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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 168 | THURSDAY 7/17/25 | smdp.com

SMMUSD could lose millions without free lunch applications

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District could lose between $2 million and $3 million in federal funding if families don't complete free and reduced-price lunch applications by October 2, despite the district's universal meal program that provides free breakfast and lunch to all students.

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton delivered the urgent message to the school board, explaining that the applications are critical for maintaining Title I funding and other federal programs that support the district's most vulnerable students.

"This is about more than just meals," Dr. Shelton told board members. "We want to give the meal, but it's more than just that because specifically we have programming that's attached to the dollars that support our most



SMDP Photo

SEE **LUNCH** PAGE 11

SMMUSD: Santa Monica-Malibu school officials urge families to complete forms by October deadline despite universal meal program.

Gambling website says Santa Monica is a bad bet for beach safety

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica State Beach ranks as the second-most dangerous beach in America for theft-related crimes, according to a new study that analyzed crime statistics at more than 500 U.S. coastal locations.

The popular destination has a 25.29% probability of theft incidents, driven by a vehicle theft rate of 8.91 per 1,000 residents — significantly higher than most beach communities nationwide, according to research by gambling website The Action Network.

The study comes as millions of Americans head to beaches this summer, with researchers warning that unattended phones, wallets and bags are frequent targets for opportunistic thieves, particularly in areas with higher property crime rates.

Ocracoke Lifeguarded Beach in North Carolina topped the list with a 27.91% probability of theft, fueled by a theft rate of 59.87 per 1,000 residents. Folly Beach in South Carolina claimed the third and fourth spots.

California had the most theft-prone beaches, accounting for seven

SEE **CRIME** PAGE 11

USC youth journalism project invites wildfire survivors to share stories at Santa Monica listening session

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Survivors of the January wildfires and other community members connected to Pacific Palisades are being invited to share personal memories and lessons learned at a public storytelling event hosted by USC's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

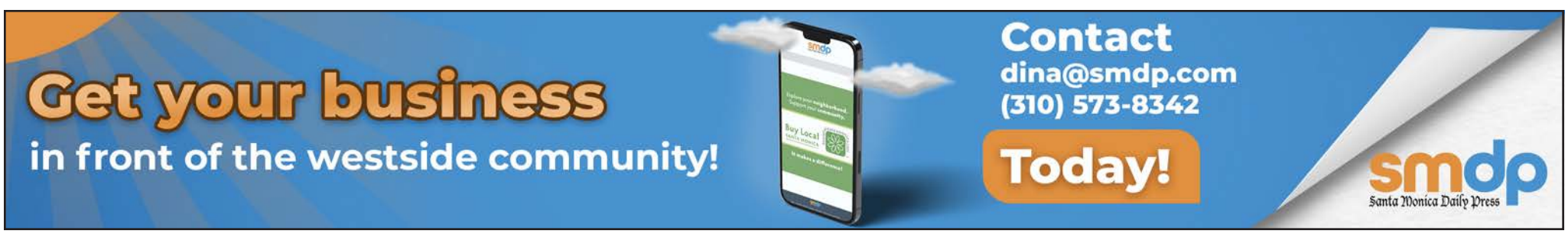
The session, scheduled for Saturday, July 19, will take place at KCRW's studios in Santa Monica and will be led by high school reporters participating in the Wildfire Youth Media Initiative. Attendees will have the opportunity to record their experiences at five story stations organized around different themes. The event is open to anyone impacted by the fires, including survivors, neighbors, volunteers, journalists, students and community organizers.

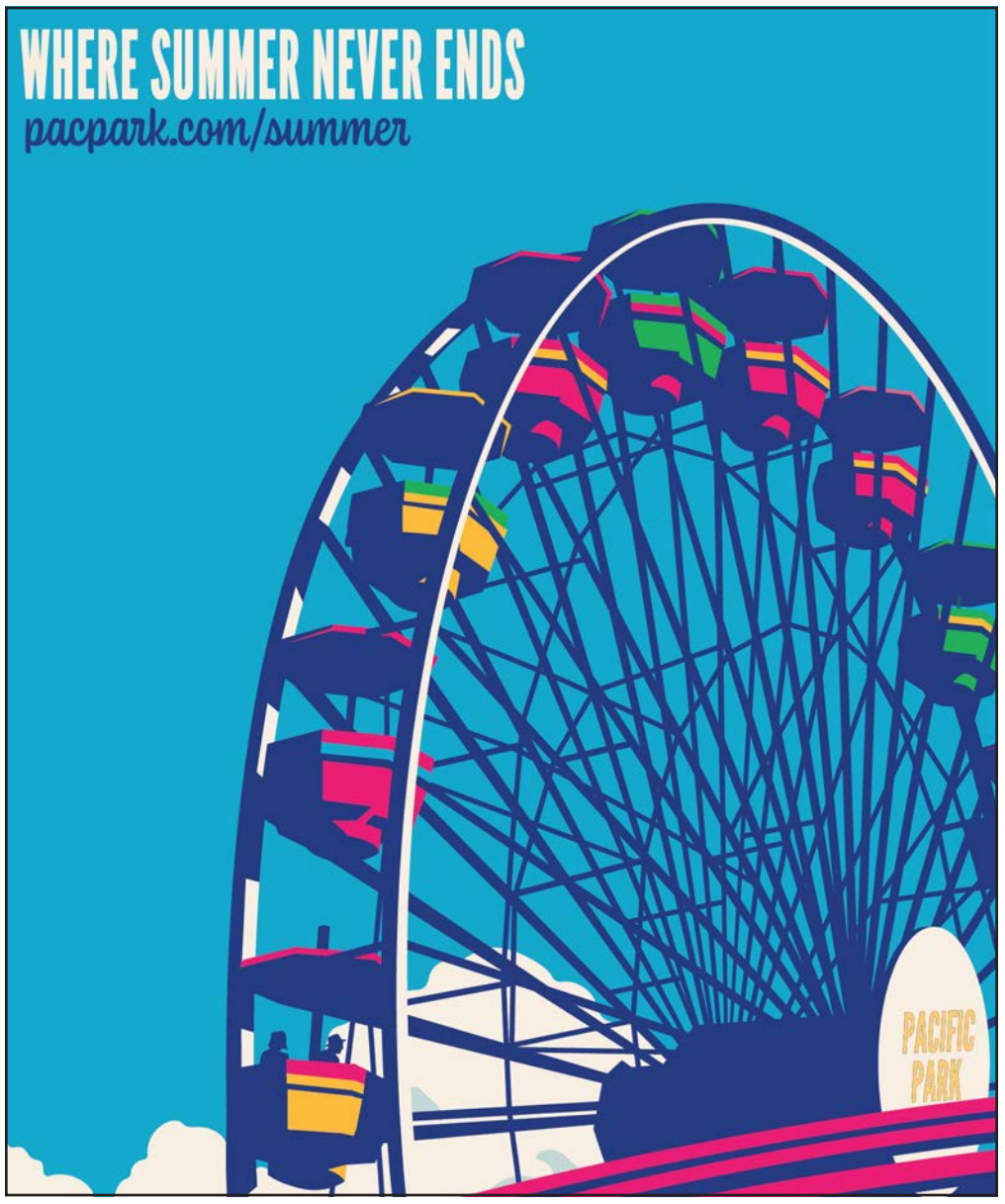
"All participants have some personal connection to the community and the incident and all wrote incredibly thoughtful explanations about why they are interested in the program," said Rebecca Haggerty, professor of professional practice and associate director of the undergraduate journalism program at USC Annenberg.

