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On Main Street.

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Rejected ballots.



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Over data sharing.

Volume 25 Issue 177

MONDAY 7/27/26

smdp.com

Santa Monica reports double digit decline in homelessness

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica's 2026 point-in-time homeless count found an 11 percent decrease in local homelessness according to new data released by officials.

The 2026 count found 718 people living in the city, down 94 individuals or about 11 percent, from last year, a decline driven almost entirely by fewer people living unsheltered outdoors.

The count found 389 unsheltered individuals this year, down 86 from 475 in 2025. Sheltered residents rose slightly, from 202 to 222, an increase of 20.

The number of improvised dwellings counted citywide — cars, vans, RVs, tents and makeshift shelters used as living quarters — also fell, from 135 in 2025 to 107 this year, a drop of 28. Cars used as dwellings fell from 23 to 14, and vans fell from 52 to 34. Tents dropped from 20 to 14. RVs rose slightly, from nine to 11, and makeshift shelters rose from 31 to 34.

City officials and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, which administers the annual count, caution that the figures are raw, unadjusted totals. They reflect actual persons and dwellings observed by volunteers and outreach teams

Sheltered Persons Staying in Temporary Shelter

Data collected from service providers.

222 Total Sheltered Persons

Visual Tally of Unsheltered Persons and Dwellings

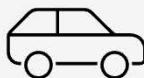
Data collected from volunteers and community members on the nights of the count.

389 Total Unsheltered Persons not in a Dwelling

107 Total Dwellings

Counts indicate observed dwellings and do not indicate how many persons were staying in the dwellings.

14
Cars



34
Vans



11
RVs



34
Makeshift Shelters



14
Tents



SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 6

COUNT: Santa Monica bucked the regional trend this year by recording a decline in homelessness.

LAHSA image

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Main Street hosts a hopeful State of the City



SPEECH: The annual State of the City was held on Main Street last week and focused on signs of improvement in the city’s overall economy and reputation.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Mayor Caroline Torosis delivered a hopeful State of the City address last week during a community focused event that brought city services straight to residents as part of a street festival on Main Street.

“This is more than the setting for tonight’s speech,” Torosis told the crowd. “It is a glimpse of what is possible when we bring people together and make government feel closer to the community.”

The mayor opened by thanking her City Council colleagues — Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Zwick and Councilmembers Dan Hall, Ellis Raskin, Barry Snell, Lana Negrete and Natalya Zernitskaya — along with City Manager Oliver Chi. She singled out several city employees for recognition, including a traffic services officer and a police officer

credited with saving a choking child, a code enforcement supervisor, park staff who help families find food and housing, and a downtown maintenance manager with more than three decades of service.

Rather than reciting a full list of city accomplishments — she pointed residents to the city’s new “Santa Monica Scorecard” for that — Torosis framed her address around a single question: What kind of city is Santa Monica becoming?

She cited the reopening of the Ocean Park Branch Library, which returned to full staffing this month after five years of reduced service, as emblematic of the city’s broader turnaround. “We are turning the lights back on,” she said.

Torosis detailed a string of gains under the city’s Realignment Plan, adopted unanimously by the council last October following the COVID-19 pandemic and the

region’s wildfires. She said more than nine in 10 first-round building plan checks are now completed on time, up 40 percentage points in four months. City crews have hauled away 502 tons of debris in six months, a 97% increase over the prior year. The police department has reached full sworn staffing for the first time in more than two decades, serious crime is down 12.5%, and the Big Blue Bus carried 10 million riders for a second consecutive year. The city’s general fund is structurally balanced ahead of schedule, she said, enabling nearly \$110 million in investments in parks, streets, libraries, public safety and transportation.

On housing, Torosis said the city approved nearly 1,800 new homes this year, including more than 450 permanently affordable units. She highlighted the new Santa Monica Renter Aid program, a \$6 million effort she described as the first of its kind in the county, along with

the existing Right to Counsel program for tenants facing eviction. She also pointed to SaMo Bridge, which she said has connected more than 460 people to services, treatment and housing as an alternative to the criminal legal system, with more than 80% accepting help. The city has also created a Restorative Justice Commission and committed \$3.5 million to address harms tied to the historic displacement of families from the Belmont Triangle and Pico neighborhood.

Torosis acknowledged ongoing challenges, including unsheltered homelessness, elevated property crime and struggling small businesses, saying the city is “no longer looking away” from those problems.

Looking ahead, the mayor cited a lineup of major upcoming events — including the Ocean Way Music Festival on the beach

Matthew Hall

Nearly 150,000 mail ballots rejected in California’ primary despite efforts to count every vote

Nearly 150,000 California voters had their mail-in ballots rejected for the state’s June primary, a spike from recent elections even as the state attempts to make voting easier with the goal of boosting participation and counting every ballot.

California has become notorious for its ponderously slow vote counts that can drag on for weeks and sometimes longer, largely the result of multiple changes over the years that were intended to increase turnout but have done little to achieve that. Among the changes: Every voter receives a mail-in ballot that can arrive at an election office seven days late and still be counted, provided the envelope is postmarked by Election Day.

Yet even with that generous week-long window, the primary driver of the higher rejection numbers is late-arriving ballots, according to data compiled by the secretary of state’s office. Voting experts suspect the main problem is postmarks on ballots that came after Election Day, making them ineligible to be counted. The culprit could be U.S. Postal Service changes that might affect the timing of when postmarks are applied.

