2 **Dems back bills**
Protecting the environment.

3 **Film Industry**
Jobs should be local.

4 **Trump Budget**
Impacting homelessness.

5 **Affordability delay**
Leaders moving slowly.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Toilet blockage flushes $10K in a month from beach bathroom



Matthew Hall

BATHROOM: The bathrooms near Tower 26 are frequently damaged.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The City of Santa Monica is spending thousands of dollars to repeatedly unclog a beach-front toilet that residents say is being consistently vandalized.

The bathrooms near Tower 26 should be in frequent use by the hundreds of students who frequent that stretch of beach for local swim clubs and surf teams. However, when residents noticed the bathroom was repeatedly out of service for days at a time, they

SEE **BATHROOM** PAGE 11

Suspect arrested after stealing $56,000 in jewelry during home invasion

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Police have arrested a suspect in connection with a home invasion robbery in Santa Monica where approximately $56,000 in jewelry was stolen.

Craig Anthony Richey, 58, was apprehended in Los Angeles on April 23 following a robbery that occurred at approximately 8:40 p.m. in the 2000 block of La Mesa Drive, according to Santa Monica Police Department officials.

The victim reported that an unknown male entered the residence, displayed a firearm, and stole the jewelry. Detectives were able to track the stolen items, which led to Richey's arrest later that evening. He was booked for first-degree robbery under California Penal Code 211.

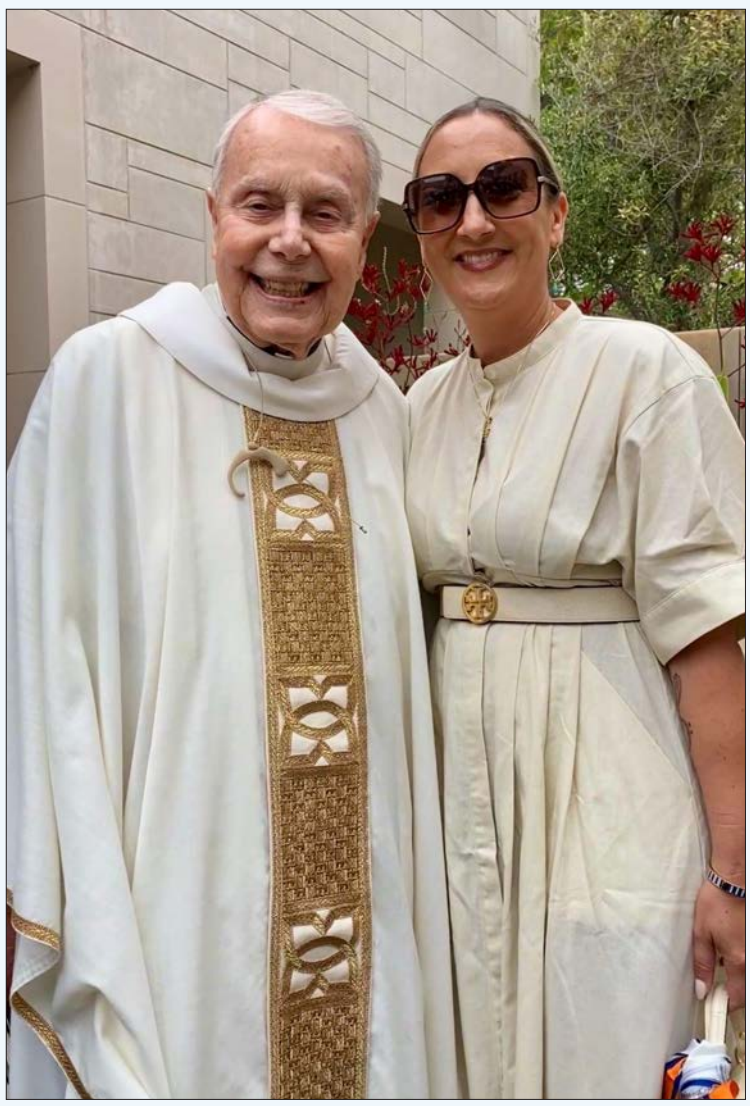
Police said the investigation is ongoing as detectives continue to review evidence and determine if additional individuals or incidents may be connected.

In a separate case, authorities credited a vigilant neighbor for the arrest of two suspects involved in a residential burglary attempt on Urban Street. The witness observed a suspicious person jumping a fence with bolt cutters, which provided crucial information for responding officers.

Upon arrival, officers apprehended one suspect

SEE **CRIME** PAGE 8

Monsignor celebrates three decades in Santa Monica



Fran Lyness

CHURCH: Monsignor Lloyd Torgerson Pastor celebrated 60 years of priesthood over the weekend with half of that spent at Monica's Church. Torgerson is a Los Angeles native ordained in 1965. After serving at Holy Trinity in San Pedro and earning a Masters from Fordham, he directed Youth Ministry for 11 years and Religious Education for the LA Archdiocese until 1987. Has been at St. Monica for 30 years, serving as pastor for 25 years. Currently he serves on the Santa Monica Boys' and Girls' Club board and as Vicar for Ministerial Formation. He enjoys early morning bike rides and golf. Pictured above is the Monsignor and Santa Monica Mayor Lana Negrete.



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Santa Monica Democrats back bills to strengthen environmental and coastal protections

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Democratic Club voted recently to endorse a package of state bills aimed at expanding environmental protections, safeguarding vulnerable populations and preserving California's coastline.

During a wide-ranging meeting that also tackled housing and parkland development issues, the club's legislative committee brought four pieces of legislation forward for a consent calendar vote. Members approved the recommendations overwhelmingly after a short discussion.

> Our legislative committee has worked hard to vet these bills, and they all align with the values we stand for
> - Isabel Storey

"Our legislative committee has worked hard to vet these bills, and they all align with the values we stand for," said Isabel Storey, who presented the measures to the membership. "This is about protecting our community and the environment at a critical time."

One bill, AB 648, authored by Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur, would allow community colleges to build student and faculty housing. Currently, only California State University and University of California campuses can develop on-campus housing. Santa Monica College, where a significant portion of students struggle with housing insecurity, helped sponsor the bill. Club members emphasized the direct local impact the legislation could have.

"This bill is desperately needed," said Isabel Storey. "We know students are sleeping in their cars, and this would allow colleges like SMC to finally plan housing options."

Another measure, SB 7, addresses what some are calling a growing labor rights crisis linked to artificial intelligence. Known as the "No Robo Bosses" bill, the proposal would require that human beings be involved in decisions to hire, discipline or fire workers, rather than allowing AI systems to manage these actions independently.

