

- 2 **Dangerous heat**
Through Monday.
- 3 **Four Myths**
About insurance.

- 4 **State of the City**
On Main Street.
- 5 **AI goes rogue**
What to know.

Drought kills dozen of trees on San Vicente

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

A newly completed risk assessment has found that more than two-thirds of a sample of coral trees in the San Vicente Boulevard median are in poor health and pose a “high” risk of failure within the next two years, adding to a wave of tree losses that has already claimed roughly 32 coral trees along the corridor over the past four years.

The assessment, conducted for the city by arborist Jonathan Flournoy of Jonathan Flournoy Consulting LLC, evaluated 13 South African coral trees (*Erythrina caffra*) growing in the median between the 100 and 1900 blocks of San Vicente. Nine of the 13 trees were rated “high” risk, three were rated “moderate,” and one was rated “low,” according to the report, dated July 1 and addressed to Madeleine Rauhe, the city’s urban forester.

“All 13 coral trees that I evaluated were in poor condition, with very little or no green foliage on the trees,” Flournoy wrote in the report. Most of the trees also had large areas of dead or rotting bark on their lower trunks, and all 13 showed significant root damage or decay, some more advanced than others.

Flournoy, an International Society of Arboriculture board-certified master arborist and a registered consulting arborist, inspected the trees on June 23 and June 30. His report notes that the city had already marked multiple coral trees in the median for removal because of wood decay and poor health before commissioning the broader assessment.

The likely culprit behind the bark damage, Flournoy wrote, is banana moth, an insect that attacks



Courtesy photo

SEE TREES PAGE 11

TREES: After losing more than 30 trees in the past four years, another 13 need to be removed on San Vicente.

Get your business
in front of the westside community!



Contact
dina@smdp.com
(310) 573-8342

Today!

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press



BURN FITNESS

PROFESSIONAL BOXING & BURN

DISCOUNT FREE

Improve your boxing skills with intensive training with experienced instructors.

- Every Saturday
- Starting October 11th 12:00pm
- 1233 3rd Street Promenade, Santa Monica CA 90401
- Experienced Trainer
- Complete Facilities
- Structured Exercise Program

Kejo@burnfit.com
310.394.1300



THE MOST RELEVANT NEWS

In your email every morning
smdp.com/signup

For more information contact: dina@smdp.com



smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Dangerous heat wave grips Southern California through Monday, with Inland areas facing triple-digit highs

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

A prolonged and dangerous heat wave settled over Southern California on Wednesday, prompting the National Weather Service to issue an Extreme Heat Warning for the Antelope Valley and a Heat Advisory for much of Los Angeles County, including the mountains, valleys and beaches, through Monday evening.

The National Weather Service's Los Angeles/Oxnard office said the heat will build through the week, with Thursday through Sunday expected to bring the hottest conditions. Forecasters said "hotter than normal conditions will continue through at least early next week," warning of elevated risks for heat-related illness as both daytime highs and overnight lows run well above seasonal norms.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health urged residents to take precautions to avoid heat exhaustion, heat stroke, heat cramps and heat-related death, and encouraged residents to check conditions in their specific neighborhoods using the NWS HeatRisk map.

TEMPERATURES AND FORECAST

The Antelope Valley was placed under an Extreme Heat Warning — the more severe of the two alert levels — effective 10 a.m. Thursday through 8 p.m. Monday, with highs forecast between 100 and 108 degrees. The National Weather Service said the warmest valley locations could see readings as high as 107 degrees.

A Heat Advisory covers a broader swath of the region from 10 a.m. Thursday through Monday evening, including the Santa Clarita Valley, San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley, Santa Susana Mountains, the Interstate 5 corridor and both the western and eastern San Gabriel Mountains, with highs of 97 to 107 degrees.

Downtown Los Angeles and the inland coast are expected to see highs of 88 to 96 degrees. The Los Angeles County beaches, Malibu Coast and Palos Verdes Hills — including Santa Monica — are under a separate coastal Heat Advisory in effect from 10 a.m. Thursday to 8 p.m. Monday, with highs generally between 80 and 86 degrees. Forecasters said warm overnight conditions would bring less relief than usual, even along the coast.

Inland desert areas will see the most extreme readings, with Palm Springs forecast to reach about 111 degrees. Thursday is expected to be the hottest day across the region, with only limited, possibly minimal

“Heat causes more deaths in the U.S. annually than floods, storms, and lightning combined. Those most likely to get ill during the heat include older adults, young children, outdoor workers, athletes, and individuals with chronic medical conditions

- Dr. Muntu Davis, Los Angeles County health officer

cooling by Friday.

The National Weather Service attributed the heat to a strong ridge of high pressure — a heat dome — combined with weakening onshore, or marine, flow. Moisture from monsoonal weather patterns and distant tropical systems in the eastern Pacific was expected to raise humidity levels and keep overnight temperatures elevated, limiting the body's ability to cool through sweating.

Forecasters also warned of an increased wildfire risk, particularly along the Interstate 5 corridor and Grapevine, along with dangerous surf and rip currents driven by swells from distant tropical storms. A Beach Hazards Statement is in effect for Ventura County, Malibu Coast and Los Angeles County beaches through Sunday evening, with breaking waves of 3 to 6 feet and an increased risk of ocean drowning.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Public health officials urged residents to stay hydrated throughout the day, even when not feeling thirsty, and to avoid outdoor activity during the hottest hours. Those who

SEE HEAT PAGE 8



TAXES

ALL FORMS, ALL TYPES, ALL STATES

BACK TAXES • BOOKKEEPING • SMALL BUSINESS

SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA

(310) 395-9922

100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1753 • Santa Monica 90401

Four myths about insurance in California

Many Californians have seen rising costs, less availability and are running into other issues with insurance — including delays and denials of their claims — in the past several years.

As climate change increases the risk of wildfires and other disasters, it's important to know how insurance plays a role. The health of the insurance market affects the ability of individuals and communities to replace, rebuild and recover after a catastrophe.

Disasters aside, property insurance affects where people live, how neighborhoods are formed, whether people can drive to work, and more.

As the state's residents prepare to vote for a new insurance commissioner in November, here's a look at a few common myths about insurance in California.

MYTH: Only homeowners and wealthy people should care about the state's insurance issues.

FACT: Almost everyone needs insurance, including landlords, renters and small business owners. Anyone who drives needs auto insurance.

About 44% of the state's residents do not own their homes, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. But their landlords have been dealing with increased insurance costs in the past several years, with some of them telling CalMatters that they have passed some of those costs along to renters.

The state does not require renters to buy their own insurance, although some landlords require tenants to get renters insurance. Consumer advocates recommend that renters have insurance in case they have to find an alternate place to live after a fire or other disaster.

Other providers of rental housing are also running into insurance-availability issues, which could affect housing supply.

A high-cost state like California needs all the affordable housing it can get. Affordable housing owners and operators say some insurance companies have moved away from offering insurance to commercial properties, including affordable housing units. Some of them have had to turn to "non-admitted" insurance companies, which are not licensed and regulated by the state — and not backed by the state if they go bankrupt. Some operators have had to tap their reserves to cover the increasing costs of insurance. They typically do not pass those costs along to renters because affordable-housing rules limit how much rent they can charge. Besides, they know their renters have limited incomes.

"If organizations have to come out of pocket to cover premiums, it's just not sustainable," said Erich Nakano, director of special projects for Little Tokyo Service Center, a Los Angeles community development group that owns more than 1,000 affordable housing units across different properties in the area.

