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- 2 **Chamber Gala**  
Leaders look to the future.
- 3 **World Cup**  
It's a gamble.



- 4 **Balanced budget**  
Needs a reality check.
- 5 **Proud to be an American**  
Fewer are.

Volume 25 Issue 159

WEDNESDAY 7/1/26

smdp.com

# Venice Beach set to welcome the world as Los Angeles World Cup 26 fan Zone Comes to the Coast



Courtesy image

**COAST:** Venice Beach will host a World Cup Fan Zone July 10–11 with quarterfinal broadcasts, DJs, and cultural programming.

**MICHELLE EDGAR**  
Special to the Daily Press

Venice Beach will become one of Los Angeles' biggest stages during the FIFA World Cup, welcoming thousands of fans from around the globe for the Los Angeles World Cup 26 Fan Zone at Venice Beach July 10 to 11. The two-day celebration will bring quarterfinal match broadcasts, internationally recognized DJs, live entertainment, cultural programming and an anticipated boost for local businesses, while showcasing Venice's

unique beach culture and community spirit to an international audience ahead of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

More than a sports viewing experience, organizers say the activation is designed to create an affordable way for fans who aren't attending matches in person to experience the energy of the world's largest sporting event while highlighting Venice as one of Los Angeles' premier destinations for global events.

For local restaurants, retailers and hospitality businesses, the Fan Zone is also expected to generate thousands of additional

visitors during one of the busiest weekends of the tournament, further positioning Venice Beach as one of Los Angeles' premier destinations during the FIFA World Cup while helping build momentum toward the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"Venice Beach is back as LA's biggest public attraction, and events like the FIFA Fan Zone don't just create excitement around the world's most watched sporting event - they deliver real benefits for our local economy by inviting thousands of visitors through the doors of our restaurants, shops, hotels and small businesses.

We're proud to showcase the creativity, energy, and entrepreneurial spirit that make Venice so special while demonstrating that our beachfront community has been transformed to welcome the world," said Councilwoman Traci Park

Three months ago, the future of the Los Angeles World Cup 26 Fan Zone at Venice Beach was uncertain after the original organizers stepped away from the project and returned the activation to FIFA, then event

SEE VENICE PAGE 7

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**CITY OF SANTA MONICA**  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Proposals for:

**Resilient Sports Field Study**  
Project No. SP2806

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from qualified persons or firms interested in providing professional services for the Resilient Sports Field Study Project, SP2806.

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified consultant to conduct a comprehensive review of City-owned and City maintained artificial turf and natural grass diamond and rectangular sports fields to identify strategies for long-term natural grass field resiliency and playability services of the subject project.

RFP questions to be submitted to **via OpenGov**, no later than **5:00 p.m. on July 8, 2026**.

Proposers shall upload RFP **via OpenGov**, no later than **5:00 p.m. on July 16, 2026**.

RFP Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: <https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>.

# Santa Monica leaders rally around shared vision for city's comeback at Chamber Gala



SMDP photo

**GALA:** Santa Monica Chamber installed new board at annual gala, emphasizing collaboration and investment for the city's comeback.

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**MICHELLE EDGAR**

Special to the Daily Press

As Santa Monica works to reshape both its reality and its reputation, city and business leaders gathered recently with a shared message: the city's comeback will not be driven by a single project or marketing campaign, but by rebuilding confidence through collaboration, investment and a renewed focus on the fundamentals.

That message anchored the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce's annual Toast to Santa Monica and Board Installation Gala at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, where civic, business and nonprofit leaders came together to install the Chamber's new Board of Directors, recognize community leaders and reaffirm a shared commitment to the city's future.

City Manager Oliver Chi acknowledged that while Santa Monica has made meaningful progress, perception remains one of the city's greatest challenges. "Perception is something we're all looking to overcome," Chi said.

Rather than searching for a single solution, Chi said Santa Monica's recovery requires discipline and long-term commitment. "The easy answer is to find one business or launch one marketing campaign," he said. "But I don't think that's the right answer. We're not going to get Santa Monica back by chance. We're going to get there through discipline and by getting our house back in order."

Chi reflected on the challenges the city has faced in recent years, including financial pressures, declining reserves, storefront vacancies and the lasting impacts of the pandemic. "Without the basics, we can't get back to being Santa Monica," he said.

Instead of managing decline, Chi said city leaders made a conscious decision to rebuild from the ground up. "We stopped managing decline and started rebuilding the foundation."

That foundation, he said, includes cleaner streets, increased public safety, more efficient permitting, improved city services and creating an environment where businesses can succeed. "There is still so much more work to do," Chi said. "But I've never been more hopeful."

Recent activity along the Third Street Promenade, he added, reinforces that optimism. "What we've seen over the last several weeks proves people still want to be here. If we all do our part collectively, we can recreate what made Santa Monica so special," Chi said. He encouraged the business community to continue partnering with the city. "Take that step forward with us."

Welcoming attendees, Interim Chamber President and CEO Genevieve Morrill, who recently stepped into the leadership role following a distinguished career leading the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, said the organization exists to be the voice of Santa Monica's business community during both prosperous and challenging times. "It is my distinct honor to serve as your Interim Chamber President and CEO," Morrill said. "Chambers of Commerce serve as the first responders for the business community. Our most important role is to advocate on your behalf and represent your interests at every level of government."

Reflecting on the challenges businesses have faced from the pandemic and labor

# Sportsbooks say World Cup betting has surged past expectations, with US hype driving action

Sportsbook operators anticipated this year's World Cup would set betting records because the major elements were aligned.

The world's most popular sporting event is being played in North America, so U.S. audiences can see the games live while the sun is out or in the early evening. The U.S. also has a team that may be its most talented in history.

And then the U.S. went out and won its first two matches to capture its group.

"I think it has exceeded our expectations," said Mark Bickerdike, Caesars Sportsbook's head of soccer trading, said of the money being bet.

DraftKings Sportsbook director Johnny Avello said the wagering on the 48-team World Cup, which opened the knockout stage on Sunday, is putting itself in the same company as the always popular NCAA Tournament in college basketball.

"It could be the biggest event of the year when it's all said and done," Avello said. "March Madness takes place over the course of three weeks, and it rakes quite a bit of money. This is getting there."