The Palisades-based event runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1660 Stewart St. Free parking is available with a permit at the Santa Monica College Center for Media and Design garage at 2762 Pennsylvania Avenue. Permits will be sent to guests who RSVP in advance. Limited street parking is also available, though organizers urge guests to read posted restrictions carefully.

Participants are encouraged to bring meaningful objects that help

SEE **USC** PAGE 7





California Republican lawmakers launch campaign to require voter ID

Two California Republican state lawmakers launched a campaign Wednesday to place a measure on the 2026 ballot that would require voter identification and proof of citizenship at the polls.

The proposal would require the state to verify proof of citizenship when a person registers to vote, and voters would have to provide identifications at the polls. Those who vote through mail-in ballots would have to give the last four digits of a government-issued ID such as a Social Security number.

"We do not want to make it harder to vote. In fact, our initiative makes it easier to vote because it streamlines the process to verify someone's identity," Assemblymember Carl DeMaio, who's leading the effort, said at a Wednesday news conference.

The Republican lawmakers said the measure would help restore trust in elections where they said people have complained about outdated voter rolls and an inadequate signature review process, with some also casting doubt on election results. The effort was not new. DeMaio unsuccessfully attempted to place a similar measure requiring voter identification on the ballot the last election.

While voting by noncitizens has occurred, research and reviews of state cases have shown it to be rare and typically a mistake rather than an intentional effort to sway an election. Voter fraud is also rare.

California is among 14 states and the District of Columbia that do not require voters to show some form of identification at the polls or to register to vote.

The California campaign came as congressional Republicans were working to advance their own legislation to overhaul the nation's voting procedures at the urging of President Donald Trump. Across the country, lawmakers in 17 states have introduced legislation this year to require proof of citizenship for voters, according to National Conference of State legislatures.

Opponents argued that such requirements make it more difficult for people to vote, especially the elderly, those with disabilities and those without driver's licenses. Democrats in the California Legislature, who hold supermajorities in both chambers, in April rejected a bill by DeMaio aiming to enact similar voting rule changes.

The statewide proposal also came as the state continued to challenge a local measure passed by voters in the city of Huntington Beach to require voter identification at the polls. The state last year sued the city over the new rule, and Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law to prohibit local governments in California from establishing and enforcing laws that require residents provide identification to vote in elections.

> "We do not want to make it harder to vote. In fact, our initiative makes it easier to vote because it streamlines the process to verify someone's identity"
>
> - Carl DeMaio, Assemblymember

Sen. Tony Strickland, who helped pass the Huntington Beach measure as a city councilmember last year, said he expects a similar fight from state Democrats over the issue.

"The courts would be on our side because we carefully drafted this initiative. It's constitutional," he said.

By TRÂN NGUYỄN Associated Press

66 YEARS
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AUGUST
2025
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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

'I've noticed changes in all of us': The LA fires put what really matters most into focus



Photo by Jules Hotz for CalMatters

FIRE: A person captures imagery of the Palisades Fire ravaging the Mandeville Canyon in Los Angeles on Jan. 10, 2025.

A few weeks after the hardest school year of my life let out for summer, I went with my friend Celia back to the Palisades.

It was my first time going there since the January fires. As we drove in along the stretch of Pacific Coast Highway that had recently reopened to the public, I took in an unobstructed ocean view that only a few months earlier had been crowded out by houses. Now the buildings had all burned. Surreal is the only word to describe the experience.

Eventually we made our way up to the bluffs, where the neighborhood gets its name. Me, Celia and other friends from Palisades Charter High always used to hang out there.

I can remember the exact last time we met up at the bluffs. It was winter break, and I'd hugged everyone hard. I was saying goodbye because I was leaving to go on vacation with my family. I didn't realize how much that goodbye would have to hold. The L.A. fires broke out while we were still traveling. On the flight back, I could make out the flames from my window.

Five of my seven closest friends lost their homes in the Palisades Fire. All of us have been scattered across schools and geography. There's been a lot of shock to go around. But I think we've come out of this closer than ever. The fires really put what mattered into focus. Supporting each other through this time has made us all like family.

Because of COVID, I'd done remote schooling in fifth, sixth and some of seventh grade. For three months after the fire, it was more of that for those of us who decided to stay at Pali High since much of the campus was destroyed or damaged. That was bad.

But when the school finally re-opened in the old Sears department store in Santa Monica, things became worse. The building was hot and overcrowded, and the adults who were supposed to be helping us made me feel even more stressed out.

At that point, the only thing keeping me at Pali was my friends, but I was miserable. When I told them I was planning to switch schools in the fall to start 11th grade, they understood — a few of them had already moved schools themselves.

Because some of my closest friends are graduating seniors, I'd gone into this year knowing that things were going to change when they left. The fires just sped up that timeline and made everything so much more extreme.

Even though my friends and I don't get to see each other every day now, we've found ways to stay close. We call, do regular group FaceTimes and try our best to hang out at least once a week in person. It's made a difference. I know the seniors won't be able to do that next year because they'll be in college. But because many of their homes burned down, they plan on coming back more to help their families resettle, so we'll still see them.

I've noticed changes in all of us since the fires. Once you experience loss like this, you get a different outlook on life. My guy friends talk more openly about their feelings. Even the typical "mean" girls,

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 11



Surf report WATER TEMP: **67.5**

THURSDAY
FAIR TO GOOD

SURF: 3-4ft+
Waist to shoulder

Quality SSW swell continues for the 17th-19th.
New SSW/S swell looks a little larger than the swell for the 13th-14th, and similar to that pulse it should outperform current model expectations as it shows over the 17th-18th. That sets up waist-chest-shoulder high waves for good breaks, head high sets possible for standouts during favorable tides. Not much NW windswell which will favor the points again. Wind looks light and conditions clean in the AM. Onshore flow builds in the PM for some bump/texture, especially outside the points.

FRIDAY
FAIR

SURF: 3-4ft
Waist to chest

Refresh of SSW/S swell comes up slightly from Thursday.
Nice shot of SSW/S swell peaks - in a similar range to Thursday but should have just a touch more size/consistency. Widespread surf in the waist-chest-shoulder high range with top summer exposures running head high to slightly larger. Shape will likely be hard to come by outside of the summer points. Decent chance at a clean morning but the reputable models aren't in great agreement on the pattern - the Euro ramping up PM onshore flow quickly while the GFS is slower. Stay tuned.

Weather

Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 69.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 63. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 69.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/07/17	Thu	02:17 AM	3.73	H
2025/07/17	Thu	08:22 AM	1.21	L
2025/07/17	Thu	3:26 PM	5.21	H
2025/07/17	Thu	10:31 PM	1.51	L
2025/07/18	Fri	04:02 AM	3.11	H
2025/07/18	Fri	09:09 AM	1.80	L
2025/07/18	Fri	4:20 PM	5.57	H
2025/07/18	Fri	11:58 PM	0.80	L
2025/07/19	Sat	06:06 AM	2.95	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: 7/14
8 12 45 46 63
Power#: 24
Jackpot: 264 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/15
6 10 24 35 43
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 100 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 7/12
4 7 10 36 46
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 25 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/15
2 9 13 21 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/15
EVENING: 5 0 3
Draw Date: 7/15
MIDDAY: 2 1 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/15
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:42.71

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

State of the City & National Ice Cream Day!

