

- 2 **Food Stamps**  
Millions lose access
- 3 **Tough Love**  
To close the budget gaps

- 4 **Power bills**  
Too many fees.
- 7 **New deal**  
For actors.

## Pier Burger welcomes SMPD



Fran Lyness

**SMPD:** The Santa Monica Police Department has been expanding its opportunities to meet residents at local businesses including a recent visit to the Santa Monica Pier hosted by Pier Burger.

## Malibu sends speed camera contract back, extends business permit program

**MAAZ ALIN**  
SMDP Staff Writer

Malibu City Council on Monday delayed final approval of a \$14 million contract to install speed safety cameras along the Pacific Coast Highway, directing staff to revise the agreement to address legal compliance questions, racial equity policy and battery backup during power shutoffs.

The council also unanimously advanced a one-year extension of relaxed business event and signage rules adopted after the 2025 Palisades Fire, pushing the program's sunset date to May 31, 2027.

The speed camera program, authorized under Senate Bill 1297, would install five camera systems totaling 10 cameras in both directions of the 21-mile PCH corridor in Malibu, a stretch where 81% of the city's collisions occur, according to the city's Speed Safety System Impact Report. The program targets vehicles exceeding the posted limit by more than 10 mph, with fines starting at \$50.

Interim Public Works Director Tatiana Holden told the council the system is projected to generate roughly \$4.5 million annually based on an estimated 227,176

SEE MALIBU PAGE 7

## Prosecutors say arson suspect in Los Angeles' Palisades Fire was angry 'at the world'

The man accused of sparking the deadly Palisades Fire in Los Angeles was upset that he didn't have plans for New Year's Eve and ranted about being angry at the world before the initial blaze was sparked, according to court documents filed by prosecutors.

Jonathan Rinderknecht, 29, has pleaded not guilty to starting what became one of the most destructive wildfires in California history. It began Jan. 7, 2025, in hillside neighborhoods of Pacific Palisades and Malibu and killed 12 people. Prosecutors say Rinderknecht started a fire on Jan. 1 that burned undetected deep in root systems before flaring back up a week later.

Rinderknecht's trial is set to begin June 8. His attorneys say he is being used as a scapegoat for the Los Angeles Fire Department's failure to fully extinguish the earlier blaze.

An outline of the prosecutors' strategy — with details about the defendant's alleged state of mind on the night before the first fire began — appears in an April 29 pre-trial memo filed by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Witnesses reported that Rinderknecht had been driving erratically while on Uber routes around the Palisades on New

SEE FIRE PAGE 7

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## FACT FOCUS: Why nearly 4.3 million people are no longer receiving food stamps

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins this week attributed a multimillion-person drop in the number of participants receiving food stamps through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to the tamping down of fraud and an improved economy.

But experts discount those factors, saying the primary driver of the decrease was more likely new legislation that changed how the program runs.

during the application process and people who exchanged benefits for cash or other noneligible items. Out of 42,176,946 total participants that's less than 1%.

"I don't see any evidence supporting a significant reduction in fraud as a driver of what we're seeing as far as declining SNAP participation," said Caitlin Caspi, an associate professor at the University of Connecticut who studies food insecurity.

Asked for data to support Rollins' claim about fraud's relationship to the decrease of SNAP beneficiaries, the USDA directed The Associated Press to reporting from the New York Post and the Foundation for Government Accountability on broad-based categorical eligibility. SNAP applicants in most states may be eligible for SNAP using this policy if they qualify for non-cash benefits from the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program or similar state-run efforts.

B BCE has been criticized for allowing states too much flexibility in determining who is eligible for SNAP by removing asset maximums, using a higher limit for gross income or both. The Trump administration hopes to do away with the policy, but for now it is a legal option.

Food insecurity persists despite economic gains

The U.S. economy generally performed strongly in 2025 after getting off to a bumpy start. Gross domestic product shrank for the first time in three years during the first quarter, but growth rebounded in the second half of the year. It slowed in the fourth quarter, but continued to accelerate at the start of 2026, expanding at a modest 2% pace from January through March, rebounding from a record 43-day government shutdown last year.

But while the economy is strong, food prices are rising. They were up 3.1% in 2025 and are expected to increase 2.9% in 2026. And for many of those facing ongoing financial hardship, a strong economy typically doesn't make a difference.

"We have a persistent poverty problem in this country," said Kate Bauer, an associate professor of nutritional sciences at the University of Michigan. "And we have huge economic disparities. And most people, even in good economic times, are not able to pull their families out of poverty."

Wage growth, at 3.4%, did outpace inflation, at 3.3%, in March, though it was not the first time since 2021, as Rollins claimed. And yet in 2025 higher-income Americans benefited more than lower-income households, which struggled with weaker income gains and steep prices. Plus, hiring was sluggish and the unemployment rate ticked up.

"We're not seeing a linear kind of drop-off," said Caspi. "We are not seeing, if you look at the unemployment rates, things that might be an indicator that a strong economy was driving this change. We don't see, for example, a pattern of decline in unemployment that would match the pattern of decline in SNAP participation."

“What we’ve seen in terms of the data is that the trend in participation declines seems to be related to the program being harder to access

- Roger Figueroa

Here's a closer look at the facts.

ROLLINS: "As of just a couple of days ago, we now have moved 4.3 million Americans off of the food stamp program. A lot of that is fraud. A lot of it is people taking the program that shouldn't have been. And a lot of it is just a better economy. We've had wage growth that has outpaced inflation for the first time since early 2021. This is a really big day. So people don't need food stamps."

THE FACTS: SNAP beneficiaries decreased by nearly 4.3 million from January 2025 to January 2026, according to preliminary government data released by the Agriculture Department. However, experts say new requirements mandated by a massive tax and spending cut bill Republicans pushed through Congress last summer are the primary reasons.

The bill is projected to cut \$186 billion in federal spending — 20% — from SNAP over 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

"What we've seen in terms of the data is that the trend in participation declines seems to be related to the program being harder to access," said Roger Figueroa, an assistant professor at Cornell University who studies food insecurity from a public health perspective.

### THE DATA SAYS FRAUD IS LOW

Fraud within the SNAP is small, according to experts — not nearly enough to account for such a significant drop.

In financial year 2023, the latest data that is available, 41,476 people were disqualified from SNAP for fraud. That includes people who erroneously reported information



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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Legislature's adviser tries budget tough love to get California politicians to close huge deficits

Since 1941, California's Legislature has had an independent budget adviser to monitor the ebb and flow of state finances — particularly the governor's budget — and suggest ways they could be improved.