"It blows the Super Bowl away. One game, one day. This thing here is way bigger than that."

Christian Cipollini, BetMGM Sportsbook's trading manager, said the enormous interest in the U.S. team has only grown. The Americans open the single-elimination phase of the tournament on Wednesday night against Bosnia-Herzegovina in Santa Clara, California.

"I expect that to be BetMGM's most bet-on soccer game of all time," Cipollini said. "In this World Cup, all three of our most bet-on games have been the three USA games. This game is leading up to be a perfect storm where the USA looks very good. There's a lot of hype around the team."

## FRANCE AND ARGENTINA ON A COLLISION COURSE?

The three sportsbooks list Kylian Mbappé-led France as the favorite to win it all, with Lionel Messi and defending champion Argentina not far behind. They are on opposite sides of the bracket, so if they face each other, it would be in the final, a rematch of four years ago.

At BetMGM, 15.3% of tickets have been on France, the most of any country, and it has received 20.4% of the money. That is slightly below Spain, which has taken in 20.5% of the handle, much if not most of it before the tournament.

Longtime handicapper Bruce Marshall cautioned against assuming France and Argentina would meet in the final.

"I could see seven or eight teams winning this thing," Marshall said. "So any favorite at

this stage, I don't know that there's great value there."

## BETTERS LOOK FOR LONG SHOTS

Americans like a good underdog story, and wagers are coming in on some teams with exceptionally long odds.

"Bettors like to take a shot for a small amount of money and put it on those teams," Avello said. "Of course, that risk is high for us because it doesn't take much. A \$5 bet on Congo, it's \$5,000 (in a payout). You take quite a few of those and the liability gets up pretty high on them."

Marshall said it would make sense to take a look at Colombia (33-1 at BetMGM) or Switzerland (66-1) as teams with great value.

"Colombia looks really dangerous, and they're getting a lot of support," Marshall said. "They played their first couple of games in Mexico, which were like home games for them."

"The one nobody's talking about is Switzerland, and they're one of these teams that remind me a of a club side. I say that in positive terms because they're very familiar with one another. A lot of these World Cup teams are sort of thrown together and haven't played much with each other. Switzerland's got guys who've played, 80, 100 games together."

## SPORTSBOOKS AREN'T NECESSARILY HOPING FOR A US WIN

Should the Americans pull off the nearly unthinkable and win the World Cup, the sportsbooks would be feeling financial pain.

The U.S. has gone from a 50-1 long shot to 25-1 at BetMGM, and the Americans are 30-1 at Caesars and 33-1 at DraftKings.

"If the U.S. would've limped into the knockout round, our liability probably wouldn't be as high as it is," Cipollini said. "But the fact that they've looked good, there's a lot of people that are, 'They do have a chance.' It's on home soil. It's easy to talk yourself into something we all kind of want to happen."

## 'THE SIMPSONS' DRIVES SOME BETTING

A 1997 episode of "The Simpsons" featuring a match between Mexico and Portugal is causing some fans to believe the long-running TV show forecast that meeting in this year's World Cup.

That's not the case. Neither the World Cup nor the year 2026 were mentioned.

But those details apparently doesn't matter to some bettors, causing a notable uptick in wagering on that matchup taking place.

"We have got a liability on that," Bickerdike said.

By MARK ANDERSON AP Sports Writer



## Surf report WATER TEMP: 68.7

**WEDNESDAY** | **SURF:** 2-3ft  
**FAIR** | Thigh to waist

Repeat of Tuesday with similar waves/winds. Drained down patrol neg low tide, improves thru mid AM.

Lingering mix of NW windswell and leftover SSW swell will have most breaks in surf at or under the waist high mark. Top combo breaks out west are a little larger. Crumble to light bump into the afternoon before a bit more onshore bump follows for the later afternoon.

**THURSDAY** | **SURF:** 2-3ft+  
**FAIR** | Thigh to stomach

Playful new SSW swell for exposures July 2nd-4th. Maybe enough NW for occ. beachbreak corners. The lead into the holiday weekend gets a fresh round of longer period SSW swell - builds Thursday (the 2nd), peaks the 3rd and holds decent energy into July 4th. Could be enough NW windswell in the mix to keep the lights on at the beachbreaks - not expecting peaks but maybe some open corners here and there. Decent to pretty good wind for the end of the week and into the week-end - trending back to light/variable wind in the mornings (after several days of southerly wind in the mornings).

## Weather

**Wednesday:** Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 67.

**Wednesday Night:** Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

**Thursday:** Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 68.

**Thursday Night:** Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/07/01	Wed	05:27 AM	-0.58	L
2026/07/01	Wed	12:06 PM	3.61	H
2026/07/01	Wed	4:16 PM	2.57	L
2026/07/01	Wed	10:30 PM	5.87	H
2026/07/02	Thu	05:59 AM	-0.48	L
2026/07/02	Thu	12:39 PM	3.70	H
2026/07/02	Thu	4:57 PM	2.58	L
2026/07/02	Thu	11:04 PM	5.63	H
2026/07/03	Fri	06:30 AM	-0.29	L
2026/07/03	Fri	1:13 PM	3.82	H
2026/07/03	Fri	5:44 PM	2.61	L
2026/07/03	Fri	11:41 PM	5.25	H

## Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at <http://www.calottery.com>

**POWERBALL**  
Draw Date: 6/29  
10 14 41 53 59  
Power#: 3  
Jackpot: 375 M

**Fantasy5**  
Draw Date: 6/29  
9 12 22 37 38

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Draw Date: 6/26  
5 13 30 33 52  
Mega#: 6  
Jackpot: 511 M

**Daily 3**  
Draw Date: 6/29  
EVENING: 5 8 5  
Draw Date: 6/29  
MIDDAY: 7 7 0

**SuperLotto**  
Draw Date: 6/27  
16 21 22 25 34  
Mega#: 27  
Jackpot: 33 M

**Daily Derby**  
Draw Date: 6/29  
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George  
2nd: 11 - Money Bags  
3rd: 04 - Big Ben  
Race Time: 1:44.35