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes State of the City, Santa Monica Music Festival, Blue Plate Oysterette Community Dinner Series, & National Ice Cream Day, and much more!

State of the City Event: A Celebration of Resilience and Growth: Putting a new spin on the State of the City tradition, the evening will start with an opening reception inside the Miles Memorial Playhouse, offering light refreshments, city information displays and a chance to meet and connect with Mayor Lana Negrete and incoming City Manager Oliver Chi. The reception will be followed by live performances in the park, tours of the Playhouse, a beer garden by Santa Monica Brew Works, interactive city department booths across Reed Park including a prize wheel, a succulent giveaway, police officers on horseback, a fire truck and more. Thursday, July 17, 4 - 7 p.m., Christine Emerson Reed Park & Miles Memorial Playhouse https://www.eventbrite.com/e/state-of-the-city-a-celebration-of-resilience-and-growth-tickets-1388453233999

Sunset Picnic at Annenberg Community Beach House: Grab your picnic basket and your favorite people - or come solo and join a communal table - and enjoy a sunset evening at the beach. Vibe to musical duos and take in the glow of the summer sunset while enjoying complimentary s'mores and fun activities! Check out their calendar of events – including sunset swims, community picnics, youth/adult classes & more. Thursday, July 17, 5 - 8p.m., 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/july-sunset-picnic-tickets-1412856324299

Santa Monica Music Festival: A new classical music festival will make its debut this summer in Santa Monica, offering four days of performances that blend contemporary compositions with beloved classics just steps from the Pacific Ocean. July 17-20, 1220 2nd St., First Presbyterian Church https://www.kco.la/events

Hammer Summer Concerts: See live concerts in the Hammer's courtyard for free and enjoy happy hour, late gallery hours, art-making, and more. Thursday, Jul 17, 6:30 p.m., 10899 Wilshire Blvd. https://hammer.ucla.edu/programs-events/2025/dummy-maral-and-djs-peaking-lights



Courtesy image

CITY: The event moves to Reed Park today.

SaMo Library Summer Film Series: The Greatest Showman: Enjoy this exuberant musical based on the life of legendary circus impresario P.T. Barnum, starring Hugh Jackman. Stick around after for a bit of Barnum and circus-themed trivia and discussion. Friday, Jul 18, 1:30 - 3:30p.m., Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4f68mrzzgbhh0x8rhpnw0r394f/202507181330

Summer Venice Beach Run: The race is open to runners and walkers of all ages and abilities and is the only race that starts and finishes out over the water on the iconic Venice Beach Pier (3100 Washington Blvd, Venice, CA). Saturday, July 19. Participants can sign up for the fast + flat 5K at 8:30a.m. or the Speedy 1 Miler at 10a.m. https://laparksfoundation.org/laparks_events/venice-beach-run-2025/

Gather & Grow: ¡Viva La Cultura! A Celebration of Latine Arts and Culture: This biweekly series at Christine Emerson Reed Park invites families to enjoy hands-on artmaking, live music and interactive performances. Saturday, July 19, 4p.m., 1130 Lincoln Blvd. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/viva-la-cultura-a-celebration-of-latine-arts-and-culture-tickets-1435990559419

Annual Pickle Me Silly at Ishihara Park Learning Garden: They will demonstrate a quick and easy refrigerator Sweet Pickle, with attendees able taking supplies home to try making some easy pickles. Fun for people of all ages. Saturday, July 19. Garden opens at 9 AM for exploration and community breakfast. Pickling demonstration begins at 10a.m. 2909 Exposition Blvd. https://www.santamonica.gov/places/community-gardens/ishihara-park-learning-garden

Wizard School at the Getty Scavenger Hunt: Explore the magical side of the Getty Center on a hunt for art and artifacts that recall the fantastic beasts and enchanting adventures of the wizardly world. You will find art and artifacts that remind you of forbidden forests, Dementors, House mascots, Death Eaters, the Dark Lore, and more. Saturday, July 19, 4 p.m. https://watsonadventures.com/hunt/the-wizard-school-los-angeles-scavenger-hunt/

Library Celebrates Women of Marvel Comics with Author Event: The event features YALLWEST Book Festival co-founder and Santa Monica-based author Margaret Stohl, along with co-authors Judith Stephens and Jeanine Schaefer, presenting their new book "Super Visible: The Story of the Women of Marvel Comics." Thursday, July 24, 6 - 8 p.m., Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. https://smpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/events

ONGOING: "Two Bit Circus" Pop-Up; LiteBrite Experience; Penmar Sunset Sessions (through 7/18); Night Market at The Bungalow (through 8/28); Wellness & Waves (through 10/11)

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Rustic Canyon Weiser Family Farms Farmers Market Dinner: Celebrate a 4-course meal from Chef Elijah Deleon highlighting produce from one of their closest partners, Weiser Family Farms. This will be a 20-person, family-style dinner served in their back garden patio. Thursday, July 17, 6:30p.m., 1119 Wilshire Blvd. https://resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/rustic-canyon/events/weiser-family-farms-garden-dinner-2025-07-17

Sunday, July 20 is National Ice Cream Day: Yes, this is a thing! And it's just the escapist thing we may need right now!

Jeni's Launching "Super Fun Times" Summer Collection: Enjoy such flavors as Toasted S'mores, Watermelon Taffy, Strawberry Pretzel Pie, and Popcorn Brittle. And on July 20, their new Sundae Fudge Sauce is FREE with any order. 64 Windward Ave, Venice https://jenis.com/pages/super-fun-times

McConnell's x See's Collab: Enjoy three limited-edition flavors—each one blending See's confections with McConnell's ice cream. The flavors are Brown

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 7

Classifieds

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 05/22/25 2025105355The following person(s) is (are) doing business Roshan Law Group 1505 4th St Suite 209 Santa Monica, CA 90401. Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Benazeer Roshan , A Professional Corporation 928 19th St Santa Monica, CA 90403. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Corporation . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 04/25. Registrant /Corp/LLC Benazeer Roshan , A Professional CorporationTitle: CEO Benazeer Roshan . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 0522/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00302 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Loukas Avkabii Savkisian name of a minor by and through her/his/their mother/father/parent Kristina Netchaeva for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Kristina Netchaeva - Loukas Avkabii Savkisian court for a decree of changing names as follows: Loukas Avkabii Savkisian to Loukas Avkabii NetchaevaThe court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall 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 8/15 /2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: 107 Room: 107 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 6230 Sylmar Ave Van Nuys, CA 91401. 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

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

COMMUNITY NEWS

Countywide

Board Backs Legislation to Enhance Immigration Enforcement Transparency

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion supporting state and federal legislation aimed at ensuring accountability during immigration enforcement operations.

The motion, authored by Supervisors Lindsey P. Horvath and Holly J. Mitchell, follows reports of federal immigration agents conducting raids in Los Angeles County while wearing masks, balaclavas and concealing badges and other identifiers.

"Trust between law enforcement and our communities has been lost, due to tactics being used in the current ICE raids throughout LA County," Horvath said. "No one should open their door to masked agents and wonder who they are or whether they have the authority to act."

These practices have fueled fear and eroded trust in law enforcement. Officials say concealing identity during enforcement circumvents transparency and opens the door for criminal impersonation, citing a recent case in Huntington Park where an individual posing as an immigration agent was arrested while carrying an unlicensed firearm and fake documents.

