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2 Recognition of resilience

In Malibu.

3 Mortgage payments

Fire victims need time.



5 Vision to Learn

Nonprofit of the Year.

6 SMC concert

On June 4.

Volume 25 Issue 137

MONDAY 6/1/26

smdp.com

Palisades teen turns fire-relief money into miniature memorial of lost neighborhood



Santa Monica doubles down on major events strategy with additional Olympic activations

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica is cementing its place on the global sports calendar, with the City Council approving negotiations for an ESPN broadcast hub during the 2027 Super Bowl and a Swiss Olympic hospitality house during the 2028 Games — the latest in a growing portfolio of major activations the city is banking on to drive economic recovery.

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 11

Rough sleeping hits 4-year high in L.A. despite flat overall homeless numbers, RAND finds

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

The overall number of people living on the streets in three high-profile Los Angeles neighborhoods held steady in 2025, but the way those people sleep has shifted in a troubling direction — with rough sleeping reaching its highest level in

SEE RAND PAGE 8

EXHIBITION: Loyola junior Luca Dal Bello commissioned miniature models of Pacific Palisades landmarks, on display May 30–June 21 in Venice.

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

When the January 2025 wildfires damaged his family's Pacific

Palisades home and devastated much of the surrounding community, Loyola High School junior Luca Dal Bello received money to replace what he had lost. He chose instead

to fly to Japan and commission professional miniature makers to recreate the neighborhood itself.

The result, an exhibition of more than 50 hand-crafted scale models

of homes, schools, churches, restaurants and landmarks from the Palisades, opens May 30 at EMECO

SEE PALISADES PAGE 6

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Dr. Ali Mogharei

Malibu bookstore owner honored for resilience after year of disasters

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The owner of Malibu's only independent bookstore has been named one of ADP's 2026 Grit & Wisdom Award winners, recognized for keeping her business open through a punishing series of disasters that battered the coastal community over the past two years.

“Creativity is a survival skill — getting creative in thought, systems, and practice is the only way to push past the present and change for the future”

- Michelle Pierce

"Creativity is a survival skill — getting creative in thought, systems, and practice is the only way to push past the present and change for the future," Pierce said. "Financial resilience is not optional. You cannot complete your mission if your doors close."

Malibu Village Books opened officially in March 2023 after Pierce was approached by the property's previous landlords, Jamestown, who had visited her original location, Lido Village Books, and asked her to bring a bookstore to Malibu. The community had been without one for more than 15 years.

The troubles began in December 2024, when the Franklin Fire forced the store to close for a week during the holiday season. Pierce thought the business could absorb the hit. Then the Palisades Fire hit, shuttering the store for the rest of January 2025.

The deeper blow came afterward, when a six-month road closure cut off Malibu from Santa Monica and the rest of Los Angeles and Orange counties. Customers could not reach the store. Many assumed it had closed permanently.

"It was devastating and really hard — 2025 was the most hopeless time in my life," Pierce said. "When no one can get to you — when everyone thinks you are closed forever — they begin to build new habits and new routines. We stayed open so employees and community members would have a space to go to and feel a sense of community and normal routine, and yet there were days we made \$0 in sales."

A bookstore operates on one of the tightest profit margins in retail, Pierce said. Her rainy-day fund dwindled. Rent came due. Employees faced their own crises. Pierce said she was denied financial assistance and told at one point that "bookstores don't matter."

She refused to close. Instead, she applied for grants, launched a GoFundMe campaign, accepted help from longtime customers and built new ways to get books out into the community. The store is still recovering a year later.

For other small business owners facing

Michelle Pierce, who owns Malibu Village Books, was selected for the national program, which spotlights small business owners who turned defining hardships into lasting wisdom. The award comes after Pierce navigated her store through two wildfires, a major earthquake, a mudslide and a six-month road closure that severed Malibu from the rest of the Los Angeles region.

Pierce credits two principles for keeping her doors open: financial resilience and creativity.

SEE MALIBU PAGE 6

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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Our house burned down but our mortgage didn't. California fire survivors need time

We were supposed to celebrate our younger son's first birthday in our backyard on January 11th, 2025. Instead, four days before his party, we watched the Palisades fire take our home. We'd packed what we could, put our kids in the car and drove to Tennessee to live with family because we had nowhere else to go.

Our house is gone. Our older son's preschool is gone. The library, the restaurants, the small routines that made up a life are all gone. What remains is a mortgage on a property that no longer exists and a rebuilding process that every expert we've spoken to says will take two to four years, minimum.

We did not expect to become advocates. But in the months after the fire, we kept running into the same impossible questions from other families — questions about forbearance, credit and what their mortgage servicer was actually required to do. Nobody had clear answers, so we founded Disaster Mortgage Relief and have spent the past year listening to hundreds of families across the Palisades and Altadena navigate a financial system that was simply not built for what we are living through.

That experience is what brings us to Assembly Bill 1847. The California Bankers Association recently argued that this bill — which would extend and strengthen mortgage protections established under last year's fire emergency mortgage relief law, AB 238 — could end up restricting access to credit.

We want to engage with that, because we think it gets the situation almost entirely backwards.

AB 238 gave people whose homes burned up to 12 months of mortgage forbearance. But the rebuilding timeline in the Palisades and Altadena is not 12 months. Debris removal, utility restoration, insurance disputes, permit approvals, contractor shortages and construction inflation have made this a multi-year process for virtually everyone we work with.

The original forbearance framework was built around a recovery timeline that does not exist in reality. Now that fire survivors' forbearance periods are expiring, we are watching the consequences in real time: Families who were current on their mortgages before the January 2025 fire — who followed every rule — are seeing their credit scores fall by 200, 300, even 400 points.

Some are being pushed toward foreclosure. Some are being handed balloon payments of \$100,000 or more, due at the exact moment they are trying to finance construction.

This is not a story about irresponsible borrowers. These are teachers, small business owners, young families who made these neighborhoods what they were. Most still desperately want to come home. But the financial pressure is forcing many of them out for good.

We understand lenders need predictable rules and functioning credit markets. California cannot solve one crisis by creating another. But the greater threat to future lending is not temporary forbearance; it is mass borrower failure, collapsing credit, abandoned rebuilds and neighborhoods that never recover.

AB 1847 does not forgive debt. It does not eliminate lender rights. It does not tell banks they won't be repaid. It allows payments to be deferred during rebuilding and moved to the loan's back end.

The CARES Act, which gave borrowers of federally-backed mortgages up to 360 days' relief during the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrated that similar structures were operationally feasible on a national scale.

For many families, freeing up two or three years of principal and interest and applying that money to construction is the difference between rebuilding and permanently leaving. It requires no taxpayer money; it simply restructures debt that already exists so families have a realistic chance to come home.

