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Volume 25 Issue 202

MONDAY 8/31/26

smdp.com

Santa Monica College pauses search for next Superintendent amid ongoing fiscal crisis

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

As Santa Monica College drowns in debt and students abandon ship, the ongoing crisis appears to have torpedoed the current search for new leadership at the school.

SMC has paused its search for a new superintendent/president, just weeks after the committee tasked with vetting candidates completed its work, according to a message sent to college employees.

SMC's Vice President, Human Resources, Tre'Shawn Hall-Baker, Ph.D., wrote in the message that the search committee — made up of representatives from students, faculty, classified professionals, management and the broader community — worked "thoughtfully and diligently" over several months to advance the recruitment before wrapping up earlier this month.

"Since the committee completed its work, unforeseen circumstances have required us to temporarily pause the recruitment process," Hall-Baker wrote, adding that officials remain hopeful the process will resume soon and pledging to keep the campus informed of the timeline and other details as things move forward.

A follow-up statement said the SMC Board of Trustees and the college "remain fully committed to



SMDP Photo

SEE **SMC** PAGE 8

SMC: The college is searching for a new leader but has paused the recruitment for unknown reasons.

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Santa Monica after-action report finds 2025 Palisades Fire response effective but flags governance, staffing gaps

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

A independent review of Santa Monica's response to the January 2025 Palisades Fire found the city's emergency operations were "coordinated" and "highly collaborative," but identified 36 recommendations for improvement, including governance gaps at the top of city leadership during the fire's onset, according to a report presented to the City Council on May 5.

The After-Action Report, produced by consulting firm Jacob Green & Associates (JGA) at the direction of the Santa Monica City Council, evaluated the city's response to the wind-driven wildfire that burned within 0.4 miles of Santa Monica's northern boundary, destroyed 6,833 structures and killed 12 people, without ever crossing into city limits.

The report found Santa Monica's Office of Emergency Management activated the city's Emergency Operations Center on the morning of Jan. 7, 2025, ahead of the fire reaching the area — a decision the report credited with establishing "a centralized coordination structure before impacts reached the City." The EOC remained active until Jan. 18, when the last evacuation warnings in the city were lifted.

Among the report's notable findings was a "governance gap" created when both the city manager and assistant city manager were out of the country when the fire broke out, leaving the deputy city manager as acting city manager. The report said this "resulted in an increased demand for OEM leadership and department heads to manage both the emergency response and elected official expectations, potentially leading to delays and confusion."

The report also found that four of the seven Santa Monica City Council members had been in office less than a month when the fire hit and had received no exposure to the EOC during onboarding. Several council members, including longer-tenured ones, told JGA interviewers they did not know where the EOC was located. During the fire, the report said, one elected official released "unvetted information regarding a potential fire within Santa Monica City limits" that had to be corrected by the city's communications team.

The report's 36 recommendations were organized into nine categories, including public information and elected official coordination, EOC governance and staffing, and evacuation planning. Specific recommendations included developing a formal Red Flag weather staffing policy for the fire department, expanding EOC staffing depth, and creating mandatory crisis communications training for elected officials. The city's Office of Emergency Management, at the time of the fire a function of the City Manager's Office with a vacant emergency services administrator position, has since been renamed the Emergency Management Division and placed under the Santa Monica Police Department's Deputy Chief as of Dec. 28, 2025.

The report also detailed the scope of Santa Monica's response, including deployment of a Santa Monica Fire Department task force to patrol the city's northern boundary, National Guard troops augmenting Santa Monica police at traffic checkpoints, and removal of roughly 445 tons of wind-related debris. The city secured \$1.48 million in FEMA reimbursement for disaster-related costs, according to the report.

The Santa Monica report arrives amid a broader, still-unfolding landscape of official reviews into the Palisades Fire response across multiple jurisdictions.

No standalone after-action report has been produced by CAL FIRE. Instead, Gov. Gavin Newsom's office commissioned UL Research Institutes' Fire Safety Research Institute to conduct a state-level review. The institute released the first of two planned reports, a "Southern California Fires Timeline Report," on Nov. 20, 2025, establishing an evidence-based timeline beginning just before the fire's start on Jan. 7, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. A second report containing findings and recommendations has not been released, and no date for its publication has been announced.

The Los Angeles Fire Department released its own 70-page after-action review on Oct. 8, 2025 — the same day federal prosecutors announced the arrest of Jonathan Rinderknecht, 29, on allegations he started the fire. The LAFD report, covering the first 36 hours of the incident, described a "perfect storm" of leadership and communication problems, limited resources, water-supply failures and the loss of aerial firefighting support that hampered the initial response, even as firefighters were credited with saving "thousands of lives."