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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## DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026129704. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: OPTIMAL HEALTHCARE CENTER, 7133 ESTEPA DRIVE, TUJUNGA, CA 91042-3105, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): MARTHA E RIVERA, 7133 ESTEPA DRIVE, TUJUNGA, CA 91042-3105. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 05/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ MARTHA E RIVERA, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/12/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 06/24/2026, 07/01/2026, 07/08/2026, 07/15/2026

## DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026125336. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ALWAYS HUNGRY PUBLISHING, 9508 BEACH ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90002, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): ES PAL TIEMPO LLC, 9508 BEACH ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90002. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 06/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ NICOLAS CUIRIEL, MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/08/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish on: 06/10/2026, 06/17/2026, 06/24/2026, 07/01/2026

## DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026127100. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LOOP AND COLOR, 527 E ROWLAND ST STE 100A, COVINA, CA 91723, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): KEY CHANG ENTERPRISES LLC, 527 E ROWLAND ST STE 100A, COVINA, CA 91723. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 06/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ EUGENE CHANG, MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/10/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 06/17/2026, 06/24/2026, 07/01/2026, 07/08/2026

## Summons

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) Case No. 25STCV10120. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: Raymond Gamzeletova. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: Jaime Danilo Flores, an individual. NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center, your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee

waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney is: Benjamine Sasounian, Esq., Sedaghat Law Group, 9454 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 830, Beverly Hills, CA 90212, (424) 777-0078. STATEMENT OF DAMAGES Case No. 25STCV10120. To: Raymond Gamzeletova. Plaintiff Jaime Danilo Flores seeks damages in the above-entitled action, as follows: General Damages: \$500,000.00 Special Damages: \$13,370.00 Dated: 06/04/2026 /s/ Benjamine Sasounian, Esq. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. PUBLISH DATES: 6/10/2026, 06/17/2026, 06/24/2026 and 07/01/2026

## Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00285. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Santa Monica Courthouse, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Hyun Ji Cha for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Hyun Ji Cha filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Hyun Ji Cha to Leah Cha. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 08/07/2026, Time: 8:30AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 06/16/2026. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 06/24/2026, 07/01/2026, 07/08/2026, 07/15/2026

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## GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

# Newsom and California legislators claim the budget is balanced. They need a reality check



**SACRAMENTO:** Gov. Gavin Newsom addresses the media during a press conference unveiling his revised 2026-27 budget proposal at the Capitol Annex Swing Space in Sacramento on May 14, 2026.

Accurately describing the state financial situation depends largely on a person's definitions of "balanced" and "deficit."

Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders describe the 2026-27 budget they negotiated as "a balanced spending plan with zero deficit."

The basis for that claim is that the totality of money they propose to spend in the fiscal year that begins on Wednesday would be covered by tax revenues during the year — plus transfers from emergency reserves and off-book loans, such as delaying payment of \$3.9 billion in constitutionally required state aid to schools and community colleges.

In reality, the \$351 billion budget and its \$251 billion general fund would spend as much as \$20 billion more than the state expects to receive in revenues during the fiscal year.

The difference is the true deficit, as the Legislature's nonpartisan budget analyst Gabe Petek sees it — and as common sense dictates. In his review of the revised budget Newsom released in May, Petek said, "Despite the current revenue boom, the state now faces a structural budget imbalance — meaning

ongoing revenues are insufficient to support ongoing expenditures."

Newsom and legislators have been overspending revenues for the last four years, ever since he declared that the state had a \$97.5 billion surplus, basing it on what the administration later acknowledged was a \$165 billion error in projecting future revenues.

The false surplus sparked a sharp increase in spending that has outstripped revenues ever since. Prior to this year's budget process, Petek tabbed total overspending at \$125 billion since 2022, covered by what he describes as a "wall of debt."

Newsom pledged that his final budget would not only close the chronic deficit but leave his successor — presumably Xavier Becerra — with a healthy fiscal situation. Not only did the budget not close the ongoing deficit, but Jason Sisney, the Assembly's budget advisor, projects an operating deficit continuing through the next governor's first four-year term, although reduced by 2029-30 to \$8.4 billion.

If that occurs, it means that the "wall

# Americans' pride in US history and democracy drops, and fewer are proud to be American, polls find

BY LINLEY SANDERS, SIMRAN PARWANI AND AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX

Associated Press

Americans have grown less proud of their country's history or the way its democracy works over the past decade, according to a new AP-NORC poll.

Americans' pride in the U.S. on several key attributes has dropped since 2017 — including the nation's military and its political influence around the globe — according to the survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. This poll was conducted in April, as the United States and Iran fought over the Strait of Hormuz in a prolonged war that started with the U.S. and Israel launching strikes on Iran.

New Gallup polling also finds that only 53% of U.S. adults are "extremely" or "very" proud to be an American, the lowest reading in the trend dating back to 2001.

The findings point to a broad decline in patriotic sentiment over a tumultuous period that included most of President Donald Trump's first term, the COVID-19 pandemic and rising inflation that contributed to a backlash against President Joe Biden. That timeframe also covers Trump's return to the White House, where he's taken more aggressive actions on immigration and issues abroad.

Much of the falling positivity comes from Democrats, who have become increasingly disenchanted with the country since Trump's first term.

At the same time, most U.S. adults say that being an American is "extremely" or "very" important to their identity, highlighting an enduring connection, even as some become increasingly critical of the country's past or the government's current actions.

American pride declines on the armed forces and democracy

Americans' pride in the way democracy works in the U.S. has declined 14 percentage points, falling from 42% in February 2017 to 28% now.

In addition, Americans' pride in their armed forces has dropped 19 percentage points since 2017, and pride in the U.S.'s history has declined 14 percentage points. In each case, the drop is largely driven by Democrats, with some movement among independents as well.

Karla Galdamez — a 48-year-old Democrat who used to teach U.S. history — believes America has regressed under the Trump administration. While the Californian is not proud of Trump, she is pleased with how far the U.S. has come in 250 years.

"It's a country that really wanted to be different and really wanted to be better," she said. "Despite some of the very ugly history that we have of segregation and slavery ... if you look at the trajectory of the last 250 years, we've done nothing but get better and move toward a more egalitarian nation."

