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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Living Wage for All coalition launches in Santa Monica with push for $30 countywide minimum



Scott Snowden

ONE FAIR WAGE: Sangita Kumar introduced proceedings that included powerful speeches from, among many others, Saru Jayaraman, President, One Fair Wage and actor Erika Alexander.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Labor organizers, elected officials and economic justice advocates gathered Monday at Wally's restaurant in downtown Santa Monica to launch the Living Wage for All campaign, a coordinated effort to raise Los Angeles County's minimum wage to $30 per hour and to build a national movement aimed at redefining compensation standards across the country.

The event marked the public debut of a new countywide coalition that includes One Fair Wage, the National Education Association, the Center for Popular Democracy and Community Change Action. The gathering followed a weekend summit of more than 100 organizers from 20 states who met to unify a national strategy around wage justice, just weeks after the city of Los Angeles approved a $30 hourly minimum for hospitality workers ahead of the 2028 Olympics.

"We need to have a living wage for everybody who works in the United States of America, regardless of who they are, where

SEE **WAGE** PAGE 8



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Council limits public comment duration during meetings

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica City Council voted 6-1 last week to eliminate a practice that allowed residents to donate unused speaking time to other speakers, marking the latest step in an ongoing effort to streamline public meetings while sparking debate over citizen participation.

The new rules of procedure, approved as Item 4M on the May 27 agenda, allow members of the public to speak for up to six minutes across an entire meeting. Speakers who speak on more than one item can divide their time in one minute increments up to a maximum of two minutes per item. Speakers who only speak on one item per meeting can have up to four minutes on that single item. The revised rules prohibit the previous practice of sharing time among speakers.

Council Member Ellis Raskin cast the lone dissenting vote, citing his opposition to "changes to the time donation issue and the way in which the amendments would restructure public participation."

The rule changes represent the culmination of months of debate over how to balance meeting efficiency with public input. The discussion began in earnest during a March 11 Council meeting, where members debated various proposals to expedite meetings while preserving public comment opportunities.

At that March meeting, community members were divided on the proposed changes. Some speakers opposed ending time donations, arguing it would silence those who organize their remarks collaboratively, while others supported tighter limits to prevent marathon meetings. No final vote occurred at the March meeting, but the Council provided direction to pursue new rules to streamline public comment.

The formal process began on May 13, when the Council approved initial amendments to meeting rules and directed staff to draft language eliminating time donations. Council members addressed concerns that the practice prolonged meetings and created inequities, with a majority ultimately favoring abolishing the donation system.

Staff recommended discontinuing time donation to bring more efficiency to Council meetings while addressing concerns about the perception of the erosion of the ability of members of the public to speak more fully on particular items.

Under the previous system adopted in January 2023, the Council had consolidated public comment periods but had not adjusted time limits or donation practices to align with the new process.

The resolution also included new language proposed by Councilwoman Caroline Torosis for 16 items and an adjustment to rules regarding quorum and action.

The May 2025 rule changes had already implemented other efficiency measures, including reducing individual speaking times to one minute when more than 25 members of the public register to speak on a given section, down from the usual two minutes.

The new speaking time limits and elimination of time donations took effect immediately following Tuesday's vote.

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Santa Monica landlord settles harassment, discrimination cases for $685,000

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A Santa Monica landlord has agreed to pay $685,000 to settle three lawsuits alleging tenant harassment and discrimination, including one case filed by the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office.

Masoud Atef agreed to the settlement and a stipulated judgment that includes an injunction requiring him to comply with the city's tenant protection laws.

The city alleged Atef intentionally failed to register tenancies at his triplex with the Rent Control Board and did not inform tenants of their just cause eviction and rent control protections. Officials said he then harassed and intimidated tenants even after receiving multiple warnings from the city.

In one case, the city alleged a family of four was constructively evicted after Atef falsely claimed he planned to occupy their apartment while simultaneously purchasing a $1.4 million home and listing the triplex for sale.

The city said Atef unlawfully entered the family's unit, yelled at them in front of their minor children and removed their access to outdoor common areas. The family was forced to move in May 2023 and find housing at significantly higher rent, while Atef re-rented their unit at increased rates.

Officials also alleged Atef retaliated against another tenant who requested repairs and sought to replace her roommate as permitted under rent control law. The city said he demanded she vacate or sign a new lease as the sole tenant, requalify for occupancy and pay higher rent. He also removed amenities, refused repairs and imposed illegal conditions on roommate replacement.

The city further alleged Atef discriminated against the immunocompromised tenant by refusing to consider her requests for reasonable accommodations to remediate mold and temporarily relocate her during the work. He allegedly responded in writing that the building was unsuitable for tenants with "special conditions" and "not a wise choice for someone with respiratory issues."

"The City Attorney's Office strives to educate landlords about their legal obligations under Santa Monica's tenant protection laws and to gain voluntary compliance, but when a landlord adamantly refuses to comply, as was the case here, we vigorously enforce those laws," City Attorney Doug Sloan said.

> The City Attorney's Office strives to educate landlords about their legal obligations under Santa Monica's tenant protection laws and to gain voluntary compliance, but when a landlord adamantly refuses to comply, we vigorously enforce those laws
> - Doug Sloan, City Attorney

Under the settlement terms, Atef must no longer manage residential rental properties in Santa Monica and hire a city-approved third-party property manager for any properties he owns in the city. He must also remediate mold in one unit, attend three hours of city-approved landlord-tenant training and pay minimum penalties of $10,000 per violation if he breaches the agreement.

editor@smdp.com

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OPINION **UNMUTED**

Devan Sipher

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Budget tremors

There was an earthquake last week at City Hall, but not the kind that registers on the Richter scale. This was a political earthquake.

It occurred unexpectedly during budget negotiation at the City Council meeting. Staff had prepared a 353-page budget proposal, and the gist of it was that the city is bankrupt. Not bankrupt in the sense that there's no money in the coffers, but bankrupt in the sense that there's not enough money to keep the city running—without using $60 million of the city's reserves.

After spending hours studying the details of the depressing document, I approached Tuesday's budget session with dread. With so little wiggle room, I expected to see Councilmembers horse trading police officer salaries for streetlight repairs as they whistled past the metaphoric graveyard.

But that's not what happened.

Instead of signing off on the budget with minor tweaks and hoping for the best, Councilmember Jesse Zwick jolted the Council by rejecting the premise of their negotiation. "I don't believe that spending an additional $60 million of our extremely scarce reserves to balance our budget is at all prudent," he said.

He proceeded to break with tradition by presenting to the Council an alternative budget proposal, which combined a commitment to public safety with tough love. His plan freezes most hiring, other than for the police department, fire department and revenue-generating initiatives, and it increases parking permit fees. This is in addition to the many fee hikes that were already recommended, including cemetery fees, cat license fees, and community garden fees, while the staff reduction he's mandating will implicitly also reduce municipal amenities. "All I want to do is fulfill every departmental and community need as we were able to in the past," Zwick said, "but we can't."

It's rare these days for any politician to acknowledge unpleasant realities, let alone face them head on. Elected leaders frequently want credit for being bold when they're actually being timid, so it was startling—and undeniably bold—to address the depth of our fiscal problems and the discomfort that will be required to mitigate them.

Zwick didn't act alone, having vetted his plan with Councilmembers Dan Hall and Caroline Torosis, who collaborated with him on the proposal. California's Brown Act regulations for transparent governance precluded Zwick from conferring with additional Councilmembers (and also protected him from having to negotiate with them).