LATE-ARRIVING BALLOTS DROVE THE REJECTIONS

According to state data, 148,241 mail ballots were rejected in the June election, or a rate of 1.73% of all mail ballots.

In raw numbers, that’s up from the 2024 primary, when 108,982 mail ballots were rejected, or a 1.56% rate. In 2022, 105,818 mail ballots were voided during the primary, or a rate similar to 2024.

Lateness accounted for 93,479 rejected ballots in June, by far the largest category for disqualifying a ballot. That was up from about 70,000 in the 2022 primary and about 76,000 in the 2024 primary, though turnout in those elections was smaller compared to last June.

Kim Alexander, president of the nonpartisan California Voter Foundation, said the jump in rejected ballots because of lateness is a major concern that — along with postal procedures — might also be connected to a late surge in ballots in June. Many voters waited until the final days to make a decision in a wide-open and chaotic race for governor.

“Ballots rejected due to lateness are caused primarily to being postmarked too late to count, not because they arrived too late to count,” Alexander wrote in an email.

Rejection rates have fluctuated over time, but the growing number of those set aside for lateness compared to recent elections “does really demand the question why this is happening,” said Mindy Romero, director of the Center for Inclusive Democracy, a nonpartisan research group.

LAWMAKERS CONCERNED ABOUT USPS POSTMARK CHANGES

In January, a group of mostly Democratic U.S. senators sent a letter to the U.S. Postal

Service, alarmed that mail-processing changes might affect postmark dates for mail-in ballots during an election year that will determine control of Congress.

Updated agency policy says postmarks might not indicate the first day the Postal Service received the mail, but rather the day it was handled in one of its processing centers. Those centers are increasingly likely to be further away from certain communities because of recent consolidations within the Postal Service, which could further delay postmarks.

On Thursday, two Wisconsin Democrats, U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin and Gov. Tony Evers, called on the Postal Service to address delays that caused hundreds of ballots to arrive after Election Day in the state in April. In June, a federal judge halted President Donald Trump’s executive order that sought to create a federal voter list and limit who can receive a mail ballot.

Earlier this year, California election officials urged voters to send their mail ballots early, warning that Postal Service changes could lead to slower mail service.

In California, the highest mail ballot rejection rate in June — 3.52% — was in Tulare County, in the agriculture-heavy Central Valley. It was followed by Alpine County, south of Lake Tahoe, and Merced County, also in the Central Valley, which both notched a 3.36% rejection rate.

MISMATCHED SIGNATURES AND MULTIPLE BALLOTS IN AN ENVELOPE

Nearly 44,000 ballots were set aside because the voter’s signature didn’t match the one on record with county officials. Over 8,300 ballots were rejected because there was no signature on the returned ballot envelope.

In 743 cases, the voter had already cast a ballot, so the mail ballot was voided. Other reasons for rejection included a ballot being missing from the return envelope, or multiple ballots were sent back in a single envelope.

The data didn’t break down the uncounted ballots by party registration.

Florida, Texas and other large population states quickly wrap up vote counting, while California is a national laggard.

After the June primary, President Donald Trump seized on California’s reputation as the national slowpoke in vote counting to renew his long-standing criticism of the state’s elections, while the Republican’s Department of Justice launched an investigation into Los Angeles County’s elections.

There is no indication of any widespread problems with mail voting, which has gained in popularity among Democrats and Republicans alike. A report by the Brookings Institution published in 2025 found that the number of cases of mail voting fraud was minuscule — about four cases per 10 million mail ballots.

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD AP Political Writer



Weather

Monday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 79.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 68.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 76.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 68.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2026/07/27	Mon	03:33 AM	-0.33	L
2026/07/27	Mon	10:08 AM	3.75	H
2026/07/27	Mon	2:24 PM	2.65	L
2026/07/27	Mon	8:42 PM	6.07	H
2026/07/28	Tue	04:01 AM	-0.44	L
2026/07/28	Tue	10:29 AM	3.86	H
2026/07/28	Tue	2:59 PM	2.46	L
2026/07/28	Tue	9:14 PM	6.17	H
2026/07/29	Wed	04:28 AM	-0.48	L
2026/07/29	Wed	10:53 AM	3.99	H
2026/07/29	Wed	3:34 PM	2.30	L
2026/07/29	Wed	9:45 PM	6.16	H
2026/07/30	Thu	04:55 AM	-0.44	L
2026/07/30	Thu	11:18 AM	4.15	H
2026/07/30	Thu	4:10 PM	2.17	L
2026/07/30	Thu	10:17 PM	6.01	H
2026/07/31	Fri	05:22 AM	-0.29	L
2026/07/31	Fri	11:44 AM	4.32	H
2026/07/31	Fri	4:50 PM	2.08	L
2026/07/31	Fri	10:51 PM	5.69	H
2026/08/01	Sat	05:47 AM	-0.02	L
2026/08/01	Sat	12:12 PM	4.51	H
2026/08/01	Sat	5:35 PM	2.00	L
2026/08/01	Sat	11:28 PM	5.22	H
2026/08/02	Sun	06:13 AM	0.36	L
2026/08/02	Sun	12:42 PM	4.72	H
2026/08/02	Sun	6:25 PM	1.92	L
2026/08/03	Mon	12:10 AM	4.60	H
2026/08/03	Mon	06:38 AM	0.84	L
2026/08/03	Mon	1:16 PM	4.92	H
2026/08/03	Mon	7:26 PM	1.84	L
2026/08/04	Tue	01:03 AM	3.89	H
2026/08/04	Tue	07:04 AM	1.37	L
2026/08/04	Tue	1:56 PM	5.11	H
2026/08/04	Tue	8:47 PM	1.68	L
2026/08/05	Wed	02:22 AM	3.19	H
2026/08/05	Wed	07:32 AM	1.92	L



