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County task force to reshape government holds first meeting

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Los Angeles County has established a 13-member Governance Reform Task Force to oversee the implementation of Measure G, a sweeping charter amendment approved by voters in November 2024 that will fundamentally reshape how the nation's most populous county governs its 10 million residents.

The task force, which held its first organizational meeting with interim director Shotti Cardan presiding, faces the monumental responsibility of guiding what officials described as a "truly historic moment" in Los Angeles County's governance structure. The reforms are designed to address a system that officials say no longer reflects today's realities.

Measure G introduces a series of major changes with staggered implementation deadlines extending through 2034. By 2026, all non-urgency county legislation must be publicly posted for at least 120 hours before board action, extending the current 72-hour requirement. The same year will see establishment of an independent ethics commission and office of ethics compliance.

The most significant structural changes come later in the timeline. By 2028, county voters will elect a county executive with executive and administrative powers, fundamentally altering the current

SEE **GOVERNANCE** PAGE 6

Businesses prepare for opening of DTSM Entertainment Zone in two weeks



SMDP Photo

ENTERTAINMENT ZONE: Santa Monica's alcohol fueled entertainment zone opens in two weeks and stores along the Promenade

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica's alcohol fueled entertainment zone opens in two weeks and stores along the Promenade are preparing for whatever flows from taps.

Last week, local business owners peppered city officials with questions about restroom access, security and competition from pop-up vendors during a training session in advance of the June 13 launch.

The entertainment zone will allow customers to purchase alcoholic beverages from licensed businesses and consume them on public sidewalks along the promenade between Wilshire Boulevard and Broadway. The program will have regular hours Friday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. but the rules also allow for special events that will include alcohol outside those days and hours.

The zone was authorized by new statewide legislation prompted by a special-events entertainment zone in San Francisco and Santa Monica officials said the local version will be the first in the Southern California region.

As the rules stand today, only businesses with alcohol licenses along the zone can participate. Most of the 13 potential participants have expressed interest in joining the program but those attending the meeting last week had concerns over short term safety and long-term competition.

Business owners raised concerns about inadequate restroom facilities

SEE **ENTERTAINMENT** PAGE 8

Malibu works to save its struggling businesses

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Facing an estimated $36 million annual economic loss following recent wildfires and the prolonged closure of Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu city officials are implementing emergency measures to help local businesses survive what one council member described as devastating economic conditions.

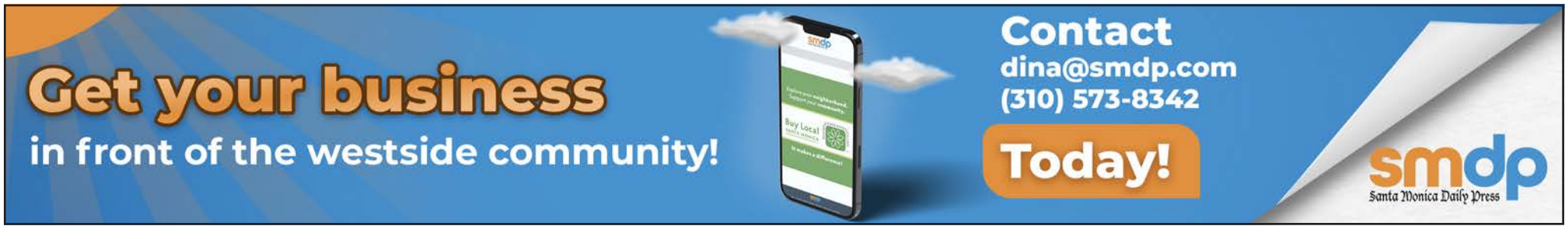
The Malibu City Council voted 4-1 on May 21 to suspend a scheduled minimum wage increase and fast-track changes to business event regulations, as sales tax collections have plummeted 40 to 50 percent in recent months.

The council approved Ordinance No. 525 on first reading, which would freeze the city's minimum wage at current levels instead of implementing the annual Consumer Price Index adjustment scheduled for July 1, 2025. The ordinance will return for final approval at a future meeting.

"We need to help our local businesses," said one council member during discussion of the Planning Commission's recent work on business permits. The city has been grappling with how to support commerce while residents and business owners recover from fire damage and the economic disruption caused by highway closures that have limited access to the coastal community.

However, the minimum wage freeze drew opposition from one council member who argued that helping the business community

SEE **MALIBU** PAGE 8



Linda Claypool (Cloe) Wowereit

May 05, 1940 - May 23, 2025

It's with a heavy heart that Linda Claypool Wowereit, 85, passed away in her sleep peacefully at her family's home on May 23, 2025 after suffering with Alzheimer's dementia. She was surrounded by her daughter, Kimberly Ballard and friends and family in Kent, WA where she had relocated too years ago.



She was born May 7, 1940 to Sam Cloe and Edith Hudson (Cloe) in Cassville, Arkansas. They moved to Santa Monica, CA when she was about 4 years old & settled into becoming a true "California Girl," spending almost the entire rest of her life there in the CA sun she loved so much. She loved music & dance & spent time in school at Santa Monica High learning the flute and performing in their prestigious Drill Team. She went on to become a librarian at Santa Monica College & immersed herself in her love of reading sci fi and learning. She went on to have one daughter & worked at the Santa Monica Municipal Courthouse issuing marriage licenses to many celebrities! She loved that job! She lived a life of giving back to her community and helping stray/lost or abused animals. She donated time at many church soup kitchens & donated to local animal organizations & rescues like "The Cat House" in Santa Monica. She had a beautiful voice & sang in church choirs her entire life as well as sang to folks in convalescent & nursing homes. She often thought of others before even considering herself. Her career allowed her to be helpful to kids and assist them as needed. She loved working at the Los Angeles County School District, specifically West Chester High School Attendance Office. Her love of family & children allowed her to help as needed in the position- just like she had lived her life. It was a great fit for her & she shined! Since retirement she again lived a life of service to her church & faith- often having church rummage/craft/bake sales for much needed community donations & continuing to sing in several church choirs, barbershop quartets & nursing homes.

Her greatest loves were family, friends, cats & helping. Her greatest passions were her love of music & singing, crocheting, shopping, cats & animal welfare, cherry blossoms & anything her favorite color green. She was very elegant and loved anything beautiful or pretty. She was, by definition & character, a true "lady." Always dressed to the nines with perfect hairdo, makeup and warm, friendly smile for all. She was such a sweet, gentle & kind soul and the world surely isn't as bright without her shining light. She lived a life full of love, faith, forgiveness & always tried to make the world a better place for everyone & animals. She truly made the world a better place just being herself and we're all better for knowing her, I believe.

She would kindly ask in lieu of flowers please kindly make a donation of any amount to your favorite animal or rescue organization or local Humane Society/ASPCA, where help is always needed. This was a huge part of her life & it would truly honor her.

She was just reunited to WA several years ago with her family and we are all devastated but recognize the tremendous blessing having her home, with her family. We love her always & will keep her memories in our hearts forever. She is survived by her daughter, Kimberly Wowereit Ballard,Kent, WA., Granddaughter, Krissina Ballard, Auburn, WA., SIL Grandson, Eric Prado, Auburn, WA., Great Grandsons, Remicio & Romeo Prado (apples of her eye) Auburn,WA., Best Friend of over 60years, Trudi Zubi, Eaglerock, CA., Dear Friends, Cheryl & Ron Fink, Los Angeles, CA., and many, many other friends & families she's known and loved throughout her life.

Her love lives on in each she knew!



COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown

SaMo Pride Returns June 21 with Expanded All-Ages Celebration

Santa Monica's month-long Pride celebration returns in June with expanded programming across multiple venues, culminating in a full day of events on Saturday, June 21.

The citywide celebration spans the Promenade, Pier, Main Street and Santa Monica Place, featuring art, activities, entertainment and community resources supporting the LGBTQ+ community. The partnership includes Downtown Santa Monica Inc., Santa Monica Place, Santa Monica Pier and Main Street Santa Monica, collaborating with the City of Santa Monica and Santa Monica Travel & Tourism.

At Santa Monica Pier, Fabulous Fables: Drag Queen Pride Family-Edition runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. inside the historic Merry Go-Round Building. The family-friendly event, presented with The Crow Comedy Club, features face painting, live performance by Santa Monica Playhouse, poetry reading by Santa Monica Poet Laureate Anne Carmack, drag storytelling and a Books & Cookies pop-up.