Traditionally, the Legislative Analyst's Office ignores politics and provides its advice in neutral — even bland — language, implicitly telling politicians that they are free to either accept or reject its findings, but at least they cannot claim ignorance.

Recently, however, Legislative Analyst Gabe Petek, just the sixth person to hold the position over the last 85 years, has adopted a more emphatic tone, warning Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislators that they must close their chronic, multibillion-dollar deficits.

For the past four years — when Newsom declared that the state had a \$97.5 billion surplus that turned out to be an illusion based on an erroneous revenue projection — he and legislators have been overspending revenues, creating \$125 billion in deficits that were papered over with on- and off-the-books loans, deferrals and creative bookkeeping, such as shifting the state payroll from one fiscal year into another.

Petek's latest cautionary report, issued this week, ramps up the language even more, detailing how general fund spending has increased by over \$100 billion a year, outstripping revenues, since 2019, the year Newsom took office.

"Both our office and the administration have estimated the state faces structural deficits ranging from \$20 billion to \$30 billion annually," Petek reiterates. "While recent revenue gains — driven by a strong stock market and investor enthusiasm surrounding artificial intelligence — have buoyed the state's near-term budget picture, long-term imbalance will likely persist without significant policy changes."

That passage may be aimed at indications that politicians may rely on another expansive revenue projection, ala 2022, to postpone the day of reckoning.

Newsom has promised that his revised budget will not only close current gaps between income and outgo, but it will ensure his successor won't be stuck with a budget leaking red ink.

Newsom recently told Democratic legislators, "My obligation is to also have the back of the next governor and the next Legislature," according to Politico, adding that he would do whatever is necessary to balance the budget, including spending reductions, but remains averse to new taxes.

Petek says most of the increased spending since 2019 has been essentially automatic, driven by cost-of-living adjustments, caseloads in health and welfare services and, in education, formulas locked into the state constitution.

However, a substantial portion has been what officials call "discretionary," meaning it was not required by current law. "In retrospect, the state could not afford to sustain its existing services while funding the chosen suite of expansions and new programs under the same tax revenue structure," Petek says.

The analyst characterizes his new report as "a first step in making fiscally sound evidence-based policy decisions" and tells politicians they "will need to make difficult budgetary decisions in the years ahead. Near-term revenue gains may temporarily mask structural imbalances, but in the coming years, the fiscal realities are likely to be undeniable. Addressing the budget gaps will require sustained and consequential action — through revenue increases, spending reductions, or likely both."

### SO WHAT ABOUT A TAX INCREASE?

Some legislative leaders have suggested tax hikes, probably on corporations, to not only cover chronic deficits but offset reductions in federal support. With Newsom generally averse to that option, Petek warns "eliminating deficits through tax increases alone would require substantially more in new revenues than the deficit itself — potentially \$30 billion to \$60 billion per year," noting that education automatically claims 40 to 50 cents of every new revenue dollar.

We'll see if Petek's tough love advice finally gets Newsom and legislators to pull their heads out of the sand.

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist



## Surf report WATER TEMP: 61.4

**TUESDAY** | **SURF:** 2-4ft+  
**FAIR** | Thigh to stomach

Up a bit from Monday off a blend of swells. Wind is manageable but not great in the AM, builds PM. SSW swell continues, NW swell mix up slightly from Monday. The blend offers occasional beachbreak corners as the tide fills back in after a drained low early. The points are the best option for shape during the low tide. Variable to light onshore wind in the morning with the south facing points the cleanest option. Wind cranks up for the afternoon.

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

Blend of swells back down some from Tuesday. Lighter morning winds due. SSW swell is on the downward trend with minor NW energy in the mix. There should be a few corners but not particularly peaky so shape favors the points or spots with some structure. Drained tide early. Morning winds look to improve compared to Tuesday AM, followed by moderate onshore flow in the PM.



**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 64. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon.  
**Tuesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 54. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph  
**Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 67. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.  
**Wednesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 57.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)High/Low
2026/05/05	Tue	06:41 AM	-0.17 L
2026/05/05	Tue	1:41 PM	2.85 H
2026/05/05	Tue	4:45 PM	2.57 L
2026/05/05	Tue	11:28 PM	4.95 H
2026/05/06	Wed	07:31 AM	0.07 L
2026/05/07	Thu	12:09 AM	4.64 H
2026/05/07	Thu	08:30 AM	0.27 L
2026/05/08	Fri	01:05 AM	4.30 H
2026/05/08	Fri	09:38 AM	0.38 L
2026/05/08	Fri	5:47 PM	3.25 H
2026/05/08	Fri	8:26 PM	3.15 L
2026/05/09	Sat	02:26 AM	3.98 H
2026/05/09	Sat	10:37 AM	0.42 L
2026/05/09	Sat	6:03 PM	3.57 H

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Draw Date: 5/2 25 37 42 52 65 Power#: 14 Jackpot: 20 M	Draw Date: 5/3 5 10 14 16 22
Draw Date: 5/1 16 21 27 41 61 Mega#: 24 Jackpot: 195 M	Draw Date: 5/3 EVENING: 1 3 4 Draw Date: 5/3 MIDDAY: 0 6 4
Draw Date: 5/2 14 20 23 38 44 Mega#: 20 Jackpot: 17 M	Draw Date: 5/3 1st: 02 - Lucky Star 2nd: 10 - Solid Gold 3rd: 05 - California Classic Race Time: 1:47.75

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026085787. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: NUNEZ CONSTRUCTION, 1608 E 90TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90002, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): JESUS JAVIER NUNEZ, 1608 E 90TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90002. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/2025. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ JESUS JAVIER NUNEZ, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/20/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/28/2026, 05/05/2026, 05/12/2026, 05/19/2026

**Name Change**

**Name Change**

**Name Change**

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00166. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Santa Monica Courthouse, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Michelle Shipp for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Michelle Shipp filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Michelle Shipp to Michelle Israel Shipp. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter 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: 05/22/26, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. 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. Date: 04/07/2025. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/21/2025, 04/28/2025, 05/05/2025, 05/12/2025

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00194. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica 90401. Petition of Gabrielle Renee Benavente for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Gabrielle Renee Benavente filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Gabrielle Renee Benavente to Belle Renee Benavente. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter 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: 05/29/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. 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. Date: 04/17/2026. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/28/2026, 05/05/2026, 05/12/2026, 05/19/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00205. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Breunna Alexandria Edwards for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Breunna Alexandria Edwards filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Breunna Alexandria Edwards to Bre Holmes. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter 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: 05/22/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. 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. Date: 04/10/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/28/2026, 05/04/2026, 05/11/2026, 05/18/2026

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

## Californians' electric bills would be much lower without state's program fees

Reliable electricity is an essential part of our lives, so making it affordable should be a top priority of California's elected officials. Unfortunately lawmakers keep introducing proposals that make the affordability crisis worse.