In our case, my family is still in Tennessee, saving every dime we can to hopefully afford to rebuild the home we lost.

Climate events are no longer temporary and localized. They destroy entire communities at once and displace families for years. The financial infrastructure around homeownership needs to catch up to that reality.

The question before California is simple: when disaster survivors are trapped between a destroyed home and a mortgage system that no longer matches modern recovery, will we force families into financial collapse or adapt the system to the world we now live in?

Robert Fagnani cofounded Disaster Mortgage Relief after losing his home in the Palisades fire. Rachel Jonas cofounded Disaster Mortgage Relief after losing her home in the Palisades fire.



Weather

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 71.
Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 59.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)High/Low
2026/06/01	Mon	05:09 AM	-0.64 L
2026/06/01	Mon	11:51 AM	3.27 H
2026/06/01	Mon	3:42 PM	2.52 L
2026/06/01	Mon	10:07 PM	5.69 H
2026/06/02	Tue	05:46 AM	-0.55 L
2026/06/02	Tue	12:36 PM	3.23 H
2026/06/02	Tue	4:15 PM	2.62 L
2026/06/02	Tue	10:40 PM	5.53 H
2026/06/03	Wed	06:25 AM	-0.41 L
2026/06/03	Wed	1:23 PM	3.22 H
2026/06/03	Wed	4:52 PM	2.73 L
2026/06/03	Wed	11:16 PM	5.30 H
2026/06/04	Thu	07:04 AM	-0.23 L
2026/06/04	Thu	2:13 PM	3.26 H
2026/06/04	Thu	5:39 PM	2.86 L
2026/06/04	Thu	11:56 PM	5.00 H
2026/06/05	Fri	07:45 AM	-0.02 L
2026/06/05	Fri	3:05 PM	3.40 H
2026/06/05	Fri	6:42 PM	2.96 L
2026/06/06	Sat	12:42 AM	4.60 H
2026/06/06	Sat	08:28 AM	0.24 L
2026/06/06	Sat	3:51 PM	3.64 H
2026/06/06	Sat	8:09 PM	2.96 L
2026/06/07	Sun	01:41 AM	4.13 H
2026/06/07	Sun	09:13 AM	0.52 L
2026/06/07	Sun	4:29 PM	3.99 H
2026/06/07	Sun	10:00 PM	2.65 L
2026/06/08	Mon	03:02 AM	3.65 H
2026/06/08	Mon	09:59 AM	0.82 L
2026/06/08	Mon	5:03 PM	4.43 H
2026/06/08	Mon	11:27 PM	2.00 L
2026/06/09	Tue	04:39 AM	3.33 H
2026/06/09	Tue	10:45 AM	1.13 L
2026/06/09	Tue	5:37 PM	4.95 H
2026/06/10	Wed	12:29 AM	1.17 L
2026/06/10	Wed	06:08 AM	3.23 H
2026/06/10	Wed	11:29 AM	1.42 L
2026/06/10	Wed	6:13 PM	5.52 H
2026/06/11	Thu	01:22 AM	0.29 L

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: 5/27
 5 14 21 31 51
 Power#: 13
 Jackpot: 172 M

Fantasy 5
 Draw Date: 5/28
 2 12 20 30 34

MEGA MILLIONS
 Draw Date: 5/26
 1 5 49 51 59
 Mega#: 7
 Jackpot: 331 M

Daily 3
 Draw Date: 5/29
 MIDDAY: 8 9 9
 Draw Date: 5/28
 EVENING: 7 5 4

SuperLotto
 Draw Date: 5/27
 3 8 36 45 46
 Mega#: 6
 Jackpot: 24 M

Daily Derby
 Draw Date: 5/28
 1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
 2nd: 04 - Big Ben
 3rd: 07 - Eureka
 Race Time: 1:42.67

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Santa Monica Daily Press

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Peaches, pears and PFAS: California lawmakers may limit 'forever' pesticides in foods

Amid growing awareness that so-called forever chemicals, or PFAS, can linger in landscapes and waterways for centuries, federal and state regulators have repeatedly insisted they're working aggressively to protect us all from the cancer-linked poisons.

They are not.

Even as regulators and lawmakers tout their baby steps to limit forever chemicals in U.S. drinking water, they're allowing a dramatic increase in the use of pesticides containing the chemicals across millions of acres of industrial agriculture. That often ends up in waterways and drinking water supplies, including in California.

PFAS, or perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a group of synthetic chemicals used since the 1950s to make consumer products resistant to water, grease and heat. Studies have linked PFAS to cancer, reproductive harm, endocrine disruption and other health effects.

An alarming 14% of all conventional pesticide active ingredients are now PFAS, according to a peer-reviewed study I co-authored with scientists from the Environmental Working Group and the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. And it's getting worse: The dangerous substances make up 30% of pesticide active ingredients approved just in the last 10 years.

Nowhere is the exploding use of PFAS pesticides more unsettling than in California, which produces more than three-quarters of U.S.-consumed fruits and nuts and nearly half its vegetables. In March, the U.S. Geological Survey reported widespread water contamination with PFAS pesticides in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys, where most California fruit and vegetables are grown.

PFAS chemicals were found in nearly 40% of samples of nonorganic fruits and vegetables tested by state regulators in 2023, according to a new report by the Environmental Working Group. That analysis found 17 different PFAS pesticides

on more than half of 78 types of nonorganic fruits and vegetables, including nectarines, peaches, plums, strawberries, blueberries, celery and green beans.

The proliferation of forever chemicals in Californians' food and the continued approval of PFAS pesticides by state regulators leaves no doubt California lawmakers must pass Assembly Bill 1603.

The measure would require that products disclose if they contain PFAS, and it would prohibit any new PFAS pesticide approvals. It also would phase out the use of PFAS pesticides over the next 10 years.

The bill faces a do-or-die vote in the full California Assembly by May 29.

What heightens the need for action is the fact that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under President Donald Trump and California's Department of Pesticide Regulation are going in the wrong direction on PFAS pesticides.

Since Trump took office, the EPA has approved two PFAS pesticides and proposed approving three more.

And recently, California's pesticide office again approved the PFAS insecticide sulfoxaflor, even though it has been repeatedly rejected by state and federal courts because of its high toxicity to pollinators, such as honeybees.

The pesticide industry claims that many new pesticides are not PFAS because they contain only one, instead of two, fully fluorinated carbons. But that claim, which has been embraced by the EPA, disregards the widely accepted scientific definition, that any chemical with a single fully-fluorinated carbon is a PFAS.