This meant that the majority of the Councilmembers were left sputtering as they tried to latch onto the details of the surprise plan, in an effort to add something substantive to the discussion. For the most part, they failed. If they had been clever, they could have used parliamentary procedures to block the plan, but that would have left them with a $60 million hole in the budget and a jeopardized city credit rating.

Although Zwick told me after the meeting that he had consulted with a "kitchen cabinet" of civic leaders, I'm not convinced democracy was best served by having unelected people—and previously elected people—usurping power from the Councilmembers selected by the voters and lobbying for their own priorities. So call me conflicted. I admire the audaciousness but not the politics. The devil's in the details, and there are many still up in the air. Much depends on what the staff brings back to Council in June for final approval and whether the Councilmembers grant that approval.

Meanwhile, the city's not out of the economic woods. The proposed budget mitigates the damage to the financial reserves, but it doesn't eliminate the need to continue dipping into them. And we have a President unleashing what Zwick described as "voodoo economic theories," impacting the international tourism that we rely on as Washington pulls federal funding for our capital projects and targets our local vulnerable populations.

The existential threat of not-so-friendly fire from our own government is what helped motivate Zwick to take a hard line on fiscal responsibility, though he doesn't expect it to be "easy or popular," he said. "One of the best things I can do as a local progressive leader is get our house in order, demonstrating that you can lead with liberal and progressive values and achieve great results."

I called what happened an earthquake, and admittedly it was a small one. But if you've been waiting for leaders to rise to the challenge of our current moment, maybe this was the initial temblor.

Devan Sipher can be reached at Unmuted.SMDP@gmail.com

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Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.2**

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.

THURSDAY
FAIR TO GOOD
SURF: 3-4ft+
Waist to shoulder

Easing surf but still fun and morning conditions semi clean to clean. SSW swell continues to wind down and mix with just enough NW swell for the odd corner. Surf will be down in the waist-chest high range, with standout spots in the west of Dume go shoulder+. Light/variable to lightly onshore AM wind and favorable odds for at least semi-clean conditions. Moderate W wind in the afternoon for some bump.

Weather

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 68.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 58. South wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 68.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
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
2025/06/06	Fri	01:47 AM	0.80	L
2025/06/06	Fri	07:42 AM	3.19	H
2025/06/06	Fri	12:36 PM	1.79	L
2025/06/06	Fri	7:14 PM	5.26	H

Daily Lottery

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POWERBALL — Draw Date: 6/2
1 7 44 57 61
Power#: 21
Jackpot: 30 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: 6/2
1 2 3 12 23

Daily 3 — Draw Date: 6/2
EVENING: 1 3 8
Draw Date: 6/2
MIDDAY: 1 4 2

Daily Derby — Draw Date: 6/2
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:46.50

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Increase of Water and Wastewater Service Rates

The public hearing will be conducted pursuant to and in compliance with Article XIIID of the California State Constitution and the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act. This notice is being sent to all property owners, who may submit a written protest to the proposed rate changes. The City of Santa Monica is committed to keeping its customers well informed throughout the process. More information about the rates included in this notice and how to participate is available online at: **santamonica.gov/waterrates**.

How You Can Participate

If you have any questions or comments about the proposed rates, you may participate in the following ways:

Public Hearing Participation. Members of the public are welcome to attend the in-person public hearing on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. Santa Monica, CA 90401. You will have an opportunity to speak, but verbal comments alone do not qualify as a formal protest.

Write. Any property owner that is a part of the City's water and wastewater service area or a customer of record, may submit a written protest to the proposed increases to the service rates. Only one protest will be counted per identified parcel or customer. Each protest must (1) be in writing on letter-sized paper; (2) state that the identified property owner or customer is in opposition to the proposed water and wastewater service rates; (3) provide the location of the identified parcels (by assessor's parcel number or street address or account number); and (4) include the signature of the property owner or customer submitting the protest.

Written protests for each proposed rate adjustment may be submitted by mail to the City Clerk, or at the Public Hearing, so long as received prior to the conclusion of the Public Hearing. Please identify on the front of the envelope for any protest, whether mailed or submitted in-person to the City Clerk, that the enclosed protest is for the proposed Water and Wastewater Service Rates. Protests submitted by e-mail, facsimile, or other electronic means will not be accepted.

Prior to the Public Hearing, please mail or hand-deliver written protests to:

City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk
RE: Public Hearing On Proposed Water and Wastewater Service Rates
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

You may also hand-deliver written protests at the City Council Meeting to the City Clerk prior to the conclusion of the Public Hearing held at the above address. The City Council will hear and consider all oral and written testimony concerning the proposed wastewater service rates.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 53759 there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging the rates in this notice from the date the City Council adopts the resolution approving these rates.

Objections. If, at the conclusion of the Public Hearing, written protests received regarding the proposed increases to the water and wastewater service rates are not presented by a majority (50% plus 1) of property owners of the identified parcels upon which they are proposed to be imposed, the City Council will be authorized to adopt the proposed rates.

A sample protest form, the protest tabulation procedures, and the Water and Wastewater Rate Study are available online at **santamonica.gov/waterrates**.

City of Santa Monica

RESOLUTION NUMBER _____(CCS)

(CITY COUNCIL SERIES)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA, REVISING WATER RATES AND WATER SERVICES CHARGES

WHEREAS, the City Council may establish, amend or revise from time to time by resolution the rates and service charges for supplying water service to any customer pursuant to Government Code Section 54344 and Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 7.12.010; and

WHEREAS, the City is implementing a comprehensive long-range water system improvement program with the goal of maintaining a modern, reliable water network and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, water rate increases are needed to fund routine capital improvement projects, invest in rehabilitating and replacing aging infrastructure such as the City's four potable water storage reservoirs, and adequately fund ongoing cost of providing water services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Monica is proposing water rate increases ("Water Rate Increases") to the City's tiered water structure over a five-year period beginning July 1, 2025, and the proposed maximum percentage increases, on a systemwide basis, are:

FY2025/2026 July 1, 2025	FY2026/2027 July 1, 2026	FY2027/2028 July 1, 2027	FY2028/2029 July 1, 2028	FY2029/2030 July 1, 2029
20%	16%	9%	9%	6%

; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Government Code Section 54354, delinquent charges and penalties for water services when recorded in accordance with Government Code Section 54355 shall constitute a lien upon the real property served; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a public hearing ("Hearing") to consider the proposed Water Rate Increases on June 10, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk gave notice of the proposed Water Rate Increases, which notice contained a copy of the proposed resolution to adopt the Water Rate Increases and a declaration that delinquent charges and penalties when recorded as provided in Government Code section 54355 shall constitute a lien upon the real property served, and which notice was published at least once each week for two weeks prior to the Hearing in the Santa Monica Daily Press, in accordance with Government Code section 54354.5; and

WHEREAS, a separate notice of the proposed Water Rate Increases was also given in accordance with Article XIII D Section 6 of the California Constitution, by mailing such notice to the owner of record of each parcel in Santa Monica's service area and parcels in the City of Los Angeles who receive water service from the City of Santa Monica; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered all written and oral testimony presented at the Hearing and considered whether the proposed Water Rate Increases: are not discriminatory or excessive; will be sufficient under Government Code section 54515; will comply with the provisions of Chapter 6 of Title 5, Division 2, Part 1 of the Government Code; will be sufficient under the provisions or covenants of any outstanding revenue bonds of the City, if any, payable from the water rate revenues; and will be in compliance with law;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby determines that the proposed Water Rate Increases are not discriminatory or excessive; will be sufficient under Government Code section 54515; will comply with the provisions of Chapter 6 of Title 5, Division 2, Part 1 of the Government Code; will be sufficient under the provisions or covenants of any outstanding revenue bonds of the City, if any, payable from the water rate revenues; and will be in compliance with law.

