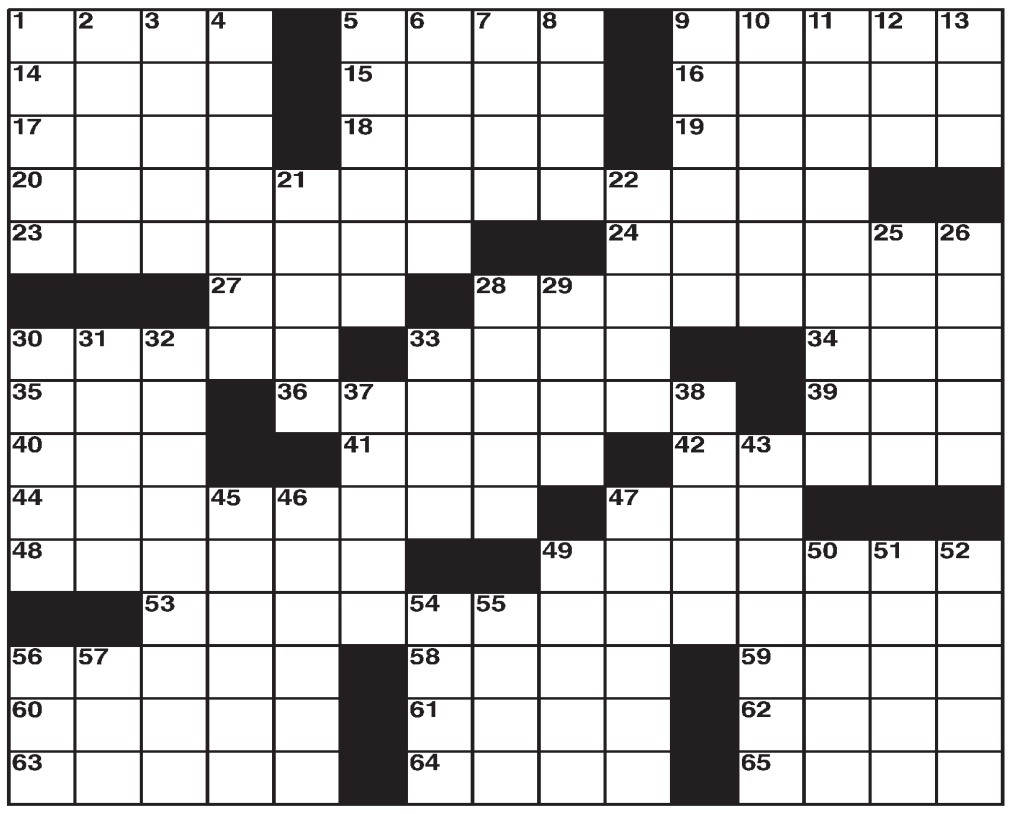
YOUR CHOICE by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Criticize strongly
5 *Aeneid* setting
9 Rt. hands
14 Wrap alternative
15 Sedan seizure
16 Change slightly
17 Short-music suffix
18 Be compliant
19 Be a nuisance to
20 Start of a quote
23 Parodies
24 How soccer games may end
27 HP products
28 Start a type of flight
30 Shade of purple
33 Stagecoach pullers
34 Zilch
35 Hue and cry
36 Middle of quote
39 A Rocky Mtn. state
40 Dallas cager
41 Apropos of
42 "Alternatively…"
44 Where South Africa's foreign embassies are
47 Bigger copy, briefly
48 Source of oil and seeds
49 *Fifty Shades of Grey* author
53 End of the quote
56 Hot and bubbling
58 Ship of myth
59 Creative formation
60 Café handout
61 Cake cross-section
62 Big name in astrophysics
63 "Sample this"
64 Decoration recipient
65 Liverpool lockup

DOWN

1 Shoots forth
2 Loose of limb
3 Possible brunch starting time
4 Proprietor pair, perhaps
5 Military might
6 Puzzle with drawings
7 Austrian-based trade group
8 Fluctuate repeatedly
9 Plato's hometown
10 Attempt to smack
11 Mood-stabilizing hormone
12 Pothole filler
13 Sun's setting
21 New Mexico state flower
22 "Cruise Capital of the World"
25 "Don't mind ___"
26 Key near D
28 Baseball great who spoke the quote
29 Trout habitat
30 Room brighteners
31 Challenge intro
32 Romance reading
33 Novelist Morrison
37 Kiln operator
38 Masked warrior
43 Starting to peel off
45 South Pacific resort isle
46 Scramble cousin
47 *Animal del zodiaco*
49 Landscaping tool
50 Mythical sorceress
51 "Farm" follower of song
52 Farmers market booth
54 Solemn statement
55 R&B singer India.___
56 Pretense
57 Shut out



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CRAYOLA

FROM PAGE 1

nonprofit's seven elementary school-based playground club sites, as well as additional programs at John Adams Middle School, Lincoln Middle School and Santa Monica High. On Thursday, staff and students at Franklin Elementary gathered for a celebration marking the kickoff of the rollout.

"We're hoping to give these all out today," said Brynja Seagren, CEO for the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Monica. "And we have a whole other load at our office that we're going to distribute to the other locations, to take home or use in programs, just to get art to kids."

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Santa Monica serve approximately 600 students each day across 11 locations, offering after-school programming focused on social-emotional learning, play and creative expression. At Franklin, around 30 to 40 children participate daily, mostly between the ages of 6 and 10.

Charity Hill, co-founder of Epic Entertainment Group, said the gift was meant to inspire joy and imagination in the wake of a difficult period for the region.

"Being a community member here in LA for almost 30 years, and just seeing what our community has gone through, we really felt like it was a poignant time to help kids dream again," Hill said. "We wanted to focus on entertainment, joy and creativity and I think it couldn't have come at a better time."

Epic Entertainment Group, which produces live shows and immersive experiences across the country, has local ties to Santa Monica through its work with Pacific Park on the Pier and employees whose children participate in Boys and Girls Club programs.

Co-founder Steve Sheldon said the initiative was also motivated by recent wildfires that affected surrounding communities.

"We watched, as the whole community did, as everyone was devastated by the fires, and just sat thinking, 'What can we do?'" Sheldon said. "This was an opportunity to hopefully deliver some hope, fun, excitement and to foster creativity."

The donated supplies include crayons, markers, sketch pads and even some spray art kits, which came with their own safety warnings. Many of the items were sent home with students, while others will be used in art programs and competitions throughout the school year.

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Chris Rivera

MASTERING THE ART: Budding young talent got a chance to shine on Wednesday.

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