And they refuse to consider a change that could quickly cut the average customer's annual bill by hundreds of dollars: removing mandatory extra charges that have nothing to do with the electricity they use.

A study released last summer found these fees add nearly 37% to the average Californian's electricity bill. In addition to paying for power generation and delivery to households, electricity customers foot the bill for a collection of hidden "public purpose" programs and state mandates. Customers who get their power from investor-owned utilities such as Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas & Electric and San Diego Gas & Electric pay about \$820 a year for these programs.

Examples of these extra charges include subsidies for rooftop solar, bill discounts for low-income customers, energy efficiency programs, upgrades to school air conditioning and plumbing, and forest and tree management throughout the state.

The goals of these mandates may be noble, but the method of funding them is regressive. Simply put, it is unfair and inequitable to make some electricity customers pay for programs that benefit society at large and are largely unrelated to the cost of providing electric service. In many other states, people pay for these items through their taxes, not their utility bills.

Nowhere is this inequity more glaring than in the state's rooftop solar subsidies. For years wealthier homeowners have installed rooftop solar to lower their

electric bills, while costs are quietly shifted onto everyone else.

Utilities are required to pay solar households for the excess power they send to the grid. They spread the cost of those payments across everyone else's electricity bill. Meanwhile, solar customers pay far less toward maintaining the grid that everyone relies on. The result is higher electricity bills for renters, lower-income families and others who couldn't afford solar.

According to a different study by the California Public Advocates Office — a consumer agency at the California Public Utilities Commission — customers without rooftop solar pay more than \$8.5 billion each year on their electric bills to subsidize customers with rooftop solar systems. That adds about \$440 per year, or 20%, to every non-solar customer's bill, primarily hitting low-income families, seniors and renters hardest.

For Latino, Black, and Asian American communities, this disproportionately affects renters, residents of multi-unit buildings where rooftop solar is not an option and customers who cannot afford to install solar. As a result, families who already are paying a high share of their income on housing and utilities are forced to cover someone else's solar subsidy.

California lawmakers must face these rate realities. Too many of their policies are making matters worse, jeopardizing electric system reliability and ultimately raising customer electric bills. If legislators want to get serious about affordability, they should start by cutting the costly mandates and lowering electric bills.

Pat Fong Kushida is president and CEO of the CalAsian Chamber of Commerce. Ahmad Holmes is president and CEO of the California African American Chamber of Commerce.

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# Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni have ended their 'It Ends With Us' dispute in a settlement

Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni agreed Monday to end their legal battle over the acrimonious production of their 2024 film "It Ends With Us."

The Hollywood stars settled their civil case two weeks before a trial was set to begin in New York on Lively's claims that Baldoni conspired with publicists to preemptively destroy her reputation after she privately accused him of sexually harassing her on the movie set.

"Raising awareness, and making a meaningful impact in the lives of domestic violence survivors — and all survivors — is a goal that we stand behind," Lively and Baldoni said in a joint statement issued through their lawyers.

"It is our sincere hope that this brings closure and allows all involved to move forward constructively and in peace, including a respectful environment online."

The terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

Lively, 38, sued Baldoni, 42, and his production company, Wayfarer Studios, at the end of 2024. Weeks later, Baldoni sued Lively, accusing her, her husband — "Deadpool" actor Ryan Reynolds — and their publicist of defamation and extortion.

Baldoni, who directed the dark romantic drama and starred in it with Lively, had denied harassing her or orchestrating a smear campaign. He'd claimed the complaints about his behavior were made up by Lively as part of an effort to seize creative control of the movie.

The settlement will allow both sides to avoid a trial that was poised to spotlight the ugly side of show business and, potentially, more image-damaging revelations. Jury selection was scheduled to begin May 18.

Monday's settlement came after a federal judge in Manhattan tossed some of each actors' claims.

Last June, Judge Lewis J. Liman dismissed Baldoni's defamation and extortion lawsuit. In April, he threw out Lively's sexual harassment claims, ruling that she couldn't pursue them under federal law because she was an independent contractor rather than an employee on the movie set.

In their joint statement, the parties said they recognize that Lively's concerns "deserved to be heard" and that they "remain firmly committed to workplaces free of improprieties and unproductive environments."

"It Ends With Us," an adaptation of Colleen Hoover's bestselling 2016 novel about a relationship devolving into domestic violence, was released in August 2024 and

exceeded box office expectations despite criticism that it glorified abuse. Lively and Baldoni's fractious falling out took attention away from the film, overshadowing its message and success.

"The end product — the movie 'It Ends With Us' — is a source of pride to all of us who worked to bring it to life," Lively and Baldoni said in their statement. "Raising awareness, and making a meaningful impact in the lives of domestic violence survivors — and all survivors — is a goal that we stand behind."

Lively said in her lawsuit that during filming, Baldoni made inappropriate comments about her appearance, violated physical boundaries while filming a love scene, and pushed for nudity — against Lively's wishes — during a scene in which her character was giving birth.

Baldoni denied doing anything outside the realm of the normal creative process of making a movie.

The judge, in the decision tossing out the sexual harassment claims, acknowledged the complexity of the matter, noting that creative artists "must have some amount of space to experiment within the bounds of an agreed script without fear of being held liable for sexual harassment."

The trial was to focus on Lively's claim that Baldoni and the studio retaliated against her sexual harassment complaints by hiring publicists to turn the public against her. Her lawyers said that campaign including hiring a "digital army" to post bogus negative content about Lively on social media platforms, and feeding "manufactured content to unwitting reporters."

The lawsuit said the purpose was to "retaliate against Ms. Lively by battering her image, harming her businesses, and causing her family severe emotional harm."

Baldoni's lawyers have claimed it was Lively who was strategically manipulating Baldoni's public image, partly by leveraging help from her famous friends.

Lively appeared in the 2005 film "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" and the TV series "Gossip Girl" from 2007 to 2012 before starring in films including "The Town" and "The Shallows."

Baldoni starred in the TV comedy "Jane the Virgin," directed the 2019 film "Five Feet Apart" and wrote "Man Enough," a book challenging traditional notions of masculinity.