The Pride at the Pier Beach Sporting Experience runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with OutLoud Sports hosting mini tournaments in kickball, dodgeball, soccer, football, volleyball, tennis and cornhole. Simultaneously, Pride at the Pier Beach Volleyball offers open-format play for all skill levels through Pride Point Volleyball.

Santa Monica Place hosts Pride Disco and Kid Zone from noon to 4 p.m., featuring a family-friendly Silent Disco and craft activities with Cayton Children's Museum. The venue's Lanterns of Love display will illuminate Center Plaza throughout June.

Pride on the Promenade takes place from 2 to 7 p.m. with musical performances, giveaways, interactive games and LGBTQ+ businesses on Third Street Promenade. The event is part of Downtown Santa Monica's Entertainment Zone, allowing guests to carry alcoholic beverages while strolling.

Main Street Santa Monica offers Drag Bingo in the Beer Garden from 3 to 6 p.m., alongside the Summer Soulstice celebration. The street closes to cars from Strand Street to Pier Avenue for live music, family activities and art installations.

The weekend concludes Sunday, June 22, with the Pride on the Pier Dance Party.

Additional June events include the City's Pride Proclamation on May 27, SaMo Pride Drag Bingo Night on June 5, AIDS LifeCycle Finish Line Festival on June 7, Family PRIDE at Annenberg Community Beach House on June 13, and Rainbow Family Storytime at Ocean Park Branch Library on June 17.

For event registration and vendor opportunities, visit eventeny.com/events/pride-on-the-promenade-20126. Main Street Drag Bingo tickets are available at mainstreetsm.com. Complete schedules and updates are at SMPride.com.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Courtesy photo

PRIDE: Santa Monica's month-long Pride celebration returns in June with expanded programming across multiple venues, culminating in a full day of events on Saturday, June 21.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

How mortgage lenders are impeding Californians from rebuilding fire-torn LA

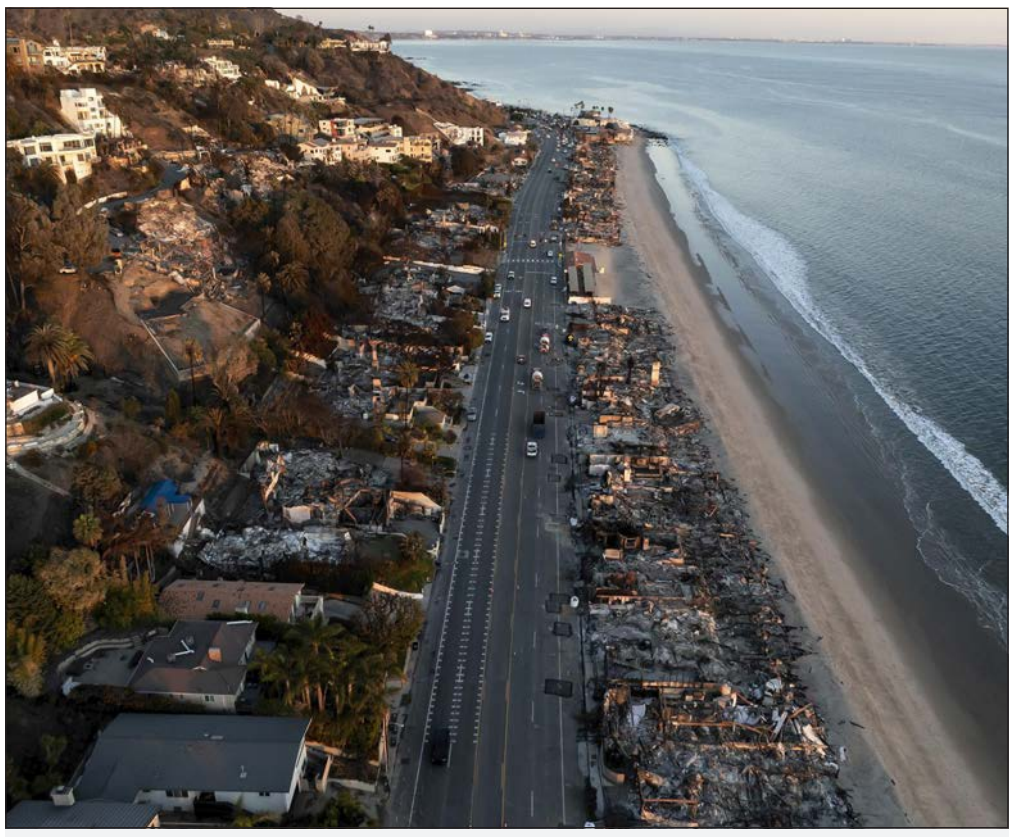


Photo by Ted Soqui for CalMatters

MALIBU: An aerial view of the Palisades Fire destruction in Carbon Canyon in Malibu along the Pacific Coast Highway on Jan. 15, 2025.

Like thousands of other families, in January we lost our Pacific Palisades home to wildfire. Within minutes, every house on our side of the street was reduced to ashes, while those across the street were left untouched.

Five months later, the harsh realities of recovery have set in. We are entangled in a bureaucratic maze: FEMA, the EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, IRS and a patchwork of state and local agencies.

Our home was covered by two insurance policies — one through California's FAIR Plan and one through a private company — but the multiple federal, state and private agencies don't coordinate. Even getting someone on the phone can take hours. It's turned seeking information into a part-time job.

To their credit, most government employees have been courteous and helpful. But the private sector has been another story. For example, we've been approached by opportunists offering to file simple forms that require no negotiation — for a 10% cut. In our case, there's nothing to negotiate: The home is gone and the settlement is fixed.

Our worst experience, however, has been with our mortgage company.

Soon after the fire, the insurer issued a settlement check, but it was made out to us and the mortgage lender. Following instructions, we endorsed the check and mailed it in for co-signing. Instead, the lender cashed it and kept the money.

Now they're demanding a mountain of paperwork — permits, architectural plans, contractor invoices — before releasing any funds. They refuse to let us use our insurance settlement to pay for the very services required to begin rebuilding.

Meanwhile, they earn interest on our money. The longer the delay, the more they profit.

We're not alone. Many fire victims are trapped in the same situation. Assemblymember John Harabedian, with support from Gov. Gavin Newsom, introduced legislation requiring lenders to pay back any interest earned on withheld insurance proceeds to homeowners. The logic is simple: If they delay disbursement intended for rebuilding what was lost, they should not profit from a disaster.

Are these tactics legal? Technically, yes. Like many homeowners, we signed a flurry of complex documents while refinancing — a clause naming the lender as a co-payee on insurance claims buried among them. It was not made clear to us that this allows them to hold the funds in escrow and release them at their discretion.

But California law requires that lenders act in good faith by not unreasonably withholding funds. State civil code makes this clear. A California appellate court ruling in Schoolcraft v. Ross reaffirms the lender's responsibilities.

Harabedian's bill could make a real

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 11



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **65.3**

TUESDAY
FAIR TO GOOD

SURF: 4-5ft
Chest to head

Still good as SSW swell slowly comes down. Light S wind crumble AM, breezier W wind PM. SSW swell holds to slowly tapers off as short-period NW swell mix bumps up some. The mix should create better shape at the open beachbreaks as size is still chest-shoulder high for better spots. Standouts head-high to slightly overhead. AM wind looks ok - light and generally clean to a little crumbled. Stronger onshore W wind will likely build for the PM for bumpier conditions. Points should have the cleanest and best overall surf during the PM.

WEDNESDAY
FAIR TO GOOD

SURF: 4-5ft
Chest to head

Easing surf with clean morning conditions likely. Occasionally peaky off the mix of swells. SSW swell remains the main source of surf but there will still be a bit of NW running too - enough for the occasional peak at the beachbreaks when the swells cross up. Look for widespread waist-chest high surf, with top spots still shoulder-head high on sets. Light/variable to light S morning wind will give way to light+/moderate SW-W wind in the afternoon for manageable bump.

