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For minor collisions.

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Over the environment.

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Making housing affordable.

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What's in a name?

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Caltrans details $115 million PCH pavement rehab project, drawing concern over access and bike safety



Devyn Hamilton

HIGHWAY: The road may be iconic but it's had a hard time recently and is in need of significant repair.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

State transportation officials outlined two major pavement rehabilitation projects along Pacific Coast Highway this week, pledging safety upgrades and long-term road improvements while addressing public concern over emergency access, pedestrian safety and the potential for new bike lanes to create hazards rather than prevent them.

The California Department of Transportation hosted a virtual meeting Monday to present details of the two projects, which will span more than 27 miles of State Route 1 from Santa Monica through Malibu to the Ventura County line. The first project covers the stretch from the McClure Tunnel in Santa Monica to just south of Cross Creek Road, while the second picks up from Cross Creek and continues northwest to the county border.

According to Caltrans project manager Janice Lu, the two projects are intended to extend the life of the roadway, improve ride quality and reduce maintenance needs, thereby limiting exposure for maintenance crews. In addition to resurfacing and structural work, both projects will incorporate elements of the agency's Complete Streets policy, which mandates that transportation infrastructure upgrades include features supporting pedestrian, cyclist and transit access whenever feasible.

The southern segment, with an estimated cost of $72 million, is expected to begin construction in summer 2027 and conclude by 2029. The northern segment, budgeted at $43 million, is scheduled to break ground one year earlier. Both projects are currently in design and environmental review phases.

Design manager Refugio Dominguez described the technical scope of the rehabilitation effort, which includes cold planing and overlay with rubberized hot mix asphalt, structural section replacements in

SEE **CALTRANS** PAGE 15



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Waymo recalls 1,200 self-driving cars following minor collisions, says safety improvements already deployed



Waymo

CARS: The self-driving vehicles have been using local roads for a while.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Waymo has issued a voluntary recall of more than 1,200 self-driving vehicles following a series of low-speed collisions involving roadside barriers such as gates and chains. The company said the underlying issue was resolved through a software update rolled out to the fleet in late 2024 and emphasized that current operations are unaffected.

The recall applies to vehicles operating with Waymo's fifth-generation Automated Driving System, which powers much of the company's growing robotaxi service. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration opened an investigation into Waymo's autonomous fleet in May 2024 after reports of several collisions involving stationary objects.

In documents filed with regulators, Waymo acknowledged 16 such collisions between 2022 and the end of 2024, but none resulted in injuries. The company said a software fix was developed and deployed fleetwide by December.

The NHTSA investigation remains open. According to the agency, some of the incidents involved "collisions with clearly visible objects that a competent driver would be expected to avoid." Waymo said it will continue cooperating with regulators.

"Waymo provides more than 250,000 paid trips every week in some of the most challenging driving environments in the US," a Waymo spokesperson told the Daily Press. "We hold ourselves to a high safety standard and our record of reducing injuries over tens of millions of fully autonomous miles driven shows our technology is making roads safer. NHTSA plays a vital role in road safety and we will continue to work collaboratively with the agency as part of our mission to be the world's most trusted driver."

The company currently operates in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Phoenix and Austin and is preparing to expand into Atlanta, Miami and Washington, DC.

This is not the first time Waymo has recalled vehicles. In February 2024, the company removed 444 cars from service after a software flaw led to misjudgments involving towed vehicles. A separate recall in June involved more than 670 vehicles after one struck a wooden utility pole in Phoenix. Waymo said those incidents were also addressed through targeted software updates.

Waymo has repeatedly pointed to its safety record compared with human drivers. Over 50 million autonomous miles, the company reports an 81 percent reduction in injury-causing collisions and even greater reductions in incidents involving pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. Property damage and bodily injury claims are down by more than 85 percent in rider-only trips compared with industry benchmarks.

Still, not all concerns about the company's technology are safety-related. In Santa Monica, where Waymo operates a vehicle charging station, some residents have lodged complaints about persistent noise. Neighbors near Broadway and Euclid Street say the backup alerts and electronic beeping from the company's Jaguar vehicles have disrupted sleep and daily life.

Waymo said it is working with Santa Monica officials and has implemented noise-reduction measures such as limiting vacuuming hours, slowing vehicle speeds in

SEE **WAYMO** PAGE 12

Newsom picks more housing over CEQA in backing two bills meant to speed construction

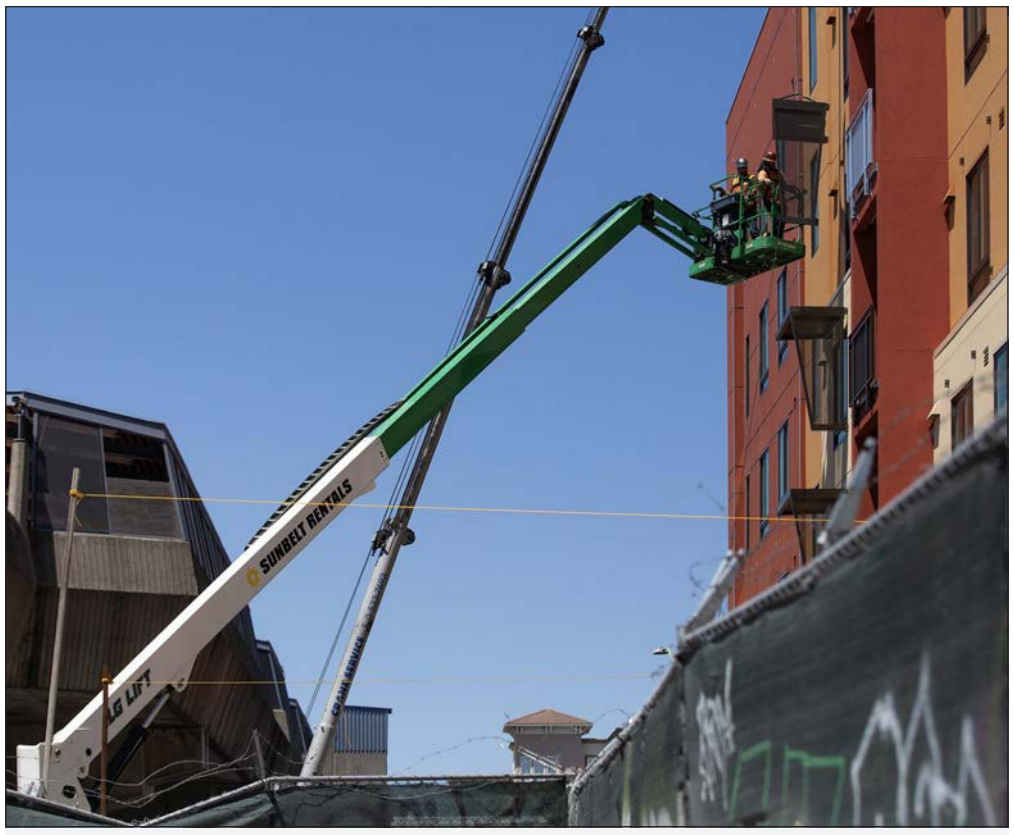


Photo by Semantha Norris, CalMatters

HOUSING: Construction on Casa Sueños, an affordable housing complex at 3500 E. 12th St. in Oakland, on Aug 7, 2023.

The effort by two Bay Area lawmakers to exempt most urban housing developments from the state's premier environmental regulation — an idea that has drawn some of the state's most powerful interest groups into a fierce legislative debate — just received a prized endorsement from Gov. Gavin Newsom.

While announcing his updated budget proposal for the coming fiscal year, the governor urged the Legislature to pass two housing bills and thanked their Democratic authors, Oakland Assemblymember Buffy Wicks and San Francisco Sen. Scott Wiener.

"It's time to get serious about this issue, period, full stop," Newsom said this morning. "If you care about your kids you care about getting this done. This is the biggest opportunity to do something big and bold and the only impediment is us."

Wicks' Assembly Bill 609 would exempt most "infill" housing developments, projects built in or next to existing developments, from review under the California Environmental Quality Act. That 55-year-old statute requires governments to study the environmental impact of any decisions they make, including the approval of new housing. Any person or organization — construction worker unions, environmental advocates or neighborhood groups, to name a few —can challenge the validity of those studies, delaying approval.

Critics of the law argue that it is regularly abused for non-environmental reasons to delay urban housing projects which are inherently better for the environment than sprawl development. Defenders of the law say such lawsuits are relatively rare.

Wiener's Senate Bill 607 is a highly technical grab bag. Among other things it would make it easier for state and local governments to approve projects — housing and otherwise — without conducting a full, lengthy review and exempt certain zoning changes for infill projects from CEQA entirely.

Newsom said that he would include language that mirrors those policy goals in upcoming budget bills.

"These bills are critical permitting reform proposals, and I applaud Gov. Newsom for including them in his proposed budget," Wiener said in a statement. "By clearing away outdated procedural hurdles, we can address California's outrageous cost of living, grow California's economy, and help the government solve the most pressing problems facing our state."