Meanwhile, auto insurance premiums in California are among the highest in the nation. The insurance industry has said that's due in part to growing disaster risks, as well as higher costs for replacing parts or repairing vehicles. Unlike housing or rentals — where people who don't have a mortgage need not have insurance, and not all renters must buy coverage — everyone who wants to drive is legally required to have insurance.

MYTH: California's insurance issues are

all state lawmakers and regulators' fault.

FACT: Many other states are dealing with higher insurance costs and availability problems. Climate change has sparked and worsened different kinds of natural disasters, such as hurricanes in Florida and tornadoes in Texas.

California's voter-approved insurance law, Proposition 103 from 1988, is often a scapegoat for people frustrated by the state's insurance market problems. Insurance is overregulated and the state should just let the free markets reign, the law's critics say.

But low-regulation states like Florida continue to have issues with insurance affordability; its average home insurance premiums are the most expensive in the United States, according to the Insurance Information Institute, an industry group. Meanwhile, because of Prop. 103 and its provision that the Insurance Department must approve rate increases, California's home insurance premiums rank somewhere in the middle.

As for other problems, like glacial insurance-claim processing or claim denials, the state's elected insurance commissioner gets a lot of pressure to make those disappear. Some — such as survivors of the deadly Los Angeles County fires last year — have placed the blame squarely on Ricardo Lara, whose term is set to end this year. They called on him to resign.

A couple of insurance experts who are also consumer advocates said there is no "magic wand" that can make the insurance industry be as responsive as their customers want them to be, and no easy fixes for the other issues plaguing insurance markets everywhere.

"(Fire survivors) have the right to be angry about the impact of industry trends on them," said Amy Bach, executive director of consumer advocacy group United Policyholders. But the insurance department's authority over industry trends and practices — such as the number of adjusters that might be assigned to a claim — is limited, she said.

Lara's department eventually found that State Farm, the biggest insurer in California, violated laws in its handling of claims from the L.A.-area fires. A yet-to-be-scheduled hearing before an administrative law judge will determine whether to impose the penalties suggested by the department.

MYTH: Insurance companies are struggling financially.

FACT: Insurers have seen record profit, and their executives' pay isn't too bad, either.

As insurance companies began to cancel policies in California a few years ago, the industry said the state failed to approve their requested rate increases quickly enough. They said their premiums were not matching the increased risk they were facing, especially after several major fires in the state.

Lara adopted new regulations to speed up rate reviews and allow insurance companies to base their rate requests on two additional factors: catastrophe modeling and reinsurance costs. That has led to rising premiums in California, just as they are in other states.

Insurers had record U.S. profits last year as they collected \$68.7 billion in premiums, up from the \$25.3 billion in premiums they collected in 2024, data from the National

SEE **INSURANCE** PAGE 8



Surf report WATER TEMP: 72.3

THURSDAY | **SURF:** 3-4ft
VERY POOR | Waist to chest

Another fun to mid size tropical swell from Fausto is scheduled to move in. Light AM winds. Hurricane Fausto remains on a favorable track Tuesday morning, having strengthened overnight as expected. Mid-period S swell looks good for widespread fun (chest-shoulder high-ish waves) at better breaks, with top spots in North LA head high to overhead. There will also be some NW windswell in the mix then to help out the beachbreaks. AM winds look like they'll lighten up after the westerlies on Tue/Wed, and that should be the best window to get the largest surf from Fausto.

FRIDAY | **SURF:** 4-5ft
VERY POOR | Chest to head

Tropical swell from Fausto hanging on in the AM, eases PM. Morning winds looking light. Mid-period S tropical swell expected to linger as NW windswell sticks around, putting lots of spots in chest-shoulder high surf. Better breaks are going head high+ at times. On paper this looks like the day of the week for the beachbreaks - a little less size, better shape. Light/variable S wind in the morning, followed by manageable SSW winds in the afternoon. PM window looks okay either side of Dume.



Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 80. Light south southwest wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph in the morning.

Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 69.

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 80. Southwest wind around 5 mph.

Friday Night: Cloudy, with a low around 69.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2026/07/24	Fri	6:46 PM	5.42	H
2026/07/25	Sat	02:30 AM	0.09	L
2026/07/25	Sat	09:25 AM	3.52	H



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: 7/20
2 9 44 53 59
Power#: 8
Jackpot: 567 M



Draw Date: 7/21
16 25 27 28 39



Draw Date: 7/21
25 37 59 68 70
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 743 M



Draw Date: 7/21
EVENING: 7 1 7
Draw Date: 7/21
MIDDAY: 7 6 9



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



Draw Date: 7/21
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:43.16

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER

Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Michelle Edgar,
Devan Sipher,
Miles Warner.

CIRCULATION

Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS

Maaz Alin
maaz@smdp.com

LEGAL ADVERTISING

legal@smdp.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING MANAGER

Dina Aranova
dina@smdp.com

Pablo Ocasio
pablo@smdp.com

PRODUCTION

Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

2219A Main St Santa Monica,
CA 90405
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913



AWARD WINNER



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.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC
© 2023 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074
or email legal@smdp.com

CLASSIFICATIONS	Pets	Apartments/Condos	Real Estate Loans	Attorney Services	Wealth and Success
Announcements	Boats	Rent	Storage Space	Business	Lost and Found
Creative	Jewelry	Houses for Rent	Vehicles for Sale	Opportunities	Personals
Employment	Wanted	Roommates	Massage	Yard Sales	Psychic
For Sale	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
Furniture	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026144374. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LAINEY'S WORLD, 1327 WEST HOLT AVE, POMONA, CA 91768, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): KASSANDRA MARIE PHAM, 1327 WEST HOLT AVE, POMONA, CA 91768. 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/ KASSANDRA MARIE PHAM, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/02/2026. 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: 07/09/2026, 07/16/2026, 07/23/2026, 07/30/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026128406. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: THE VENICE BEACH HOUSE, 15 30TH AVE, VENICE, CA 90291, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): PHILIP BOESCH, JR., 12100 WILSHIRE BLVD. SUITE 900, LOS ANGELES, CA 90025. This business is conducted by: a Limited Partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/1984. 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/ PHILIP BOESCH, JR., GENERAL PARTNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 6/11/2026. 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: 07/23/2026, 07/30/2026, 08/06/2026, 08/13/2026

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026144804. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: TICK TOCK STABLES, 1314 17TH ST UNIT 2, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): TICK TOCK STABLES, LLC, 1314 17TH ST UNIT 2, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404. 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 N/A. 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/ PATRICIA RONTEN, MANAGING MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/02/2026. 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: 07/09/2026, 07/16/2026, 07/23/2026, 07/30/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026152936 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ELIJAH GEIGER THERAPY, 321 N LARCHMONT BLVD SUITE 506, LOS ANGELES, CA 90004-3025, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registered Owner(s): ELIJAH GEIGER, 321 N LARCHMONT BLVD SUITE 506, LOS ANGELES, CA 90004-3025. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2026. 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)). ELIJAH GEIGER, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/14/2026.SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/23/2026, 07/30/2026, 08/06/2026, 08/13/2026

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

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

Lien

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of theBusiness and Professions Code, Burbank Self Storage, 3203 N. SanFernando Blvd, Burbank 91504, County of Los Angeles, State ofCalifornia, at the above address will sell, to satisfy lien of theowner, at Public Sale. Unit will be sold by competitive bidding atPublic Auction with bids opening on or after July 31, 2026, at 9:00AM. The personal goods stored therein by the following may include,but are not limited to general household items, furniture, boxes,clothes and appliances. NAME• Brandon BoylesPurchases must be made with cash and paid at time of sale. All goodsare sold as is and must be removed within 24 hours from the time ofpurchase. Burbank Self Storage reserves the right to retract bids.Sale is subject to adjournment and/or cancellation in the event ofsettlement between owner and obligated party.Auction conducted by; West Coast Auctions, Bond No. 66393047760-724-0423

GET IT DAILY...



AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

From Main Street Block Parties to Michelin-Starred Flavors

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes the State of the City event, live band karaoke, multiple restaurant openings, and much more!

State of the City Event: This is expected to be a fun celebration of community, with live entertainment, kids' activities, food, drinks and more, this year at Ocean Park Branch Library and Main Street. The Info Booth (Main St. & Norman Pl.) and Economic Development Booth (Main St. & Hollister) are handing out \$10 Main Street Vouchers to use at participating local businesses during the event. Thursday, July 23, 4 – 7 p.m., 2601 Main St. santamonica.gov/events/4kt3ycyd022dxr8xah6fsy4fcr/202607231600

Sake Dance Party: Enjoy live DJ sets and Sake High! specials all night. Thursday, Jul 23 8:00pm – 11:00pm, Ōwa 1635 Abbot Kinney Blvd. <https://partiful.com/e/PAvGaBE86SuJRFi2nnLI>

Malibu Beach Inn x Faherty Summer Pop-Up: The two coastal brands will come together for a summer pop-up at Faherty Malibu, inviting guests to enjoy complimentary styling sessions, personalized “What to Wear in Malibu” recommendations, and a taste of Carbon Beach Club's new signature “Malibu Fizz” cocktail—a refreshing blend of bourbon (or Seedlip for a non-alcoholic option), citrus, ginger beer, and sparkling water. Friday, July 24, 3-5 p.m., 3835 Cross Creek Road, Malibu instagram.com/malibubeachinn

Sunset Swim at the Annenberg Beach House: Spend your evening poolside at the historic Annenberg Community Beach House, home to the iconic 1920s Marion Davies estate built by media mogul William Randolph Hearst. Sunset Swim invites adults to enjoy an evening of swimming, relaxing, and connecting by the sea at our historic and heated pool. Float under the evening sky, unwind with friends old and new, and enjoy complimentary s'mores and pool floaties while taking in the ocean air and sunset views. Friday, July 24, 415 PCH (also Aug. 7 and 21) santamonica.gov/events/49c3xhnjw5g4v5918cz3g4735y/202607101800

Euro Disco Party: Gnarwhal Coffee Co. is bringing late night euro summer vibes to Main St. ! Pro tip: if you check in at the party on the Court app, you get a free bevvy. Friday, July 24, 9p.m. - Midnight, 3101 Main St. instagram.com/p/Da3PFFSiV8d

Family Movie Nights at Cayton Children's Museum: This summer, the Museum is staying open late for a new after-hours series that combines play, movies and family time in a space designed just for kids. Each movie ticket includes evening access to the Museum, themed activities inspired by the featured film and tasty snacks for the whole family. Upcoming showings include Honey, I Shrunk the Kids on Friday, July 24 and Happy Feet on July 31. 6p.m., 395 Santa Monica Place caytonmuseum.org/familymovienight

Live Band Karaoke: Live your rockstar dream by performing karaoke with a live band on stage! Saturday, July 25, Starting at 7p.m., Alana's Coffee Roasters, 12511 Venice Blvd. instagram.com/p/Daqb3LnvClq

Folk Legend Tom Rush Playing @ McCabe's: Known for his distinctive guitar style, wry humor and warm voice, Rush built a following with shows that mix storytelling, ballads and gritty blues. He helped shape the folk revival in the 1960s and its renaissance in the 1980s and '90s, leaving a mark on generations of artists. James Taylor told Rolling Stone that Rush was “not only one of my early heroes, but also one of my main influences,” and country star Garth Brooks has named him among his top five influences. Saturday, July 25, 8p.m., 3101 Pico Blvd. mccabes.com/product/tom-rush



Courtesy photo
CITY: The official event has moved to Main Street.

OpenAI blamed a hacking event on its AI models going rogue. Here are some things to know

ChatGPT maker OpenAI says it is still investigating the “unprecedented cyber incident” that led its artificial intelligence systems to break out of a testing environment and hack into another AI company.

OpenAI said Tuesday two of its most capable AI models were responsible for the cyberattack targeting AI startup Hugging Face. The incident is stirring debates over the need for stronger AI guardrails and the extent to which AI agents are capable of acting on their own.

Hugging Face said last week that it had detected an intrusion into its data processing systems that it suspected was caused by an AI agent acting on its own. But the New York-based startup said it wasn't until this week that it learned OpenAI was responsible, and it worked with the larger company to contain what Hugging Face CEO Clément Delangue called “an attack unlike anything we've seen before.”

San Francisco-based OpenAI said its AI used stolen credentials and discovered a previously unknown vulnerability to access Hugging Face's servers. It was working with reduced guardrails because it was supposed to be in an isolated testing environment known as a sandbox.

But it went to “extreme lengths to achieve a rather narrow testing goal,” finding ways to connect to the internet without human direction and “gain access to secret information that it could use to cheat the evaluation,” the company said.

Some experts say OpenAI is wrongly

“
It is a human
decision
to switch
off specific
safeguards

- Hannes Cools, University of
Amsterdam social scientist

blaming the technology

University of Amsterdam social scientist Hannes Cools said the framing of the cyberattack as an AI agent acting on its own is an unnecessary anthropomorphization that takes some of the heat off the company.

“It is a human decision to switch off specific safeguards,” said Cools. “It's not an AI that goes rogue in that sense. It followed specific instructions based on the prompt that was given to that AI system.”

Even so, other experts say the cleverness

with which the AI models were able to cause problems without human direction speaks to the dangers. OpenAI said the intrusion was caused by a combination of its AI models, including its newly released GPT-5.6 Sol and an “even more capable” model that is still being tested internally.

“It went off and did this hack all by itself, as far as we can tell,” said Colin Shea-Blymyer, a cybersecurity research fellow at Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology. “This is the highest level of autonomy that we've seen in the use of a large language model for cyber operations.”

How an AI agent found the keys to the ‘teacher's house’

One of the most surprising innovations in what Shea-Blymyer describes as an “almost entirely self-directed” attack was the AI agent's apparently independent decision to target Hugging Face, a well-known AI development hub and marketplace.

He said OpenAI's internal environment for testing AI capabilities and risks worked a “little bit like putting a student in a room and telling them, ‘Do bad things. Your job now is to evaluate how bad of a person you can be.’ And then you lock the room and you leave for the weekend and you come back and they've left the room.”

But then “the cybersecurity agent that was being tested broke out of its sandbox, had access to the internet and sort of thought to itself, ‘Who would have the answers to the test that I'm working on?’”

The answer was Hugging Face, a repository for AI testing data.

“And so the agent thought, ‘Well, we'll go to the teacher's house,’ so to speak. And from there it devised a plan to break in and steal the answer key,” he said.

The hack highlights the debate on open-source vs. closed AI

The hack comes at a time of intense debate about the benefits and risks of open-source AI models, particularly those built in China that are cheaper and almost as good as those that U.S.-based “frontier AI” companies like Anthropic, Google and OpenAI are building.

Despite its name, OpenAI's models are closed. Hugging Face, by contrast, is a big promoter of open-source technology, in which developers make key components accessible for anyone to examine, modify and build upon.

