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2 Stabbed 68 times
In 2005 murder case.

3 Republican pitch
In Governor's race.



5 MacArthur park
Still a problem.

6 Free training
For SM Classic.

Volume 25 Issue 176

THE WEEKENDER 7/24-7/26

smdp.com

Santa Monica moves to shutter SaMoShel, build City-controlled housing system



SMDP Photo

CLOSING TIME: The tent shelter may close soon and officials are looking for options to move the city towards an interim housing model instead of extending shelter operations.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica is preparing to decommission SaMoShel, the 60-bed congregate shelter that has served as the

city's only dedicated sheltering resource for more than three decades, as part of a broader overhaul of how the city addresses homelessness.

The City Council will consider the plan, called the Housing Focused System of Care,

at its July 28 meeting. The proposal would replace SaMoShel's dormitory-style setup — in which residents sleep in an assigned area of a large room alongside many others — with a network of non-congregate housing that the city, rather than Los Angeles

County, would control from intake through permanent placement.

According to a staff report prepared by Aileen Reynolds, director of the city's

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 7

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Singer was stabbed 68 times in brutal 2025 murder

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Gospel singer Jubilant Sykes suffered 68 stab wounds and multiple broken bones before he died, according to a Los Angeles County medical examiner's autopsy report detailing the Grammy-nominated performer's killing inside his Santa Monica home in December.

The autopsy report shows Sykes, 71, was stabbed in his heart, liver and lungs and was also struck with a 10-pound dumbbell during the attack, which took place at his home in the 1700 block of Delaware Avenue on Dec. 8. His son, Micah Sykes, 31, allegedly used garden shears in the assault, according to his criminal complaint.

Sykes' wife, Cecelia, reported the incident as an assault after finding her son attacking his father, police said. Officers responded to the home at approximately 9:20 p.m. after a 911 caller reported an assault in progress. Sykes was pronounced dead at the scene by Santa Monica Fire Department personnel shortly after officers arrived.

Micah Sykes was found inside the residence and taken into custody without incident. He has been in custody without bail since his

arrest and is charged with murder as well as infliction of injury on a vulnerable victim. His arraignment has been delayed repeatedly, and his next court appearance is scheduled for Aug. 6, according to court records. A request for comment from the public defender's office was not immediately returned.

Detectives from the Santa Monica Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division secured the scene and obtained a search warrant. Forensic specialists processed physical evidence, including a weapon recovered at the scene. Police have said the incident appears to be isolated and occurred within a private residence, with no ongoing threat to the community.

Sykes grew up in Los Angeles, where he sang soprano as a child. His resume included performances at the Metropolitan Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, London's Barbican Centre, the Apollo Theater, the Hollywood Bowl and the New Orleans Jazz Festival. In 2010, he earned a Grammy nomination for his recording of Leonard Bernstein's "Mass."

Micah has remained in custody since the murder.

editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica Six artists selected for Santa Monica residencies at Bergamot Station

Six Los Angeles County-based artists have been chosen as the 2026-2027 cohort for the city of Santa Monica Artist Residency Program, formerly the Camera Obscura Artist in Residency Program.

They are Sasha Mazhara, Chinaedu Nwadiibia, Bella Ortiz, Seda Saar, Avila Santo and Nicolette Spear, selected by a panel of arts professionals.

The artists will develop their work during 14-week residencies in a studio at the City Gallery in the Bergamot Station Arts Center. As part of the program, they will lead free public workshops. Each receives a \$2,500 honorarium and a \$500 materials budget for the workshops.

The 2026-2027 cycle marks the program's official move to Bergamot Station. In previous years, it was held at the Camera Obscura Art Lab in Palisades Park.

Avila Santo will lead an embodied rhythm workshop during COAST 2026, an open streets festival celebrating the World Cup final, on Sunday, July 19, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. His workshop runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Camera Obscura Art Lab in Palisades Park. Previous resident Anahid Boghosian, of the 2025-2026 program, will also take part in COAST with a live painting demonstration and new work from her residency.

Bella Ortiz will lead a blind contour drawing workshop during the annual State of the City event on Thursday, July 23, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Main Street.

Seda Saar is part of the "Water is a Currency" exhibition at the Annenberg Community Beach House gallery, featuring seven artists exploring cultural, spiritual and historical relationships between water, movement and collective memory. It is on view through Sept. 27.

Mazhara is a documentary photographer originally from Ukraine whose work centers on displacement and reconnection. Nwadiibia is a multidisciplinary artist drawing on her Nigerian and African American heritage. Ortiz, known as EDTHEGOATKILLER, is a self-taught Chilean American artist working across canvas, apparel and murals. Saar is an interdisciplinary artist exploring light, color and space. Santo is a drummer and Capoeira professor whose work centers on rhythm. Spear is a painter whose large-scale oils examine technology's power to connect and isolate.

Future workshops will be posted at santamonica.gov/events.

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Republican Hilton tells Californians they can hate Trump but still vote for him in governor's race

Republican Steve Hilton launched his general election campaign for California governor Wednesday with a gambit to win over left-leaning voters who dominate the state: Even if they loathe President Donald Trump, he said, they should consider voting for him.