The LAFD report said a 2017 policy change made pre-deployment of firefighting resources ahead of storms discretionary rather than mandatory, with decisions driven "overwhelmingly by perceived financial constraints." It found that command staff allowed firefighters to return home before the fire broke out and that an error on a reimbursement worksheet meant only about a third of deployable resources were used. Hydrants and hilltop water tanks ran dry during the firefight, forcing crews to siphon water from swimming pools, and delayed evacuation orders led to abandoned vehicles causing gridlock. Interim Chief Ronnie Villanueva said the report was intended to "provide greater clarity and accountability." Mayor Karen Bass said the department had "already implemented many changes," including 19 leadership changes.

The LAFD report drew controversy over its drafting process. Current Fire Chief Jaime Moore told the city's Fire Commission that "multiple drafts were edited to soften language and reduce explicit criticism of the department leadership." Fire Commission President Genethia Hudley Hayes said a draft was sent to the mayor's office, which

SEE FIRE REPORT PAGE 8

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Consignors say owner of resale store ducked them with abrupt closure



STORE: The Posh Duck abruptly closes on Main Street, leaving consignors scrambling to retrieve luxury items before deadline.

SMDP Photo

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Consignors of The Posh Duck, a luxury resale boutique on Main Street, say they were left confused and angry this month after the shop closed abruptly, sent contradictory emails about a possible bankruptcy, and left customers scrambling to reclaim designer handbags, clothing and jewelry before an August deadline.

The Posh Duck, at 2711 Main St. sold authenticated pre-owned luxury items from brands including Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Prada, operating both in-store and online through a consignor portal. The store had operated at the address since 2011, previously as a location of The Closet Trading Company, before rebranding as The Posh Duck in 2025.

In an Aug. 13 email to consignors, Daniel Lawrie announced the store was closing “after twelve years on Main Street,” saying he had owned the business for five of those years. He asked customers to retrieve their items in person between Thursday, Aug. 13, and Sunday, Aug. 16, warning that the store would not have time to pull individual orders and that customers would need to search the racks themselves using their account item lists. Lawrie wrote that any items not picked up by 6 p.m. that Sunday would be donated to Love the City Thrift, a Los Angeles nonprofit that he also manages, under a section of the consignor agreement governing unclaimed goods. He said further information about outstanding account balances would follow.

The announcement set off a wave of complaints on Yelp and Nextdoor. Several consignors said they never received the pickup notice at all. A reviewer said she found

the store already empty when she stopped by after her online account stopped working, and that Lawrie was on-site clearing out racks but declined to speak with her. Another said the store’s Instagram account, phone number and consignor portal had all been deactivated, leaving her unable to verify roughly \$200 she said she was owed. On Nextdoor, a poster said a friend was able to retrieve items on her behalf but that Lawrie “refused to speak with me and only shouted that he was tired of being screamed at” when she asked to be paid for sold items.

Confusion deepened Aug. 24, when multiple consignors said they received an email stating The Posh Duck had filed for bankruptcy and directing them to contact an attorney. However, hours later, a follow-up email arrived retracting the claim and instructing recipients not to contact the attorney in question. It said consignors would be contacted within 90 to 120 days with information about outstanding balances and any remaining items, and that no action was required of them in the meantime.

Several reviewers raised concerns about the plan to donate unclaimed merchandise to Love the City Thrift, noting that Lawrie manages that organization as well.

Other reviews described longer-running disputes predating the closure including problems verifying sales and receiving payment for sold items.

Multiple reviewers said they had filed complaints with the Santa Monica Office of the City Attorney’s Consumer Protection Unit and encouraged other consignors to do the same, circulating a link to the unit’s online complaint form.

editor@smdp.com



Weather

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 66.

Tuesday: A chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

Tuesday Night: A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2026/08/31	Mon	05:25 AM	0.98	L
2026/08/31	Mon	11:45 AM	5.48	H
2026/08/31	Mon	6:13 PM	1.01	L
2026/09/01	Tue	12:08 AM	4.21	H
2026/09/01	Tue	05:49 AM	1.50	L
2026/09/01	Tue	12:20 PM	5.57	H
2026/09/01	Tue	7:12 PM	1.00	L
2026/09/02	Wed	01:12 AM	3.52	H
2026/09/02	Wed	06:14 AM	2.03	L
2026/09/02	Wed	1:03 PM	5.57	H
2026/09/02	Wed	8:32 PM	1.00	L
2026/09/03	Thu	02:55 AM	2.98	H
2026/09/03	Thu	06:39 AM	2.54	L
2026/09/03	Thu	2:01 PM	5.50	H
2026/09/03	Thu	10:19 PM	0.80	L
2026/09/04	Fri	3:25 PM	5.47	H
2026/09/04	Fri	11:49 PM	0.34	L
2026/09/05	Sat	07:26 AM	3.44	H
2026/09/05	Sat	10:14 AM	3.27	L
2026/09/05	Sat	4:55 PM	5.66	H
2026/09/06	Sun	12:51 AM	-0.14	L
2026/09/06	Sun	07:53 AM	3.83	H
2026/09/06	Sun	11:58 AM	2.95	L
2026/09/06	Sun	6:09 PM	5.99	H
2026/09/07	Mon	01:39 AM	-0.50	L
2026/09/07	Mon	08:19 AM	4.22	H
2026/09/07	Mon	1:03 PM	2.43	L
2026/09/07	Mon	7:10 PM	6.30	H
2026/09/08	Tue	02:19 AM	-0.68	L
2026/09/08	Tue	08:46 AM	4.61	H
2026/09/08	Tue	1:56 PM	1.86	L
2026/09/08	Tue	8:01 PM	6.46	H
2026/09/09	Wed	02:55 AM	-0.66	L
2026/09/09	Wed	09:13 AM	4.97	H