The grim reality is that 23-35 million pounds of pesticide ingredients used annually in the United States are PFAS. California has registered 53 PFAS pesticides. And about 2.5 million pounds of those poisons are applied annually to California cropland.

Nathan Donley is environmental health science director at the Center for Biological Diversity.



City of
Santa Monica

**SANTA MONICA RENT CONTROL BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Thursday, June 11, 2026**

The Santa Monica Rent Control Board will hold public hearings on the following topics at its meeting on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, 1685 Main Street:

- 1) Consideration of whether to establish a ceiling on the 2026 General Adjustment
- 2) Consideration and adoption of the Rent Control Board's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Operating Budget
- 3) Consideration of proposed Charter amendments concerning Commissioner term limits, registration fee framework, and petition decision timeline
- 4) Adoption of regulation amendments addressing safety-sensitive information in hearing proceedings

The agenda and staff reports will be available on the Board's website at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at: www.santamonica.gov/rentcontrol.

COMMUNITY NEWS

California

Vision To Learn Celebrated as 2026 Nonprofit of the Year

Sen. Ben Allen, D-Santa Monica, celebrated Vision To Learn in Sacramento as a 2026 Nonprofit of the Year, recognizing nearly 15 years of service bringing quality eye care to students around California and the nation.

“You cannot underestimate the difference eye care makes to a student’s educational experience,” Allen said. “Undetected visual problems create unnecessary barriers that can leave children falling behind in the classroom, simply because they cannot clearly see and read the material being taught. Vision To Learn breaks down these barriers so that these bright young minds can thrive in school and later into their careers.”

Vision To Learn started with a partnership with Los Angeles Unified School District and now works with school districts in 15 states plus Washington, D.C. The nonprofit’s licensed optometrists and trained opticians bring mobile eye care services directly to students at schools, where students receive vision screenings, eye exams and select new prescription glasses from a wide selection of frames on the clinic.

A 2021 Johns Hopkins study found that children who received glasses made greater learning gains than those achieved by extending the school day or other methods of intervention. Students in the bottom quarter of their class academically, and students with learning disabilities, showed gains equal to four to six months of additional lessons.

“Glasses have been shown to be the most effective tool to increase academic achievement, at far less cost than other interventions,” said Joan Chu Reese, executive director of Vision To Learn. “Today, more than 278,000 California students go to school each day with the glasses they need to succeed. Vision To Learn is thrilled to work alongside Senator Allen to ensure access to basic, yet critical, eye care for kids.”

Vision To Learn has provided eye care to 3.8 million children nationwide and helped 663,530 students receive glasses so they may see clearer and learn better.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

NONPROFIT: Sen. Ben Allen honors Vision To Learn as 2026 Nonprofit of the Year for 15 years of student eye care.

GET IT DAILY...



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Proposed FY 2026-27 Budget; Adoption of the Resolution Establishing the City’s Gann Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Year 2026-27; and Adoption of the Master User Fees Resolution

DESCRIPTION

The City Council, Housing Authority, and Parking Authority of the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing on the proposed FY 2026-27 Budget on June 23, 2026. At this meeting, the City Council will adopt a resolution determining the City’s Gann Appropriations Limit for FY 2026-27. A copy of the documentation used in calculating the limit can be viewed online at <https://www.santamonica.gov/financial-transparency>.

At the June 23, 2026 meeting, the City Council will also conduct a public hearing on the proposed adoption of new fees and revisions to existing fees charged by the City Manager’s Office, Community Development Department, Finance, Fire Department, Library, Police Department, Public Works Department, Records and Elections Services, Recreation and Arts Department, and Department of Transportation.

The proposed fee revisions are intended to more fully recover the City’s cost of providing services, processing applications, and cost of living increases (if applicable). The proposed fee schedule will be available online at <https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas.aspx> no later than June 19, 2026. The public hearing will also consider maintaining certain existing fees at current rates for various services.

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider this request:

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Room 250, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California 90401

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: Proposed Budget, Gann Appropriations Limit, or Fee Revisions
June 23, 2026, City Council Meeting
councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please refer to the Adoption of the FY 2026-27 Operating Budget and Adoption of the First Year and Approval of the Second Year of the FY 2026-28 Capital Improvement Program Budget staff report for the June 23, 2026, meeting on the City’s web site at <https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas.aspx>. You may contact the City Clerk at (310) 458-8211 for alternate availability of the City Council agenda packet.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8211 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 18 directly serve or stop nearby City Hall.

ESPAÑOL

Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública sobre, el presupuesto propuesto para el año fiscal 2026-27, para adoptar una resolución para la determinación del límite de asignaciones de Gann para el año fiscal 2026-27, y la propuesta adopción de aumento a los cobros de varios servicios que ofrece la ciudad de Santa Monica. Para más información en español, favor de llamar al Departamento de Finanzas al número (310) 458-8281.

PALISADES

FROM PAGE 1

House in Venice under the name Palisades Collective. The show runs through June 21.

"I didn't really feel the need to replace my toys or clothes," Dal Bello said. "What I felt I had truly lost overnight was the community itself, and that's what I wanted to bring back."

The collection includes the United Methodist Church of Pacific Palisades, the Robert Bridges House, the 1920s Will Rogers Ranch House, the Topanga Ranch Motel, Palisades Elementary School, St. Matthews Elementary School and lost neighborhood gathering spots such as Toppings, Cafe Vida and Moonshadows. The exhibition also features more than 10 personal memory pieces and a large-scale coastal diorama. An additional 20 to 30 Altadena models are in production through summer 2026.

Many of the structures were not chosen for their architectural significance. Dal Bello built the project around what residents themselves submitted through a website and social media account.

"Many of the buildings aren't famous landmarks or architecturally important sites," he said. "They're schools, churches, local restaurants, after-school hangout spots, and places where people gathered and built memories together."

Dal Bello, who is half Japanese, traveled to Japan to commission the work from artists including the architecture model maker Yamato Kougei and miniature food artist Fukumaruko. Photographer Trish Alison also contributed to the exhibition.

"I grew up appreciating Japan's craftsmanship and attention to detail," he said. "Japan has a strong culture of miniature making, from architecture and train models to food replicas and tiny everyday scenes, and they can look incredibly real. I felt that level of craftsmanship could help preserve these memories in a meaningful way."

Dal Bello said he has not yet returned to his own home because rebuilding and remediation remain underway for many families. He described the miniature-making process as a form of closure.

"It's hard seeing the things you treasure most, even ordinary, everyday places, burned and replayed over and over in the news," he said. "But miniatures feel different. They freeze moments in time and space forever. For me, this process has been healing. It gives me a sense of closure knowing these memories

are now permanently preserved."