The governor also published proposed legislative language that would channel certain environmental impact fees collected from development projects toward the construction of new affordable housing located near public transit stops. That mirrors another bill authored by Wicks.

That proposed legislation would also give the California Coastal Commission, a frequent target of pro-development legislation, a deadline for responding to project proposals.

This isn't the first time the governor has weighed in on the landmark environmental law. Two times in as many years, the administration has urged the Legislature to tinker with the law to make it easier to build infrastructure projects and to expand the state's renewable energy capacity.

The Legislature hasn't always listened and the prospect of comprehensive "CEQA reform," a goal regularly touted by California governors and resisted by environmental groups and many unions, remains elusive.

SEE **HOUSING** PAGE 15



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **63.5**

FRIDAY
FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Old SW swell backs down as a refresh of SSW/S swell moves in. Early window cleanest. SW swell gradually trends down through the day as a fresh, long period SSW/S swell builds in. The new energy is lully in the morning but should add a bit of extra push when it shows. Average breaks are steady in the waist-high zone and top summer breaks west of Dume push chest-high+ on sets. S wind is in the cards through most of the morning but the early dawn patrol window could get a decent/clean start. Less windswell in the mix but shape still somewhat broken up.

SATURDAY
FAIR

SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Decent SSW swell peaks in the PM. Wind issues amplify from the end of the week. Pulse of SSW swell builds further through the day, peaks late and holds on Sunday. Wasn't the strongest storm, seas just shy of 30', so size-wise we're looking at surf closer to waist-stomach high with chest-shoulder high waves at standouts out west. Short-period NW swell — from high pressure off the coast interacting with a low moving through the Great Basin — builds late. Onshore S stays light in the morning then swings W and gets breezy in the afternoon.

Weather

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 66.
Friday Night: Patchy drizzle and fog after 11pm. Cloudy, with a low around 57. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday: Patchy drizzle and fog before 11am. Cloudy, with a high near 63. East southeast wind 5 to 15 mph
Saturday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 55.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2025/05/16	Fri	06:52 AM	-0.33		L
2025/05/16	Fri	2:04 PM	2.93		H
2025/05/16	Fri	4:50 PM	2.72		L
2025/05/16	Fri	11:36 PM	5.17		H
2025/05/17	Sat	07:43 AM	-0.18		L
2025/05/17	Sat	3:28 PM	3.00		H
2025/05/17	Sat	5:37 PM	2.92		L
2025/05/18	Sun	12:26 AM	4.87		H
2025/05/18	Sun	08:40 AM	-0.04		L
2025/05/18	Sun	4:35 PM	3.23		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: 5/14
4 10 24 29 53
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 123 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/13
6 29 33 47 68
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 122 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/14
6 19 39 42 46
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 8 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/14
6 14 21 22 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/14
EVENING: 7 1 4
Draw Date: 5/14
MIDDAY: 0 3 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/14
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:44.85

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Is the secret to housing affordability in California buried in the building code?

As lawmakers scramble to turbocharge post-fire recovery efforts in Los Angeles and to tackle a housing shortage across the state, a new addition may be coming to California's building code: A pause button.

Assembly Bill 306 would freeze the building standards — the rules governing the architecture, the layout, the electrical wiring, the plumbing, the energy use and the fire and earthquake safety features — for all new housing through at least 2031. Local governments, which often tack on their own requirements, would also be kept from doing so in most cases.

Building standards tend to reflect the state's most pressing concerns. New seismic requirements are added after major earthquakes, home-hardening requirements have followed deadly fires and new green energy mandates have popped up as California has raced to prepare for a warmer planet.

This latest proposed change to the code is meant to tackle another crisis: affordability.

The bill wouldn't delete any of the current rules, which are widely considered to be among the most stringent of any state's. It would also include exceptions, most notably for emergency health and safety updates. But on the whole, the California building code would be set on cruise control for the better half of a decade.

Assemblymember Nick Schultz, a freshman Democrat from Burbank and the lead author of the bill, said there's nothing extreme about leaving the code as it is for a few years, particularly as homeowners in Altadena and the Palisades rebuild.

Though Schultz introduced the bill, the second listed co-author may explain why such a significant policy change swept through the Assembly with little resistance: Speaker Robert Rivas. In early April the bill passed out of the Assembly with 71 "yes" votes. No lawmakers voted against it. Now it heads to the state Senate.

Such smooth legislative sailing notwithstanding, plenty of environmental advocates, renewable energy industry groups, construction unions, structural engineers and code enforcement officials have turned out to oppose the bill.

Building standards need to be nimble because the effects of climate change are unpredictable, said Laura Walsh, policy manager with Save the Bay, a nonprofit focused on conservation and preparing for rising seas. They see it as a radical upending of the way the state regulates buildings, reduces emissions and prepares for a changed climate.

"We'll get to a place in the trend where things get worse really fast," she said.

Beyond the specifics of the debate, the bill represents something fairly new in the politics of California housing.

Over the last decade, lawmakers in Sacramento have passed a raft of bills aimed at making it easier to build new homes. Most of those bills have set their sights on the zoning code — the patchwork of land-use standards that dictate which types of buildings can go where. If you recall any high-profile political battles about apartment buildings in exclusive suburbs, dense residential development near transit stops or proposed mountain lion sanctuaries — that's all about zoning.





Photo by Loren Elliott for CalMatters

CONSTRUCTION: New homes under construction in Pleasanton on June 16, 2024. The city of Pleasanton has voted to explore the possibility of becoming a charter city.

Now some lawmakers are considering a new deregulatory target. Schultz's freeze is the most dramatic example of a handful of bills this year that would take on the impenetrably technical, frequently overlooked and ever-changing building code — all for the cause of cheaper housing.

As California legislators are "finding religion on land use, other issues are sort of bubbling up," said Stephen Smith, founder of the Center for Building in North America, a nonprofit that advocates for changes to building codes that make it easier to build apartment buildings. "Architects, developers, contractors are pointing out, 'No, actually, there are barriers in the actual construction process and many of those do go back to the building code.'"

WHERE DOES THE BUILDING CODE COME FROM?

California's building code does not originate in California.

As with most states, our code takes as its jumping off point a set of general rules written by the International Code Council, a nonprofit organization governed by a mix of building industry associations, state and local regulators, engineers and architects. Despite the name, the organization is based in Washington D.C. and its model codes are a predominantly North American product.

"It's like naming the World Series the World Series," said Eduardo Mendoza, a research associate with California YIMBY, an organization that promotes more housing development.

The Code Council puts out its model codes every three years. The state then gets to work on its own version in a year-long process involving seven state departments.

These exceedingly arcane deliberations typically receive little attention from the public. The exception is a small cadre of engineers, developers, architects, appliance manufacturers, energy efficiency, solar and climate advocates and other parties with a direct financial or ideological interest in the way new things get built.

For these groups, the triannual code adoption cycle — and the "intervening" amendment process for urgent updates — make for an endless game of regulatory tug-of-war.

"It's all very bureaucratic, very dry, but still extremely political," said Mendoza.

Now that behind-the-scenes fight is playing out in public.

On one side are housing developers. Keeping up with the salvo of state and local building code changes is its own full-time job, said Dan Dunmoyer, president of the California Building Industry Association, a trade group for big builders.

"We had the most seismically safe, water-reduced, fire retardant, energy efficient homes in the world two years ago and we just keep on adding more and more and more to it," he said. "At what point do you just take a pause?"

A potential pause is especially appealing to many affordable housing developers, who typically rely on multiple sources of funding, all with their own restrictions and timelines. If a change in the building code means going back to the architectural drawing board and delaying a permit application, that can put off a potential project "another year or two," said Laura Archuleta, president of Jamboree Housing Corporation, a nonprofit low-income housing developer in Irvine.

California would not be the first state to consider tapping the breaks on its building

SEE **BUILDING** PAGE 10

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Renaming SMASH

Editor:

The school district's proposed renaming of Santa Monica Alternatives School House is a bad idea. (story published May 9, 2025)

As a communications professional, I understand the impulse of well-meaning but misguided stakeholders to tinker with brand elements during times of transition.

I had to fend off occasional suggestions to alter Heal the Bay's logo and name during strategic planning exercises conducted by the board during my longtime stint as the organization's comms chief. These rebranding efforts always struck me as a solution in search of a problem.

Real change comes from changing priorities and implementing new policies, not changing a name. As a former SMASH parent, I support the district's efforts to expand diversity, serve more students and prioritize neighborhood enrollment in the new Ocean Park neighborhood school

But I can't support the name change. Names matter. Why toss away all the brand equity built in the community that SMASH has served so well for a half century?

When you say SMASH to district parents and city officials, it means something. It stands for something important – a group of children, parents, educators and allies taking a leap of faith and embracing innovative curriculum and alternative teaching methods for 52 years. Why diminish that history by renaming it?

