

- 2 **Paramount merger**
Halted by judge.
- 5 **Medical examiner**
Greater transparency.

- 6 **World Cup streams**
Taken down by government.
- 8 **School Budget**
Bracing for deficit.

Santa Monica ranks in top 3 highest value cities in the county

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica's assessed property value climbed to nearly \$55 billion this year, making it the third-highest valued city in Los Angeles County behind only Los Angeles and Long Beach, according to the 2026 Assessment Roll released by the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office.

SEE **VALUE** PAGE 11

Celebratory weekend ends with murder by the Pier

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A man was shot and killed early Monday in a parking lot near the Santa Monica Pier, police said, capping a weekend that drew the city's largest crowds in recent memory.

Santa Monica police officers responded at about 12:32 a.m. Monday to a report of a possible shooting in Parking Lot 1 North, located at 1550 Pacific Coast Highway. Officers arriving at the scene found an adult with

multiple gunshot wounds. Despite life-saving efforts, the victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

A preliminary investigation indicates a physical altercation broke out between two groups shortly before the shooting, police said. The circumstances leading up to the incident remain under investigation.

The victim's identity is being withheld pending notification of next of kin. No suspect information was available Monday, and the suspect or suspects remain outstanding. Santa Monica police

detectives are actively investigating.

Video from ABC7 showed officers investigating the scene in the early morning hours following the killing.

No further details about the incident had been released as of Monday morning.

The shooting came at the close of one of Santa Monica's busiest weekends in recent memory. The city hosted an open streets festival in downtown alongside large public watch parties for the World Cup final. Thousands of visitors flooded the downtown area ahead

of the match's noon kickoff, and while many crammed roadways trying to leave after the game, large crowds persisted through the rest of the day.

This remains an active and ongoing investigation. Anyone who witnessed the incident or has information is asked to contact the Santa Monica Police Department at 310-458-8491. Additional information will be released as it becomes available.

editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica ends the World Cup with COAST event



Matthew Hall

COAST: Santa Monica closed a section of Ocean Way over the weekend for the return of the COAST event as a celebration of the World Cup. The event included live music and multiple viewing parties for fans of the game.

Get your business
in front of the westside community!



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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074
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Summons

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) Case No. 25STCV27676. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: Gerald L. Davis, Old Republic National Title Insurance Company, DOES 1-20, and All Persons Unknown, Claiming Any Legal or Equitable Right, Title, Estate, Lien or Interest in the Property Described in the Complaint Adverse to Plaintiff's Title, or Any Cloud upon Plaintiff's Title Thereto. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: Gia Ventures LLC. 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 (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), 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. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. The name and address of the court is: Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 North Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney is: Steven J. Mirsky, Esq., Mirsky Corporate Advisors, APC, 901 Dove St., Ste. 120, Newport Beach, CA 92660, (949) 200-6837. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/07/2026, 07/14/2026, 07/21/2026, 07/28/2026

Petition to Admin Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF JOHN HENRY HORSEY Case No. 26STPB03715. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of John Henry Horsey or John H. Horsey: A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Maria Irene Mancini in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Maria Irene Mancini be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on August 4, 2026 at 8:32 AM in Dept. Probate 418 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles 90012, Stanley Mosk Courthouse. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: Vinh N. Doan SBN: 298718, 10971 Garden Grove Blvd., Ste G, Garden Grove, CA 92843, (888) 561-3988. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/16/2026, 07/23/2026, 07/30/2026

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026129031. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DATUM RESEARCH, 8605 SANTA MONICA BLVD #926231, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): DATUM RESEARCH LLC, 8605 SANTA MONICA BLVD. #926231, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069. 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 01/2023. 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/ EDWARD MICHAEL VON DER SCHMIDT, MEMBER. 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: 07/21/2026, 07/28/2026, 08/04/2026, 08/11/2026

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00323. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Santa Monica Courthouse, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Suzannah Leigh Weiss for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Suzannah Leigh Weiss filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Suzannah Leigh Weiss to Mary Magdalene. 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: 8/28/26, Time: 8:30, 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: July/14/26. Lawrence Cho. , Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/21/2026, 07/28/2026, 08/04/2026, 08/11/2026

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 2219A Main St Santa Monica, CA 90405

Judge says Paramount and Warner must halt merger for at least two weeks, granting states' request

A federal judge on Monday ordered Paramount and Warner Bros. Discovery to halt their \$81 billion merger for at least two weeks, allowing states that are challenging the deal more time to see their case through in court.

Twelve states, led by California, sued to block Paramount's pending buyout of Warner last week — alleging that such a combination would “extinguish competition” in Hollywood and lead to fewer choices for consumers, particularly moviegoers and cable customers across the U.S.

The states' top prosecutors called on Warner and Paramount to not close the transaction until after a court had time to “fully evaluate” their claims. And when the companies refused, they filed for a temporary restraining order — which is what District Judge Araceli Martínez-Olguín granted on Monday. That opens the door to a potential preliminary injunction that the states are also seeking to effectively block the deal.

“This is a critical first win in our case to ensure this megamerger never sees the light of day,” California Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a statement following Monday's order. “History tells the tale of what happens when a few people have great power over markets that are central to Americans' lives: fewer opportunities for more people, worse products and services for all people.”

A Warner-Paramount tie-up would bring together two of the five last legacy studios in Hollywood — as well as host of TV networks, titles filling streaming libraries and news operations. Warner's HBO Max, fan favorites like “Harry Potter” and even CNN would come under the same roof of Paramount-owned CBS, movies like “Top Gun” and the Paramount+ streaming service.

Paramount, which was bought out by Skydance just last year, has vowed to “vigorously defend” its Warner acquisition — and touts regulatory greenlights the deal has received elsewhere, including from the administration of President Donald Trump last month.

On Monday, Paramount said that the states' antitrust arguments “are without merit” or “any basis in modern market realities” — and maintained that its merger with Warner was pro-competitive and with benefits to consumers and workers alike. Timing for next steps also falls in line with the company's previous requests.

Deal is paused for at least two weeks

The temporary restraining order granted Monday halts the deal from progressing for at least 14 days, although the pause could be

extended for up to 28 days. The court has set Aug. 3 as a date for a hearing on the states' preliminary injunction motion, although that schedule could also be pushed back.

The clock is ticking. Ahead of Monday's decision, the companies proposed wrapping up a preliminary injunction hearing by the end of August, leaving time to make a possible appeal by Sept. 30 — a date on the top of Paramount's mind because it's pledged to pay shareholders added “ticking fee” compensation amounting to about \$7 million per day if the deal isn't closed by then.

But the states called such a timeline unprecedented and unfair. They maintain that money Paramount might have to incur after Sept. 30 was the risk of a decision the company made on its own — and argued in a hearing held Friday that commencing a trial in April 2027 would allow enough time to for discovery and presenting proper evidence.

Including billion of dollars in debt, Paramount's proposed purchase of Warner is currently valued at nearly \$111 billion based on outstanding shares.

WHAT THE STATES ARE CHALLENGING

Paramount has repeatedly pointed to tech and streaming companies' growing reach across the entertainment industry — and argues that merging with Warner would particularly help it compete with bigger rivals like Netflix. Last week, it said that the states' challenge would help shield Netflix and others “who have harmed the market for theatrical exhibition” from meaningful competition.

The states' case doesn't focus on streaming. It alleges that a combined Paramount-Warner merger violates federal antitrust law because of what the companies' combined reach would become across three markets: theatrical movie distribution, theater releases of bigger blockbusters, specifically, and the licensing of basic cable channels.