SECTION 2. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, all customers will be charged both a bi-monthly fixed water service rate (based on meter size as specified in Section 3 below) and a water commodity rate (based on usage as specified in Sections 4 through 8 below).

SECTION 3. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the fixed water service rate structure for all customers shall be as follows for the following years: Any unauthorized metered water usage for fire service lines shall result in doubling of the fixed service charge for those fire service lines.

Water Rate Schedule	Bi-Monthly Fixed Water Service Rates				
	FY2025/2026 July 1, 2025	FY2026/2027 July 1, 2026	FY2027/2028 July 1, 2027	FY2028/2029 July 1, 2028	FY2029/2030 July 1, 2029
Single Family Residential (meter size)					
3/4 inch	$50.06	$58.07	$63.30	$69.00	$73.14
1 inch	$50.06	$58.07	$63.30	$69.00	$73.14
1.5 inch	$84.00	$97.45	$106.22	$115.78	$122.72
2 inch	$124.74	$144.69	$157.72	$171.91	$182.22
Multi-family Residential and Non-Residential (meter size)					
3/4 inch	$70.58	$81.88	$89.25	$97.28	$103.12
1 inch	$70.58	$81.88	$89.25	$97.28	$103.12
1.5 inch	$125.05	$145.06	$158.11	$172.34	$182.68
2 inch	$190.41	$220.87	$240.75	$262.42	$278.16
3 inch	$364.69	$423.04	$461.12	$502.62	$532.78
4 inch	$560.76	$650.49	$709.03	$772.84	$819.21
6 inch	$1,105.41	$1,282.27	$1,397.68	$1,523.47	$1,614.88
8 inch	$3,066.13	$3,556.71	$3,876.81	$4,225.73	$4,479.27
Fire Service Lines (meter size)					
1.5 inch	$80.32	$93.18	$101.56	$110.70	$117.35
2 inch	$118.85	$137.86	$150.27	$163.80	$173.62
3 inch	$240.84	$279.37	$304.51	$331.92	$351.83
4 inch	$465.55	$540.04	$588.64	$641.62	$680.12
6 inch	$1,043.39	$1,210.33	$1,319.27	$1,438.00	$1,524.28
8 inch	$1,813.85	$2,104.06	$2,293.43	$2,499.84	$2,649.83
10 inch	$2,712.71	$3,146.74	$3,429.95	$3,738.64	$3,962.96

SECTION 4. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the three-tier water commodity rate structure for all customers (subject to adjustment to a drought rate structure pursuant to Section 6 below as directed by the City Council when water conservation is mandated and subject to adjustment pursuant to Section 7 below for residential low income customers with individual water meters) shall be as follows for the following years:

Water Rate Schedule	Commodity Charges – Bi-Monthly Volumetric Charges ($/HCF) (All Customers)				
	FY2025/2026 July 1, 2025	FY2026/2027 July 1, 2026	FY2027/2028 July 1, 2027	FY2028/2029 July 1, 2028	FY2029/2030 July 1, 2029
Tier 1	$6.78	$7.86	$8.57	$9.34	$9.90
Tier 2	$7.89	$9.15	$9.98	$10.87	$11.53
Tier 3	$12.36	$14.34	$15.63	$17.03	$18.06

Note: HCF = hundred cubic feet

SECTION 5. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the bimonthly tier breakpoint for water usage shall be as follows:

Bi-Monthly Tier Breakpoint Table in HCF			
Customer Class and Meter Size	**Tier 1 Breakpoint**	**Tier 2 Breakpoint**	**Tier 3 Breakpoint**
Single Family Residential Per Unit (all meter sizes)	0 - 10 HCF	11 - 18 HCF	19+ HCF
Multi-Family Residential Per Unit (all meter sizes)	0 - 7 HCF	8 - 13 HCF	14+ HCF
Non-Residential Per Meter Size:			
3/4 inch	0 - 10 HCF	11 - 18 HCF	19+ HCF
1 inch	0 - 10 HCF	11 - 18 HCF	19+ HCF
1.5 inch	0 - 20 HCF	21 - 36 HCF	37+ HCF
2 inch	0 - 32 HCF	33 - 58 HCF	59+ HCF
3 inch	0 - 64 HCF	65 - 115 HCF	116+ HCF
4 inch	0 - 100 HCF	101 - 180 HCF	181+ HCF
6 inch	0 - 200 HCF	201 - 360 HCF	361+ HCF
8 inch	0 - 560 HCF	561 - 1,008 HCF	1,009+ HCF

Note: HCF = hundred cubic feet

SECTION 6. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, a drought rate structure will be in place and be in effect as directed by City Council when water conservation is mandated. The level of conservation mandated will determine the adjusted three-tier water commodity rate structure, which for all customers shall be as follows for the following years:

Mandated Level of Conservation		Drought Commodity Charges – Bi-Monthly Volumetric Charges ($/HCF) (All Customers)				
		FY2025/2026 July 1, 2025	FY2026/2027 July 1, 2026	FY2027/2028 July 1, 2027	FY2028/2029 July 1, 2028	FY2029/2030 July 1, 2029
10%	Tier 1	$6.81	$7.90	$8.62	$9.39	$9.96
	Tier 2	$9.17	$10.64	$11.59	$12.64	$13.40
	Tier 3	$13.78	$15.98	$17.42	$18.99	$20.13
20%	Tier 1	$7.65	$8.87	$9.67	$10.54	$11.17
	Tier 2	$10.29	$11.94	$13.01	$14.18	$15.03
	Tier 3	$15.46	$17.94	$19.55	$21.31	$22.59
30%	Tier 1	$8.72	$10.11	$11.02	$12.02	$12.74
	Tier 2	$11.73	$13.61	$14.83	$16.17	$17.14
	Tier 3	$17.63	$20.45	$22.29	$24.30	$25.75
40%	Tier 1	$10.15	$11.77	$12.83	$13.98	$14.82
	Tier 2	$13.65	$15.84	$17.26	$18.82	$19.95
	Tier 3	$20.52	$23.80	$25.94	$28.28	$29.97
50%	Tier 1	$12.15	$14.09	$15.36	$16.74	$17.74
	Tier 2	$16.35	$18.96	$20.67	$22.53	$23.88
	Tier 3	$24.56	$28.49	$31.05	$33.85	$35.88
60%	Tier 1	$15.15	$17.57	$19.15	$20.87	$22.13
	Tier 2	$20.38	$23.64	$25.77	$28.09	$29.78
	Tier 3	$30.62	$35.52	$38.72	$42.21	$44.74

Note: HCF = hundred cubic feet

SECTION 7. A low-income allowance for the Tier 1 commodity charge will be offered to residential water customers with individual water meters who qualify for the City's Utilities User Tax Exemption Program or the Southern California Gas Co. or Southern California Edison low-income assistance programs. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the residential low-income water commodity charge for residential customers with individual water meters shall be as follows for the following years:

Low-Income Commodity Charges – Bi-Monthly Volumetric Charges ($/HCF) (Residential Customers with Individual Water Meters Only)					
	FY2025/2026 July 1, 2025	FY2026/2027 July 1, 2026	FY2027/2028 July 1, 2027	FY2028/2029 July 1, 2028	FY2029/2030 July 1, 2029
Tier 1	$5.78	$6.86	$7.57	$8.34	$8.90
Tier 2	$7.89	$9.15	$9.98	$10.87	$11.53
Tier 3	$12.36	$14.34	$15.63	$17.03	$18.06

Note: HCF = hundred cubic feet

SECTION 8. As of July 1, 2025, or soon thereafter as practical, the uniform recycled water rate shall be as follows:

Recycled Water Volumetric Charges ($/HCF)					
	FY2025/2026 July 1, 2025	FY2026/2027 July 1, 2026	FY2027/2028 July 1, 2027	FY2028/2029 July 1, 2028	FY2029/2030 July 1, 2029
Uniform Rate	$5.21	$6.04	$6.59	$7.18	$7.61

SECTION 9. In accordance with Government Code section 54354, delinquent charges and penalties for water services recorded in accordance with Government Code section 54355 shall constitute a lien upon the real property served.