During an event in Los Angeles, against the backdrop of a stinking, scorched food warehouse he described as a symbol of the state's political incompetence, Hilton rolled out a list of campaign promises clearly aimed at residents buckling under California's notoriously high cost of living. He vowed to bring the price of gasoline down to \$3 a gallon, about half the current cost, cut residents' utility bills in half, now among the nation's highest, and eliminate state income taxes on the first \$150,000 in earnings.

“This is not about who you hate in Washington. It’s about what we love about California and what we can do to make California once again the best place anywhere in the country to start and raise a family, to start and run a business

- Steve Hilton, Republican

He blamed the state's problems — from homelessness to low student test scores — squarely on Democrats, who hold every statewide office and supermajorities in the Legislature. He called Democrats a “rotten regime that has abandoned the working class.”

In his campaign remarks and ads he took out in leading newspapers throughout the state, Hilton addressed his relationship with Trump, who has endorsed him in the race.

“This is not about who you hate in Washington. It’s about what we love about California and what we can do to make California once again the best place anywhere in the country to start and raise a family, to start and run a business,” he said before a small group of supporters. “That’s what this

election is about.”

Hilton's maneuver is meant to create a sliver of distance from Trump without breaking from him. It's a tacit nod to the political math in California, one of the nation's most solidly Democratic states. Registered Republicans are outnumbered nearly 2-to-1 by Democratic voters, and a GOP candidate hasn't won a statewide election since 2006.

Trump is widely unpopular in California outside his loyal conservative base. In 2016, Trump lost to Democrat Hillary Clinton by 30 points; in 2020, he lost to Joe Biden by 29 points; and in 2024, he lost to Kamala Harris by 20 points.

California is regarded as the home of the so-called Trump resistance, where Democrats have effectively used Trump as a foil in campaigns to motivate voters. Last year, Gov. Gavin Newsom essentially nationalized the state's fight over Proposition 50, which recast U.S. House districts to favor Democrats, by framing it as a confrontation with Trump. The measure notched a 29-point win.

The campaign of Hilton's Democratic opponent, former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, scoffed at the notion of Hilton being a change agent.

“Californians already know who Steve Hilton is: Trump's puppet in California. His campaign is a promise to run our state the way Trump runs the country and we're not buying it,” campaign spokesman Jonathan Underland said in a statement.

As for Hilton's pitch that voters who dislike Trump should feel free to consider him in November, Underland said, “Steve Hilton cheers on a president whose illegal war has sent gas prices soaring and illegal tariffs have cost California families more than \$2,500 this year alone. You can't fix the affordability crisis while carrying water for the man causing it.”

In a heavily Democratic state, Hilton's campaign is hoping his appeal to Democrats and independents will “give voters a permission slip” to look past the letter next to a candidate's name, even in a nation deeply divided by partisanship.

“You do have a choice if you think that this state is going in the wrong direction,” he told supporters at a kickoff event in Boyle Heights, a Los Angeles neighborhood where residents have been complaining about the stench of rotting food, flies and rodents that followed a fire last month at a cold storage warehouse.

He was accompanied by Gloria Romero, a former Democratic state lawmaker who switched parties in 2024 and is this year's Republican nominee for lieutenant governor. She delivered her own address in both English and Spanish, with supporters holding “Hilton-Romero” signs in the background.

Becerra, a former state lawmaker, congressman and state attorney general, is heavily favored to win the seat now held



Surf report WATER TEMP: 64.4

FRIDAY
FAIR

SURF: 3-4ft+
Waist to shoulder

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.

SATURDAY
FAIR

SURF: 2-3ft+
Thigh to stomach

Tropical swell continues. New run of long period SW swell starts to join in. Light AM winds due. Playful SSW tropical swell to ease going into the weekend while forerunners of a fresh long-period SW Southern Hemi creeps in. Many spots running waist-chest high, as better exposures are head high. Still enough NW windswell in the mix for fairly broken up beachbreak surf. Light S morning winds, followed by low-moderate SW afternoon onshores.



Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. Light and variable wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph in the morning.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. Southwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

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

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2026/07/25	Sat	1:04 PM	2.98	L
2026/07/25	Sat	7:29 PM	5.65	H
2026/07/26	Sun	03:03 AM	-0.16	L
2026/07/26	Sun	09:47 AM	3.64	H
2026/07/26	Sun	1:48 PM	2.83	L
2026/07/26	Sun	8:08 PM	5.88	H
2026/07/27	Mon	03:33 AM	-0.33	L
2026/07/27	Mon	10:08 AM	3.75	H



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4 5 22 50 58
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 600 M



Draw Date: 7/22
1 14 16 22 23



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



Draw Date: 7/22
EVENING: 1 5 2
Draw Date: 7/22
MIDDAY: 4 6 3



Draw Date: 7/22
5 16 29 30 35
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 40 M



Draw Date: 7/22
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:46.66

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 Araniva
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)
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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DBA

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Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00330. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Afaf Farah Mostafa for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Afaf Farah Mostafa filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Afaf Farah Mostafa to Afaf Farah Moustafa. 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: 09/11/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, 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: 07/21/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/24/2026, 07/31/2026, 08/07/2026, 08/14/2026

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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Why California’s AI transparency law for state government use was destined to fail

After announcing under a new law that California’s state government uses no so-called high-risk AI systems, the state has discovered — to no one’s surprise — that state agencies actually have been using at least six automated systems to make consequential decisions about the lives of Californians.