Per their complaint, a combined Paramount-Warner could control nearly a third of both the theatrical film distribution market as well as basic cable programming. The states argued this would create a “media behemoth” with enough power to both raise prices for consumers and threaten workers' wages, while reducing production and quality of content.

In terms of movie theater releases, Paramount's lawyers have also pointed to a growing list of blockbuster hits from studios

SEE **PARAMOUNT** PAGE 8

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EDITORIAL

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica's big match day ends in a draw

Santa Monica hosted its COAST open streets event last weekend alongside World Cup watch parties on the Third Street Promenade, and while the day produced some roaring goals, it also revealed the city has forgotten some basic lessons on how to run a match-day operation.

GOAL!

The Promenade was the star of the match. The watch party wasn't for everyone — it was packed under the midday sun — but for those who wanted the communal atmosphere of a supporters' section, it delivered. There were post-game activities for adults and kids alike, restaurants were full, and for the first time since the pandemic, the Promenade played like it's back to its pre-2020 form. The north end remains the weak link on the roster, still hobbled by its string of vacant storefronts, but overall it was a great day to be on Third Street.

RED CARD: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

The city's traffic plan was sent off in the first half. Thousands of fans tried to exit the city after the final whistle, and the city failed to account for the vehicle flow that gridlocked streets from Pico Boulevard to Wilshire Boulevard. It plays like there's no institutional memory of how to manage a match-day crowd. Major events that used to call the city home, like the Los Angeles Marathon and the old Thursday concert series, had this figured out.

Since no one at City Hall appears to have given the problem so much as a moment's thought, here's a set piece for next time: Close 2nd Street at Colorado Avenue and make traffic one-way heading north. Cars exiting the parking structure would turn right, then right again on Wilshire Boulevard, then right again onto Lincoln or 14th to those freeway on-ramps. Fourth Street should also be right-turn-only out of the parking structures, sending that traffic

to the Fourth Street freeway on-ramp. Splitting the pitch that way would keep an overwhelming number of vehicles from flooding the poorly designed intersection at Fourth Street and Olympic Boulevard.

YELLOW CARD: COAST

COAST earned a caution, not a red card. It played well for the drinking crowd and poorly for families with kids. Closing Ocean Avenue and giving the Promenade crowd overflow space was a smart tactical substitution, and the portions of COAST tied to the World Cup were genuinely fun.

The east side of Ocean Avenue had the better squad on the field, with a couple of music stages, large screens showing the match and the Michelob Ultra tent. Grab an Entertainment Zone beer — maybe one from the Stella Artois engraved-chalice booth outside Barneys — then head to the salsa stage, and you'd have had a great time.

But the park side of the street was benched. It offered a disappointing lineup of booths selling items that belong in a 2 a.m. infomercial on an off-brand cable channel. There was no community feel to it, and no strategic reason for it to look the way it did. That's the most frustrating part, because it would have been an easy pass into an open net to make it a celebration of sport following the World Cup: batting cages, penalty-kick shootouts, a putting green, an ultimate Frisbee course and, given the heat, a Santa Monica Fire Department misting station or splash pad.

The couple of sports options that were available just showed how much better a full roster would have been.

Coming after the lackluster performance at the Tongva Park event following the Fourth of July, the city needs to take a hard look at how it's drawing up these game plans. If Santa Monica wants a reputation for something more than an outdoor home shopping channel, it needs to substantially raise its level of play.



Surf report WATER TEMP: 72.7

TUESDAY
FAIR

SURF: 4-5ft
Chest to head

Fun mix of southerly swells continues with clean AM conditions, manageable PM onshores. SSW-SW swell from Elida will slowly ease, as some new Southern Hemi swell is filling in to help keep up surf heights: waist-shoulder-head high zone. Light/variable morning winds, go low-end moderate W over the afternoon.

WEDNESDAY
FAIR

SURF: 3-4ft+
Waist to shoulder

Fun zone surf continues as some new swell joins in. Morning winds staying light. SW Southern Hemi holds, old SSW tropical swell fades and a decent pulse of NW windswell joins in for improving shape at the beachbreaks. Widespread waves are waist-chest high, while best exposures/combo breaks go shoulder high. First signs of a fresh S tropical swell scheduled to show later afternoon. Light/variable winds in the morning, shift to a moderate WNW afternoon sea breeze.



Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. West southwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 76. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 68.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/07/21	Tue	03:41 AM	3.09	H
2026/07/21	Tue	08:47 AM	2.00	L
2026/07/21	Tue	4:07 PM	5.01	H
2026/07/21	Tue	11:50 PM	1.35	L
2026/07/22	Wed	05:56 AM	2.85	H
2026/07/22	Wed	09:37 AM	2.55	L
2026/07/22	Wed	5:03 PM	5.09	H
2026/07/23	Thu	01:00 AM	0.86	L
2026/07/23	Thu	08:06 AM	3.06	H
2026/07/23	Thu	10:55 AM	2.90	L
2026/07/23	Thu	5:56 PM	5.23	H
2026/07/24	Fri	01:50 AM	0.43	L
2026/07/24	Fri	08:58 AM	3.33	H
2026/07/24	Fri	12:08 PM	3.02	L



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>



Draw Date: 7/18
9 14 44 50 56
Power#: 3
Jackpot: 544 M



Draw Date: 7/19
12 13 21 27 28



Draw Date: 7/17
22 34 45 48 55
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 707 M



Draw Date: 7/19
EVENING: 4 4 0
Draw Date: 7/19
MIDDAY: 0 1 9



Draw Date: 7/18
2 3 10 27 37
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 39 M



Draw Date: 7/19
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:46.50

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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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NOTICE OF ELECTION AND
ARGUMENT AND REBUTTAL DEADLINES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Santa Monica on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, and setting the deadlines for submittal of arguments, and rebuttals in favor and in opposition of the following measure:

MEASURE “ “: Shall a measure imposing a City of Santa Monica collected parcel tax of \$495 per taxable parcel, adjusted annually for inflation, exempting qualifying seniors, affordable housing, non-profits, religious organizations, and schools, providing continual funding for Santa Monica’s public schools, including retaining teachers, assisting disadvantaged students, supporting art, music, science, math, and early childhood education, keeping school facilities clean and safe for student and community use, generating an estimated \$12,000,000 annually until repealed by voters, with oversight requirements, be adopted?	Yes No
MEASURE “ “: Shall the City Charter be amended to: affirm the City of Santa Monica’s just cause eviction laws; allow Rent Control Board Commissioners to serve up to three terms, including appointed service; annually increase the cap on rent controlled unit registration fees; clarify Rent Control Board authority to regulate timelines for deciding rent adjustment petitions; and permit eviction from affordable housing units for tenants who are not eligible or do not establish eligibility?	Yes No
MEASURE “ “: Shall the City Charter be amended to prohibit evictions based on nonpayment of rent when a tenant owes less than one month of the average of fair market rents, set annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, for ZIP codes in Santa Monica?	Yes No
MEASURE “ “: Shall the City Charter be amended to prohibit evictions when additional occupants move into a unit, subject to legal limits; prohibit evictions of lawful occupants who remain after a tenant vacates; extend existing eviction protections to tenants renting single-unit dwellings and condominiums; and require for owner occupancy evictions from non-rent controlled units, that the owner occupy the unit within 60 days after the tenant vacates and for at least 2 years thereafter?	Yes No