"Federal immigration agents hiding behind face coverings and not showing any identification while conducting raids and grabbing residents off the street - without due process - only serves to endanger people, spread fear, and create chaos," Mitchell said.

The board voted to support several bills that prohibit officers from concealing their identities and strengthen penalties for impersonating law enforcement:

SB 627 (Wiener) – "No Secret Police Act": Prohibits law enforcement officers from wearing masks or disguises while interacting with the public.

SB 805 (Pérez) – "No Vigilantes Act": Expands laws against impersonating law enforcement and requires visible identification.

H.R. 4004 (Velázquez) – "No Anonymity in Immigration Enforcement Act of 2025": Prohibits ICE agents from wearing facial coverings and requires visible identification.

S. 2212 (Padilla) – "VISIBLE Act of 2025": Requires immigration enforcement officers to display legible identification and bans non-medical facial coverings with limited exceptions.

The motion directs the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations team to send five-signature letters of support for each bill to the respective authors.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Countywide

County Moves to Strengthen Price Gouging Enforcement During Emergencies

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion to clarify and strengthen the county's ability to enforce price gouging laws during declared emergencies.

The motion by Supervisors Lindsey P. Horvath and Kathryn Barger comes in response to widespread reports of excessive price increases following devastating wildfires that prompted a countywide state of emergency on Jan. 7, 2025.

Under state and local law, price increases beyond 10% of pre-disaster rates for goods, services and housing are prohibited during an emergency. While the county and state have extended these protections through multiple executive orders and board actions, enforcement challenges remain.

> When those same people are victimized again by unscrupulous businesses and individuals through illegal price gouging, it's a call for LA County to take action
>
> - Rafael Carbajal, director of the LA County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs

"Families recovering from disaster shouldn't have to worry about illegal price hikes," Horvath said. "This motion gives us the authority to impose meaningful penalties, require restitution, and make sure businesses play by the rules."

Since January, the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs has received more than 3,800 complaints, the majority related to housing costs. More than 1,800 cease-and-desist letters have been issued, and over 230 cases referred to the Price Gouging Task Force. However, few civil or criminal cases have advanced due to the complexity and time required for litigation.

"When those same people are victimized again by unscrupulous businesses and individuals through illegal price gouging, it's a call for LA County to take action," said Rafael Carbajal, director of the LA County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs.

The motion directs County Counsel, in collaboration with the department, to return within 30 days with an urgency ordinance to strengthen enforcement. The ordinance would grant the department authority to issue administrative fines of up to $1,000 per violation and $500 for failure to comply with investigations.

It would also create a formal citation and appeals process, establish provisions for restitution to victims, allow escalating fines for repeat violations and disqualify violators from receiving county contracts.

The motion also launches a public awareness campaign to inform consumers and businesses about the county's enforcement authority and penalties for violations.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

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If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge
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*No interest payment plans
*Emergencies can be seen today
*Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to
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INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
OR
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$99 EXAM AND CLEANING
For New Patients
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
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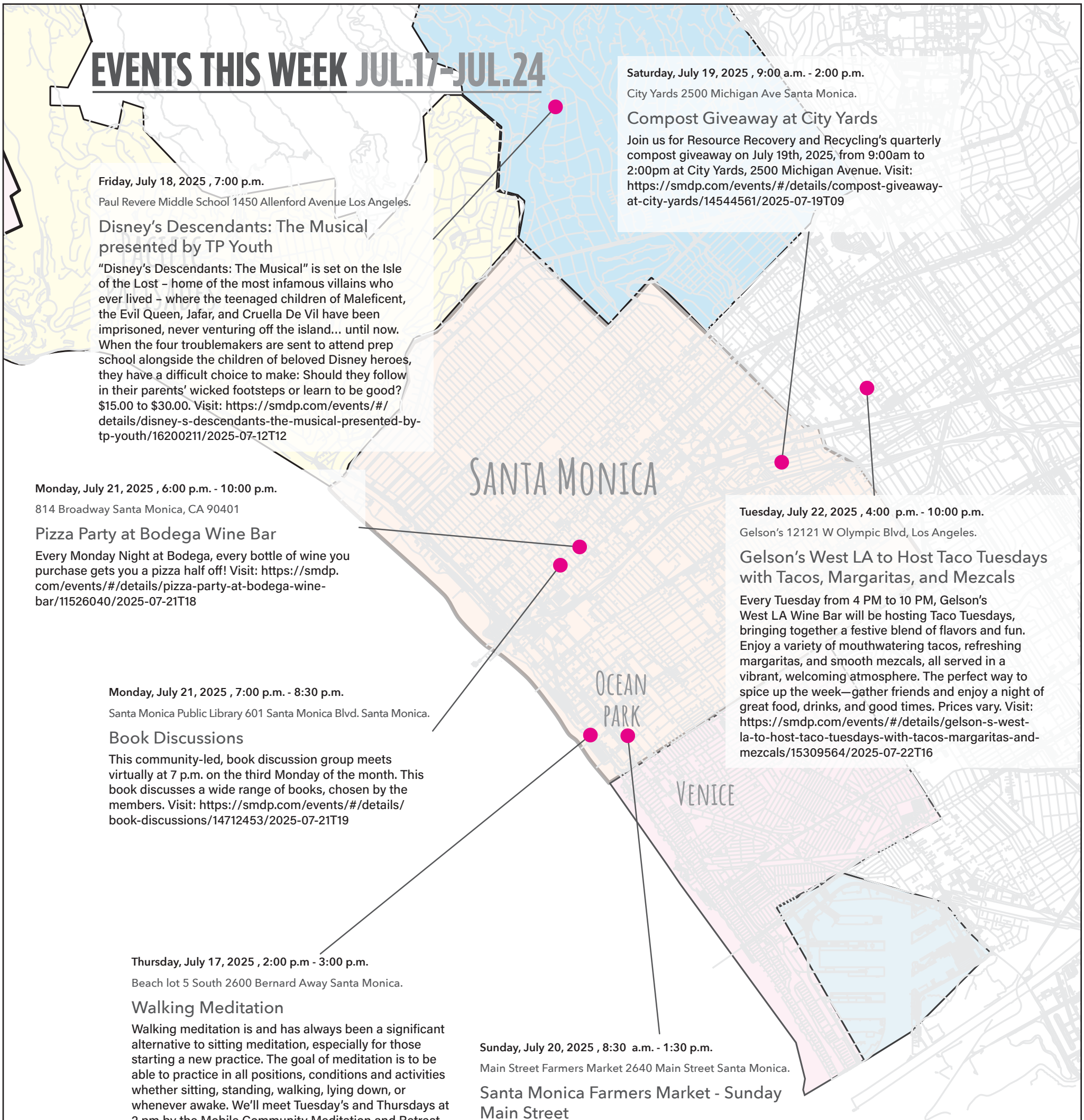
Santa Monica 1627 Montana Ave
Westlake Village 4625 Lakeview Canyon Rd
CALIFORNIA CLOSETS
CAL IFORNIACLOSETS.COM

EVENTS THIS WEEK JUL.17-JUL.24



Friday, July 18, 2025 , 7:00 p.m.

Paul Revere Middle School 1450 Allenford Avenue Los Angeles.