The exhibition pairs the models with oral histories, touchscreen stations, QR-based storytelling and workshops. Visitors can select miniature figures and place themselves inside the models. Through a partnership with StoryCorps, recordings collected at the exhibition will be archived at the Library of Congress.

The venue itself carries a personal connection. EMECO House owner Jaye Buchbinder lives in Dal Bello's neighborhood and also lost her home in the fire. A miniature of her burned atelier is among the works on display.

"I created the name 'Palisades Collective' because the project is really about collective memory," Dal Bello said.

Programming during the run includes an artist talk with Yamato Kougei at the May 30 opening, an architect talk on June 4 featuring UCLA architecture professor Hitoshi Abe, and a closing talk on June 21 with Alison. On June 8, students from Palisades Elementary and St. Matthews will gather at YMCA Simon Meadow to record oral histories, make memory keychains and create 2D self-portraits that will become part of a school miniature destined for the Los Angeles Public Library.

Fashion Girls for Humanity, the fiscal sponsor of the project and the organization led by Dal Bello's mother, Kikka Hanazawa, will present grant checks of \$5,000 to \$10,000 to every affected elementary and middle school at the opening. A temporary shelter designed by Dal Bello's brother, Kai, in collaboration with ETH Zurich's Chair of Architectural Behaviorology, will also be displayed and donated to a Palisades resident who lost a home.

The Los Angeles Public Library is in discussions to host a traveling presentation later in the year, and the Eames Foundation is scheduled to host a pop-up version of the exhibition in July or August 2026.

Dal Bello said the project has expanded his sense of the community he set out to preserve.

"Before the fire, many of us mostly knew people within our own schools or circles," he said. "Through this project, I've met neighbors, students, artists, volunteers, and families from across the community that I otherwise never would have met."

Admission is free. EMECO House is located at 507 Boccaccio Ave. in Venice.

maaz@smdp.com

MALIBU

FROM PAGE 2

similar pressure, Pierce offered direct advice.

"Hold strong and document everything. Sometimes things get out of your control, so take a moment to see what you can control," she said. "Use this as a moment to create new opportunities that are missing within your industry and you do well."

Laci Buzzelli, senior vice president and general manager of small business services at ADP, said Pierce's approach reflects what the company has observed in the most durable small businesses.

"What Michelle did at Malibu Village Books, building a rainy-day fund and finding new ways to support and connect with customers, is the kind of proactivity we see in the most resilient small businesses," Buzzelli said. "Protect your financial reserves before you need them, and simplify your operations now so you have the room to move should the unexpected hit."

The recognition arrives as new data underscores the economic weight of businesses like Pierce's. According to ADP Chief Economist Nela Richardson's latest Main Street Macro report, businesses with fewer than 20 employees created more than 525,000 jobs in 2025, more than any other group of private-sector employers. Without them, the U.S. economy would have lost 110,000 private-sector jobs last year.

"These Main Street businesses rarely grab headlines, but maybe they should," Richardson said. "When it comes to U.S. employment, the little mom-and-pop engine of our economy is the biggest thing powering the labor market."

Pierce said she remains grateful to customers, authors and donors who helped sustain the store through its hardest stretch.

"It takes a lot to rebuild," she said, "and we are SO thankful to all those who have supported us."

maaz@smdp.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

SMC Concert Chorale, Chamber Orchestra Present 'Instruments of Praise' June 4-5

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present "Instruments of Praise," a joint performance of the SMC Concert Chorale, SMC Chamber Choir, SMC alumni guest soloists and guest professional orchestra Horizon Music Group.

Under the baton of SMC music instructor and maestro Jeremiah Selvey Convento, the performance will be held Thursday, June 4, and Friday, June 5, at 7:30 p.m. at The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica.

The performance offers a chance to experience the combined voices of SMC's two classically based choirs joining orchestral instruments in music intended to praise life and lift spirits. The program will feature Schubert's Mass in G — with SMC alumni Jade Popper (soprano), Adam McCrory (baritone) and Ethan Eliafan (tenor) as soloists — as well as selected works by Bach, Beethoven, Gorzycycki, Mozart, Palestrina, Pärt and Tallis.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission, plus a modest service charge, and \$5 for students with any student ID. Advance tickets may be purchased online at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-3005 during limited weekday hours. Tickets also may be purchased at The Broad Stage Box Office starting 45 minutes before the performance.

Free parking is available on the premises, and seating is strictly on a first-arrival basis. More information is available by calling 310-434-4323. All performances are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy image

MUSIC: The Santa Monica College Music Department presents the SMC Concert Chorale, SMC Chamber Choir, and guest professional orchestra Horizon Music Group in "Instruments of Praise" on Thursday, June 4, and Friday, June 5.

Santa Monica

Santa Monica to Celebrate Juneteenth With Weekend of Events

The city of Santa Monica will celebrate Juneteenth, America's second Independence Day, with a weekend of events honoring Black history, culture and community.

The inaugural Juneteenth Gathering will center wellness and community through music, film and the healing arts. Led by the Recreation & Arts Department in collaboration with producing partners Go As If Productions and Christy Roberts Berkowitz, the debut event will take place at Christine Emerson Reed Park and the Miles Memorial Playhouse on Friday, June 19, from 4 to 8 p.m. The gathering will feature sound immersion, live music, an art workshop and DJ sets by Linaforia and Black Girls Love Vinyl.

A special film screening inside Miles Playhouse will showcase "BLKNWS: Terms & Conditions," a cinematic project created by visual artist and filmmaker Kahlil Joseph, which the Sundance Institute has described as a hypnotic tapestry of the Black experience across the diaspora inspired by the intellectual legacy of W.E.B. Du Bois.

The 34th Annual Juneteenth Celebration will take place the following day, June 20, at Virginia Avenue Park from 1 to 7 p.m. This year's theme, "A Legacy of Liberation: Honoring our Resistance and Resilience," represents the past and ongoing fight for equity and justice for Black Americans.

"By expanding our Juneteenth offerings, we hope to welcome even more people to celebrate in Santa Monica and experience the rich music, art, and cultural opportunities," Mayor Caroline Torosis said. "Whether you prefer a cozier gathering or a more robust community festival — or both — there is something for everyone as we honor this important holiday."

The annual celebration has a rich history at Virginia Avenue Park, founded by Santa Monica community activist LaVerne Ross and presented by RAD and Housing & Human Services with support from BroadStage. Santa Monica launched the first city-funded Juneteenth event three decades before Juneteenth was recognized as a federal holiday. Ross remains an active member of the organizing committee.

