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For Colorado River users

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During close of session

4 **Record heatwave**
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Head for Space Camp

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Four candidates rise to the top of the money race but election season is still wide open

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

Election season is heating up as fast as the temperatures outside with an early look at campaign financing and the first round of individuals officially qualifying for the November election.

In the City Council race, Douglas Trussler leads all candidates in total fundraising with \$75,420, partly from a personal loan. Incumbent Caroline Torosis holds the strongest cash position and the deepest local donor base of any candidate

in the four contests covered by this reporting period, which runs through June 30. In the down-ballot races, Robbie Staenberg has built a commanding lead for School Board, Kera Blades-Snell is the only Santa Monica College Board candidate drawing money from outside donors and Rent Control Board hopeful Sue Himmelrich has entered the race entirely self-funded.

CITY COUNCIL

Nine of the 20 candidates who

SEE **ELECTION** PAGE 5

Santa Monica council backs pier boxing fundraiser despite lone dissent

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica City Council voted 6-1 on July 28 to waive up to \$16,950 in city fees and to commit \$12,500 in council discretionary funds for the Butterfly Brawl, a charity boxing event returning to the Santa Monica Pier next month.

The lone opponent, Councilmember Dan Hall, said he supported the event itself but objected to waiving public fees

for what he described as a private company.

The Butterfly Brawl, billed as a combination of high-level boxing, entertainment and philanthropy in support of cancer-related causes, is scheduled for Aug. 22 on the pier. Negrete said “the proceeds go to the American Cancer Society,” with a focus this year on youth with cancer.

The request came from Councilmembers Lana Negrete and Barry Snell and Mayor Caroline

Torosis, who together pledged the discretionary money: \$5,000 from Negrete, \$5,000 from Snell and \$2,500 from Torosis. The fee waiver covers the city’s portion of costs associated with staging the event on the pier.

Negrete, who introduced the item, said the event had personal origins. “We had it for the first time last year,” she said, recalling that it began as the “Butterfly Ball”

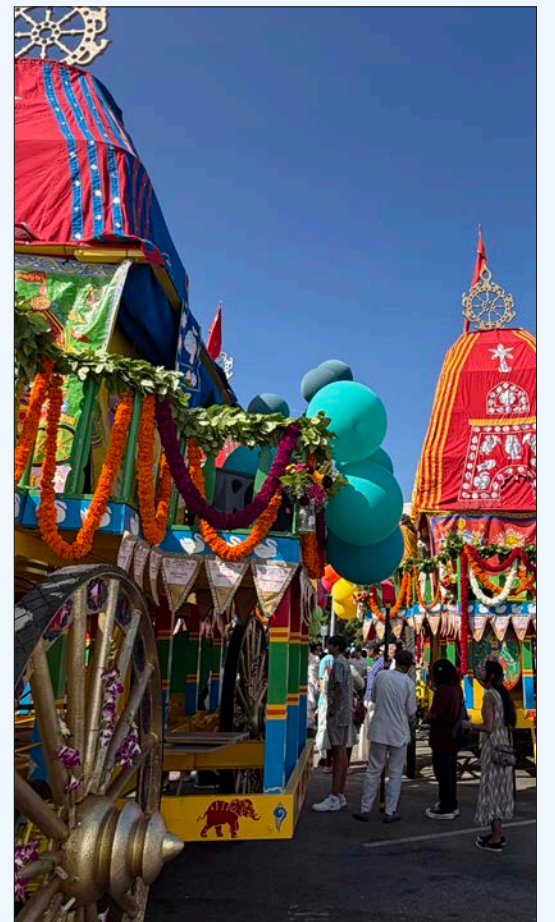
SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 7

Chariots roll down Main Street



Fran Lyness

FESTIVAL: The Festival of the Chariots hit Main Street over the weekend. The event first proceed along Venice Beach in 1977. Rooted in India’s centuries-old Ratha Yatra tradition, the event was introduced to Los Angeles by ISKCON founder Srila Prabhupada and has since grown into an annual celebration of cultural performances, music and community.



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Arizona, California and Nevada would share cuts under federal proposal to manage the Colorado River

Three western U.S. states would take less water from the Colorado River under a federal proposal released Friday to stave off a crisis in the beleaguered waterway.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation proposal spares four other states from facing mandatory cuts for now. It's meant to be flexible, allowing deeper cuts in drier times while giving the states more time to collectively agree on how to manage the dwindling resource that flows through dams to produce hydropower.

The Lower Basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada could together be forced to reduce their use by up to 3 million acre-feet annually through 2036 — about the amount that Arizona and Nevada receive and enough to serve more than 25 million people a year. The actual reductions would be determined every two years based on conditions throughout the basin.

“The Department has a responsibility to ensure the Colorado River system remains reliable and resilient for the millions of Americans, communities and industries that depend on it,” Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said in a statement.

Under the proposal, California, Nevada and Arizona would divide half the cuts based on a plan they already developed. Beyond that, priority water rights come into play. The priority system generally benefits California users over those in the other states.

Arizona and Nevada have faced mandatory reductions before, but the proposal outlines deeper cuts that could impact agriculture, cities and tribes. It could translate into higher water prices, more reliance on groundwater and leaving fields unplanted, experts say.

The proposal comes after years of deadlocked negotiations among the states and threats of lawsuits if a proposal didn't comply with longstanding laws and guidelines that govern the river, some of which expire at the end of 2026. A record-dry winter also left two key Colorado River reservoirs at a combined record low. Federal officials are expected to finalize the proposal in the coming days.

WHY IS THE PLAN COMING NOW?

More than 40 million people in seven U.S. states, several tribal nations and Mexico rely on the flows of the 1,450-mile (2,334-kilometer) river. Decades of overuse, along with rising temperatures, drought and climate change, mean it no longer provides what was promised in 1922.

The river's health often is determined by how much water is in Lake Mead and Lake Powell, the two largest human-made reservoirs in the U.S. Together, the reservoirs are at their lowest point since they began filling, according to a recent paper by Colorado River experts, and approaching levels where they could no longer produce hydropower.

How the water is allocated and conserved — especially amid a decades-long drought — has led to contentious arguments among the states, including threats of lawsuits. Both basins drew up proposals but didn't decide together on a single plan.

Because the states didn't reach an agreement, the federal government stepped

in with its own proposal to buoy the river.

HOW ARE THE STATES REACTING?

Leaders in Arizona, which has the lowest priority rights in the Lower Basin, called the federal proposal flawed. Those in California said it's an important milestone but not the finish line. Nevada officials called the proposed reductions unrealistic and devastating.

The Lower Basin states have been united in wanting all seven states to share in specific, measurable cuts. The Upper Basin states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, meanwhile, repeatedly pushed back, saying mandatory cuts to their water use would be illegal under the existing compact for the Colorado River. While the federal proposal mandates cuts in the Lower Basin, the Upper Basin states can proceed with voluntary water cuts primarily among agricultural users.

The four Upper Basin state governors gave the document a favorable initial assessment but said they were still reviewing it.

“We are encouraged that new operating guidelines will better reflect existing water supply which must underpin any practicable plan going forward,” the governors said in a joint statement.