Systems like these mine sensitive personal data to automate what can be life-and-death government decisions for people, such as whether they will be granted cash assistance to feed their families, qualify for housing or be able to access needed medical care.

This episode exemplifies something many have long argued: Regulating technology through transparency will fail not only to spark significant change but even to meet the already low threshold of letting the public know what the government is up to.

Assembly Bill 302, which was signed three years ago, requires the state’s Department of Technology to conduct a “comprehensive inventory of all high-risk automated decision systems” proposed or used by “any state agency” and to publish a yearly report on its findings.

In 2025, following the department’s first report (finding no high-risk systems), we made a public records request for the department’s data. What we received back was laughable: a single spreadsheet with a column labeled “Is ADS used” and the word ‘no’ listed for each agency.

There was no evidence of any further technology department inquiry.

This year, the department interviewed a few agencies that finally raised their hands to say they used high-risk systems. That means AB 302 depends wholly on agencies to self-report, and there’s no process to verify an agency’s claims — nor any repercussions for agencies that fail.

Worse, it’s unclear what systems the state believes it is responsible for disclosing. The technology department’s report implies that the decision on whether a system is “high risk” and reportable relies on how state agencies define their own tools.

AB 302 vaguely states that high-risk systems “assist or replace human discretionary decisions that have a legal or similarly significant effect, including decisions that materially impact access to, or approval for, housing or accommodations, education, employment, credit, health care, and criminal justice.” But known systems like

the Uniformity Assessment System, for example, which has led to the reduction of In-Home Supportive Services for disabled Californians, and the Risk Segmentation, Stratification, and Tier model used to predict Medi-Cal recipients’ “risk” and “service underutilization,” were not reported.

Transparency bills nationwide have similarly failed. New York’s Public Oversight of Surveillance Technology Act was “meant to provide the public with a better picture into the NYPD’s unchecked use of spying technologies,” according to the Brennan Center for Justice. But NYPD’s Inspector General and outside groups have shown that the police department exploits legal loopholes to avoid scrutiny of technologies, like those creepy robot dogs, and describes its own policies and capabilities in vague terms that undermine any meaningful oversight.

Many jurisdictions have also tried “community control over police surveillance” bills which — like AB 302 — require police to disclose information about their own tech, to similar frustration. Community control strategies allow police to frame surveillance in favorable terms. That can have problematic anchoring effects as policymakers “fixate on whatever instantiation of technology” proponents “happen to put in front of them,” as University of Washington law professor Ryan Calo succinctly put it last year.

But perhaps the most fundamental problem with trying to regulate automated systems through transparency is that this approach starts by conceding that state agencies may adopt such systems and then invests in their continued use by building expensive public bureaucracies around them. Far from serving an oversight function, this normalizes and entrenches the use of automated systems as a regular part of the way government agencies do business.

If California wants to regulate high risk government uses of technology, the conversation can’t end at transparency. AB 302 was an interesting, if failed, experiment. Now it’s time for lawmakers to get serious about protecting Californians.

Stevie Glaberson is the director of research and advocacy for the Center on Privacy and Technology at Georgetown Law. Victoria Copeland is a research fellow at the UCLA Center on Resilience and Digital Justice.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

editor@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

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Safer, cleaner MacArthur Park still struggles. Will closing a major Los Angeles boulevard make a difference?

Los Angeles' effort to restore iconic MacArthur Park to health has all the trappings of a test: It is a challenge, it requires effort and staying power, and its results will either validate a theory or debunk it.

The theory: The right blend of police power, community involvement, social services and attention to detail can produce lasting, transformative change in an area of the city that has succumbed to addiction, crime and homelessness.

The grade: Incomplete.

MacArthur Park was once a symbol of Los Angeles: noir, edgy, surrounded by swanky hotels, the subject of song and myth. More recently it has become a symbol of what's wrong. Drug addicts scramble for fixes; sidewalks and alleys smell of urine; criminals prey on the helpless.

City officials made a commitment to turn the park around — if not back to its mid-century glory, at least to someplace neighbors could enjoy. The neighborhood the park occupies, Westlake, is home to immigrants from around the world and one of the most densely populated communities west of the Mississippi.

City agencies and nonprofits have dispatched overdose teams and social workers to the park, to help addicts drawn there by the availability of drugs. The Los Angeles Police Department has stepped up patrols, which has disrupted a flourishing drug trade along Alvarado Street, on the park's eastern edge.

The park feels safer and cleaner than it did a year ago. Nevertheless it remains torn, and its future is tenuous.