Daily Lottery

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



Draw Date: 7/22
4 5 22 50 58
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 600 M



Draw Date: 7/23
3 16 19 30 33



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



Draw Date: 7/23
EVENING: 1 9 1
Draw Date: 7/23
MIDDAY: 7 6 8



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



Draw Date: 7/23
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:46.12

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2026147426. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BAKBA, BABY!, 16241 HUSTON STREET, ENCINO, CA 91436, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): SCOTT KROOPNICK, 16241 HUSTON ST, ENCINO, CA 91436. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/20/2026. 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/ SCOTT KROOPNICK, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/07/2026. 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: 07/13/2026, 07/20/2026, 07/27/2026. 08/03/2026

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026145995. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: THE SANTA MONICAN, 520 20TH ST, SANTA MONICA, CA 90402, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): THE SANTA MONICAN MEDIA GROUP LLC, 520 20TH ST, SANTA MONICA, CA 90402. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/20/26. 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/ SPENCER NEUMANN, MANAGING MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/06/2026. 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: 07/13/2026, 07/20/2026, 07/27/2026, 08/03/2026

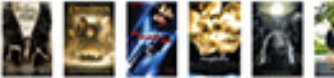
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2026149805. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MKSF, INCORPORATED, 918 11TH ST APT 9, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403, County of Los Angeles. AIF#ON 3247768. Registered Owner(s): MKSF, INCORPORATED, 918 11TH ST APT 9, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/20/2026. 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/ SHERIE FARAH, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/10/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY Press Publish: 07/20/2026, 07/27/2026, 08/03/2026, 08/10/2026

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California sues Trump over emergency funding rules that pressure states on elections



Photo by Jules Hotz/CalMatters

SANTA ANA: Election workers process vote-by-mail ballots at the Orange County Registrar of Voters in Santa Ana on June 2, 2026.

California is taking the Trump administration to court a third time over its attempts to tie crucial emergency preparedness funding to the president's preferences on immigration enforcement and election administration.

In a coalition with 24 Democratic-led states, Attorney General Rob Bonta announced the lawsuit over new conditions on U.S. Department of Homeland Security grants.

Most of these new rules relate to elections, including mandating states to employ a federal system to verify the citizenship of all their voters; using hand-marked paper voting ballots; and carrying out post-election audits, according to the lawsuit in Rhode Island's federal court.

The conditions also require states to assist with federal immigration enforcement and enable federal agencies to terminate states' funds at their discretion.

For decades the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have provided billions of dollars to states to prepare and respond to major disasters, including wildfires and earthquakes. One of these grants is the Homeland Security Grant Program, which Congress created in response to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. California alone receives \$150 million each year from this program to fight terrorism, such as preventing cyberattacks.

But under the Trump administration, Bonta said the agencies are using public safety as “a bargaining chip,” and unlawfully

withholding funds that Congress already appropriated.

The lawsuit alleges that if states do not comply with the new election rules, for example, they will lose at least 20%, if not all, of their Homeland Security Grant Program funds.

In the lead up to the November midterms, the Trump administration has pushed for stricter election rules, such as voter ID, to fight claims of widespread voter fraud. But Democratic lawmakers and officials have characterized these moves as Trump and the Republican party's efforts to suppress voter turnout.

“Instead of ensuring these critical resources reach the communities that need them, Trump is attempting to use this funding as leverage to force states to adopt his preferred political agenda,” Bonta said at a press conference Thursday.

In an emailed statement FEMA said the lawsuit is “partisan pushback” from Democratic politicians who “oppose common-sense measures designed to protect election security and safeguard the integrity of American democracy.”

“Election security is national security, and protecting our critical infrastructure remains a top priority for the Trump Administration. Concerns over voting processes, data security, and registration practices have made it clear that action is required. ... These new requirements will preserve election integrity.”

SEE **ELECTION** PAGE 8

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Aging oil refineries don't need more public dollars. California should let them retire



Photo by Stella Kalinina for CalMatters
WILMINGTON: The Phillips 66 refinery in Wilmington, on Sept. 30, 2025. It recently halted operations.

The U.S.-Iran war has seen gasoline prices double at times and cost Californians an additional \$3.6 billion at the pump.

That's not the only thing affecting California's gasoline prices. Two refineries, Phillips 66 and Valero Benicia, recently shut down, leaving only six major refineries responsible for California's petroleum fuels, reducing the state's refining capacity by 17%.

California is an island when it comes to gasoline. The state requires a special blend that results in lower air pollution and avoids the smog that used to blanket Los Angeles.

While California's refineries are tuned to make this special blend, imports to meet shortfalls come through marine ports. No pipelines bring out-of-state gasoline into California.

The recent refinery retirements have left the rest with less competition and more opportunities to raise their profit margins when inventories are tight. The average gross margin of California's refineries was about 50% higher in the two months following the start of the war compared to the average margin in the previous 12.

Refinery companies in California are also making more money from retail business. This year branded gasoline, which is sold by gas stations with direct ties to refinery companies, is 30 cents per gallon more than unbranded gasoline in

California.

California's refineries are asking for more financial support from the state (read taxpayers) and threatening to shut down, citing the state's higher taxes, stricter environmental laws and the additional costs imposed by the "cap-and-invest" market on carbon polluters. But these taxes and regulations are necessary to ensure clean air and water for our communities.