Yes, SMASH isn't for everyone. It's a bit of a shaggy dog – lovable but messy at times. Parents tend to be defensive amid skeptics — "Is that the school with no homework?" or "Can your child do math?" But here's the thing: It works.

I remember attending many Back to School nights at SaMo High. Many teachers told me they could easily recognize SMASH students on the first day of class. They were curious, self-directed, and often challenging in a respectful, appropriate manner.

These qualities have served our learning community well – with many alumni excelling as valedictorian candidates, sports team captains, ASB officers and orchestra/choir leaders.

Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater. Keep the SMASH name.

Matthew King, Santa Monica

Rethink the alcohol

Editor:

I rarely speak up on civic matters, but after your unanimous vote to turn the 3rd Street Promenade into an "entertainment zone" with open-carry alcohol, I am compelled to offer my opinion. While the Promenade has been in decline in recent years, the answer is NOT to make it an open-carry entertainment zone!

As a longtime Santa Monica resident, I can trace the decline of the Promenade, first to overly greedy landlords who priced rents so high that even their corporate commercial clients couldn't justify paying them, let alone mom and pop shops. Then there was the rise of online shopping, coupled with higher and higher Santa Monica sales tax—followed by the Covid-19 pandemic which put the final nail the coffin of the once-vibrant area.

Instead of encouraging flagship companies to return, Santa Monica has continued to build more and more mixed use and retail space throughout the city, despite not being able to fill its many existing storefronts on Wilshire Blvd., Main Street and elsewhere. The only Santa Monica shopping district that appears to have navigated the post-Covid era is Montana Avenue.

In addition to the reasons for the fall of the Promenade stated above, a large part of why it has failed is due to public safety. PEOPLE NO LONGER FEEL SAFE SHOPPING THERE. If they want to shop, it is a far nicer experience to go to Century City, the Grove or Abbot Kinney, not to mention, prior to the fires, Caruso Village in the Palisades.

How anyone can look at the current situation on the Promenade and think turning it into a Bourbon Street is the way to go, is quite frankly unbelievable—it truly defies logic or reason.

Instead, how about trying to incentivize top companies and mom and pop shops back by lowering rents (perhaps with profit sharing inducements) and offering tax breaks and ample security to get them to return? While retail has taken a major hit in recent years, the examples listed above exemplify that it is possible for it to rebound, without lowering standards.

I am not a public planner, nor in the business to know the ins-and-outs of the red tape that may make my suggestions a challenge. However, I do possess common sense and I am certain the points I have made are more in line with what needs to be addressed than creating Bourbon Street-by-the-Beach, which will only exacerbate the existing problems.

I hope I've given you something to think about and you will reconsider your plan.

Laura Marcus, Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
ORDINANCE NUMBER 2811 (CCS)
(CITY COUNCIL SERIES)

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA ADDING CHAPTER 6.43 AND AMENDING SECTION 4.08.200 TO THE SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE PROMENADE ENTERTAINMENT ZONE TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2811 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

The Ordinance adds Chapter 6.43 and amends section 4.08.200 to the Santa Monica Municipal Code to establish a process by which to create Entertainment Zones within the City where people can buy open container drinks (alcoholic drinks "to-go") from local bars, restaurants, wineries, and breweries, and enjoy them outside in common spaces, and to establish an Entertainment Zone on the Third Street Promenade. The Promenade Entertainment Zone is authorized seven days a week between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m., so long as at least one licensee within the boundaries of the Zone is permitted to sell alcoholic beverages during those hours. Hours are subject to adjustment by the Zone's Management Plan. All participating businesses must comply with applicable state and local laws including California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control regulations, and administrative regulations including the Entertainment Zone Management Plan issued by the City. Any person violating the Ordinance may be subject to criminal or administrative penalties and fines, as well as suspension of their right to participate in the Entertainment Zone. The Ordinance shall be subject to review by the City in conjunction with law enforcement six months after activation, and every two years from adoption. The Ordinance also amends Section 4.08.200, Drinking Upon Public Property, to allow for drinking alcoholic drinks on public property in compliance with Entertainment Zone rules and regulations. The Ordinance will take effect immediately.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

If you want a preview of what will happen with the new alcohol zone on the Promenade just visit the Santa Monica Main Library Gladiator School sometime.

Fremont Street in Las Vegas is a hub of trouble with brawls fueled by alcohol. Beverly Hills had a St. Patrick's Day celebration over 35 years ago and that did not bode well.

Mardi Gras in New Orleans works because there is a major police presence. One officer every ten feet.

Santa Monica doesn't have the manpower to cover the Promenade and what if there is a life threatening emergency somewhere else? These are respectable men and women but, they are not paid babysitters.

And what's Legion Security going to do? Offer harsh language?

Then there's the element of alcohol poisoning or heat stroke where the men and women of the fire department will be busy with.

According to the program, patrons are not allowed to enter an establishment with their drink just window shop. How is that going to generate revenue for the stores where they could easily see something they like, look on their phones, find it cheaper and order it on line while strolling on.

Who's to say that after they've had their first plastic cup drink; let's say for lack of argument, a rum and Coke. After finishing that they'll just get a refill with soda filling it with either an airplane bottle, a flask or a fifth concealed upon them. They could drink all day while having made one purchase. Maybe they'll bring their own soda with them. How are you going to prove it?

A good bartender or bouncer can spot a fake I.D. right away and I've seen my share, but high school kids are crafty at making them or borrowing an older sibling's identification that has a resemblance. You have that element to worry about. Even better, someone buys a drink of legal age and gives it to someone younger.

The ABC is going to have a field day at the Promenade and rightly so.

The City Council's ideology is inviting crime and an undesirable element with the notion of public intoxication in front of visiting families with children in our city which I'm sure they wouldn't want to come back ever again while informing others of the situation especially if there's a brawl which expect to happen.

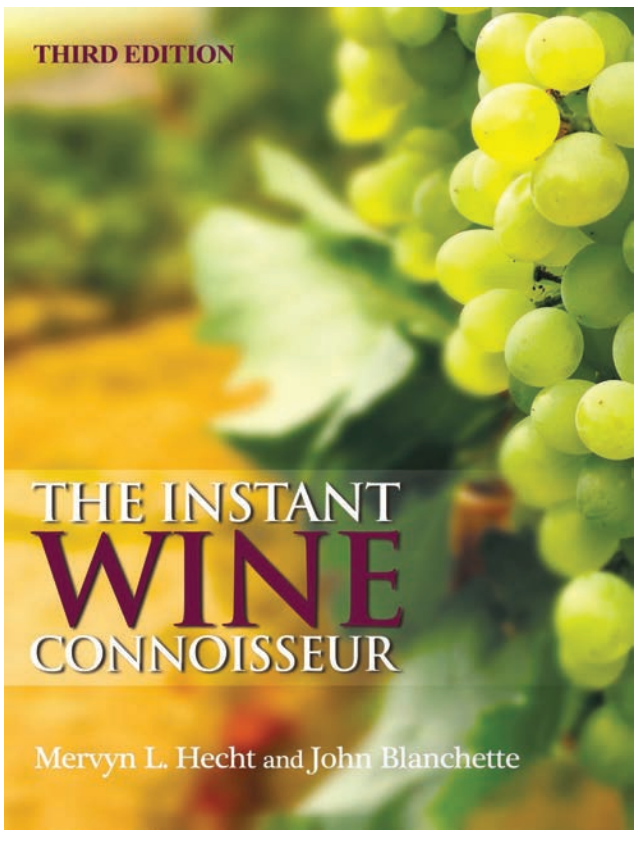
There are two types of drunks; happy and mean. Happy ones are could care less about anything. Mean ones start trouble. Then again, what if either of these two types get behind the wheel of a car and get into an accident or even worse...killing someone.

This whole debacle will open a huge can of worms especially for the City Attorney.

Just remember; it's your knife and your throat.

Whitney Bain, Santa Monica

★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



Daily Press Food &Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.

available at amazon

Older people in crosshairs as government restarts Social Security garnishment on student loans

Christine Farro has cut back on the presents she sends her grandchildren on their birthdays, and she's put off taking two cats and a dog for their shots. All her clothes come from thrift stores and most of her vegetables come from her garden. At 73, she has cut her costs as much as she can to live on a tight budget.

But it's about to get far tighter.

As the Trump administration resumes collections on defaulted student loans, a surprising population has been caught in the crosshairs: Hundreds of thousands of older Americans whose decades-old debts now put them at risk of having their Social Security checks garnished.

"I worked ridiculous hours. I worked weekends and nights. But I could never pay it off," says Farro, a retired child welfare worker in Santa Ynez, California.

Like millions of debtors with federal student loans, Farro had her payments and interest paused by the government five years ago when the pandemic thrust many into financial hardship. That grace period ended in 2023 and, earlier this month, the Department of Education said it would restart "involuntary collections" by garnishing paychecks, tax refunds and Social Security retirement and disability benefits. Farro previously had her Social Security garnished and expects it to restart.