Only 14% of Democrats and 28% of independents say they are "extremely" proud to be an American, according to Gallup's new

poll, compared with 70% of Republicans.

The AP-NORC poll found that Republicans are especially likely to be proud of the nation's armed forces. About 9 in 10 Republicans say the military makes them "extremely" or "very" proud, compared with about 6 in 10 U.S. adults.

Samantha Fulks, a 40-year-old in San Antonio, Texas, says she's proud to be an American and doesn't hide it. The Texas Republican showcases that pride with an American flag in her front yard — as well as Trump flags in the back yard — and she plans to wear red, white and blue on the Fourth of July. Fulks comes from a military family, and while she believes the country's involvement in Iran is unnecessary, she remains a proud supporter of the military.

"I still support our troops no matter what they do," Fulks said.

Being an American matters more for personal identity among Republicans and older adults

Matt Stafford, a 39-year-old in Massachusetts, is proud of being an American, even if the U.S. political system frustrates him.

He has a bald eagle tattooed on his back to represent the United States, its freedoms and "all the things we're supposed to stand for as a country." But despite that national pride, he often finds himself frustrated by politicians on both sides. Stafford — a centrist who identifies as "politically homeless" — wants Democrats and Republicans to come together to look out for their constituents in middle America.

"I love America, but our biggest problem is how we're pushing both sides — like the left and the right — to the extremes," he said.

For many Americans, their partisanship is often intertwined with their national identity. The poll finds that Republicans are much likelier than Democrats or independents to say being an American is "extremely" or "very" important to their personal identity.

Younger people are also much less likely than older people to say being an American is highly important to their personal identity. About three-quarters of Americans ages 60 and older say being an American is highly important to them, compared with only about one-third of U.S. adults under 30.

Race or ethnicity matters more to many Black Americans

The AP-NORC survey found that the vast majority of Black Americans — 73% — say their race or ethnicity is "extremely" or "very" important to how they see themselves, higher than the share that say that about being an American.

Vincent Harris, a 60-year-old in California, says his identity as a Black man rises above other attributes for him because of how Black men are treated in America.

"A lot of people are scared of Black men just because we are Black and we are male. And that's crazy," Harris said. "People don't even take you for who you are as a person; they just look at your race."

About half of Hispanic Americans say their



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	<b>76</b> 2601 Wilshire Blvd	<b>\$5.69</b>
	<b>SHELL</b> 1802 Cloverfield Blvd	<b>\$5.79</b>
	<b>76</b> 1776 Cloverfield Blvd	<b>\$5.62</b>
	<b>CHEVRON</b> 1732 Lincoln Blvd	<b>\$5.83</b>
	<b>SPEEDWAY EXPRESS</b> 2555 Lincoln Blvd	<b>\$5.77</b>
	<b>CHEVRON</b> 432 Wilshire Blvd	<b>\$5.79</b>
	<b>ARCO</b> 2555 Lincoln Blvd	<b>\$5.59</b>
	<b>CHEVRON</b> 1330 Santa Monica Blvd	<b>\$5.69</b>
	<b>CHEVRON</b> 1819 Cloverfield Blvd	<b>\$5.77</b>

\*Prices paying in card

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 13.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$5.41/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 68.6 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 88.0 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 11.4 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$4.876 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at \$4.49/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$8.59/g, a difference of \$4.10/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$3.49/g while the highest was \$9.99/g, a difference of \$6.50/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 6.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.78/g today. The national average is down 55.6 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 64.2 cents per gallon higher 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

## CHAMBER

FROM PAGE 2

disruptions to inflation, devastating fires and housing pressures - Morrill said the Chamber's mission has never been more important. "Business is not a dirty word," she said. "It is a vital cog in our economic wheel. When businesses succeed, our entire community succeeds. We all rise together."

Morrill described Santa Monica as "one community," bringing together businesses, residents and visitors alike, and expressed optimism about the city's future. "This city is on a comeback," she said. "We're incredibly excited about all the great things ahead."

Incoming Board Chair Addie Van Gessel built on that message, emphasizing the importance of strengthening the relationship between City Hall and the business community. "The partnership being built between city government and the business community means more than people know," Van Gessel said. "When we work together, we create the kind of environment where businesses can thrive and where Santa Monica can continue moving forward."

She later invited attendees to raise a toast to Santa Monica, reminding the audience that the city's renaissance will be built not only in City Hall, but in its restaurants, storefronts, offices and through the people continuing to invest in the community every day.

The Chamber also recognized three individuals whose leadership has helped shape Santa Monica's business and civic community.

Longtime community volunteer and civic leader Neil Carrey received the Nat Trives Award, recognizing more than four decades

of service to Santa Monica. "I truly love Santa Monica," Carrey said while accepting the honor. "I've dedicated a lot of time and effort over the last 46 years, but I've gotten far more out of it than I've ever given. I feel fortunate to have been given the opportunity to help others—and more importantly, the understanding that I must."

Kara Block received the Chair Award for her leadership of the Chamber's Leadership Committee and her commitment to fostering collaboration between business leaders and public agencies. "The Leadership Committee creates opportunities for businesses, professionals and government to come together," Block said. "Those conversations help us address challenges, create opportunities and build a healthy and thriving Santa Monica."

The Business Leader Award was presented to Jeremy Rawitch, managing director of communications and external affairs at RAND and vice chair of the Chamber's Board of Directors, for his leadership advancing collaboration between the research community, business leaders and policymakers. "Helping businesses thrive and helping our community thrive is ultimately what the Chamber is about," Rawitch said. "None of this happens in a vacuum. It takes partnerships, and it takes an entire community working together."

Closing the evening, Councilmember Dan Hall looked ahead to Santa Monica's future, pointing to growing momentum as the city prepares to welcome global attention through major sporting events, expanded tourism and continued investment.

michelle@smdp.com

## GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

of debt" could easily soar beyond \$150 billion by then.

Petek has repeatedly warned Newsom and legislative leaders that years of deficit spending make California ill-equipped to cope with a revenue downturn because it is inordinately dependent on taxing the incomes of the state's highest income residents, particularly on the fruits of their investments in the stock market and other assets.