SECTION 10. Resolution Number 11225 (CCS) is hereby repealed in its entirety, effective July 1, 2025.

SECTION 11. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution, and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____

DOUGLAS SLOAN
CITY ATTORNEY

City of Santa Monica

RESOLUTION NUMBER _____(CCS)

(CITY COUNCIL SERIES)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA, REVISING WASTEWATER RATES AND WASTEWATER SERVICES CHARGES

WHEREAS, the City Council may establish, amend or revise from time to time by resolution the rates and service charges for supplying wastewater service to any customer pursuant to Government Code Section 54344 and Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 7.04.540 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the City is implementing a comprehensive long-range wastewater system improvement program with the goal of maintaining a modern, reliable wastewater network and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, wastewater rate increases are needed to maintain a modern and reliable wastewater infrastructure, invest in resiliency and emergency preparedness, and adequately fund ongoing cost of providing wastewater services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Monica is proposing wastewater rate increases ("Wastewater Rate Increases") over a five-year period beginning July 1, 2025, and the proposed maximum percentage increases, on a systemwide basis, are:

FY2025/2026 July 1, 2025	FY2026/2027 July 1, 2026	FY2027/2028 July 1, 2027	FY2028/2029 July 1, 2028	FY2029/2030 July 1, 2029
7%	7%	7%	6%	6%

; and
WHEREAS, in accordance with Government Code Section 54354, delinquent charges and penalties for wastewater services when recorded in accordance with Government Code Section 54355 shall constitute a lien upon the real property served; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a public hearing ("Hearing") to consider the proposed Wastewater Rate Increases on January 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk gave notice of the proposed Wastewater Rate Increases, which notice contained a copy of the proposed resolution to adopt the Wastewater Rate Increases and a declaration that delinquent charges and penalties when recorded as provided in Government Code section 54355 shall constitute a lien upon the real property served, and which notice was published at least once each week for two weeks prior to the Hearing in the Santa Monica Daily Press, in accordance with Government Code section 54354.5; and

WHEREAS, a separate notice of the proposed Wastewater Rate Increases was also given in accordance with Article XIII D Section 6 of the California Constitution, by mailing such notice to the owner of record of each parcel in Santa Monica's service area and parcels in the City of Los Angeles who receive wastewater service from the City of Santa Monica; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered all written and oral testimony presented at the Hearing and considered whether the proposed Wastewater Rate Increases: are not discriminatory or excessive; will be sufficient under Government Code section 54515; will comply with the provisions of Chapter 6 of Title 5, Division 2, Part 1 of the Government Code; will be sufficient under the provisions or covenants of any outstanding revenue bonds of the City, if any, payable from the wastewater rate revenues; and will be in compliance with law; NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA DOES RESOLVE AS

FOLLOWS:
SECTION 1. The City Council hereby determines that the proposed Wastewater Rate Increases are not discriminatory or excessive; will be sufficient under Government Code section 54515; will comply with the provisions of Chapter 6 of Title 5, Division 2, Part 1 of the Government Code; will be sufficient under the provisions or covenants of any outstanding revenue bonds of the City, if any, payable from the wastewater rate revenues; and will be in compliance with law.

SECTION 2. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the wastewater service charge will consist of a fixed charge and a commodity charge.

SECTION 3. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the wastewater service fixed charge for the following property classifications shall be as follows for the following years::

BI-MONTHLY FIXED CHARGES					
Property Classification	Proposed Wastewater Rates				
	FY 2025/26	FY 2026/27	FY 2027/28	FY 2028/29	FY 2029/30
Residential ($/Dwelling Unit)					
Single Family	$22.20	$23.76	$25.42	$26.94	$28.56
MFR: Duplex + Triplex	$8.88	$9.51	$10.17	$10.78	$11.43
MFR: Fourplex + Larger	$6.72	$7.19	$7.69	$8.15	$8.64
MFR: Individually metered	$11.03	$11.80	$12.63	$13.39	$14.19
Non-Residential ($/Account)					
MFR: Mixed Use	$217.04	$232.24	$248.49	$263.40	$279.21
Commercial - Low	$62.14	$66.49	$71.14	$75.41	$79.93
Commercial – Med.	$139.39	$149.14	$159.58	$169.16	$179.31
Commercial - High	$360.09	$385.30	$412.27	$437.00	$463.22
Institutional	$100.45	$107.48	$115.00	$121.90	$129.22
Church/Schools	$63.82	$68.29	$73.07	$77.45	$82.10
Misc. Industrial	$129.27	$138.32	$148.00	$156.88	$166.29
Wastewater Only	$135.91	$145.43	$155.61	$164.94	$174.84

SECTION 4. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the wastewater service commodity charge and the discharge factor applied to metered water usage to calculate wastewater output for the following property classifications shall be as follows for the following years:

BI-MONTHLY COMMODITY CHARGES						
Property Classification	Discharge Factor	Proposed Wastewater Rates				
		FY 2025/26	FY 2026/27	FY 2027/28	FY 2028/29	FY 2029/30
Residential ($/HCF)						
Single Family	85%	$4.92	$5.27	$5.63	$5.97	$6.33
MFR: Duplex + Triplex	90%	$4.92	$5.27	$5.63	$5.97	$6.33
MFR: Fourplex + Larger	97%	$4.92	$5.27	$5.63	$5.97	$6.33
MFR: Indiv. metered	99%	$4.92	$5.27	$5.63	$5.97	$6.33
Non-Residential ($/HCF)						
MFR: Mixed Use	95%	$4.92	$5.27	$5.63	$5.97	$6.33
Commercial – Low	93%	$4.43	$4.74	$5.07	$5.38	$5.70
Commercial – Medium	94%	$6.27	$6.71	$7.18	$7.61	$8.07
Commercial – High	95%	$7.73	$8.27	$8.85	$9.38	$9.95
Institutional	82%	$4.29	$4.59	$4.91	$5.20	$5.52
Church/Schools	81%	$4.90	$5.24	$5.61	$5.94	$6.30
Misc. Industrial	88%	$5.68	$6.07	$6.50	$6.89	$7.30
Wastewater Only[3]	NA	--	--	--	--	--

Note: HCF = hundred cubic feet

The Water Resources Manager shall have the authority to make adjustments in discharge factors for individual users where it is determined that the actual quantity of wastewater discharge is substantially different from that established in the above table.

The wastewater rates above are based on wastewater volume (determined based on water usage and the listed discharge factors) and the property classification, which is determined based in part on the expected concentration (or strength) of pollutants in the wastewater discharge ("wastewater strength"). Wastewater strength values for individual users or various types of users may either be estimated or determined by laboratory analysis, at the direction of the Water Resources Manager. Where wastewater strength values are estimated, they shall be consistent with the current City of Los Angeles Amalgamated System Sewage Generation Factors. No wastewater strength values for non-residential users shall be less than the wastewater strength values established for residential users. The City may revise wastewater strength values from time to time as deemed necessary to reflect current conditions.