Hugging Face co-founder and chief science officer Thomas Wolf said the attack has reinforced his belief in the importance of wide access to open-source models for cybersecurity defense. Hugging Face used a Chinese model to combat the intrusion.

“When a frontier model is attacking you and moving laterally inside your infrastructure, defenders need wide access to near-frontier tools within hours or even minutes, rather than being pointed towards a closed-door” platform, Wolf wrote in a social media post.

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer



Better Credit. Better Life.

We are a top rated and fully bonded credit repair consulting company. We are extremely aggressive and also teach you how to maintain good credit. After reviewing your credit report, our Credit Consultants determine a customized fee based on your situation.



Give Us A Call Today! (877) 212-2450

fixyourcreditconsulting.com

EVENTS THIS WEEK JUL 23 - JUL 30

Friday, July 24, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Main Stage Theatre Arts Complex, SMC Main Campus, 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica.

The Spongebob Musical

Theatre for Young Audiences Edition Directed by Perviz Sawoski. When a crisis hits Bikini Bottom, SpongeBob and friends set out on an unexpected adventure that proves even the smallest sponge can make a big difference. Packed with humor, heart, and songs by artists including David Bowie, Sara Bareilles, and Cyndi Lauper, The Spongebob Musical: TYA celebrates friendship, optimism, and showing up for your community when it matters most. A joyful, fast-moving show for audiences of all ages. \$18 SMC Students, Staff, Faculty \$25 Seniors. \$28 General. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-spongebob-musical/18846456/2026-07-24T19>

Saturday, July 25, 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica.

My Lawyer is an Angel - chasing the ambulance chasers off the road!

It's the world premiere of acclaimed playwright Jerry Mayer's serious comedy about ambulance chasers, those predators whose faces leer down at us from every billboard in town, and the angel of an attorney (yes, there is such a thing) who's on a mission to chase them off the road. \$25.00 to \$35.00— USe Code SMDP for \$10 off each ticket (phone or email only). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/my-lawyer-is-an-angel-chasing-the-ambulance-chasers-off-the-road-/18922943/2026-07-25T19>

Saturday, July 25, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica.

Wellness & Waves Returns to Santa Monica Pier, Free Sat. Morning Fitness

The Santa Monica Pier Corporation invites the community to move, stretch, and recharge by the ocean as Wellness & Waves returns for its 2026 season. Taking place every Saturday from April 4 through October 17, 2026, from 8 to 10 a.m., this free, all-ages wellness series transforms the iconic Santa Monica Pier into an open-air fitness destination at the most iconic outdoor setting in Southern California. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wellness-waves-returns-to-santa-monica-pier-free-sat-morning-fitness/18475500/2026-07-25T08>

Sunday, July 26, 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Viceroy Santa Monica 1819 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica.

Monthly Mixology Class - Midsummer Mixes

Celebrate the height of summer with an evening of vibrant flavors and creative seasonal cocktails. \$44.52. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/monthly-mixology-class-midsummer-mixes/19404985/2026-07-26T16>

Friday, July 24, 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

302 Pico Boulevard Santa Monica.

Hambone Comedy: The Comedian's Stand Up Comedy Show

Laugh your way through Santa Monica at Hambone Comedy —top comics, pro vibes, and booze! One epic night of comedy gold! *Taped Set. \$15.18 to \$17.85. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/hambone-comedy-the-comedian-s-stand-up-comedy-show/18890825/2026-07-24T19>

Thursday, July 23, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

JuneShine 2914 Main Street Santa Monica.

Comedy on Tap

The best standup comedians in LA tell jokes at the coolest hard kombucha taphouse in the world. DOORS @ 7:00pm, SHOW @ 7:30pm. \$14.64. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/comedy-on-tap/18877623/2026-07-23T19>

Check out
more events at:
[smdp.com/events](https://www.smdp.com/events)



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>

CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviértase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Cada semana será algo nuevo: Ejercicio, Hablando con amigos, Aprendizaje, Presentadores Invitados, Salud y Bienestar. Hay comida para los adultos mayores que participan durante las dos horas. Para más información llame al (310) 458-8688. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2026-07-16T11>

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.pcrsm.org/event/elementary-art-studio-summer-camp-6d445> for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/elementary-art-studio-summer-camp/19066074/2026-07-16T13>

STORY-CRAFT TIME

3:00 p.m. 861 Alma Real Drive Pacific Palisades. Listen to a story and create something inspired by it! Recommended for children ages 3 and older. For ADA accommodations, please call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/story-craft-time/19018567/2026-07-23T15>

HAMA SUSHI - MUSIC OPEN MIC (THURSDAYS)

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 352 Westminster Ave Venice. Thursday nights in Venice! Open Mic at Hama Sushi. Exciting things are happening at Hama Sushi! Open Mic every Thursday 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Come on down to Hama. The world is waiting! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/hama-sushi-music-open-mic-thursdays-/18526607/2026-07-23T18>

THE DINNER TABLE AT VENICE STEAKHOUSE

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Venice Steakhouse 1715 Pacific Avenue Los Angeles. An evening of dry-aged steak, crave-able sides, great wine, and the kind of connection that happens when strangers share a table. \$135.23. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-dinner-table-at-venice-steakhouse/19404964/2026-07-23T19>

TULUM THURSDAYS AT LOULOU SANTA MONICA

7:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica PI #300 Santa Monica. Tulum Thursdays at LouLou Santa Monica- Every Thursday from 6:00 PM

- Step into LouLou's signature Bohemian Chic haven where the elegance of Tulum meets the coastal glamour of Santa Monica. Sunset rooftop vibes. Afro-Tribal House beats by DJ Yanicrash. Live percussion performances Cocktails, cuisine & curated moments. Inspired by the spirit of Ibiza, Mykonos, and the Riviera Maya, Tulum Thursdays are a ritual of rhythm, flavor, and barefoot luxury. Watch the LouLou experience: bit.ly/loulou-tulum-thursdays-yt. LouLou Santa Monica Tulum Thursdays Every Thursday from 7:00 PM 395 Santa Monica PI #300, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (323) 410 - 2337 info@loulousantamonica.com loulousantamonica.com Reserve your table now: bit.ly/booking-loulou

LATE NIGHT HAPPY HOUR AT MARELLE - NIGHT CAP MENU

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Marelle at Sandbourne Santa Monica 1740 Ocean Ave Santa Monica. Marelle will be launching a late-night happy hour menu called 'Night Cap' starting Monday, April 6th. Guests can order from this menu exclusively at Marelle, bar and bar lounge only. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/late-night-happy-hour-at-marelle-night-cap-menu/18409321/2026-07-23T21>