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER  
Associated Press

Santa Monica Daily Press

# Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074

or email [legal@smdp.com](mailto:legal@smdp.com)

## Summons

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) Case No. 25STCV30883. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: RONALD S. BARAK, an individual; and DOES 1-100, inclusive. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: SPECIALIST ROOFING AND REPAIR, LLC, a California limited liability company, doing business as ROOF REPAIR SPECIALIST. NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free

legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta

su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is: Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney is: Hee J. Kim, LITIGATION, P.C., 527 W. 7th Street, Suite 935, Los Angeles, CA 90014. Tel: (424) 284-2401. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/29/2025, 01/05/2026, 01/12/2026, 01/19/2026

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm  
LOCATION 2219A Main St Santa Monica, CA 90405



City of  
**Santa Monica**

CITY OF SANTA MONICA  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Proposals for:

**The Beach and Pier Needs Assessment Project  
Project No. SP2795**

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in providing professional services for the Beach and Pier Needs Assessment.

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified consultant to provide a comprehensive analysis of community participation in current events, recreation and arts programs, formal and informal classes and camps, and informal general beach and pier recreation offered at the beach and pier and identify near-term and long-term prioritization of capital and program improvements based on community interest. The results of the needs assessment will be used to 1) inform The Beach and Pier Vision Plan guiding principles and 2) prioritize actionable goals and implementation strategies to meet community needs at the beach and pier.

RFP questions to be submitted to via OpenGov, no later than 5 p.m. on May 20, 2026.

Proposers shall upload RFP via OpenGov, no later than 3 p.m. on May 28, 2026.

RFP Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: <https://secure.procuressnow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>.

# TAXES

ALL FORMS, ALL TYPES, ALL STATES

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# Redistricting is rampant ahead of the US House midterm elections. What states are taking action?

A partisan redistricting battle among states has accelerated ahead of the November midterm elections following a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that weakened the federal Voting Rights Act and opened the way for states to try to eliminate voting districts drawn for racial minorities.

Legislative voting districts typically are redrawn based on census data after the start of each decade. But an unusual spate of mid-decade redistricting broke out after President Donald Trump urged Texas Republicans last year to reshape U.S. House districts to give the party an edge in the midterm elections. Democrats in California countered with their own political gerrymandering. More states followed.

Eight states have already adopted new House maps, and several more are considering it. So far, Republicans believe they could win up to 13 additional seats from new districts in Texas, Florida, Missouri, North Carolina and Ohio. Democrats, meanwhile, think they could gain up to 10 seats from new districts in California, Utah and Virginia.

But those tallies presume past voting patterns hold in November. Historically, the president's party tends to lose seats in the midterms. Democrats need to gain just a few seats in November to wrest control of the House from Republicans, which would give them greater power to oppose Trump.

## WHERE NEW HOUSE DISTRICTS ARE PROPOSED

Lawmakers in at least three states are meeting to consider plans for new U.S. House maps.

### LOUISIANA

**Current map: two Democrats, four Republicans**

New map: Republican Gov. Jeff Landry has postponed the May 16 congressional primary to allow lawmakers to revise U.S. House districts in response to an April 29 Supreme Court ruling striking down a majority Black congressional district.

Challenges: Several lawsuits have been filed in federal and state court asserting that Landry lacked authority to suspend the primary elections.

### ALABAMA

**Current map: two Democrats, five Republicans**

New map: Republican state officials hope to revert to a U.S. House map passed in 2023 — but not previously used — that could help Republicans win an additional seat.

Challenges: The current map was imposed under a court order and is supposed to be used until after the 2030 census. State officials have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to set aside that order in light of its ruling in the Louisiana redistricting case.

### TENNESSEE

**Current map: one Democrat, eight Republicans**

New Map: Republican Gov. Bill Lee has called lawmakers into special session to consider a new U.S. House map that could carve up a Black-majority district in Memphis and improve Republican chances of winning an additional seat.

Challenges: The candidate qualifying period already has ended for the primaries, which are scheduled for Aug. 6.

## WHERE NEW HOUSE DISTRICTS WERE APPROVED

New U.S. House districts have passed in eight states since last summer. Six took up redistricting voluntarily, one was required to by its state constitution and another did so under court order.

### TEXAS

**Current map: 13 Democrats, 25 Republicans**

New map: Republican Gov. Greg Abbott signed a revised House map into law last August that could help Republicans win five additional seats.

Challenges: The U.S. Supreme Court in December cleared the way for the new districts to be used in this year's elections. It has since overturned a lower-court ruling that blocked the new map because it was "racially gerrymandered."

### CALIFORNIA

**Current map: 43 Democrats, nine Republicans**

New map: Voters in November approved revised House districts drawn by the Democratic-led Legislature that could help Democrats win five additional seats.

Challenges: The U.S. Supreme Court in February allowed the new districts to be used in this year's elections. It denied an appeal from Republicans and the Department of Justice, which claimed the districts impermissibly favor Hispanic voters.

### MISSOURI

**Current map: two Democrats, six Republicans**

New map: Republican Gov. Mike Kehoe signed a revised House map into law last September that could help Republicans win an additional seat.

Challenges: A Cole County judge ruled the new map is in effect as election officials work to determine whether a referendum petition seeking a statewide vote complies with constitutional criteria and contains enough valid petition signatures. The Missouri Supreme Court rejected a lawsuit claiming mid-decade redistricting is illegal. It's scheduled to hear arguments in May on

SEE ELECTION PAGE 11

## HEAL THE BAY BEACH GRADES



# Actors and studios strike a tentative 4-year deal, easing fears of another Hollywood shutdown

Union board members representing television and movie actors are set this week to review a tentative contract deal with studios and streaming services.

While an agreement was announced Saturday, it still must be approved by the board of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, then ratified by a member vote. If both those things happen — as they're expected to — the industry will avoid a repeat of the 2023 actor and writer strikes that seriously shook the entertainment industry. This year's negotiations were drama-free, and more strikes never really appeared to be in the cards.

The tentative deal was announced in a joint statement from SAG-AFTRA and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents a coalition of Hollywood's major studios, streamers and production companies.

The statement said no details would be made public until the union's board has had a chance to review them.

A person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press that the agreement was for a four-year contract instead of the long-standard three. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

The union's main priorities going into talks included bolstering protections against the use of artificial intelligence creating synthetic

performers or recreating likenesses of real actors. Also on the actors' agenda was securing improved long-term payments for re-aired shows, known in the industry as residuals.

In an interview with the AP shortly before talks began, actor and SAG-AFTRA President Sean Astin said the union had to fight to protect the gains made in the strike.

"There is no going back," he said. Astin said the studios were "sending signals of wanting stability, of wanting to work as partners."

The studios also appeared cautiously optimistic that a fair deal would be reached.