As one recent report concluded: "While the current day conditions of the park are controversial topics for people within and beyond the Westlake neighborhood, there is a commonly held desire for clean, well-maintained green space, that is safe, accessible, and a great destination for families; a vibrant space activated by people who are enjoying the park."

That prospect remains more hope than present-day reality. And so, the city's work is evolving, not so much leaving behind the effort of the past year or so but enlarging it, to employ urban planning tools to change the look and feel of the park. The hope is that amenities and alterations to the flow in and around the area will build on the modest progress of recent months and solidify some of the gains.

That notion got a test run earlier this month, when the city cut off car traffic from Wilshire Boulevard, a major street that cuts the park in half, from east to west.

It was only temporary, but the idea was

to try out the park as an uninterrupted patch of land. Under normal conditions, the boulevard interrupts the feel of the park by slicing it with a street so wide and flanked with barriers that the only simple way of getting from the north side of the park to the south side, or back, is by walking through pedestrian tunnels, which can be dark and intimidating.

But on the weekend of July 17, the street was closed to all but pedestrian traffic, and park-goers could experience it as they did a couple generations ago.

Crowds turned out — some 2,000 on Friday, almost twice that many on Saturday. Some came out of curiosity, some to watch the World Cup, some to participate in festivities created for the day.

Not all of the park's ills were in remission. The eastern edge, along Alvarado, still had a smattering of glassy-eyed addicts lolling on benches or splayed on the ground. There was litter in spots.

But there also were kids playing soccer, vendors selling food, families with young children joining in carnival games set up for the day. Some unhoused people lined up next to families and kids to watch the games.

If it were permanent, rerouting Wilshire Boulevard would be a major undertaking, and it's only in the early stages. But it was the recommended option of a recent park study, and it's moving to its next phase, an environmental review that will include mountains of community input. The feedback gathered so far has been overwhelmingly positive, according to the report.

Other physical improvements are underway, too. For a while, the city moved against illegal street vendors — and the drug trade they permitted — by installing chain-link fences along stretches of Alvarado and adjoining streets. That helped chase off drug dealers, but the fences were unsightly, and people started tossing their trash into the fenced-off enclosures. Responding again, the city installed colored bollards — big cement spheres — that impede vendors but can't be used as trash receptacles.

Some of the people who turned out last week were happy to see the fences gone but noted that some drug dealers merely moved a few blocks away. It's easier to move a problem than it is to eliminate it, especially one as persistent as drug trafficking.

The next major change to the park is expected in the fall. It, too, is an attempt to address the look and feel of the area. Planners are working on a wrought iron

SEE GUEST COMMENTARY PAGE 8



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

Free training plans available for McCourt Foundation's Santa Monica Classic

Free training plans for the 2026 Santa Monica Classic are now available from the LA Road Runners, the event's training program. The race, produced by The McCourt Foundation, takes place Sept. 13.

The LA Road Runners trains and supports participants for the Santa Monica Classic, the Rose Bowl Half Marathon & 5K and the ASICS Los Angeles Marathon. The program's downloadable, eight-week training plans for the Classic are now available online, with five levels based on experience and goals.

To mark the start of training, the foundation and LA Road Runners hosted a free Summer Meet Up run on July 11 at the Third Street Promenade. Nearly 100 local runners came together for a 3- or 5-mile group workout previewing the Santa Monica Classic courses.

"For over 30 years, the LA Road Runners program has been helping athletes of all levels train for iconic local races like the Santa Monica Classic," said Lucie Murray, senior manager of community and youth programs for the foundation. "33% of Santa Monica Classic participants also take part in the ASICS Los Angeles Marathon, with many also running in the Rose Bowl Half Marathon. It's a perfect stepping stone for those who set goals for longer distances."

Registration for the Santa Monica Classic is open and is expected to sell out weeks ahead of race day. The event features a 10K and 5K, with partners including ASICS, Michelob Ultra, UCLA Health, KIA and Optimum Nutrition. It is one of four annual running events produced by The McCourt Foundation, a Los Angeles- and Boston-based nonprofit focused on funding neurological research and community wellness. Since its inception, the foundation has donated more than \$7.2 million to neurology research and generated more than \$81 million for charity partners.

The event also features a Kids Run for ages 3 to 8 on a half-kilometer route, part of the Kids Run LA Challenge.

For more information, visit mccourtfoundation.org.

“For over 30 years, the LA Road Runners program has been helping athletes of all levels train for iconic local races like the Santa Monica Classic

- Lucie Murray, senior manager of community and youth programs for the foundation

”

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Notice to Suppliers/Contractors to Register for Bid Opportunities

Suppliers and licensed contractors interested in doing business with Santa Monica College (SMC) should register through SMC's Online Portal PlanetBids at <https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=13721>

Click on Vendor Registration and successfully complete all required fields to be notified when bidding opportunities arise for a specific category. Suppliers/Contractors are solely responsible for maintaining up-to-date and accurate business profile information.