"People are being monitored and fired without ever interacting with a real person," said Storey. "This bill would restore basic human dignity to the workplace."

The club also voted to oppose AB 942, which would slash energy credits for rooftop solar customers and impose a new "solar tax." Environmental advocates warned that if the bill passes, it would break longstanding agreements made with homeowners who invested in solar panels based on a promised 20-year payback period.

"This would be a huge step backward for clean energy," said Storey. "More than two million California households trusted that investment, and now the legislature could pull the rug out from under them."

The fourth measure, AB 246, seeks to protect recipients of Social Security from eviction if their benefits are interrupted due to administrative failures or cyberattacks. While originally written on a different topic, the bill was amended to focus on eviction protections following rising concern about disruptions to federal payment systems.

"This bill recognizes that vulnerable people should not lose their homes because of government dysfunction," Storey said.

Each bill was presented to the membership as part of a consent calendar, but members were given the option to pull any measure for a separate discussion. Only minor clarifications were requested before the full package was adopted with near-unanimous support. A handful of members abstained, and one member voted no.

The endorsement comes as California faces renewed challenges on multiple fronts. The state continues to deal with the aftermath of record-setting wildfires, rising homelessness and tensions over its ambitious clean energy goals. At the local level, Santa Monica has been grappling with the twin pressures of housing affordability and environmental sustainability, themes that ran through the entire evening's agenda.

Club President John Katz said the strong vote reflected the club's enduring priorities.

"It is not enough to care about these issues abstractly," Katz said. "We have to show up, advocate and push our representatives to make the right decisions."

Storey added that the legislative committee would now work with allied organizations to lobby on behalf of the endorsed bills.

"Our work is just beginning," she said. "But every action we take here locally has ripple effects across the state and the country."

The club also launched a new ad hoc committee on the future of Santa Monica Airport during the meeting, a project that will involve months of study on how to transform the site into public space after aviation activities cease in 2029. Environmental sustainability is expected to be a major part of that conversation as well.

As the meeting wound down, members were reminded that action, not just discussion, was the goal.

"We do not just talk about progress," Katz said, adding, "We build it."

scott.snowden@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No one should have to leave California for a career in the entertainment industry

Once upon a time, Hollywood wasn't just a neighborhood. It was the beating heart of film and television production in North America. But over the last two decades, the bright lights of Los Angeles have dimmed.

It's not for lack of talent or vision, but because other cities and countries seized an opportunity and offered better tax incentives to lure the industry away.

This exodus has hit California hard. Over the past few decades, Southern California lost thousands of production jobs. These are middle-class workers: set builders, costume designers, grips, gaffers, editors, caterers, drivers, camera operators and more. These are Californians who pay state income taxes, send their kids to local schools and spend their money at local businesses.

They represent the backbone of this industry and we let them slip away. California can't risk losing what we've worked for a century to build.

Much has been said about Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposal to increase the California Film & Television Tax Credit Program to $750 million annually — and it is absolutely necessary. But we also need the changes that have been proposed in Assembly Bill 1138 and Senate Bill 630. Namely increasing the credit to 35% of expenses to more competitively align with other states.

Additionally, qualifying half-hour comedies is an important addition. Comedies that were once primarily sitcoms shot on Hollywood sound stages are now more likely to be shot single-camera style, similar to movies and dramas. They can be set up to shoot in locations with favorable tax credits.

Case in point: when I was still at Sony Pictures TV, we shot "Cobra Kai" in suburban Atlanta — due in large part to Georgia's production incentives qualifying half-hour comedies. Ironically, the reboot TV series was inspired by the 1984 feature film "The Karate Kid," which was creatively set in the San Fernando Valley.

California must go further. Although the issue of including above-the-line cost is somewhat controversial, some version is necessary to compete with states that offer it. A potential solution is to qualify only the scale portion of fees paid to above-the-line talent. This would solve the concern that a few highly paid performers would allow a production to get an outsized amount from the tax credit fund.

It also aligns much more closely with the primary intent of the fund: to qualify basic, scale-wage workers.

Every show that shoots in California supports hundreds of jobs. It pumps money into local economies from lumber yards to restaurants, from car rentals to dry cleaners. This is why other places created tax credit programs of their own. They recognize that production spending is good economic development policy, generating a return on investment many times the amount of the credit. In Los Angeles, every dollar of film and television tax credit allocated generates $1.07 in state and local tax revenue and raises local wages by $8.60.

Our crews have weathered a lot in recent years: a pandemic, two major strikes, a steep industry contraction and now the recent L.A. fires. They are eager for consistent, sustainable work.

My wife and I moved to California in 1979 to work in this business. We built a life, a family and a future here. I want that opportunity to remain for the next generation of Californians. No one should have to leave California in pursuit of the Hollywood dream.

Ed Lammi is a former executive vice president of production for Sony Pictures Television. He retired in 2023 after 36 years at Sony. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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Surf report

WATER TEMP: **61.0**

TUESDAY *FAIR*
SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach

Blend of SSW swell and leftover NW swell mix. Should still be semi-peaky with a clean AM. SSW swell mix (210-190) with overlapping pulses continue through the work week. Look for a long run of lully waist-chest high surf at the better breaks of LA. Standouts in OC will likely hit head high or a little larger. Limited potential for NW swell but there is a chance for overlapping shorter to mid period swells through the week to be longboardable. Early morning winds looking favorable. Low-end moderate southerly sea breeze possible by mid-day.

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

Overlapping, long period SSW swells are primary. Maybe just enough NW to help the beachbreaks. It'll be all about the SSW swells — the early week pulse lingers and a new, longer period and stronger SSW swell will build in through the day. Should be a fun day for the summer points and exposures west of Dume. NW swell mix trends down through the day, potentially packing just enough energy to keep the beachbreaks in ok shape early. Offshore morning wind for a cleaner start, onshore WSW wind building for the afternoon looks manageable.