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Draw Date: 8/26
Power#: 2
Jackpot: 119 M

Draw Date: 8/27
2 13 20 22 38

Draw Date: 8/25
7 10 47 48 50
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 145 M

Draw Date: 8/27
EVENING: 4 0 8
Draw Date: 8/27
MIDDAY: 6 1 4

Draw Date: 8/26
25 26 30 37 38
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 50 M

Draw Date: 8/27
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:41.29

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Michelle Edgar,
Devan Sipher,
Miles Warner.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Maaz Alin
maaz@smdp.com

LEGAL ADVERTISING
legal@smdp.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

Pablo Ocasio
pablo@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

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

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher’s Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you’re reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

Notice



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR
Notice of Divided Publication

NOTICE OF DIVIDED PUBLICATION OF
THE PROPERTY TAX-DEFAULT LIST
(DELINQUENT LIST)
Made pursuant to Section 3371, Revenue and Taxation Code

Pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code Sections 3381 through 3385, the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector is publishing in divided distribution, the Notice of Power to Sell Tax-Defaulted Property in and for the County of Los Angeles (County), State of California, to various newspapers of general circulation published in the County. A portion of the list appears in each of such newspapers.

I, Elizabeth Buenrostro Ginsberg, County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector, State of California, certify that:

Notice is given that by operation of law at 12:01 a.m. Pacific Time, on July 1, 2024, the Tax Collector declared the real properties listed below tax defaulted. The declaration of default was due to non-payment of the total amount due for the taxes, assessments, and other charges levied in tax year 2023-24 that were a lien on the listed real property. Non-residential commercial property and property upon which there is a recorded nuisance abatement lien shall be subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell after three years of defaulted taxes. Therefore, if the 2023-24 taxes remain defaulted after June 30, 2027, the property will become subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell and eligible for sale at the County's online auction in 2028. All other property that has defaulted taxes after June 30, 2029, will become subject to the Tax Collector's Power to sell and eligible for sale at the County's online auction in 2030. The list contains the name of the assessee and the total tax, which was due on June 30, 2024, for tax year 2023-24, opposite the parcel number. Payments to redeem tax-defaulted real property shall include all amounts for unpaid taxes and assessments, together with the additional penalties and fees as prescribed by law, or be paid under an installment plan of redemption if initiated prior to the property becoming subject to the Tax Collector's Power to Sell.

The Treasurer and Tax Collector's (TTC) Office will furnish, upon request, information concerning making a payment in full or initiating an installment plan of redemption. Requests must be made at 225 North Hill Street, First Floor Lobby, Los Angeles, California 90012. For more information, please visit TTC's website at ttc.lacounty.gov.

gov or contact TTC at (213) 974-2111.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Los Angeles, California, on July 23, 2026.

ELIZABETH BUENROSTRO GINSBERG
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Assessees/taxpayers, who have disposed of real property after January 1, 2023, may find their names listed because the Office of the Assessor has not yet updated the assessment roll to reflect the change in ownership.

ASSESSOR'S IDENTIFICATION NUMBERING SYSTEM EXPLANATION

The Assessor's Identification Number, when used to describe property in this list, refers to the Assessor's map book, the map page, the block on the map (if applicable), and the individual parcel on the map page or in the block. The Assessor's maps and further explanation of the parcel numbering system are available at the Office of the Assessor.