It took about six weeks of talks for the two sides to reach the agreement. The negotiations began Feb. 9 but were interrupted while studios took a break from the actors' talks to negotiate with writers, who also reached a four-year agreement instead of their usual three-year deal.

The current SAG-AFTRA contract is set to expire June 30. Even in years without strikes, negotiations often come up to the brink or even go past the deadline.

With the actor talks completed, AMPTP negotiators are free to begin contract talks with the Directors Guild, the first under new president Christopher Nolan. Those are set to begin May 11.

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

## FIRE

FROM PAGE 1

Year's Eve, said prosecutors. His passengers described him as "angry, intense, driving erratically, and ranting about being 'pissed off at the world,'" the memo said.

According to court filings, Rinderknecht ranted to passengers about accused UnitedHealthcare CEO shooter Luigi Mangione, capitalism and vigilantism. In an interview with investigators on Jan. 24, when asked why someone might commit arson in the Palisades, Rinderknecht "responded that it would be out of resentment of the rich enjoying their money as 'we're basically being enslaved by them,'" and again referenced Mangione's alleged crime, the documents said.

In addition, prosecutors said Rinderknecht was distraught over a failed relationship and upset about thwarted plans for New Year's Eve.

"My client maintains his innocence as he has from the beginning and we look forward to clearing his name at trial," Rinderknecht's attorney Steve Haney said in an email Sunday. "The offered motive that my client started a

fire on NYs Eve because he did not have date speaks for itself."

Haney held a news conference in March to call for Rinderknecht's release from jail in light of evidence he said shows he is not responsible for the blaze. Haney pointed to a deposition in which a firefighter testified that he noticed the ground was still smoldering from the fire on Jan. 2 and alerted a supervisors that there were hot spots. That testimony was gathered as part of a lawsuit filed by fire victims against the city.

A battalion chief had testified that he walked the perimeter of the burn area four times throughout the day and ensured all hot spots were out.

Fire Department Chief Jaime Moore, who was appointed in October, has said he is concerned about the differences in the firefighters' testimonies and commissioned an independent report on how the Jan. 1 fire was handled.

Haney has said this evidence was not available to the defense when Rinderknecht was indicted.

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Wilmington

#### Free Screening of 'Food, Inc. 2' Set for May 6 in Santa Monica

A free screening of the documentary "Food, Inc. 2," followed by a panel discussion, will be held Wednesday, May 6, at 7 p.m. at Miles Playhouse at Christine Emerson Reed Park, 1130 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica.

The film is a follow-up to the Oscar-nominated "Food, Inc." Directors Robert Kenner and Melissa Robledo reunite with authors Michael Pollan ("The Omnivore's Dilemma") and Eric Schlosser ("Fast Food Nation") to examine corporate consolidation in the American food system and efforts to create a more sustainable future. The film features interviews with U.S. Senators Cory Booker and Jon Tester, along with farmers, food producers and workers' rights activists.

The post-screening panel will feature Jamiah Hargins, founder of CropSwapLA, and Brianna Moncada, UCLA sustainability manager for housing and hospitality. Christy Wilhelmi, founder of Gardenerd, will moderate.

Admission is free, but registration is required at <https://events.humanitix.com/foodinc2film-screening>

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

## MALIBU

FROM PAGE 1

citations and a 40% fine collection rate. Under state law, the revenue must first cover program costs, with any surplus restricted to traffic-calming measures on PCH. The contract with Tennessee-based Blue Line Solutions-CA, LLC carries a not-to-exceed cost of \$2,801,751 per year over five years of camera operation, plus a sixth year for decommissioning.

Council member Doug Stewart, who helped advocate for the enabling legislation in Sacramento, urged approval, citing the deaths of four women on PCH 18 months earlier.

"We don't have enough deputies. There is — possibly enough deputies ever to be able to patrol PCH the way the speed cameras can," Stewart said. "If we don't get one dime worth of revenue out of this, it is a success. It is a success because no one is speeding."

Mayor Pro Tem Steve Uhring, presiding in the absence of Mayor Bruce Silverstein, said the cameras would cover far more of the highway than the proposed roundabouts that have also been discussed as a safety measure.

"This thing covers the entire portion of PCH," Uhring said. "We've got some evidence that says we're going to get results in range of 75 to 95% reducing speeding."

The council declined to give final approval after Interim City Attorney Trevor Rusin acknowledged that a fee provision in the contract — a \$35,000 charge for each additional block of 5,000 quality-assured events reviewed beyond a 20,000 monthly threshold — warranted further review against California Vehicle Code Section 22435(1), which prohibits vendor compensation tied to the number of violations issued.

"The contract shall not allow for payment or compensation based on the number of notices of violations issued, or as a percentage of revenue generated from the use of the system," Rusin said, reading from the statute.

Blue Line Chief Operating Officer Doug Deihl told the council the fee structure was designed around back-office review work, not citation issuance. "It's not tied to how many — it's tied to how many Blue Line reviews and sends to the city," Deihl said. "The city is the one responsible for issuance."

Council members also pressed for a written battery-backup requirement to keep cameras operating during Public Safety Power Shutoff events. Council member Marianne Riggins said she wanted the

requirement codified in the contract itself rather than left to administrative discretion.

"I want it wherever it's enforceable," Riggins said.

Blue Line Chief Technology Officer Zach Watts told the council the company has implemented battery-swap programs in other municipalities and could deploy a backup battery solution at each Malibu site, with a relay built into the main power control mechanism to switch over automatically during AC power disruptions.

The council ultimately directed staff to bring back a revised contract incorporating the backup provision and any compliance changes for consent-calendar approval at a future meeting. The council also directed staff to review the city's Speed Safety System Use Policy for compliance with state racial equity requirements.

Earlier in the evening, the council unanimously introduced Ordinance No. 534 on first reading, extending Temporary Use Permit and Sign Permit relaxations originally adopted in July 2025 as Urgency Ordinance 526U. Assistant Community Development Director Tyler Eaton said the city has approved 34 small-event planning clearances, five mid-size permits and nine standard permits since the program launched, with no code enforcement complaints.

The amendment extends the program to May 31, 2027, increases the seasonal sales limit from 30 to 40 consecutive days to cover the holiday shopping window from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, and allows four additional setup and teardown days outside the 14-day event cap. The ordinance also permits up to six temporary signs per shopping center, or two per parcel, provided each is 16 square feet or smaller and lacks illumination or permanent footings.

Stewart praised the program's economic impact. "It's critical to the budget for the city to get these stores running," he said.