Farro's loans date back 40 years. She was a single mother when she got a bachelor's degree in developmental psychology and when she discovered she couldn't earn enough to pay off her loans, she went back to school and got a master's degree. Her salary never caught up. Things only got worse.

Around 2008, when she consolidated her loans, she was paying $1,000 a month, but years of missed payments and piled-on interest meant she was barely putting a dent in a bill that had ballooned to $250,000. When she sought help to resolve her debt, she says the loan company had just one suggestion.

"They said, 'Move to a cheaper state,'" says Farro, who rents a 400-square-foot casita from a friend. "I realized I was living in a different reality than they were."

Student loan debt among older people has grown at a staggering rate, in part due to rising tuitions that have forced more people to borrow greater sums. People 60 and older hold an estimated $125 billion in student loans, according to the National Consumer Law Center, a six-fold increase from 20 years ago.

That has led Social Security beneficiaries who have had their payments garnished to balloon by 3,000% — from approximately 6,200 beneficiaries to 192,300 — between 2001 and 2019, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

This year, an estimated 452,000 people aged 62 and older had student loans in default and are likely to experience the Department of Education's renewed forced collections, according to the January report from CFPB.

Debbie McIntyre, a 62-year-old adult education teacher in Georgetown, Kentucky, is among them. She dreams of retiring and writing more historical fiction, and of boarding a plane for the first time since high school. But her husband has been out of work on disability for two decades and they've used credit cards to get by on his meager benefits and her paycheck. Their rent will be hiked $300 when their lease renews. McIntyre doesn't know what to do if her paycheck is garnished.

She floats the idea of bankruptcy, but that won't automatically clear her loans, which are held to a different standard than other debt. She figures if she picks up extra jobs babysitting or tutoring, she could put $50 toward her loans here and there. But she sees no real solution.

"I don't know what more I can do," says McIntyre, who is too afraid to check what her loan balance is. "I'll never get out of this hole."

Braxton Brewington of the Debt Collective debtors union says it's striking how many older people dial into the organization's calls and attend its protests. Many of them, he says, should have had their debts cancelled but fell victim to a system "riddled with flaws and illegalities and flukes." Many whose educations have left them in late-life debt have, in fact, paid back the principal on their loans, sometimes several times over, but still owe more due to interest and fees.

For those who are subject to garnishment, Brewington says, the results can be devastating.

"We hear from people who skip meals. We know people who dilute their medication or cut their pills in half. People take drastic measures like pulling all their savings out or dissolving their 401ks," he says. "We know folks that have been driven into homelessness."

Collections on defaulted loans may have restarted no matter who was president, though the Biden administration had sought to limit the amount of income that could be garnished. Federal law protects just $750 of Social Security benefits from garnishment, an amount that would put a debtor far below the poverty line.

"We're basically providing people with federal benefits with one hand and taking them away with another," says Sarah Sattelmeyer of the New America think tank.

Linda Hilton, a 76-year-old retired office worker from Apache Junction, Arizona, went through garnishment before COVID and says she will survive it again. But flights to see her children, occasional meals at a restaurant and other pleasures of retired life may disappear.

"It's going to mean restrictions," says Hilton. "There won't be any travel. There won't be any frills."

Some debtors have already received notice about collections. Many more are living in fear. President Donald Trump has signed an executive order calling for the Department of Education's dismantling and, for those seeking answers about their loans,

SEE SOCIAL PAGE 12

COMMUNITY NEWS

SANTA MONICA

Santa Monica Brew Works Wins Bronze at World Beer Cup

Santa Monica Brew Works has earned a bronze medal at the 2025 World Beer Cup, recognized as the most prestigious beer competition globally.

The award was presented May 1 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, where medals were given across 112 beer style categories.

The local brewery received bronze in the Gose category for its Lemongrass Basil Gose, a beer brewed with over 10 pounds of fresh basil and lemon zest. Judges praised the entry for its "bright, herbal aroma with a vibrant citrus twist."

"We're incredibly proud to see our beer recognized on the world's biggest stage," said Scott Francis, Co-Founder, President & CEO.

The award-winning beer is currently available on draft at the SMBW Tasting Room and Beer Garden on Colorado Avenue.

This year's competition featured 8,375 entries from 1,761 breweries across 49 countries.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SANTA MONICA

SMC Seeks Citizens Bond Oversight Committee Applicants

Santa Monica College is seeking applications for the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee to oversee implementation of bond measures funding capital improvement projects.

The application is available online at smc.edu/CBOCApp and has a deadline of Friday, May 30, 2025.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old and cannot be a college employee, official, vendor, contractor, or consultant to the college.

The committee oversees Measure S (2004), Measure AA (2008), Measure V (2016), and Measure SMC (2022), which are funding projects including replacement buildings, seismic retrofitting, and safety upgrades.

The SMC Board of Trustees will review all applications and make the final appointments.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SANTA MONICA

SMC to Hold Memorial Day Commemoration May 22

Santa Monica College will honor military veterans with an early Memorial Day Commemoration on Thursday, May 22, at 11:15 a.m. in the SMC Quad.

The event is free and open to the public with seating on a first-arrival basis.

The commemoration will feature a Presentation of Colors by the UCLA Air Force ROTC Color Guard and a special talk by guest speaker Rocio V. Palmero, Program Coordinator for Women Vets on Point at Bob Hope Patriotic Hall.

Palmero, named a 2024 Cal Vet Trailblazer, joined the U.S. Navy at 17 and was selected 2024 Veteran Woman of the Year by California State Senator Caroline Menjiva. She is currently pursuing a Master's in Public Policy.

The event is sponsored by the SMC Veterans Success Center.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SANTA MONICA

SMC Opera Theatre Presents "The Marriage of Figaro"

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present a fully staged production of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" featuring the SMC Opera Theatre and Symphony Orchestra.

Performances will run May 23-25 at The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center.

The opera tells the story of servants Figaro and Susanna joining forces with the Countess to curb the Count's philandering ways. It will be performed in Italian with English supertitles.

"Le nozze di Figaro came at an extraordinary moment in history," said director Janelle DeStefano. "The Marriage of Figaro is considered one of opera's Top 10 for a reason!"

Tickets are $25 general admission and $10 for students and staff, available online at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-3005.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SANTA MONICA

Stanley Clarke Concludes Second Year of BroadStage Residency

Four-time Grammy award-winning composer Stanley Clarke is completing the second year of his three-year Artist Residency at BroadStage with a final performance featuring Santa Monica High School students.

The June 5 concert will showcase the Santa Monica High School Jazz Ensemble with Clarke on bass. The students have prepared Clarke's compositions "More Hot Fun" and "Up," along with works by other composers.

Throughout the residency, Clarke has conducted workshops and provided mentoring for both Samohi and Santa Monica College students preparing for professional careers.

The concert will be held at Barnum Hall with tickets available for a $10 suggested donation at samohiband.org/jazz or at the door.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

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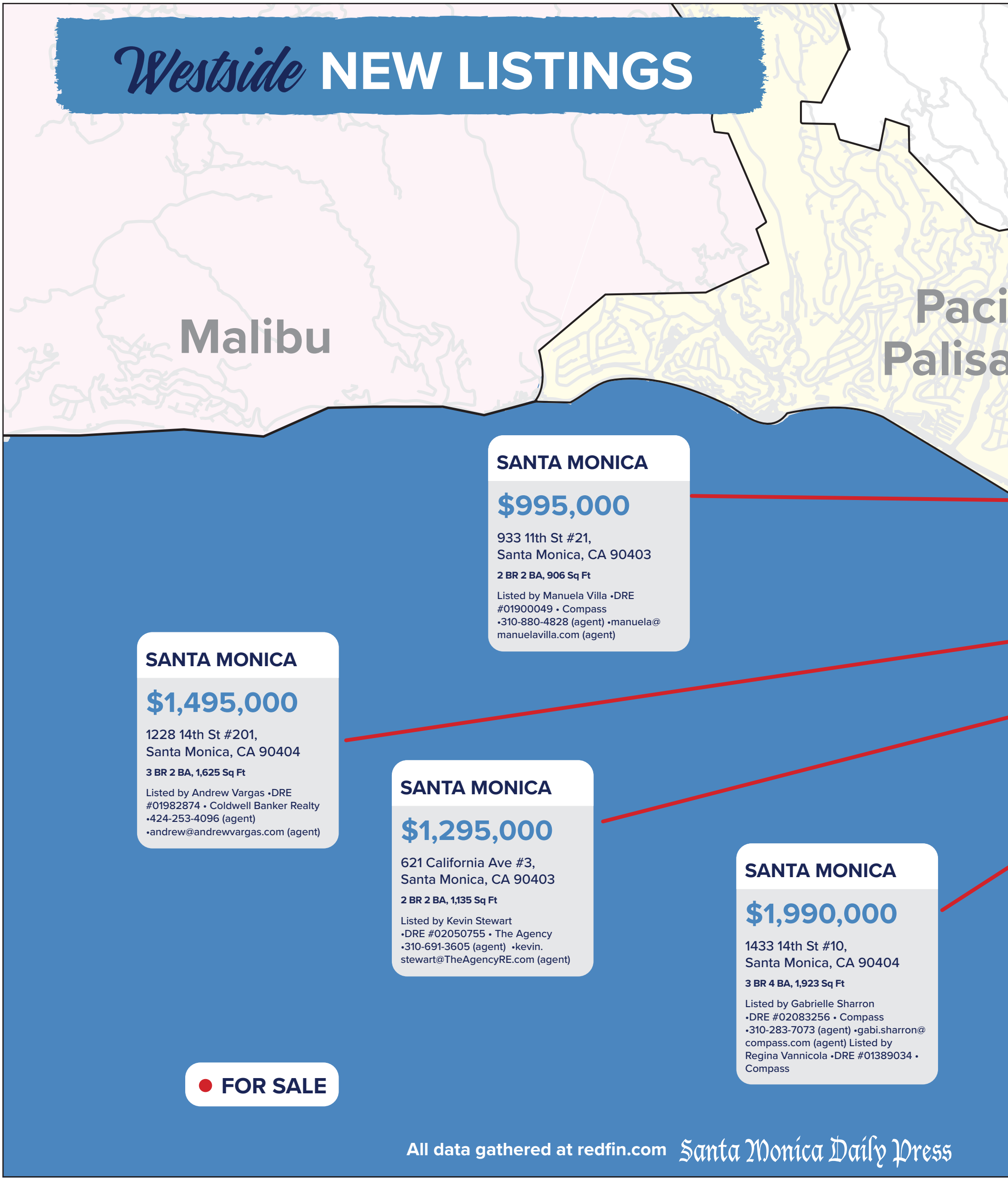
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Listed by Manuela Villa •DRE #01900049 • Compass •310-880-4828 (agent) •manuela@manuelavilla.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$1,495,000