The following property tax defaulted on July 1, 2024, for the taxes, assessments, and other charges for the Tax Year 2023-24:

LISTED BELOW ARE PROPERTIES THAT DEFAULTED IN 2024 FOR TAXES, ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER CHARGES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.
AMOUNT OF DELINQUENCY AS OF THIS PUBLICATION IS LISTED BELOW.
CORRAL,JOSE AND AURELIA TRS JOSE AND AURELIA CORRAL TRUST SITUS 2328 HILL ST SANTA MONICA CA 90405-6002 4272-018-006 \$32,179.35
CORRAL,JOSE CO TR JOSE AND AURELIA CORRAL TRUST3 SITUS 2434 OCEAN PARK BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90405-5140 4272-023-024 \$67,816.62
SITUS 1919 CLOVERFIELD BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90404-4938 4274-001-034 \$41,187.51
SITUS 1925 CLOVERFIELD BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90404-4937 4274-001-036 \$41,072.41
4274-001-046 \$5,282.41
CORRAL,JOSE CO TR CORRAL TRUST SITUS 1820 9TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90404-4512 4283-020-023 \$18,581.55
CORRAL,JOSE L TR JOSE AND AURELIA CORRAL TRUST SITUS 2633 KANSAS AVE SANTA MONICA CA 90404-5258 4274-004-044 \$19,212.43
DEDEAUX,MARC TR MARC DEDEAUX TRUST SITUS 101 CALIFORNIA AVE NO 707 SANTA MONICA CA 90403-3521 4292-027-070 \$1,297.93
DRACH,MARGARET TR MARGARET DRACH TRUST SITUS 201 OCEAN AVE NO 706P SANTA MONICA CA 90402-1425 4293-019-043 \$27,553.12
ECKSTEIN,SHIRLEY TR ECKSTEIN TRUST SITUS 1440 23RD ST UNIT 203 SANTA MONICA CA 90404-2922 4275-006-056 \$15,182.71
ELIZABETHINK LLC SITUS 116 1/2 PACIFIC ST SANTA MONICA CA 90405-2212 4289-022-033 \$38,112.92
FITGER WILLIAMS FAMILY LP SITUS 925

17TH STREET 2 SANTA MONICA CA 90403 4277-009-060 \$58,128.07
GOMEZ,JOHN TR GLORIA GOMEZ TRUST SITUS 1728 PEARL ST SANTA MONICA CA 90405-2727 4273-022-006 \$946.23
HANTMAN,DAVID I SITUS 201 OCEAN AVE NO 1805P SANTA MONICA CA 90402-1442 4293-019-142 \$19,849.40
HOHMAN,WILLIAM L JR ET AL ALMEIDA,KAREN M SITUS 66 VILLAGE PKWY SANTA MONICA CA 90405-2852 4270-013-086 \$32,577.90
HOLLOMAN,MARIA E SITUS 532 MARGUERITA AVE SANTA MONICA CA 90402-1918 4293-009-029 \$63,227.84
JOHNSON,NANCY R SITUS 1552 HARVARD ST NO 5 SANTA MONICA CA 90404-3541 4267-023-028 \$597.82
LEVEY,JONATHAN R SITUS 222 7TH ST NO 212 SANTA MONICA CA 90402-1949 4293-001-055 \$367.02
LEVIN,RAND J AND JESSICA S SITUS 2530 IDAHO AVE SANTA MONICA CA 90403-2118 4277-017-001 \$22,725.48
MACINNIS FAMILY LP SITUS 1624 MONTANA AVE SANTA MONICA CA 90403-1808 4281-001-001/S2021-010 \$237,170.24
MCMILLIN,MELISSA B SITUS 201 OCEAN AVE NO 503B SANTA MONICA CA 90402-1459 4293-020-161 \$13,876.64
MEDDTV SANTA MONICA LLC SITUS 3307 PICO BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90405-2115 4274-036-002 \$69,826.76
MONTAGNA,ALESSANDRA TR ALESSANDRA MONTAGNA TRUST SITUS 2616 3RD ST SANTA MONICA CA 90405-4109 4287-010-025 \$21,643.83
MOORE,PAMELA SITUS 453 11TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90402-2033 4280-014-033/ S2016-010 \$248,485.90
NEMANI,FEREYDOUN F SITUS 1245 24TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90404-1342 4276-017-060 \$26,341.60
PJG/LP CORPORATION SITUS 2006 20TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90404-4754 4274-019-023 \$3,696.55
SITUS 1444 14TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90404-2704 4282-022-026 \$5,069.85
SITUS 1855 9TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90404-4559 4283-021-021 \$3,674.23
RAPPAPORT,ALBERT TR RAPPAPORT TRUST SITUS 1317 19TH ST APT 000E SANTA MONICA CA 90404-1936 4276-028-021 \$22,168.29
SHERMAN,SEAN P AND CINDY K SITUS 944 9TH ST 3 SANTA MONICA CA 90403-2837 4281-033-043/S2022-010 \$1,881.21
SHUKLA,DOLLY H TR DOLLY H SHUKLA TRUST SITUS 833 OCEAN AVE 304 SANTA MONICA CA 90403-1014 4292-025-076 \$41,669.28
YOUSEF,MAHMOOD AND SEYEDAN,MARYAM AND YOUSEF,PAYAM M SITUS 1028 17TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90403-4359 4281-003-006 \$1,708.85
1228 EUCLID APARTMENTS LLC SITUS 1228 EUCLID ST SANTA MONICA CA 90404-1035 4282-005-005 \$141,139.46
2011 LINCOLN LLC SITUS 2011 LINCOLN BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90405-1316 4284-002-003 \$77,851.12
2108 PICO OWNER LLC SITUS 2114 PICO BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90405-1718 4273-004-003 \$319,693.05
2305OCEANPARK INC SITUS 2305 OCEAN PARK BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90405-5107 4273-012-012 \$147,607.13
4TH AND WILSHIRE LLC AND 326 WILSHIRE LLC SITUS 1204 1/2 4TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90401-1304 4291-003-001 \$27,478.13
CN130011 534 Aug 27, Sep 3, 2026