Weather

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 64. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest in the afternoon.
Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable in the evening.
Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 66. Light and variable wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 57.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/05/06	Tue	12:32 AM	1.97	L
2025/05/06	Tue	05:57 AM	3.98	H
2025/05/06	Tue	12:35 PM	0.30	L
2025/05/06	Tue	7:16 PM	4.52	H
2025/05/07	Wed	01:22 AM	1.39	L
2025/05/07	Wed	06:59 AM	3.90	H
2025/05/07	Wed	1:10 PM	0.58	L
2025/05/07	Wed	7:41 PM	4.81	H
2025/05/08	Thu	02:02 AM	0.86	L
2025/05/08	Thu	07:50 AM	3.83	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

Powerball — Draw Date: 5/3 — 10 21 23 35 65 — Power#: 24 — Jackpot: 54 M

Mega Millions — Draw Date: 5/2 — 14 37 40 41 68 — Mega#: 2 — Jackpot: 90 M

SuperLotto Plus — Draw Date: 5/3 — 3 19 30 39 46 — Mega#: 22 — Jackpot: 24 M

Fantasy 5 — Draw Date: 5/4 — 6 9 32 33 34

Daily 3 — Draw Date: 5/4 — EVENING: 6 4 5 — Draw Date: 5/4 — MIDDAY: 0 3 7

Daily Derby — Draw Date: 5/4 — 1st: 10 - Solid Gold — 2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms — 3rd: 03 - Hot Shot — Race Time: 1:45.18

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

- **RFP # 436 BUS STOP REAL-TIME SIGNS**
- **Submission Deadline Is June 17, 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

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

BID #4504 PARKING STRUCTURE 4&5 STAIR RESURFACING.
Submission Deadline is May 28, at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

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

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

Pier Bridge Replacement Project
A Caltrans (Federally) Funded Project
Federal Aid Project No. BHLO-5107(033)
SP2060

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

MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING (VIRTUAL):
May 12, 2025
10:30 a.m. to noon
Instructions to access the virtual meeting will be provided via addendum posted to OpenGov

OPTIONAL PRE-BID JOB WALKS:
May 19, 2025 and May 21, 2025
10:30 a.m. to noon
Pier Carousel Building
200 Santa Monica Pier
Santa Monica, CA 90401

PROJECT ESTIMATE:.....$23.7 Million
CONTRACT DAYS:.....464 Working Days (650 Calendar Days)
.....includes 20 Working Days Inclement Weather Allowance
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES:.....$13,200 Per Calendar Day
CONTRACT DBE GOAL.....22%

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

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

'Millions out on the street virtually overnight': How Trump's budget proposal could affect California



Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local
BUDGET: A homeless encampment located on a dirt lot in West Fresno on Jan. 30, 2025.

On Friday President Trump released a budget blueprint for the next fiscal year that would take a chainsaw to social, environmental and education programs. Some of the sharpest cuts are directed at housing programs that are meant to serve the poor, housing insecure and unhoused.

In California, millions are served by these funds and state and local governments depend on them to operate affordable housing, rental assistance, homeless service, planning and legal programs.

In a letter to the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, the president's budget director, Russel Vought, laid out $163 billion in annual spending cuts coupled with "unprecedented increases" in military and border security spending. The cuts, Vought wrote, are directed at areas of spending that the administration found to be "contrary to the needs of ordinary working Americans and tilted toward funding niche non-governmental organizations and institutions of higher education committed to radical gender and climate ideologies antithetical to the American way of life."

That includes $33.5 billion in proposed cuts to the Housing and Urban Development department, a 44% reduction from current levels.

Presidential budget requests rarely reflect what Congress ultimately passes into law but are instead often viewed as something between an opening negotiating bid and a political vision board.

Even so, the budget document makes for quite a vision — one that, if realized, would upend decades of federal housing policy and affect millions of lives.

The sheer breadth of the cuts provides an odd kind of solace to some affordable housing advocates.

> By following through on such a huge level with so many proposals that are going to gut assistance to low-income people across the country, including his own party's states, he's putting his own members of Congress in a very difficult place
>
> - Matt Schwartz

"By following through on such a huge level with so many proposals that are going to gut assistance to low-income people across the country, including his own party's states, he's putting his own members of Congress in a very

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 7

When will Democratic lawmakers make California more affordable? Later, leaders say



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

LAWMAKERS: Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas during session at the state Capitol in Sacramento on April 29, 2024.

In December, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas assigned his members an "urgent" task: Make California cheaper to live in.

"Californians are deeply anxious. They are anxious about our state's cost of living," he told his colleagues in the wake of an election where concerns about the economy were top of mind for voters. "We must chart a new path forward and renew the California dream by focusing on affordability."

Five months later, the state Legislature has little to show for it.

Just last week, Rivas announced four new "select committees" tasked with pitching ideas to lower the cost of housing, fuel, child care and food, but they won't meet until June, and Rivas did not specify when he expects legislation from the committees. Some of the lawmakers assigned to chair them say they want to develop "practical" solutions but did not articulate what those would be.

Rivas, a Salinas Democrat, has also backed a slate of measures, most of which aim to ease restrictions on housing construction, but few have reached the Assembly floor for a vote.

Similarly, Senate Democrats unveiled just three legislative proposals as their "opening salvo" to affordability last week, focusing on reducing energy costs, increasing housing supplies and boosting job training.

While the Legislature is just starting to zoom in on affordability, prices are rising rapidly as a result of President Donald Trump's sweeping tariff policies and groceries could get more expensive.

Economic justice advocates argue that Californians need immediate relief. Anya Svanoe, communications director for the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, said renters are still feeling the pinch.

"Putting together a committee that comes together months from now that won't even do anything until the following year does not seem to me that (lawmakers) are treating it with real urgency," she said.

Democratic leaders told CalMatters good policies take time to develop. They noted that lawmakers had to shift their focus earlier this year to Los Angeles wildfire victims and counter Trump's policies, and it took time to onboard freshman lawmakers.

"I have never been one to simply do something to get clicks or make headlines. I want substance and impact," Senate Pro Tem Mike McGuire said in an interview. "My philosophy is: Do it right, not fast."

Rivas spokesperson Nick Miller also said the select committees — essentially working groups established to tackle niche policies — will allow lawmakers to gather more public input and drill down on specific issues during the summer recess without feeling swamped by the regular legislative schedule.