In May, the California Air Resources Board approved a provision of free allowances worth about \$2 billion for refineries, to incentivize them to decarbonize and not retire.

Yet there is no guarantee that the remaining refineries won't retire in coming years. Most are more than 100 years old. Refineries are already facing declining demand for gasoline, which accounts for more than half their output.

This decline is likely to accelerate as more Californians adopt electric vehicles. One in 4 vehicles sold now is electric.

One option is to just let California's refineries retire, based on their internal financial decisions, without any state interventions or relaxing any environmental laws. We'd have to make sure that the cost of gasoline for those who are still driving gas cars, especially low-income households, remains reasonable. For that, we must ensure an adequate supply of



ERICKSON-HALL CONSTRUCTION CO. HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE LEASE-LEASEBACK CONTRACTOR FOR THE **SANTA MONICA HS STUDENT SERVICES BLDG – INCREMENT 2B**

Scope of work to include: construction of a new 50,000 sf two-story student services building and related site improvements.

Bidders shall possess the appropriate California license classification for the scope of work being bid. Anticipated Bid Packages and License Classifications:

Survey (Licensed Land Surveyor / PLS)	Roofing (C-39)	Signage (C-45)
Erosion Control (A, C-27)	Sheet Metal (C-43)	Operable Partitions (B, C-61)
Earthwork (A, C-12)	Joint Sealants (C-61)	Lockers (B, C-61)
Asphalt Paving (A, C-12)	Doors, Frame & Hardware (B, C-6, C-61)	Residential Equipment (B, C-61)
Pavement Markings (C-32, C-61)	Coiling Doors (C-5, C-61)	Audio-Visual Equipment (C-7)
Fencing & Gates (C-13)	Glazing (C-17)	Theater & Stage Equipment (B, C-61)
Site Furnishings (B, C-27, C-61)	Gypsum Board & Plaster (C-9, C-35)	Window Treatments (B, C-61)
Landscape & Irrigation (C-27)	Tile (C-54)	Seating (B, C-61)
Concrete (A, C-8, C-50)	Acoustical Ceilings (C-2, C-61)	Elevators (C-11)
Masonry (C-29)	Flooring (C-15)	Fire Sprinklers (C-16)
Structural Steel (C-51)	Wall Coverings (B, C-61)	Plumbing & Site Utilities (A, C-36)
Metal Decking (C-51)	Painting (C-33)	HVAC (C-20)
Rough Carpentry (B, C-5)	Visual Display (B, C-61)	Electrical (C-7, C-10, C-46)
Casework (C-6)	Specialties (B, C-61)	Final Cleaning (C-61)
Waterproofing (B, C-39)	Toilet Compartments & Acc (B, C-61)	
Insulation (C-2)	Fire Extinguishers (B, C-61)	

This bid is for Increment 2B of the project. Increment 1 is currently ongoing and consists of demolition of the existing building and installation of site utilities. Increment 2A consists of earthwork and construction of a permanent soldier pile shoring wall.

This project includes a **Project Labor Agreement (PLA)**
This project requires **Sexual Abuse & Molestation Insurance (SAM)**

Job Walk Date: 8/4/2026 at 8:00 AM
Prequalification Deadline: 8/20/2026
RFI's due: 8/17/2026
Prequalified Subcontractor List Issued: 8/27/2026
Bid Date: 9/3/2026 @ 2:00 PM

Lead Estimator: Travis Miinch

Project Address: 601 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405

Bid Documents can be obtained by contacting_planroom@ericksonhall.com

All bids are to be submitted through BuildingConnected

This project requires **Prevailing Wage, Skilled & Trained Workforce & PLA**

This project for **Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District** requires Prequalification through <http://www.qualitybidders.com> Public Contract Code 20111.6 requires the district to pre-qualify for certain projects. PCC 20111.6 applies to prime contractors and M/E/P sub-contractors with the following licenses:

- General Contractors (A and B)
- Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing subcontractors (C-4, C-7, C-10, C-16, C-20, C-34, C-36, C-38, C-42, C-43 and C-46).

If you are planning to bid this project, we encourage your participation and welcome your bid. All qualified bidders will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Erickson-Hall Construction Company requires all subcontractors submitting bids in excess of \$50,000 to be prepared to furnish performance and payment bonds issued by a corporate security. Erickson-Hall Construction Company, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to waive this requirement or permit substitute security or alternate guarantees. We offer assistance in obtaining necessary equipment, supplies materials, bonds, lines of credit and insurance.

Erickson-Hall Construction provides notice to all contractors of the adoption of SB 854, this requires subcontractors to comply with the requirements as set forth on the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) website at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/publicworks.html>. SB 854 requires all contractors who perform public works projects must be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations. No contractor or subcontractor may be listed on a bid proposal for a public works project (submitted on or after, unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5).

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HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

the night of the count and have not been adjusted using a multiplier to estimate how many additional people may have been living inside each counted vehicle or structure. The sheltered totals also exclude people housed through vouchers, Inside Safe, Pathway Home or other programs with confidential addresses, meaning the true number of unhoused residents connected to city and county services is likely higher than the raw count reflects.

This year's decline follows a different trajectory than the one Santa Monica reported a year earlier. The city's 2025 count had shown local homelessness rising 5%, from 774 people in 2024 to 812 in 2025, even as Los Angeles County and the city of Los Angeles both posted declines. That 2025 increase was driven largely by car campers and by a rise in shelter residents. That contrasted with steeper declines elsewhere in the nearby area including Malibu and Venice.