California and the federal government battle over hospice fraud, as victims lose coverage and care

At 71 and a few years into retirement, Linda Henry felt like she was in good health, and only went to her doctor in Southern California for the occasional checkup.

So it was a shock when she found out in 2024 that she had been enrolled in hospice, a specialized end-of-life care usually provided to people with six months or less to live. A Medicare worker told her the system said she had heart failure.

Henry was a victim of rampant fraud in the hospice industry, a problem that's been especially extreme in California, where scammers have taken advantage of historically weak government oversight. Fraudsters have created fake hospices and tricked people into enrolling, or stolen people's identities to bill Medicare for hospice services.

California's been a focus of the Trump administration's crackdown on fraud in federally-funded health programs, with more than 1,000 California hospices removed from Medicare since early 2025. Federal officials estimate LA County alone accounts for an estimated \$3.5 billion in fraudulent hospice claims.

The state says it's doing its part to tackle the issue. California has revoked nearly 500 licenses since putting a moratorium on new hospices in 2021 and in June adopted long-awaited emergency regulations that set more stringent criteria for approving new licenses.

Since hospice is a form of palliative care meant for terminally ill patients, once someone enrolls in it, Medicare will not pay for additional medical treatment outside of it, leaving vulnerable seniors to miss out on appointments and be denied crucial care. Meanwhile, millions of taxpayer dollars are being funneled to fraudsters every year, and those who truly need hospice care might not get it if they enroll with a fraudulent hospice operator.

Advocates say they don't have a clear estimate of how many people like Henry have been unwittingly caught up in fraud, but urge state and federal cooperation.

HOSPICE FRAUD HAS BEEN A MAJOR PROBLEM IN CALIFORNIA

In 2026, the state had about 2,100 hospice organizations, down from 2,800 four years prior. New York, which has far more stringent rules for registering a hospice, has just 39, according to its state health department.

A 2022 state audit found rampant fraud and abuse in the system, particularly in LA County. It found dozens of hospice agencies were often clustered in the same building as well as a rapid increase in the number of hospices being established and abnormally high rates of patients being discharged. Hospice is often provided at patients' homes, meaning one registered hospice can serve patients in numerous locations.

In April, federal prosecutors made arrests in five cases involving hospice fraud in the LA area. A week later, California Attorney General Rob Bonta said 21 people were arrested for a multimillion scheme to use stolen identities to charge for hospice

services. His office has filed more than 100 hospice-related criminal cases and secured over 50 hospice-related convictions since 2021.

"This is a California problem," First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli said at a press conference announcing the federal arrests in April. "I call California the kingdom of fraud, and Gavin Newsom reigns over this kingdom here."

Critics have accused the Trump administration of basing its fraud-busting efforts on politics, with the harshest penalties placed on states run by Democrats. Those efforts have at times contained errors. In April, the administration acknowledged to The Associated Press it made a significant error in figures it used to help justify a fraud probe in New York.

"This isn't a political game for us. This is about protecting taxpayer dollars, protecting programs sick and vulnerable Californians rely on, and protecting our state," Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a statement a few days later.

WOMAN SPENT MONTHS PROVING SHE WAS VICTIM OF FRAUD

Fraud might begin with a robocall, or a knock on the door asking someone to sign a form giving away their personal information and Medicare number. They might offer gift cards and vitamin supplements, or even weekly cash deliveries in exchange for signing up for hospice.

Henry believes her Medicare number was stolen after a healthcare payment portal that services insurances was hit by a cyberattack.

She found out about her hospice enrollment in September 2024 after her doctor billed Medicare for an allergy test and was denied. Soon, other claims were being returned unpaid.

For months, she made dozens of calls and wrote emails to Medicare. Her doctor wrote a letter stating that she was in good health.

She was allegedly enrolled at Fortuna Hospice Inc., which did not pick up the phone or return her messages. At one point, Henry drove to the listed address and found only a seemingly empty office building. She spoke with FBI investigators, the state health and human services agency, and a nonprofit advocacy group for Medicare patients.