NOTE: Registration only signifies interest in doing business with SMC, it does not guarantee notification or constitute a contract.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press

editor@smdp.com

OpenAI says rogue AI models broke free from human control. Some see it as a 'warning shot'

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 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

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HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

Housing and Human Services Department, the shift comes as Los Angeles County dramatically restructures its regional homeless response system. Over the past 15 months, the county Board of Supervisors voted to pull Measure A funding from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, created a new County Department of Homeless Services and Housing, and then cut nearly \$200 million from homeless services amid a budget shortfall. In June, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development suspended federal funding to LAHSA and the Los Angeles Continuum of Care, adding further strain.

“If we simply maintain the status quo while the regional system is reordered and defunded, our local outcomes will suffer, both in how we support the unhoused population in our community, and in our efforts to reduce disorder in our neighborhoods and commercial districts,” the report states.

NEW HOUSING OPTIONS ACROSS THE CITY

The plan calls for three linked types of housing — stabilization housing, interim housing and permanent housing — each paired with support services, with the city deciding who is placed at each site and directing security and “good neighbor” policies at every location.

The first step involves preserving The Palm Motel as stabilization housing. The 34-room, 48-occupant motel has operated as county-funded interim housing under The People Concern for the past two years, but that program is ending as the county redirects resources. Rather than lose the resource, the city would negotiate agreements with the property owner and

with The People Concern to bring the site under city control, limiting placements to people who meet the Santa Monica Program Participant, or SMPP, definition — someone who became homeless in the city, has been homeless in the city for three or more years, or is a frequent user of city services as verified by staff.

The second step directs city funding to The Salvation Army to activate currently unfunded shelter beds at its Bell Shelter in the city of Bell. Because those beds would be available to any Los Angeles County jurisdiction working with The Salvation Army, staff describe the investment as support for the broader regional system, while also giving the city’s outreach and first-responder teams a funded referral option for people who don’t meet the SMPP definition.

The third step is a Request for Expression of Interest, or RFEI, seeking motels, hotels, residential facilities and other non-congregate sites in and around Santa Monica. Those facilities, once identified, would replace SaMoShel’s capacity and complete the local continuum. The city had previously explored partnering with The Manor, an adult residential facility on Pico Boulevard, but halted those talks in favor of the competitive RFEI process. Staff say the transition away from SaMoShel would be sequenced so shelter capacity is maintained throughout, and a subsequent Request for Qualifications would build a bench of service providers for the new sites.

Staff are also asking the council to approve exceptions to competitive bidding for agreements with The Palm Motel, The People Concern and The Salvation Army, and to adopt a finding that the agreements are statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because they

constitute contracts for services to people experiencing homelessness.

The budget request tied to the plan totals \$4,264,673 in fiscal year 2026-27 and \$5,271,136 in future-year requests, for a combined \$9,535,809 across the three agreements. Staff are proposing a budget amendment shifting \$3,458,150 from the Providence Saint John’s Development Agreement fund balance to cover part of the cost. Officials note that funding beyond year two will need new sources once those development agreement funds run out, and that the city has applied for more than \$5 million from a state Encampment Resolution Program grant, with Measure GS and Measure GSH cited as other potential funding streams.

CLOSURE, NOT RELOCATION

The proposal has met with concern and confusion in the community. Santa Monica is not proposing a relocation of Samoshell, either its people or services. Rather it’s proposing an end to all Samoshell operations. Current residents would be transferred to as yet undermined facilities. Santa Monica would then populate any new facilities in city limits with individuals drawn from its priority population. Those new beds would be filtered for individuals who are able to utilize the interim housing and would be specifically for people transitioning out of homelessness.

THE CITY’S HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

The proposal builds on several years of city analysis. In 2022, Santa Monica commissioned a homelessness assessment from Moss Adams, which led the council in 2023 to authorize development of a citywide homelessness strategic plan. The city worked with BerryDunn on that plan, which was

published in March 2025.

In October 2025, the council adopted a Realignment Plan that called for reimagining the city’s sheltering model, replacing SaMoShel with a “healing center” approach pairing shelter with addiction treatment and mental health services and creating a direct pipeline into transitional and permanent housing.

In late March 2026, staff returned with a Realignment Plan update recommending the Housing Focused System of Care and asking for direction to pursue community engagement before finalizing any agreements. That outreach included 14 community meetings between April and July, where staff said they heard general support for new solutions, alongside concerns about site safety and security, how success would be measured, and whether facilities would be concentrated in one part of the city. Staff say those concerns shaped the final proposal, including the security and good-neighbor provisions built into each contract and an equity review planned for the RFEI process.

The 2025 Point-in-Time count identified 812 people experiencing homelessness in Santa Monica. Staff also noted that of SaMoShel’s 60 beds, only about 10% are currently occupied by people who meet the SMPP definition, a gap the report cites in proposing a two-part strategy: building a local system for SMPP residents while continuing to invest in the regional response for others experiencing homelessness in the city.