In the event any user believes that, based on the wastewater strength value established by the City for its wastewater discharge, its property classification is incorrect, that user shall have the option of having its wastewater sampled and analyzed at its own expense by a laboratory approved by the City. The manner, frequency, and duration of sampling and analysis shall be approved by the City to ensure that the resultant wastewater strength value is representative of all conditions of discharges. During the same time period when wastewater is being analyzed, the user shall pay all wastewater service charges based on the previously established property classification. In the event analyses show the actual strength value to be less than or greater than the previously established value, the City shall adjust the property classification and either refund or bill the user, per Santa Monica Municipal Code Sections 7.04.560 and 7.12.112, for the difference in charges, as appropriate.

SECTION 5. On July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, wastewater customers who do not receive water service from the City of Santa Monica will pay only the fixed charge established in Section 3 above.

SECTION 6. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the recycled water service commodity charge shall be as follows for the following years:

BI-MONTHLY RECYCLED WATER COMMODITY CHARGES					
	Proposed Recycled Water Rates				
	FY 2025/26	FY 2026/27	FY 2027/28	FY 2028/29	FY 2029/30
Uniform Rate ($/HCF)	$5.21	$6.04	$6.59	$7.18	$7.61

SECTION 7. A low-income allowance will be offered to residential water customers with individual water meters who qualify for the City's Utilities User Tax Exemption Program or the Southern California Gas Co. or Southern California Edison low-income assistance programs. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the residential low-income wastewater commodity charge for residential water customers with individual meters shall be as follows for the following years:

BI-MONTHLY LOW-INCOME COMMODITY CHARGES					
	Proposed Wastewater Rates				
	FY 2025/26	FY 2026/27	FY 2027/28	FY 2028/29	FY 2029/30
Residential ($/HCF)	$3.92	$4.27	$4.63	$4.97	$5.33

Note: HCF = hundred cubic feet

SECTION 8. In accordance with Government Code section 54354, delinquent charges and penalties for wastewater services recorded in accordance with Government Code section 54355 shall constitute a lien upon the real property served.

SECTION 9. Resolution Number 11224 (CCS) is hereby repealed in its entirety, effective July 1, 2025.

SECTION 10. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution, and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
DOUGLAS SLOAN
CITY ATTORNEY

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Los Angeles County's chief executive will be one of California's most powerful political gigs



Cal Matters

LOS ANGELES: The County government is getting ready to expand.

After California became a U.S. state in 1850, its Legislature grappled with how state and local governments would be structured. One decree was that counties, beginning with Los Angeles, would have five-member boards of supervisors.

Almost everything about California's governance has changed in the last 175 years — even the size of its Legislature, which an 1879 constitutional amendment set at 80 members in the Assembly and 40 in the Senate.

With one exception, the city and county of San Francisco, California's counties have had five-member governing boards ever since, including tiny Alpine County, with scarcely 1,000 residents, and Los Angeles, with nearly 10 million.

That's going to change. Last year, after decades of unsuccessful efforts to overhaul how Los Angeles County is governed, a minor miracle occurred when its voters approved an expansion of its Board of Supervisors to nine members after the 2030 census. It was miraculous not only that it occurred but that the reform was proposed by the current board itself — albeit not unanimously — in a remarkable display of willingness to dilute members' powers.

Even more stunningly, the ballot measure also made a quantum reduction in the board's powers by creating the elective office of county executive with potentially sweeping authority to govern the county, much as California's governor or a big city mayor does.

Given Los Angeles County's immense population exceeds all but 10 states, as well as its outsized economic, cultural and political weight, the ballot measure instantly created a position that would be second in real-world power only to the governorship. The occupant would automatically become a potential governor or U.S. senator.

The exact extent of the county executive's authority, however, was not spelled out in the ballot measure. Instead, Measure G created a 13-member Governance Reform Task Force that will recommend the details of implementing

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 11

GAS PRICES IN SANTA MONICA

Mobil	**MOBIL** 731 Santa Monica Blvd	$4.99
76	**76** 2601 Wilshire Blvd	$4.99
	WORLD 1801 Lincoln Blvd	$4.49
Chevron	**CHEVRON** 432 Wilshire Blvd	$4.95
Shell	**SHELL** 1866 Lincoln Blvd	$4.99
Speedway	**SPEEDWAY EXPRESS** 2555 Lincoln Blvd	$4.49
Chevron	**CHEVRON** 1732 Lincoln Blvd	$4.79
Shell	**SHELL** 1802 Cloverfield Blvd	$5.09
Chevron	**CHEVRON** 1330 Santa Monica Blvd	$4.79
Sinclair	**SINCLAIR** 1944 Pico Blvd	$4.59

*Prices paying in card

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 8.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.66/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 5.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 27.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 2.4 cents in the last week and stands at $3.465 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.98/g yesterday while the most expensive was $5.59/g, a difference of $1.61/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was $3.28/g while the highest was $8.29/g, a difference of $5.01/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 3.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.09/g today. The national average is down 6.9 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 41.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

WAGE

FROM PAGE 1

they work or their conditions," said Saru Jayaraman, president of One Fair Wage. "People just can't afford to live."

Jayaraman said the MIT Living Wage Calculator shows that in Los Angeles County, a single adult with no children needs to earn at least $29.75 per hour to meet basic needs. The current minimum wage stands at $18 per hour in the city of Los Angeles and $16.50 in unincorporated parts of the county.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, one of the City officials who backed the $30 hospitality wage ordinance, said Monday's campaign is meant to expand that victory to workers in all industries.

"If hospitality workers can win $30 an hour, then retail workers can, janitors can, restaurant workers can, everybody can," Hernandez said. "Corporations saw what we did and now they are spending millions to lie

> If hospitality workers can win $30 an hour, then retail workers can, janitors can, restaurant workers can, everybody can
>
> - Eunisses Hernandez, Los Angeles City

to our people."

She said opponents of the city's hospitality ordinance are bankrolling a signature drive to overturn the measure, describing it as a deceptive campaign aimed at undermining frontline workers' gains. Hernandez warned that this was part of a larger effort to stall or reverse wage progress and called on supporters to protect what she called a historic breakthrough.

"This is about wages, dignity and the future," she said. "Nothing they own was ever built without you."

The Living Wage for All campaign arrives amid rising concerns about affordability and political threats to safety net programs. Organizers said cuts to Medicaid and other public benefits, along with inflation and housing costs, have made the current wage structure untenable.

"We are sick and tired," said LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, who spoke of the severe rent burdens facing many of her constituents. "What it costs to just survive in Los Angeles County takes my breath away every day."

Mitchell argued that wage efforts must be comprehensive and not limited to individual sectors. She criticized previous policies that excluded categories of workers, such as childcare providers and called for sustained philanthropic support to push forward policy change.

"We don't help ourselves when we have a piecemeal, sector-by-sector approach," she said. "It has got to be a living wage for all, together, on behalf of all workers."

Others echoed the idea that wage justice was not only about economics, but about democracy itself. Several speakers cited low voter turnout among working-class communities as a symptom of economic exhaustion and disenfranchisement.

"If you care about saving democracy, then you must care about raising wages," said Nina Turner, a former Ohio state senator. "You cannot be in the middle on this."

The initiative will target both local and national wage policies and includes plans for legislation, ballot initiatives and grassroots organizing. Organizers noted that nearly half of all U.S. workers currently earn less than $25 per hour and the federal minimum wage has remained at $7.25 since 2009.

"Even in the MAGA sphere, there are videos circulating that their president will raise the wage to $25," Jayaraman said. "We know that's ridiculous, but it tells you people on all sides believe that is the minimum needed to survive."

Speakers from the United Auto Workers, LA Forward, the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment and the Democratic National Committee also addressed the crowd, many offering support for a policy approach that includes excluded categories like restaurant workers, incarcerated workers, undocumented laborers and others historically left out of minimum wage laws.