However, this year it's the reverse with Santa Monica showing declines while the regional picture worsens.

LAHSA's 2026 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, released July 24, found homelessness in the city of Los Angeles rose 3.4% to roughly 45,194 people, reversing two consecutive years of declines under Mayor Karen Bass. That increase was driven by a 7.9% jump in unsheltered homelessness — people living in tents, encampments and vehicles. Countywide, across the full Continuum of Care, homelessness rose 1.2% from the 72,308 people counted in 2025. Bass attributed the reversal to federal policy under the Trump administration and to what she described as a 50% cut in state Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention funding, from \$1 billion to \$500 million, which she said cost the city of Los Angeles \$70 million.

Santa Monica's service area, which includes Santa Monica, Malibu, Culver City, Beverly Hills, Westwood, West Los Angeles, Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, Venice, Mar Vista, Palms, Playa del Rey, Playa Vista, Westchester, and Ladera Heights, saw an increase of 147 individuals.

The countywide and citywide figures come with their own reliability questions. A RAND Corporation study published in 2025 found LAHSA's volunteer-led Point-in-Time Count has significantly undercounted the region's

unsheltered population in recent years. Comparing LAHSA's count with RAND's more rigorous Los Angeles Longitudinal Enumeration and Demographic Survey in Hollywood, Venice and Skid Row, researchers found the two counts aligned closely in 2022 and 2023 but diverged sharply starting in 2024, when the official count fell 26% short of RAND's tally, widening to a 32% undercount in 2025. The gap was most severe in high-need areas: the 2025 PIT count captured just 61% of Skid Row's unsheltered population, compared with 76% in Venice and 81% in Hollywood.

The discrepancy carries financial consequences, since the PIT count determines how federal homelessness funding and Los Angeles County's Measure A sales tax revenue are distributed, meaning undercounts in high-need areas could divert resources away from where they're needed most. RAND recommended greater reliance on professional field counters to cross-check volunteer-collected data. Following the report, LAHSA's 2025 count underwent a HUD-mandated review that found duplication and utilization errors, prompting minor revisions to citywide and countywide totals, including an upward correction to the unsheltered estimate after reviewers discovered an outdated file had omitted data from the Winnetka area.

RAND's most recent report, covering data collected from January 2025 through January 2026 in Hollywood, Skid Row and Venice, found the combined unsheltered population in those three neighborhoods held roughly steady — but rough sleeping without any tent, vehicle or makeshift shelter reached its highest level in the study's four-year history, rising 20% and now accounting for 44% of the unsheltered population in those areas, up from 30% when the study began in 2021. Tent counts have fallen sharply over that period, but researchers said the decline has been offset by increases in vehicle dwelling and unsheltered rough sleeping, a shift they link to encampment clearings that leave people without alternative housing.

LAHSA has faced broader scrutiny over its methodology and finances, including a 2025 forensic audit, the loss of roughly \$350 million in annual funding from Los Angeles County, and the resignation of former CEO Va Lecia Adams Kellum.

editor@smdp.com



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

LA County launches pilot program linking CalWORKs recipients to job training in growth industries

Los Angeles County officials this week launched a pilot program aimed at connecting welfare recipients to paid job training and career opportunities in high-growth industries, the county’s Department of Economic Opportunity and Department of Public Social Services announced.

The Transitional Subsidized Employment Plus Program, or TSE Plus, will link participants in the CalWORKs Greater Avenues for Independence program to paid work experience, job training and employment pathways. Enrollment is now open.

The pilot stems from a request by the county Board of Supervisors to explore ways the county’s safety net and workforce systems could better coordinate to help residents achieve economic mobility while addressing local industries’ talent needs.

The program is funded by a \$6 million investment from the county social services department and the state’s Expanded Subsidized Employment Program. Officials said the pilot will serve up to 200 participants in high-need areas, with services delivered through GAIN regional offices in the San Gabriel Valley and southeast county, along with America’s Job Centers of California locations in Pomona Valley and Rio Hondo.

Participants will be placed into one of three pathways depending on their experience and career goals, officials said. Options include up to a year of paid work experience, training through High Road Training Partnerships, and direct job matching with on-the-job training at partner employers.

All participants will receive work-readiness training, financial and digital literacy instruction, career counseling and help securing jobs that pay family-sustaining wages after completing the program. The county said it will also offer childcare, transportation assistance and other supportive services throughout.

Board Chair and First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis said the county’s workforce and public benefits systems too often operate separately, leaving families to navigate barriers on their own. She called the pilot a more coordinated approach that lets residents pursue career growth without losing support for their families.

Fourth District Supervisor Janice Hahn said the program will give CalWORKs participants paid experience, job training and a path into higher-paying jobs in growing industries.

Kelly LoBianco, director of the county’s Department of Economic Opportunity, said the program is designed to help local workers earn wages while building skills and financial security needed for quality jobs.

GAIN participants in southeast Los Angeles County and the San Gabriel Valley who are interested in the program should speak with their GAIN services worker about eligibility and referrals. Businesses interested in hosting a paid temporary worker can fill out an interest form at bit.ly/TSEemployers.

More information is available at opportunity.lacounty.gov/TSE or by emailing GAINTSE@opportunity.lacounty.gov.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Los Angeles

LA County settles consumer protection lawsuit against H&R Block over data sharing

Los Angeles County has reached a pre-litigation settlement with H&R Block over allegations that the tax preparation company shared customers’ confidential taxpayer information with third-party advertisers without consent.