Weather

Tuesday: Patchy drizzle before 11am. Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 69.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 58. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 66.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/06/03	Tue	03:51 AM	3.75	H
2025/06/03	Tue	10:43 AM	0.68	L
2025/06/03	Tue	5:44 PM	4.46	H
2025/06/04	Wed	12:04 AM	1.94	L
2025/06/04	Wed	05:16 AM	3.40	H
2025/06/04	Wed	11:26 AM	1.09	L
2025/06/04	Wed	6:17 PM	4.74	H
2025/06/05	Thu	01:01 AM	1.36	L
2025/06/05	Thu	06:34 AM	3.23	H
2025/06/05	Thu	12:03 PM	1.47	L
2025/06/05	Thu	6:47 PM	5.01	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: 5/31
1 29 37 56 68
Power#: 13
Jackpot: 20 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/30
2 28 37 38 58
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 202 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/31
3 14 29 33 47
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 13 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/1
3 17 20 23 34

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/1
EVENING: 3 9 3
Draw Date: 6/1
MIDDAY: 4 5 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/1
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:48.62

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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 # 450 UNDERWRITING POOL.**
- **Submission Deadline Is June 30, 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.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 05/08/25 2025093859The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1. Asylum247 2. 17178 Kingsbury St Granda Hills, CA 91344 . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/ are Jeff Pauch 17178 Kingsbury St Granda Hills, CA 91344 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: An Individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on)5/25 . Registrant / Corp/LLC Jeff Pauch Title: Owner Jeff Pauch . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 05/8/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
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Deep cuts erode the foundations of US public health system, end progress, threaten worse to come

Americans are losing a vast array of people and programs dedicated to keeping them healthy. Gone are specialists who were confronting a measles outbreak in Ohio, workers who drove a van to schools in North Carolina to offer vaccinations and a program that provided free tests to sick people in Tennessee.

State and local health departments responsible for invisible but critical work such as inspecting restaurants, monitoring wastewater for new and harmful germs, responding to outbreaks before they get too big — and a host of other tasks to protect both individuals and communities — are being hollowed out.

> Nobody wants to go swim in a community pool and come out of it with a rash or a disease from it. Nobody wants to walk out their door and take a fresh breath of air and start wheezing
>
> - Lori Tremmel Freeman, executive director of the National Association of County and City Health Officials

"Nobody wants to go swim in a community pool and come out of it with a rash or a disease from it. Nobody wants to walk out their door and take a fresh breath of air and start wheezing," said Lori Tremmel Freeman, executive director of the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

But local health officials say they now have no choice but to do a lot less of it. The Trump administration is cutting health spending on an unprecedented scale, experts say, including pulling $11 billion of direct federal support because the pandemic is over and eliminating 20,000 jobs at national health agencies that in part assist and support local public health work. It's proposing billions more be slashed.

Together, public health leaders said, the cuts are reducing the entire system to a shadow of what it once was, threatening to undermine even routine work at a time when the nation faces the deadliest measles outbreak since at least the 1990s, rising whooping cough cases and the risk that bird flu could spread widely among people.

The moves reflect a shift that Americans may not fully realize, away from the very idea of public health: doing the work that no individual can do alone to safeguard the population as a whole. That's one of the most critical responsibilities of government, notes James Williams, county executive in Santa Clara County, California. And it goes beyond having police and fire departments.

"It means not having babies suffering from diseases that you vanquished. It means making sure that people have access to the most accurate and up-to-date information and decisions that help their longevity," Williams said. "It means having a society and communities able to actually prosper, with people living healthy and full lives."

KEEPING COMMUNITIES HEALTHY SAVES LIVES — AND MONEY

Just outside a Charlotte, North Carolina, high school in March, nurse Kim Cristino set out five vaccines as a 17-year-old girl in ripped jeans stepped onto a health department van. The patient barely flinched as Cristino gave her three shots in one arm and two in the other to prevent diseases including measles, diphtheria and polio.

Like many other teens that morning, the girl was getting some shots years later than recommended. The clinic's appearance at Independence High School gave her a convenient way to get up to date.

"It lessens the barriers for parents who would have to be taking off from work and trying to get their kids to a provider," Cristino said.

The vaccinations also help the community around her. The teen won't come down with a life-threatening disease and the whole community is protected from outbreaks — if enough people are vaccinated.

The Mecklenburg County department, with "Protecting and Promoting the Public's Health" emblazoned on its van, is similar to other U.S. health departments. They run programs to reduce suicides and drug overdoses, improve prenatal health and help people stop smoking. They educate people about health and test for and treat diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis. Some, including Mecklenburg, operate medical and dental clinics too.

"You come to work every day and think: What's going to be my challenge today? Sometimes it's a new disease," said Raynard Washington, Mecklenburg's director. "That's why having a backbone infrastructure is so important."

What they do is cost-effective, experts have

SEE **HEALTH** PAGE 7

Can Trump fix the national debt? Republican senators, many investors and even Elon Musk have doubts

President Donald Trump faces the challenge of convincing Republican senators, global investors, voters and even Elon Musk that he won't bury the federal government in debt with his multitrillion-dollar tax breaks package.

The response so far from financial markets has been skeptical as Trump seems unable to trim deficits as promised.

> All of this rhetoric about cutting trillions of dollars of spending has come to nothing — and the tax bill codifies that
> - Michael Strain, director of economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute

"All of this rhetoric about cutting trillions of dollars of spending has come to nothing — and the tax bill codifies that," said Michael Strain, director of economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, a right-leaning think tank. "There is a level of concern about the competence of Congress and this administration and that makes adding a whole bunch of money to the deficit riskier."

The White House has viciously lashed out at anyone who has voiced concern about the debt snowballing under Trump, even though it did exactly that in his first term after his 2017 tax cuts.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt opened her briefing Thursday by saying she wanted "to debunk some false claims" about his tax cuts.

Leavitt said the "blatantly wrong claim that the 'One, Big, Beautiful Bill' increases the deficit is based on the Congressional Budget Office and other scorekeepers who use shoddy assumptions and have historically been terrible at forecasting across Democrat and Republican administrations alike."

House Speaker Mike Johnson piled onto Congress' number crunchers on Sunday, telling NBC's "Meet the Press," "The CBO sometimes gets projections correct, but they're always off, every single time, when they project economic growth. They always underestimate the growth that will be brought about by tax cuts and reduction in regulations."

But Trump himself has suggested that the lack of sufficient spending cuts to offset his tax reductions came out of the need to hold the Republican congressional coalition together.

"We have to get a lot of votes," Trump said last week. "We can't be cutting."

That has left the administration betting on the hope that economic growth can do the trick, a belief that few outside of Trump's orbit think is viable.

Most economists consider the non-partisan CBO to be the foundational standard for assessing policies, though it does not produce cost estimates for actions taken by the executive branch such as Trump's unilateral tariffs.

Tech billionaire Musk, who was until recently part of Trump's inner sanctum as the leader of the Department of Government Efficiency, told CBS News: "I was disappointed to see the massive spending bill, frankly, which increases the budget deficit, not just decreases it, and undermines the work that the DOGE team is doing."

FEDERAL DEBT KEEPS RISING

The tax and spending cuts that passed the House last month would add more than $5 trillion to the national debt in the coming decade if all of them are allowed to continue, according to the Committee for a Responsible Financial Budget, a fiscal watchdog group.

To make the bill's price tag appear lower, various parts of the legislation are set to expire. This same tactic was used with Trump's 2017 tax cuts and it set up this year's

SEE **DEBT** PAGE 11

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GOVERNANCE

FROM PAGE 1

board-dominated system. The reforms also call for creation of a county legislative analyst to provide nonpartisan policy support and a director of budget and management.