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 3, Division 9 of the Elections Code of the State of California, the legislative body of the City, or any member or members thereof authorized by the body, or any individual voter or bona fide association of citizens, or any combination of voters and associations, may file a written argument, not to exceed 300 words in length, accompanied by the printed name(s) and signature(s) of the author(s) submitting it, or if submitted on behalf of an organization, the name of the organization, and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers who is the author of the argument, for or against the City measures. No more than five signatures of authors shall be accepted with any argument submitted.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that, based upon the time reasonably necessary to prepare and print the arguments and Voter Information Guide for the election, the City Clerk has fixed **Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**, during normal office hours, as posted, as the date after which no arguments for or against the City measure(s) may be submitted to the Clerk for printing and distribution to the voters as provided in Article 4. Arguments shall be submitted to the City Clerk, accompanied by the printed name(s) and signatures(s) of the author(s) submitting it, or if submitted on behalf of an organization, the name of the organization, and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers who is the author of the argument, at City Hall, Santa Monica, California. Arguments may be changed or withdrawn until and including the date fixed by the City Clerk.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 11.04.125 rebuttal arguments not exceeding 250 words, as submitted by the authors of the opposing direct arguments, may be filed with the Clerk, and shall be signed by any one of the persons filing the original argument, any combination of the persons signing the original argument or by all of the persons filing the original argument. The rebuttal shall not be signed by any person who did not sign the original argument nor shall it contain more than five signatures. The deadline for filing rebuttals with the City Clerk may not be more than ten days after the final date for filing original arguments, the date being **Friday, August 7, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** (City offices are closed that Friday). An appointment with the City Clerk’s Office is required to file documents on that date. To schedule an appointment, candidates should contact the City Clerk’s Office at (310) 458-8211 or clerk@santamonica.gov.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 11.04.190, the City Clerk shall make any ordinance, impartial analysis, or direct arguments and rebuttals filed under the authority of the elections code available for public inspection in the City Clerk’s office for a period of ten calendar days immediately following the filing deadline of such materials. Any person seeking a writ of mandate or an injunction requiring any or all of the materials to be amended or deleted shall comply with the time requirements in Elections Code Sections 9295 and 13313 for filing such actions. Please call (310) 458-8211 for any additional information.

/s/Denise Anderson-Warren, Interim City Clerk



NOTICIA DE ELECCION Y FECHA SOBRE LA CUAL NO
SE PODRA PRESENTAR A LA SECRETARIA MUNICIPAL
NINGUN ARGUMENTO Y REFUTACION A FAVOR O EN
CONTRA DE PROPUESTAS MUNICIPALES

POR LA PRESENTE SE DA AVISO de que se habrá de llevar a cabo una Elección Municipal General en la Ciudad de Santa Monica el martes, 3 de noviembre de 2026, en la cual se les presentará a los votantes las siguientes propuestas y la fecha después de la cual no se podrá presentar ningún argumento y refutación a favor o en contra de las siguientes medidas:

MEDIDA “ “: ¿Deberá adoptarse una medida que imponga un impuesto sobre parcelas recaudado por la Ciudad de Santa Mónica de \$495 por parcela gravable, ajustado anualmente por inflación, eximiendo a personas mayores que califiquen, viviendas asequibles, organizaciones sin fines de lucro, organizaciones religiosas y escuelas, proporcionando financiamiento continuo para las escuelas públicas de Santa Mónica, incluyendo la retención de maestros, la asistencia a estudiantes en situación de desventaja, apoyando artes, música, ciencias, matemáticas y educación infantil temprana, manteniendo las instalaciones escolares limpias y seguras para el uso de los estudiantes y la comunidad, generando un estimado de \$12,000,000 anuales hasta que sea revocado por los votantes, y con requisitos de supervisión?	Sí No
MEDIDA “ “: ¿Deberá enmendarse la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad para: afirmar las leyes de desalojos por causa justificada de la Ciudad de Santa Mónica; permitir que los comisionados de la Junta de Control de Alquileres sirvan hasta tres términos, incluyendo el servicio por nombramiento; aumentar anualmente el límite de las tarifas de registro de las unidades bajo control de alquiler; aclarar la autoridad de la Junta de Control de Alquileres para regular los plazos para decidir sobre las solicitudes de ajuste de alquiler; y permitir el desalojo de unidades de vivienda asequible para inquilinos que no son elegibles o no demuestran su elegibilidad?	Sí No
MEDIDA “ “: ¿Deberá enmendarse la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad para prohibir los desalojos por falta de pago de la renta cuando un inquilino debe menos de un mes del promedio de las rentas de mercado justos, establecido anualmente por el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos, para los códigos postales en Santa Mónica?	Sí No
MEDIDA “ “: ¿Deberá enmendarse la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad para prohibir los desalojos cuando ocupantes adicionales se muden a una unidad, sujeto a los límites legales; prohibir los desalojos de ocupantes legales que permanezcan en la unidad después de que un inquilino se mude; extender las protecciones de desalojo existentes a los inquilinos que alquilan viviendas unifamiliares y condominios; y exigir en los desalojos por ocupación del propietario en unidades no controladas por alquiler, que el propietario ocupe la unidad dentro de los 60 días después de que el inquilino se mude y durante al menos 2 años después?	Sí No

ADEMAS SE NOTIFICA que en conformidad con el Artículo 4, Capítulo 3, División 9 del Código Electoral del Estado de California, el cuerpo legislativo de la Ciudad, o cualquier miembro o miembros del mismo autorizados por el cuerpo, o todo votante individual o asociación genuina de ciudadanos, o toda combinación de votantes y asociaciones, pueden presentar un argumento escrito, el cual no puede exceder las 300 palabras, acompañado por el nombre o nombres impresos, y firma(s) de el/los autores que lo presente, o si es presentado en el nombre de una organización, el nombre de la organización, y el nombre impreso y la firma de por lo menos uno de sus funcionarios principales, quien es el autor o autora del argumento a favor o en contra de la medida municipal. Se aceptará no más de cinco firmas de los autores por cada argumento presentado.

ADEMAS SE NOTIFICA que, basada en el tiempo razonablemente necesario para preparar e imprimir los argumentos y boletas electorales de muestra para la elección, la Secretaría Municipal ha fijado el martes, **28 de julio de 2026, a las 5:00 p.m.**, durante el horario normal de trabajo, según ha sido anunciado, como la fecha después de la cual no se podrá presentar a la Secretaría Municipal ningún argumento a favor o en contra de la medida municipal para su impresión y distribución a los votantes según lo dispuesto en artículo 4. Los argumentos deberán ser presentados a la Secretaría Municipal, acompañados por el nombre o nombres impresos y firmas de los autores que los presenten, o si son presentados en el nombre de una organización, el nombre de la organización, y el nombre impreso y la firma de por lo menos uno de sus funcionarios principales, quien es el autor del argumento, en el Ayuntamiento en Santa Monica, California. Los argumentos pueden ser cambiados o retirados hasta e incluyendo la fecha fijada por la Secretaría Municipal.