The settlement, announced by the county, resolves consumer protection claims against HRB Digital LLC and HRB Tax Group Inc., collectively known as H&R Block. County officials said the company disclosed customers’ tax information to advertising companies through tracking tools such as Meta pixels embedded on its website.

As part of the deal, H&R Block agreed to permanent injunctive relief barring it from sharing taxpayer information and requiring compliance with consumer protection and privacy laws going forward.

The company will also establish a \$367,540 restitution fund for customers who used its do-it-yourself online tax preparation service between Nov. 16, 2019, and Nov. 23, 2022, and encountered specific screens related to filing forms for education credits or health savings accounts. Any unclaimed restitution funds will go to the county’s Department of Consumer and Business Affairs.

In total, H&R Block will pay \$515,000 in monetary relief, covering consumer restitution, civil penalties and attorneys’ fees and costs, according to the county.

County Counsel Dawyn R. Harrison negotiated the settlement on behalf of the people of the state of California. Harrison’s Affirmative Litigation and Consumer Protection Division investigated the alleged violations.

“My office is committed to protecting consumers and ensuring businesses comply with consumer protection laws,” Harrison said in a statement. “This settlement sends a message to other businesses to safeguard consumers’ private information and take data privacy laws seriously.”

Board Chair and First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis said the settlement reflects the county’s commitment to enforcing privacy protections.

“Privacy is not a luxury. It is a fundamental consumer right,” Solis said. “No company should profit from sensitive taxpayer information without a consumer’s informed consent. This settlement sends a clear message that Los Angeles County will aggressively enforce our consumer protection laws and hold corporations accountable when they put profits ahead of people’s privacy.”

Rafael Carbajal, director of the county’s Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, said the case underscores the growing value of personal data.

“In an economy where personal data and consumer attention have become valuable commodities, protecting people’s privacy has never been more important,” Carbajal said. “This settlement sends a clear message that companies entrusted with consumers’ personal information will be held accountable when they fail to protect it.”

The Department of Consumer and Business Affairs is encouraging county residents who encounter unfair, deceptive or illegal business practices to file complaints by emailing dcba@dcba.lacounty.gov, submitting a report online at dcba.lacounty.gov, or calling 800-593-8222.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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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**

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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STATE OF THE CITY

FROM PAGE 2

this September, ESPN’s Super Bowl week broadcasts, and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games — and said each must deliver a “resident dividend” of jobs, free public experiences and lasting improvements. She also discussed the pending 2028 closure of Santa Monica Airport, saying the 192 acres will be transformed with community input into new public parkland.

editor@smdp.com



Matthew Hall

PARADE: The event included the design for Santa Monica’s Rose Parade Float.

ELECTION

FROM PAGE 4

The Trump administration tried to deny states these same grants twice last year as it pressured states to participate in federal immigration enforcement. Both times California and other states sued and a federal court sided with them. In her ruling rejecting the administration’s

second attempt, U.S. District Court for Rhode Island Judge Mary McElroy, a Trump appointee, said holding funds hostage “based solely on what appear to be Defendants’ political whims is unconscionable and, at least here, unlawful.” This lawsuit is California’s 79th against the second Trump administration.

[Lynn La, CalMatters Writer](#)

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 5

gasoline by facilitating more imports via marine shipments and developing more storage to avoid price spikes. California could also allow the development of a pipeline to import petroleum products. One is already proposed which would connect Texas to Arizona and then reverse the flow on an existing pipeline that currently exports fuels from California to Arizona. The increased competition would help keep refinery profit margins in check, buffer the state from additional refinery retirements and limit costs to California drivers. California should make sure that refinery workers who lose jobs and communities that lose taxes from refineries are well supported through this transition. The state also should ensure that refineries are transparent about — and pay for — the costs of cleaning up their sites after retirement to ensure host communities, already exposed to high levels of refinery pollution, are not left with a toxic site in their backyard. To be clear, we want to see California refineries provide the state’s demand for petroleum fuels. However, many retirements will be inevitable on the road to a clean energy transition. How we manage this transition is critical for ensuring affordable fuel, better health and economic wellbeing for all Californians.

[Ranjit Deshmukh is an environmental studies associate professor at UC Santa Barbara and a Public Voices fellow of The OpEd Project.](#)

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN

Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 12 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 7014

The digital age

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

Accelerator	Cables	Ethernet	Robot
ADSL	Cache	Fast	Runs
Application	Card	File	Screen
Archive	Chat	Flash	Sound
ASCII	Copy	Games	Tape
Beta	Data	Hacker	Template
Binary	Desktop	iMac	Tuner
Bits	Disk	iPad	Type
Blog	Domain	Keys	Video
Boot	Dots	Malware	Wifi
Browser	DVDs	Meetings	
Bugs	Edit	Menu	
Byte	Enter	Process	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
The beautiful Coffs Coast

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 27)

It's your Silken Year, when the logistics are often smooth, the social interactions graceful and the journey a trail of beneficial exchanges. There's a sheen to your professional life, too. You'll be in new rooms where you're treated royally. More highlights: Three introductions that add sweetness, novelty and more resources to your scene. Harmonious family moments and teamwork. Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 19, 3, 22 and 5.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Accountability is the recurring theme in this retrograde cycle of Saturn. You thrive when your actions have real consequences, even difficult ones, because consequences are thorough teachers. By the end of this cycle, you'll have earned a new skill.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Saturn asks you to think like an investor instead of a shopper. Which purchases save you time? Which ones create more work? The best investments make your future days easier, not just your present moment happier.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Retrograde Saturn reminds you that discipline is a gift to the person you'll be four months from now. It doesn't have to be difficult, so much as daily. Better habits are acts of generosity to "future-you."