Council member Haylynn Conrad said she supported the staff recommendation. "I'm a huge advocate for business here, for small businesses, for other businesses," Conrad said.

Uhring asked staff to begin tracking which businesses use the permits to measure sales tax impact, saying the data would help the city determine whether the program is generating actual economic activity or simply foot traffic without sales.

A second reading of the ordinance is scheduled for May 11.

maaz@smdp.com

**GET IT  
DAILY...**



# Before We Close, Let's Talk Airport.

## Let's Discuss the Facts

**Tell City Council: Keep the Airport Open**

### **FACT: Billions of Dollars?**

Estimates discussed during the City's airport planning process have put a full park buildout possibly at billions of dollars *but there is still no official cost, no funding plan, and no economic impact report.*

### **FACT: There is no fully funded plan for the "Great Park."**

No dedicated funding source has been identified. Only early-stage planning funds has been allocated.

### **FACT: There is no legal requirement to close the airport.**

### **FACT: We don't have to choose.**

**WE CAN HAVE A PARK  
AND KEEP THE AIRPORT**

### **FACT: No Funding or Funding Analysis**

No full economic impact report has been completed.

### **FACT: Closing the airport is irreversible.**

Once closed, it cannot be brought back.

*Paid for by Santa Monica Airport Association*

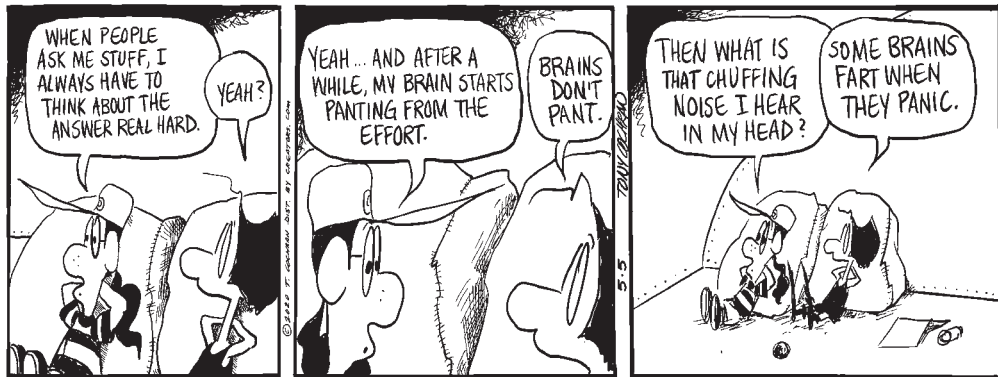
No requirement to close it.  
No clear plan to pay for it.  
No way to bring it back.

**Tell City Council on May 12:  
Save SMO**  
[www.SaveSAMO.com](http://www.SaveSAMO.com)



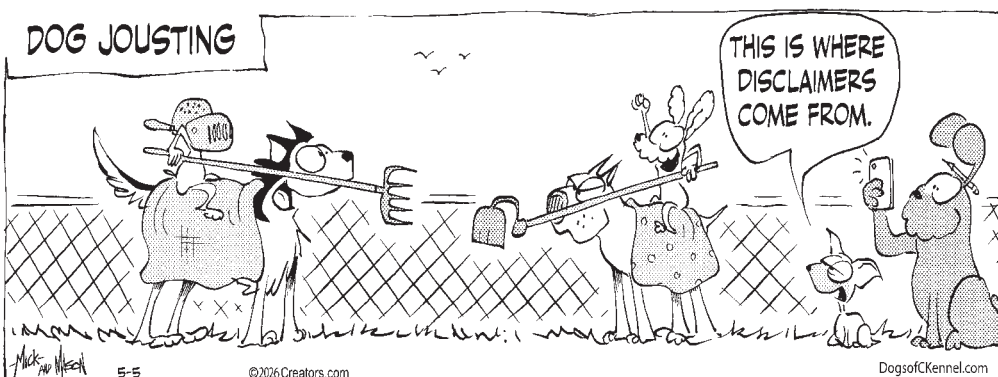
**Agnes**

By TONY COCHRAN



**Dogs of C-Kennel**

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



**Zack Hill**

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



**Heathcliff**

By PETER GALLAGHER



**Strange Brew**

By JOHN DEERING



**FIND THE WORDS**

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6931

**A summer favourite**

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

- |           |              |           |          |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Aced      | Fault        | Lose      | Spin     |
| Advantage | Fight        | Love      | Sponsor  |
| Aims      | Final        | Mixed     | Stadium  |
| Angle     | Game         | Nerves    | Stosur   |
| Cash      | Glory        | Novice    | Strength |
| Chop      | Hats         | Open      | Swat     |
| Clay      | Hoad         | Rank      | Sweat    |
| Cups      | Hurt         | Seed      | Talk     |
| Defence   | Into the net | Series    | Team     |
| Dokic     | Lawn         | Sets      | Trophy   |
| Fall      | Lines        | Sharapova | Winning  |
| Fast      | Lobs         | Slam      |          |

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**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 5)**

It's your Year of Fortune's Favor, and you've ingratiated yourself with the fates with your stellar attitude. Gratitude isn't a practice; it's just a given. You don't have to lose something to recognize the value of it. You have what you like, and you like what you have. More highlights: Love elevates experiences. Your investments pay quickly. You hire the best and reap the rewards. Family makes you proud. Aries and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 8, 32, 13 and 45.

**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You shouldn't have to perform or be exceptionally sharp at all times around people who are in your inner circle. The very nature of intimate relationships is that they give access to different versions of you - "on" and "off" alike.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Your happiness just shows up today, rides shotgun with you, and doesn't ask you to do anything to earn its company. You don't have to chase, or prove anything, or go anywhere you weren't already planning to go.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You sometimes feel like you're saying the same things, seeing certain complaints come up time and again, repeating unwanted patterns... all part of how you process a life with lots of layers. It takes stamina. You're doing a great job.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). What appears to be tension isn't always negative. Some relationships thrive on expressiveness. Some people have fun arguing. Some communicate with higher energy and call it passion. Today, it may amaze you how some people show their love.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Even in the best relationships, feathers can get ruffled. In fact, if you're always interacting in mild tones, one might wonder how much you actually care. When boundaries get crossed or feelings get hurt, compassion carries you through.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Some take your openness as a cue to tell you more than you want to know. But however awkward you may feel about the information, it gives you a fuller, more accurate view of the situation, and of the possibilities available.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In the wide frame, your life has beauty, connection, meaning, texture, humor and impact. In the close-up: irritation, loneliness and fatigue. Both can be true at the same time. You can be agitated and still say, "I have so much."