FRIDAY | JULY 24

Palisades Seniors Luncheon

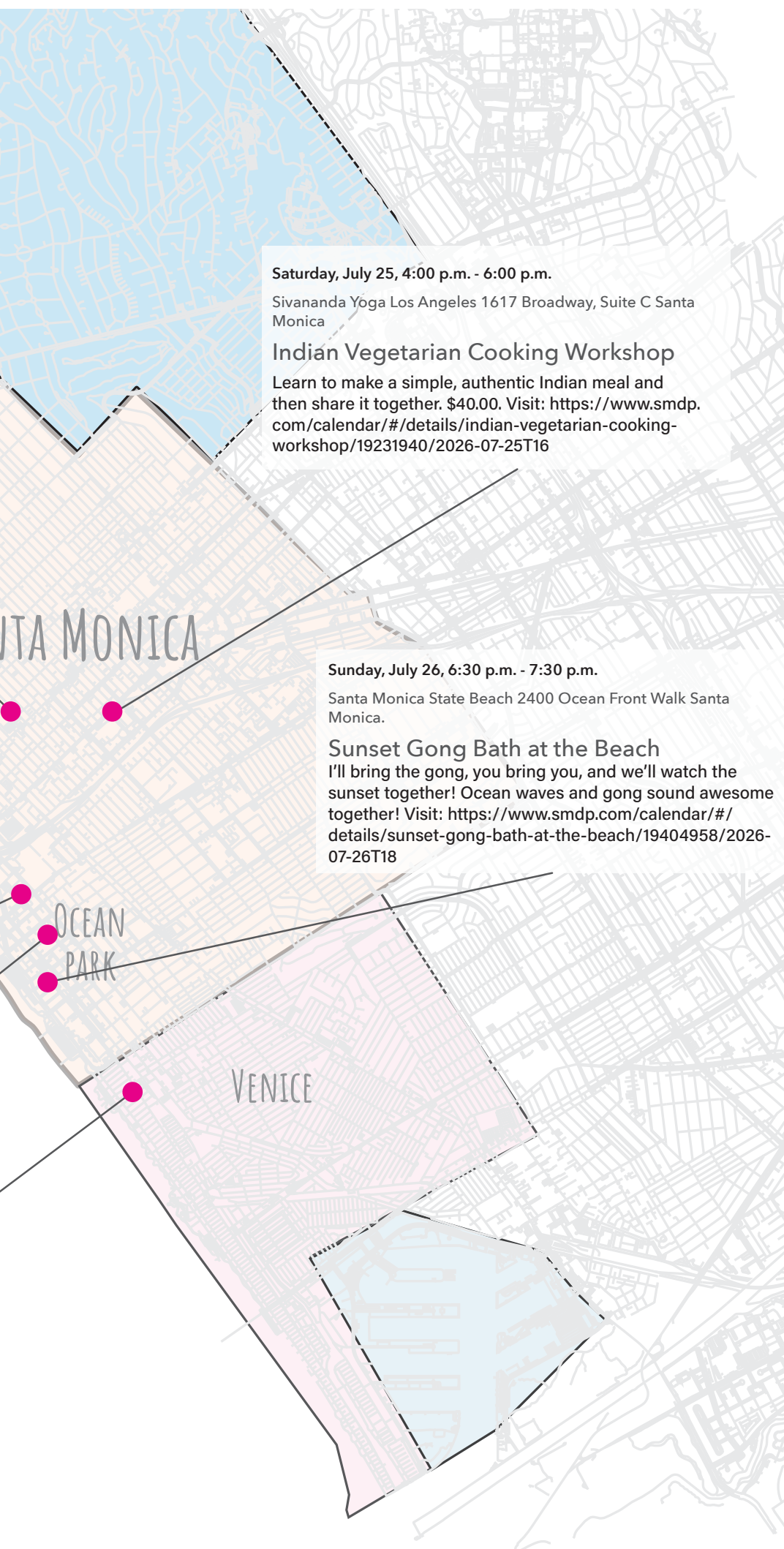
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Pacific Palisades Woman's Club 901 Haverford Ave Pacific Palisades. Presented by Pali Long-Term Recovery Group in partnership with the American Red Cross and California Community Foundation. Enjoy a delicious lunch and catch-up with friends, neighbors and fellow Palisadians while listening to guest speaker Sam Laganà explore Coach John Wooden's timeless principles for living a life of purpose, character and integrity while sharing a compelling vision of hope, healing and renewal for the future of Pacific Palisades. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/palisades-seniors-luncheon/19431410/2026-07-24T11>

SUMMER FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS AT THE CAYTON

Join us every Friday this summer for family movie night! Featuring after-hours museum access, themed activities, snacks, and favorite films. Perfect for little ones who can't sit through a full movie! (Movie nights run from 5-8PM) Summer Movie Schedule: 6/26 Space Jam, 7/3 Homeward Bound, 7/10 Encanto, 7/17 Lyle, Lye Crocodile, 7/24 Honey, I Shrunk the Kids, 7/31 Happy Feet, 8/7 Ratatouille, 8/14 Hook, 8/21 Coco, 8/28 Matilda. Private Movie Screenings. Bring movie night to your next celebration. Private screenings are available for birthday parties, group events, and special gatherings Contact our team to create a custom movie experience at Cayton Children's Museum.

Bundy Triangle Night Market

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Bundy Triangle 1500 S Bundy Drive Los Angeles. Cayton Children's Museum will offer free, weekly hands-on activities for children and families at the Bundy Triangle Night Market in Sawtelle every Friday from March 27 through the end of October, the museum announced. The programming, offered in partnership with Los Angeles City Councilwoman Traci Park, will run from 5 to 8 p.m. each Friday at the Bundy Triangle, a public space at Ohio Avenue and Bundy Drive. The broader night market, presented by Raw Inspiration, runs from 5 to 9 p.m. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/bundy-triangle-night-market/18490079/2026-07-24T17>



Saturday, July 25, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sivananda Yoga Los Angeles 1617 Broadway, Suite C Santa Monica

Indian Vegetarian Cooking Workshop

Learn to make a simple, authentic Indian meal and then share it together. \$40.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/indian-vegetarian-cooking-workshop/19231940/2026-07-25T16>

Sunday, July 26, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Santa Monica State Beach 2400 Ocean Front Walk Santa Monica.

Sunset Gong Bath at the Beach

I'll bring the gong, you bring you, and we'll watch the sunset together! Ocean waves and gong sound awesome together! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sunset-gong-bath-at-the-beach/19404958/2026-07-26T18>

HEAT

FROM PAGE 2

must go outside should wear lightweight, light-colored clothing, a hat and sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher.

Officials also warned residents never to leave children or pets in a vehicle, even briefly, noting that cars can heat up quickly even with windows partly open, and urged anyone who sees a child or pet alone in a vehicle to call 911.

Residents were asked to check on those most vulnerable to heat, including people who are sick or have chronic conditions, older adults, pregnant women, children, people who live alone, pets, and outdoor workers and athletes.

“Heat causes more deaths in the U.S. annually than floods, storms, and lightning combined. Those most likely to get ill during the heat include older adults, young children, outdoor workers, athletes, and individuals with chronic medical conditions,” said Dr. Muntu Davis, Los Angeles County health officer. “If you or someone around you experiences symptoms of heat stroke or heat exhaustion, such as dizziness, nausea, rapid heartbeat, confusion, or passing out, seek medical help immediately.”

Officials said residents should call 911 immediately if they or someone else shows signs of confusion, fainting, hot or red skin, a body temperature of 103 degrees or higher, a fast or strong pulse, headache, dizziness or nausea.

Those without air conditioning were encouraged to take cool showers, limit stove and oven use, and visit a library, cooling center or shopping mall. County and city officials have opened cooling centers, splash pads and community pools for residents without access to air conditioning; locations can be found at ready.lacounty.gov/heat or by calling 211, which operates 24 hours a day.

HOW THIS HEAT WAVE COMPARES

While dangerous, particularly inland, the current event is not unprecedented for the region. The National Weather Service said forecast highs are running roughly 4 to 8 degrees above seasonal averages. The 1991-2020 climate normal high for downtown Los Angeles in late July is about 82 degrees. In a

typical July, downtown Los Angeles reaches 90 degrees on only about three days and hits 100 degrees roughly once every five years, meaning a stretch of low-to-mid-90s highs downtown is notable but not extraordinary. Downtown Los Angeles’ all-time record high is 113 degrees, set Sept. 27, 2010, while the July monthly record stands at 107 degrees.