This year's celebration will showcase Black musical genres including an interactive drum workshop with Project KnuckleHead, plus soul, funk and jazz performances by ADAWE, the Kobie Dozier Quintet, Nichelle Monroe with Butterfly and The Gumbo Brothers. The event will also feature community resource booths, food trucks, local Black-owned small businesses and all-ages art activities celebrating Santa Monica's Belmar history.

The Santa Monica Area Interfaith Council will present an invocation and special honors to community members.

For more information, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-juneteenth-gathering-tickets-1988970586566> and/or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-34th-annual-juneteenth-celebration-tickets-1988887577283>

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RAND

FROM PAGE 1

four years of monitoring, according to a new report from the RAND Corporation.

The findings come from RAND's Los Angeles Longitudinal Enumeration and Demographic Survey, known as LA LEADS, which tracked unsheltered homelessness in Hollywood, Skid Row and Venice from January 2025 through January 2026. The study concluded that the combined unsheltered population in those neighborhoods was statistically unchanged from a year earlier, but rough sleeping — defined as living completely without a tent, makeshift shelter or vehicle — rose 20%, adding roughly 250 people to that most-exposed category.

By January 2026, 44% of all unsheltered people in the study area were sleeping rough, up from 30% in 2021-22 when the study began.

"The total count held steady in 2025, but the makeup of the population continued to shift substantially," said Louis Abramson, the study's lead author and an adjunct researcher at RAND. "Compared to a year ago, more people are sleeping completely unsheltered, more spread out geographically, and with fewer connections to the systems that contributed to the prior year's progress."

A SHIFTING POPULATION

Tent dwelling, long the most visible marker of street homelessness, continued a steep decline — falling 23% during 2025 and roughly half since the study began in 2021. But those reductions have been offset by growth in rough sleeping and vehicle dwelling, which rose 11% in 2025. For every four tents removed over the four-year study period, approximately three vehicles or rough sleepers were added on average each day, researchers found.

By January 2026, 87% of the tents still standing in the three study neighborhoods were located in Skid Row, up from 60% four years earlier — concentrating what remains of the encampment population in the county's most acute homelessness zone.

Skid Row was the only one of the three neighborhoods to show continuous population growth across the entire study, averaging increases of nearly 4% per year. On an average night in 2025, approximately 2,100 people were unsheltered there, compared to roughly 650 in Hollywood and 700 in Venice.

New survey data collected in 2025 suggest encampment clearings may be directly driving the rise in rough sleeping. Nearly half of rough sleepers surveyed reported losing a dwelling in the past year, and 46% of those said it was confiscated or towed by government officials or service providers.

"The continued increase in rough sleeping from 2024 to 2025 is concerning because our data show that this population can be harder to engage and often has greater clinical needs," said Sarah Hunter, a co-author and senior behavioral scientist at RAND. "It suggests

encampment-based approaches may no longer be effective and that different strategies are needed."

WHAT IS LA LEADS — AND HOW IT DIFFERS FROM THE OFFICIAL COUNT

LA LEADS was launched in fall 2021 to address what RAND researchers identified as a critical gap in homelessness data. Unlike the federally mandated Point-in-Time count conducted annually by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, LA LEADS used trained professional field staff rather than volunteers, and conducted six enumerations per neighborhood per year — providing a much higher frequency snapshot of how the unsheltered population was changing month to month.

LAHSA's annual count relies on

“
The total count held steady in 2025, but the makeup of the population continued to shift substantially

- Louis Abramson

approximately 8,000 volunteers canvassing more than 3,000 census tracts over three January nights, using statistical multipliers to estimate total population from tent, vehicle and individual observations. LA LEADS employed standardized methods and consistent survey instruments to track not just numbers but demographics, health conditions, service access and housing history.

That methodological difference has produced starkly different results in recent years. A separate RAND study found that LAHSA's 2024 Point-in-Time count fell 26% short of LA LEADS totals in the three study neighborhoods — a gap that widened to 32% in 2025. The undercount was most severe in Skid Row, where the official count captured just 61% of the unsheltered population RAND identified. In Venice, the figure was 76%, and in Hollywood, 81%.

Researchers warned those inaccuracies carry direct financial consequences. LAHSA's Point-in-Time count directed \$220 million in federal funds in 2024 and roughly \$100 million in regional Measure A funds in 2025. An undercount in the neighborhoods with the highest need, researchers cautioned, risks diverting resources away from those who need them most.

WHY THE COUNT MATTERS — AND WHY IT'S BEEN CONTESTED

The annual Point-in-Time count is more than a statistical exercise. Under federal law, the count determines how hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funding is allocated across the country. In Los Angeles, it has also become a politically charged barometer of whether elected officials are making progress on what polls consistently show is voters' top concern.

LAHSA has faced years of criticism over the reliability of its methodology. A 2017 Economic Roundtable report concluded the count was "not yet sufficiently accurate to identify year-to-year changes in homelessness." Volunteers have flagged app crashes and inadequate training — most notably in 2022, when a Venice census tract previously showing 509 unsheltered people was reported as zero. LAHSA's own associate director of data management later acknowledged in internal emails that the agency did not have a formal documented reconciliation process.

A March 2025 court-ordered forensic audit tracking \$2.3 billion tied to three city homelessness programs concluded there was "nearly zero financial oversight or accountability" at LAHSA. On April 1, 2025, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted 4-0 to pull the county's roughly \$350 million in annual funding from the agency and create a new county Department of Homeless Services and Housing. LAHSA CEO Va Lecia Adams Kellum resigned days later. The agency announced 284 layoffs and has since transitioned to a narrowed role focused on its database, Continuum of Care governance and the annual count.

The 2025 official count, conducted in mid-February following a postponement due to the Palisades and Altadena wildfires, reported 67,777 people experiencing homelessness countywide — a roughly 4% decline. Mayor Karen Bass cited the numbers as evidence her Inside Safe encampment resolution program was working. RAND's findings complicate that narrative, suggesting that while tent counts have fallen in Hollywood and Venice, the underlying unsheltered population has not meaningfully declined and is becoming harder to serve.

WHAT COMES NEXT

RAND researchers say the findings call for a fundamental shift in strategy. With tent dwellers now representing a small fraction of the unsheltered population outside Skid Row, programs designed around encampment

resolution have diminishing targets and diminishing returns.

The report recommends that city and county agencies pivot toward low-barrier permanent supportive housing with integrated behavioral health services, expand rapid rehousing and employment supports in areas like Venice with younger and more transient populations, and develop centralized service hubs where outreach workers can bring clients rather than delivering services on dispersed street locations.