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're revisiting familiar territory. Though it's clear this is a pattern, you are not stuck in the loop. You're circling something important, and each pass gives you more answers, tools and workarounds.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A presentation is coming together. Clear your schedule to put more work into this. It matters. When you can express the ideas in a captivating way, you'll be promoted, paid and trusted with more responsibility.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You take things on, but those responsibilities cannot begin to define you. You have many roles in life. None of them are the entirety of who you are. Nor could you be understood through the lens of your duties.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Though you cannot always be precisely who you intend to be in every moment, that makes you preferable to a robot. It's exciting, these fallible forms. They offer the opportunity to practice skills integral to happiness, like self-compassion.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Inspiration does not always strike naturally like lightning. It often strikes manually, like a match. You'll put in deliberate effort and the ideas start to spark. What's useful or exciting will catch on, spreading quickly to those who need it.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

**Newsday Crossword**

**RAINY DAY GAMES** by Billie Truitt  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Cpls.' superiors
- 5 Extremely bad
- 10 Sandwich shop
- 14 Take a glance (at)
- 15 Not tight enough
- 16 Midterm or final test
- 17 Ready, willing, and —

- 18 Second-quality, as clothes: Abbr.
- 19 Each, informally
- 20 Table game with cue sticks

- 22 Dental string
- 23 Online crafts shop
- 24 \_\_\_-med student
- 25 Blog messages
- 28 Weekly earnings
- 33 "Air" prefix for sphere
- 34 Pain reliever brand
- 36 Hunters' org.
- 37 Game with a star-shaped board
- 40 Snakelike fish
- 41 Grips another's hand
- 42 Part of the eye with color
- 43 Chests of drawers
- 45 Fidgety
- 46 Skillet or wok
- 47 Perform in a choir
- 49 Stream from an aerosol
- 52 Paper/pencil X's-and-O's game
- 57 Barber shop sweepings
- 58 Father, in Spanish

- 59 Wander around
- 60 Lubricates
- 61 Coffee lightener
- 62 Prefix meaning "against"
- 63 Fir or maple
- 64 Sends junk email to
- 65 Highest-rated

**DOWN**

- 1 Big slice of meat loaf
- 2 Mongolian desert
- 3 Bridge-crossing fee
- 4 Anatomy class model
- 5 Assumed name
- 6 Fret (about)
- 7 Harrison of *Star Wars*
- 8 Puts into service
- 9 Turkey drumstick

- 10 Casino worker with cards
- 11 Trade show, for short
- 12 Vietnam neighbor
- 13 Little rascals
- 21 Part of TGIF
- 22 Former French money
- 24 Layers of tissues
- 25 Walked back and forth
- 26 Turn the \_\_\_ cheek
- 27 Say "Cheese" for a photo
- 28 Bags for potatoes
- 29 Have sore muscles
- 30 Motionless
- 31 "To \_\_\_ human..."
- 32 Smart-alecky

- 34 Very pale
- 35 Get closer to
- 38 Opinion piece
- 39 Alaskan shellfish
- 44 Thinly distributed
- 45 Get \_\_\_ for effort
- 47 "Get lost!"
- 48 10 \_\_\_ OR LESS (supermarket sign)
- 49 Photographed
- 50 Twosome
- 51 Make angry
- 52 Waterproof cover
- 53 Creative thought
- 54 Voicemail signal
- 55 Grains in granola
- 56 Give off, as light
- 58 Some laptops

**Sudoku**

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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.

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

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

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

## FOOD STAMPS

FROM PAGE 2

### CHANGES TO SNAP

Experts say some of the biggest drivers in the drop of SNAP participants were changes made in the 940-page “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” also known as H.R. 1. For example, it mandated that certain adults who were previously exempt from work requirements are now subject to them.

There are two types of work requirements for eligibility. General rules apply to most people age 16-59, but able-bodied adults without dependents must follow stricter guidelines — made even stricter by H.R. 1 — unless they qualify for an exemption. Participants can meet the more stringent requirements by working or participating in a work program for at least 80 hours a month. They do not need to be paid.

Previously, able-bodied adults older than 54 without dependents were exempt from the enhanced requirements. That age has been raised to 64. And the bill lowered the age of children whom a person is responsible for to qualify for an exemption from 18 to 14. Homeless people, veterans and former foster children 24 or younger are no longer exempt either.

“Families have lots of really complicated situations and you can’t just say to people, in 10 days or in one month, go find 80 hours

a month of work when you don’t have the skills and those jobs aren’t available in your community,” said Bauer.

SNAP eligibility applies only to U.S. citizens and some lawful immigrants, although groups such as refugees and asylees no longer qualify because of H.R. 1.

### BY THE NUMBERS

In January 2025, when Trump was sworn in as president for his second term, there were approximately 42.83 million SNAP participants. That number dropped nearly 10% by January 2026, to about 38.55 million. The majority of the decline occurred in the second half of the year, after Trump signed H.R. 1 in July. There was a decrease of just 743,572 people from January 2025 to June 2025 and one of about 3.47 million from July 2025 to January 2026.

The Congressional Budget Office predicted that the bill would cause such a sharp drop, estimating in an August 2025 report that certain provisions would “reduce participation in SNAP by roughly 2.4 million people in an average month over the 2025-2034 period.”

“It shouldn’t be surprising that we are seeing this decline and it shouldn’t be a leap in logic to think that these declines are attributable to H.R. 1,” said Caspi.

By MELISSA GOLDIN Associated Press

## ELECTION

FROM PAGE 6

claims the new districts violate compactness requirements and should be placed on hold pending the potential referendum.

### NORTH CAROLINA

**Current map: four Democrats, 10 Republicans**

New map: The Republican-led General Assembly gave final approval in October to revised districts that could help Republicans win an additional seat.

Challenges: A federal court panel in November denied a request to block the revised districts from being used in the midterm elections.

### OHIO

**Current map: five Democrats, 10 Republicans**

New map: A bipartisan panel composed primarily of Republicans voted in October to approve revised House districts that improve Republicans’ chances of winning two additional seats.

Challenges: None. The state constitution required new districts before the 2026 election, because Republicans had approved the prior map without sufficient Democratic support after the last census.

### UTAH

**Current map: no Democrats, four Republicans**

New map: A judge in November imposed revised House districts that could help Democrats win a seat. The court ruled

that lawmakers had circumvented anti-gerrymandering standards passed by voters when adopting the prior map.

Challenges: A federal court panel and the state Supreme Court, in February, each rejected Republican challenges to the judicial map selection.