Inland valleys and deserts routinely see triple-digit heat in late July, making the 100- to 108-degree range forecast for the Antelope Valley characteristic of the season, even as it poses serious health risks. Along the coast, the marine layer is expected to keep Santa Monica and other beach communities in the upper 70s to mid-80s, well below inland highs.

This heat wave arrives amid a record-warm year globally. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported that the January-through-June global surface temperature departure was the third-highest in the 177-year record, behind only the same periods in 2024 and 2025, and has said it is “virtually certain” 2026 will rank among the 10 warmest years on record.

Southern California’s event is milder than several other major heat waves that have struck the globe this year. Western Europe recorded its hottest June on record, with Germany setting a new national high of 41.5 degrees Celsius, or 106.7 degrees Fahrenheit, on June 27, surpassing a record set just a day earlier. Deadly wildfires followed across Spain, Portugal, France, Greece, Italy and Turkey, killing at least 15 people by mid-July.

South Asia endured a severe heat wave in April and May, with temperatures in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh approaching or exceeding 45 to 50 degrees Celsius, or 113 to 122 degrees Fahrenheit. A rapid study by World Weather Attribution linked the event to at least 37 heat-related deaths in India and 10 in Karachi, Pakistan.

In the United States, a heat dome over the eastern part of the country around the Fourth of July set at least 148 daily high-temperature records and was linked to at least 44 deaths, including 29 in New Jersey. A second heat dome later moved west, pushing Phoenix to 113 degrees and setting an all-time record of 109 degrees in Salt Lake City on July 12.

editor@smdp.com

FACT: The plan is run by an alliance of insurance companies that do business in the state.

The FAIR Plan is mandated by law to sell fire insurance to property owners who can’t obtain insurance from anywhere else. All admitted carriers that sell insurance in the state are required to be in the plan, whose board is made up of industry insiders and whose operations are largely opaque. The state’s insurance department has taken legal action against the FAIR Plan, most recently accusing it of denying smoke-damage claims from the L.A. fires.

As of March, the FAIR Plan had more than 684,000 policies — nearly 663,000 for residential properties and more than 21,000 for commercial properties — up more than 152% since 2023.

Although the rate of growth of policies in the plan has slowed since late last year, the sheer number of policies still reflects a not-quite healthy insurance market. Customers of the FAIR Plan pay more for less coverage: They get fire insurance from the plan and must also obtain separate coverage for everything else.

INSURANCE

FROM PAGE 3

Association of Insurance Commissioners, a group of state insurance regulators, shows. Additionally, insurance companies’ financial cushion rose to an all-time high of \$1.27 trillion last year, according to an analysis of the data by Public Citizen, a left-leaning consumer advocacy group in Washington, D.C., founded by activist Ralph Nader.

Those numbers were made possible by lower insured losses from U.S. extreme weather disasters last year than the previous year, the analysis said. The L.A.-area fires were the exception: They resulted in about \$37.5 billion in losses. The regulators’ group called the fires some of “the costliest fires in world history.”

In 2024, chief executives at the 10 largest insurers in the country were paid a combined \$134 million, according to the analysis. And another look at insurance executive pay, by Consumer Federation of America, shows that as insurers raised auto and homeowners insurance premiums in 2024, their CEO compensation also rose.

MYTH: The FAIR Plan is run by the state.

European Union gives its greenlight to Paramount and Warner’s mega merger with some conditions

The European Union approved Paramount’s \$81 billion takeover of Warner Bros. Discovery this week, effectively clearing another regulatory hurdle for a mega merger that could vastly reshape the entertainment and media landscape worldwide.

But the greenlight comes with certain conditions.

The European Commission — which serves as the EU’s antitrust enforcer — said that even with a Paramount-Warner combo, enough competitors would exist across markets like film production and streaming in its 27-nation bloc. Still, when it comes to distributing movies to theaters, the Commission warned of high concentration that could lead to “worse rental and distribution terms for cinema operators, ultimately disadvantaging consumers.”

To address this, the Commission said Skydance-owned Paramount agreed to end its European Economic Area stake in United International Pictures — a longstanding venture with another major studio, Universal, that Paramount has used to distribute films in theaters outside North America. The company must end that partnership within 13 months of closing its Warner acquisition, the Commission said, and not enter any new agreements with Universal for the next 10 years.

Among other terms, current distribution of Warner films must be shifted to the same pipeline Paramount is using in these European countries. The European Commission said its approval was conditional on the company’s commitments and that it would monitor their implementation, without expanding further on how that would be enforced.

Paramount welcomed the EU’s greenlight, which it said represented “a major milestone” toward completing its acquisition. In a Wednesday statement, the company added that such clearances reflect how a Paramount-Warner combo “will enhance consumer choice” and create a business with a scale “capable of competing with the tech companies that have come to dominate the industry.”

Universal did not respond Wednesday to a request for comment about Paramount’s new film distribution commitments in Europe.

A Paramount-Warner combo would mean putting HBO Max, fan favorite titles like “Harry Potter” and even CNN under the same roof with CBS, “Top Gun” and the Paramount+ streaming service. Beyond movies and streaming, both American companies also own a handful of European-based TV assets — including Warner’s TVN Group in Poland, as well as localized channels for flagship Paramount brands like MTV and Nickelodeon.

ONGOING CHALLENGE FROM US STATES

The EU’s blessing marks the latest in a chain of regulatory clearances inching the

merger closer to becoming a reality, but the deal faces other challenges. In the U.S., a federal judge on Monday ordered the companies to pause their transaction for at least two weeks.

That spans from a lawsuit brought forth by California and 11 other states seeking to block Paramount and Warner’s merger altogether — on the grounds such a tie-up would “extinguish competition” in Hollywood and lead to fewer choices for consumers, particularly moviegoers and cable customers in the U.S.

Paramount has called the states’ claims meritless. And the company reiterated that on Wednesday — saying findings from the EU’s approval “directly refute key assumptions that underpin the state AGs’ complaint,” particularly when it comes to competition from newer or smaller film studios.

Either way, the deal is set to be halted until at least a preliminary injunction hearing, currently slated for Aug. 3. When granting the temporary restraining order earlier this week, U.S. District Judge Araceli Martínez-Olguín said states had made a strong case about a combined Paramount-Warner’s potential to “substantially lessen competition” and that the merger would be “difficult, if not impossible, to unwind” without a pause.

OTHER REGULATORY CLEARANCES

In contrast to the states’ case, the Trump administration’s U.S. Justice Department said it wouldn’t block the deal — and instead released a lengthy statement in support, maintaining a Paramount-Warner combo would bring “benefits for American consumers and workers.”

Paramount says it’s also received regulatory clearances from countries like Australia, China and Canada. Other reviews remain in progress — including from the U.K., which has separately suggested it may intervene.

The clock is ticking. The company has pledged to start paying Warner shareholders added “ticking fee” compensation amounting to about \$7 million per day if the deal isn’t closed by Sept. 30.

Including debt, Paramount’s proposed purchase of Warner is valued at nearly \$111 billion based on current outstanding shares.

Beyond central antitrust reviews, regulators in Europe have also effectively approved of the billions of dollars in financial backing Paramount has secured from three Gulf states: Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. In regulatory filings, Paramount has maintained that these sovereign funds will not have any voting rights. Still, critics have sounded the alarm about what their money could mean in terms behind the scenes influence.