The Arizona Department of Water Resources said the proposed cuts devastate its water users and economy. The Central Arizona Project, which manages much of the state's allocation used primarily in metro Phoenix and Tucson, said the proposal doesn't accurately portray Arizona's rights.

WHAT IMPACT COULD THE PLAN HAVE?

The states will have a say in how they shoulder the cuts, though the federal government is expected to offer suggestions in the coming days.

Arizona Department of Water Resources director Tom Buschatzke said it will be painful. Farmers in Southern California and Yuma, Arizona, produce the majority of North America's leafy greens in the winter.

“Those are a lot of potential devastating impacts — and a lot of uncertainties for all of us,” Buschatzke said.

Cities in metro Phoenix don't rely entirely on the Colorado River and likely will keep everyone's taps running, but water rates will increase in some areas, said Rhett Larson, a water law professor at Arizona State University. The city of Gilbert, for example, has increased residential water rates by 50% since April 2025, he said.

“We are not running out of water. We're running out of cheap water,” Larson said.

Meanwhile, cities across the Colorado River basin are constantly on the hunt for new sources of water, like tapping groundwater, treating wastewater and desalinating water, all of which are more expensive than deliveries from the Colorado River. ___ Pineda reported from Los Angeles and Peterson from Denver. Associated Press writer Mead Gruver contributed from Fort Collins, Colorado.

By WUFEI YU, DORANY PINEDA and BRITTANY PETERSON Associated Press



City of
Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2862 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO EFFECTUATE THE GOALS OF THE REALIGNMENT PLAN, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, AMENDMENTS TO MAXIMIZE THE POTENTIAL OF CITY-OWNED SITES IN THE DOWNTOWN

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2862 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2862 (CCS) (“the Ordinance”) amends the Zoning Ordinance to exempt City-owned property located in Downtown from the regulatory framework of the Zoning Ordinance. Exempting City-owned sites from zoning regulations provides flexibility to evaluate a broad range of projects that provide public benefits, including, but not limited to, various housing types, economic development opportunities, civic and community-serving uses, public open space and amenities, and revenue generating uses to support City services. The Ordinance also implements a tiered community benefits system for projects on Gateway Sites in the Downtown, as defined by the Downtown Community Plan. The tiered system requires projects seeking to exceed certain base standards to provide community benefits in order to access increased development standards that align with applicable entitlement processes.

Ordinance Number 2862 (CCS) was adopted on July 28, 2026, and shall become effective 30 days after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.



City of
Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2861 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL TO AMEND THE TEXT OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO EXCLUDE CERTAIN SITES FROM SENATE BILL (SB) 79 IMPLEMENTATION UNTIL ONE YEAR FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION OF THE 7TH CYCLE (2029-2037) HOUSING ELEMENT

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2861 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Senate Bill (SB) 79, the Abundant and Affordable Homes Near Transit Act, establishes minimum guaranteed development standards for qualifying housing projects located within one-half mile of specific transit stops in urban transit counties, which includes Los Angeles County. Although SB 79 became effective July 1, 2026, it provides alternative options for implementation, including an option for cities to temporarily exclude certain sites until one year following the adoption of the 7th Cycle Housing Element of the City's General Plan. Ordinance Number 2861 (CCS) (“the Ordinance”) utilizes this option and temporarily delays application of SB 79 for eligible sites, including sites: (1) that permit density and residential floor area ratios at no less than 50 percent of SB 79's minimum standards; (2) with designated historic resources identified prior to January 1, 2025; and (3) located in a transit-oriented development zone in which at least 33 percent of sites have permitted density and residential floor area ratio no less than 50 percent of the standards specified in SB 79 and which includes sites with densities that cumulatively allow for at least 75 percent of the aggregate density for the transit-oriented development zone, as specified.

Ordinance Number 2861 (CCS) was adopted on July 28, 2026, and shall become effective 30 days after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

Keep an eye on these 5 deals as California lawmakers close out the legislative session

Lawmakers have returned to Sacramento ready to hammer out — and potentially spike — several legislative deals before they adjourn for the year on Aug. 31 and hit the campaign trail.

Think of this year’s end-of-session as a bonus episode to last year’s saga over climate and energy policy. Much of the unresolved business has roots in the deal that renewed the state’s carbon market. But new topics have entered the plot too, and Senate President Pro Tem Monique Limón will bring a different dynamic to negotiations among the “Big Three.”

As usual, much of the negotiating will take place at the leadership level behind closed doors. Here are five deals we’re watching this month.

CLIMATE FUND A CENTERPIECE TO BUDGET TALKS

How to spend the state’s main climate fund will be a primary sticking point this month after Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative Democrats failed to reach an agreement in time for the June budget.

Now, they have less than a month to settle their differences. Assembly Budget Committee Chair Jesse Gabriel, an Encino Democrat, told reporters in June that the climate budget would be “at the top of the list” for negotiations during the summer recess.

Newsom and lawmakers last fall reauthorized the state’s carbon market, which charges companies to pollute and deposits the dollars in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for climate programs. The deal also set the order in which projects would receive funding.

But that revenue source, which was estimated to generate \$4 billion a year, could shrink by half under new climate rules the Newsom administration adopted this year, endangering funding for various legislative priorities and angering Senate Democrats, who in turn threatened to block Newsom’s funding proposals and presented alternative spending plans in June.

Legislative leaders agreed to use \$115 million of the fund for Newsom-backed electric vehicle incentives and another \$1.25 billion to backfill the state fire department’s budget. But still at stake is funding for the controversial high-speed rail project, which was set to receive \$1 billion a year until 2045. Projects such as safe drinking water, affordable housing and transit are also at risk of losing funding.

Separately, top leaders put off negotiations over Proposition 4, the voter-approved \$10 billion bond for climate projects. Last year, state lawmakers fought to secure a piece of the fund for pet projects, some tangentially related to environmental protection, in their own districts in a secretive process that even many lawmakers bemoaned.

TECH-BACKED CALIFORNIA FOREVER SEEKS A DEAL

California Forever, the tech billionaires-backed group seeking to develop swaths of Solano County farmland, is hoping to get a carve-out on environmental rules for the

development.

For months, the group and its labor union allies told state lawmakers the relief was necessary to help California land a deal with Saronics Technologies Inc., a Texas-based shipbuilder they said was eyeing California for its next shipyard. The group wanted the state to streamline environmental reviews and override county restrictions for the development, but no legislation materialized as opponents accused the group of bypassing local resistance and sidestepping environmental regulations.

The shipbuilder announced last month that it would build in Texas, a decision California Forever blamed on state lawmakers. “We were passed over because ... our approval process cannot accommodate the required speed without special legislation, which was not passed in time,” the group said in a statement.

“California and Solano County must not miss the next opportunity,” it continued.

California Forever has spent \$455,000 since last year lobbying state lawmakers and the governor’s office, according to its lobbying report released Friday.

The proposed development appears to have Newsom’s blessing. The governor’s office called a meeting Thursday to discuss the project with a couple of Solano County supervisors, California Forever representatives and Assemblymember Lori Wilson and Sen. Christopher Cabaldon, who represent the region.

Dee Dee Myers, who heads the governor’s office of business and economic development that’s been pushing for the development, was also present. In a memo last month, her office called the region a “world-class industrial site” and touted the importance of building a shipyard and an advanced manufacturing hub in the area.