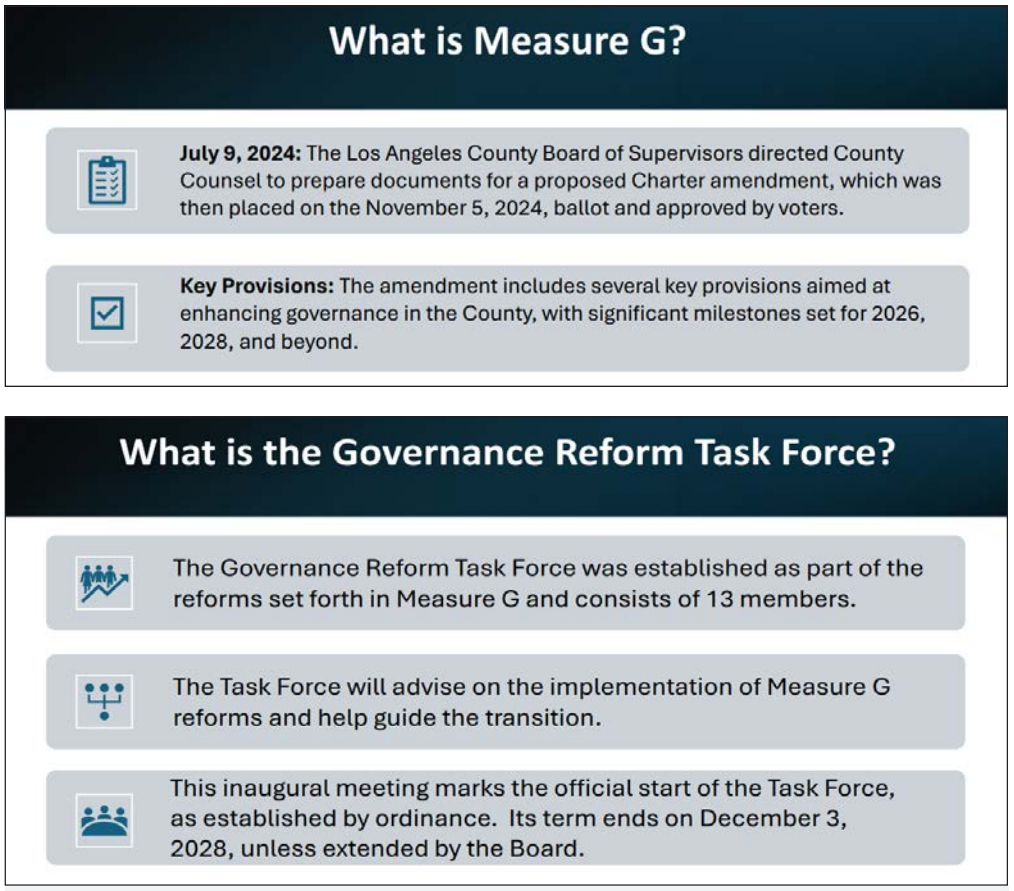
Perhaps the most dramatic change will occur by 2031, when the Board of Supervisors expands from five to nine members, with staggered elections beginning in 2032. A charter review commission will be established by 2034 to meet every 10 years and recommend further changes.

The task force membership reflects the county's diversity, drawing from varied professional backgrounds including education, nonprofit leadership, political science, military service, local government, business ownership, healthcare and labor advocacy. Members include Ryan Calderon Sabatay, Derek Steel, Sarah Sadwani, Marcel Rardi, John Pana, David Green, Derek Chay, Steve Neil, Gabriella Uronis, Julia Mockeridge, David Phelps, Rosa Sodto and Nancy Yak.

The group includes appointees from individual supervisors and at-large members selected by initial appointees. Representation includes residents from unincorporated areas, leaders of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, and representatives from labor unions including SEIU 721, CCU and LA FedE.

Executive Officer Edward Yan delivered opening remarks emphasizing the gravity of the work ahead. The task force's official term runs through December 3, 2028, unless extended by the board.

During the meeting, members acknowledged both the significance and challenges of their assignment. Some members revealed they had voted against Measure G, particularly citing concerns about the elected chief executive position and cost neutrality provisions. These members emphasized the need for thorough discussions about the executive's appointing authority and potential impacts on representation in unincorporated areas.



Courtesy image

MEASURE G: The new process is building towards an expansion of the Board of Supervisors.

Public participation featured prominently in discussions, with task force members stressing the importance of making the process accessible to diverse communities. Suggestions included holding meetings outside downtown Los Angeles to reach more residents, establishing language interpretation as standard practice rather than by request only, and ensuring voices of historically overlooked communities are heard.

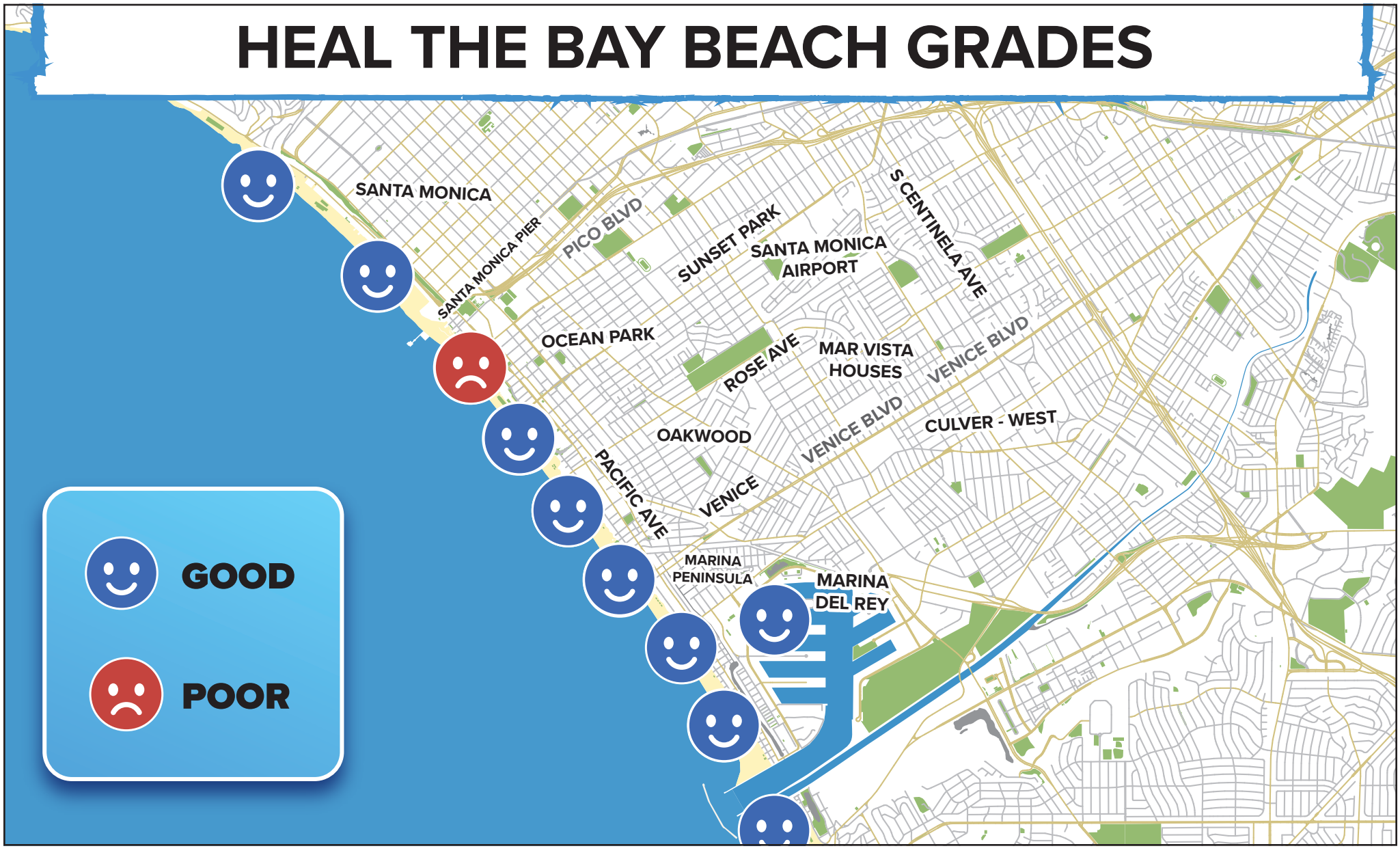
Public commenters raised various concerns and suggestions during the meeting. Issues included calls for continued consumer protection focus, child protection system reforms, addressing problems in unincorporated communities like Florence Firestone and East LA, clarification about the elected executive's term limits, transparency in legislation posting, consideration of ranked choice voting, and the need for independent ethics oversight.

Some expressed disappointment that the task force application process was not conducted publicly, while others called for youth representation in the reform process. Questions were also raised about union involvement and the potential concentration of power in the new nine-member board structure.

The task force now faces the complex work of translating voter-approved reforms into practical implementation. Members plan to establish regular meeting schedules, elect leadership, create bylaws and form specialized committees to tackle specific aspects of the transition.

Officials described the reforms as an opportunity to build a government that is more accountable, transparent, representative and responsive to constituents, particularly those historically excluded from county decision-making processes. The changes represent the most significant restructuring of Los Angeles County government in decades, affecting services and representation for one of the nation's largest local government jurisdictions.

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HEALTH

FROM PAGE 4

found. For every dollar spent on childhood immunizations, the country is estimated to save $11; on tobacco cessation, $2-$3; on asthma control, $70.