The item is scheduled for the council’s July 28 meeting and would require five votes to pass because it includes a budget amendment.

editor@smdp.com



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Notice of Probate Petition

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ROBERT ALAN GASPER CASE NO. 26STPB06813

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ROBERT ALAN GASPER. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by GARY JOHN GASPER in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that GARY JOHN GASPER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. 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 in this court as follows: 10/09/26 at 8:30AM in Dept. 240 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012. 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 EUGENE S. ALKANA, ESQ. - SBN 60411 EUGENE S. ALKANA, APLC 131 N. EL MOLINO AVENUE, SUITE 310 PASADENA CA 91101 Telephone (626) 796-8170 BSC 228803 7/24, 7/25, 7/31/26 **CNS-4063258# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS**

ELECTION

FROM PAGE 3

by Newsom, a likely 2028 Democratic presidential candidate who is barred by law from seeking a third term. Hilton and Becerra emerged from a chaotic primary election in June that had more than 50 candidates on the ballot.

The race is unfolding at a time when California is facing multiple crises. Despite billions in spending, homelessness remains widespread, especially in larger cities. Multibillion-dollar budget gaps are projected into the future. Home prices remain out of reach for many residents. The home insurance market is in disarray, businesses and residents have been fleeing the state, and residents contend with some of the nation's highest gas prices, taxes and utility bills.

Making good on his campaign promises won't be an easy task for Hilton, a former adviser to ex-United Kingdom Prime Minister David Cameron who has never held elective office. The governor doesn't control the oil or utility markets, but Hilton says he will get rid of mandates, taxes and fees that drive those prices higher. He also would likely need the consent of a Legislature controlled by Democrats to change the state's income tax structure.

Hilton crowned his campaign kickoff with a 30-second TV ad underscoring the financial challenges for many families.

"Life here has become impossible for anyone who isn't already rich," he says. "Let's fix California."

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD AP Political Writer

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 5

fence to encircle the park, controlling access and making it easier to enforce its closure at night.

Not everyone likes that plan. Some residents view the fence as a symbol of exclusion or a waste of resources better spent on housing or drug treatment. But it holds in common with blocking Wilshire or the bollards the idea that changes to the park's physical environment might have lasting effects on its social conditions.

The goal is not to drive out the forces of decay but to invite in those of stability.

These are difficult problems, microcosms of larger struggles Los Angeles and other big cities face, especially at a time when Washington has forgotten them or, worse, contributed to

them. In MacArthur Park, for instance, the city's efforts have been stymied at times by the Trump administration's decision to use the park as a staging area for its faux military operations, complete with ICE agents dressed up as soldiers parading in front of bewildered residents.

MacArthur Park is not a staging area. It's the center of a tightly packed, immigrant community whose residents depend on this space for children to have a place to play and for residents to gather for rest from long days and nights of work.

These residents have all the same rights to safety, health and peace of mind as do wealthier Angelenos. They deserve this effort.

It is a test the city must pass.

Jim Newton, CalMatters Contributor

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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN

SO... WHAT "MYSTERY OF THE UNIVERSE" WAS REVEALED TO YOU IN YOUR DREAM?

"AHGDOONTABYA."

WHAT IS THAT?

I'M NOT SURE.

THEN HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S A MYSTERY OF THE UNIVERSE?

IF IT WASN'T A MYSTERY, I WOULD KNOW WHAT IT WAS.

Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

AMAZON PLANS TO HAVE FULL DRONE DELIVERY SOON!

HEAR THAT? DUCK SEASON IS ABOUT TO BECOME WAY MORE FUN!

Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

HOW'S THE SCANNING COMING ALONG?

MR. BELMONT, MOST OF THESE PHOTOS IN YOUR ALBUMS ARE OF BUILDINGS AND STATUES AND SUNSETS...

YOU'RE RIGHT, ZACK. I WISH NOW THAT I HAD FEWER PICTURES OF MONUMENTS AND MORE OF MRS. BELMONT AND ME. PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THINGS.

YOUR MOM MADE YOU A SANDWICH. WANT TO BREAK FOR LUNCH?

HANG ON. LET ME GET A SHOT OF IT FIRST FOR INSTAGRAM.

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

"THE SUMMER MUMMY GETS THE SAND FLAVOR."

HELLOOO?
ARE YOU DECENT?

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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NSW's mid north coast

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

Bars	Dense	Library	Scenic
Boats	Diving	Lush	Shells
Bowls	Dorigo	Marina	Shop
Brelsford	Fauna	Muttonbird	Stay
Park	Funny	Novatel	Steep
Bypass	Golf	Rain	Streams
Cafes	Green	Ride	Timber
Cartoon	Hike	River	Tourists
gallery	Hill	Road	Whales
Clog	Jetty	Rugged	
Coramba	Karangi	Sail	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