“California is better positioned to attract billions of dollars in investment, tens of thousands of new good-paying jobs and a more resilient supply chain than it has been in decades,” the memo said. “And no project represents this opportunity more clearly than the proposed Solano Shipyard and Solano Foundry.”

WILL NEWSOM’S WILDFIRE PLAN BENEFIT UTILITIES?

Newsom is also proposing legislation to address growing wildfire risks in California but is not giving specifics.

Consumer advocates, wildfire survivors and insurers say he’s trying to reduce utilities’ liability for causing wildfires, shift wildfire recovery costs to insurance policyholders and make it harder for fire victims to get compensation or legal representation — claims Newsom’s office declined to address.

Newsom spokesperson Anthony Martinez said discussions about potential legislation followed a California Earthquake Authority study in April that examined ways to better prepare California for natural disasters. The study was required by a last-minute deal Newsom and state lawmakers struck last year, which required utility companies to pay



Surf report

WATER TEMP: 75.6

TUESDAY
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Small but rideable swell mix, generally waist high and below. Clean AM, light bump PM. Surf in the knee-waist high range with a few larger sets at top breaks. The mix opens up the options with playful corners at the open beachbreaks - you'll need a little extra float outside of the biggest breaks. Conditions look pretty nice for the tide push mid/late AM, which will probably end up the best window of the day.

WEDNESDAY
FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Staying mellow with peaky shape for the big boards. Knee-waist high+ surf and a mostly clean AM. Minor mix of southerly swells plus a little NW windswell in the mix for some quick corners in the knee-waist high range, standouts occasionally a little bigger, but under chest-high. Nice conditions for the low tide and following tide push in the AM before afternoon onshore bump kicks in. Evening window looks like it'll clean up some.



Weather

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 76.

Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 67. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 77.

Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 67.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
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
2026/08/05	Wed	2:47 PM	5.30	H
2026/08/05	Wed	10:33 PM	1.29	L
2026/08/06	Thu	04:39 AM	2.79	H
2026/08/06	Thu	08:12 AM	2.44	L
2026/08/06	Thu	3:53 PM	5.53	H
2026/08/07	Fri	12:02 AM	0.65	L
2026/08/07	Fri	07:03 AM	2.99	H
2026/08/07	Fri	09:45 AM	2.84	L



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Draw Date: 8/1
6 17 27 48 50
Power#: 5
Jackpot: 748 M



Draw Date: 8/2
2 3 20 24 27



Draw Date: 7/31
4 18 26 43 51
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 60 M



Draw Date: 8/2
EVENING: 8 7 7
Draw Date: 8/2
MIDDAY: 3 4 6



Draw Date: 8/1
29 30 37 41 44
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 43 M



Draw Date: 8/2
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:48.01

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

Heat wave brings record-breaking temps, heightened wildfire risk to parts of Western US

A heat wave gripped large swaths of the Western U.S. over the weekend as temperatures hovered near record highs, heightening wildfire risks in areas that already were dry or burning and prompting warnings for people to stay inside.

A ridge of high pressure was holding heat close to the ground — what’s known as a heat dome — from Arizona to Montana, though the good news was that it will be relatively short-lived, National Weather Service meteorologists said.

Dangerous heat and warnings were plaguing the region, and the National Weather Service on Saturday forecast a number of cities that were expected to hit record highs. By late afternoon, Las Vegas reached 115 Fahrenheit, the hottest temperature of the year and just one degree off the daily record of 116 F.

Phoenix was expected to reach 116 F, while El Centro, California, was expected to hit a record 118 F. Even parts of Montana were expected to broil, with a record 104 F forecast for Great Falls.

The high in Las Vegas was 10 degrees above normal, and meteorologists warned of dangerous heat through Sunday, when the high was expected to be 114 F, according to weather service meteorologist Morgan Stessman.

Overnight lows in the upper 80s to low 90s will make the situation especially dangerous because it does not allow people’s bodies to recover. “There’s just no relief overnight,” Stessman said.

People were urged to stay indoors and keep hydrated.

At the Justa Center in Phoenix, which caters to seniors but opens to the public as a cooling center in the afternoon, the biggest challenge was keeping up with the need for water and electrolytes, operations director Rudy Soliz said. About 200 people come in daily.

“Anybody can come in, get a meal, sign up, get checked in through the cooling center, sit down, relax, watch a little TV, you know, catch themselves before they move on to another cooling center or their destination,” Soliz said.

SEVERAL CITIES NEAR RECORD TEMPS

The August record for Las Vegas is 116 F, while the hottest on record was 120 F in July 2024, which also was the hottest summer on record, Stessman said.

In Montana the entire east side of the state was under an extreme heat warning, though by Sunday much of the state was forecast to be in the 70s, according to weather service meteorologist Jeff Kitsmiller.

Still it was not as bad as a heat wave in mid-July when some places broke all-time records, including Billings, which reached 111 F on July 12, Kitsmiller said.

“That was a rare heat wave,” he said. “This one fits for this time of year.”

The Montana Rescue Mission, a homeless shelter in Billings, opened its doors earlier than usual to provide relief from the heat. Dozens of people were expected throughout the day, and the shelter planned to provide dinner, beds and breakfast, a receptionist said.

“Anybody can come in, get a meal, sign up, get checked in through the cooling center, sit down, relax, watch a little TV, you know, catch themselves before they move on to another cooling center or their destination”
- Rudy Soliz

Great Falls Parks and Recreation’s four swimming pools and three splash pads were crowded, said Katy Houseman, who works at one of the city’s recreation centers.

“They’re definitely hitting the pools and doing the splash pads outside and then trying to hide inside where there’s air conditioning,” Houseman said. “It’s super, super hot today.”

HEAT EXACERBATES WILDFIRE RISKS

Forecasters warned that this heat wave, combined with drying from past heat, will add to wildfire risks across the West.

“We’re definitely worried about that” in Montana, where fires already were burning and high winds were forecast for the weekend, Kitsmiller said, adding that most of the state was under a red flag warning.

In Nevada, Stessman said, “with this heat dome setting up, we’ve lost some of the moisture that we did have — like relative humidity in the afternoon bottoming out in the single digits in quite a few places.”

The U.S. Forest Service warned of enhanced wildfire risk through Sunday in most of Southern California except the coastline.

Extreme heat and drought also have created dangerous wildfire conditions in the Pacific Northwest.

Washington Gov. Bob Ferguson declared a state of emergency Saturday after unusually high temperatures and high

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

Five SMC Students Selected for Competitive Space Camp Scholarship

Five Santa Monica College students were selected to receive competitive Space Camp scholarships from the Proctor Foundation for Art and Science, chosen through a national application process from a pool representing community colleges across the country.

The recipients — Nafiseh Pirmoradi, Angel Gonzalez, Stephanie Hernandez Hernandez, Julissan Gonzalez and Aria Hightower — attended the all-expenses-paid program July 10-12 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. They took part in simulations, team-based missions and training designed to mirror real aerospace challenges.

The scholarship recognizes students showing strong potential in STEAM fields — science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics — and a commitment to advancing inclusive participation in space-related careers. It covers travel, lodging, meals and educational programming.