Disney's Descendants: The Musical presented by TP Youth

"Disney's Descendants: The Musical" is set on the Isle of the Lost – home of the most infamous villains who ever lived – where the teenaged children of Maleficent, the Evil Queen, Jafar, and Cruella De Vil have been imprisoned, never venturing off the island... until now. When the four troublemakers are sent to attend prep school alongside the children of beloved Disney heroes, they have a difficult choice to make: Should they follow in their parents' wicked footsteps or learn to be good? $15.00 to $30.00. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/disney-s-descendants-the-musical-presented-by-tp-youth/16200211/2025-07-12T12

Saturday, July 19, 2025 , 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

City Yards 2500 Michigan Ave Santa Monica.

Compost Giveaway at City Yards

Join us for Resource Recovery and Recycling's quarterly compost giveaway on July 19th, 2025, from 9:00am to 2:00pm at City Yards, 2500 Michigan Avenue. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/compost-giveaway-at-city-yards/14544561/2025-07-19T09

Monday, July 21, 2025 , 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

814 Broadway Santa Monica, CA 90401

Pizza Party at Bodega Wine Bar

Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2025-07-21T18

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 , 4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Gelson's 12121 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles.

Gelson's West LA to Host Taco Tuesdays with Tacos, Margaritas, and Mezcals

Every Tuesday from 4 PM to 10 PM, Gelson's West LA Wine Bar will be hosting Taco Tuesdays, bringing together a festive blend of flavors and fun. Enjoy a variety of mouthwatering tacos, refreshing margaritas, and smooth mezcals, all served in a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere. The perfect way to spice up the week—gather friends and enjoy a night of great food, drinks, and good times. Prices vary. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/gelson-s-west-la-to-host-taco-tuesdays-with-tacos-margaritas-and-mezcals/15309564/2025-07-22T16

Monday, July 21, 2025 , 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica.

Book Discussions

This community-led, book discussion group meets virtually at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. This book discusses a wide range of books, chosen by the members. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/book-discussions/14712453/2025-07-21T19

Thursday, July 17, 2025 , 2:00 p.m - 3:00 p.m.

Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Away Santa Monica.

Walking Meditation

Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. We'll meet Tuesday's and Thursdays at 2 pm by the Mobile Community Meditation and Retreat Center VAN parked in the Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South (by the grass on the east side of the parking lot and across the street from the basketball courts at Ocean View Park) We'll walk silently together for approximately 45 minutes on the shoreline. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/walking-meditation/16206460/2025-07-17T14

Sunday, July 20, 2025 , 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Main Street Farmers Market 2640 Main Street Santa Monica.

Santa Monica Farmers Market - Sunday Main Street

The Sunday Main Street Farmers Market features some of California's freshest produce plus prepared foods from local Main Street restaurants as well as artisanal foods prepared with ingredients sourced from California farmers. Enjoy musical entertainment, prepared and pre-packaged foods, kids activities as well a local artisan crafts. Market is open Sundays from 8:30-1:30, year-round, rain or shine. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/santa-monica-farmers-market-sunday-main-street/12382445/2025-07-20T08

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events

USC

FROM PAGE 1

tell their story, such as "items you found in the aftermath, aided in your recovery, or helped you live or work through this experience." Stories will be recorded and may be edited into podcasts, short-form videos and other content to be published by USC and potentially by public media outlets including KCRW and LAist.

The Wildfire Youth Media Initiative is a four-week summer program housed within the USC Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership and Policy. Its goal is to train students in trauma-informed interviewing and the role of journalism in civic society, while helping communities document and preserve testimony following a natural disaster.

The cohort includes nine students connected to Pacific Palisades and nine from the Altadena area. A second community listening session is scheduled for July 26 at the Pasadena Playhouse to gather stories from residents in and around Altadena.

During the program, students participate in journalism workshops taught by USC faculty and professional reporters. They also travel to affected communities to conduct interviews and edit the resulting material into publishable formats. Recordings from both sessions will be archived digitally by USC and the Los Angeles Public Library.

The event will include two dedicated recording spaces in addition to the story stations. One is designed for peer storytelling between students who were directly affected by the fires. The other will focus on interviews with individuals whose work was impacted, such as business owners, nonprofit staff, journalists and volunteers.

The initiative is part of USC's Local News and Student Journalism Initiative and is intended as a model that can be replicated in other disaster-affected communities. All program participation is free and completion may lead to a university-issued honorarium and certificate.

The July 19 event is free and open to the public. RSVPs are strongly encouraged in order to receive parking access and help organizers plan the recording schedule. Details are available at communicationleadership.usc.edu/wildfire-community-listening-sessions.

The Wildfire Youth Media Initiative will conclude on August 7 and a final showcase of stories is expected to follow later this summer.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

Sugar with Milk Bordeaux, PB&J with Peanut Butter Patties, and Strawberry with Strawberry Creams. 1456 3rd Street Promenade https://mcconnells.com/

Salt & Straw is Making it "National Ice Cream Week": Enjoy specials throughout the week, including new toppings, launching Strawberry Shortcake Waffle Cone, and getting a digital scratch off card on Sunday with prizes. 1357 Abbot Kinney Blvd.

Blue Plate Oysterette Community Dinner Series: Join a gourmet dinner at sunset for $29. Enjoy a chef-curated meal, mingle with your Santa Monica neighbors, and soak in the sunset from our communal table. This month the featured dish will be Idaho Trout with a puttanesca sauce, greek salad, and roasted potatoes. Monday, July 21, 6 - 8p.m., 1355 Ocean Ave. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bpo-community-dinner-series-tickets-1474663491199

Wally's Casa Dragones Experience Tasting: Hosted by Brenda Gallardo, you'll explore four expressions of Casa Dragones: Joven, Añejo, Reposado, and Blanco, along side Mexican-inspired small plates by Chef David Féau and Chef Alan Martinez. $60. Wednesday, July 23, 5p.m., 214 Wilshire Blvd. https://www.opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=1020850&restref=1020850&experienceId=513657

Multiple SaMo Bakeries on The Infatuation's "The Best Cookies In LA" List: The Chocolate Chip at Petitgrain Boulangerie (1209 Wilshire Blvd.), Caramel-Pretzel-Chocolate Chunk at Cookie Good (2448 Wilshire Blvd.), The Peanut Butter Cookie at Bristol Farms (3105 Wilshire Blvd.) all get recognition. https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/guides/best-cookies-la

Displaced by Wildfires, the Palisades Community Finds a Slice of Home as Cinque Terre West Reopens in Venice: Palisades wildfire survivors Marlo and chef Gianbattista "Gianba" Vinzoni opened in the former Bluestone Lane at 523 Rose Ave. https://la.eater.com/restaurant-openings/285761/cinque-terre-west-reopens-venice-palisades-community-los-angeles

Dine LA Restaurant Week: It kicks off next weekend and from July 25 – Aug 8, so make your reservations now for deals on set menus. Dozens of SaMo eateries are participating, including Blue Plate Oysterette, Edgemar Restaurant, Fia, Fig, Fitoor, Lunetta, Mélisse, Orla, Socalo, and dozens more. https://www.discoverlosangeles.com/dinela

Further Afield: Festival Beverly Hills: Join a vibrant day of music, dance, interactive workshops, and culinary delights that showcase the rich tapestry of many cultures from around the world. Sunday, July 20, 12 - 6p.m., Beverly Gardens Park 9439 Santa Monica Blvd. https://beverlyhills.org/1335/Festival-Beverly-Hills—July-20

Looking Ahead: National Night Out (8/5); Festival of Chariots (8/3); Thai Fest by the Beach (9/20-21); Abbot Kinney Festival (9/28); Main St. Day of the Dog Festival (10/18)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: State of the City & National Ice Cream Day!