Researchers also urged enforcement and

“
After four years of conducting this count, the unsheltered population today looks different from the population these strategies were built to serve

- Louis Abramson

sanitation agencies to base encampment clearings on the actual availability of alternative shelter beds — warning that clearing encampments without offering viable housing options is likely producing more rough sleepers, not fewer.

"After four years of conducting this count, the unsheltered population today looks different from the population these strategies were built to serve," Abramson said. "Successfully addressing current conditions means rethinking how we engage unsheltered people, bring them indoors, and support them once they are there."

LA LEADS was the largest ongoing professional count of unsheltered people in Los Angeles outside LAHSA's annual tally. The study was supported by the Lowy Family and conducted by the RAND Housing Center, based in Santa Monica.

editor@smdp.com

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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



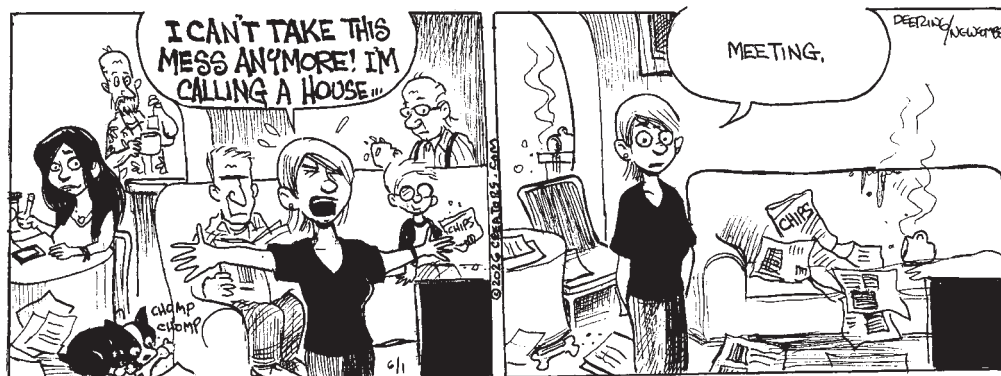
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

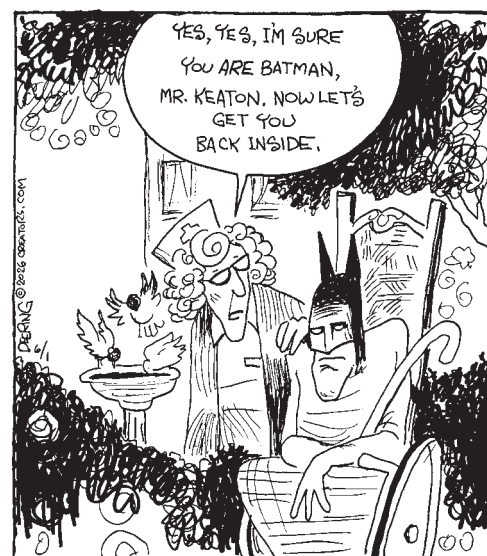
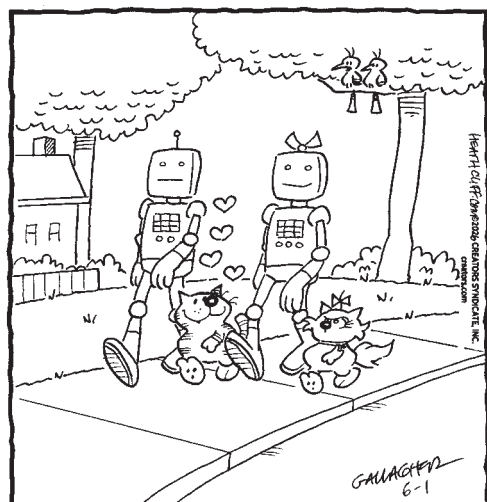


Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

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 6958

Amazing human body

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

- | | | | | |
|---------|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| Anus | Brow | Ilium | Node | Teeth |
| Arch | Buttocks | Kidney | Nose | Thigh |
| Arms | Chest | Knee | Oral | Throat |
| Atrial | Colon | Legs | Organ | Thumb |
| Back | Duct | Limb | Palm | Tibia |
| Belly | Ears | Lobe | Plasma | Toes |
| Bladder | Eyes | Lung | Pore | Torso |
| Blood | Face | Lymph | Renal | Ulna |
| Body | Foot | Nasal | Skin | Ureter |
| Bones | Heel | cavity | Skull | |
| Bowel | Hips | Navel | Sole | |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 1)

It's your Year of the Fresh Incarnation, when your solar journey whisks you into the swirl of changes you welcome and mold. You are the artist, and the universe your willing patron, giving you the raw materials you need to create. More highlights: Three lump sums bring security to you and yours. A new skill allows you to let go of a burden. Wedding bells. Taurus and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 3, 32, 16 and 26.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your contradictions are part of the appeal, so don't rush to try to make sense of everything. Also, today there's a rebel spirit flickering in you. Stoke the fire. Express it before it expresses you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). By now, most people understand that the "free trial" means, "We'll start charging you very soon, but long enough down the road that you may not even remember you signed up for this." This is a week to resist taking or offering any freebies.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll make people happy by making yourself happy, because the way you harmonize your own scene colors everything. People benefit from your joy, your magic. Focus on what you need and want and you'll naturally uplift others.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You prefer to be the helper, not the helped. But don't rob anyone of the chance to assist. Helping can be a huge source of self-esteem and purpose. You need it, and they need to give it -- a perfect confluence of interests.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What we assume is not always what is. Avoid jumping to conclusions today. Ask for facts and feedback from a variety of people. Even if you choose not to follow it, you're better for the outside perspective.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Most glues take hours to dry. Cement requires a day to set up. Relationships can take months, years, even decades to gel. The chemical reactions that make a bond cannot be rushed. Relax. It's coming together.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Maybe there are thousands of people trying to do the same thing. But don't be afraid to compete for what's popular. If you succeed, your rewards will be plentiful. If you don't, the lessons you learn will be in high demand.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Forget about them, because as soon as you're caught working for their response, the spell will be broken. Do it for you. Today, you'll keep your mischievous spirit alive by doing what entertains you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The English proverb suggests that you shouldn't fall before you're pushed. But sometimes you push yourself and you just accept that falling will be part of it. And if you fall, you do it again until your push is a launch into flight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Map out your dreams, then carry that map with you wherever you go. Maybe it's like carrying a map of a country you do not inhabit at this point, but it's still getting you somewhere. It's still part of what makes today a fun and memorable experience.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It can feel very ordinary to do extraordinary things. But have no doubt, something you provide, your effort, your consistency, your way of handling things, makes another person's day better. Give yourself full props and credit.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You cannot avoid communicating because even if you do not use words, your body, movement, breathing, energy and very essence is sending a message. Your awareness in this regard makes you most effective.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Drain obstruction
- 5 Colored part of the eye
- 9 Wild guess
- 13 Bee's home
- 14 Himalayan nation
- 16 Make less complicated
- 17 Predictive sign
- 18 Serious stage play
- 19 First lessons in reading
- 20 Large buildings that store merchandise
- 22 Cheer (for)
- 23 Extremely long time
- 24 Edinburgh native
- 25 Powered by sunlight
- 28 Courtroom pledge
- 30 Kilt pattern
- 31 Gave a speech
- 33 Billiards stick
- 36 Large buildings for jets
- 39 Stereo records, for short
- 40 Clickable phone images
- 41 Mobile phones, or short
- 42 Was certain about
- 43 Fish's breathing organs
- 44 Fencing sword
- 46 __ Grey tea
- 48 " __ there, done that"
- 49 Large buildings for exercise
- 55 Teheran's country
- 56 Formal treaties
- 57 Not shut