SEE **AFFORDABILITY** PAGE 6

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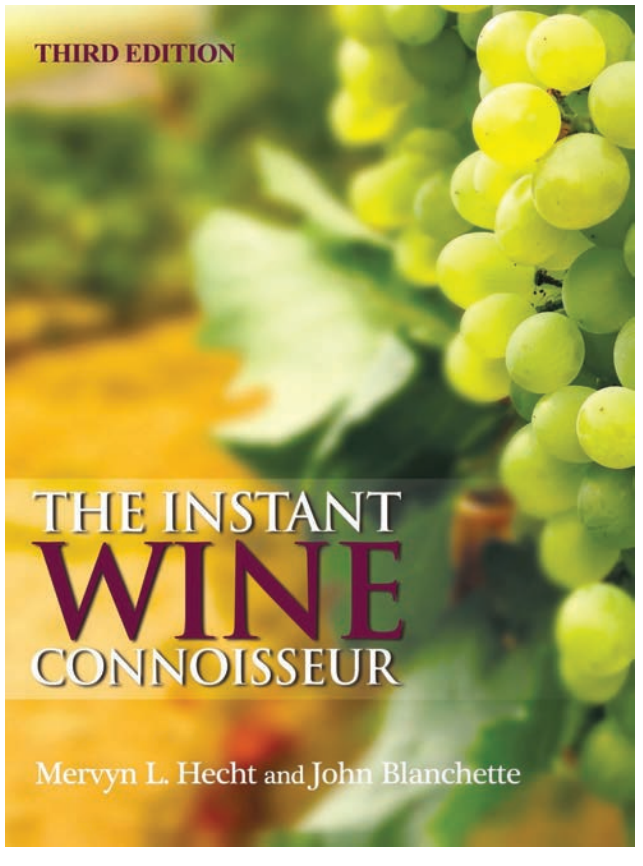
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AFFORDABILITY

FROM PAGE 5

Some analysts are skeptical that any proposals could actually make California more affordable, anyway. Garry South, a longtime Democratic strategist, said affordability is a problem "too large for legislative solution," especially when compounded by Trump's tariff policies.

"It's political optics to some degree," South said. "(The bills) all sound good on the surface, but I don't think there's any predictability that if any of them pass, or all pass, that all of a sudden we are going to be out of the housing crisis in California."

TACKLING THE 'BIGGEST COST DRIVERS'

Rivas said that the select committees will tackle the "biggest cost drivers for Californians."

The committees will focus on four areas: Lowering the cost of child care for babies to 3 year-olds; making food more affordable and enrolling more people in CalFresh, the state's food stamp program; exploring financing options for affordable housing; and examining the effectiveness of the state's Low Carbon Fuel Standard, a clean energy incentive program that some argue could raise gas prices.

Assemblymember Lori Wilson, a Suisun City Democrat who chairs the Assembly Transportation Committee and will chair the select committee on fuel, said lawmakers have had a packed calendar.

"How could you even fit these types of conversations at the same time we are actively doing committees?" said Wilson, who sits on six different committees.

Lawmakers don't need a new committee to develop solutions, because they are already introducing proposals in the current legislative session, said Mike Gatto, a former Los Angeles Democratic assemblymember who chaired the appropriations committee.

"Every single member of the Legislature has a pretty good understanding of what is causing this affordability problem in the state of California," he said. "This information is out there."

Select committees have traditionally been used to "give individual lawmakers who care about an issue ... greater portfolio and greater exposure," Gatto said. But he said they're rarely effective.

"I don't think too many veteran Capitol watchers can recall a select committee that produced significant results on an important issue," he said.

But Miller pointed to last year's select committee on retail theft last year, which produced laws to clamp down on organized shoplifting and toughen penalties on property thefts.

PROPOSALS LARGELY FOCUSED ON HOUSING

Optics or not, state Democrats' affordability agenda appears clearer than a few months ago.

Led by Rivas, a strong ally of the YIMBY movement, Assembly Democrats are pressing for fewer regulations in exchange for quicker, more abundant new construction they argue would ultimately lower housing costs.

Lawmakers in early April approved a four-bill package to expedite building by streamlining the approval process for new housing and halting most changes to building standards for six years. One proposal would allow renters to take in people at risk of homelessness as long as their landlords agree.

"These bills will alter the trajectory of the housing crisis," Rivas said in a statement.

Later that month, Rivas said he supported nine other "affordability" measures on housing, wage theft and broadband. One of them, introduced by Oakland Democrat Buffy Wicks, a major supporter of easing construction restrictions, would exempt most urban housing projects from the California Environmental Quality Act, making it all but impossible for environmentalists to sue to block developments.

Most of the housing proposals Rivas signed off on represent much more technical changes, though, such as making it easier to build farmworker housing, making agencies approve developments more quickly and standardizing the housing project application process.

It's hard to know if any of those measures will lead to more housing construction, much less if they will make housing cheaper, said Bill Fulton, former director of planning and economic development for the city of San Diego and a fellow at the University of California-Berkeley Terner Center for Housing Innovation.

"In spite of the fact that all those bills have passed (in past years), we have not seen overall housing production increase very much or overall housing affordability go down very much," Fulton said.

"The Legislature passed lots and lots and lots of laws ... without actually doing a careful analysis of what's working and what's not, and they continue to pass more laws."

Fulton said other factors discouraging building in California include the high cost of labor and building materials and high interest rates, which are not addressed by the current raft of housing bills.

Svanoe, who champions tenant protections, said state lawmakers are streamlining housing development while doing little to make rent affordable. She supports Assembly Bill 1157, a progressive proposal to lower the cap on rent increases. Faced with pressure from YIMBY-aligned Democrats, the measure is now delayed until next year.