1228 14th St #201,
Santa Monica, CA 90404

3 BR 2 BA, 1,625 Sq Ft

Listed by Andrew Vargas •DRE #01982874 • Coldwell Banker Realty •424-253-4096 (agent) •andrew@andrewvargas.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$1,295,000

621 California Ave #3,
Santa Monica, CA 90403

2 BR 2 BA, 1,135 Sq Ft

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SANTA MONICA

$1,990,000

1433 14th St #10,
Santa Monica, CA 90404

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Santa Monica Daily Press

SANTA MONICA

$1,690,000

2213 Arizona Ave,
Santa Monica, CA 90404

2 BR 1 BA, 784 Sq Ft

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•630-217-4845 (agent) •coreyscott@theagencyre.com (agent)
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SANTA MONICA

$999,000

2452 Chelsea Pl Unit H,
Santa Monica, CA 90404

3 BR 3 BA, 1,410 Sq Ft

Listed by Megan Silva
•DRE #01980348 • Compass
•310-614-6513 (agent)
•megan@megansilva.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$1,190,000

1552 Harvard St #3,
Santa Monica, CA 90404

2 BR 1.5 BA, 1,147 Sq Ft

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•DRE #01491049 • Element RE, Inc
•424-262-4522 (agent) •hello@keriwhite.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$2,500,000

2509 Cloverfield Blvd,
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3 BR 2 BA, 1,786 Sq Ft Sq Ft

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•DRE #02080077 • Douglas Elliman of California, Inc. •310-804-3499 (agent)
•janet.heinzle@elliman.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$4,995,000

2455 23rd St,
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•310-704-3554 (agent)
•veronica@veronicaklein.com (agent)

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BUILDING

FROM PAGE 4

code. In 2023, legislators in North Carolina passed a law banning most changes through 2031. That bill, backed by that state's building industry association, froze in place a significantly older code than California's; some of North Carolina's energy efficiency rules hadn't been changed since 2009.

California's so-called 2025 code is currently in the works and is set to go into effect in January 2026, but not if Schultz's measure passes. The bill would freeze the current rules in place starting on June 1.

The experts who help write the state's building standards have "health and safety and other criteria in mind but they don't have cost as a factor in their decision making — well, they should," said Assemblymember Chris Ward, a San Diego Democrat who voted for Schultz's bill. He is also the author of two other building code related bills this year. One would require the state to consider subjecting small apartment buildings to a more relaxed set of standards. The other would reevaluate whether builder should have more flexibility in meeting the state's energy efficiency rules.

Ward said that mining the building code for possible cost savings is an idea embraced by a growing number of his colleagues.

"The theme of the year has been 'let's all focus in on the cost of construction and on reducing the cost of housing," he said.

WHAT'S THE REAL COST DRIVER?

Opponents of the bill argue that in their quest for affordability, supporters have either picked the wrong villain — or, at the very least, approached the problem with a sledgehammer when what's needed is a scalpel.

"There's just this idea that if you simplify things in some ways, it will help," said Merrian Borgeson, policy director with Natural Resources Defense Council, who calls the bill "well-intentioned" if fundamentally flawed in its premise. "The driver of cost in California for housing is not code."

The state's building industry disagrees.

According to estimates provided by the state industry association, major building standard updates over the last 15 years have added between $51,000 and $117,000 to construction costs on each single-family home. By far the largest estimated cost, with an upper end of $65,000, was the price tag on the water utility hook-up required for sprinkler systems mandated in new single-family homes since 2011. California, Maryland and Washington D.C. are the only state-level jurisdictions with this requirement.

For apartment buildings alone, a national study sponsored by the building industry attributed 11% of total development costs to changes in the International Code Council model codes since 2012.

It's impossible to independently verify any of these estimates. But if code changes don't cost much, developers certainly seem to act as if they do. Reuben Duarte, a land-use planner with the California Chapter of the American Planning Association, said in the months before a scheduled code update, city planning departments are always the scene of "a mad rush from developers who are trying to get in" before the new rules go into effect.

A CODE FOR CHEAPER CONSTRUCTION

Most of the big ticket changes to California's standards over the last decade have been about energy efficiency and electrification. Some of these requirements have added upfront costs for developers, said Matt Vespa, an attorney with the environmental legal nonprofit Earthjustice, but they ultimately save homeowners in the long-run.

"The cost of housing is just one part of affordability," he said. He pointed to possible energy code changes that would allow homes to calculate their electricity needs differently, potentially saving on costly capacity upgrades. "Those energy code enhancements could save people money on their energy bills and that is part of affordability. Why is that completely not considered in this equation?"

It's that prospect of preventing changes to the code that might actually save money that has even some pro-building, "yes in my backyard" advocates concerned about the bill as currently written.

How could the building code make a building less expensive to build? A 2023 law, for example, directs state regulators to consider letting developers build apartment buildings over three stories with just one staircase rather than at least two. Single stair construction is an architectural mainstay outside that United States that allows for more housing to occupy a given lot and is estimated to bring down construction costs on mid-sized apartment buildings by as much as 13% without obviously elevating fire risk.

Schultz's bill includes a carve out for any future single stair changes. It also includes exceptions for code amendments aimed at making it easier to convert office buildings into apartments and condos, another legislative directive. But additional cost-saving changes could get frozen out.

One possibility: Dallas, Texas recently adopted a new, relaxed set of codes for mid-sized apartment buildings, a considerable step down from the rules in place in most American cities where they share a set of standards with skyscrapers.

Smith with the Center for Building said he understands why someone who "just doesn't trust that the building code development process is going to appropriately balance affordability and all the other concerns" would support the bill. But "it's a little upsetting to see everyone throwing the baby out with the bath water," he said.

The "baby," in this case, refers to possible cost-reducing changes that Smith said are more likely to be found for apartment buildings.

"If I were a single family developer, I'd be a lot more happy with the code as it is than if I were a multifamily developer and a lot more eager to fix it in place," said Smith.

Schultz stressed that though the bill has already passed out of the Assembly, it remains a work in progress. He said he is currently negotiating possible changes to the bill that would allow for a general "escape hatch" for any proposed "changes to the code that might actually reduce the cost of housing."

After all, he added, "that is the goal."