THURSDAY | JULY 17

ARTS/CRAFTS

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 salón 3 del parque Virginia. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/arts-crafts/14712446/2025-07-17T11

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Montana Branch Library 1704 Montana Ave. Santa Monica. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets in person at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at the Montana Branch Library. This book group discusses a mix of fiction and nonfiction titles, often on topics chosen from current events. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/book-discussions/14712450/2025-07-17T18

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Montana Branch Library 1704 Montana Ave. Santa Monica. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets in person at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at the Montana Branch. This book group discusses a mix of fiction and nonfiction titles, often on topics chosen from current events. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. Supported by the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/montana-avenue-branch-book-discussion-group/13906564/2025-07-17T18

FRIDAY | JULY 18

THE NIGHT SKY SHOW

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. The Night Sky Show is a short program with the latest news in space exploration and astronomy. The program uses freeware sky visualization tools to show you the constellations planets and deep sky objects in the Southern California night sky. The show will last about 30 minutes followed by a short Q&A when guests can type questions into a chat box. We will answer as many questions as possible. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-night-sky-show/14165546/2025-07-11T19

SATURDAY | JULY 19

COMPOST

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. City Yards 2500 Michigan Ave Santa Monica. Join us for Resource Recovery and Recycling's quarterly compost giveaway on July 19th, 2025, from 9:00am to 2:00pm at City Yards, 2500 Michigan Avenue. Please bring gloves and containers if you're picking up compost - a limited supply of bags are available. This is a self-service event so please be prepared to load your own compost. We're also giving away FREE food scrap pails. One per household while supplies last. This event is open to all Santa Monica residents with proof of residency. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/compost/14712444/2025-07-19T09

UC MASTER GARDENERS AT PICO FARMERS MARKET

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Visit with the UC Master Gardeners at the Saturday Pico Farmers Market. he booth is filled with free advice on how to care for plants, how to troubleshoot a gardening problem, and much more. Free seeds and seedlings are available on a limited basis. Market attendance is subject to change based on weather and holidays. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/uc-master-gardeners-at-pico-farmers-market/13766365/2025-07-19T10

ARTISTS & FLEAS: VENICE MARKETPLACE

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Westminster Elementary School 1010 Abbot Kinney Los Angeles. Artists & Fleas in Venice is located in the vibrant, artistic heart of Venice at the corner of Abbot Kinney and Westminster Avenue in the outdoor lot of Westminister Avenue Elementary School. Join 50+ merchants every Saturday (rain or shine!) for a fabulous lineup of art, design, food trucks and vintage. Date: Every Saturday Time: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Location: Westminster Elementary School - 1010 Abbot Kinney Check our website here for a list of vendors. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/artists-fleas-venice-marketplace/14548485/2025-06-28T11

$5 COMMUNITY DOG TRAINING CLASSES!

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Ave Park 2200 Virgina Ave Santa Monica. People's Dog Training™, a Love At First Sit® host ongoing $5 ongoing Community Dog Training Classes on Saturdays at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. Class proceeds donated to charitable organizations that advocate for animals, and animal shelters and rescues. Sign-up at peoplesdogtraining.com/community-training. $5.00 —General $5.00. First Responders & Wildfire Victims FREE. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/-5-community-dog-training-classes-/11981844/2025-06-28T12

SUNDAY | JULY 20

THE WATERFRONT - SUNDAY REAL FUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Waterfront 205 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Enjoy a bottomless brunch buffet Sundays at The Waterfront! The Waterfront Venice is a full-service restaurant celebrating Californian cuisine with views of the Pacific Ocean. Situated between Rose and Navy on the famous Venice Beach Boardwalk, our food & beverage menus celebrate California with carefully selected seasonal produce from local farms. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-waterfront-sunday-real-funday-brunch-buffet/14894114/2025-07-20T11

To learn how to feature your upcoming event on the SMDP and various digital event calendars

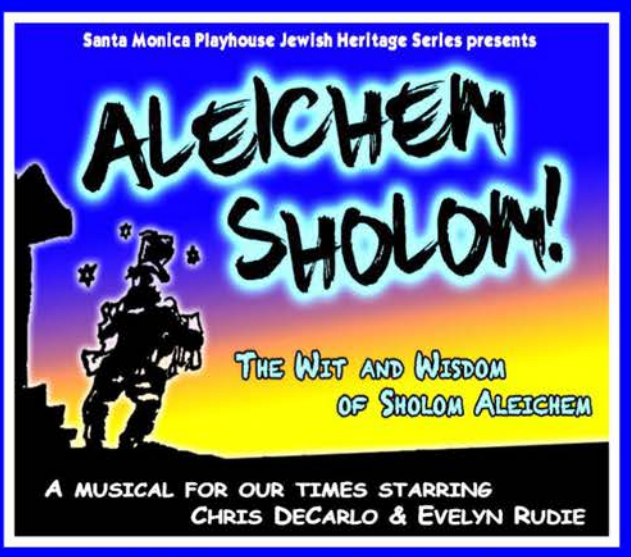
Contact dina@smdp.com today!

SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE: WHAT'S HAPPENING!



ALICE *and the* WONDERFUL TEA PARTY

"STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!"
LA Parent
Sat 2pm • Sun 12:30
July 13 - September 28
BIRTHDAY PARTIES, TOO!



ALEICHEM SHOLOM: THE WIT AND WISDOM OF SHOLOM ALEICHEM

Sat 7pm, Sun 3pm, Aug-Sept
"A BRILLIANT MUSICAL!"
broadwayworld.com
now in its 6th sell-out year!
starring Chris DeCarlo & Evelyn Rudie



KIKI YEUNG: CANTONESE MOM

"Kiki Yeung is A COMEDY ICON!" NBCLA
6 shows only before its Hong Kong International Comedy Festival Debut
Thurs 8pm, Sat 7pm, Sun 6pm
July 17 - 27



JEWISH FOR DINNER

A First-Look staged reading of Lou Borenstein's new play, based on his multi-award-winning short film "Jewish for Lunch"
Sunday, August 24 @ 7:30pm
Proceeds support the Save-the-Main-Stage Fund



SUMMER THEATRE CAMPS

Ages 4-6 • 7-11 • 11-16
"BEST IN LA!" LA Parent
Create and perform an original play!
Make new friends! Gain confidence!
Acting! Voice! Dance! Communication!
Leadership! Imagination Building!

SCAN HERE

for details, reservations and to make a donation to the Save the Main Stage Fund.
Currently, all our productions are presented in our second venue, THE OTHER SPACE.

HELP US SAVE THE MAIN STAGE!



A water damage disaster decimated our beautiful Main Stage - carpets, seats, walls, equipment, ceiling - all destroyed! The structural "bones" of the theatre are intact. But the space needs a total rebuild! Wonderful celebrities such as Paul Linke, Wendy Hammers and Eddie Frierson are contributing their artistry for benefit performances. But we need your help now! Please donate to our Save the Main Stage Campaign so we can once again entertain you, make you laugh, cry and think in the iconic Santa Monica Playhouse Main Stage.