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Fix what you have before taking on something new. Revision before expansion is a good rule of thumb for this retrograde. Read it again. Tighten it up. Repair the weak spot. You'll move faster later because you took the time now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're more aware of time when the sun is back in Leo. It's not just a marker of your journey; it's proof that you've learned things your younger self couldn't have known. The Saturn retrograde is a chance to reflect on where you've been before you decide where to go next.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). One secret to keeping promises is not to make very many. Before you say yes, picture what that commitment looks like on its feet - the hours, the actions, the contingencies. What will it really take to finish strong?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). This retrograde has you more concerned with longevity than applause. You can't know how your work will look in the rearview mirror, but you can make a good guess about what has the integrity to last.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). This retrograde will be proof that you don't become confident by waiting to feel ready. You become confident by doing the work again tomorrow. Then the next day. One morning, you'll notice you're doing things that used to make you nervous.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Saturn asks you to become more protective of your time and energy. Every commitment costs something, and the price is often higher than it first appears. Do what makes you proud of how you spent the day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You only have so many hours in a day. Saturn retrograde asks you to work within the limits of a schedule. If you don't have a deadline, impose one. It isn't a goal until it has a time frame.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Saturn rewards people who keep showing up, even when inconvenient, even when it's raining, even when the finish line feels far away. The hours you put in make you experienced. The work gets easier because you get better.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can skip asking everyone what they think. Gather the facts, make your decision, and live with it for a while. Saturn reminds you that good judgment comes from making choices and learning from them.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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.

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Person casting a ballot
- 6 With no warranty
- 10 Lawn-burrowing mammal
- 14 Have a desire for
- 15 Urge to scratch
- 16 Neighborhood
- 17 Ancient artifact
- 18 Wild animal's home
- 19 Car transmission setting
- 20 Alumni gatherings
- 23 Resort with saunas
- 24 Baseball slugger's stat: Abbr.
- 25 Knock softly
- 28 Open-handed smack
- 31 Lasting mark
- 34 "That's a shame!"
- 36 Glides on snow
- 38 Remove pencil marks
- 41 Gatherings with mixed drinks
- 44 Playful aquatic mammal
- 45 Christmas carol
- 46 Break sharply
- 47 Graceful water bird
- 49 "Identical" sibling
- 51 Pigpen
- 52 Answer to "Are you?"
- 54 Went for the bait, as fish
- 56 Meetings with would-be employers
- 63 Mellows, as cheese
- 64 Creative thought

- 65 Discontinue
- 68 Teheran's nation
- 69 Bigwigs, for short
- 70 Roof overhangs
- 71 Pre-Easter period
- 72 Simplicity
- 73 Clay-pigeon sport

DOWN

- 1 DVD player's predecessor: Abbr.
- 2 Unrefined metal
- 3 Bath powder mineral
- 4 The lesser of two __
- 5 Postgame summaries
- 6 Feels unwell
- 7 Sheriff badge's shape
- 8 More frosty
- 9 Hedge plants

- 10 Yuletide wise men
- 11 Black-and-white cookie
- 12 Tilt a little
- 13 Organs for hearing
- 21 Tortilla chip dip
- 22 More pleasant
- 25 Folded Mexican food
- 26 Frequently
- 27 Formal treaties
- 29 Similar (to)
- 30 Person flying a plane
- 32 __ and crafts
- 33 Drizzles or showers
- 35 Distort, as data
- 37 Gush forth
- 39 Chair or bench
- 40 Catch a glimpse of
- 42 Railroad vehicle

- 43 Suspect's excuse
- 48 Lifelong resident
- 50 Nephews' sisters
- 53 Social __ (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)
- 55 Minor adjustment
- 56 Monopoly square with bars
- 57 Storybook monster
- 58 Lima __ (soup veggie)
- 59 "Money __ everything"
- 60 Salespeople, for short
- 61 Bouquet holder
- 62 Keep for later
- 66 Meet with
- 67 Superlative suffix

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
		20			21					22				
			23					24						
25	26	27		28		29	30		31		32	33		
34			35		36			37		38			39	40
41				42					43					
44						45					46			
		47			48		49			50		51		
				52		53			54		55			
56	57	58	59				60	61				62		
63					64					65			66	67
68					69					70				
71					72					73				

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



MONDAY | JULY 27

SUMMER FUN AT HOLY GROUNDS

Join us at Holy Grounds on weekday mornings this summer for a cup of coffee, chats with old and new friends, and special activities at 10a! We're located at 725 California Avenue in Santa Monica. Free underground parking! Holy Grounds is the coffee bar and book/gift shop at St. Monica. Located inside the Caruso Community Center, we serve organic coffee and tea from Urth Caffe, assorted pastries and baked goods, and soft drinks. We also have a great selection of books, music, jewelry and unique religious gifts for all occasions! Free WiFi for our customers! Stop by and check us out! Mondays: Connect with our parish Navigators and find your niche at the parish. Tuesdays: Drop in for Coffee Talk with Father Vince and discuss faith issues that are of interest to you! Wednesdays: Meet up with special guests from our local community. Thursdays: Test your board games skills! Fridays: Deacon Kevin welcomes all to Book Club.