“We believe access to transformative experiences like Space Camp can ignite curiosity, build confidence, and open pathways into careers in space and STEAM,” said Dr. Sian Proctor, the astronaut, artist and educator who founded the foundation.

Pirmoradi said piloting during simulations was her highlight, describing it as “a distant dream turned into reality.” She said her background bridging art, mathematics and architecture helped her approach technical tasks with both creativity and precision. Taking three tries to launch a rocket, she added, taught her “there is no such thing as failure, only opportunities to try again.”

Hightower, a formerly homeschooled freshman taking her first airplane flight and first trip out of state, said the experience sparked a fascination with biology and its connections to space. She encouraged African American and homeschooled students to pursue STEAM careers, saying “life is vast and ready for you to reach for the stars.”

Hernandez Hernandez, visiting Alabama for the first time, said the trip gave her “added confidence that it’s okay to fail, but to keep pushing forward.”

Gonzalez-Villeda, a native of South Los Angeles, said connecting with peers in different disciplines was refreshing and reinforced the importance of mentorship and scholarships for underrepresented students.

Julissan Gonzalez said meeting peers and STEM professionals was her favorite part. “From watching Endeavour fly overhead at seven to becoming a Space Camp alumna, I’ll never stop pursuing my dreams,” she said.

SMC offers study in numerous STEM fields, and its students have interned at institutions including NASA-JPL, NOAA, UCLA and UC Berkeley. To learn more, visit smc.edu/STEM.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy image

ALABAMA: Recipients of the competitive Space Camp Scholarship awarded by the Proctor Foundation for Art and Science.

ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

have pulled papers for the three open City Council seats have filed detailed financial disclosures. Trussler’s \$75,420 total tops the field, boosted by a \$25,000 personal loan alongside \$50,420 in outside donations. Torosis followed with \$60,009.66 raised, Lana Negrete brought in \$42,646 and Brett Morrow raised \$42,198.50. Eli Gill, Ashley Oelsen and Daniel Ivanov posted totals between roughly \$20,000 and \$27,000, while Angela D. Scott and Derrick Townsend rounded out the reporting candidates with under \$20,000 apiece. Ericka Lesley has filed a statement of organization but has not yet reported itemized financial data.

Despite trailing Trussler in total receipts, Torosis holds the largest campaign war chest, with \$53,361.72 cash on hand, followed by Negrete at \$39,577.93. Trussler’s heavier spending leaves him in third among reporting candidates with \$38,879.93 on hand, while Morrow retains \$36,127.33. Townsend has the thinnest reserves, with just \$2,424.80 remaining.

The filings also show sharply different reliance on self-funding and local support. Scott financed most of her campaign through a \$15,125 personal loan, and Townsend supplemented his donations with a \$3,500 loan. By contrast, Torosis, Morrow, Gill, Ivanov, Negrete and Oelsen relied overwhelmingly on donor contributions, with smaller loans.

Donor geography also varied widely. Torosis reported the strongest local network. Trussler and Morrow, by comparison, drew heavily from outside the city. Ivanov’s donor base skewed toward out-of-state support, particularly from Illinois. Negrete, Gill and Oelsen each drew a roughly even or majority-local mix, while Scott and Townsend reported smaller, largely local donor pools.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE BOARD

Among the six candidates who have pulled papers for four open College Board seats, financial activity has so far been limited. Blades-Snell is the only candidate reporting contributions from a base of outside donors, taking in \$4,197.98 total, including \$2,902.33 in itemized monetary contributions from 13 donors — six from Santa Monica — plus a \$1,295.65 personal loan. Her committee ended the period with \$2,745.95 cash on hand.

Thomas Peters reported \$1,000 in contributions, all from a personal loan, with no outside donor support. Oscar de la Torre reported raising \$5,000, also entirely from a personal loan, though his filing was submitted under a committee originally formed for his 2024 City Council run rather than one established for this Board of Trustees race. That committee also carries \$12,813.73 in total outstanding debt, the largest of any candidate across the four races. Luis Barrera Castanon has filed only a candidate intention

statement and has not yet submitted a financial disclosure. Virginia Reese and Sion Roy, who have also pulled papers for the College Board, have not reported financial filings covered in this period.

SCHOOL BOARD

Robbie Staenberg dominates fundraising among the five candidates who have pulled papers for four open School Board seats, reporting \$36,530.04 in total contributions, including \$35,138.92 in monetary donations from a broad, geographically diverse donor base of about 56 contributors, roughly 33 from Santa Monica. His committee ended the period with \$34,744.88 cash on hand.

Laurie Lieberman reported the second-largest total, \$8,550, with about 18 of her roughly 22 donors based in Santa Monica, leaving her with the most concentrated local donor base proportionally among School Board candidates. Harry Leshner reported \$3,600, relying partly on family contributions and a \$1,500 personal loan, while Alicia Mignano reported the smallest total this period, \$700, with no itemized Santa Monica donors, though her committee still carries \$2,000 in debt from personal loans made in prior election cycles. Stacy J. Rouse, who has also pulled papers for the School Board, has not yet reported financial data.

RENT CONTROL BOARD

Of the five candidates who have pulled papers for three open Rent Control Board seats, only Sue Himmelrich has filed a financial disclosure so far. Her campaign reported \$10,000 in total contributions this period, but the entire sum came from a personal loan rather than outside donations, with no monetary contributions reported. Himmelrich’s committee reported \$750 in expenditures and ended the period with \$9,250 cash on hand. Candidates Kurt Gonska, Soledad Marcial, Zoë Muntaner and Heather Thomason have also pulled papers for the Rent Control Board but have not reported financial filings.

QUALIFIED CANDIDATES

Mignano was the first candidate to officially qualify for November with the City Clerk certifying her paperwork on July 30. Torosis was the first City Council candidate to qualify a day later on July 31.

No individual is a formal candidate for Santa Monica office until they complete the city’s signature-gathering process and officially qualify for the ballot. Dozens of prospective candidates have pulled nomination papers since the filing period opened — 20 for City Council, six for the College Board, five for the School Board and five for the Rent Control Board. Completed nomination forms are due by 5 p.m. Aug. 7, a deadline that extends to 5:30 p.m. Aug. 12 in any race where no incumbent files papers.

editor@smdp.com

GET IT DAILY...