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





FRIDAY | MAY 16

PEN PAPER PALOOZA
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club 1210 4th St Santa Monica. GA Ticket Holders who purchased tickets on PenPaperPalooza.com BEFORE 3/20/25 will receive a PPP bag ($14 value) + 1 stationery item. Please print out your tickets or have PDF ready when you come to the event. This does not apply to tickets purchased on Eventbrite. $20.00 to $90.00—Free for children under 14 with paying adults. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/pen-paper-palooza/15330583/2025-05-16T10

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/14165546/2025-05-16T19

FUTURE SOUNDS OF JAZZ
7:30 p.m. Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center 1310 11th St Santa Monica. Continuing the Future Sounds of Jazz series curated by Stanley Clarke, BroadStage presents jazz pianist, drummer, and composer, Julius Rodriguez! Multi-instrumentalist and composer Julius Rodriguez has crafted his artistry inside a range of sounds and styles. At 24, the Westchester native bonds a deep sense of history with an appetite for the unknown. He performs regularly as a leader across New York City, and his contributions on piano, drums, synthesizer and electric bass appear on a diverse roster of recordings, including releases from Kassa Overall, Carmen Lundy, Brasstracks, Morgan Guerin, J. D. Walter and Damien Sneed, among other critically acclaimed genre-defiant voices. Sharp instincts for space and phrasing, and reverence for melody elevate Julius' expression from virtuoso to true artist, displayed in his debut album "Let Sound Tell All" released with Verve Records in 2022. In a few short years, he has garnered peer attention and critical praise from such institutional outlets as JAZZIZ magazine, The New York Times, Paste and Vanity Fair, and has earned opportunities to perform alongside some of the music's most distinctive artists, including Wynton Marsalis, Keyon Harrold, Victoria Canal, Ben Williams, A$AP Rocky, Meshell Ndegeocello, Macy Gray, Braxton Cook, Laurin Talese and the late and legendary Roy Hargrove. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/future-sounds-of-jazz/13765541/2025-05-16T19

SATURDAY | MAY 17

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/15484766/2025-05-17T08

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - SATURDAY MARKET
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Santa Monica Farmers Market - Arizona Ave and 3rd Street Arizona Ave and 3rd Street. Santa Monica. Santa Monica Farmers Markets create thriving, vibrant communities that are inclusive, connected, and diverse by promoting the prosperity of California farmers and small food businesses, preservation of the agricultural arts and sustainable food systems. The Saturday Downtown Farmers Market is open from 8:00am to 1:00pm, year-round and operates rain or shine. May be closed for selected holidays. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-saturday-market/13357377/2025-05-17T08

COMPOST
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. City Yards 2500 Michigan Ave Santa Monica. The City is hosting a FREE recycling event Saturday, May 17th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Santa Monica residents only. Bring your used mattresses, box springs, electronic waste, and up to five boxes of paper for shredding! Shredding will happen on-site and the paper will be recycled. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/compost/14712444/2025-05-17T09

ART-MAKING IN COMMUNITY FOR HEALING
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 18th Street Arts Center 1639 18th Street Santa Monica. What started as a response to the devastating fires that impacted Los Angeles has evolved into a space for the whole community to process current stressors in our lives and the state of the world. Join us again on Saturday, April 19, from 10am-12pm for a series of community art-making gatherings focused on safety, connection, and healing, entitled Art-making in Community for Healing. These open studio-style gatherings provide space to process our experiences as a community through creative expression, with licensed mental health and trained arts healing practitioners available for support. The final 30 minutes will be dedicated to optional sharing in community. Each gathering is FREE and welcomes participants of all ages and offers a nurturing environment. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/art-making-in-community-for-healing/15431720/2025-05-17T10

KONAMON FEST 2025
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. Join us at Konamon Fest 2025, where we celebrate Japanese street food culture, famous for its savory flour-based dishes. Held at the Santa Monica Pier, Konamon Fest showcases food, sake, and cultural experiences. Whether you're a food enthusiast, a fan of Japanese street food culture, or just looking for a fun day out with friends and family, Konamon Fest has something for everyone. Explore the bustling food vendors, enjoy stage content, and soak up the MATSURI atmosphere! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/konamon-fest-2025/15587894/2025-05-17T11

ARTISTS & FLEAS: VENICE MARKETPLACE
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Westminster Elementary School 1010 Abbot Kinney Los Angeles. Artists & Fleas in Venice is located in the vibrant, artistic heart of Venice at the corner of Abbot Kinney and Westminster Avenue in the outdoor lot of Westminister Avenue Elementary School. Join 50+ merchants every Saturday (rain or shine!) for a fabulous lineup of art, design, food trucks and vintage. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/artists-fleas-venice-marketplace/14548485/2025-05-17T11

COMMUNITY DOG TRAINING CLASSES!
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Ave Park 2200 Virgina Ave Santa Monica. People's Dog Training™, a Love At First Sit® program, host their L.A. Wildfires Initiative through their Community Dog Training Classes on Saturdays at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. Class fee is $5.00, then Pay-What-You-Can after that. Wildfire Victims and first responders are always free. Class proceeds are donated to CAMP (Community Animal Medicine Project) who are providing FREE veterinary services to L.A. Wildfire Victims. Sign-up at peoplesdogtraining.com/community-training. $5.00 —General $5.00. First Responders & Wildfire Victims FREE. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/community-dog-training-classes-/11981844/2025-05-17T12

SUNDAY | MAY 17

TAKE A MOMENT: AN UNPLUGGED EVENT
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House 415 Pacific Coast Hwy Santa Monica. Take A Moment: an unplugged series of free all-ages events focused on healing and community. Enjoy offline space designed for you to be in solitude or in community while you read, knit, draw, write, play games, color, or browse the book collection curated and donated by Friends of the Santa Monica Library. Offerings for the day include. https://smdp.com/events/#/details/take-a-moment-an-unplugged-event/15541564/2025-05-18T11

THE WATERFRONT - SUNDAY REAL FUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Waterfront 205 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Enjoy a bottomless brunch buffet Sundays at The Waterfront! The Waterfront Venice is a full-service restaurant celebrating Californian cuisine with views of the Pacific Ocean. Situated between Rose and Navy on the famous Venice Beach Boardwalk, our food & beverage menus celebrate California with carefully selected seasonal produce from local farms. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-waterfront-sunday-real-funday-brunch-buffet/14894114/2025-05-18T11

BOOK DISCUSSIONS
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica. This community-led, book discussion group meets virtually at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. This book discusses a wide range of books, chosen by the members. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/book-discussions/14712453/2025-05-19T19

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 05/1/25 2025088331 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as EmWell Spa 101 Wilshire Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90401 . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. 202123811298The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Em Style LLC 31481 La Calera St San Juan Capristrano, CA 92675 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Limited Liability Company . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2025 . Registrant / Corp/LLC Em Style LLC Title: CEO Emina Mila . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 05/01/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No. 25STCP00559 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of LaSaige Uniqua Monae Sibley for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: LaSaige Uniqua Monae Sibley with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: LaSaige Uniqua Monae Sibley to LaSaige Uniqua Monae Sibley LaSaige Sibley Franics (aka) to LaSaige Uniqua Monae Sibley . The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 06/09/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: 45 Room: 529 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Alhambra Courthouse 111 North Hill Los Angeles, CA 90012. 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

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00230 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Morris Simon for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Morris Simon this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Morris Simon to Maurice Simone The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 06/13/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: -. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401 . A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
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COMMUNITY NEWS

MALIBU

Malibu Calls for Poets to Submit Work for Annual Anthology

The City of Malibu is inviting local poets of all ages to submit their work for the 2025 community anthology themed "Transformation."

Submissions are being accepted through May 31 at the city's website. Writers may contribute up to five poems related to the theme, with one poem to be published from each selected contributor.

"Malibu has always been an artistic community, and I applaud the work of the Poet Laureate and Arts Commission for finding fun, educational, meaningful ways to celebrate and support our thriving artistic community," said Mayor Marianne Riggins.

The annual anthology, produced since 2021, aims to encourage residents to participate in arts activities and celebrate local talent.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

LOS ANGELES

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Awards $3.2 Million for Wildfire Prevention

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has awarded $3.2 million in state funds to Los Angeles County and Ventura County Fire Departments for immediate wildfire prevention programs.

The grants include $2.2 million for Los Angeles County Fire Department and $1 million for Ventura County Fire Department to reduce fuels in densely vegetated areas adjacent to communities in the Santa Monica Mountains Zone.

Funding comes from Proposition 4 bond funds through an early action measure authored by Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel and signed by Governor Newsom in April.

"In less than two weeks the Conservancy has granted funds and begun to put extensive preventative management strategies in place before the next fire season," said Steve Veres, Chairperson of the Conservancy.

The January 2025 Palisades, Eaton, and Kenneth wildfires underscored an urgent need for wildfire resilience efforts in Southern California.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SANTA MONICA

"Portraits of a Fractured Union" Photography Exhibition Opens May 17

The California Heritage Museum will present "Portraits of a Fractured Union," a ten-image exhibition by photojournalist Maxim Elramsisy capturing the human face of American politics.

The exhibition draws from Elramsisy's forthcoming debut photobook, "Righteous," and features portraits of candidates, public servants, activists, and partisans photographed during the 2024 election cycle.

"These are the faces of people who believe they're fighting for the soul of the country—whether they're in office or out in the street," says Elramsisy, a former neuroscientist turned documentary storyteller.

A public artist reception will be held May 17 at noon, and the photobook is available for preorder at RighteousbyME.com.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

WAYMO

FROM PAGE 2

alleyways and installing landscaping buffers. The city confirmed that sound levels do not violate local codes, but residents argue the impact on quality of life remains unresolved.