"I see a world where my coworkers only have one job instead of two or three," said Ralph Prado, a longtime restaurant worker and One Fair Wage organizer in LA County. "Then they could spend time with their family, improve themselves and participate in politics."

One organizer from ACCE, Estuardo Mazariegos, said 80 percent of some households' income in his South LA neighborhood goes to rent. He described his mother's past work as a live-in domestic laborer who earned less than $1,000 per month.

"My people can't take it anymore," he said. "This county alone is $1.2 trillion. There should not be a single person living in poverty."

According to Rafael Jaime, president of UAW Local 4811, which represents 48,000 academic workers at the University of California, the fight must also extend to students and researchers who live in cars while working for elite institutions.

"We cannot continue the status quo," he said. "It is time to organize like hell and fight for a living wage."

Organizers said the campaign will move next to drafting formal wage proposals and expanding its coalition across LA County cities and eventually into other states. They also emphasized that success will depend on public pressure, philanthropic backing and an energized electorate.

"There is enough money in this country to make sure people aren't sleeping in their cars," said Analilia Mejia of the Center for Popular Democracy. "But we have to lead our politicians, not the other way around."

scott.snowden@smdp.com

Trump pushes a July 4th deadline for big tax bill as senators dig in

President Donald Trump wants his "big, beautiful" bill of tax breaks and spending cuts on his desk to be signed into law by the Fourth of July, and he's pushing the slow-rolling Senate to make it happen sooner rather than later.

Trump met with Senate Majority Leader John Thune at the White House early this week and has been dialing senators for one-on-one chats, using both the carrot and stick to nudge, badger and encourage them to act. But it's still a long road ahead for the 1,000-page-plus package.

> His question to me was, How do you think the bill's going to go in the Senate?
>
> - Sen. Josh Hawley

"His question to me was, How do you think the bill's going to go in the Senate?" Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., said about his call with Trump. "Do you think there's going to be problems?"

It's a potentially tumultuous three-week sprint for senators preparing to put their own imprint on the massive Republican package that cleared the House late last month by a single vote. The senators have been meeting for weeks behind closed doors, including as they returned to Washington late Monday, to revise the package ahead of what is expected to be a similarly narrow vote in the Senate.

"Passing THE ONE, BIG, BEAUTIFUL BILL is a Historic Opportunity to turn our Country around," Trump posted on social media. He urged them Monday "to work as fast as they can to get this Bill to MY DESK before the Fourth of JULY."

But Trump's high-octane ally, billionaire Elon Musk, lambasted the package — and those voting for it.

"This massive, outrageous, pork-filled Congressional spending bill is a disgusting abomination," Musk posted on his site X, as some lawmakers have expressed reservations about the details. "Shame on those who voted for it: you know you did wrong. You know it."

Thune, like House Speaker Mike Johnson, has few votes to spare from the Senate's slim, 53-seat GOP majority. Democrats are waging an all-out political assault on GOP proposals to cut Medicaid, food stamps and green energy investments to help pay for more than $4.5 trillion in tax cuts — with many lawmakers being hammered at boisterous town halls back home.

"It'd be nice if we could have everybody on board to do it, but, you know, individual members are going to stake out their positions," Thune said Tuesday.

"But in the end, we have to succeed. Failure's not an option."

At its core, the package seeks to extend the tax cuts approved in 2017, during Trump's first term at the White House, and add new ones the presidents campaigned on, including no taxes on tips and others. It also includes a massive build-up of $350 billion for border security, deportations and national security.

To defray the lost tax revenue to the government and avoid piling onto the nation's $36 trillion debt load, Republicans want reduce federal spending by imposing work requirements for some Americans who rely on government safety net services. Estimates are 8.6 million people would no longer have health care and nearly 4 million would lose Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program benefits, known as SNAP.

The package also would raise the nation's debt limit by $4 trillion to allow more borrowing to pay the bills.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said Trump's bill "is ugly to its very core."

Schumer said Tuesday it's a "lie" that the cuts won't hurt Americans. "Behind the smoke and mirrors lies a cruel and draconian truth: tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy paid for by gutting health care for millions of Americans," said the New York senator.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office is expected to soon provide an overall analysis of the package's impacts on the government balance sheets, particular rising annual deficits. But Republicans are ready to blast those findings from the congressional scorekeeper as flawed.

Trump Tuesday switched to tougher tactics, deriding the holdout Republican senators to get on board.

The president laid into Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, the libertarian-leaning deficit hawk who has made a career of arguing against government spending. Paul wants the package's $4 trillion increase to the debt ceiling out of the bill.

"Rand votes NO on everything, but never has any practical or constructive ideas. His ideas are actually crazy (losers!)." Trump posted.

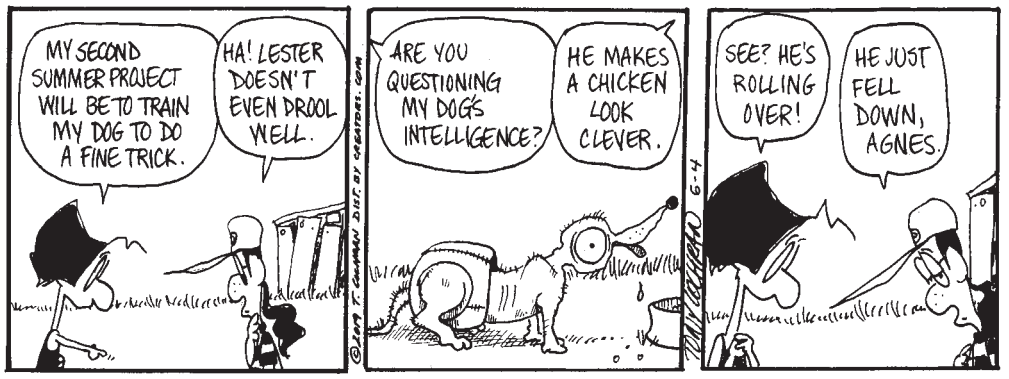
Paul seemed unfazed. "I like the president, supported the president," the senator said. "But I can't in good conscience give up every principle that I stand for and every principle that I was elected upon."

The July 4th deadline is not only aspirational for the president, it's all but mandatory for his Treasury Department. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has warned Congress that the nation will run out of money to pay its bills if the debt ceiling,

SEE TAX PAGE 11

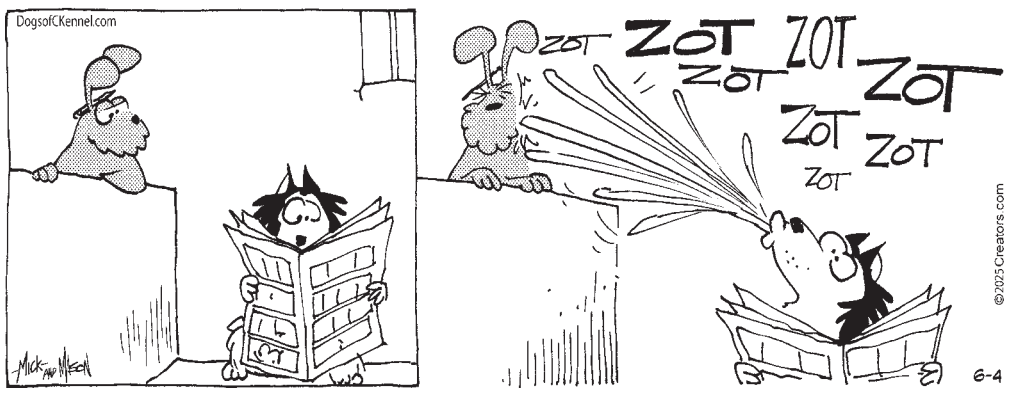
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