NOTICE OF ELECTION AND
ARGUMENT AND REBUTTAL DEADLINES

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

MEASURE “ “: Shall the measure, which maintains the existing transient occupancy tax rates; authorizes the City Council to establish Major Event Periods, as defined, when the tax applies to lodging paid for or obtained by corporate entities for stays over 30 days, and to adjust the hotel and motel tax rate for such stays; clarifies that refunds require a natural person to complete at least thirty-one consecutive days of occupancy, and authorizes administrative regulations, be adopted?	Yes No
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the measure below has been rescinded and replaced with a new measure, setting the following deadlines for submittal of arguments, and rebuttals in favor and in opposition:

MEASURE “ “: Shall the City Charter be amended to prohibit evictions when additional occupants move into a unit, subject to legal limits; prohibit evictions of lawful occupants who remain after a tenant vacates; extend existing eviction protections to tenants renting single-unit dwellings and condominiums; and require for owner occupancy evictions from non-rent controlled units; that the owner occupy the unit within 60 days after the tenant vacates and for at least 2 years thereafter?	Yes No
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MEASURE “ “: Shall Article XXIII of the City Charter related to housing policies be amended to extend existing eviction protections to tenants renting single unit dwellings and condominiums and require that for owner occupancy evictions from non-rent controlled units, the owner must intend in good faith to occupy the unit within 60 days after the tenant vacates and for at least 2 years thereafter?	Yes No
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NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 3, Division 9 of the Elections Code of the State of California, the legislative body of the City, or any member or members thereof authorized by the body, or any individual voter or bona fide association of citizens, or any combination of voters and associations, may file a written argument, not to exceed 300 words in length, accompanied by the printed name(s) and signature(s) of the author(s) submitting it, or if submitted on behalf of an organization, the name of the organization, and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers who is the author of the argument, for or against the City measures. No more than five signatures of authors shall be accepted with any argument submitted.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that, based upon the time reasonably necessary to prepare and print the arguments and Voter Information Guide for the election, the City Clerk has fixed **Tuesday, August 11, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**, during normal office hours, as posted, as the date after which no arguments for or against the City measure(s) may be submitted to the Clerk for printing and distribution to the voters as provided in Article 4. Arguments shall be submitted to the City Clerk, accompanied by the printed name(s) and signatures(s) of the author(s) submitting it, or if submitted on behalf of an organization, the name of the organization, and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers who is the author of the argument, at City Hall, Santa Monica, California. Arguments may be changed or withdrawn until and including the date fixed by the City Clerk.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 11.04.125 rebuttal arguments not exceeding 250 words, as submitted by the authors of the opposing direct arguments, may be filed with the Clerk, and shall be signed by any one of the persons filing the original argument, any combination of the persons signing the original argument or by all of the persons filing the original argument. The rebuttal shall not be signed by any person who did not sign the original argument nor shall it contain more than five signatures. The deadline for filing rebuttals with the City Clerk may not be more than ten days after the final date for filing original arguments, the date being **Friday, August 21, 2026, 5:00 p.m.** (City offices are closed that Friday). An appointment with the City Clerk’s Office is required to file documents on that date. To schedule an appointment, candidates should contact the City Clerk’s Office at (310) 458-8211 or clerk@santamonica.gov.

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

/s/Denise Anderson-Warren, Interim City Clerk



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

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

MEDIDA “ “: “¿Deberá ser adoptado la medida, que mantiene las tasas existentes del impuesto sobre ocupación transitoria; autoriza al Concejo Municipal a establecer Periodos de Eventos Mayores, según se defina, cuando el impuesto aplica a alojamientos pagados u obtenidos por entidades corporativas para estancias de más de 30 días, y ajustar la tasa del impuesto para hoteles y moteles para dichas estancias; aclara que los reembolsos requieren que una persona natural complete al menos treinta y un días consecutivos de ocupación, y autoriza regulaciones administrativas?”	Sí No
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POR LA PRESENTE SE DA AVISO QUE la medida siguiente ha sido rescindida y reemplazada por una nueva medida, estableciendo los siguientes plazos para la presentación de argumentos y refutaciones a favor y en contra:

MEDIDA “ “: ¿Deberá enmendarse la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad para prohibir los desalojos cuando ocupantes adicionales se muden a una unidad, sujeto a los límites legales; prohibir los desalojos de ocupantes legales que permanezcan en la unidad después de que un inquilino se mude; extender las protecciones de desalojo existentes a los inquilinos que alquilan viviendas unifamiliares y condominios; y exigir en los desalojos por ocupación del propietario en unidades no controladas por alquiler, que el propietario ocupe la unidad dentro de los 60 días después de que el inquilino se mude y durante al menos 2 años después?	Sí No
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MEDIDA “ “: “¿Deberá Artículo XXIII de la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad relacionado con las políticas de vivienda para extender las protecciones de desalojo existentes a los inquilinos que alquilan viviendas unifamiliares y condominios, y exigir que en los desalojos por ocupación del propietario en unidades no sujetas a control de alquiler, el propietario debe tener la intención de buena fe de ocupar la unidad dentro de los 60 días después de que el inquilino desocupe y por al menos 2 años después?”	Sí No
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ADEMAS SE NOTIFICA que en conformidad con el Artículo 4, Capítulo 3, División 9 del Código Electoral del Estado de California, el cuerpo legislativo de la Ciudad, o cualquier miembro o miembros del mismo autorizados por el cuerpo, o todo votante individual o asociación genuina de ciudadanos, o toda combinación de votantes y asociaciones, pueden presentar un argumento escrito , el cual no puede exceder las 300 palabras, acompañado por el nombre o nombres impresos, y firma(s) de el/los autores que lo presente, o si es presentado en el nombre de una organización, el nombre de la organización, y el nombre impreso y la firma de por lo menos uno de sus funcionarios principales, quien es el autor o autora del argumento a favor o en contra de la medida municipal. Se aceptará no más de cinco firmas de los autores por cada argumento presentado.

ADEMAS SE NOTIFICA que, basada en el tiempo razonablemente necesario para preparar e imprimir los argumentos y boletas electorales de muestra para la elección, la Secretaria Municipal ha fijado el **martes, 11 de agosto de 2026, a las 5:00 p.m.**, durante el horario normal de trabajo, según ha sido anunciado, como la fecha después de la cual no se podrá presentar a la Secretaria Municipal ningún argumento a favor o en contra de la medida municipal para su impresión y distribución a los votantes según lo dispuesto en artículo 4. Los argumentos deberán ser presentados a la Secretaria Municipal, acompañados por el nombre o nombres impresos y firmas de los autores que los presenten, o si son presentados en el nombre de una organización, el nombre de la organización, y el nombre impreso y la firma de por lo menos uno de sus funcionarios principales, quien es el autor del argumento, en el Ayuntamiento en Santa Monica, California. Los argumentos pueden ser cambiados o retirados hasta e incluyendo la fecha fijada por la Secretaria Municipal.

ADEMAS SE NOTIFICA que basado en Sección 11.04.125 del Código Municipal de Santa Monica, argumentos de refutación, como presentado por los autores en directa oposición del argumento, los cuales no pueden exceder 250 palabras, pueden ser presentados a la Secretaria Municipal, acompañados por los nombres impresos y firmas de uno de los autores del argumento principal, o con cualquier combinación de firmas de los autores que presentaron el argumento principal, o con todos los autores que firmaron el argumento principal. El argumento de refutación no será firmado por ninguna persona que no firmó el argumento principal, ni deberá contener mas de cinco firmas. La refutación tendrá que ser presentado a la Secretaria Municipal no más de 10 días después de la fecha fijada para presentar los argumentos principales, la fecha siendo el **viernes, 21 de agosto de 2026, a las 5:00 p.m.** (Las oficinas de la ciudad estarán cerradas ese viernes). Se requiere una cita con la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal para presentar documentos en esa fecha. Para programar una cita, los candidatos deben comunicarse con la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal al (310) 458-8211 o clerk@santamonica.gov.

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

/s/Denise Anderson-Warren, Secretaria Municipal Interino

COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown Santa Monica

Santa Monica Place Offers Line Dancing, Movie Nights and More in August

Santa Monica Place invites locals and visitors to enjoy the final weeks of summer with a full calendar of entertainment, dining and family-friendly experiences throughout August at the open-air destination steps from the beach.