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SANTAMONICAPLAYHOUSE.COM • 1.310-394.9779 • THEATRE@SANTAMONICAPLAYHOUSE.COM

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



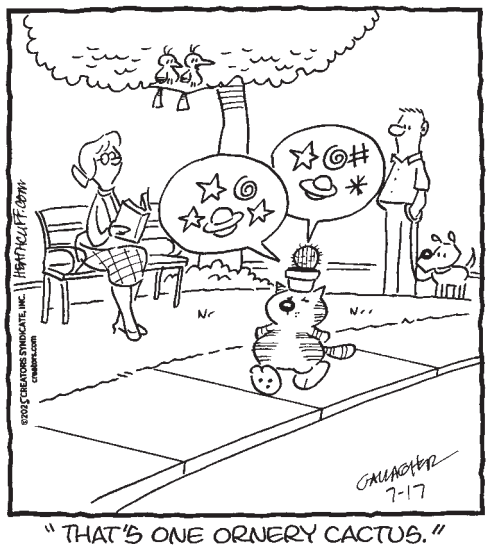
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THAT'S ONE ORNERY CACTUS."

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 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6639

Mountaineering

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

Agile
Alps
Andes
Axes
Base
Bivouac
Boots
Cairn
Cams
Careful
Challenge
Cold
Cool
Courage
Crevasses
Crimp
Down
Fluke
Gaps
Glacier
Goal
Haul
Heave
High
Inch
Leader
Lofty
Mountaineer
Peak
Posts
Reach
Reward
Ridge
Rock
Rope
Scale
Sleet
Slide
Snow
Solo
Sport
Steep
Summit
Traction
Trust

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 17)

Even your most amazing feats only expend half the energy they once required - why? You have help! You have love! You have a launch pad and a safety net! And you needn't pay a high price emotionally or otherwise, as you've already earned this. More highlights: Vibrant health, new routines and satisfying work that allows you to sock away money for renovations and travel. Leo and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 23, 14, 5 and 30.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even as the warrior, you're not always aggressive in your approach to the "fight." Today you'll notice subtle shifts in mood, tone and dynamics. You'll use what you learn to soften tension, include the excluded or ease someone's day.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Don't rush to fill every gap, close every loop or complete every sentence. Mystery thrives in pauses, and you deserve to experience a little awe. What doesn't happen today leaves space for something that couldn't exist otherwise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Real connections feel hypercharged. It's because you apply care to completing the circuit, showing up fully, no impedance, no resistance, open and receptive. You take a risk and ignite something interesting.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Today brings awareness of your influence and a chance to use it. There's power in your performance, but it's not always about that. Today it's more a matter of aligning your actions with the person you most respect being.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you stay too detached, you miss the intimacy, nuance and vulnerability that only happens when you're in the mix. You can't connect deeply or express something tender from a distance; it won't land. Connection needs proximity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Don't punish the version of you who said yes to life, who was warm and a little awkward as they reached out, hoping for connection. These are not mistakes; they are gestures of aliveness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Wouldn't it be nice to have intimacy without surveillance? Because you long to be known, but you don't necessarily want your behavior and character to be dissected. You deserve the kind of listening that doesn't always come with commentary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've spent enough time analyzing a system; now you're ready to tweak it. Whether it's your schedule, workspace or inner monologue, every small shift makes a difference. You control the design and therefore the results you claim will be uniquely yours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're more than your usefulness. You're a full person, and you need people around you who honor that. Your boundaries will be respected because you respect theirs, too. OK - maybe not at first. But eventually, you'll teach them how to treat you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Finishing something frees you. But so does deciding with finality that you won't do it - and allowing that decision to stand, without shame. Completion and release are equally valid forms of closure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll notice the outliers - the ideas that don't conform but seem true, the people who look uncomfortable in the group but very much belong to its success... when you see what others don't, act on it with intention.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Playing second fiddle is noble work - and the music gets richer with third and fourth fiddles, too. Friendship is part adventure, part discovery, part art. You prepare for connection because it matters. People feel valued around you - because they are.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

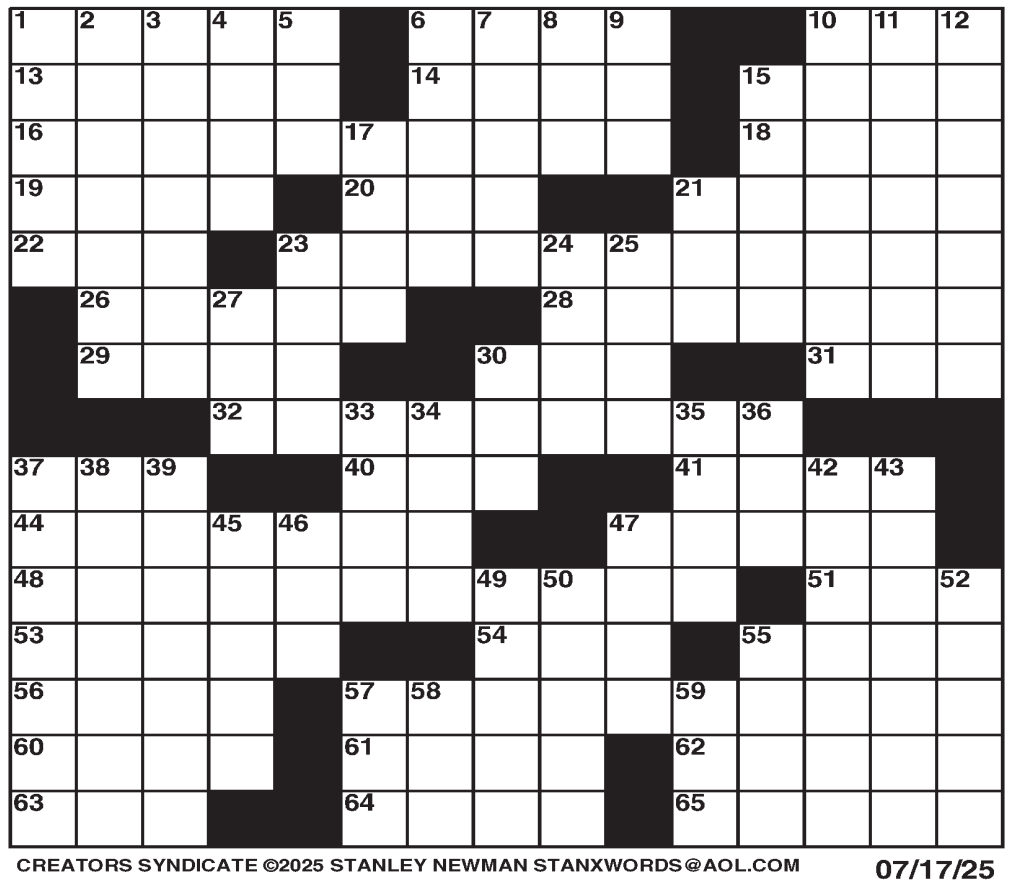
WORD WISE by Lin Josephson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Elbows, but not knees
6 Damsel
10 Most favored
13 Do something about
14 Spanish "she"
15 Move on a runway
16 Typical Stine tale
18 Up-front payment
19 "OK by me!"
20 Global lending org.
21 Raced downward
22 Indefinite no.
23 Tidy sum
26 Like a 16-Across
28 Rural outing
29 Oil holder
30 Swindler's creation
31 Aerosol sound
32 Tot's transport
37 Escalates
40 "Just what I hoped for!"
41 Frees (of)
44 Shared fairly
47 Fanatical
48 Shipper's estimate
51 "Premium" purchase
53 Granadan gal pal
54 Make known
55 By __ of (due to)
56 Dash dial
57 Pioneering aviator's nickname
60 Improve, as a draft
61 Laver contemporary
62 Perfumery bit
63 Unchangeable
64 Metaphorical jobs
65 Swiped