"I delayed physical appointments and my colonoscopy and all this stuff because I knew that we were going to fight about this and it wasn't going to get paid," she said.

Eight months later, Medicare recognized that she was a victim of fraud. One year after she lodged her complaint, she finally began seeing doctors again.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INCREASES OVERSIGHT

Some of the enhanced oversight began under the Biden administration, when the federal government said it would place newly Medicare-enrolled hospices in California,

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Reducing drug penalties likely increased homelessness in California, new report says



Photo by Carlin Stiehl for CalMatters

L.A: Tents and encampments line the streets of the Skid Row neighborhood of Los Angeles on Oct. 8, 2024.

When Californians voted to reduce drug penalties in 2014, it likely had the unintended consequence of also increasing homelessness in the state, according to a new report.

The report, released Thursday by the Public Policy Institute of California, set out to measure the long-term effects of Proposition 47 – a 2014 ballot measure that lowered some drug and property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. It found that while the measure succeeded in reducing prison overcrowding as intended, it also appears to have contributed to an increase in people living on the street, a rise in overdoses and a drop in the number of people getting drug treatment.

The PPIC researchers determined Prop. 47 caused an estimated increase in street homelessness of about 10% between 2015 and 2019. The study suggests the measure increased drug use (as measured by overdose deaths and hospitalizations) by between 7% and 8%. The researchers also found evidence that Prop. 47 led to a 20% reduction in the number of Californians receiving drug treatment, because the courts referred fewer people into treatment programs.

The results come at a time when many Californians are disillusioned with the state’s past efforts to reduce incarceration. Voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 36 in 2024, which partially undid the 2014 reform by increasing penalties for certain drug and theft crimes. Supporters argued the

2024 measure would reduce drug use and homelessness, though it came with no funding for treatment or housing.

“Ever since Prop. 47 was passed in 2014, there’s been a lot of critics of that particular reform,” said Magnus Lofstrom, the PPIC report’s lead author. “It’s important to have a sense of what are those potential impacts.”

This appears to be the first study to show a direct link between Prop. 47 and homelessness. The findings are sure to add fuel to an already raging debate over the causes and best ways to fight homelessness: with proponents of a tough-on-crime approach on one side arguing addiction is a primary driver of homelessness and police should crack down on drug use and encampments, and homeless advocates on the other arguing the state’s sky-high cost of living is to blame and building more housing is the answer.

California counties that reduced their homeless count this year told CalMatters that increased funding for temporary and permanent housing placements was the reason. That was echoed in the PPIC study: Places with larger increases in permanent housing beds also saw larger decreases in homelessness after the COVID-19 pandemic, suggesting that the money California poured into homeless housing after the pandemic is working.

Studies have shown the “housing first” model, which prioritizes placing

SEE **HOMELESSNESS** PAGE 7



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Santa Monica Community College District (SMCCD) will hold a public hearing on the **2026-27 Proposed Budget (5 CCR § 58301)** for approval by the Board of Trustees.

The public hearing will be held in-person in the **Santa Monica College Board Room (Business Building Room 117)**, 1900 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90405 and via **Zoom on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 commencing at 6:00 P.M.**

The Proposed Budget documents will be available for review as part of the agenda for the meeting at the SMCCD webpage at <https://www.smc.edu/administration/governance/board-of-trustees/meetings.php> starting at 12 p.m. on Friday, September 4, 2026. Instructions on how to participate via Zoom will be included in the agenda.

Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery, Superintendent/President



City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

**Moss Avenue Pump Station Rehabilitation Project
SP767-CT**

Bids will only be accepted through the CITY’S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL, OpenGov or <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca> They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via OpenGov immediately after bid close time.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:

August 31, 2026 at 10:00 AM and September 2, 2026 at 10:00 AM
Attendance at one of the two meeting options is mandatory.

Moss Avenue Pump Station
1625 Appian Way
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Parking is available in the city parking lot located at:
1619 Ocean Front Walk
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Note: All attendees must wear a hard hat, safety vest, and safety shoes.

PROJECT ESTIMATE: \$7,368,000
CONTRACT DAYS: 360 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: \$6,700 Per Calendar Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City’s bidding website at: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>. The Contractor is required to have **Class A General Engineering and C-10 Electrical licenses** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City’s Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wilmington

Massage Revolution Expands to Santa Monica With New Wilshire Boulevard Location

Massage Revolution, a therapeutic massage practice specializing in pain management, injury recovery and customized bodywork, will open its second Southern California location Sept. 1 at 2629 Wilshire Blvd.

The expansion marks a return to the city for founder Michael Greenspan, who began his neuromuscular practice in Santa Monica more than three decades ago. The practice currently operates in Manhattan Beach and has provided approximately 600,000 treatments since opening.