When the mood takes me

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (July 24)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Different interpretations begin to converge. Now people can coordinate their efforts and move forward together. Cooperation will get a little easier each day from here because everyone is working from the same understanding.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Many people enter new social situations trying to fit in. You'll have more success letting people discover who you already are. Genuine connections form faster when there is less translation required.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Today, assess people based on their curiosity, not their knowledge. What they ask - or if they ask anything at all - will tell you much more about their interests and motivation than what you might learn in an answer.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Today brings themes of entitlement versus contribution. Judgments about who deserves what are often tangled up with people's self-image and personal biases. Many who think they should get more have less claim to it. Merit and self-confidence don't always go together.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Love doesn't happen to you so much as through you. It moves you to act because you care. Decisions made from love rather than fear will lead somewhere worthwhile. Acts of love have long consequences.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The current situation calls for strategic thinking. Resist the urge to focus only on the immediate outcome. Sometimes the real victory is gaining experience you'll be able to use long after this particular challenge is over.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You lived the past, you imagine the future and now is the only moment in which you can really affect destiny. Three different times seem to exist simultaneously today. It's how you know you are, at your core, timeless.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are two paths: one bathed in sunlight, promising warmth and familiarity, the other shrouded in moonlight, fog and the allure of the unknown. You don't have to decide; your feet already know.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When your brain is trying to hold too many open loops, you can feel overwhelmed. Write it out and the feeling of overload will decrease even before a single problem is solved just because you move the problem out of your head and onto paper.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Make a request. Use clear language and say the thing that lets everyone know where you're coming from and what you want. You'll be pleased by how quickly circumstances improve once people understand exactly what you need.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You don't have all the information, and that's OK. Focus on taking care of yourself instead of trying to figure everything out. Events will reveal something you couldn't have anticipated, and that change will ultimately put you on a better path.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may be tempted to keep thinking about a problem that's already been solved. Not because the answer is unclear, but because it's not the answer you wanted. Accept it, deal with it and move on. The next chapter is waiting.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Nickname for a Genesis VIP namesake
- 5 Slight fight
- 9 Quick flash
- 14 Handel contemporary
- 15 Costume designer for Mata Hari
- 16 Working class
- 17 Bond investor’s concern
- 20 Stubborn Seuss character
- 21 Slips in pots
- 22 Frankfurt’s state
- 23 Some email attachments
- 24 Slog (through)
- 25 What 2028 will be
- 32 Vessel on ancient Greek coins
- 33 Square up
- 34 “Outside” starter
- 35 Oscar role for Cotillard

- 36 Mirren, Andrews and Dench
- 38 Heavy duty
- 39 Pressure measure
- 40 Melt together
- 41 California map word near Stanford
- 42 Good old New Englander cleverness
- 47 Sally Beauty rival
- 48 Pole-to-pole line
- 49 TV host Mandel
- 51 Common maxiskirt feature
- 52 Keep away
- 55 Dismissive threat

rejection

- 58 Loosen, perhaps
- 59 Part of a witch costume
- 60 Nada, in Nantes
- 61 Royal pains
- 62 August 13th, for instance
- 63 Full of guile

DOWN

- 1 *Billboard* “Greatest Rapper of All Time”
- 2 Vocal showcase
- 3 Lego alternative
- 4 Japanese pizza topping
- 5 Start a trip
- 6 ...*Things Past* author
- 7 What some

drive-thrus are for

- 8 Sri Lanka export
- 9 Firmly attached
- 10 Jack London hero
- 11 Spoonbill cousin
- 12 Renown
- 13 Have a few of
- 18 Mischievous trick
- 19 Henley Regatta site
- 23 MIT VIP
- 24 “__ done it!”
- 25 Chihuahua-like
- 26 Pension-plan law
- 27 All over
- 28 Big bruisers
- 29 Alaska’s __ Fjords National Park
- 30 Rejoice
- 31 Spanish self-identification

GET WISE by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- 36 Played a four-handed piece
- 37 Tiger habitat
- 38 Major work
- 40 Jaguars, e.g.
- 43 Former UK protectorate
- 44 Aplenty
- 45 Can be found
- 46 Time on marquees
- 49 Put an edge on
- 50 Turns off
- 51 Fish with pricey eggs
- 52 Liveliness
- 53 DJIA financial firm
- 54 MoMA address
- 55 Western *oui*
- 56 Four-yr. conflict
- 57 Pound sound

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07/24/26

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



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>

SUNSET SESSIONS- BENEFITING MAKE A WISH

5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The Penmar 1233 Rose Avenue Los Angeles. Music and good vibes as the Sun sets. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sunset-sessions-benefiting-make-a-wish/19264528/2026-07-24T17>

THE NIGHT SKY SHOW

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (MSB 126 Planetarium) Math & Science Building, 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. The Night Sky Show - Using SMC's 4K Digistar projection system, Planetarium Lecturer Sarah

Vincent will talk about the latest news in astronomy and space exploration, and present a virtual tour of constellations and other night-sky celebrities making their appearance in the evenings ahead. The Night Sky Show is followed by the Feature Program. General Admission: \$10. Children (3-12): \$7. Show Combo (Include the Feature Program at 7 p.m.): \$16 adults, \$10 children (3-12) (A \$1 per ticket service fee will be charged by the ticketing company.) There will be a short intermission prior the start of the Feature Program. No children under age 3 at Friday evening shows. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-night-sky-show/18045435/2026-07-24T18>

