

The Forward Eagle

Compiled Weekly

“Let us endeavor mutually to enlighten one another.”

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Current Events

1.

Israel is suspected of using criminals in its fight against Hamas. In the Gaza Strip, some Palestinian militias repeatedly launch attacks, but their target is not the Israeli army, but Hamas. Who are they, and are they actually supported by Israel? Satellite images are inconclusive.

2.

Israeli strikes killed at least four Palestinians in Gaza, according to local health officials. Hamas officials met mediators in Cairo to try to restart a ceasefire that has broken down in recent weeks. Meanwhile, Israel’s navy intercepted an aid flotilla in international waters near Greece, preventing the boats from reaching Gaza and detaining activists.

3.

Russia and Ukraine accused each other of violating a temporary truce, insisted on by Moscow ahead of its Victory Day celebrations on Saturday. Both sides reported drone attacks overnight. Earlier *The Economist* revealed exclusive evidence of a secret Russian plan to supply similar drones to Iran, alongside other innovative weapons and training. The three-part proposal was prepared by the intelligence arm of Russia’s armed forces.

4.

Health authorities around the world are scrambling to track down people connected to a cruise ship where an outbreak of hantavirus killed three people. The World Health Organization has confirmed five of eight suspected cases of the rodent-borne virus. A WHO epidemiologist said that, as human-to-human infection is rare, this was “not the start of a pandemic”.

5.

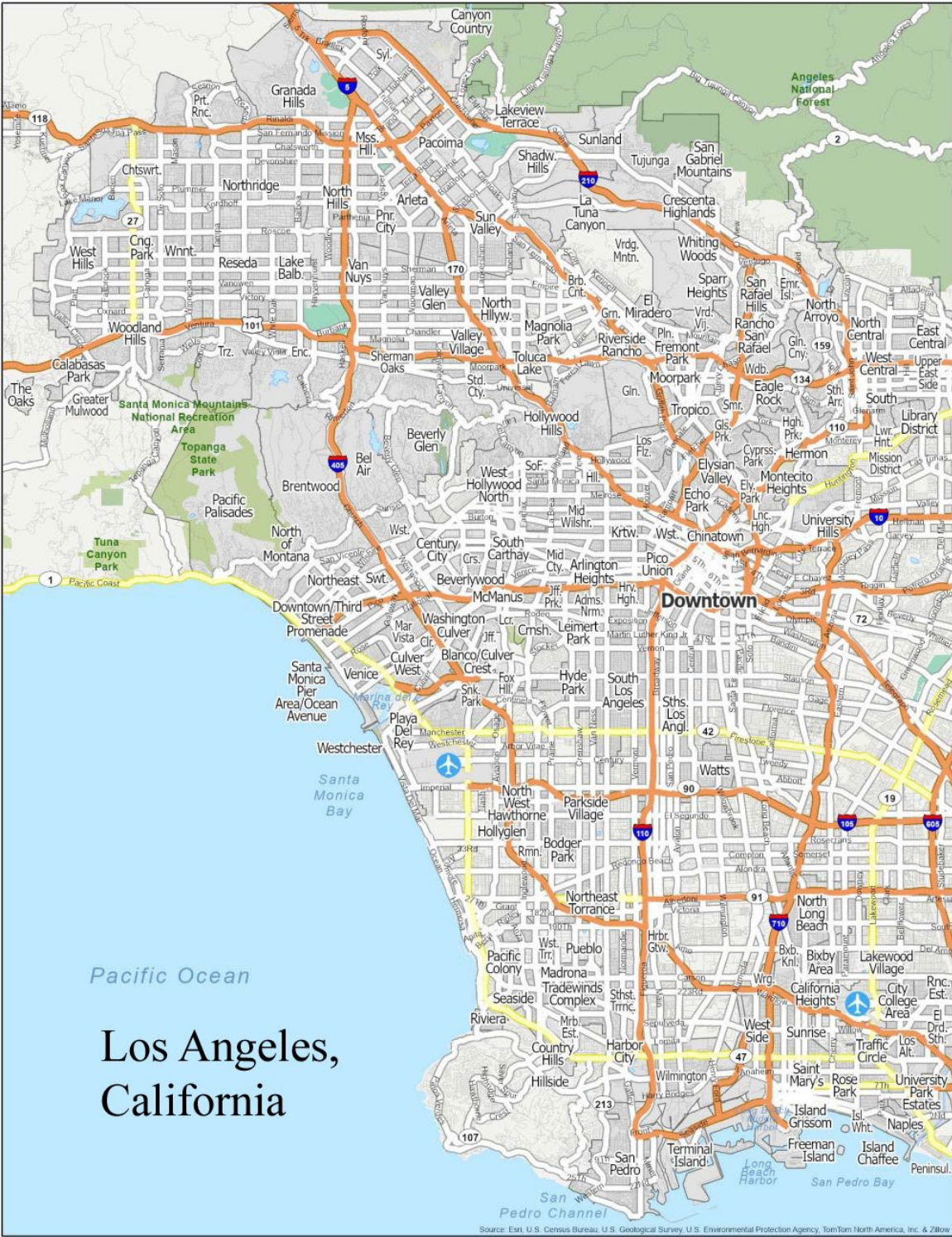
On April 29, 2026, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in *Louisiana v. Callais*, striking down a Louisiana congressional map that created a second majority-Black district. The ruling, which deemed the map an "unconstitutional racial gerrymander," significantly narrows Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), making it difficult to challenge maps that enforce racial discrimination against minority populations in states.

6.

Donald Trump vowed to continue blockading Iran’s ports. The president said America would “see how long they hold out”, adding to concerns that the Strait of Hormuz will not reopen soon. The price of Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, settled at around \$112 a barrel on Friday after surging to \$126 on Thursday. Earlier Iran threatened “long and painful strikes” against American bases in the Middle East should hostilities resume.

7.

America’s Congress passed a bill to reopen the Department of Homeland Security, which has been shut for 76 days. The bill does not provide new money for immigration-enforcement agencies; the omission had been a sticking point for some House Republicans. The



The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the population of under-18 year olds in Los Angeles fell by 23% between 2010 and 2024. In Chicago the figure was 22%. While overall population counts remain stable, cities across America are losing children.

party instead hopes to fund them using a legislative tool that lets the Senate pass spending measures with a simple majority.

8.

Brazil’s Congress overrode President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva’s veto of a bill to shorten the prison sentence of Jair Bolsonaro, a hard-right former president. Last year Mr. Bolsonaro was sentenced to 27 years in jail for plotting a coup after his electoral defeat in 2022; the law reduces that to around two years. The Senate also recently rejected Lula’s Supreme Court nominee.

9.

American stock markets closed at record highs. Investors are betting that gains from the artificial-intelligence boom will outweigh the effects of the war in Iran. The S&P 500 rose by 10% in April, its biggest monthly jump since 2020. Earlier the Commerce Department announced that America’s economy grew at an annualized rate of 2% in the first quarter of 2026, slightly below the expectations of economists.

Word of the Week

demographic

dem·o·graph·ic ,de-mə-'gra-fik
noun

1. demographics plural : the statistical characteristics of human populations such as age or income
2. used especially to identify markets

adjective

1. relating to demography or demographics

Origin: *demos* (Greek), meaning "people," "society"
graphia (Greek) meaning "writing"

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