Western Wednesday returns each week with complimentary line-dancing lessons led by professional instructors, along with giveaways while supplies last. The series runs Aug. 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. in Center Plaza, with pre-dance happy-hour offerings at participating restaurants.

The Makers Hive Marketplace returns Aug. 9 from noon to 5 p.m., featuring local makers, artists and small businesses. Sounds of Santa Monica brings free live music and DJ sets to Center Plaza on Aug. 14, 15 and 16.

The Gourmandise School hosts several hands-on classes, including a sourdough starter class and coffee tasting Aug. 16, a cake decorating workshop Aug. 23 and a farmers market tour and class Aug. 29.

Wellness on the Westside, presented by AI Wellness, offers a full day of movement, recovery and self-care on Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event features yoga, Pilates and fitness classes, recovery experiences, a wellness marketplace and expert talks. Early bird tickets start at \$30 and are available at [WellnessOnTheWestside.eventbrite.com](https://www.wellnessonthewestside.com).

Cayton Children's Museum continues its Summer Friday Movie Nights every Friday through Aug. 28, pairing an after-hours museum experience with family films. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and movies begin at 6 p.m. The lineup includes "Ratatouille" on Aug. 7, "Hook" on Aug. 14, "Coco" on Aug. 21 and "Matilda" on Aug. 28. Tickets are available through Cayton Children's Museum.

LouLou Restaurant Rooftop & Lounge offers weekly dining and entertainment, including weekday lunch specials, Jazz A Go Go on Wednesday evenings, Saturday Rosé Brunch and its Pardon My French! Sunday brunch. Some experiences are limited to guests 21 and older.

Events take place at Santa Monica Place, 395 Santa Monica Place, with several held in Center Plaza on Level 1. For the latest event information, visit [SantaMonicaPlace.com/events](https://www.santamonica.com/events).



Courtesy of Santa Monica Place
SUMMER: Santa Monica Place offers entertainment, dining, and family activities throughout August.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

— spelled B-A-L-L — to support a family member of a person “who lost their life to cancer.” She said the event later “morphed” into the Butterfly Brawl, shifting its focus to up-and-coming and female fighters.

“Last year it was beyond a success,” Negrete said. She said the event drew favorable press and even attracted boxing announcers who, organizers later learned, lived in Santa Monica. “There was no incidents,” she added.

Negrete said organizers came out of pocket last year to involve young people, including children from the Police Activities League and other community youth. She encouraged residents to attend, calling it “pretty cool to have a boxing ring on the pier” and saying “everybody should go.”

Because the council had approved a similar package of support for the inaugural event, Negrete framed this year's request as a repeat. “It's just repeating what we did last year to help offset some of those costs,” she said.

Hall cast the only no vote. He praised the event but said the city's signature events policy existed “for a reason” and warned that waiving the city's share of fees creates ripple effects for other partners. Each time the council waives its portion, he said, “it applies pressure to the [Pier] Corporation because they also are asked to waive their fees, and they can't afford to do it in the way that we

can.”

Hall also questioned who would benefit from the waiver. “Fightbook is ... a for-profit company,” he said. “They do not have a nonprofit status with IRS, and I don't think it's appropriate for us to be waiving city fees for a for-profit company.”

Despite Hall's objection, the measure passed comfortably. Voting in favor were Negrete, Councilmember Raskin, Mayor Pro Tem Swick, Snell, Councilmember Zarneskaya and Torosis. Hall was the only member opposed.

The item was the final piece of business before the council recessed. According to the meeting record, members are not scheduled to reconvene until the second Tuesday in August.

The report supporting the request was prepared by Sergio Ramirez, chief of staff, and included an attachment tracking the council's discretionary fund spending.

Butterfly Brawl's stated mission, as described in the city report, is to combine high-level boxing, entertainment and philanthropy in support of cancer-related causes. Negrete urged residents to attend, saying the event brings a boxing ring to the pier and draws local youth, including Police Activities League children, into the day's activities.

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Name change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00323. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Santa Monica Courthouse, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Suzannah Leigh Weiss for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Suzannah Leigh Weiss filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Suzannah Leigh Weiss to Mary Magdalene. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 8/28/26, Time: 8:30, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: July/14/26. Lawrence Cho. , Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/21/2026, 07/28/2026, 08/04/2026, 08/11/2026

Name change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00329. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Olivia Irene Montgomery for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Olivia Irene Montgomery filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Olivia Irene Montgomery to Olivia Irene Lynch. 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: 09/04/2026, Time: 8:30AM, 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: 07/20/2026. Lawrence Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/28/2026, 08/04/2026, 08/11/2026, 08/18/2026

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LEGISLATIVE

FROM PAGE 3

into the state’s wildfire fund while allowing them to shift certain costs onto customers.

Wildfire Survivors First, a utilities-funded coalition despite its name, is lobbying state leaders to adopt several proposals listed in the study, arguing they would reduce wildfire risks and make property insurance more affordable.

Most legislative leaders were tight-lipped about the potential package. Sen. Ben Allen, a Los Angeles Democrat running for state insurance commissioner, said he would “carefully review” any legislation and urged against proposals to “simply shift around the costs consumers pay.” Democratic Sen. Sasha Renée Pérez, who represents Eaton Fire survivors, said she would oppose last-minute deals to cap compensation for fire victims.

BUSINESS AND LABOR CLASH OVER ANTI-TRUST PROPOSAL

Lawmakers will determine the fate of a controversial bill that would give Californians the ability to sue large companies in state court for using monopolistic practices to stifle competition.

The bill, known as the COMPETE Act, has infuriated the business community and set the California Chamber of Commerce on a warpath. The powerful industry group has called Assembly Bill 1776 “the largest expansion of antitrust law in world history” and warns its members that the legislation would “leave every business of every size in California vulnerable to massive legal liability.”

Business advocates also argue that the bill gives predatory law firms a new way to shake down California businesses by opening the floodgates for what’s known as “private right of action” lawsuits. For years, business owners have complained about California laws that allow activists and a cottage industry of lawyers to bombard them with cash demands and lawsuits over disability access, product warning labels, labor complaints and consumer privacy.

The legislation, authored by Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, a Davis Democrat, has support from labor-friendly progressive lawmakers, but also

some who have more moderate records such as Assemblymember Jasmeet Bains and Senator Melissa Hurtado, both Central Valley Democratic lawmakers.

Several of the state’s most powerful unions have lined up as co-sponsors, including the California Federation of Labor Unions, SEIU California and the United Food and Commercial Workers.

The bill is scheduled to be heard in the Senate appropriations committee on Aug. 10.

COUNTIES SEEK REPRIEVE FROM COSTLY ASSAULT CLAIMS

Los Angeles County is leading a behind-the-scenes effort to limit lawsuits from Californians who allege they were abused as children by public employees while in county or school district custody.

The effort comes in response to a deluge of lawsuits that followed a 2019 law that dramatically expanded the time people have to sue for the alleged abuse. Survivors now have until they turn 40 to file claims, rather than the previous cutoff of age 26 or within five years of becoming aware of trauma caused by the alleged abuse. The resulting litigation and settlements have cost counties and school districts billions of dollars.