### VIRGINIA

**Current map: six Democrats, five Republicans**

New map: Voters approved a constitutional amendment on April 21 authorizing new U.S. House districts backed by Democrats that could help the party win up to four additional seats.

Challenges: The state Supreme Court allowed the referendum to proceed, but it has yet to rule whether the effort is legal. The court is considering an appeal of a Tazewell County judge’s ruling that the amendment is invalid because lawmakers violated procedural requirements.

### FLORIDA

**Current map: eight Democrats, 20 Republicans**

New map: Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis announced on May 4 that he had signed revised U.S. House districts that improve the GOP’s chances of winning four additional seats.

Challenges: A court challenge contends the new map violates a state constitution provision prohibiting districts from being drawn with intent to favor or disfavor a political party.

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press



## TUESDAY | MAY 5

### LADIES GOLF CLINIC

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Four Wood Golf Club 828 Pico Blvd, Suite 5 Santa Monica. Join us every Tuesday from 9:30-11:00 AM for a relaxed, social golf experience designed for women of all skill levels. Whether you’re picking up a club for the first time or looking to build confidence in your game, Matchas & Mulligans is all about learning, connecting, and having fun in a welcoming, pressure-free environment. Led by our in-house golf pros, you’ll learn new skills each session. Blend light instruction with a social atmosphere — the ladies’ clinic is perfect for improving your skills while meeting like-minded golfers. \$60.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/ladies-golf-clinic/18482158/2026-05-05T09>

### MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room at Virginia Avenue Park. Each week there will be something new: Exercise, Talking with Friends, Learning, Guest Presenters, Health & Wellness! For more information call (310) 458-8688. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2026-05-05T10>

### 8PM FREE “ROXY’S GOT BALLS” BINGO TUESDAYS @ TINY’S HI-DIVE IN LOS ANGELES!

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Tiny’s Hi-Dive 12012 West Pico Boulevard Los Angeles. 8pm TUESDAYS “Roxy’s Got Balls!” Drag Queen BINGO is LIVE & FREE at Tiny’s Hi-Dive in Los Angeles w/ Roxy Wood! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/8pm-free-roxy-s-got-balls-bingo-tuesdays-tiny-s-hi-dive-in-los-angeles-/14857154/2026-05-05T20>

### ISABEL KLEE WITH KRISTIN DAVIS

8:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. JAMS Performing Arts Center (John Adams Middle School) 1650 Pearl St Santa Monica. Isabel Klee with Kristin Davis discussing her book, “discussing her book, Dogs, Boys, and Other Things I’ve Cried About.” \$28.53. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/isabel-klee-with-kristin-davis/18406894/2026-05-05T20>

## WEDNESDAY | MAY 6

### BEACH WALK MEDITATION

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Santa Monica Lifeguard Tower 2200 Ocean Front Walk Los Angeles. Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, or lying down. Developing mindfulness doesn’t have to happen in a quiet room without any distracting sights or sounds. In fact we can develop our mindfulness while out in nature; feeling the warmth of the sun on our backs and the cool ocean splashing around our feet. We’ll meet Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 am at SM Lifeguard Tower 22 -see a red, yellow, blue, orange, white FLAG. After some basic instructions we’ll walk silently together along the shoreline at a natural pace from the tower towards the Pier and back. The total time walking will be approximately 40 minute. If you prefer SITTING MEDITATION please feel free to join at 10 am. Free— Donations are accepted. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/beach-walk-meditation/16206460/2026-05-06T08>

### DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - WEDNESDAY MARKET

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica Arizona

Avenue (Between 4th & Ocean) Santa Monica. One of the largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica’s farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/18330379/2026-05-06T08>

### VISION BOARD WORKSHOP

6:00 p.m. - 2:30 a.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Create a meaningful vision board to reflect what matters most and inspire clarity, purpose, and connection in your life. In case this event has been updated, please visit <https://www.pcrscm.org/event/vision-board-workshop> for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/vision-board-workshop/18566768/2026-05-06T18>

### OCEAN PARK BOOK GROUP

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. / Ocean Park Branch, 2601 Main St. This new community-led, monthly book discussion group meets in person at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. The group discusses popular fiction titles.

### JAZZ A GO GO AT LOULOU SANTA MONICA

7:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica Place Santa Monica. JAZZ A GO GO at LouLou Santa Monica- Every Wednesday · From 7 PM till late - Live Jazz that turns into a Vibe.Music you Feel. People you Meet. Amazing Food. Nights that Flow. JAZZ A GO GO (@jazzagotonight) by Loulou Santa Monica, Gilles Signature & Gilles Los Angeles - curated by the creator of @jazzeclectica Every Wednesday · From 7 PM till late 🎷 Watch the LouLou experience: <https://bit.ly/loulou-jazz-a-gogo>. Book Now: [bit.ly/booking-loulou](https://bit.ly/booking-loulou) LouLou Santa Monica JAZZ A GO GO Every Wednesday From 7 PM till late 395 Santa Monica Pl #300, Santa Monica, CA 90401(323) 410-2337info@loulousantamonica.comloulousantamonica.com Reserve your table now: [bit.ly/booking-loulou](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/jazz-a-go-go-at-loulou-santa-monica/18476815/2026-05-06T19). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/jazz-a-go-go-at-loulou-santa-monica/18476815/2026-05-06T19>

### FOOD INC. 2 FILM SCREENING & PANEL DISCUSSION

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Miles Playhouse at Christine Emerson Reed Park 1130 Lincoln Blvd Santa Monica. Food Inc. 2 Film Screening & Panel Discussion presented by the City of Santa Monica and Sustainable Works The Film Food, Inc. 2 is a timely and urgent follow-up to the Oscar®-nominated documentary from directors Robert Kenner and Melissa Robledo. In the sequel, Kenner and Robledo reunite with investigative authors Michael Pollan (The Omnivore’s Dilemma) and Eric Schlosser (Fast Food Nation) to take a fresh look at our vulnerable food system. Food, Inc. 2 comes “back for seconds” to reveal how corporate consolidation has gone unchecked by our government, leaving us with a highly efficient yet shockingly vulnerable food system dedicated only towards increasing profits. Seeking solutions, the film introduces innovative farmers, food producers, workers’ rights activists, and prominent legislators such as U.S. Senators Cory Booker and Jon Tester, who are facing these companies head-on and fighting to create a more sustainable future. The Panel Jamiah Hargins, CropSwapLA founder Moderator: Christy Wilhelm, Founder of Gardenerd Additional panelist coming soon! The event is FREE to ALL but you must register. Space is limited. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/food-inc-2-film-screening-panel-discussion/18642230/2026-05-06T19>

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