DEAR EVAN HANSEN

7:00 p.m. Miles Playhouse Pacific Palisades. Directors Sydney Diamond and Lara Ganz lead a cast of 20 teen actors in the powerful and deeply moving musical, "Dear Evan Hansen," presented by Palisades Youth Performing Arts at Miles Playhouse, located at 1130 Lincoln Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90403. Anxiety? Check. Awkward conversations? Check. Life-changing misunderstandings? Double check. Dear Evan Hansen is a funny, moving and unforgettable musical about friendship, family and finding connection in a world that's constantly refreshing its feed. Come for the incredible music, stay for the emotional rollercoaster, and remember: sometimes a single letter can change everything. \$15.00 to \$35.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/dear-evan-hansen/19451692/2026-07-24T19>

SATURDAY | JULY 25

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

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Pier Corporation invites the community to move, stretch, and recharge by the ocean as Wellness & Waves returns for its 2026 season. Taking place every Saturday from April 4 through October 17, 2026, from 8 to 10 a.m., this free, all-ages wellness series transforms the iconic Santa Monica Pier into an open-air fitness destination at the most iconic outdoor setting in Southern California. With the Pacific Ocean as its backdrop, Wellness & Waves offers a welcoming, energizing way to start the weekend—no membership required. Each Saturday morning begins at the top of the Santa Monica Pier at the intersection of Colorado and Ocean with an easygoing group run from 8 to 9 a.m., open to all levels. Guests can then head to the west end of the Pier for yoga and yoga-pilates fusion classes from 9 to 10 a.m., led by top local instructors. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wellness-waves-returns-to-santa-monica-pier-free-sat-morning-fitness/18475500/2026-07-18T08>

SATURDAY MORNING YOGA WITH KIM

9:15 a.m. - 5:15 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Free

Community Yoga created with care for those impacted by the Palisades Fire In case this event has been updated, please visit <https://www.pcrsm.org/event/saturday-morning-yoga-with-kim-fd152> for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/saturday-morning-yoga-with-kim/19029087/2026-07-25T09>

FAMILY ART SOCIAL 10:00AM-1:00PM

10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Unleash your creativity and connect with your community at our Community Arts workshop! In case this event has been updated, please visit <https://www.pcrsm.org/event/family-art-social-10-00am-1-00pm-1a52d> for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/family-art-social-10-00am-1-00pm/19149864/2026-07-25T10>

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.

FLORAL DESIGN WORKSHOP W/ FLOWER SONG LA @ PASJOLI

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. pasjoli 2732 Main Street Santa Monica. Create your own floral arrangement in this interactive workshop with the floral design team behind the infamous wedding on HBO's Euphoria. \$103.22 to \$161.90. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/floral-design-workshop-w-flower-song-la-pasjoli/19404977/2026-07-25T12>

TRASH ART AT THE LIBRARY

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Trash Art Day at the Library Join us for a laid-back day of art! Let's explore the amazing art pieces we can create using materials we find around us. All supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring... Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/trash-art-at-the-library/18109354/2026-07-25T14>

MY LAWYER IS AN ANGEL - CHASING THE AMBULANCE CHASERS OFF THE ROAD!

7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th

St, Santa Monica. 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. The internationally acclaimed team that brought you Jews R2 Much Fun, Almost Perfect, Aspirin & ELEPHANTS, You Haven't Changed a Bit and Other Lies and more, reunites renowned playwright Jerry Mayer with veteran (and frequent Mayer) director Chris DeCarlo. Original music is by Steve Mayer. The stellar cast features DeCarlo (Author! Author!, Mistakes Were Made), Michael Brunino (The Italians, Tracy Kelly: Siblings Gang), Summer Moran (The Last Spark of Us, Strings Attached), Elena Rosa (The Dropout, L.A.'s Finest). \$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-/18922943/2026-07-18T19>

SUNDAY | JULY 26

JEWELRY WORKSHOP: METALSMITHING STACK RINGS

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. ALBION GARDEN 1043 Abbot Kinney Boulevard Los Angeles. Design, solder & wear your own custom sterling silver & gold-filled rings—no experience needed (leave with 3-5 custom stack rings) \$88.28. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/jewelry-workshop-metalsmithing-stack-rings/19418996/2026-07-26T10>

COMMUNITY MEET & GREET WITH CANDIDATES

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Palisades Recovery Coalition - Community Center 15233 La Cruz Dr Pacific Palisades. Palisades Recovery Coalition will host a series of Community Meet & Greets With Candidates. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/community-meet-greet-with-candidates/19460532/2026-07-26T11>

FREE IN-PERSON: SHOTGUN HOUSE

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Historic Shotgun House 2520 2nd St Santa Monica Come by for a free tour; no reservations are required! Explore the last intact Shotgun House in Santa Monica, which now serves as an award-winning Shotgun House for our community. Built in 1897, the little house features three original rooms where you can explore Santa Monica's history and learn about preservation. Look behind the walls and the floor to reveal vintage materials, and see if you can find the original window in the Shotgun House. Young guests will also enjoy the miniature model house decorated with Victorian-era furnishings that were popular when our shotgun house was first built! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/free-in-person-shotgun-house/18982969/2026-07-26T12>



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