DISEASE PREVENTION IS UNSEEN — AND IGNORED

Critical care can be glamorous — surgeons, cardiologists and cancer doctors can pull off breathtaking medical feats to save lives at the last possible moment. Prevention work is low key. It's impossible to identify who was saved because, if it goes well, the person never knows when they've fended off a mortal threat with the invisible shield of public health.

"People don't appreciate it," said Dr. Umair Shah, former health director for Washington state. "Therefore, they don't invest in it."

State health departments are funded by a varying mix of federal and state tax money. Some states deliver services in a centralized way while others provide resources to local departments, which generally also get money from counties, cities or towns. Some large cities get direct federal funding for their health departments.

Mecklenburg — a large department with around 1,000 workers serving 1.2 million people — has an annual budget of around $135 million, while some metro hospitals have operating expenses in the billions. About 70% of the department's budget comes from local funds, which helps fill gaps in state and federal money. But Mecklenburg is still strapped for cash and resources.

At times, employees work 12- to 14-hour days, especially during outbreaks. Nurse Carmel Jenkins recalled responding to mpox exposures at a day care center — arriving before 5:30 a.m. to alert the children's parents and working late into the evening.

"Even though there may be limited resources, we still have a service to provide," said Jenkins, a director of clinical services for the department. "We don't mind going above and beyond to be able to do that."

Chaos in Washington puts 'lives at risk'

In March, the Trump administration pulled $11 billion from state and local health departments without warning under the leadership of Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a longtime anti-vaccine activist and public health critic. The cuts abruptly ended COVID-era grants, which had also been approved for non-COVID work including vaccination and disease detection, tracking and testing.

A week later, thousands of people were laid off at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Many had worked closely with state and local health departments to provide information, grants and other support.

The sudden, one-two punch delivered a serious blow to the system, public health leaders said in interviews, court filings and public testimony.

A Kennedy spokesman said in an email that America remains unhealthy compared with other developed nations and HHS is reorganizing what he said were "broken systems" and reprioritizing resources to "centralize programs and functions that will improve our service to the American people."

"These cuts are not about abandoning public health — they're about reforming it," spokesman Andrew Nixon said, adding: "We reject the implication that HHS has turned its back on urgent health threats."

> "These cuts are not about abandoning public health — they're about reforming it"
>
> - Andrew Nixon

HHS justified the grant cancellations by saying the money was for COVID and the pandemic is over. But most of the cuts were in areas that are especially important given today's health threats. The biggest chunk, more than $8.9 billion, involved epidemiology and laboratory capacity related to infectious diseases, while another $2 billion was related to immunizations. In some places, the cuts are on hold due to a federal judge's order in a lawsuit by states. But elsewhere, cuts are continuing.

In Mecklenburg, for example, 11 community health workers lost their jobs, meaning less outreach to groups like the Hispanic community. All eight employees dedicated to the mobile vaccine program were laid off.

In Columbus, Ohio — one of several communities in Republican-led states suing over the cuts — the health department had to lay off nine disease intervention specialists. This left it operating at 25% capacity in its disease tracing and investigation work just as it prepared to address a measles outbreak.

Kansas City, Missouri, will not be able to do its own testing for infectious diseases because the cut came just as the city was about to buy $500,000 worth of equipment. And Nashville had to end a program offering free flu and COVID tests and cancel plans to buy a van to deliver vaccinations.

The cities complained the cuts had created "severe budget uncertainty" and forced them to redirect their limited resources "to respond to the resulting chaos."

CDC staff cuts are also having a ripple effect on state and local departments. Children who are deaf or hard of hearing will no longer benefit from an early intervention program run by states after everyone who worked on the program at CDC was laid off. The team in the Office on Smoking and Health, which funds state tobacco hotlines that help people quit, was let go.

So was the CDC team that worked to reduce drownings, partly through funding low-cost swimming lessons in local communities. Drownings kill 4,000 people a year in the U.S.

"The experts who know the things that can be done to help prevent the No. 1 cause of death from children ages 1 to 4 have been eliminated," Connecticut state health commissioner Dr. Manisha Juthani told a Democratic congressional hearing in April, referring to drownings.

She said the abrupt and disorganized nature of the cuts leaves her department scrambling as officials try to understand what is being cut and to close important programs on the federal government's impractical timelines.

"The current uncertainty puts lives at risk," she said.

PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING IS GOING BUST — AND ABOUT TO GET WORSE

The new cuts are especially damaging because health departments are funded differently than other government agencies meant to protect the public: Funding pours in during emergencies and slows to a relative trickle when they subside. Mecklenburg's Washington notes the contrast with fire departments, which are kept ready at all times, not scrambling to find firefighters and fire trucks when houses are already burning.

With health departments, "there's a long-established pattern of boom-and-bust funding," said Dr. Steven Stack, Kentucky's public health commissioner and past president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

A temporary surge of money during the pandemic allowed some health departments to expand and strengthen programs. In Alabama, the influx of COVID money allowed the state to reopen a health department in largely rural Coosa County that closed a decade ago due to a lack of money. In California's Santa Clara County, a COVID-era lab grant paved the way for a new science branch with nearly 50 positions.

But by early this year, most of that money had disappeared, along with other COVID-era grants across the nation — some because they ended and some because the government rescinded them. Departments were again left brittle and vulnerable.

"We're facing funding cliff after funding cliff after funding cliff," said Dr. Sara Cody, Santa Clara County's health director. "What really worries me is I felt that we had finally built the infrastructure in the public health department. ... We were still pretty trim, but we weren't just, like, bones."

In Chicago, one-time COVID grants made up 51% of the health department budget, and their ending will push staff numbers below the pre-pandemic level of 588 — slowing responses to outbreaks and forcing officials to scale back food safety, violence prevention and other programs.

In Mecklenburg, the department lost 180 employees as COVID funds dried up. It also lost a wastewater monitoring partnership with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte that helped the county react quickly to changing COVID variants and could have also been used to detect new threats like bird flu.

> "We're facing funding cliff after funding cliff after funding cliff"
>
> - Dr. Sara Cody, Santa Clara County's health director

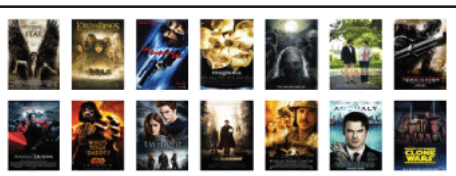
The cuts are not over.

The Trump administration has proposed cutting billions more from CDC's budget, enough to cut the agency's spending in half. CDC sends about 80 percent of its budget to states and local communities.

Michael Eby, director of clinical services in Mecklenburg, said the relentless cuts to the system leave departments unable to respond to new pandemics and old diseases returning across the United States.

"Without the appropriate funding, we can't properly address these threats," he said. "We're at risk of them getting out of control and really causing a lot of damage and death to individuals that we could have saved, that we could have protected."

By LAURA UNGAR and MICHELLE R. SMITH Associated Press. Ungar reported from Charlotte and Louisville, Kentucky, and Smith reported from Providence, Rhode Island. Associated Press reporters Mary Conlon in Washington and Kenya Hunter in Atlanta contributed to this report.

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 1

and unsafe parking structures during the kickoff meeting. Restaurant owners said patrons already try to use restaurant restrooms without permission and that more needs to be done to direct visitors to the public restrooms nearby.

Some business owners said their employees are already wary of the public parking structures at night and asked for more security during the entertainment zone hours.

Staff said there are no plans to increase police patrols at this time but the overlapping security services that already patrol all or parts of Downtown Santa Monica will be on alert for potential problems. It will largely fall on those private security guards to enforce rules regarding alcohol but officials said they will have the ability to call police for more serious problems.

To participate, licensed businesses must notify the state Alcohol Beverage Control agency, complete mandatory training, and sign a participation agreement with the city. Customers must be 21 or older, wear special wristbands provided by businesses and consume their drinks in restaurant-provided non-glass, non-metal containers. The zone prohibits customers from bringing their own alcohol, consuming drinks outside the designated area, or taking beverages from one business into another establishment. As it stands today, participating restaurants can only sell alcohol from their existing bars. They are not permitted to sell alcohol from any outdoor patios or exterior windows they might have.

Several attendees asked whether pop-up alcohol vendors would be allowed to compete with existing businesses. Planning officials said the current program focuses on the 13 licensed businesses already operating on the promenade, though the ordinance doesn't specifically prohibit temporary vendors and businesses from nearby streets have asked about setting up alcohol carts or booths on the Promenade.