Last April, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a \$4 billion settlement with 6,800 people who claimed they suffered abuse while in county juvenile detention facilities. Some of those cases dated back more than 65 years.

Lawmakers attempted to broker a compromise, Senate Bill 577, at the end of last session that would satisfy survivors and roll back the scope of the law to provide some financial reprieve to cash-strapped counties and school districts. But that effort, led by Sen. John Laird, a Democrat from Santa Cruz, couldn’t gain traction, and Laird eventually shelved the issue.

Now, public employee unions are pushing for a reprieve again, largely to avoid potential pay concessions from their financially burdened public employers. Negotiations will likely take place at the Democratic leadership level between Limón and Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas.

by Yue Stella Yu and Maya C. Miller

HEAT WAVE

FROM PAGE 4

winds exacerbated record wildfires across the state. He also banned most outdoor and agricultural burning through the end of September.

Ferguson’s proclamation went into effect ahead of an unprecedented “particularly dangerous situation” red flag alert by the National Weather Service, which rated the weather risk as “extreme” across Eastern Washington.

The Old Trails Fire, a fast-moving wildfire driven by the strong winds and high temperatures, swept across northwest Spokane before jumping the Spokane River and prompting the evacuation of thousands of people.

A red flag alert also was issued for eastern Oregon, where crews battled several large fires including the Rowe Creek Complex blaze, which has grown to 490 square miles with 57% containment.

CLIMATE CHANGE MAKES HEAT WAVES AND WILDFIRES MORE FREQUENT

Climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas is causing larger, more intense and longer-lasting heat waves — which lead to more intense droughts and contribute to larger, more destructive wildfires.

This year’s weather is also expected to be affected by an El Nino phenomenon, a natural warming of the equatorial Pacific that alters weather patterns and spikes temperatures across the globe.

The current El Nino is expected to rank as among the most intense since the weather service began tracking in 1950, experts said. It has already broken records for intensity at its early stages, United Nations officials said Friday.

By TAMMY WEBBER and SARAH RAZA Associated Press. Associated Press writer Martha Bellisle in Seattle contributed.

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

Beyond the ballroom

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

Ad lib	Floor	Music	Skip
Balboa	Glide	Paul Jones	Slip
Boogie	Heat	Polka	Social
Calypso	Hiphop	Quick	Style
Caper	Hula	Rave	Tiring
Cha cha	Instruction	Reel	Trot
Concentrate	Jive	Relax	Turn
Cool	Juba	Rock and	Twist
Dress	Kolo	roll	Two left
Easy	Latin	Romantic	feet
Enjoy	Legs	Salsa	Watch
Fast	Mambo	Simple	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Milking time mayhem



TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 4)

It’s your Year of Apothecary in which the particular way you mix elements of healing, magic and craft will be both intuitive and repeatable, resulting in remedies that are custom-made for the moment. More highlights: Your social ease attracts sweet souls. A profitable sale puts extra money in your pocket. Your uncanny ability to cast the right people in key roles turns an ambitious project into a standout success. Cancer and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 11, 8, 15 and 21.



HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Chiron emphasizes the Ram’s courage today. It’s so like you to volunteer before anyone asks or start something without having every answer. Others admire this quality that you hardly think about until it’s the very reason they make you the leader.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Chiron emphasizes the Bull’s confidence in having enough today. You’ll use what’s already on hand, fully enjoy it and feel grateful you don’t have to buy, store or maintain more than you need. When the quantity is right, you’re free of the burden of excess.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Chiron emphasizes the Twins’ discernment today. Two stories will compete for your attention. One falls apart after a few questions. The other keeps matching the facts. Your good judgment keeps you from wasting your time.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Chiron emphasizes the Crab’s trust today. You’ll hear, “I saved you a seat,” “Drive safely” or “Text me when you get home.” It’s easier to trust someone when they keep showing you, in little ways, that you’re on their mind.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Chiron emphasizes the Lion’s generosity today. You’ll share an introduction, recommend someone’s work or hand over the spotlight without losing any of your own. Later people will remember whose warmth made them feel so welcome.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Chiron emphasizes the Virgin’s craftsmanship, which is remarkable. Your eye for detail has you straighten things just so. Your project manager’s efficiency has you thinking ahead and finishing the job in a way that saves time tomorrow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Chiron emphasizes the Scales’ reciprocity. Maybe to you it’s normal when a relationship settles into an easy rhythm of taking turns, picking up the check, returning calls and meeting each other halfway without anyone keeping score. But indeed, this is special!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Chiron emphasizes the Scorpion’s resilience today. Something that once rattled you no longer has potency in your psyche. Note your steady hands. Note how your thoughts and words flow without impediment. No hesitation, no drama.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Chiron emphasizes the Archer’s humility today. You’ll meet someone who knows a great deal about one subject, and the conversation grows more interesting every time you ask the next question. And when they say “great question,” they really mean it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Chiron emphasizes the Goat’s endurance today. While others drift between projects, you’ll keep working through the same one until there’s nothing left to tighten, sign, file, stack or send. You’d rather finish one thing than leave a dozen tabs open.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Chiron emphasizes the Water Bearer’s originality today. You’ll suggest the idea that almost stayed in your notebook, and before long someone across the table is building on it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Chiron emphasizes the Fish’s compassion today, and you’ll feel drawn to listen more deeply, witness more fully and be generally more patient with those who are “going through it” because you’ve been there, too.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 “Silence!”
- 6 Hit at, as a fly
- 10 Practice boxing
- 14 Green pasta sauce
- 15 Mexican money
- 16 Sit for a portrait
- 17 Assistants
- 18 Low female voice
- 19 “Tender” beef cut
- 20 Cornered
- 23 Anger
- 24 Sculpture or painting
- 25 Pixie
- 29 Mexico’s ___ California
- 31 U-turn from NNE
- 34 Indoor sports venue
- 35 Sedan or convertible
- 36 California wine valley
- 37 Toil diligently
- 40 Big Aussie birds
- 41 Keep in ___ (remember)
- 42 War horse
- 43 Put on, as clothing
- 44 Prefix meaning “singular”
- 45 In disagreement
- 46 Race, as an engine
- 47 French male friend
- 48 Silent and shy
- 57 Land parcels to build on
- 58 Uses oars
- 59 Revoke legally
- 60 “Don’t bet ___!”
- 61 Sit in traffic
- 62 Reusable shopping bags

- 63 See in the distance
- 64 Soft throw
- 65 Wear away
- DOWN
- 1 Minor quarrel
- 2 ___ to the throne (the next to reign)
- 3 Beef inspection agcy.
- 4 Rung of a ladder
- 5 Medical center
- 6 Black playing card
- 7 Underground water source
- 8 ___ spumante wine
- 9 Found employment
- 10 Snowball fight sound
- 11 Of low quality
- 12 Largest continent

- 13 Payment to a landlord
- 21 Poetic “before”
- 22 Historical period
- 25 Made logs into boards
- 26 “Coming soon” ad, for short
- 27 Program’s second airing
- 28 Cartoonist’s liquids
- 29 Good, in Spanish
- 30 Just slightly
- 31 Kept in reserve
- 32 Velocity
- 33 Fends (off)
- 35 Similar (to)
- 36 Western defense grp.
- 38 “That’s OK with me

- now”
- 39 Approximation
- 44 “Don’t tell ___ can’t do it!”
- 45 Physicians’ org.
- 46 Out of practice
- 47 Donkeys
- 48 Lotion’s soothing ingredient
- 49 Boys in the family
- 50 Cotton swab
- 51 Things ___ (list heading)
- 52 Hole-punching tools
- 53 ___ about (roughly)
- 54 Golden Rule preposition
- 55 Brought to court
- 56 “When all ___ fails...”