"Periods of elevated revenues, such as the current cycle of strong personal income tax receipts, are typically when the state should be strengthening its fiscal position," Petek said in his May review of Newsom's budget. "Instead, the May revision draws it down — relying on roughly \$20 billion in reserve withdrawals and suspended deposits, as well as \$4 billion in borrowing (on top tens of billions of dollars of existing borrowing), to achieve budget balance.

"These actions should be reserved

for addressing revenue shortfalls in downturns, not to balance the budget during a revenue boom."

Unfortunately, Newsom and legislative leaders ignored that advice in fashioning the final budget — one that increases spending over the May budget by another \$5 billion, restoring many of the reductions in healthcare and social programs that Newsom's budget contained.

The budget represents a double dereliction of duty by the state's political leadership. It both continues the practice of overspending revenues and covering it with more debt. It debases the language by claiming to have balanced a very imbalanced budget.

Sadly, too, much of the state's political media has tended to parrot politicians' false claims rather than adopt Petek's far more realistic view of the state's very imbalanced finances, and in doing so have been complicit in the deception.

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist

## AMERICAN

FROM PAGE 5

race or ethnicity is highly important to them, compared with 22% of white Americans.

Black and Hispanic adults are also more likely than white adults to say their family's ancestry or country of origin is highly important to their personal identity.

Harris, who identifies as a gay man, says being an American is "a wonderful thing" because of the freedoms that Americans have, despite the obstacles he's had to overcome.

"It's great to be an American — regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or whatever. As long as you have that freedom of choice as an American, that's a great thing," Harris said. "Right now, I wouldn't live in any other country in the world. I'm here. I love it."

The AP-NORC poll of 2,596 adults was conducted April 16-20 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for adults overall is plus or minus 2.6 percentage points.

**VENICE**

FROM PAGE 1

producer Jon Besant received a phone call. "I had 48 hours to decide," Besant said. "Twenty of those hours I was in the air flying to Dubai."

Today, that whirlwind decision has become the Los Angeles World Cup 26 Fan Zone at Venice Beach, one of 10 official FIFA World Cup Fan Zones across the Los Angeles region, bringing the tournament experience to one of Southern California's most iconic waterfront destinations.

The Fan Zone is being produced through a partnership between event producer Besant, John Cohn, founder of Venice Soleil, and longtime Venice resident Suzanne Rijnveld, who joined forces to bring the activation to life under an accelerated three-month timeline. Working alongside Councilwoman Traci Park's office, Los Angeles Recreation and Parks, coastal agencies and regional partners, the team transformed what had become an uncertain project into one of Southern California's signature World Cup experiences.

The opportunity came during a community event on the beach. Besant recalls attending the release of rescued baby seals when he was approached by Councilwoman Park, who asked whether he would consider leading the Los Angeles World Cup 26 Fan Zone at Venice Beach. "I had 48 hours to make the decision- It was one of the biggest opportunities of my career," he said.

For Besant, whose background includes producing FIFA Fan Zones, festivals and major entertainment events throughout the United Kingdom and Dubai, the Venice activation also marks the beginning of a new chapter after relocating to Los Angeles two years ago. "It's been an incredibly mentally challenging thing to do this in three months," he said. "But it's the reason I moved here."

Rather than simply creating another sports watch party, Besant said the vision was to create an event that feels authentically Venice. "I'm excited that tickets are being purchased by multicultural audiences," he said. "I'm excited that it's an affordable option for people who can't go to the matches. We're bringing together talent from across the Westside and internationally. It's something the Venice community needs."

The Los Angeles World Cup 26 Fan Zone at Venice Beach will feature three FIFA World Cup quarterfinal match broadcasts over two days, complemented by a lineup of internationally recognized DJs and performers.

Friday's Official Watch Party will feature performances by Charly Jordan, Ravidrums, Tony Perry, Jon Besant and Jimmy Bell, with former MLS Cup champion, and Views FC Founder Rodney Wallace serving as host. Saturday's lineup continues with Niko Rubio, Tony Perry, Ravidrums, Martyn Sayer and Nam Goody, along with a special guest yet to be announced. Organizers say the mix of international and Westside talent reflects the multicultural spirit of Venice Beach itself.

For Wallace, returning to the World Cup in a new role carries special meaning. "Soccer has taken me places I could only dream about - now I have the chance to experience the World Cup from a different perspective by bringing fans together to celebrate the sport that has given me so much."

General admission tickets begin at \$25 for Friday and \$55 for Saturday, while children are admitted free. Organizers say more than 10,000 tickets have already been sold.

While the July 10-11 Fan Zone anchors Venice's official FIFA programming, organizers are also planning a complimentary community celebration on Sunday, July 19, timed to coincide with the FIFA World Cup Final. The complimentary July 19 Block Party will feature

World Cup Final-themed programming during the morning before transitioning into an afternoon dance music festival celebrating the conclusion of the tournament. Additional entertainment and programming details are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

Besant believes the July 19 celebration represents something much larger than the tournament itself. "I think it's a really good platform for the Olympics to show what this community can do together," he said. "Parks, beaches, harbors - we've all had to come together."

That vision aligns closely with Los Angeles' preparations for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, positioning Venice not only as one of the city's most recognizable neighborhoods, but also as a future gathering place for international sporting and cultural events.

The Venice activation also builds on the neighborhood's growing role during the World Cup. U.S. Soccer established its Soccer House, presented by Bank of America in Venice Beach, welcoming thousands of supporters through public watch parties, concerts, player appearances and community programming. "U.S. Soccer House, presented by Bank of America, gave fans a place to experience the FIFA World Cup beyond the stadium. Throughout the tournament, tens of thousands of fans came together in Venice Beach to watch matches, connect with one another, and celebrate the game. Seeing that energy firsthand reinforced what we've long believed, that soccer has a unique ability to bring people together. Experiences like U.S. Soccer House help deepen fans' connection to our teams and the sport, and that's how we'll continue growing the game and building an even stronger soccer culture in the United States," said U.S. Soccer Federation's Chief Commercial Officer David

Wright.

Organizers say these activations are helping establish Venice Beach as one of Southern California's signature soccer destinations while introducing international visitors to one of Los Angeles' most recognizable cultural landmarks.