"Twenty years ago, we tried to open in Santa Monica, but the space fell through, and we built in Manhattan Beach instead," Greenspan said. "Santa Monica is where I started. My first neuromuscular practice is still here; it's where I met my wife, and I've spent 34 years practicing and teaching this work."

Greenspan said the location will continue the practice's focus on identifying and treating the underlying causes of chronic pain rather than the area where discomfort is felt.

"Most people living with chronic pain have already tried three or four things that didn't work because the place that hurts is rarely the place causing the problem," Greenspan said. "We're bringing it home after 600,000 treatments."

The office will offer customized therapeutic services, including neuromuscular therapy, deep-tissue massage, sports massage, Swedish massage, prenatal massage and trigger-point work. Treatments are designed around each client's needs, including chronic pain, muscle tension, athletic recovery and mobility.

Located along Wilshire Boulevard, the office will expand the practice's reach throughout Santa Monica and neighboring Westside communities, giving residents, athletes and others another option for therapeutic massage and bodywork.

Massage Revolution plans to celebrate the opening in September with community outreach and opportunities for residents, businesses and members of the local fitness, health and wellness community to learn about its approach. The company also plans to build relationships with local gyms, yoga and Pilates studios, running groups, fitness professionals and other wellness organizations.

Massage Revolution is a Southern California therapeutic massage practice specializing in customized bodywork for pain management, injury recovery, mobility, athletic performance and overall wellness. Its therapists use a variety of techniques tailored to each client's needs.

To learn more, view available treatments or book an appointment, visit massagerevolution.com/santa-monica/.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Los Angeles

Santa Monica Filmmaker Attila Korosi's "Live and Die in East L.A." Arrives on DVD Sept. 8

"Live and Die in East L.A.," written and directed by longtime Santa Monica resident Attila Korosi, will be released on DVD Sept. 8, becoming available through Barnes & Noble and Walmart.

The release marks a new chapter for the independent Los Angeles film, which has earned recognition for its unconventional storytelling and its impact within communities affected by gang violence.

Rather than simply depicting the consequences of gang life, the film uses a non-linear narrative structure to explore how individual choices can send a life in dramatically different directions. That approach has helped the film connect with at-risk youth and has contributed to its use as a tool for discouraging young people from becoming involved with gangs.

The film has been recognized by both the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles for its life-saving community impact. It has also received support from Father Gregory Boyle of Homeboy Industries and GRYD (Gang Reduction and Youth Development).

"We didn't want to make a film that simply tells young people that gangs are dangerous," Korosi said. "We wanted the story itself to show how one decision can change the direction of an entire life. The narrative gives audiences the opportunity to experience those different paths rather than just being told about them."

Since its original release, the film has reached audiences beyond Southern California, with screenings extending to Europe, Latin America and East Asia. Its non-linear structure allows the story to examine alternate outcomes and the ripple effects created by the characters' choices.

The combination of crime drama and socially conscious storytelling has allowed the film to function as both entertainment and a conversation starter about gang involvement, family, identity and second chances.

The physical release also creates opportunities for libraries, schools, community organizations and individual viewers to add the film to their collections and use it to continue conversations about choices, consequences and alternatives to gang involvement.

Beginning Sept. 8, "Live and Die in East L.A." will be available on DVD through Barnes & Noble and Walmart.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

DVD: Santa Monica filmmaker Attila Korosi's "Live and Die in East L.A." releases on DVD Sept. 8.



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HOSPICE

FROM PAGE 4

Arizona, Nevada and Texas under a period of enhanced oversight. The agency added Georgia and Ohio in December 2025, and CMS announced in May a nationwide six-month moratorium on all new Medicare enrollments by providers of hospice and home care.

The Trump administration’s fraud crackdown has invited criticism for its focus on providers with immigrant backgrounds. In January, Dr. Mehmet Oz of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services blasted rampant fraud in Los Angeles County while standing outside an Armenian bakery and alleging the “Russian Armenian mafia” was behind the scams. That prompted a civil rights complaint by Newsom. An investigation into daycare fraud in Minnesota centered on facilities run by immigrants from Somalia.

Beyond hospice, the Trump administration has deferred more than \$2 billion in Medicaid payments to the state because of “suspected fraud and noncompliance.” Medicaid is the government-funded healthcare program for

low-income people. State officials say the federal government hasn’t provided details about why they suspect fraud.

In June, the Justice Department announced criminal charges against fraudsters responsible for \$6.5 billion in false claims submitted to Medicare, Medicaid, and other healthcare programs across the country.

Sheila Clark, CEO of the California Hospice and Palliative Care Association, testified at an April congressional hearing about a woman who couldn’t get her cataract surgery approved by Medicare because she was falsely enrolled in hospice.

The woman fell while trying to go to the bathroom at night because she couldn’t see and broke her hip.