DOWN

- 1 Chicken __ mein (Chinese dish)
- 2 Capital of Peru
- 3 __ and done with (finished)
- 4 Part of a chromosome
- 5 Not for the outside
- 6 Second TV showing
- 7 "No bid for me"
- 8 At the __ time

BIG-ROOM BUILDINGS by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- 9 Look for something (simultaneously)
- 10 Forbidden
- 11 Wide necktie
- 12 Highest-quality
- 15 __ Vegas, NV
- 21 Large title of a newspaper story
- 24 Devices for tracing letters on signs
- 25 Minor mistake
- 26 Rowboat implements
- 27 Mustache neighbor
- 28 __ and aahs
- 29 Abbreviation before an alias
- 30 Good friend
- 31 Skiing surface
- 32 Pigsty
- 33 Contact by phone
- 34 Internet addresses, for short
- 35 Dollar sign shape
- 37 High card in poker
- 38 Hairstyling goo
- 42 Dog's boarding place
- 43 Holds tightly
- 44 Spooky and scary
- 45 Gem in an oyster
- 46 Banquet host
- 47 Poker entry fees
- 48 Tiny pieces
- 49 Navigation app: Abbr.
- 50 Display drowsiness
- 51 Charged atoms
- 52 "Once __ a time..."
- 53 Eatery's list
- 54 Snooty person

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

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

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13					14			15		16				
17					18					19				
20					21					22				
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30						31	32				33	34	35	
36						37					38			
39					40					41				
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48						49	50				51	52	53	54
55						56					57			
58						59					60			
61							62				63			

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COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

The council voted last week to authorize City Manager Oliver Chi to negotiate and execute a license agreement with ESPN Productions, LLC, for use of the Santa Monica Pier deck, adjacent beachfront and nearby parking lots as a temporary interactive broadcast and event space tied to Super Bowl LXI at SoFi Stadium. The agreement would cover the period from Jan. 18 through Feb. 22, 2027, with ESPN paying the city a license fee of \$1,057,654.

The council also authorized Chi to finalize a separate agreement with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs for use of the Camera Obscura building in Palisades Park during the 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games. Switzerland's "House of Switzerland" hospitality and cultural venue would operate at the landmark 1450 Ocean Ave. location from June 14 through Sept. 21, 2028, with a base license fee of \$300,000 and an option to expand into adjacent Palisades Park areas for an additional \$200,000.

The council additionally adopted resolutions granting targeted waivers of city noise, construction hours, signage and operating restrictions necessary to host both events, as well as the previously authorized Club France hospitality house at the Annenberg Community Beach House during the 2028 Olympics.

ESPN TAKES THE PIER

The ESPN deal, which has been in negotiation since the council authorized exclusive talks last December, would transform the Santa Monica Pier and surrounding beachfront into a nationally televised broadcast campus for the Super Bowl. The activation would include live national and international productions, community programming and partnerships with local vendors.

Under the license terms, ESPN has committed to providing free public access to programming, funding a recreational legacy project to be donated to the city after the event, and prioritizing local hotels, restaurants and businesses. The company has also agreed to give priority consideration to additional activations on the Third Street Promenade and other city locations.

The city granted ESPN waivers from standard noise ordinances, entertainment closing hours and construction restrictions — citing the practical impossibility of running a major broadcast operation within normal municipal limits. ESPN's load-in, build-out, programming and full site restoration would span roughly five weeks.

CAMERA OBSCURA GETS A SWISS MAKEOVER — AND A FUTURE

The Swiss agreement carries implications beyond the Games themselves. City staff told the council Tuesday that the Olympic partnership is being used as a vehicle to finally reopen the Camera Obscura building as a permanent park concession — potentially as soon as the summer of 2027.

The building, a mid-century modern landmark that has been largely closed to the public for years, has suffered from deferred maintenance including roof problems and mold. Under the arrangement, the city will fund structural repairs — HVAC, roofing, windows and other building systems — through its capital improvement program. Switzerland's contribution will be on the design side, with furniture, lighting and interior elements intended to carry a Swiss aesthetic as a post-Games legacy.

"So we're using the partnership with the Swiss Federation to build out an actual park

concession so that hopefully maybe even next year we could open it as a park concession so people can get a drink or a quick bite to eat," said Assistant City Manager Susan Cline. "We're used to seeing this more so throughout Europe and we want to make sure that we're providing moments of respite in our parks, along with all the recreation opportunities we have."

She said the facility would hopefully operate in perpetuity once the Swiss activation ended.

Mayor Caroline Torosis, who pulled the item for clarification, pressed staff on both the funding arrangement and the preservation of the building's iconic character.

"I just want to make sure that we're keeping the mid-century modern look and feel," Torosis said, "because when I read 'Swiss design' I was a little bit confused, I'm just going to be honest."

The building's exterior and mid-century character would be preserved, Cline said, with the city's architecture division overseeing the remodel.

CLUB FRANCE AT ANNEBERG

Also receiving a formal waiver resolution Tuesday was Club France, the French National Olympic Committee's hospitality house planned for the Annenberg Community Beach House from June 30 through Aug. 4, 2028. That agreement, previously authorized by the council, carries a \$1.55 million license fee — the largest among the Olympic activations — and includes commitments to free or low-cost community events, paid student internships and support for city programming including Promenade activations and open streets events.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Tuesday's actions are part of a broader strategy the city has been assembling for more than a year.

"Over the next several years, the Los Angeles region will become a global stage for some of the world's most watched sporting and cultural events," Chi wrote in his report to council. "Santa Monica's coastline, public spaces, public transit access, and established reputation as a world-class destination create a rare opportunity for the City to participate in and help shape this regional moment on the global stage."