MARION DAVIES GUEST HOUSE TOUR AT ACBH

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. 415 Pacific Coast Highway Santa Monica, CA 90402. Santa Monica Conservancy docents will be on hand to share the rich history of the Annenberg Community Beach House site from the 1920s to the present day. Our free 20-minute docent tours are available every weekend on a walk-up basis for individuals and groups of up to six people. Just head to the Marion Davies Guest House, where you will be greeted by a docent. To learn more about the history of the Annenberg Community Beach House, click here. For groups of twelve or more, please get in touch with guest services at (310)-458-4904 or beach.house@santamonica.gov. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/marion-davies-guest-house-tour-at-acbh/19340399/2026-07-27T12>

PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! 6pm-Close. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2026-07-06T18>

IMPROV 101: INTRO TO IMPROV (MONDAY NIGHTS)

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 1424 4th Street Santa Monica. Jump into Improv! Learn the basics, spark creativity, & your boost confidence with fun exercises and expert guidance. 6 weeks + a Showcase! \$365.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/improv-101-intro-to-improv-monday-nights-/19404990/2026-07-27T19>

CASTANEA SICILIAN CAFE - EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Castanea Cafe 1307 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Enjoy 50% OFF all coffees at Castanea Venice Beach ?? Early Bird special every Mon–Thu from 9–10am. Start your morning with premium coffee at a special price – limited time offer! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/castanea-sicilian-cafe-early-bird-special/18847307/2026-07-06T21>

[smdp.com/calendar/#/details/castanea-sicilian-cafe-early-bird-special/18847307/2026-07-06T21](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/castanea-sicilian-cafe-early-bird-special/18847307/2026-07-06T21)

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/18409321/2026-07-06T21>

TUESDAY | JULY 28

AUTHOR TALK WITH DR. MARISA FRANCO

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Join us in virtual conversation with bestselling author Dr. Marisa Franco, one of the world's leading experts in human connection. Her book, Platonic: How the Science of Attachment Can Help You Make—And Keep—Friends, explores the science of different attachment styles and how they impact our relationships—often in ways we don't realize! How do we make and keep friends in an era of distraction, burnout, and chaos, especially in a society that often prizes romantic love at the expense of other relationships? In Platonic, Dr. Marisa G. Franco unpacks the latest, often counterintuitive findings about the bonds between us—for example, why your friends aren't texting you back (it's not because they hate you!), and the myth of "friendships happening organically" (making friends, like cultivating any relationship, requires effort!). As Dr. Franco explains, to make and keep friends you must understand your attachment style—secure, anxious, or avoidant: it is the key to unlocking what's working (and what's failing) in your friendships. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/author-talk-with-dr-marisa-franco/19258148/2026-07-28T11>

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

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

ACRYLIC/OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP TUESDAY

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Paint Lab 1453 14th St Santa Monica. In this workshop each student will work on their own project with guidance from an instructor. \$61.60. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/acrylic-oil-painting-workshop-tuesday/19429773/2026-07-28T13>

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-383c6> for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/elementary-art-studio-summer-camp/19066074/2026-07-14T13>

WALK-IN TUTORING WITH LAURIE

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

ELEMENTARY ART STUDIO 3:30-4:20PM

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

WEEKLY WALKING CLUB

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

5:30 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/city-council-meeting/13799967/2026-07-28T17>

COASTAL CLEANUP DAY SITE CAPTAIN TRAINING

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Coastal Cleanup Day is the world's largest volunteer-driven environmental event, mobilizing millions of people worldwide to protect our planet! In Los Angeles County, Heal the Bay proudly leads this monumental effort, organizing over 50 cleanup sites spanning the coasts, rivers, parks, and dive and kayak sites. On Saturday, September 20th, 2025, we'll mark our 36th year of coordinating this impactful event, welcoming more than 7,000 volunteers to take action right here in LA County! Are you ready to make a difference? Become a Coastal Cleanup Day Site Captain and lead your own cleanup

with the support of Heal the Bay. The Coastal Cleanup Day (CCD) Site Captain Training is designed to teach you everything you need to know about Coastal Cleanup Day, to ensure you and your crew are well prepared to serve as leaders for your CCD site! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/coastal-cleanup-day-site-captain-training/19365387/2026-07-28T18>

WEDNESDAY | JULY 29

COMMUNAL GARDENING @ ISHIHARA PARK

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Ishihara Park 2909 Exposition Blvd Santa Monica. Communal Garden Program Work Days @ Ishihara Park Learning Garden - Mondays and Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Free. Come get your hands dirty in the Communal Garden Program at Ishihara Park Learning Garden, a communal spot to learn and acquire gardening skills. Seasoned as well as new gardeners of all ages are welcome. Free drop in activity, no reservation needed. Visit the Ishihara Park Learning Garden site for More Information. Subject to cancellation due to weather. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/communal-gardening-ishihara-park/18461167/2026-07-29T09>

TODDLER STORYTIME AND SONGS

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Toddler Storytime and Songs Join us for storytime on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. We share stories, songs, and movement activities to build early literacy skills for toddlers aged 18 months to 3 years. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/toddler-storytime-and-songs/18526513/2026-07-08T10>

LAUGH FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

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

ADULT ART STUDIO 4:30-5:30PM

11:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Unleash your creativity and connect with your community! In case this event has been updated, please visit <https://www.pcrsm.org/event/adult-art-studio-4-30-5-30pm-25264> for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/adult-art-studio-4-30-5-30pm/18461158/2026-07-08T11>



*Grazie mille
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