Wallace believes Venice Beach is the ideal backdrop for an event celebrating the world's games. "Venice Beach represents creativity, culture, diversity, and expression. There isn't a better place to celebrate a tournament that brings the entire world together," he said.

For local businesses, the impact extends well beyond the tournament. The Fan Zone is expected to bring thousands of additional visitors to neighborhood restaurants, hotels, retailers and small businesses while demonstrating Venice's ability to host world-class events in advance of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

For Besant, Cohn and Rijnveld, however, success isn't measured only by attendance. It is about demonstrating what can happen when a community comes together under pressure to create something meaningful.

While this summer marks Venice Beach's first official FIFA Fan Zone, the three partners say they hope it becomes the foundation for future international sporting and cultural events, ensuring Venice remains one of Los Angeles' defining gathering places long after the final whistle blows. "Venice has always been a place where cultures meet," Besant said. "The World Cup gives us the chance to show that spirit to the world."

The Los Angeles World Cup 26 Fan Zone at Venice Beach will take place July 10-11 at Windward Plaza. Information, tickets and the latest entertainment lineup are available at [venicebeachfwc26.com](http://venicebeachfwc26.com).

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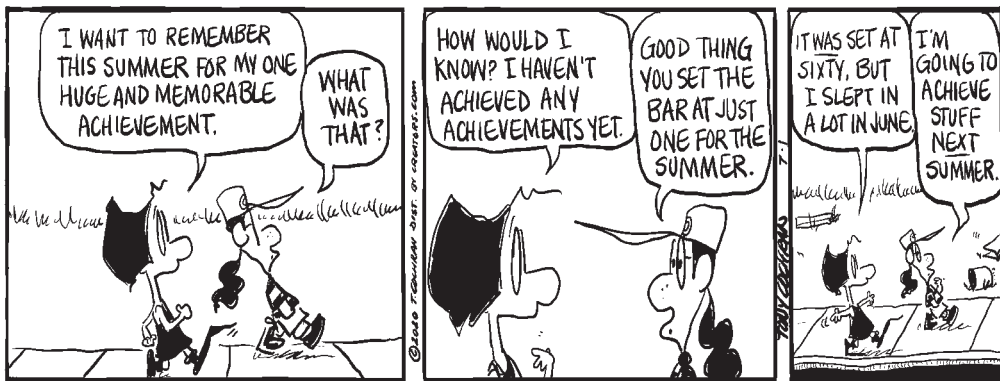
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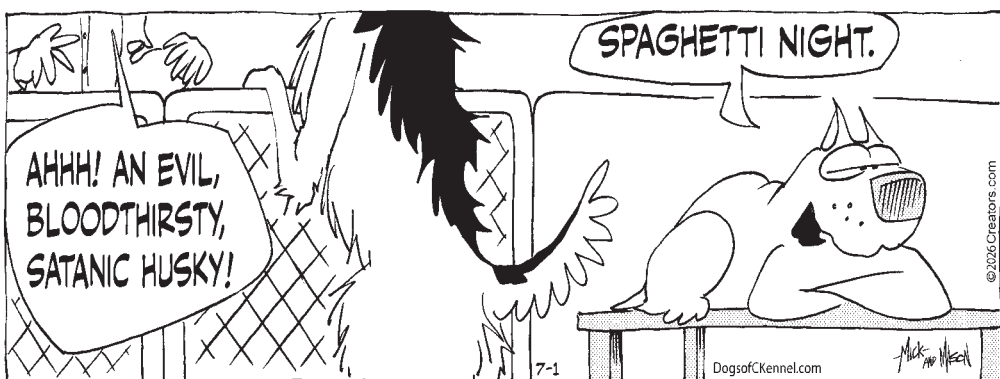
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



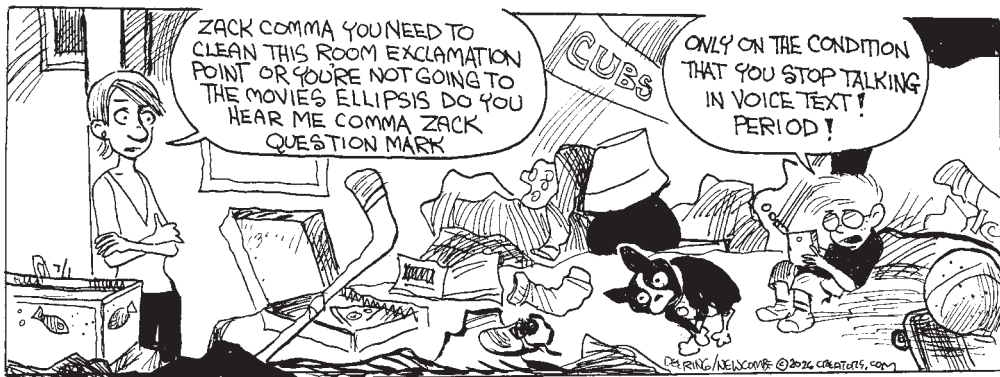
Dogs of C-Kennel

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

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## Book week

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

- |            |          |          |           |
|------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Amis       | Foster   | Marr     | Rodda     |
| Anderson   | French   | McDonald | Rowe      |
| Awards     | Garner   | Morgan   | Sci-fi    |
| Base       | Gemmell  | Moss     | Slow      |
| Book       | Gibbs    | Nunn     | Tale      |
| Carey      | Hero     | Pages    | Thiele    |
| Check      | History  | Park     | Time-     |
| Dawe       | Inspired | Plot     | consuming |
| Dedication | Kent     | Poetry   | Villain   |
| Dessaix    | Laguna   | Publish  | Wood      |
| Drama      | Lindsay  | Robotham | Zusak     |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Plenty of fresh air and open space



**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 1)**

It's your Year of the Silver Thread. The connections are uncanny, unmistakable and strong to just people, places and opportunities you need. All you have to do is follow through on the leads. More highlights: You'll achieve new levels of honesty and togetherness in relationships. A talent developed for pleasure becomes useful work. Family life settles into a rhythm that supports the big dreams you share. Aquarius and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 30, 1, 22 and 16.