That strategy kicks off next month. The Michelob ULTRA Pitchside Club fan experience opens June 11 on the Santa Monica Pier, running through June 25 as a free, 21-and-older soccer-themed environment timed to FIFA World Cup matches in Los Angeles. Capacity is expected to range from 1,000 to 5,000 guests at any time, with total attendance projected between 25,000 and 75,000 over the 15-day run.

Surrounding the Pier activation, producing partner Revel Republic is coordinating a broader slate of downtown and beach programming running the full length of the World Cup through July 19, including the Golden Hour series on the Third Street Promenade, the World Play Zone family activation at 4th Street and Colorado, wellness events in Tongva Park and a culminating COAST Open Streets Festival on July 19.

A Goldenvoice-produced music festival on the beachfront, targeting 30,000 to 35,000 attendees across multiple days, is also being planned for fall 2026 under a separate negotiating agreement with the AEG Presents division behind Coachella and Stagecoach.

The city's unified pricing framework requires all activations to be fully self-funding through license fees covering land use, parking displacement and city services, with no municipal subsidy. Final license terms for each event are subject to council review after environmental compliance is completed.

editor@smdp.com



MONDAY | JUNE 1

WEEKLY PALISADIANS GATHERING IN SANTA MONICA

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Bardonna 1601 Montana Ave Santa Monica. Displaced Palisadians are welcome to join for connection and discussion. No formal agenda. No RSVP necessary. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/weekly-palisadians-gathering-in-santa-monica/18461166/2026-06-01T08>

COMMUNAL GARDENING @ ISHIHARA PARK

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Ishihara Park 2909 Exposition Blvd Santa Monica. Communal Garden Program Work Days @ Ishihara Park Learning Garden - Mondays and Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Free. Come get your hands dirty in the Communal Garden Program at Ishihara Park Learning Garden, a communal spot to learn and acquire gardening skills. Seasoned as well as new gardeners of all ages are welcome. Free drop in activity, no reservation needed. Visit the Ishihara Park Learning Garden site for More Information. Subject to cancellation due to weather. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/communal-gardening-ishihara-park/18461167/2026-06-01T09>

LATE NIGHT HAPPY HOUR AT MARELLE - NIGHT CAP MENU

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Marelle at Sandbourne Santa Monica 1740 Ocean Ave Santa Monica. Marelle will be launching a late-night happy hour menu called 'Night Cap' starting Monday, April 6th. Guests can order from this menu exclusively at Marelle, bar and bar lounge only. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/late-night-happy-hour-at-marelle-night-cap-menu/18409321/2026-06-01T21>

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Jameson's Pub 2702 Main St Santa Monica. FOR OPEN MIC NIGHT BOOKINGS PLEASE EMAIL: STARRLIGHTSINGS@GMAIL.COM. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/open-mic-night/18439138/2026-06-01T00>

TUESDAY | JUNE 2

LADIES GOLF CLINIC

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Four Wood Golf Club 828 Pico Blvd, Suite 5 Santa Monica. Join us every Tuesday from 9:30-11:00 AM for a relaxed, social golf experience designed for women of all skill levels. Whether you're picking up a club for the first time or looking to build confidence in your game, Matchas & Mulligans is all about learning, connecting, and having fun in a welcoming, pressure-free environment. Led by our in-house golf pros, you'll learn new skills each session. Blend light instruction with a social atmosphere — the ladies' clinic is perfect for improving your skills while meeting like-minded golfers. \$60 per person per session. What's included: - Instruction for the first half, fun challenges for the second half. - Coffee, matcha, and croissants. - Beginner-friendly instruction + skill building. - A supportive, no-judgment environment. - A great way to meet new friends. Bring your friends or come solo—either way, you'll leave feeling more confident and connected. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/ladies-golf-clinic/18482158/2026-06-02T09>

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION, MULTI-LEVEL HIGH

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica. Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) conversation classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica, CA, 90405. For more information visit the Adult Education Center online. Register online or contact Maria Barajas at (310) 664-6222, ext.76205, mbarajas@smmusd.org. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/english-as-a-second-language-esl-conversation-multi-level-high/14243827/2026-06-02T10>

ELEMENTARY ART STUDIO 3:30-4:20PM

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Unleash your creativity and connect with your community in this hands-on art making session. In case this event has been updated, please visit <https://www.pccrsm.org/event/elementary-art-studio-3-30-4-20pm-81a63> for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/elementary-art-studio-3-30-4-20pm/18825639/2026-06-02T15>

US WOMENS OPEN GOLF

The Riviera Country Club 1250 Capri Pacific Palisades. \$54.19. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/us-womens-open-golf/16444352/2026-06-02T00>

RIBBON CUTTING: YOUNIQUE SURGERY CENTER & MEDICAL SPA

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 1317 5th St #200 Santa Monica. Ribbon Cutting Celebration Younique Surgery Center & Medical Spa - Santa Monica Wednesday, June 3 8:30am 1317 5th St #200, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/ribbon-cutting-younique-surgery-center-medical-spa/18887590/2026-06-03T08>

MOBILE COMMUNITY MEDITATION CENTER - GUIDED MEDITATION

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Santa Monica. Please join Mobile Community Meditation Center aka Buddhist Boondockers Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10 am for a 45 minute fully guided mindfulness meditation - on the grass, under the shade of the palm trees, with a stunning view of the sparkling ocean. Whether you're new to meditation or a seasoned practitioner, everyone is welcomed. Bring your own chair or cushion and try to arrive 5 minutes early and be ready to enjoy a truly peaceful moment as we relax, be aware and make new friends; giving ourselves the love and attention we deserve by quieting our minds, finding peace and creating community. Free— Donations are accepted. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mobile-community-meditation-center-guided-meditation/16994548/2026-06-03T10>



LOS ANGELES · JUNE 8, 2026

World Cup Connect: *Los Angeles*

A high-level convening at the intersection of sport, culture, tourism, and global investment — positioning LA as the world's premier gateway city.

DATE
June 8, 2026

TIME
5:00 – 8:00 PM

VENUE
BLANKSPACES Venice Beach

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Fiona Ma
California State Treasurer



Cindy Thomas
Managing Director, Head of Sports & Entertainment Marketing, Bank of America



Traci Park
Los Angeles City Councilmember



Dilpreet Sidhu
Deputy Mayor of International Affairs, City of Los Angeles



Adam Burke
President & CEO, LA Tourism & Convention Board



Tanya Bennett
Consul General of Australia in Los Angeles



Ron Frierson
CEO, Hollywood Chamber of Commerce

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

EVENT HOSTS



Michelle Edgar
Founder & CEO, Community Collective



Ben Reiss
Managing Partner & COO, Community Collective

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