Staff said both the outdoor vending and pop-up concepts are on the table for future revisions to the program.

"That's not something that is activated at the moment, but we are working with DTSM and staff on that possibility," said Jing Yeo, Planning Manager.

City officials emphasized the program's focus on safety and indicated they're monitoring the possibility of expanding hours, dates and boundaries based on initial success.

"This program's continued success will be dependent on businesses and consumers, you know, kind of following the rules, making sure that this remains a fun and safe experience," Yeo said.

The official launch celebration is scheduled for June 21 in conjunction with Pride on the Promenade. Events can be held daily from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. with proper permits.

Downtown Santa Monica Inc. will provide private security during zone hours, supplementing regular police patrols. The Santa Monica Police Department plans to monitor the program's impact on calls for service over three-month periods.

editor@smdp.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

SMC Concert Chorale to Present World Premiere Addressing Climate, Racial Justice

Santa Monica College's Concert Chorale and Horizon Music Group will perform "Tipping Point: Climate & Racial Injustice" on Friday, June 6, at 7:30 p.m. at The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center.

The concert will feature three major works examining contemporary social issues. The centerpiece is the world premiere of "Tipping Point," co-created by SMC students and internationally renowned LGBTQ+ composer Sherry Blevins to express the urgency of addressing climate change.

The program also includes "Seven Last Words of the Unarmed" by Black composer Joel Thompson, which sets to music the final words spoken by seven Black men killed by law enforcement. The evening will conclude with Samuel Barber's "Agnus Dei," also known as "Adagio for Strings."

SMC music instructor Jeremiah Selvey will direct the performance at the venue located at 1310 11th Street at Santa Monica Boulevard.

Tickets cost $12 for general admission plus a service charge, while students with valid identification receive free admission. Advance tickets can be purchased online at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-3005 during limited weekday hours.

Tickets will also be available at The Broad Stage Box Office beginning 45 minutes before the performance. The venue offers free on-site parking, and seating operates on a first-arrival basis.

The concert represents a collaboration between SMC's music department and professional musicians to address pressing social issues through choral music. The world premiere of "Tipping Point" highlights student involvement in creating new works that reflect contemporary concerns about environmental and social justice.

The diverse program spans multiple composers and themes, from climate activism to racial justice, concluding with Barber's classical composition. All performances remain subject to change or cancellation without advance notice.

Additional information is available by calling 310-434-4323.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

MALIBU

FROM PAGE 1

should not come "on the backs of the most vulnerable employees." The dissenting member noted they had opposed similar measures when the council previously directed staff to pursue the wage freeze.

The council also moved to expedite changes to regulations governing business events and temporary signage. Staff explicitly stated the purpose of the proposed zone text amendment is "to help our businesses" by making it easier to host events that could draw customers and revenue.

Under the current system, all business events require a Temporary Use Permit submitted 35 days in advance, with businesses limited to six events annually. The proposed three-tier system would create different requirements based on event size, potentially allowing smaller gatherings with just three days' notice and no public notification requirements.

The council bypassed its usual committee process and directed the Planning Commission to hold a public hearing on the event regulation changes, signaling the urgency city officials feel about providing relief to struggling businesses.

The economic crisis has been building since the fires and highway closure disrupted normal business operations and tourist traffic that many Malibu businesses depend on. An economic impact report presented to the council estimated the annual loss at around $36 million for the local economy.

The dramatic drop in sales tax collections — down 40 to 50 percent according to city reports — has created a cascading effect on both business viability and city finances. Officials have discussed the potential benefits of reopening Pacific Coast Highway, though council members have expressed concerns about highway conditions and security once National Guard presence ends.

Some business owners may not be prepared to capitalize on increased traffic even if access improves, officials noted, citing the short notice and ongoing recovery challenges facing many establishments.

The council has acknowledged that the city lacks formal structures like an economic development section to systematically address business needs during the crisis. One council member suggested establishing a legislative platform or holding workshops focused on economic support actions.

The urgency of business support became evident in recent Planning Commission discussions, where council members have observed decisions directly impacting individual businesses. One council member noted strong community support for allowing businesses like the Rafi Lounge at the CE View Hotel to operate, calling such approvals essential for helping local businesses survive.

The city's Business Micro Stabilization Grant Program remains available to help independently owned businesses, though specific details about grant amounts and deadlines were not provided in the council discussion.

The Planning Commission is expected to develop specific recommendations for the event regulation changes, which would then return to the city council for final approval. The commission's review will determine whether the proposed three-tier system moves forward or requires modifications.

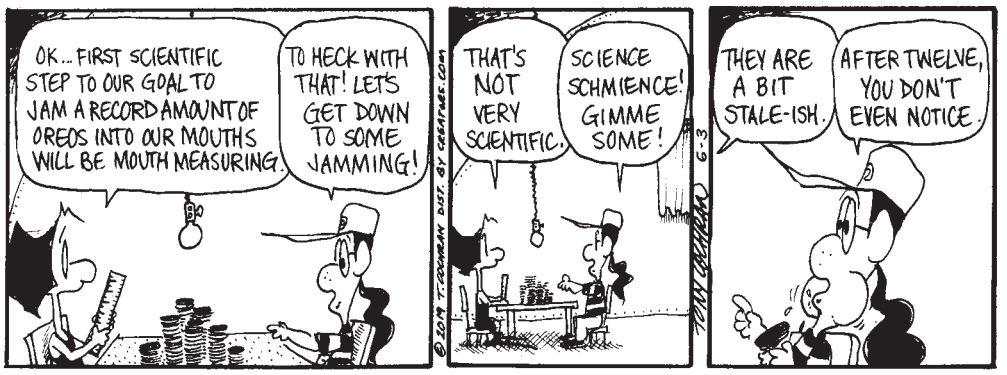
As Malibu continues recovery efforts, city officials are balancing immediate business relief needs against broader policy considerations and employee protections. The debate over the minimum wage freeze highlighted tensions between supporting business owners and protecting workers during the economic downturn.

The next steps for both the minimum wage ordinance and event regulation changes will depend on upcoming council meetings and Planning Commission recommendations, as the city works to implement what officials hope will be effective economic recovery measures.

maaz@smdp.com

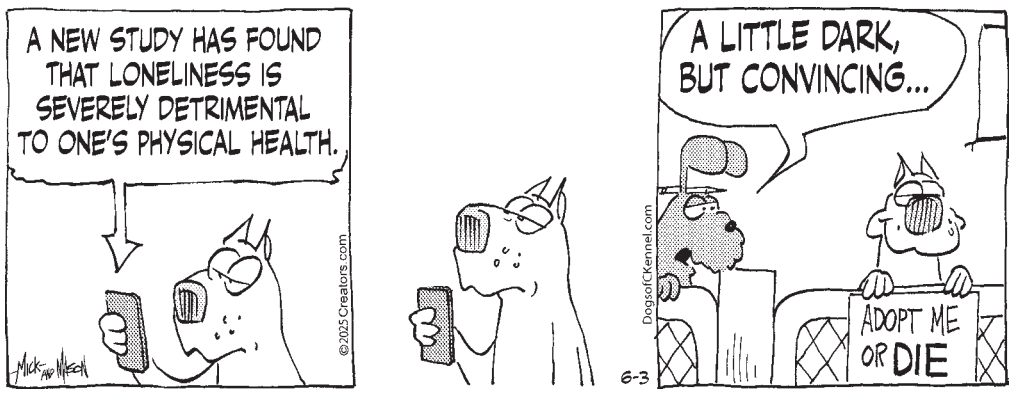
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



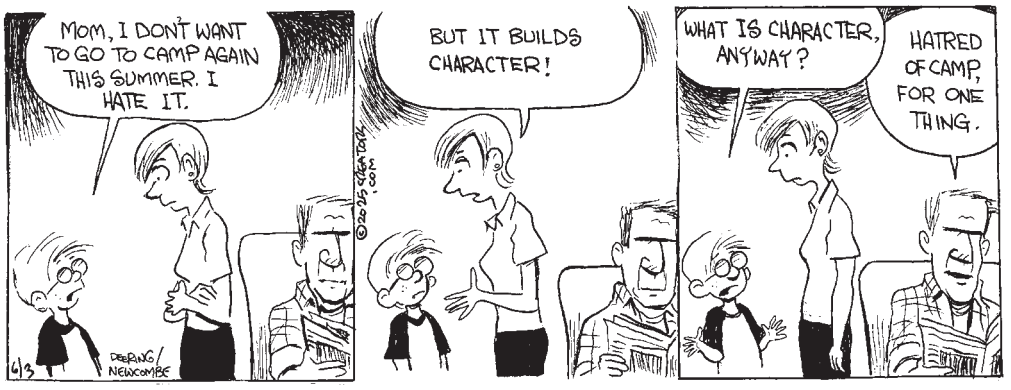
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