**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Resilience is one of your superpowers. You have learned how to adapt and bounce back. Every challenge has taught you something useful, and today you handle something so easily, not in spite of those challenges but because of them.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Nobody else can bring your exact combination of experiences, interests, obsessions, humor, grief, curiosity and insight to a project. Also, you don't need everyone to agree with your choices. They don't have to make sense to anyone but you.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Anyone can be kind and competent on a normal Wednesday, but you welcome the heightened circumstances when they come, knowing that it's grace under fire that forges the good stuff. Heightened circumstances are opportunities for true character to emerge.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You're not just hoping things will work out, you make them work. It's in the details now. Small adjustments create outsized results. The finishing touches are where the magic happens - the glossy varnish turns "good" into "exceptional."

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You trust yourself more than you did, for the simple reason that you just keep delivering results you can stand by. You're gaining experience you need to do quick, dependable work. You'll make a decision that brings immediate reward.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A gift doesn't require repayment. If there are strings attached, it's not a gift, it's a negotiation. There may be expectations attached to today's exchange of "generosity." The real question is: Are those terms acceptable to you?

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Today, it's not about being right. It's about progress, which always involves the whole mechanism. If one gear fits, great. But what does that mean to the next gear and the next? Everything must turn together. Think in terms of systems.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Not every lesson can be taught in advance. Some people need firsthand experience. Caring about someone doesn't give you the power to spare them every consequence. Though you feel responsible for people, you are not responsible for their choices.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You share your knowledge and lead others with certainty and care. As excellent as you are at educating others, experience remains the more powerful teacher. Consider whether your best move is to step back with love and let them discover for themselves.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Even though you're extremely observant, don't assume appearances tell the whole story, either about other people or about yourself. Today, it's safe to assume there's much more going on behind the scenes than meets the eye.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Restraint can be mistaken for passivity or weakness - no. Ask any dam: Restraint takes real strength, fortifications, tons of metal or mettle, as the case may be. Today, your restraint will be the move of champions.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You don't always play to win, at least not on the small scale of the game. Sure, games are often nice to win, but you're playing to connect, and therefore you win just by playing.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

**Newsday Crossword**

**FATHERS OF THE WEEK** by Mark McClain  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Narrow gradually
- 6 Open-handed hit
- 10 Southwestern wolf
- 14 Pop singer Baker
- 15 Brown soft drink
- 16 Related (to)
- 17 Made a meal of
- 18 Lion's comment
- 19 Formal ceremony
- 20 Founding Father's "warmth" invention
- 23 Shout of approval
- 24 Racetrack circuits
- 25 Microbrewery designation
- 26 Kid around
- 27 Suffix for language names
- 28 Eggs: Lat.
- 31 Cincinnati's locale
- 34 Of college life
- 36 Seattle's locale
- 40 To a much greater degree
- 41 Walked heavily (on)
- 42 Maiden name indicator
- 43 Title for Lancelot
- 44 Center of an apple
- 47 TV remote batteries
- 48 Informal eatery
- 49 Distress call at sea
- 52 Big Apple's ad biz
- 55 \_\_\_ and done with
- 57 Ticklish Muppet
- 58 \_\_\_-garde fashion
- 59 Boxing setting

**DOWN**

- 1 "Saltwater" candy
- 2 "It's the end of \_\_\_"
- 3 March 14th, at MIT
- 4 British prep school
- 5 Annoy greatly
- 6 Actor's reference
- 7 Lake birds
- 8 "That's a shame"
- 9 Adherent
- 10 Future butterfly
- 11 Tulsan, for instance
- 12 Smidge
- 13 Early afternoon
- 21 \_\_\_ Vegas, NV
- 22 Newspaper essays
- 26 Hancock or Adams
- 27 Earth-friendly prefix
- 28 Actor Epps
- 29 Marlon, in *The Godfather*
- 30 Completed perfectly
- 31 Comic actor Wilson
- 32 Select for lunch
- 33 "Got it"
- 34 Went to lunch
- 35 Diminutive suffix

**Sudoku**

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

	3	4	2	1				
	8		9					5
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			1					5
2		8				9		3
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36					37	38	39								
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55	56						57					58			
59							60					61			
62							63					64			

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**MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS!** Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: [tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords](http://tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords)



## WEDNESDAY | JULY 1

### 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/18461167/2026-06-24T09>

### TODDLER STORYTIME AND SONGS

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Toddler Storytime and Songs Join us for storytime on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. We share stories, songs, and movement activities to build early literacy skills for toddlers aged 18 months to 3 years. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/toddler-storytime-and-songs/18526513/2026-06-17T10>

### 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 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 present and make new friends; giving ourselves the love and attention we deserve by quieting our minds, finding peace and creating community. Please RSVP on FB, IG or email <https://mobilecommunitymeditationcenter.com/> and remember to check FB or IG for any changes or cancellations. Free— Donations are accepted. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mobile-community-meditation-center-guided-meditation/16994548/2026-07-01T10>

### PALI TRADING POST GRAND OPENING

11:00 a.m. Pali Trading Post 15248 Sunset Boulevard Pacific Palisades. The Pali Trading Post will celebrate its grand opening on July 1 beginning at 11 a.m. The event, which will include live music, will be catered by Prima Cantina. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pali-trading-post-grand-opening/19236198/2026-07-01T11>

### JAZZ A GO GO AT LOULOU SANTA MONICA

7:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica Place Santa Monica. JAZZ A GO GO at LouLou Santa Monica- Every Wednesday · From 7 PM till late - Live Jazz that turns into a Vibe.Music you Feel. People you Meet. Amazing Food. Nights that Flow. JAZZ A GO GO (@jazzagogonight) by Loulou Santa Monica, Gilles Signature & Gilles Los Angeles - curated by the creator of @jazzeclectica Every Wednesday · From 7 PM till late Watch the LouLou experience: <https://bit.ly/loulou-jazz-a-gogo> Book Now: [bit.ly/booking-loulou](https://bit.ly/booking-loulou) LouLou Santa Monica JAZZ A GO GO Every Wednesday From 7 PM till late 395 Santa Monica Pl #300, Santa Monica, CA 90401(323) 410-2337 info@loulousantamonica.com loulousantamonica.com Reserve your table now: [bit.ly/booking-loulou](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/jazz-a-go-go-at-loulou-santa-monica/18476815/2026-07-01T19). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/jazz-a-go-go-at-loulou-santa-monica/18476815/2026-07-01T19>