ADEMAS SE NOTIFICA que basado en Sección 11.04.125 del Código Municipal de Santa Monica, argumentos de refutación, como presentado por los autores en directa oposición del argumento, los cuales no pueden exceder 250 palabras, pueden ser presentados a la Secretaría Municipal, acompañados por los nombres impresos y firmas de uno de los autores del argumento principal, o con cualquier combinación de firmas de los autores que presentaron el argumento principal, o con todos los autores que firmaron el argumento principal. El argumento de refutación no será firmado por ninguna persona que no firmó el argumento principal, ni deberá contener mas de cinco firmas. La refutación tendrá que ser presentado a la Secretaría Municipal no más de 10 días después de la fecha fijada para presentar los argumentos principales, la fecha siendo el **viernes, 7 de agosto de 2026, a las 5:00 p.m.** (Las oficinas de la ciudad estarán cerradas ese viernes). Se requiere una cita con la oficina de la Secretaría Municipal para presentar documentos en esa fecha. Para programar una cita, los candidatos deben comunicarse con la oficina de la Secretaría Municipal al (310) 458-8211 o clerk@santamonica.gov.

ADEMAS SE NOTIFICA que basado en Sección 11.04.190 del Código Municipal de Santa Monica, la Secretaría Municipal hará que toda ordenanza, análisis imparcial, o argumento directo y refutación que sea presentado bajo la autoridad del Código de Elecciones estará a la disposición del público para que lo examine en la oficina de la Secretaría Municipal por un periodo de 10 días calendario inmediatamente después de la fecha límite para los documentos. Cualquier persona que quiera obtener un mandato judicial ordenando que haya cambios o redacte texto a cualquier documento aquí nombrado, deberá de cumplir con los requisitos de las secciones 9295 y 13313 del Código Estatal de Elecciones. Para información adicional, por favor llame (310) 458-8211.

/s/Denise Anderson-Warren, Secretaria Municipal Interino

Los Angeles medical examiner pushes for greater transparency in high-profile deaths

Autopsy reports rarely come with barbed comments. So eyebrows rose when the autopsy results of 14-year-old Celeste Rivas Hernandez were released with a statement from the Los Angeles County chief medical examiner saying it was “unfathomable” her grieving parents had to wait months to learn how their daughter died.

The autopsy performed on the dismembered body found in a Tesla in the Hollywood Hills had been sealed by a court order in the investigation that led to murder charges for singer D4vd. Dr. Odey Ukpo’s comment with the report was his most pointed effort yet to emphasize his office’s independence from police and prosecutors, as well as his desire to make as much death information public as soon as possible.

D4vd, who has pleaded not guilty, this week faces a crucial preliminary hearing to determine whether there is enough evidence for a trial. Ukpo’s agency, which determined Rivas Hernandez died from stab wounds, plays a major role, as it has in other prominent cases, including following the death of “Friends” star Matthew Perry and the killings of director Rob Reiner and his wife, photographer Michele Singer Reiner.

Ukpo, 46, sat for a recent interview with The Associated Press in the building where he performed autopsies for nearly a decade before getting the head role in 2023. He has always welcomed the celebrity cases that Los Angeles brings, saying the scrutiny they receive and the likelihood of misinformation spreading are strong incentives to do careful, irrefutable work. And they provide an opportunity to show what his office does and what kind of dangers the community may face.

“I should be able to anticipate the strongest arguments or the most interesting questions by the work that I’ve done,” he said. “If I haven’t, then something’s missing.”

“Life is complicated, but death is simple,” Ukpo said.

THE MEDICAL EXAMINER PUSHES BACK ON POLICE SECRECY

Ukpo doesn’t believe sealing autopsy reports helps police investigations, including in the killing of Celeste.

“That goes completely against our mission,” he said. “It’s so important for us to release the information that she did not die from something natural, she did not die from drugs, she was stabbed. And then we start to look back at what made her vulnerable to be in that situation.”

A court-ordered security hold still seals the Reiner autopsies. Authorities said immediately after their deaths that they had been stabbed by their son, who has pleaded not guilty, but little information has followed. Ukpo said he would discuss the findings — if he was allowed.

“The Reiners’ case is one that’s straightforward,” he said. “It’s unclear to me what sort of information we have that would ruin the case.”

Sometimes there is no good reason for secrecy, he said.

“People say: ‘Why would they get the information out there? Because then the case is just going to go awry.’ But awry? How? What information?” he said, adding: “The killer knows what they did.”

The LA County Sheriff’s Department said in a statement that security holds “are rarely requested and are carefully reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether temporarily withholding the autopsy report is necessary to preserve sensitive investigative information.” It said the reports can contain details “that only the person responsible would know,” meaning detectives can use that knowledge to assess the credibility of witness statements and uncover false confessions.

The Los Angeles Police Department, which handled the D4vd and Reiner cases, did not respond to a request for comment, and the district attorney’s office declined comment.

A CHANGE TO HIS TITLE UNDERSCORES UKPO’S INDEPENDENCE

Ukpo was appointed chief medical examiner-coroner in 2023, becoming the agency’s first Black leader since it was founded in 1850. His staff responds to about 13,000 sudden, unexpected and premature deaths per year.

The “coroner” part of his title was dropped soon after his appointment and Ukpo supported that change, saying a coroner is usually an elected official — often also the county sheriff — but not a doctor.

“Coroner’ just kind of confused our purpose and suggested that we were within a law enforcement agency,” Ukpo said. “It’s so important to establish our independence.”

Andrew Bernstein, a longtime New York criminal defense attorney who is not involved in any of Ukpo’s cases, said “buddy-buddy” relationships can easily develop between medical examiners and law enforcement.

“They’re dealing with the cops all the time,” he said. “They’re using the same language.”

That relationship can hurt a prosecutor’s case, he said, because “jurors pick up on that all the time” and may perceive a testifying medical examiner as biased.

But, Bernstein said, “you don’t want so much independence” that the medical examiner makes decisions regardless of the wants and needs of police and prosecutors.

“You don’t want a rock star chief medical examiner,” he said.

HOW HE DECIDED TO MAKE AUTOPSIES HIS LIFE’S WORK

At age 6, Ukpo — who grew up in Anaheim not far from Disneyland — had wanted to be a homicide detective.

But when he met his family physician, he “thought it was really cool how he would work with his hands, do dirty work, work with blood” but “could be very professional in his office, in a suit, in a tie.”

“There you go, that’s the formula for a forensic pathologist,” he said.

Very few medical students want to make autopsies their life’s work. He said with a laugh that declaring his intentions “made for interesting medical school interviews.”

His education included stints at Loyola University in Chicago, at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and with the medical examiner in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

CELEBRITY AUTOPSIES HOLD MEANING

SEE EXAMINER PAGE 7

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica got it right. Venice should take notes.

As I write, it is happening. Preparations are in full swing along Ocean Avenue, and they look terrific. Barriers are going up to keep cars out rather than people, stages are being set, and by Sunday morning Santa Monica will have done something that ought to be ordinary and has somehow become remarkable. On July 19, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., the city is throwing open more than a mile of downtown and the pier for the World Cup final, free, and inviting everyone in. COAST 2026 is livestreaming the match on public screens at noon, run four stages of live music, activate Palisades Park and the Third Street Promenade, and point people toward the Big Blue Bus, the Metro E Line, and free bike valets instead of a parking windfall. No eight-foot fence. No gate. No wristband between a resident and the ocean they already own. Congratulations are in order, and they are sincere.

I write as a former Santa Monica resident who now lives and serves in Venice, and the contrast this month has been hard to miss. Just days before Santa Monica opened its streets, a private organizer fenced off a stretch of Venice Beach for a FIFA Fan Zone, walled the sand behind blacked-out mesh, and, by many residents’ accounts, offered no free public access at all. That event is now under investigation by our Land Use and Planning Committee, so the findings are preliminary. The philosophy behind it, though, needs no investigation to read.