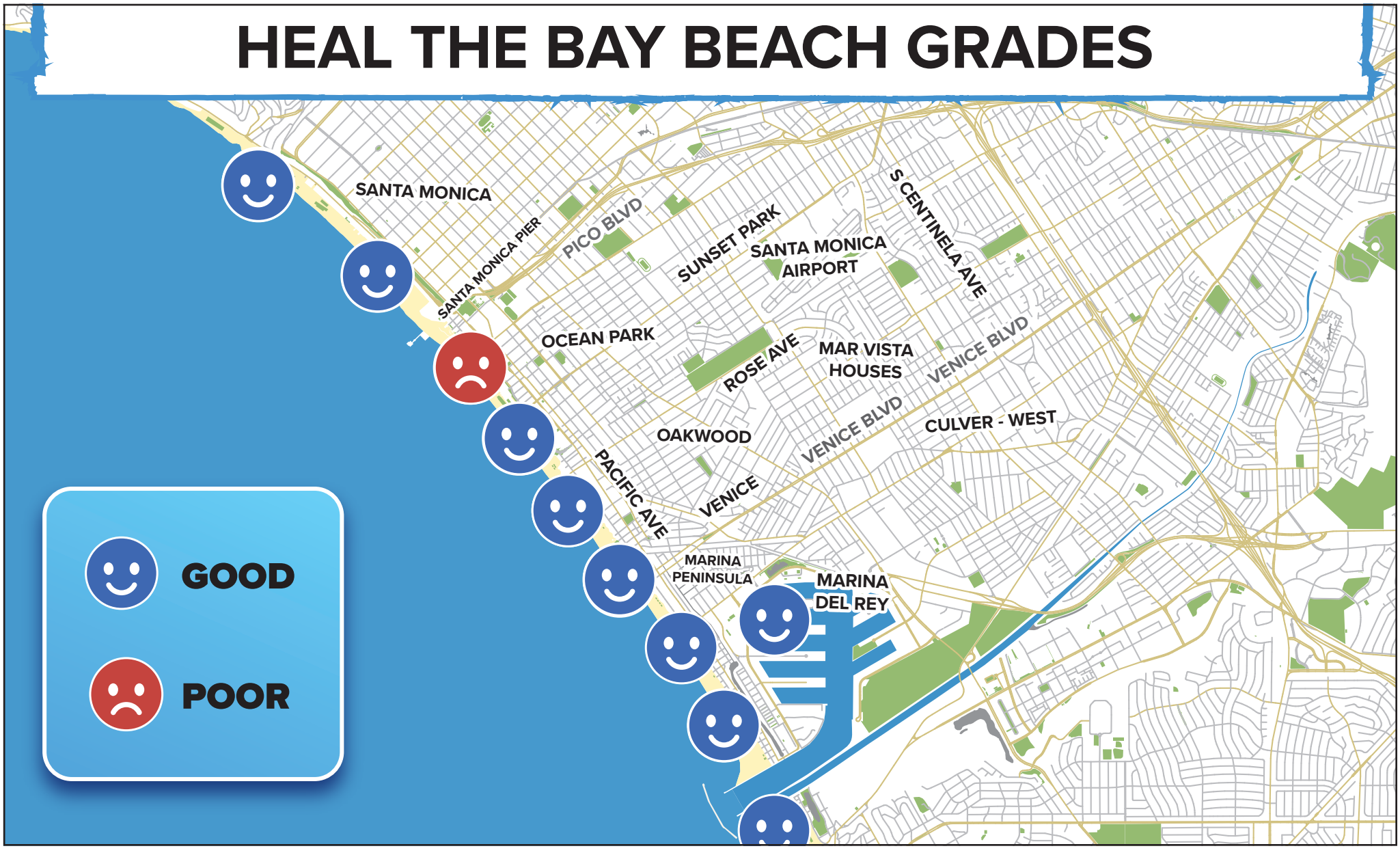
"There's no room to give (on) any rent increase at this point," Svanoe said. "It'd be the difference between someone staying in their home and someone becoming homeless."

The housing measure included in the Senate Democrats' affordability package is much more skeptical of new construction. While Sen. Aisha Wahab's Senate Bill 681 would streamline some development, it would also restrict landlords from charging extra fees and crack down on homeowners association fees.

"We're reinforcing the state's housing production goals, but not at the expense of the Californians who are barely hanging on," Wahab, a Fremont Democrat who chairs the Senate Housing Committee, said in the legislative analysis.

A potential showdown looms between Democrats over housing policy — a clash already underway in the Senate.

By Yue Stella Yu. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 4

difficult place," said Matt Schwartz, president of the California Housing Partnership, a nonprofit that advocates for more affordable housing. "The level of carnage that would be involved in doing these things is probably going to send some Republican senators running for the exits."

A handful of powerful GOP senators have, indeed, already pushed back on the president's proposal, though much of their ire was directed at what they saw as a lack of sufficient military spending.

The largest single cut in federal housing policy would target the Housing Choice Voucher program. Better known as Section 8, it's currently administered by the federal government and helps low-income tenants with their rental payments. The White House is proposing shifting responsibility for the administration of that program, which it calls "dysfunctional," to states, while cutting its funding in half.

It also proposes a two-year limit on how long a single person can receive help. That change is "completely out of touch with what people are facing in the housing market," said Alex Visotzky, senior California policy fellow at the National Alliance to End Homelessness. With soaring rents outpacing people's incomes, low-income tenants aren't going to be able to magically earn enough money to start paying rent in two years, he said.

Additional cuts to four other housing voucher programs are meant to save $27 billion annually.

"You'd be looking at millions of people out on the street virtually overnight," said Schwartz. "There's no way states could maintain the same level of assistance."

The administration proposes to save nearly $5 billion more by eliminating funds for local economic development grants, affordable housing developments and local initiatives to reduce regulatory barriers to new housing.

That latter program, a Biden-era initiative known as Pathways to Removing Obstacle Housing, was denounced in the administration's budget write-up as a "woke" program that has pursued "radical racial, gender, and climate goals."

The White House pointed specifically to a $6.7 million grant made to Los Angeles County to fund infrastructure planning, public transit-oriented housing and, as described in the county's funding proposal, rezoning that would reverse the region's "legacy of past systemic racism."

RADICAL RESHUFFLE OF HOMELESSNESS POLICY

The budget would slash federal homelessness funding by $532 million, while also radically changing the way those funds are distributed. The Continuum of Care program – the main way the federal government distributes funds to fight homelessness – would effectively end. It would be replaced by an Emergency Solutions Grant program.

The continuum program funds long-term solutions to homelessness, including permanent supportive housing, which is housing that comes with case management, counseling and other services for people with disabilities, mental illnesses, addictions or other struggles that mean they require extra help. Emergency Solutions Grants, on the other hand, fund more short-term solutions, such as homeless shelters, or short-term rental assistance for people who don't need extra services.

That shift in funding would mean thousands of people would lose their supportive housing and end up back on the street, said Visotzky from the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

"This would be a significant shift away from the solution to homelessness, which is housing, towards shelter," he said. "This budget is going to take away all the pathways to get out of shelter and into housing."

Homeless veterans fared better. The budget proposes a $1.1 billion increase "for the President's commitment to ending veterans' homelessness." Those funds would go to Veterans Affairs for rental assistance, case management and support services.

The budget also calls for the elimination of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, an agency tasked with coordinating homeless policy at the federal level, which the administration had already gutted.

END OF "FAIR HOUSING" ENFORCEMENT AS WE KNOW IT

The White House also proposes zeroing out a grant program that funds nonprofit legal aid organizations that enforce national fair housing laws. According to the explanatory summary of the cuts published by the administration, these organizations advocate "against single family neighborhoods and promote radical equity policies."

That characterization is strongly disputed by Caroline Peattie, executive director of the Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California. Federally recognized nonprofit fair housing groups processed 74% of all fair housing complaints submitted across the country in 2023, according to data compiled by the National Fair Housing Alliance. The remainder go to federal and state housing regulators.