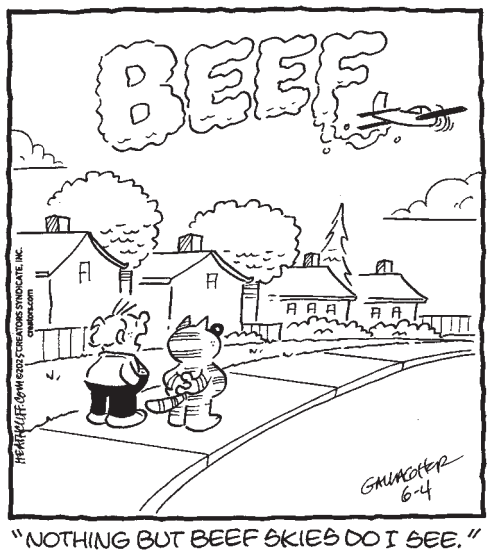
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By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

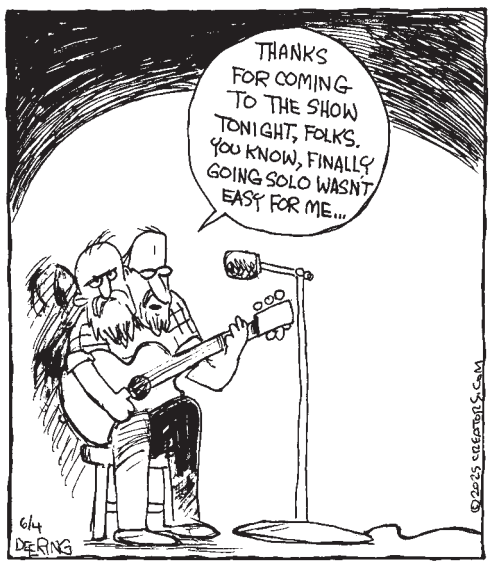
By PETER GALLAGHER



"NOTHING BUT BEEF SKIES DO I SEE."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6596

Morning gym session

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

Ache	Drop	Hips	Mind	Snack
Agile	Easy	Hungry	Muscle	Squat
Arms	Face	Improve	Neck	Steep
Ball	Fast	Inhale	Pain	Stress
Biceps	Fibre	Intake	Perspiration	Support
City	Floor	Join	Push	Time
Class	Fuel	Keen	Relax	Tired
Cool	Goals	Keto	Run	Towel
Core	Hard	Lean	Rural	Winner
Craving	Help	Legs	Size	Yoga
Diet	High bars	Limbs	Slog	

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 4)

There's never been a better year for taking long stretches of time for yourself and holding it sacred. Relaxation turns into vibrance, vitality, creativity and back to deeply relaxing hours of restoration. Understanding these rhythms sets you up for figuring out how to make the big adventures happen. More highlights: a dream job moment, a long-lost connection revived and personal milestones that feel like rebirth. Capricorn and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 40, 7, 9 and 10.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you doubt yourself, it gives an opening for others to join in. Don't leave room for this sort of thing today. Instead, believe in your ability to figure out whatever issue comes up and you'll attract allies.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't just intellectually understand emotions - you know them through experience. You've held the pain, joy and longing in your body and therefore don't need to work at empathy. You instantly recognize emotional undercurrents and offer help.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). So much of communication is transactional or combative - people listening just long enough to respond, convince or defend. Real connection and progress happen when someone is willing to set aside ego and truly hear another person's experience.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're loyal. That's clear in how you still flow goodwill and love to people who have hurt you. Know that you can do this from a distance and it will still count as loyalty. It may be wise and compassionate to hold a boundary now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Life won't always be like this. You'll feel the shift, and it'll be slow at first, subtle, but it'll build. There's a day ahead where you won't be waiting for a certain phase to be over. You'll just be in a better place.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The person you want to be is not waiting on the other side of some big transformation. This person is already inside you. You're becoming them with every brave moment you don't turn away from your own truth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You hold onto certain fears, not because they serve you but because they've become familiar. Don't mistake these things for core parts of your identity. Without the worry, you'll still be yourself, only freer.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Someone in your midst is a one-man show that you don't need to buy tickets to this season. When you try to engage, you'll get lectured, side-eyed and spiritually pickpocketed. Wish them well from a distance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're beset by a vague appetite. You're looking for something, but what exactly? You'll know it when you see it, then you'll be swept into the escapade! You won't give up until it's entirely yours. Success is assured.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll gain entry into a space - social, professional, creative or otherwise - that was previously closed to you. It may not be something you earned in the traditional sense, but it comes via association and timing. Take it!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Complexities resolve once you stop wrestling with reality and accept it. There really is no other effective choice. Even if you want things to change, acceptance will be the first step.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Nuance matters. Intention surfaces the truth and is the difference between a compliment and an insult, success and dumb luck, a crime and an accident. What's done from love will feel like love.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

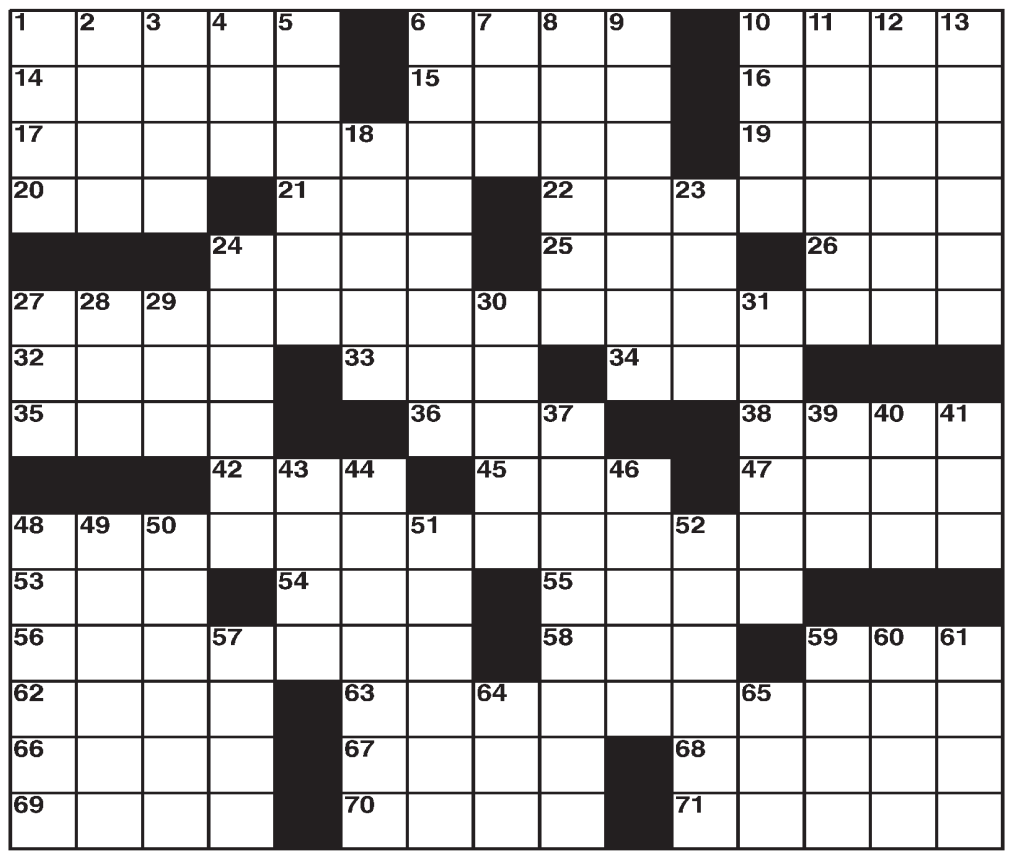
WEDDING "SOMETHINGS" by Steve Faiella
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Removed the rind from
6 In the vicinity
10 Money posted in court
14 Banish
15 Shortest-name Great Lake
16 Vampire novelist Rice
17 Revered painters such as Rembrandt and Michelangelo
19 Small-town groceries
20 Word before maiden names
21 Hairstyles, for short
22 Advisers for young employees
24 Nintendo competitor
25 Fair-hiring initials
26 Regret
27 Massachusetts or Vermont
32 Similar (to)
33 Tree that sounds like "you"
34 HBO rival
35 Cooler brand named for a Himalayan legend
36 Tool with teeth
38 Odor sensor
42 Halloween mo.
45 Tear apart
47 Become taller
48 Took an unnecessary risk
53 Valedictorian's class rank
54 54, in Roman numerals
55 Add employees
56 Pizzeria herb
58 Gardening tool
59 Noah's construction
62 Said, as a farewell
63 County fair first prize
66 Don't include
67 Villainous
68 Because of
69 __ out (doesn't participate)
70 Homeowner's document
71 Balance-sheet plus