Two cities, with seemingly opposite instincts: one is treating its public space

as a commons to be shared on the biggest sports day of the year. The other treated it as inventory to be rented, screened off, and monetized. Santa Monica is betting that a beach town is at its best when it is generous. Venice, at least this once, bet the other way.

Consider what the opposite looked like in Venice from July 10 to 12. A private organizer enclosed a stretch of public beach behind an eight-foot blacked-out fence for three days, and the sand simply disappeared behind it. The temporary exclusion appears to have been justified to the Coastal Commission on the premise that at least part of the event would be free, an unusual accommodation for a beach that belongs to everyone, and one the fenced-off, inaccessible viewing area suggests was not honored. Just as telling was the silence. Recreation and Parks, the department charged with protecting these grounds, said little as a public park was walled off and monetized. A commons does not turn private on its own. Someone grants the permit, and someone looks away.

Venice has got to learn from this. Our beach, our boardwalk, and our culture of open access are the whole reason people want to come in the first place. The lesson unfolding up the coast right now is simple. When the public shows up for a public place, the answer is to open the gate, not build one.

By Jalal Awan, Member, Land Use and Planning Committee, Venice Neighborhood Council

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COMMUNITY NEWS

National

Justice Department Seizes Over 1,000 Domains Used to Illegally Stream World Cup Matches

The Justice Department announced Monday that federal authorities have seized more than 1,000 internet domains used to illegally stream FIFA World Cup 2026 matches, capping a monthslong crackdown on unauthorized broadcasts of the tournament.

The seizures came in three separate waves over the course of the World Cup, including nearly 400 domains taken down by the end of June, officials said. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Homeland Security Investigations Washington Field Office and the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center led the investigation.

Assistant Attorney General A. Tysen Duva of the Justice Department’s Criminal Division said the seizures reflect the administration’s commitment to protecting intellectual property rights during the tournament.

“Operation Offsides is part of the department’s ongoing effort to protect copyright while reducing the risk to American consumers from the malicious software embedded in many illicit streaming services,” Duva said in a statement.

Ivan J. Arvelo, director of the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center, said the illegal broadcasts not only violate copyright law but also generate revenue for criminal organizations. He said the operation, run with law enforcement and private-sector partners, disrupted hundreds of domains distributing pirated content.

Matthew Millhollin, deputy executive associate director at HSI, warned that illicit streaming sites can expose users’ devices to security risks. Operators willing to break copyright law may also be willing to install malware or steal payment information, he said, urging fans to use official streaming services.

According to an affidavit filed in support of a seizure warrant in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, the domains were used to stream copyrighted World Cup matches in real time as they aired. HSI agents confirmed the domains were actively broadcasting unauthorized streams before seeking seizure authority.

The domains were identified with help from FIFA, the tournament’s rights holder, along with beIN Media Group, NBC Universal, the Motion Picture Association’s Alliance for Creativity and Entertainment, the Ultimate Fighting Championship and Warner Bros., according to the department.

The World Cup was hosted across cities in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

INTERNATIONAL OPERATION

a two-day meeting in Bogotá, Colombia, on July 1 and 2 involving Colombia’s Attorney General’s Cybercrime Unit, its Specialized Directorate Against Organized Crime, and HSI attaché offices.

The coordinated actions blocked hundreds of illegal streaming sites across the region: 14 in Argentina, 223 in Ecuador, 28 in Peru, 309 in Brazil, 256 in the Dominican Republic and 1,140 in Colombia, officials said.

Colombian authorities also conducted 13 nationwide search-and-seizure operations targeting counterfeit sports apparel, resulting in 11 arrests and convictions.

The Colombia operations unfolded in two phases — the first on June 17 targeting counterfeit apparel, and a second launched July 10 with simultaneous raids in Bogotá, Soacha, Maríalabaja, Manatí and Sincerín. During the second phase, an ICHIP-mentored prosecutorial team from Colombia’s Attorney General’s Office arrested four members of a cybercriminal group known as Los Ciberinfiltrados. Authorities said the group had illegally accessed telecommunications systems since 2024 and sold pirated streaming content, including World Cup matches, using fraudulent credentials, VPNs, intercepted security codes and manipulated corporate accounts.

ICHIP’s Bucharest office also worked with Europol and European counterparts to combat illegal streaming during the tournament.

ABOUT OPERATION OFFSIDES

Operation Offsides is part of the department’s ongoing effort to protect copyright while reducing the risk to American consumers from the malicious software embedded in many illicit streaming services

- A. Tysen Duva, Assistant Attorney General

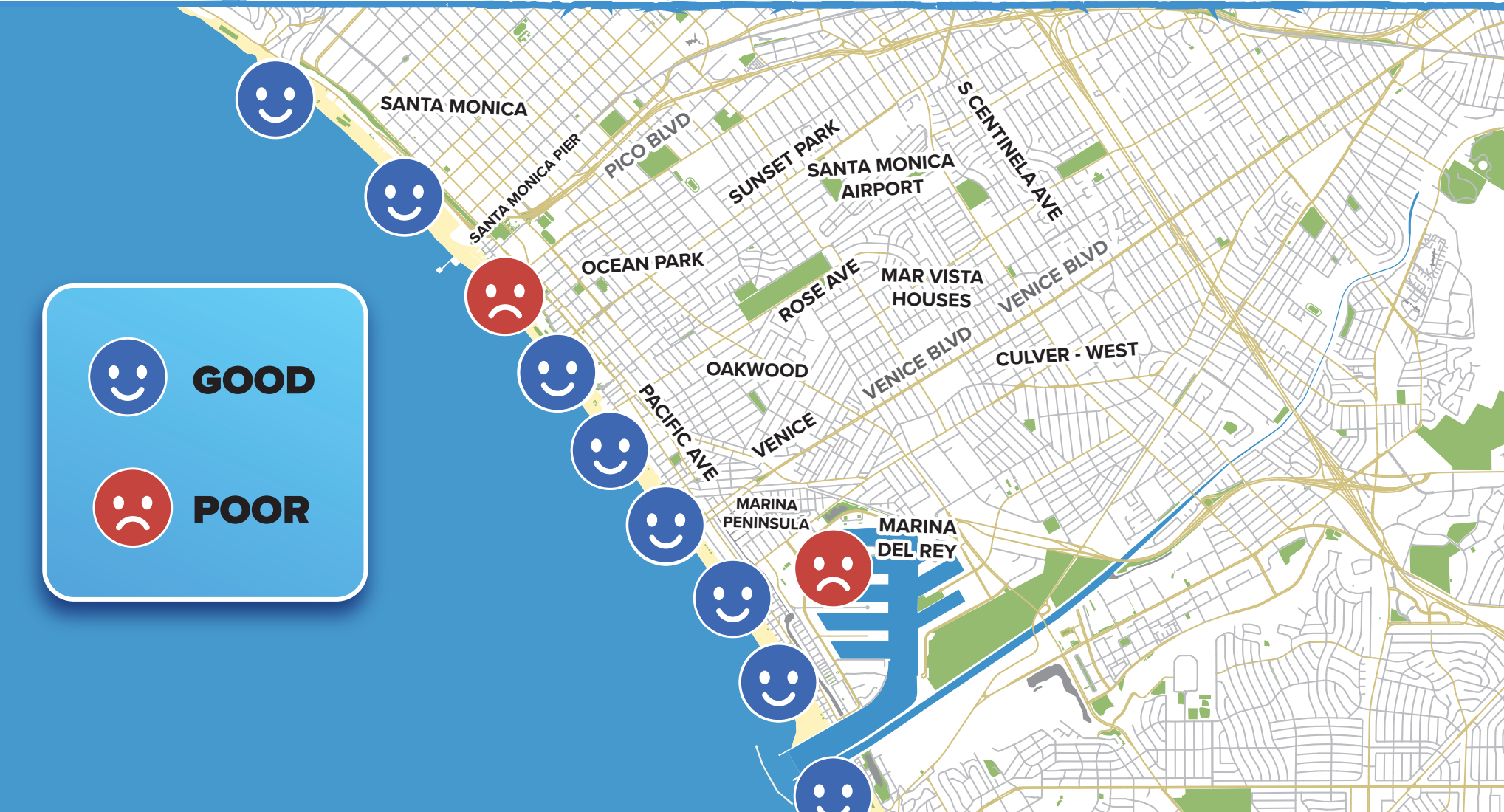
Operation Offsides is led by the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center and targets digital piracy tied to the World Cup. It involves HSI’s Washington, D.C., office, HSI attaché offices worldwide, and law enforcement and private-sector partners.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jacob Mercer of the Eastern District of Virginia is handling the case, along with Senior Counsel Brian Mund, Assistant Deputy Chief Adrienne Rose and Acting Deputy Chief Christopher Merriam of the Criminal Division’s Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section.