DOWN

1 So last year
2 Placed blame on
3 Golf official
4 Lacerated
5 Indefinite amount
6 "I can do this"
7 High up
8 35mm device
9 For example
10 They're pressed for lunch
11 Stretches out
12 Retro tees
15 Pickpocket, for instance
17 Thoroughbred datum
21 Infiltrator
23 Cotton fabric
24 Grand, for short
25 Chinese principle
27 Hamlet's difficulty
30 *Survivor* broadcaster
33 Storage unit
34 Four quarters
35 Author/anatomist
36 Chinese principle
37 Software revisions
38 Put together early
39 Ask for
42 Probe
43 Celebrity bane
45 Accurate
46 Director DuVernay
47 Nativity scene figure
49 "She" anagram of Cathy
50 Seaside barriers
52 Artistic expression
55 Daily fare
57 __-di-dah
58 NATO charter member
59 Sleeve fillers



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07/17/25

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

LUNCH

FROM PAGE 1

vulnerable students."

The district currently operates four Title I schools, which receive federal funding based on the number of students from low-income families. Without adequate application submissions, these schools risk losing their Title I status and the associated funding.

Dr. Shelton emphasized that all families must complete the applications regardless of their income level under California's Universal Meals Mandate, which guarantees "every student is eligible to receive one free breakfast and one free lunch each school day."

"We encourage all families to complete the free and reduced meal application by October 2nd 2025 regardless of income," Dr. Shelton said. "It does not matter what your income is — we need you to fill out those forms."

The financial stakes are particularly high given what Dr. Shelton described as federal challenges facing California schools. He warned of "an attack on school education right now specifically in California" from the federal government, with Title I, Title II, Title III, and Title IV funding programs all under scrutiny.

Beyond meal programs, the applications help schools qualify for additional support including after-school financial aid programs, parent engagement workshops, academic interventions, and teacher professional development opportunities.

Gerardo, the district's director of finance, explained that the wide range of potential funding loss also reflects uncertainty about adult education funding. The district receives funding from three different adult education programs, and it remains unclear which might be affected by federal changes.

"Once we find out which specific portion and block grant of the adult education funding we'll be able to share that with you and put it in your Friday memo and have an exact more approximate number of what's potentially at stake," Gerardo told the board.

Board members expressed surprise at learning the full implications of the lunch applications and said it was important for parents to understand the importance of completing the forms.

The universal meal program has inadvertently contributed to the problem. Dr. Shelton noted that application rates dropped after the program's implementation because families no longer felt compelled to complete paperwork for meals their children already received for free.

"Prior to this program, people fill out the forms automatically, but when we had the universal meal, people stopped, and it's understandable why they would stop when I don't need to," Dr. Shelton explained.

The superintendent stressed that maintaining Title I status is crucial for continuing programs designed to help students succeed. The four Title I schools depend on this federal funding to provide enhanced educational services and support systems.

"Right now we have four schools — we would like to keep that funding at those four schools and the way we do that is we all fill out the forms to ensure we're at that teetering number," Dr. Shelton said.

The district plans to share application return rates in weekly memos to track progress toward the October deadline. Board members requested copies of the application form to better understand the process and help promote participation among families.

Dr. Shelton assured the community that the universal meal program continues unchanged, and he committed to immediately notifying the board if any changes occur to the program.

The October 2 deadline represents a critical juncture for the district as it works to maintain federal funding streams while navigating an uncertain political landscape for education funding in California.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND ELIGIBILITY

Despite the universal meal program, the district still operates traditional free and reduced-price meal eligibility standards for federal reporting purposes. Students qualify for free meals if their household income falls at or below $20,345 annually for a family of one, scaling up to $70,395 for a family of eight. Reduced-price meals are available for households earning up to $28,953 for one person and $100,178 for eight people.

Families automatically qualify for free meals if any household member receives CalFresh, CalWORKs or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations benefits. Foster children, homeless students, migrant workers' children and runaway youth also qualify regardless of household income.

Applications are available online at http://www.myschoolapps.com or can be submitted to the Food & Nutrition Services office at 1717 4th St., Santa Monica. Current eligibility status from the 2024-25 school year will continue for up to 30 school days into the new academic year, but families are encouraged to submit new applications as soon as possible.

For assistance with applications, families can contact Food & Nutrition Services at 310-450-8338, ext. 70228. Parents who disagree with eligibility decisions can request a fair hearing by contacting Richard Marchini, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, at 310-450-8338, ext. 70-342.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

I'd say 90% of them are super nice now. Their houses burned down, too, so they have this whole new perspective. We've all just had to rethink what's important.

I know I've started putting myself out there more. Even though I am more comfortable sticking to my core group of friends, I've been hanging out with new people when they ask. I don't want to take anyone for granted.

While my friends and I don't always bring up the fires, when we do, we usually talk about memories from before. Like when we all went to the beach and had a bonfire, or this time on the bluffs when my friend Wesley was spinning Celia in circles trying to get her to fly but ended up just dragging her across the floor. That always used to make us laugh.

Now the memory has become even more precious. I let myself remember it when I returned to the bluffs with Celia in the summer, a time that the fire could never take away.

Lauren Ades is a rising 11th grader at Pacifica Christian High School in Santa Monica. She previously attended Palisades Charter High School. This commentary was adapted from an essay produced for Zócalo Public Square. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

CRIME

FROM PAGE 1

of the top 20 highest-risk locations. North Carolina followed with five, while Hawaii contributed four.

Massachusetts dominated the safest beach rankings, with Cape Cod National Seashore and Marconi Beach sharing the top spot at 0.95% theft risk. Florida placed six beaches in the top 10 safest locations.

The Action Network researchers analyzed ZIP-code-level crime statistics, focusing on four property crimes most relevant to beachgoers: theft of personal belongings, robbery, vehicle theft from parking areas and burglary in surrounding neighborhoods.

The team applied a weighted scoring model that prioritized theft at 40%, robbery at 30%, vehicle theft at 20% and burglary at 10%. Crime data came from CrimeGrade.org.

Santa Monica's crime profile on CrimeGrade supports the study's findings. The city receives a D- safety grade, ranking in the 11th percentile for safety nationwide. The overall crime rate reaches 46.91 per 1,000 residents annually.

Residents' chances of becoming crime victims vary by neighborhood — from 1 in 9 in southwest areas to 1 in 30 in the northwest. The western parts of the city experience about 892 crimes annually.

While third party research has emphasized the dangers of the city, official statistics show a more mixed approach.

Official Santa Monica Police Department statistics show serious Part I crimes decreased 2% in 2024 to 4,840 incidents, while Part II crimes increased 16% to 4,080 cases.

The department recorded increases in murders — from one to six cases — and burglaries, which rose 14% to 744 incidents. Auto thefts declined 16% to 479 cases, and robberies dropped 25% to 182 incidents.

Police Chief Ramon Batista identified homelessness as the most consistent factor in local law enforcement, with homeless suspects accounting for 70% of all arrests. The department responded to nearly 24,000 homeless-related calls, representing 19% of total service calls.

Local officials have previously acknowledged crime along the shoreline as a problem and the City Council asked staff to study curfews and limited overnight closures of the beach in April of this year in an effort to curtail nefarious overnight activity.

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