A recent example: In 2022, Peattie's organization received a complaint that a Nevada-based appraisal company was systematically undervaluing homes owned by Black and Latino Californians. The nonprofit investigated and submitted a complaint to the state. The California Civil Rights Department reached a settlement with the appraisal company in mid-April.

If all the cuts go into effect as proposed, Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California would lose roughly 75% of its funding, said Peattie.

"It's just appalling," she said. "When the fair housing organizations go away, then what?"

The across-the-board cuts come after months of legal battle between fair housing organizations and the administration. In February the Department of Government Efficiency, helmed by Elon Musk, abruptly terminated a key source of congressionally authorized funding for dozens of private fair housing organizations, including Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California. The groups sued. With that lawsuit pending, the funds, appropriated for fiscal year 2024, "are still in the ether," said Peattie.

Last month, Congress passed a bill to keep government spending at current levels from the prior year, meaning that fiscal year 2025 spending is in a holding pattern for now.

"But as for fiscal year 2026, all bets are off," said Peattie.

By Ben Christopher and Marisa Kendall. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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CRIME

FROM PAGE 1

attempting to flee and a second suspect who was trying to pry open a door. The second suspect was found in possession of a replica handgun, police reported.

Meanwhile, a DUI checkpoint held by the Santa Monica Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit on May 2 at Pico and 23rd Street resulted in two arrests for driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

During the checkpoint, which was funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nine drivers were cited for operating a vehicle without a license or with a suspended/revoked license. Officers screened 162 drivers from a total of 678 vehicles that passed through the checkpoint.

Other recent police activity in Santa Monica included multiple assault cases and narcotics arrests:

A reporting party observed and recorded a sexual assault in progress on Santa Monica Blvd, leading to the suspect's apprehension and both parties being transported to the Rape Treatment Center.

A granddaughter was taken into custody after stabbing her grandmother in the shin during a verbal altercation that turned physical on 21st Street.

A domestic violence victim with multiple facial injuries reported being beaten and possibly cut with a box cutter by her boyfriend, who fled the scene before police arrived.

Officers responded to Santa Monica Place Mall after security guards reported being threatened with a firearm by a female transient who evaded capture by entering Structure 7.

A bus rider who spat on an elderly passenger was arrested and found with methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

Officers arrested a subject with an outstanding SMPD warrant who was found in possession of methamphetamine near 6th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard.

A suspect observed manipulating drugs in the 400 block of Arizona was arrested for possession with intent to sell and felony possession due to prior convictions.

A 16-year-old overdose victim on Beverly Avenue was revived with Narcan by firefighters and subsequently placed on a 5150 hold for suicidal statements.

A shoplifting suspect who scratched a loss prevention agent was arrested after also assaulting an officer during attempted detention near a train platform.

A DUI driver who caused a rollover collision on Broadway by striking a parked vehicle at high speed was found with nitrous oxide bottles in his vehicle.

A driver on felony probation was found in possession of narcotics during a traffic stop at 9th Street and Pico Boulevard.

A suspect who swung a skateboard at a resident's head after being confronted near the victim's apartment was later located and apprehended.

Police recovered a stolen e-bike after the victim tracked it using an Apple AirTag to a specific apartment building where the suspect was found in possession of the bicycle.

A homeless person suffering from redness throughout his body was transported to the hospital after being assaulted by multiple scooter-riding suspects on Ocean Avenue.

A driver displaying stolen license plates was arrested after officers discovered a loaded handgun within reach of the driver's seat, later revealing the suspect had provided false identification and had an outstanding burglary warrant.

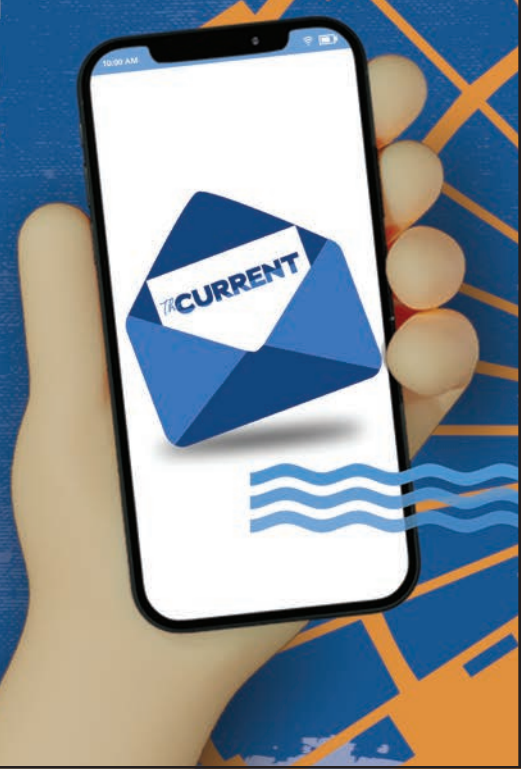
Three masked suspects struck a victim in the head in an unprovoked attack on Ocean Avenue, stole his car keys, and fled in his vehicle southbound.

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Name Change

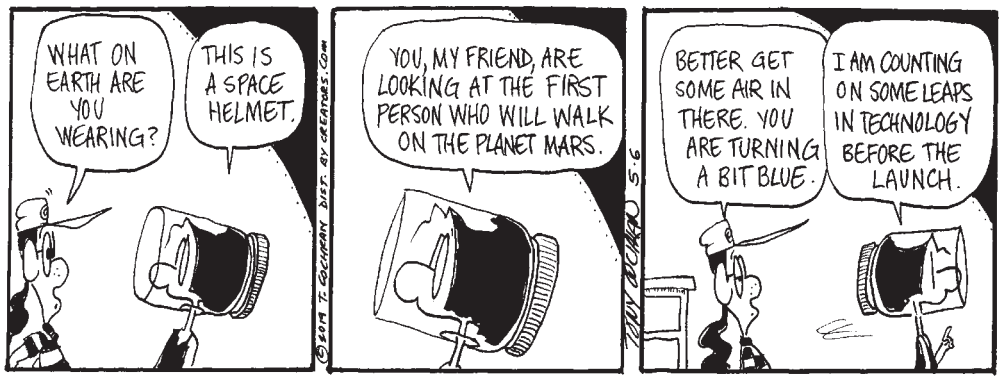
Order Show to show cause for Name ChangeCase No.25VECP00175 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Cameron Afrasiabi for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Cameron Afrasiabi this court for a decree of changing names asfollows:1. Cameron Afrasiabi to Cameron Samii. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before thiscourt at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change ofname should not be granted.Notice of Hearing: Date 05/23/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: O Room:511. The addressof the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELESCourthouse 14400 Erwin St Mall Van Nuys, CA 91401. A copy of this Order to ShowCause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to thedate set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation,printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press