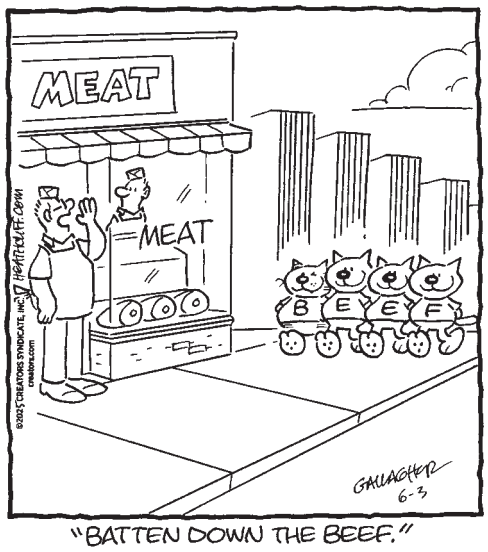
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"BATTEN DOWN THE BEEF."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 14 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6595

The fish are biting

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

Agile	Canoe	Iridescent	Nets	Shad
Alert	Cast	Islands	Night	Snag
Alvey	Chub	Jigs	On ice	Sole
ANSA	Clam	Lake	Penn	Steel
Bait	Cobia	Line	Plug	Storm
Barracuda	Estuary	Lure	Reef	Tench
Bass	Float	Mako	Relax	Traps
Bays	Gaff	Mangrove	Reserves	Trout
Beer	Haul	Maori	Salad	Tuna
Bite	Hook	Mask	Samson	Yacht
Bondi	Illusion	Mitchell	Search	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 3)

People are attracted to you wherever you go this year, and go you will, exploring new worlds - some close to home, some distant. Each new friend is a world to discover. More highlights: You'll be at times an ambassador, a soldier and a trailblazer. Your family and financial prospects grow. Also, there's a dazzling collaboration, a meaningful flirtation and a key that sets you free. Leo and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are 11, 23, 17, 4 and 28.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Today's group effort will show how powerful shared momentum can be when everyone tunes to the same frequency. Collaboration isn't about individual star power - it's about rhythm, balance and timing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You approach the world like a traveler in your own life. That sense of newness makes wonder possible again. You're willing to see very familiar people with fresh eyes today. It helps to have new people in the mix, as they cast a different light on the scene.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's a big yes from the universe today. You'll mostly feel it in the way people respond to you. They pick up what you're putting down, buy what you're selling and return the serve.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've made a course correction. You know what went wrong, what's still hard, what can't be helped - and most crucially, what will change. You have purpose and the energy for the transformation. Hold on to hope and continue.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have the ingredients for your project. You've been gathering experience, strength and insight. You don't need to wait for some better version of yourself to start doing unforgettable work. That self is here.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The relationships that make you think, stretch and communicate more deeply will be the most rewarding. Also, your favorite people may be out of reach today, but inspiring books, films and ideas will keep your atmosphere rich.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your disarming humor is not just a personal trait but a valuable asset you'll use to warm up a group and make work pleasant for everyone. Shared laughter will strengthen team cohesion and collaboration.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you find yourself interested in what the others are doing, how much they were paid for it or how much they had to pay for it, don't judge yourself. Sure, it's nosy, but everyone compares. Just try not to obsess.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're carrying a lot - not just duties but deep feelings, too. You have emotional strength under pressure - the ability to stay composed, capable and focused even in messy moments. You meet life with grace simply by being who you are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Within you there's a vision emerging and a higher self that holds it and steps forward to take the lead. That part sets the tone for the rest of you, and your emotions, habits, instincts and even your doubts will fall into their correct places for optimum forward motion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're not here to be like anyone else. You're here to make one cool thing that is unmistakably yours. And then another. And then another. Because there is no bottom to what you have to offer.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've been seasoning. You've been marinating in experience and heartbreak and mastery of a daily grind, keeping your people cared for and your world turning. Take heart. Your time to break out and shine is right around the corner.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

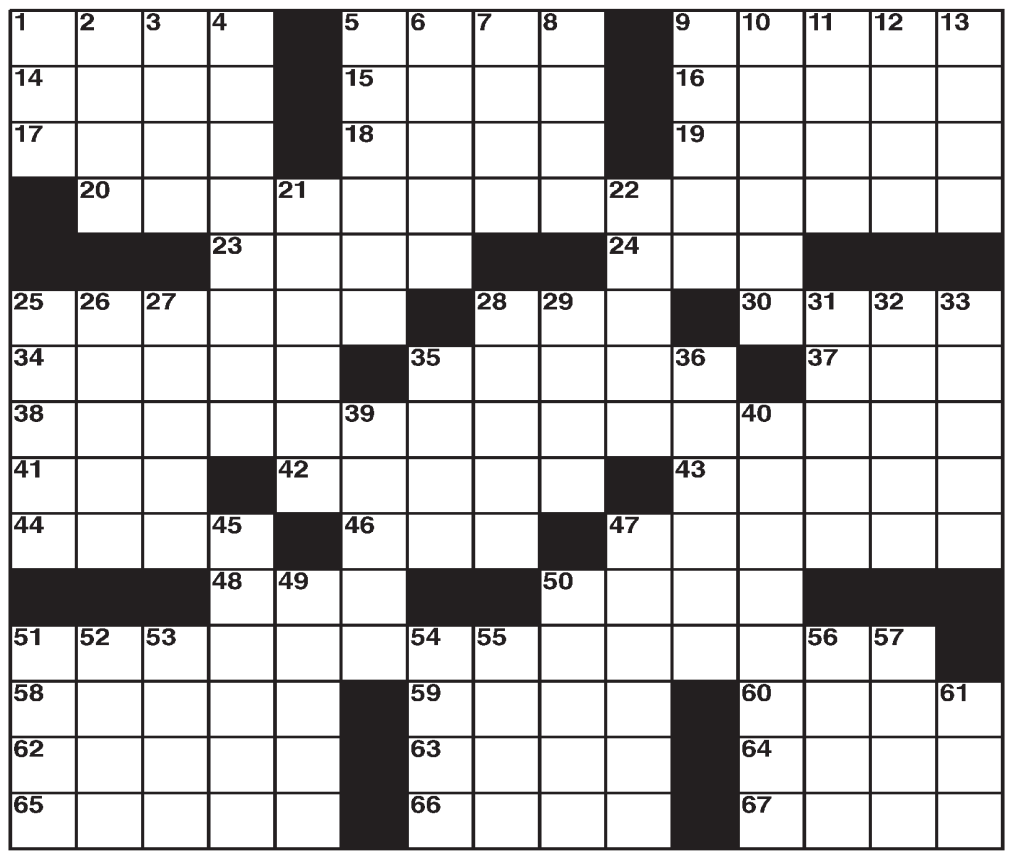
BETWEEN THE EDGES by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 First part of a play
5 Envelope part that's licked
9 Satellite's path
14 Closed tightly
15 Move upward
16 Chili con __
17 Dress of India
18 Cartoonist's liquids
19 Heroic tales
20 Poker hand that's risky to try for
23 Light in a constellation
24 Also
25 Be lenient
28 Singer/songwriter Dylan
30 Source of roe
34 Sharpshooter Oakley
35 Formerly made Swedish cars
37 Nest egg initials
38 Shortstop or second baseman
41 Earth-friendly prefix
42 National symbols made of cloth
43 Occupy a throne
44 Nevada casino city
46 Three letters in "mommy"
47 88-key instruments
48 Persona __ grata
50 Oboe accessory
51 Decision that isn't effective enough
58 PC-to-PC message
59 Be dressed in
60 Stew containers
62 University of __ Dame
63 Contact by phone
64 Canine in Oz
65 Clay target sport
66 24-hr. cash sources
67 Prophetic sign

DOWN

1 Donkey
2 Spiced tea of India
3 Make a right or left
4 "According to some..."
5 Work week conclusion for many
6 Cruise ship
7 Inquires
8 Annoying person
9 Mermaid's home
10 Swift-moving part of a river
11 Ship's lockup
12 Fraction of a foot
13 Try out
21 In a class by __
22 Synagogue teacher
25 Video arcade enthusiast
26 Being chilled, as wine
27 Finish with
28 Hair over the forehead
29 Clumsy people
31 Used for concealment
32 "All systems __!"
33 Repairs, as a sock
35 Thailand's former name
36 Weekly TV program
39 Justice Kagan
40 Immediately precede
45 Ablaze
47 Gems from oysters
49 Baby hooting bird
50 Monarch's domain
51 Birds in a coop
52 Run __ (rage)
53 Not punctual
54 Females' rec center: Abbr.
55 What vegans avoid
56 Breathing space
57 "Small" suffix for kitchen
61 Abel, to Adam



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GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

difference. In the Palisades, many homes were insured for more than $1 million. At 5% interest, that's $50,000 a year — up to $200,000 over the four years it can take to design, permit and rebuild a home.