DOWN

1 Lowly worker
2 Wheel shaft
3 Roller coaster or carousel
4 Street often close to Oak
5 Make numb, as teeth
6 Revenue minus refunds
7 Before, in poems
8 Guys piloting fighter planes
9 Does some lawn repair
10 Worm on a fishhook
11 Fine wool fabric
12 Trapped by routine
13 Rent payer
18 Overly wet
23 Small snack
24 Prom attendee
27 Thumbs-down vote
28 __ out a living
29 Verbal cleverness
30 Oscar or Emmy
31 __-in-cheek (not serious)
37 Didn't reveal, as info
39 Poetic sphere
40 Note after fa
41 Lamb's parent
43 Brown soda
44 Dorm room sleeping spot
46 Earlier in time
48 Silly mistake
49 Highway entrance
50 Amend further
51 Develop gradually
52 Tater Tots company
57 Obtains
59 $5 bills, informally
60 Repetitive learning
61 Pretzel shape
64 180 degree turn, slangily
65 Vehicle for school kids



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06/04/25

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GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 7

its provisions, including the county executive's authority.

The task force, reflecting the county's extremely diverse economic, cultural and political communities, held its first meeting last week and the executive's powers were a preoccupation of its members, some of whom opposed Measure G.

As the Los Angeles Times' account of the meeting put it, "Should the chief executive be able to hire and fire department heads? What are the veto powers? How much control will the executive have over the county's purse strings?"

The Times quoted Marcel Rodarte, a task force member who heads the California Contract Cities Association, as worrying about a bombastic executive "running amok and burning bridges unnecessarily," adding, "It's a possibility it could happen. I want to make sure that those nine supervisors have the ability to rein in the CEO."

Rodarte's members, which comprise dozens of small Los Angeles cities, contract with the county for such things as police patrols and fire protection, so they are concerned about who will be sitting across the table in contract negotiations. County employee unions expressed similar reservations about labor contracts.

One of the big questions is whether the county executive will have a term limit.

Governors, legislators and other state officeholders have term limits. Gov. Gavin Newsom's second term will end in 19 months and has publicly cited the impending end of his governorship in seeking action on his priority issues.

As it stands, the county executive will not be term-limited, and that potentially looms large in the task force's recommendations for amending the county charter.

There's not a lot of room for protracted debates among task force members because the first county executive will be elected in 2028. Every ambitious Los Angeles politician will be weighing a campaign and everyone needs to know what the winner can — and cannot — do after being inaugurated.

By Dan Walters. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

TAX

FROM PAGE 8

now at $36 trillion, is not lifted by mid-July or early August to allow more borrowing. Bessent has also been meeting behind closed doors with senators and GOP leadership.

Thune acknowledged Tuesday that lifting the debt ceiling is not up for debate.

"It's got to be done," the South Dakota senator said.

The road ahead is also a test for Thune who, like Johnson, is a newer leader in Congress and among the many Republicans adjusting their own priorities with Trump's return to the White House.

While Johnson has warned against massive changes to the package, Thune faces demands from his senators for adjustments.

To make most of the tax cuts permanent — particularly the business tax breaks that are the Senate priorities — senators may shave some of Trump's proposed new tax breaks on automobile loans or overtime pay, which are policies less prized by some senators.

There are also discussions about altering the $40,000 cap that the House proposed for state and local deductions, known as SALT, which are important to lawmakers in high-tax New York, California and other states, but less so among GOP senators.

"We're having all those discussions," said Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., another key voice in the debate.

Hawley is a among a group of senators, including Maine Sen. Susan Collins and Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who have raised concerns about the Medicaid changes that could boot people from health insurance.

A potential copay of up to $35 for Medicaid services that was part of the House package, as well as a termination of a provider tax that many states rely on to help fund rural hospitals, have also raised concerns.

> "The best way to not be accused of cutting Medicaid is to not cut Medicaid"
> - Sen. Josh Hawley

"The best way to not be accused of cutting Medicaid is to not cut Medicaid," Hawley said.

Collins said she is reviewing the details.

There's also a House provision that would allow the auction of spectrum bandwidth that some senators oppose.

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press. Associated Press writers Matt Brown, Michelle Price and Josh Boak contributed to this report.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press



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

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® host ongoing $5 ongoing Community Dog Training Classes on Saturdays at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. Class proceeds donated to charitable organizations that advocate for animals, and animal shelters and rescues. 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-/11981844/2025-06-07T12

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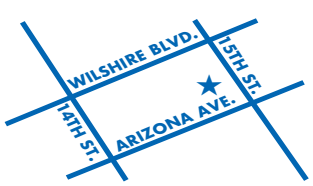
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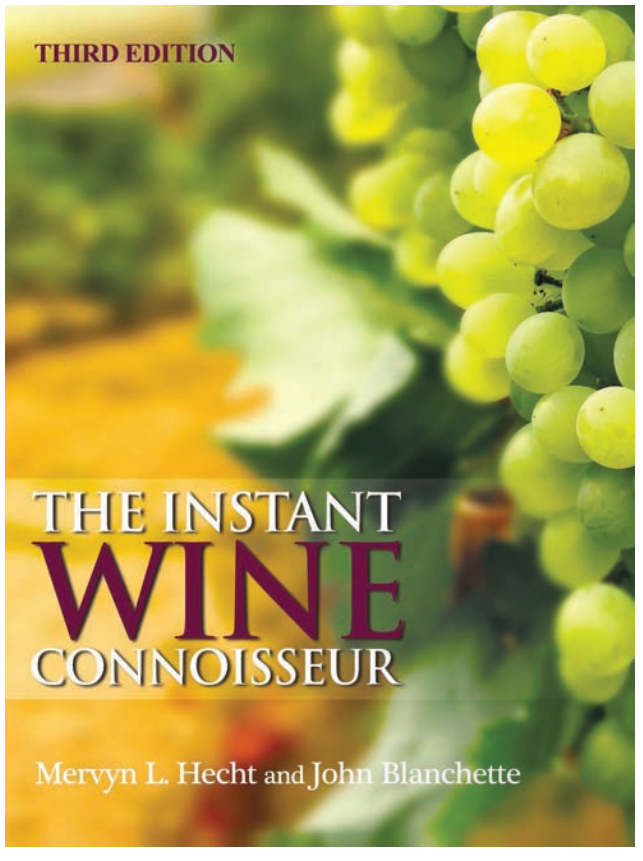
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★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



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