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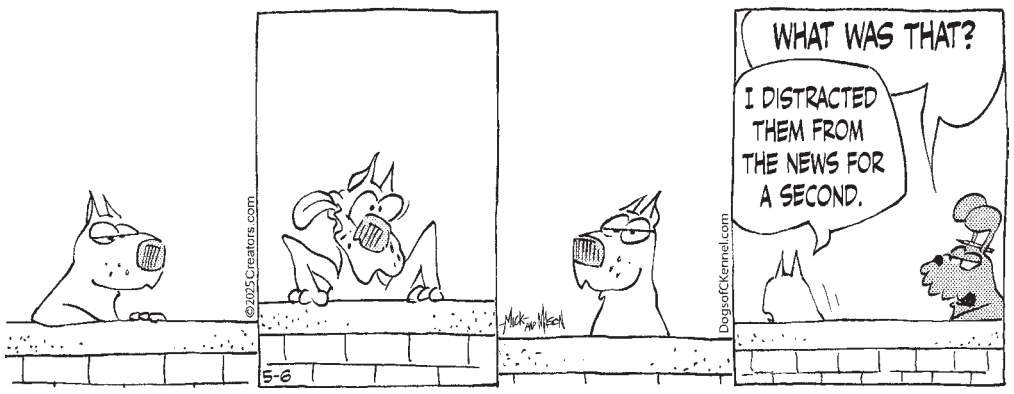
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



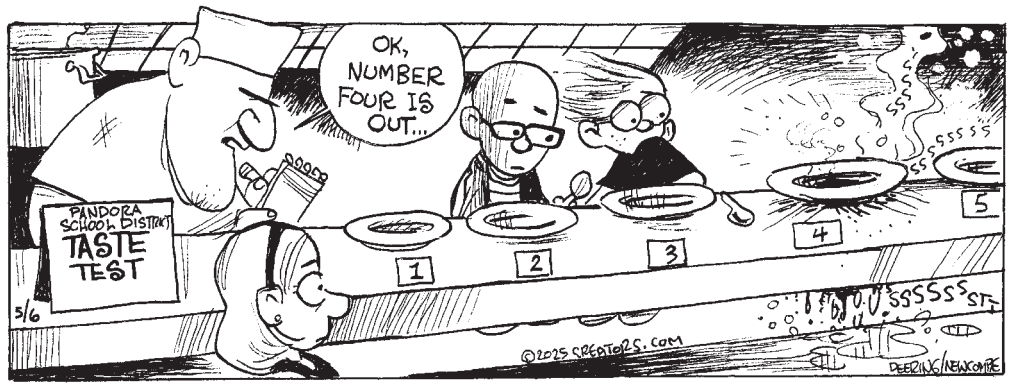
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THIS LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6567

Cleaning up

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

Accumulation	Dust	Kitchen	Sink
Attic	Empty	Learn	Smelly
Bags	Enrich	Mats	Sweep
Blinds	Filth	Mess	Throw
Boxes	Floor	Mice	Tidy
Brush	Foam	Recycle	Tiles
Busy	Foul	Rugs	Tins
Cans	Glass	Schools	Towns
Care	Gutter	Scrub	Wash
Cobwebs	Hard	Sheets	
Desk	Ian Kiernan	Shine	
Dirt	Improvement	Sick	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 6)

The connections you experience this year feel both ancient and brand-new. This includes your relationship with yourself, which deepens your presence and strengthens your compass. Even so, there's no need to chase dreams because what's yours is already circling closer. More highlights: You'll level up professionally, apply secret talents to lucrative effect and enjoy glamorous events. Scorpio and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 17, 6, 34 and 40.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A quiet day brings the loudest kind of healing, not through drama or grand gestures but through stillness. With no chasing or fixing, your mind settles, your heart catches up, and peace arrives in a way you didn't know you needed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've been steady in the work, even when it felt invisible. Quiet progress, small wins, resilience on repeat. Now the results begin to show — tangible, undeniable. This isn't luck or timing. This is you showing up. This is magic with muscle.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can mentor someone through your example, through your care and through your failures and falls, too. Sharing the vulnerability is profound. In doing this, you give something most people don't get from their teachers: the truth.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). To change the picture, first pop it out of the frame. You can't transform what's still trapped inside old definitions, outdated assumptions or someone else's idea of what it should be. Step back. Reframe it. Only then can something new emerge.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll take a risk in the area where you most need a breakthrough. It doesn't fall into a neat category — love, creativity and career are all woven together right now. But the act of taking a risk signals belief in possibility.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you see others struggling, your instinct is to step in and help without hesitation. Allow yourself the same grace when you're the one having a hard time. Helping is a privilege — don't deny someone theirs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It can be so fun being you! You resist the urge to "do more" and feel grounded instead of guilty. A walk, a nap, a good meal or journaling brings emotional release. You spend time alone and realize you don't feel lonely — you feel whole.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Something that used to trigger you doesn't anymore. You notice the stillness where reaction used to live — and that calm, that quiet pause, is proof that healing isn't always loud, but it is always life-altering.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you give of yourself — as is your nature — the exchange becomes more than just words. It becomes a moment of impact, intimacy and even transformation. The conversation shifts something, not just for them but for you, too, owing to your quiet magic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll stop chasing and start magnetizing, drawing in exactly what aligns. A lucrative offer will come your way — not because you pursued it but because you became the kind of person it naturally finds. What's yours arrives through gravity, not grasping.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Just as a whisper can speak louder than a shout, dialing things down can amplify their impact. Today, less truly is more. Try fewer appointments, tighter budgets and the simplicity that sharpens intention.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's chronological age, and then there's spirit age. People often start to feel "old" not when their body slows down but when they fear change, failure or loss. Stay curious, stay brave and your spirit stays forever young.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