That section has secured convictions of more than 180 cybercriminals and IP criminals since 2020, along with court orders for the return of more than \$350 million in victim funds, the department said.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

HEAL THE BAY BEACH GRADES



editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026133838. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CAYTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, GROW WILD, 395 SANTA MONICA PLACE #374, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): SHAREWELL, a Corporation, 395 SANTA MONICA PLACE #374, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/2019. 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/ THOMAS SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/18/2026. 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: 06/30/2026, 07/07/2026, 07/14/2026, 07/21/2026

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026148440. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: RHYME & REASON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, 13353 ALONDRA BLVD STE 200M, SANTA FE SPRINGS, CA 90670, County of Los Angeles. AI #ON 201933810738. Registered Owner(s): MORGAN LATIMER LLC, 13353 ALONDRA BLVD STE 200M, SANTA FE SPRINGS, CA 90670. 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 07/2026. 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/ SHANNON MAYS, MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/08/2026. 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: 07/21/2026, 07/28/2026, 08/04/2026, 08/11/2026

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026152182. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: COBBLESTONE GRAND TOURS, 109 BELMONT AVE, LONG BEACH, CA 90803, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): LINETTE MICHELLE SOWA, 109 BELMONT AVE, LONG BEACH, CA 90803. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/2026. 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/ LINETTE MICHELLE SOWA, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/13/2026. 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: 07/21/2026, 07/28/2026, 08/04/2026, 08/11/2026

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SMMUSD adopts 2026-27 budget, braces for deficit spending

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education has adopted a 2026-2027 budget in which spending is projected to outpace revenue, approving a plan district leaders say protects classroom programs while preserving long-term financial stability.

The board approved the budget on a 6-0 vote, with one member absent, during its June 23 regular meeting. The spending plan calls for about \$226.2 million in total revenues and \$237.9 million in total expenditures across the district’s unrestricted and restricted funds.

Officials said the budget was developed over months of planning and analysis and aligns the district’s resources with its priorities, including academic achievement, special education, maintenance of facilities and operational excellence. They said the gap between revenues and expenditures was anticipated and accounted for in a multiyear financial strategy.

“The adoption of this budget reflects months of careful planning, analysis and collaboration,” said Gerardo Cruz, the district’s assistant superintendent of business services and chief financial officer. “Our focus remains on maintaining fiscal solvency while continuing to support high-quality educational programs and services for students. While expenditures are projected to exceed revenues during the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the District has planned for this through its multiyear financial strategy and will continue monitoring expenditures, reviewing revenue projections and identifying efficiencies to maintain long-term fiscal sustainability and reduce deficit spending.”

The budget includes about \$142.4 million in Local Control Funding Formula revenue. The district’s finances are also supported by

local property taxes, Measure R parcel tax revenue, joint use agreements, community partnerships and other local funding sources that officials said continue to strengthen educational opportunities for students throughout Santa Monica and Malibu.

Total instructional spending is projected at about \$169.7 million, covering classroom instruction, educational services, special education, school site operations and student support programs.

The district projects enrollment of about 8,548 students in 2026-2027. The budget was built using state and local funding assumptions, including a 4.31% cost-of-living adjustment and continued support through local revenue sources and community partnerships.

As part of its long-term planning, the adopted budget maintains the state-required reserve for economic uncertainties and sets aside additional board-designated reserves intended to support future financial obligations and preserve stability during changing economic conditions.

District staff noted that schools across California, including Santa Monica-Malibu, continue to face financial pressure from rising operational costs, growing employee health and welfare expenses and the expiration of pandemic-era funding sources.

Despite the projected deficit spending, the district said the adopted budget demonstrates it is on track to meet its financial obligations for the current fiscal year and the following two fiscal years. District leaders characterized the plan as evidence of a continued commitment to fiscal responsibility, transparency and strategic financial planning.

The adopted budget will be submitted to the Los Angeles County Office of Education in accordance with California law.

maaz@smdp.com

PARAMOUNT

FROM PAGE 2

that are not in Hollywood’s “big five,” such as A24 and Amazon’s MGM. The states maintain that the core legacy studios — which beyond Warner and Paramount, include Disney, Universal and Sony — still make up the vast majority of the market.

How a court will evaluate Paramounts’ arguments versus the states’ claims has yet to be seen. But the legal fight marks a major roadblock in Paramount’s quest to close its deal with Warner. And drawn-out proceedings could be costly and at the very least delay the transaction further.

Beyond California, states joining Monday’s lawsuit include Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Washington.

OTHER REGULATORY CLEARANCES

Outside of the U.S., Paramount has touted greenlights from regulators in countries like China, Canada and Australia. But regulatory reviews are also ongoing in the European Union and the U.K., which has separately suggested it may intervene.

Meanwhile, the Writers Guild of America has filed its own lawsuit seeking to block the merger. And Paramount faces additional legal

fight, including from a shareholder accusing CEO David Ellison and his father Larry Ellison (who is putting up tens of billions of dollars to back the deal for his son’s company) of promising “illegal, private benefits” to Trump in order to get the merger through.

Paramount has repeatedly dismissed such accusations, and the U.S. Justice Department maintained its review was not political.

Still, politics have come into question throughout Paramount’s quest for Warner. Beyond Trump’s relationship with the Ellison family, critics of the deal also stress what new ownership could mean for Warner assets like CNN — a network that has long attracted ire from the Republican president — particularly in light of editorial turmoil at Paramount-owned CBS since Skydance’s takeover.

The contrast between the 12 states’ complaint, brought forth by all Democratic attorneys general, and the federal government’s blessing only underlines all of that further.

“It’s a political merger. It’s the product of the president’s engagement in private business affairs,” New York Attorney General Letitia James said on a webinar about the states’ case last week. She maintained the states had been successful in challenging the Trump administration before and “we’re not finished yet.”