Despite localized tensions, Waymo continues to promote its technology as a safer alternative to human driving. It remains the only autonomous vehicle developer to publicly release performance data that is independently downloadable and reviewable. With the software fix now in place and the NHTSA investigation ongoing, Waymo says the recall reflects its commitment to transparency and public trust.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

SOCIAL

FROM PAGE 6

mass layoffs have complicated getting calls answered.

While Education Secretary Linda McMahon says restarting collections is a necessary step for debtors "both for the sake of their own financial health and our nation's economic outlook," even some of Trump's most fervent supporters are questioning a move that will make their lives harder.

Randall Countryman, 55, of Bonita, California, says a Biden administration proposal to forgive some student debt didn't strike him as fair, but he's not sure Trump's approach is either. He supported Trump but wishes the government made case-by-case decisions on debtors. Countryman thinks Americans don't realize how many older people are affected by policies on student loans, often thought to be the turf of the young, and how difficult it can be for them to repay.

"What's a young person's problem today," he says, "is an old person's problem tomorrow."

Countryman started working on a degree while in prison, then continued it at the University of Phoenix when he was released. He started growing nervous as he racked up loan debt and never finished his degree. He's worked a host of different jobs, but finding work has often been complicated by his criminal record.

He lives off his wife's Social Security check and the kindness of his mother-in-law. He doesn't know how they'd get by if the government demands repayment.

"I kind of wish I never went to school in the first place," he says.

By MATT SEDENSKY AP National Writer.

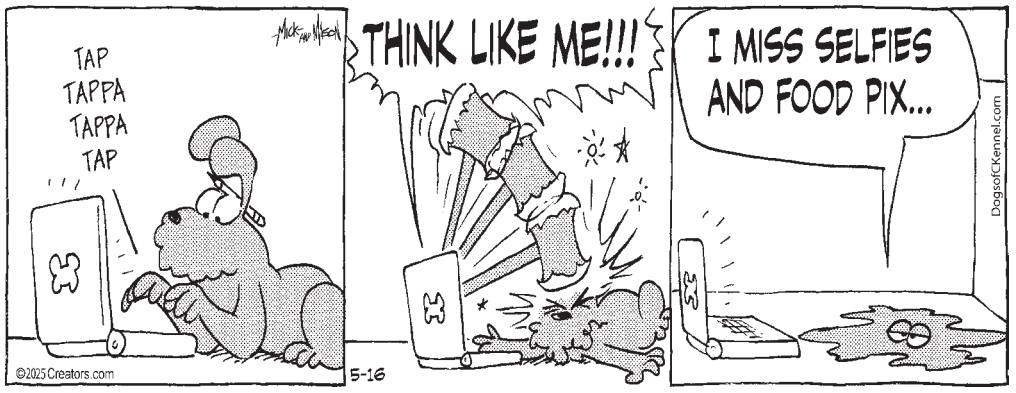
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



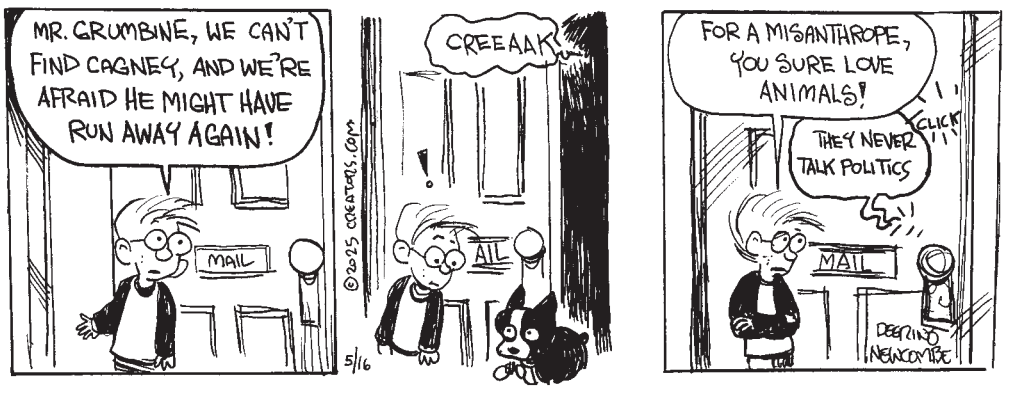
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



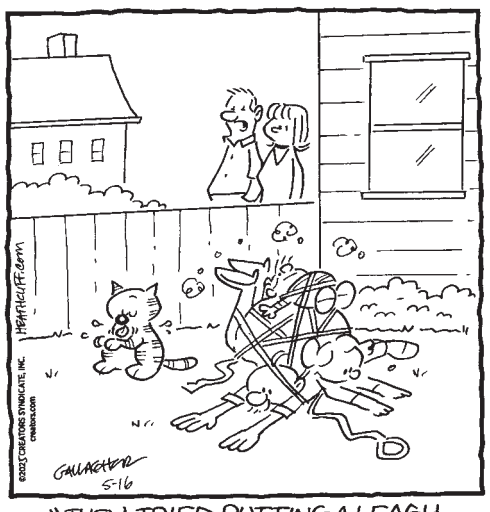
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THEY TRIED PUTTING A LEASH ON THE CAT."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



HOUDINI ESCAPES FROM A BAD RELATIONSHIP

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6577

Sport in Summer

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

Anchor	Dink	Katich	Play
Ashes	Draw	Loss	Retire
Bails	Drop	Middle	Runs
Ball	Duck	Mullygrubber	Score
Bodyline	Edge	Opener	Shade
Bouncer	Fair	Order	Single
Break	Fast	Orthodox	Stand
Byes	Four	Oval	Stumps
Catch	Hayden	Over	Symonds
Cheer	Helmet	Pads	Volley
Clap	India	Pavillion	Win
Coach	Jokes	Picnic	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 16)

You're about to experience the sweetness of your own consistency. What you stuck with will pay you and the new things you commit to will start to sparkle with possibility early on. You're building magnificence here. More highlights: a meaningful friendship becomes a partnership, a new source of income opens up and you'll gain recognition in a world that once ignored you. Libra and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 35, 9, 13, and 20.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've made the mistakes, adjusted, adapted and sharpened the skills you needed. This is why you're patient with others today. You'll be kinder in every direction, because your past stumbles allowed you to understand the stumbles of others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're making things of beauty, effectiveness or originality. It behooves you not to tell everyone what went into it. Let that be your little secret. It will be impactful to watch others try to replicate your magic — and realize they can't.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Gossip isn't always born in nastiness. Often it's an attempt to bond with others over a shared frustration. Still, there are better ways to bond than in collective judgment. Lean into your loyalty and you'll teach others. And if the conversation is rotten, leave it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You misjudged a situation, or someone's feedback shook you. Now you want to take your time and really learn the situation. You've matured emotionally and intellectually, and you're in a phase where discernment matters more than reaction.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Glamorous or dramatic situations call for your energy. Do they really deserve your presence, or are they just distractions from what you could be doing to forward your own aims? Pursuing your own dreams today will give you health and a glow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You know you're loved, not just because of the hard evidence of people showing up for you, listening to you or celebrating you. You know from the feeling. You will succeed in giving this sense of security and belonging to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your name carries a kind of sparkle. When someone brings you up, others chime in with praise. This earned admiration has nothing to do with flashy, performative shows of affection. It's evidence of the reputation you built with grace and reliability.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Insights will help you further develop your philosophy, a unique one coming together bit by bit. Someday this will be worthy of putting into a book, so be sure to write things down as they come to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're more than your accomplishments and the mark you make on the world. You're the artist, not the painting. Don't confuse your work with your worth. Try to identify more with your process, not the product or outcome.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Competition, jealousy and desire are powerful forces; when channeled wisely, they can spark ambition and creativity. But without clarity, they can cloud judgment. The important thing is to pause and breathe before you act (or press anything labeled "send").