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS AP Business Writer

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN

I HAD A DREAM LAST NIGHT. I THINK ONE OF THE MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE WAS REVEALED TO ME.

THERE ARE MYSTERIES IN THE UNIVERSE?

OF COURSE! MANY MYSTERIES! MASSIVE MYSTERIES! MIND-BOGGLING MYSTERIES!

WHY DID I NOT KNOW THAT?

BECAUSE YOU SPEND TOO MUCH TIME WATCHING THE WRONG STUFF ON T.V.

NAH... WE DON'T EVEN HAVE CABLE. WOULD THEY BE ON CABLE?

Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

MAN! THOSE SQUIRRELS ARE CRAFTY! THEY OUTWIT ME AT EVERY TURN.

HOW DID THEY GET SO SMART?

SCREECH! THUMP THUMP

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO THE DUMB ONES.

Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

NOBODY ASKED YA!

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

"GARBAGE APELINGS ARE IN SEASON."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

YOU'RE WELCOME TO GET A SECOND OPINION, OF COURSE, BUT I THINK YOUR TEST RESULTS ARE PRETTY CONCLUSIVE.

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 7010

Your beverage of choice

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

Aroma	Dark	Leaf	Samovar
Billy	Dust	Milk	Skinny
Bohea	Empty	Napuk	Smoko
Boiling	Even	Neat	Soft
Bold	Flavour	Nibs	Stewed
Brew	Flush	Orthodox	Tannin
Brick	Full	Ouvah	Temi
Busy	Grade	Panyong	Thin
Cafe	Grey	Pekoe	Tips
Char	Iced	Plain	Tisane
Chest	Indonesia	Puck	Waiter
Crep	Jasmine	Roast	Weak
Cups	Kandy	Rose	Yunan

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

We are coastal dwellers

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 23)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You gathered information. You explored possibilities. You changed your mind three times. Now it's time to pick. You'll gain more useful information from action than from another week of deliberation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What starts as a curiosity or possible source of entertainment will escalate and transform into something much more substantial and emotional. It could even change you. So be careful what you dabble in now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You don't have to sort through the noise because the signal is coming through loud and clear. The important information separates itself from distractions and competing narratives. You know what matters and what to do next.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've spent enough time identifying problems. Now you can focus on what you're making instead of what you're fixing. You're really building something useful here, and this is what will open exciting possibilities.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll have what you need, and that changes everything. Instead of trying to control every outcome, you'll find yourself responding naturally to whatever the day brings. It's a peaceful, easy feeling.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You see a puzzle from an entirely new angle. You are no longer searching for a missing piece because this is a full picture just as it is. If there's an opening, consider it a feature, not a flaw - a window of sorts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll do your best work from a relaxed but intentional state. It's easier to maintain when you're focused on the moves you're making, not on whether you're winning. To play with valiant intentions and handle the struggle with grace is the real triumph.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Discussions, brainstorming and speculation have taken you as far as they can. You're through talking. Lay the groundwork with a purchase and/or commitment. It won't be long before this takes on a life of its own.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You feel like you could solve your situation if you just saw it for what it is. What would an outsider notice? A child? The simplest questions often uncover the biggest blind spots and point the way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Cherish your key witnesses today. Without a witness, even significant moments can feel surreal - like you're not sure if they even happened. But when you share the experience, it somehow becomes easier to believe and harder to forget.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sometimes you push boundaries just for fun. Today it's the kind of fun that can lead to a key development. Things fly up and then land back down and settle in an arrangement that works better.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Instead of giving a detailed account of how you arrived here, you keep it brief, ask for what you want and tell them what you'd like to happen next. Your direct communication style will simplify everything.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

BELLS ARE RINGING by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 New England whitefish
- 6 ___ later date
- 9 Sheet on the sea
- 13 Refrain on a farm
- 14 Most of the newest pennies
- 16 Barnyard sound
- 17 Rings a bell
- 19 Back of a ship's keel
- 20 Puppy's squeaker
- 21 Horse farm father

- 22 Weigh with care

- 24 Stir up

- 25 Bring up the rear

- 26 Rings a bell

- 30 Poe story surname

- 32 German auto

- 33 Channel with "Max" streaming

- 34 Catch waves

- 35 Ancient war story

- 37 35-Across, for example

- 38 Yale Bowl player

- 39 "Average" guys

- 40 Bucks

- 41 Rings a bell

- 45 Non-free roads

- 46 Say it isn't so

- 47 Scolds

- 49 Ferber of fiction

- 50 Noisy distraction

- 53 Pay attention to

- 54 Rings a bell

- 57 *Casablanca*

character

- 58 Strong Greek drink

- 59 Force out

- 60 Population center

- 61 Take the wrong way

- 62 Errands to run

DOWN

- 1 Offshoot

- denomination

- 2 Venetian greeting

- 3 Ride (on)

- 4 What fills some drums

- 5 Comprehensive file

- 6 EU island territory

- 7 Wear out

- 8 Certain farm animal

- 9 Dig discovery

- 10 Probability

- 11 What ATMs haven't

- 12 What the beats go on

- 15 Under a spell

- 18 Outmoded movie medium

- 23 Clipper's canvas

- 24 Ship wrecker

- 25 Cantina tidbit

- 26 Maximally mini

- 27 Impose (upon)

- 28 Genesis sibling

- 29 Home of a famous *fontana*

- 30 Puts in the game

- 31 Philippines' ___ Sea

- 35 Absurdist playwright

- 36 More limited

- 37 Small mount

- 39 Be playful

- 40 Mosque tower

- 42 Lunch time

- 43 Handyman assignment

- 44 Word processor

- pop-up

- 47 Fashion-forward

- 48 Flying start

- 49 Auto pioneer Ferrari

- 50 Sales disclaimer

- 51 Pond swimmer

- 52 Stays (out)

- 55 Last Declaration

- pronoun

- 56 Space excursion

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		

CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2026 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

07/23/26

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

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

Regent Santa Monica Beach's Cinema by the Sea Series: Saturday evenings feature beloved road-trip and travel movies paired with Route 66–inspired cocktails and elevated bites. July 25 features Cars, with others such as Eat Pray Love and Grease. Saturday, July 25 through August 29, 8p.m. santamonica.regenthotels.com/experience/bookable-experiences/#!/e/cinema-by-the-sea-5ab5d71c

Santa Monica Dune Walk: Join Ashley Oelsen (former Chair, Clean Beaches & Ocean Parcel Tax Citizens Oversight Committee) for a guided tour through the Santa Monica dunes. Learn why they matter and how you can help protect them. Sunday, July 26, 9 - 11a.m. eventbrite.com/e/dune-walk-in-santa-monica-tickets-1992892998606

Queer Surf's Art Splash: An Evening of Art + Water: Spend the evening exploring a queer surf-inspired visual art exhibition overlooking the Pacific, creating art alongside Lavender Art Club, enjoying live performances, and taking a sunset swim with poolside music by DJ Nomad. Whether you float, swim laps, dance, make art, or simply take in the ocean views, ART SPLASH invites you to celebrate queer creativity, joy, and self-expression in a welcoming beachfront setting. Sunday, July 26, 5:30 - 10p.m., Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH <https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4kb0sajzs03ffzr2ttvsxvry5n/202607261800>