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS AP Business Writer

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

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Important meeting

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OEMEAPRRLRIUDBO
ICEDTRUGIMMTPIH
TUNLROOUGSACUNS
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IIMVLYDKAOFRORR
CVEAEOAESRDITLEO
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PLBYLAWSABSENCE
AGAINSTOPICWDKS
OSDNAHISTORYEIT
ISSUECOSTURGENE

Absence	Dues	Past
Adjourn	Executive	Plan
Against	Flip chart	Proxy
Agile	Follow up	Purpose
Amendment	Framing	Risk
Appreciations	Gavel	Roles
Argue	Hands	Secretary
Bylaws	History	Structure
Check-in	Ideas	Topic
Cost	Issue	Urge
Data	News	Webinar
Debate	Norms	Workshops

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Take them to the Op Shop

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 21)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The path ahead is obscured by a haze of uncertainty. As it goes with foggy conditions, the safest way is to let go of your own time frame and go with the larger one in play. Pause and wait for the weather to change, as it always does.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Today is less about whether you get the prize and more about what the pursuit reveals about you. Your goals say something about what matters to you, but what's even more telling is how hard you go after them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No two people live in the exact same reality. Even twins can have vastly different interpretations of the world. You'll encounter a perspective very different from yours. Another person's worldview becomes a window into experiences you've never had.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The good parts of a job don't seem to make the bad parts worthwhile, but don't worry. The balance is about to shift. Someday you'll look back at this with affection. Hard-earned rewards have a way of redeeming the struggle.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're always looking for the goodness in people, and they'll show it to you time and again today. It's nice to know you're not the only one looking out for the ones who need it. When compassionate people join forces, problems get solved.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). With all that's going on in the world, you may wonder if "collective healing" is really possible, but you don't have to believe in it to know that one person's choices can improve what's around them. You're that one person today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're often the person who figures things out, keeps going, adapts and solves problems. It's a pattern that runs through multiple areas of your life. Today, you'll be reminded of this foundational force of your identity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). While many are comfortable broadcasting every thought these days, that's not your style. You're feeling even more protective of your privacy than usual. Ironically, the less you reveal, the more curious people become about what you're up to.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Someone will try to sell you a shortcut, an upgrade or a miracle solution. Maybe it's legitimate, maybe not. Either way, today rewards the proven approach. Stick with what works. Vinegar. Baking soda. Exercise. Sunshine. You know the drill.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Some people are so focused on their own immediate needs that they don't notice the demands they're placing on others. This is a good time to strengthen your boundaries and protect your attention from other people's priorities. Your productivity depends on it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Achievement will depend on the success of three missions. First, a quest for understanding. Second, the pursuit of greater understanding. Third, a relentless drive toward deeper, wider and more comprehensive understanding. You'll notice a theme.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Tell people what you think is going to happen. Later, when it happens, you'll be glad there's a record that you saw it coming. It will be a thrill to see your private intuition become an observable reality.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

T	T	O	R		S	L	E	D		P	L	A	N		
S	T	O	V	E		P	I	P	E		R	O	L	E	
P	A	G	E	D		O	M	I	T		I	N	I	T	
	H	O	R	S	E	R	A	C	E		Z	E	E	S	
				E	A	T				S	T	E	R	N	
C	O	P	C	A	R		O	U	T	O	F				
U	H	O	H		S	L	A	P		T	I	T	L	E	
R	I	L	E	S		U	S	O		E	G	R	E	T	
B	O	O	S	T		R	I	N	D		H	U	E	S	
			S	A	C	K	S		A	R	T	E	R	Y	
	M	A	M	B	O			I	R	A					
F	E	M	A			T	R	A	C	K	M	E	E	T	
E	D	I	T			T	A	C	O		M	A	X	E	S
D	I	S	C			O	V	E	N		E	V	E	N	T
S	A	S	H			N	E	S	S		D	E	S	K	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	9	1	4	6	5	8	3	7
7	5	8	1	2	3	4	9	6
3	6	4	7	9	8	5	2	1
8	1	2	5	7	4	3	6	9
4	3	9	6	8	1	2	7	5
6	7	5	9	3	2	1	4	8
9	8	3	2	1	6	7	5	4
1	4	6	3	5	7	9	8	2
5	2	7	8	4	9	6	1	3

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Theater platform
- 6 16-oz. measures
- 9 Joke around
- 13 Grannies
- 14 Voice of iPads
- 15 Woodwind instrument
- 16 House's upper storage area
- 17 Messy stack
- 18 Donut's center
- 19 What spaghetti is made with
- 21 Midday
- 22 Peach's center
- 23 Pig's complaints
- 25 Evaluates, with "out"
- 29 With a beach-surface hue
- 31 Highly elegant
- 32 Eve's eldest
- 34 Eight-person band
- 38 Draw with crayons
- 40 Crunchy sandwich, for short
- 41 Insect in a cocoon
- 42 Single-handedly
- 43 Music staff symbol
- 45 Play hide-and-__
- 46 Really small
- 48 Stick (to)
- 50 Tale from Aesop
- 52 Furious feeling
- 53 Strauss of jeans
- 54 Shoes worn by Elvis
- 61 Spoken exam
- 62 Make simpler
- 63 In unison
- 64 Pretrial court

payment

- 65 Thin-boned
- 66 Traditional Native American tent
- 67 Two letters in "hello"
- 68 Small child
- 69 Letters before tees

DOWN

- 1 Ginger cookie
- 2 "Bye-bye!"
- 3 Pantry pests
- 4 Manner of walking
- 5 Make a getaway
- 6 In __ of (replacing)
- 7 Be boastful
- 8 Fluid transfer tube
- 9 "A Boy Named Sue" singer

10 Paperless novel

- 11 Songs for a single person
- 12 Typical high-schooler
- 14 Took a photo of
- 20 The "D" in CD
- 24 Much-admired person
- 25 Pet shelter org.
- 26 Slightly chilly
- 27 Norway's capital
- 28 Monthly payments for calling and texting
- 29 Nonsensical
- 30 Initial poker payment
- 33 First lessons in reading
- 35 Pine or oak
- 36 "...lived happily __

after"

- 37 Walk off with
- 39 Fishing pole spool
- 44 Cost to ride a bus
- 47 Most recent
- 49 Candidates' discussion
- 50 Untamed, as cats
- 51 To no __ (fruitless)
- 52 Line on a list
- 53 Place for an earring
- 55 Angelic circle
- 56 "What time __?"
- 57 Draws upon
- 58 Police officers, informally
- 59 Leg joint
- 60 Glances at

1	2	3	4	5			6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14					15			
16						17					18			
19					20						21			
				22					23	24				
25	26	27	28				29	30						
31					32	33				34		35	36	37
38				39		40				41				
42						43			44		45			
			46		47				48	49				
	50	51						52						
53					54	55	56				57	58	59	60
61					62					63				
64					65					66				
67					68					69				

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07/21/26

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

VALUE

FROM PAGE 1

The city's total assessed valuation reached \$54.96 billion in 2026, up from \$52.93 billion the previous year — a 3.8% increase, or about \$2.03 billion, according to figures released by Assessor Jeff Prang's office. Santa Monica trailed only Los Angeles, which posted \$926.1 billion in assessed value, and Long Beach, at \$84.5 billion.

Santa Monica's growth came in below the countywide average, as the 2026 Assessment Roll for all of Los Angeles County reached a record \$2.272 trillion in total net taxable value, a 4.42% increase, or \$96 billion, over the prior year. The increase marks the 16th consecutive year of growth for the county's property tax base.

By comparison, Malibu — another Westside coastal city grappling with recovery from the January 2025 wildfires that devastated the Pacific Palisades and Altadena areas — saw its assessed value grow 3.5% to \$25.63 billion, an increase of about \$871 million over 2025.