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			

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



TUESDAY | AUGUST 4

AUTHOR TALK WITH PAULA J. JOHNSON

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Join us for a conversation that's sure to warm your heart (and make your stomach rumble), as we delve into the legacy of cooking icon Julia Child with Smithsonian curator and public historian Paula J. Johnson, author of *Julia Child's Kitchen: The Design, Tools, Stories, and Legacy of an Iconic Space*. The book includes interviews with chefs who knew Julia well, commentary on her favorite culinary tools and kitchen gadgets, and a stunning array of photos. Julia Child's 20' x 14' kitchen was a serious workspace and recipe-testing lab that exuded a sense of mid-century homey comfort. It has been on display at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., for most of the past twenty-three years, and museum goers have made it a top destination. The kitchen contains more than one thousand parts and pieces—tools, appliances, utensils, furniture, artwork, knick-knacks, books, and bits of whimsy—all reflecting Julia's status as an accomplished chef, gastronome, delightful cooking teacher, television trailblazer, women's advocate, mentor, and generous, jovial friend. Julia Child's Kitchen (and this online conversation) is a must-have for every serious home cook and Julia Child fan. Register now to enter the discussion and learn more about how Julia Child continues to influence food today! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/author-talk-with-paula-j-johnson/19507470/2026-08-04T11>

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/14853634/2026-08-04T11>

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/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2026-08-04T11>

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/17128550/2026-08-04T14>

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/18825639/2026-08-04T15>

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/19106860/2026-08-04T16>

STAND UP 101: FIND YOUR VOICE (TUESDAYS)

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 1424 4th Street Santa Monica. ump into Stand Up! Discover your own comedic sensibility and shape it into a clear and unique point of view! 6 weeks + a Showcase! \$345.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/stand-up-101-find-your-voice-tuesdays-/19228417/2026-08-04T19>

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 5

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/18526513/2026-08-05T10>

MOBILE COMMUNITY MEDITATION CENTER - GUIDED MEDITATION

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Santa Monica. Please join Mobile Community Meditation Center aka Buddhist Boondockers Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10 am for a 45 minute fully guided mindfulness meditation - on the grass, under the shade of the trees, with a stunning view of the sparkling ocean. Whether you're new to meditation or a seasoned practitioner, everyone is welcomed. Bring your own chair or cushion and try to arrive 5 minutes early and be ready to enjoy a truly peaceful moment as we relax, be present and make new friends; giving ourselves the love and attention we deserve by quieting our minds, finding peace and creating community. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mobile-community-meditation-center-guided-meditation/19479748/2026-08-05T10>

meditation/19479748/2026-08-05T10

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/19300395/2026-08-05T11>

THURSDAY | AUGUST 6

LOW IMPACT GROUP EXERCISE CLASS

11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. American Legion Ronald Reagan-Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades. Power up your Thursday with our free, low-impact group exercise classes — open to all members of the Legion Family, designed for every fitness level, and held from 11:00am to 12:00pm at Palisades Post 283. Come move, recharge, and feel great heading into the rest of your day! Sign up here to receive emails about upcoming exercise classes and cancellations: [post283.com/exercise](https://www.smdp.com/event-3/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-08-06T11). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/event-3/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-08-06T11>

STORY-CRAFT TIME

3:00 p.m. 861 Alma Real Drive Pacific Palisades. Listen to a story and create something inspired by it! Recommended for children ages 3 and older. For ADA accommodations, please call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/event-3/#/details/story-craft-time/19018567/2026-08-06T15>

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: SANTA MONICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Meeting is held over Zoom. Link will be sent after registration Please view current and past Agendas here Santa Monica. The Government Affairs Committee meeting focuses on reviewing potential impacts of new policies, legislation, and ordinances on our membership. The agenda includes discussing these potential changes and voting on the Chamber's positions regarding upcoming proposals. We will determine how to support or oppose these initiatives, guiding our advocacy efforts to protect our members' interests. This meeting is crucial for shaping our policy engagement and response strategies. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/event-3/#/details/government-affairs-committee-santa-monica-chamber-of-commerce/17408642/2026-08-06T16>

RADIO CLUB MEETING

5:30 p.m. American Legion - Ronald Reagan Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades. Join the Radio Club to learn about how to get HAM

licensed! Other activities include "Parks on the Air," where you venture to a local park and reach out to others in order to "activate" your site. HAM radio is all about connecting the community and continually training to assist our first responders when disaster strikes. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/event-3/#/details/radio-club-meeting/18566934/2026-08-06T17>

HAMA SUSHI - MUSIC OPEN MIC (THURSDAYS)

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 352 Westminster Ave Venice. Thursday nights in Venice! Open Mic at Hama Sushi. Exciting things are happening at Hama Sushi! Open Mic every Thursday 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Come on down to Hama. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/event-3/#/details/hama-sushi-music-open-mic-thursdays-/18526607/2026-08-06T18>

LA BUSINESS MIXER AUGUST AT WURSTKÜCHE

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Wurstküche Restaurant Venice Beach 625 Lincoln Boulevard Los Angeles. German American professional and casual business networking mixer. We are looking forward to welcoming you to our business mixer at Wurstküche in Venice, a venue celebrated for its outstanding selection of sausages and beer. This event offers a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow professionals in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Enjoy great conversations, expand your network, and strengthen relationships with like-minded individuals while savoring delicious food and drinks. We look forward to seeing you there! \$17.85. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/event-3/#/details/la-business-mixer-august-at-wurstkuche/19429777/2026-08-06T18>

SECOND SIGHT AND TOM FREUD LIVE AT CABIN CREEK VENICE

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 517 Ocean Front Walk Los Angeles. Cabin Creek Concerts hosts an evening of live music on the Venice Beach Boardwalk! \$12.51. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/event-3/#/details/second-sight-and-tom-freud-live-at-cabin-creek-venice/19405009/2026-08-06T18>

CASTANEA SICILIAN CAFE - COFFEE & ESPRESSO CLASS

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Castanea Sicilian Cafe 1307 Ocean Front Walk Los Angeles. Experience a unique Espresso & Coffee Class in Los Angeles, Venice Beach and dive into the world of specialty coffee. In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn how to pull the perfect espresso, steam milk correctly, and prepare classic coffee drinks like cappuccino and latte just like a professional barista. Our Barista Coffee Class in Venice Beach, Los Angeles teaches you the fundamentals of espresso extraction, how to use an espresso machine, and basic latte art techniques. Whether you're a beginner or a coffee lover, this class will help you improve your coffee skills and knowledge. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/event-3/#/details/castanea-sicilian-cafe-coffee-espresso-class/18526609/2026-08-06T19>

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