### LOVE ISLAND COMEDY SHOW

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Mi's Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd Street Santa Monica. Get ready for a hilarious night mixing reality TV vibes with stand-up laughs you won't want to miss! WE'VE GOT A COMEDY SHOW!! Join hosts Meredith Lynch and Sabrina Kennelly for a night of comedy and fire pit discussions on summer's hottest TV show, Love Island. \$14.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/love-island-comedy-show/19227412/2026-07-01T20>

## THURSDAY | JULY 2

### CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2026-07-02T11>

### RADIO CLUB MEETING

5:30 p.m. American Legion - Ronald Reagan Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades. Join the Radio Club to learn about how to get HAM licensed! Other activities include "Parks on the Air," where you venture to a local park and reach out to others in order to "activate" your site. HAM radio is all about connecting the community and continually training to assist our first responders when disaster strikes. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/radio-club-meeting/18566934/2026-07-02T17>

## FRIDAY | JULY 3

### PALISADIAN COFFEE AND CHAT

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Palisades Garden Cafe 15231 La Cruz Dr Pacific Palisades. An informal hello run by Palisadian resident Rebecca Martin. No Agenda, no powerpoint, just a chance to say hello for those who have moved back to the Palisades, or are working on it. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/palisadian-coffee-and-chat/19242128/2026-07-03T09>

### NBC SPORTS' "STAR-SPANGLED SUNDAES"

1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica at the corner of Santa Monica Ave and 3rd Street 1343 3rd Street Promenade SP1D Santa Monica. WHAT: On Friday, July 3, 2026, NBC Sports brings "Star-Spangled Sundaes" to Los Angeles, a delicious dose of summer spirit that invites fans to stop by Downtown Santa Monica from 1pm - 7pm to enjoy complimentary ice cream sundaes served in exclusive NBC Sports-branded baseball helmet bowls. Honoring America's favorite pastime ahead of July 4th weekend, the classic summer treats invite fans to celebrate NBC Sports' upcoming "Star Spangled Sunday," July 5 on NBC, Peacock, and NBCSN – which marks the first time a media company has presented all 15 MLB games nationally in a single day. Coverage begins on NBC and Peacock at 9 AM PT. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/nbc-sports-star-spangled-sundaes-19268249/2026-07-03T13>

### BUNDY TRIANGLE NIGHT MARKET

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Bundy Triangle 1500 S Bundy Drive Los Angeles. Cayton Children's Museum will offer free, weekly hands-on activities for children and families at the Bundy Triangle Night Market in Sawtelle every Friday from March 27 through the end of October, the museum announced. The programming, offered in partnership with Los Angeles City Councilwoman Traci Park, will run from 5 to 8 p.m. each Friday at the Bundy Triangle, a public space at Ohio Avenue and Bundy Drive. The broader night market, presented by Raw Inspiration, runs from 5 to 9 p.m. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/bundy-triangle-night-market/18490079/2026-07-03T17>

## SATURDAY | JULY 4

### WELLNESS & WAVES RETURNS TO SANTA MONICA PIER, FREE SAT. MORNING FITNESS

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Pier Corporation invites the community to move, stretch, and recharge by the ocean as Wellness & Waves returns for its 2026 season. Taking place every Saturday from April 4 through October 17, 2026, from 8 to 10 a.m., this free, all-ages wellness series transforms the iconic Santa Monica Pier into an open-air fitness destination at the most iconic outdoor setting in Southern California. With the Pacific Ocean as its backdrop, Wellness & Waves offers a welcoming, energizing way to start the weekend—no membership required. Each Saturday morning begins at the top of the Santa Monica Pier at the intersection of Colorado and Ocean with an easygoing group run from 8 to 9 a.m., open to all levels. Guests can then head to the west end of the Pier for yoga and yoga-pilates fusion classes from 9 to 10 a.m., led by top local instructors. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wellness-waves-returns-to-santa-monica-pier-free-sat-morning-fitness/18475500/2026-07-04T08>

### 26TH ANNUAL KIDS' FUN RUN

8:30 a.m. Palisades Recreation Center 851 Alma Real Drive Pacific Palisades. Kids 10 years of age and under are invited to run or walk in the Kids' Fun Run, which begins at 8:30 a.m. on July 4th. All kids, whether pre-registered or registering on July 4th, need to check in at the Fun Run Tent, location in the grass area in front of Palisades Recreation Center. Parents must sign the waiver on their child's registration form. The Kids' Fun Run is a non-competitive run emphasizing participation, with each registered child receiving a t-shirt, American flag and participation ribbon at check-in. A patriotic clown will be on hand to entertain the kids at the start line and for balloon animals after the race. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/26th-annual-kids-fun-run/19188582/2026-07-04T08>

### 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 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 present and make new friends; giving ourselves the love and attention we deserve by quieting our minds, finding peace and creating community. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mobile-community-meditation-center-guided-meditation/16994548/2026-07-04T10>

### 77TH ANNUAL PACIFIC PALISADES JULY 4TH PARADE

4:00 p.m. Palisades Village 15225 Palisades Village Ln Pacific Palisades. Palisades Americanism Parade Association announced the return of the Fourth of July parade through the Historic Village. The parade will begin at 4 p.m. The parade will include Patriotic Pups and Kids on Bikes. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/77th-annual-pacific-palisades-july-4th-parade/19188600/2026-07-04T16>

### PALISADES JULY 4TH MUSIC AND DRONE SHOW

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Palisades Charter High School 15777 Bowdoin St Pacific Palisades. Our July 4th celebration, including music, kids activities, food trucks and a drone show will, once again, be at Palisades Charter High School in the Stadium by the Sea in 2026. (Stadium gates open to ticket holders at 6 p.m.). Lee Dyson of Hey Mister DJ will kick off the event at 6 p.m., followed by music from Vinyl Jam (who appeared at our Palisades event at Paul Revere Middle School in 2025 and a drone show by Magical Light Shows starting at around 9 p.m. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/palisades-july-4th-music-and-drone-show/19188607/2026-07-04T18>



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