"Despite one of the most challenging years in recent memory, marked by the ongoing response to the devastating wildfires that swept through the Pacific Palisades and Altadena communities and a cooling real estate market," the Assessor's office said, the countywide roll still posted its 16th straight year of expansion.

"When I presented the forecast to the Board of Supervisors in May, I emphasized 2025-2026 was a challenging year, and the impact of January's devastating wildfires will be felt for years to come," Prang said in a statement. "Even so, Los Angeles County's economy continues to demonstrate remarkable resilience. Not only did we maintain value growth, we exceeded our May forecast of 3.9%, finishing the year at 4.42%."

The countywide increase is projected to generate more than \$27 billion in property tax revenue to fund public education, public safety, healthcare, libraries, parks and other local government services across the county, according to the Assessor's office.

Property transfers — meaning sales and other changes in ownership — were the single largest driver of growth, adding \$49.1 billion to the roll, or 2.17 percentage points of the overall increase, according to figures included with the release. The median home sales price countywide climbed to \$982,000, a modest increase from the prior year, even as the broader real estate market cooled and single-family sales volume remained flat compared with 2024.

The annual inflation adjustment mandated under Proposition 13 also played a major role. Because the California Consumer Price Index exceeded the constitutional limit this year, the Assessor's office applied the maximum allowable 2% inflation factor, adding roughly \$42.7 billion in assessed value countywide.

New construction added another \$12.1 billion to the roll, while personal property and fixtures — bolstered in part by new software the Assessor's office acquired to identify previously unassessed taxable aircraft — contributed \$11.6 billion. Officials said the software helped uncover more than 1,000 aircraft that had escaped assessment in past years. Special property use types, including oil refineries, mining and water rights, and mobile homes, added just over \$1.2 billion.

Those gains were partially offset by significant declines in the downtown Los Angeles office market, where officials said many properties lost more than half their value upon sale, and by continued relief granted to victims of the 2025 wildfires. Combined, declines in value and other adjustments removed nearly \$9.8 billion from the roll.

After exemptions, the assessment roll's net local increase totaled \$96.175 billion, or 4.42%, according to a breakdown provided by the Assessor's office.

Countywide, the roll includes nearly \$95 billion in total property tax exemptions, translating to more than \$948 million in tax savings for property owners. Those exemptions include roughly 891,000 homeowners' exemptions totaling more than \$6.3 billion, more than 9,100 disabled veterans' exemptions totaling \$1.6 billion, and about 15,000 institutional exemptions — covering religious institutions and nonprofits — totaling \$87 billion.

Despite the countywide growth, officials emphasized that most property owners will not see a corresponding jump in their tax bills. Under Proposition 13, most assessed values are limited to a maximum annual inflation adjustment of 2%, meaning the majority of the roughly 2.25 million parcels in the county will see only that modest increase.

The fastest-growing cities in the county by percentage were Irwindale, up 15%; Vernon, up 13.3%; and Hidden Hills, up 11.7%.

The 2026 Assessment Roll reflects the value of all taxable property in the county as of Jan. 1, 2026, as required under the California Constitution, and includes 2,399,978 taxable real property parcels, 157,195 business property assessments, 31,938 boats and 3,566 aircraft. To compile the roll, the Assessor's office said staff processed 220,000 deeds, assessed 105,000 property transfers, enrolled more than 32,000 new construction events, reviewed about 9,000 decline-in-value parcels and prepared more than 15,000 Assessment Appeals Board cases.

Property owners who disagree with their new assessed value may file an appeal before the Nov. 30, 2026, deadline. Applications can be filed online at lacaab.lacounty.gov.

The full 2026 Assessment Roll is available at assessor.lacounty.gov.

editor@smdp.com



TUESDAY | JULY 21

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room at Virginia Avenue Park. Each week there will be something new: Exercise, Talking with Friends, Learning, Guest Presenters, Health & Wellness! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2026-07-07T10>

ELEMENTARY ART STUDIO SUMMER CAMP

1:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Join us for our summer art workshops for elementary age kids! In case this event has been updated, please visit <https://www.pccrsm.org/event/elementary-art-studio-summer-camp-383c6> for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/elementary-art-studio-summer-camp/19066074/2026-07-14T13>

WALK-IN TUTORING WITH LAURIE

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Walk-In Tutoring With Laurie Walk-in tutoring is available for any adult who needs help with internet searches, filling out forms, English conversation, reading, writing, resumes, and applications. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/walk-in-tutoring-with-laurie/17128550/2026-07-07T14>

ELEMENTARY ART STUDIO 3:30-4:20PM

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Open to all skill levels, sparking creativity through drawing, color work, collage, and mixed-media techniques. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/elementary-art-studio-3-30-4-20pm/18825639/2026-07-07T15>

WEEKLY WALKING CLUB

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Near Palisades Recreation Center Toyopa Drive and Alma Real Drive Pacific Palisades. A weekly walking club will meet on Tuesdays for approximately one hour to walk 1.5 to 2 miles. The group will meet at the corner of Toyopa and Alma Real. All levels are welcome. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/weekly-walking-club/19106860/2026-07-21T16>

BUMBLE BEES & BUTTERFLIES

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. A presentation on gardening for native bees and other pollinators by Sarah Caso, CA Climate Action Corps Fellow and Bee Scientist. ZOOM – [RSVP HERE](#) – Zoom Link provided upon registration. Join us on this Summer Evening for a fascinating presentation on gardening with the intention of supporting native bees and other pollinators. Did you know California is host to nearly 1,600 different Bee Species? That folks, is not a typo. Miner Bees, Sunflower Bees and Masked Bees are just a small portion, and many of them are probably hiding in plain sight. It's true that if you build it, they will come. Sarah will start with a brief knowledge test for everyone, then proceed to her presentation on the myriad of native bees and pollinators. She will cover a bit of their life cycle, nesting habits and of course, identifying plants that will support these important creatures, before finishing off with Q&A and some local resources to check out. It'll be buzztastic. [RSVP HERE](#) to reserve your spot. You'll receive a Zoom Link when you register.

IMPROV 201: INTERMEDIATE IMPROV - CHARACTER (TUESDAYS)

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 1424 4th Street Santa Monica. Let go and awaken your imagination to creating unique & fun characters! 8 weeks + a Showcase! \$370.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/improv-201-intermediate-improv-character-tuesdays-/19228392/2026-07-21T19>

WEDNESDAY | JULY 22

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/18526513/2026-07-08T10>

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/16994548/2026-07-08T10>

LAUGH FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Wise and Healthy Aging 1527 4th Street Santa Monica. Kim Selbert, Certified Laughter Yoga Leader and Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist will facilitate this class. We all need more laughter in our lives, right? Through clapping, guided breathing and gentle movement with music, we will learn how to reduce stress, become more energetic and playful and connect positively with other seniors. It's easy, fun and very uplifting. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/laugh-for-the-health-of-it/19300395/2026-07-08T11>

THURSDAY | JULY 23

LOW IMPACT GROUP EXERCISE CLASS

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. American Legion Ronald Reagan-Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades. Power up your Thursday with our free, low-impact group exercise classes — open to all members of the Legion Family, designed for every fitness level, and held from 11:00am to 12:00pm at Palisades Post 283. Come move, recharge, and feel great heading into the rest of your day! Sign up here to receive emails about upcoming exercise classes and cancellations: [post283.com/exercise](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-07-16T11). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-07-16T11>

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