People often ask how they can help. Here's one answer: Contact Harabedian, Newsom and other state lawmakers. California leaders need to be reminded that the exploitation of disaster survivors must stop.

Losing your home to wildfire is devastating. Losing your insurance settlement afterward is unconscionable.

Robert Kaplan is a senior scholar at the Stanford School of Medicine. He was previously a distinguished professor of public health and medicine at UCLA. Margaret Gaston is the retired founder and president of the Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

DEBT

FROM PAGE 5

dilemma, in which many of the tax cuts in that earlier package will sunset next year unless Congress renews them.

But the debt is a much bigger problem now than it was eight years ago. Investors are demanding the government pay a higher premium to keep borrowing as the total debt has crossed $36.1 trillion. The interest rate on a 10-year Treasury Note is around 4.5%, up dramatically from the roughly 2.5% rate being charged when the 2017 tax cuts became law.

The White House Council of Economic Advisers argues that its policies will unleash so much rapid growth that the annual budget deficits will shrink in size relative to the overall economy, putting the U.S. government on a fiscally sustainable path.

The council argues the economy would expand over the next four years at an annual average of about 3.2%, instead of the Congressional Budget Office's expected 1.9%, and as many as 7.4 million jobs would be created or saved.

Council chair Stephen Miran told reporters that when the growth being forecast by the White House is coupled with expected revenues from tariffs, the expected budget deficits will fall. The tax cuts will increase the supply of money for investment, the supply of workers and the supply of domestically produced goods — all of which, by Miran's logic, would cause faster growth without creating new inflationary pressures.

"I do want to assure everyone that the deficit is a very significant concern for this administration," Miran said.

White House budget director Russell Vought told reporters the idea that the bill is "in any way harmful to debt and deficits is fundamentally untrue."

ECONOMISTS DOUBT TRUMP'S PLAN CAN SPARK ENOUGH GROWTH TO REDUCE DEFICITS

Most outside economists expect additional debt would keep interest rates higher and slow overall economic growth as the cost of borrowing for homes, cars, businesses and even college educations would increase.

"This just adds to the problem future policymakers are going to face," said Brendan Duke, a former Biden administration aide now at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal think tank. Duke said that with the tax cuts in the bill set to expire in 2028, lawmakers would be "dealing with Social Security, Medicare and expiring tax cuts at the same time."

Kent Smetters, faculty director of the Penn Wharton Budget Model, said the growth projections from Trump's economic team are "a work of fiction." He said the bill would lead some workers to choose to work fewer hours in order to qualify for Medicaid.

"I don't know of any serious forecaster that has meaningfully raised their growth forecast because of this legislation," said Harvard University professor Jason Furman, who was the Council of Economic Advisers chair under the Obama administration. "These are mostly not growth- and competitiveness-oriented tax cuts. And, in fact, the higher long-term interest rates will go the other way and hurt growth."

The White House's inability so far to calm deficit concerns is stirring up political blowback for Trump as the tax and spending cuts approved by the House now move to the Senate. Republican Sens. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin and Rand Paul of Kentucky have both expressed concerns about the likely deficit increases, with Paul saying Sunday there are enough GOP senators to stall the bill until deficits are addressed.

"I think there are four of us at this point" who would oppose the legislation "if the bill, at least, is not modified in a good direction," Paul said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

"The GOP will own the debt once they vote for this," Paul said.

Four Republican holdouts would be enough to halt the bill in the Senate, where the party holds a three-seat majority.

Trump banking on tariff revenues to help

The White House is also banking that tariff revenues will help cover the additional deficits, even though recent court rulings cast doubt on the legitimacy of Trump declaring an economic emergency to impose sweeping taxes on imports.

When Trump announced his near-universal tariffs in April, he specifically said his policies would generate enough new revenues to start paying down the national debt. His comments dovetailed with remarks by aides, including Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, that yearly budget deficits could be more than halved.

"It's our turn to prosper and in so doing, use trillions and trillions of dollars to reduce our taxes and pay down our national debt, and it'll all happen very quickly," Trump said two months ago as he talked up his import taxes and encouraged lawmakers to pass the separate tax and spending cuts.

The Trump administration is correct that growth can help reduce deficit pressures, but it's not enough on its own to accomplish the task, according to new research by economists Douglas Elmendorf, Glenn Hubbard and Zachary Liscow.

Ernie Tedeschi, director of economics at the Budget Lab at Yale University, said additional "growth doesn't even get us close to where we need to be."

The government would need $10 trillion of deficit reduction over the next 10 years just to stabilize the debt, Tedeschi said. And even though the White House says the tax cuts would add to growth, most of the cost goes to preserve existing tax breaks, so that's unlikely to boost the economy meaningfully.

"It's treading water," Tedeschi said.

JOSH BOAK , Associated Press



TUESDAY | JUNE 3

GELSON'S WEST LA TO HOST TACO TUESDAYS WITH TACOS, MARGARITAS, AND MEZCALS

4:00 p.m. - 10:00 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/15309564/2025-06-03T16

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 4

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. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/12382446/2025-06-04T08

FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY: YOGA FOR EVERYONE!

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Venice. Through body awareness, movement, and breath, you will be guided on how to bring your body, mind, and spirit back into balance for overall well-being. All levels are welcome. Generously funded by the Friends of Venice Library. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/friends-of-venice-library-yoga-for-everyone-/14548476/2025-06-04T12

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SINGIN' AND WINGIN

9:00 p.m. - 11:55 p.m. Tavern on Main 2907 Main St Santa Monica. Wednesdays are made for chicken wings and belting out your favorite songs! Join us for a fun filled evening of Karaoke, hosted by none other than Karaoke Star! $0.50 wings special all day long - 7 flavors to choose from Happy Hour from 4p-6p. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/wednesday-night-singin-and-wingin/14639011/2025-06-04T21

THURSDAY | JUNE 5

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/12342961/2025-06-05T12

FRIDAY | JUNE 6

BRUNCH FRIDAYS WITH LIVE MUSIC IN OUR GARDEN PATIO!

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tiato Kitchen & Venue 2700 Colorado Ave Santa Monica. Our newly launched Brunch Fridays just got vibey-er! Every week enjoy great eats, summer libations, and a featured music artist on our beautiful garden patio! So come toast to summer with our uniquely crafted brunch menu including our Turmeric Spiced Cloud Egg dish, Smoked Gouda Scramble with Smashed Ube, Vietnamese French Toast, along with Mama An classics such as Famous Garlic Noodles, Shaken Beef, and Seafood Egg Fried Rice! And of course, it wouldn't be brunch without bottomless mimosas & summer punch bowls, so grab your brunch crew and enjoy the fair along the beautiful backdrop of Al fresco dining. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/brunch-fridays-with-live-music-in-our-garden-patio-/14639006/2025-06-06T11

SATURDAY | JUNE 7

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/13357377/2025-06-07T08

ARTISTS & FLEAS: VENICE MARKETPLACE

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Westminster Elementary School 1010 Abbot Kinney Los Angeles. Artists & Fleas in Venice is located in the vibrant, artistic heart of Venice at the corner of Abbot Kinney and Westminster Avenue in the outdoor lot of Westminister Avenue Elementary School. Join 50+ merchants every Saturday (rain or shine!) for a fabulous lineup of art, design, food trucks and vintage. Date: Every Saturday Time: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Location: Westminster Elementary School - 1010 Abbot Kinney Check our website here for a list of vendors. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/artists-fleas-venice-marketplace/14548485/2025-06-07T11

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