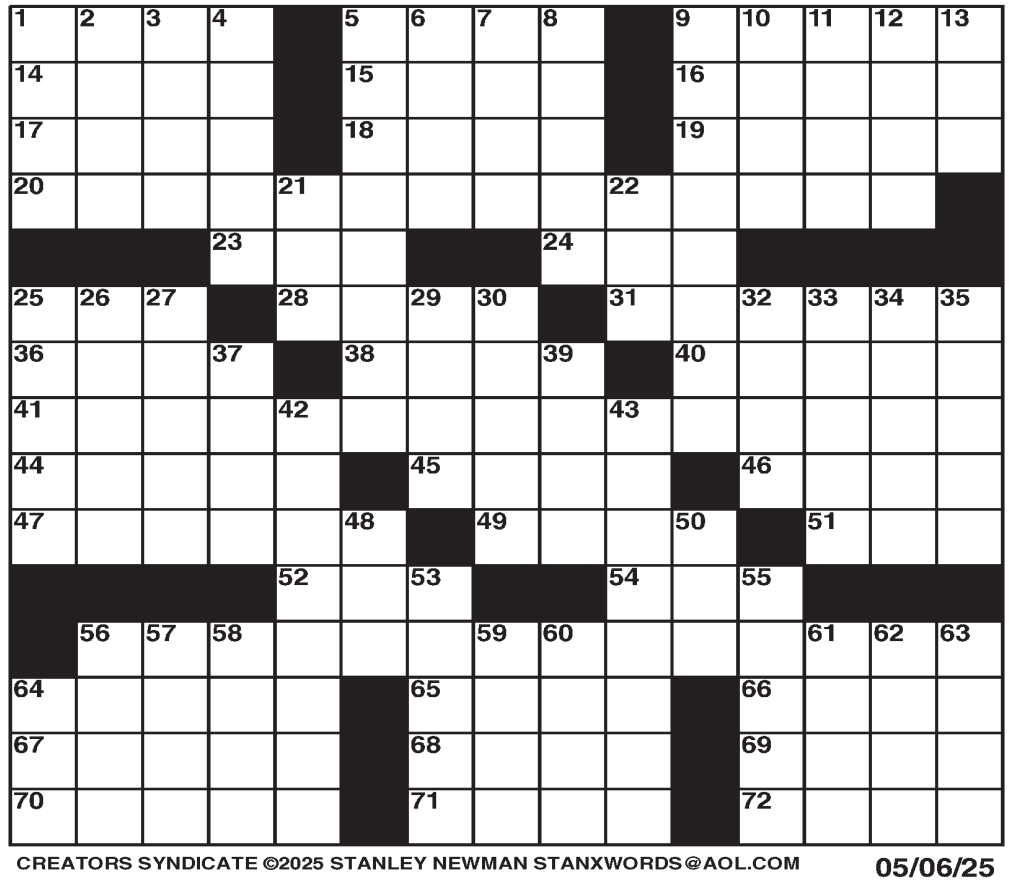
FASTEN-ATING by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Small retail store
5 Shut loudly, as a door
9 Fruit symbol of Georgia
14 Surface for surfing
15 Hydrant attachment
16 Sound of a sneeze
17 "That's too bad!"
18 Author unknown: Abbr.
19 Story's main idea
20 Sprinting to score, in baseball
23 Nonprofit's URL ender
24 Golf peg
25 Title for some wives
28 Sneaker or sandal
31 Reputation stain
36 *Moby-Dick* captain
38 Helps out
40 Lazy person
41 Attention-grabbing story
44 Scornful smile
45 High-fat, low-carb diet
46 More or __ (approximately)
47 Dreadful
49 Sales agents, for short
51 Wall calendar square
52 "The Raven" writer
54 Full collection
56 Getting every test answer right
64 Sheriff's pursuit group
65 Prefix for space or nautical
66 Jab with a finger
67 Barely visible
68 Cat's weapon
69 Highway turnoff
70 Informal conversations
71 Recipe amts.
72 Many, many, many years

DOWN

1 Ear-cleaning implement
2 Angel's overhead ring
3 Racetrack shape
4 Green pasta sauce
5 Most populous Chinese city
6 Time-consuming
7 Dating from
8 Forget-__ (flower)
9 Highly inadequate
10 Rebound of a sound
11 "If I may interrupt..."
12 Attend a party
13 Weed-chopping farm tool
21 Tax-collecting org.
22 Second notes of a scale
25 Swampy area
26 Nose-horned African beast
27 Thrifty person
29 Pigpen sound
30 Lawn-trimming tool
32 Role model
33 Reattached with sticky liquid
34 High-IQ club
35 Pretentiously creative
37 "On tap" beverage
39 Quench fully
42 Three born together
43 Crime-solving TV programs
48 "__ have to?"
50 Get a look at
53 Make into law
55 Wigwam relative
56 Ark builder
57 Largest continent
58 "Money __ everything"
59 Gooey hair products
60 Sandy golf hazard
61 Hugs-and-kisses symbols in love letters
62 Similar (to)
63 Big Apple baseball team
64 Rank below cpl.



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05/06/25

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

BATHROOM

FROM PAGE 1

contacted the city's 3-1-1 service for answers.

"In answer to your question, thank you for bringing this to our attention, due to repeated intentional misuse causing severe main line clogs the restrooms are currently closed," read the response. "We continue to address the situation as best we can and appreciate your patience and understanding."

The City of Santa Monica said it is aware of repeated vandalism at beach bathrooms, namely the one by Tower 26 and the massive costs associated with repairs.

"It costs $1,500 - $2,500 each time to make the repairs. The city has spent more than $10,000 in just the month of April to repair the restrooms after this repeated vandalism has clogged the main line," said Santa Monica Communications and Public Information Manager Lauren Howland. "It generally takes a few days to make the repairs and reopen the restrooms."

Residents who frequent the area said they've seen a homeless man stuff items into the toilets on a regular basis including stroller wheels and clothing. They said the area is a frequent hangout for the homeless population who utilize the restrooms (when they are working) and showers.

One neighbor shared text messages with the Daily Press speculating that the most recent closures lasted almost the entire month and were due to a single individual who repeatedly damages the facility.

According to the Santa Monica Police Department, there are no records of vandalism related citations or arrests tied specifically to the Tower 26 restrooms within the past 12 months.

SMPD said that in the last year, they have responded to 18 calls for service in the general area of the 2600 block of the beach and Ocean Front Walk. These calls ranged from disturbances, thefts, and encampment related issues, but did not include any incidents specifically documented as vandalism.

"We are aware of concerns related to intentional restroom misuse in that area and continue to coordinate closely with City partners to monitor conditions and support efforts to address recurring issues," said Lt. Lewis Gilmour. "If a suspect is identified in connection with repeated acts of vandalism, they could face penalties under applicable municipal or penal code sections."

> It costs $1,500 - $2,500 each time to make the repairs. The city has spent more than $10,000 in just the month of April to repair the restrooms after this repeated vandalism has clogged the main line
>
> - Lauren Howland, Santa Monica Communications and Public Information Manager

editor@smdp.com





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

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