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). To get strong, one must overcome some kind of opposition. To become brilliant, one must work around limitations. What if your current challenge is a disguised ladder to greatness?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Even as you strive to improve, the best people in your life will celebrate you as you are at every point of the journey. There is something good in every stage. You're working to become your best self — but you don't have to wait until you "arrive" to be loved, valued or celebrated.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

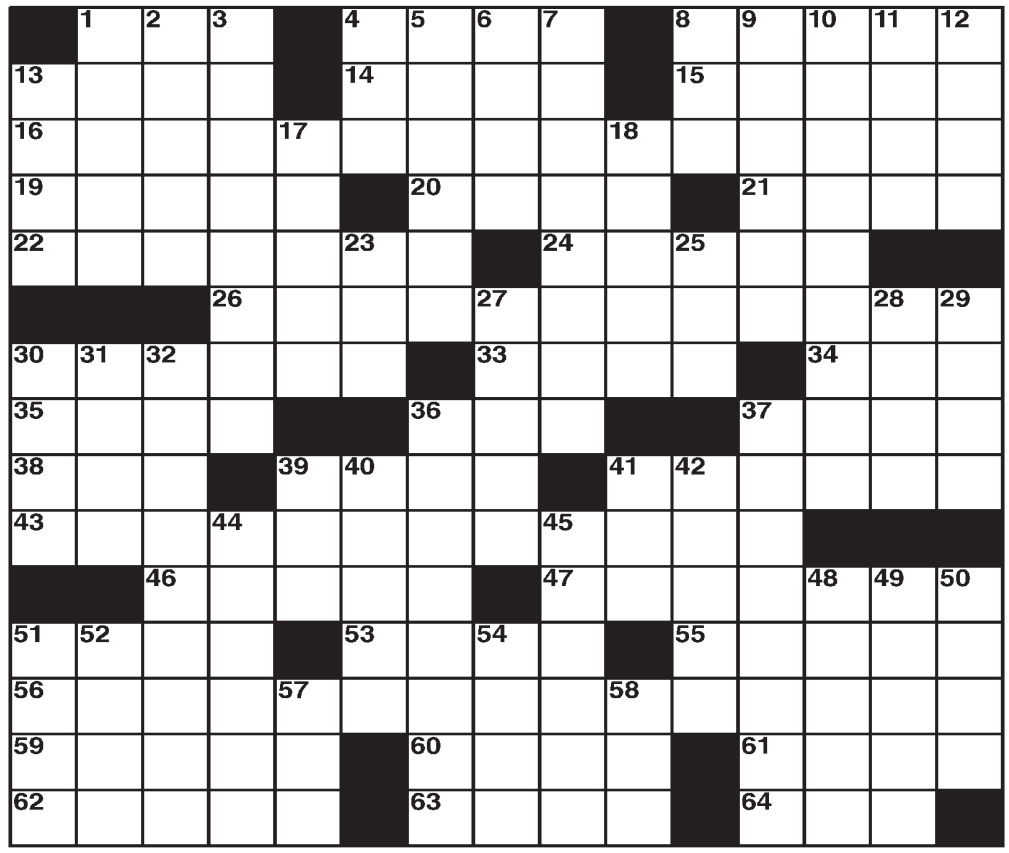
LOOKING BACK ABACK by S.N. Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Big bumbler
4 USAF offense
8 Droplets
13 Tartan family
14 Cubic Rubik
15 Interior courtyards
16 Start of a quote from *Slaughterhouse-Five*
19 Grieg contemporary and collaborator
20 Luncheon conclusion
21 Toolbox pokers
22 Emulates 21-Across
24 Name related to Matilda
26 Author of quote
30 Where to view *créations esthétiques*
33 Very small thing
34 Treasure of the Sierra Madre
35 AuctionWeb, today
36 Common employee ID
37 Draped attire
38 Ending like -arian
39 Dab dry
41 Tree-filled
43 Planet setting of the book
46 Peninsula north of Nova Scotia
47 E-motional media download
51 Profusely
53 Little __ (hardly 51-Across)
55 Best of anything
56 "...a __" (remainder of quote)
59 Propounded
60 State around the 46-Across
61 Surveyor's map
62 Device in a drum kit
63 Sounds disappointed
64 Condiment around the 46-Across

DOWN

1 Story that might be "airtight"
2 So last year
3 Carriage return descendant
4 Atmospheric starter
5 Most droll
6 "Consider it done"
7 Lovell's *Apollo 13* memoir
8 Significant other these days
9 Schwab.com alternative
10 "No hard feelings?"
11 Veggie dip herb
12 Articulates
13 Veggie dip partner
17 Exactly when called for
18 Signified
23 TV drama settings
25 A as in Argentina
27 Long view
28 Itchy feeling
29 Hopping insectivore
30 Converge
31 "Sign up to drive" company
32 Spanish city that hosted Expo 2008
36 Birthplace of cheddar cheese
37 Cyclist's accessories
39 Beaus these days
40 In the __ the gods (left to fate)
41 Wine and dine
42 Absence of disturbance
44 Second mentioned
45 Czech master composer
48 Usher's stand-in?
49 Sweet buy
50 Dry run
51 New Zealand's "Southern" range
52 Sub-Saharan predator
54 Bits in brownies
57 Rhapsodic rhyme
58 NBA box score heading



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CALTRANS

FROM PAGE 1

heavily damaged areas, upgraded lighting, ADA curb ramp improvements and safety signage. The plan also calls for the installation of pedestrian countdown signals, class II bike lanes and quick-curb channelization features throughout various segments.

However, Dominguez acknowledged significant design challenges, particularly in accommodating bike lanes along the corridor's narrower southern section. Constraints include limited right-of-way, proximity to environmentally sensitive areas and the inability to remove street parking or encroach on existing traffic lanes without triggering extensive environmental and regulatory processes.

To manage these issues, Caltrans plans to narrow travel lanes in some areas from 12 feet to 11 feet and reduce raised medians in selected sections to two feet, in order to make room for class II bike lanes in segments where feasible. In the northern project area alone, officials estimate that 7.7 miles of new bike lanes will be installed northbound and 7.1 miles southbound.

The projects will also add six new sidewalks along key points such as Heathercliff Road, Malibu Canyon Road and Bush Drive, many of them designed to improve pedestrian access to existing bus stops. Several intersections, including Civic Center Drive and Malibu Road, will be realigned or modified to improve visibility and reduce skew angles.

Despite these enhancements, several speakers voiced frustration with the scope and sequencing of the work, especially in light of the ongoing post-wildfire reconstruction effort in Malibu. Wade Major, a public works commissioner for the city, said he was disappointed that the plans had not been brought before the Malibu Public Works Commission for input and warned that implementing major roadwork during the city's long recovery period would result in severe congestion and public safety risks.

"You are going to be introducing horrible choke points if you begin any of these projects before we have substantially rebuilt any of our homes," Major said. "People will die. People already die too frequently on PCH. We're trying to make it safer. Inviting cyclists like you invite hikers makes no sense at all."

Other residents raised practical concerns about safety and visibility, particularly at intersections and near heavily trafficked beach access points. One speaker identified as Meryl urged the agency to address hazardous pedestrian conditions south of Paradise Cove, where she said poor shoulder maintenance and overgrown vegetation have created dangerous conditions for families with children and strollers.

Dominguez said maintenance issues would be relayed to Caltrans crews and noted that additional sidewalk locations mentioned during public comment would be evaluated during the design phase. He also explained that certain environmental and archaeological restrictions, especially in coastal areas, may prevent Caltrans from adding infrastructure in some locations without further review and permissions from agencies such as the California Coastal Commission.

Questions also surfaced about the compatibility of the pavement projects with the long-term Pacific Coast Highway Master Plan Feasibility Study, which was presented later in the meeting. Nick Carmona, a member of the Complete Streets planning team at Caltrans District 7, said the two initiatives were running on parallel tracks and that feedback gathered through the master planning effort would help guide future improvements beyond the current project scope.

"These projects are operating on distinctly different timelines," Carmona said. "What we're doing here is what we can accommodate within the scope of the existing pavement rehabilitation effort, but the master plan gives us a chance to take a broader and more comprehensive look down the line."

In response to multiple questions about whether the public could expect a full corridor-wide bike path or consistent sidewalk connectivity, officials reiterated that physical constraints and budget limits make it impossible to deliver uniform multimodal features across the entire 27-mile stretch at this time. Instead, the current projects will provide a mix of targeted improvements based on where space is available and where the greatest safety benefits can be achieved.

Lu said the agency has coordinated with the city of Malibu and intends to continue public outreach as the projects advance. Construction schedules will be shaped in part by the upcoming 2028 Olympics, during which a work suspension is expected from June 1 through September 1 to minimize traffic disruption.

Caltrans encouraged residents to continue submitting feedback through the project's dedicated email address, repavepch@dot.ca.gov. The agency has also posted a recording of the meeting on its YouTube channel for those who were unable to attend live.

HOUSING

FROM PAGE 3

Those earlier legislative efforts were "weak sauce" and "piddlywinks," these bills represent much more substantive change to housing and environmental policy, said Chris Elmendorf, a UC Davis Law professor and frequent public critic of CEQA.

"The fact that the governor is willing not just speak in generalities, not just have Ezra Klein on his podcast, but to endorse specific bills and even go beyond endorsing them by tying them to his budget and putting pressure on the Legislature, that, I think is a very big development that we haven't seen previously from this governor," he said.

His nod to these two bills comes at a politically important time. Wicks' bill has sailed through the Assembly so far with the explicit backing of Speaker Robert Rivas. Wiener's bill has made its way through one committee, but only barely and over the objections of that committee's chair. Both Legislative leaders have vowed to prioritize legislation that promotes "affordability." Rivas, closely allied with the "yes in my backyard" movement, has publicly endorsed a suite of bills aimed at reducing regulations and speeding up approvals for new housing. McGuire, tasked with wrangling a Senate Democratic caucus with public fractures over housing policy, has been more reluctant to articulate the specifics of his housing agenda.

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





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