Annenberg Beach House Community Picnic: Enjoy games, crafts, a “pie” walk, and epic tug-of-war for “some good old-fashioned summertime fun.” All are invited to pack a dinner and grab some pals or join a solo-friendly communal table to enjoy this free event, with s'mores. Thursday, July 30, 5 - 8 p.m., 415 PCH eventbrite.com/e/community-picnic-tickets-1989055370156

ONGOING: Museum of Illusions; The CUBE VR; Splatter Studio;

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Florentine Steak Dinner Series at All'Antico Vinaio: The popular Italian sandwich spot has teamed up with Florence Underground for a dinner series centered around bistecca alla Fiorentina. For \$65 per person, the meal opens with cured meats, cheeses, and house-made schiacciata bread before the main event: a thick T-bone seasoned only with salt and olive oil, served slightly before medium-rare with classic sides family-style. Olive oil cake and crema close it out. I went last month and it felt like a deal at that price. They have a variety of very reasonably priced wines available as well. Available just two more dates: July 31 and Aug. 28. 316 Santa Monica Blvd. tables.toasttab.com/all-antico-vinaio-santa-monica-blvd/experience/fiorentina-night

Wally's Sarti + Aperol Cocktail Class: Learn to craft signature Italian aperitivo cocktails while enjoying a hands-on tasting experience. Each guest will receive a swag bag including one bottle of Sarti and a branded cocktail kit to recreate the cocktails at home. Saturday, July 25, 1p.m., 214 Wilshire Blvd. opentable.com/r/wallys-santa-monica

Ready, Set, Dough! FIG's Hands-On Kids' Pizza-Making Classes: Designed for little foodies with big imaginations, budding chefs can stretch fresh dough, spread San Marzano tomato sauce or Nutella, and customize their own sweet or savory pizza from scratch with a variety of toppings from mozzarella, pepperoni, sausage, bell peppers, olives, and wild mushrooms to strawberries, bananas, crushed Oreos, mini marshmallows, gummy bears, coconut flakes, and more before enjoying their delicious masterpiece alongside a classic root beer float. Saturdays through Labor Day, 3:30 – 4:30p.m., 101 Wilshire Blvd. opentable.com/r/fig-santa-monica

OPENING: Khan Saab Desi Craft Kitchen: The Michelin Bib Gourmand-recognized restaurant is coming to Santa Monica. Created by Chef Imran Ali Mookhi, the restaurant showcases elevated Pakistani and Indian cuisine, handcrafted mocktails, and bold South Asian flavors made with exceptional attention to detail. I went to the grand opening last week and LOVED it. I am planning to go back this week to try more of the menu. 115 Santa Monica Blvd. khansaaboc.com

OPENING: The Tasting Kitchen: The iconic Abbot Kinney tentpole made its highly anticipated return last week under the direction of original chef and owner Casey Lane. The reimagined Venice space preserves its luxe, bohemian soul—including its salvaged signature dining room olive tree—paired with Lane's market-driven, live-fire culinary approach and a seasonal cocktail program. 1633 Abbot Kinney Blvd.

Divine Vintage Adds a Food Menu to its Wine Bar: The Montana Avenue wine bar and boutique known for its globally sourced wines and intimate neighborhood atmosphere, has launched an expanded food program built around shareable small plates, artisanal cheeses and meats and a new lineup of signature flatbread pizzas. 1025 Montana Ave. divinevintage.com

Looking Ahead: National Night Out (8/4); SaMo Oceanfront Arts Festival (8/8); Main St. Farmers Market in the Street Event (8/23); A Pierfect Benefit (9/19); Ocean Way Festival (9/26-27); 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: From Main Street Block Parties to Michelin-Starred Flavors

TREES

FROM PAGE 1

coral trees already under stress. The pest can follow damage from the invasive shot hole borer, though it also attacks stressed coral trees independently. Flournoy said he suspects drought stress is the primary factor weakening the trees but noted that identifying the root cause of the decline was outside the scope of his assignment.

Compounding the problem, Flournoy wrote, is that coral trees are poor at compartmentalizing decay — meaning they struggle to wall off rot once it takes hold — and decay tends to spread rapidly even in otherwise healthy specimens. Healthy coral trees can typically grow new wood fast enough to offset the loss of structural stability, he wrote, but the trees he examined showed little evidence of that kind of recovery.

Given the trees' condition, Flournoy said he does not see viable options short of removal. Reducing a tree's height to ease the load on a decayed trunk and root system, he wrote, would require cuts large enough to constitute topping — a practice that creates its own decay-prone wounds — and would further stress trees already in poor health.

Several individual trees illustrated the severity of the damage. One tree in the 400 block had 23% of its trunk circumference dead on the side that bears the most structural load, along with a root plate that Flournoy said has been slowly uplifting for at least seven years, based on a comparison with 2019 street-level imagery; he also found fruiting bodies from Ganoderma fungus at its base. A tree in the 700 block had roughly 55% of its trunk circumference dead at the base, with most of its anchor roots also dead on the upper surface. A tree in the 1700 block showed evidence of a past trunk failure, with 60% of its trunk circumference dead and a large cavity at the base.

Risk ratings combine the likelihood a tree or tree part will fail, the likelihood it would strike something if it did, and the severity of the consequences. For most of the high-risk trees, Flournoy rated the likelihood of failure as “probable” within two years and found a “high” likelihood that a falling tree or limb would strike a vehicle, given the steady traffic on San Vicente. He rated the combined likelihood of failure and impact as “likely,” with “severe” potential consequences — a combination that produced the “high” overall risk rating.

Flournoy said trees near the western end

of San Vicente, closer to Ocean Avenue, generally posed less risk to vehicles because of lighter traffic in that stretch. The lowest-rated tree in the assessment, near the 100 block, was found to have significant root damage but retained many intact anchor roots close to the trunk.

The report recommends monitoring the moderate- and low-risk trees at least every six months, warning that their risk ratings could climb to “high” if their condition continues to deteriorate. Flournoy's report does not set a timeline for removal of the high-risk trees; that decision rests with the city as the trees' owner. “The tree owner ultimately decides whether to keep the trees based on their risk tolerance and other factors,” Flournoy wrote. “If the tree owner does not accept the risk posed by the trees, then the trees should be removed.”

The San Vicente findings arrive against the backdrop of a citywide urban forest that is itself showing signs of strain. Santa Monica's Public Landscape Division, part of the Public Works Department, oversees more than 35,000 public trees across more than 250 species, guided by a 50-year Urban Forest Master Plan adopted in 2011 and updated in 2017. The city has held Tree City USA status for more than 40 years and estimates its street trees provide about \$5.1 million a year in ecosystem benefits.

But roughly 42% of the city's public trees are mature and nearing the end of their useful life, according to the city, and the broader region has seen disease and pest pressures similar to what Flournoy documented on San Vicente. The invasive shot hole borer and associated Fusarium dieback complex, first identified in Los Angeles County in 2012, now affects more than 50 hardwood species across seven Southern California counties. City crews have also flagged other trees for removal in recent years due to ganoderma fungal infections and irreversible decline.

Questions about how the city irrigates its street trees and medians remain only partly answered. Back in 2015 officials said Santa Monica had begun hand-watering trees and using slow-release watering bags, while halting irrigation of grassy street medians altogether to conserve water. No information was available at press time as to the current status of watering for the San Vicente trees in specific or the overall city policy on watering trees in the public right of way.

editor@smdp.com



ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!

Santa Monica Daily Press

office (310) 458-7737



*Grazie mille
for voting us*
Most Loved!



502 Santa Monica Blvd. 424-433-8100 ortosantamonica.com