“She died two months later in a skilled nursing facility. That did not need to happen,” Clark said. “These scammers here are going to do whatever they have to do to try and survive, and we need to work at the state level and the federal level to make sure that we are going to clean house.”

By JAIMIE DING Associated Press

HOMELESSNESS

FROM PAGE 5

people into housing as quickly as possible without requiring them to first become sober or get mental health treatment, to be an effective way to solve homelessness.

A 2023 report by the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative found that while more than a third of homeless respondents reported regularly using drugs, that was not the driving factor of most people’s homelessness. Instead, a loss of income was the most common reason people reported for losing their last housing.

That study, which was the largest survey of unhoused Californians since the 1990s, is widely cited by policy makers, activists and homeless service providers.

While the PPIC report found that counties with higher rents and lower vacancies had higher rates of homelessness, changes in an area’s rents or vacancy rates did not lead to changes in their homelessness rates.

The PPIC researchers stopped far short of blaming the state’s entire homelessness crisis on prison reform.

Prop. 47 resulted in an additional 7,000 Californians experiencing “unsheltered” homelessness (sleeping in parks, tent encampments, vehicles, abandoned buildings or other places not meant for habitation) between 2015 and 2019, the researchers estimated. That’s about 20% of the state’s overall increase in unsheltered homelessness during that time, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

It’s unclear how much of that increase in homelessness is tied to increased drug use, and how much instead is because unhoused people who would have been

sleeping in jail before Prop. 47 now are sleeping on the street instead. But Lofstrom suspects it’s a bit of both.

“Jails and prisons, they do serve as a source of shelter for people who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness,” he said.

The researchers got their results by comparing California to other states that had very similar homelessness trends before Prop. 47 passed, and analyzing how California diverged from its peers after Prop. 47. The researchers also examined whether California counties that had large decreases in drug arrests and big drops in their jail and prison populations after Prop. 47 were more likely to experience larger increases in homelessness and overdoses – and found that they were.

The researchers acknowledged several factors that could have thrown off their calculations. In 2015, California, as did the rest of the country, tried to improve the accuracy of its homeless point-in-time counts – which may have resulted in more people being counted and contributed to a perceived increase in homelessness. In addition, rent prices increased much more in California between 2014 and 2019 than in other states. The researchers attempted to account for that difference in their calculations, but acknowledged that the outsized increase could have had more of an effect than their models show.

Though the researchers focused on the effect of Prop. 47 on homelessness, they found several other factors that played major roles. For example, in the areas they studied, the researchers found declines in the number of people receiving Social Security benefits correlated to increases in local homelessness.

By Marisa Kendall

Classifieds

Storage Auction Sale Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION - ABANDONED PERSONAL PROPERTYNotice is hereby given that, pursuant to California Civil Code section 1988, Government Code section 6066, and other applicable California law, the personal property listed below is believed to be abandoned by David Zhang, and all other owners, occupants, partners, tenants, and/or subtenants, located at 20641 Hummingbird Court, Porter Ranch, CA 91326.The property will be sold at public auction by Shirley Luong, offered in one or more lots through a competitive online public auction facilitated by MEGA Auctions, to be conducted on Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.Auction access: WWW.MEGAAUCTIONS.NETItems to be sold include, but are not limited to:Signature Design by Ashley Lindyn sectional couch, chaise and ottoman; Ikea Malm bed frames and Ikea Valevåg mattress; Ikea Storklinta dresser and chest; Ikea Vikhammer nightstands; Ashley Aldwin end tables; convertible wood daybed; Samsung smart top-load washer; Samsung smart gas dryer; LG 55-inch 4K television; Broyhill gas fireplace; Megamaster propane grill; household furniture; small kitchen appliances; printers and household electronics; clothing and bedding; storage containers; cleaning supplies; household goods; unopened items; and miscellaneous personal property

Storage Auction Sale Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION - ABANDONED PERSONAL PROPERTYNotice is hereby given that, pursuant to California Civil Code section 1988, Government Code section 6066, and other applicable California law, the personal property listed below is believed to be abandoned by Nikita Kokhaenico and all other owners, occupants, partners, tenants, and/or subtenants, located at 9861 Andora Ave, Chatsworth, CA 91311.The property will be sold at public auction by Rajesh Thakkar, offered in one or more lots through a competitive online public auction facilitated by MEGA Auctions, to be conducted on Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.Auction access: WWW.MEGAAUCTIONS.NETItems to be sold include, but are not limited to:DK2 by Marlon multi-utility steel trailer; Bond gas firepits; Suzuki QuadRunner all-terrain vehicle; Maytag top-load washer; LG French-door refrigerator; Vizio television; holiday décor and storage totes; Shark robot vacuum; portable air conditioner; microwave ovens and small kitchen appliances; audio equipment, speakers and mixing consoles; household furniture; patio furniture; tables and chairs; shelving and storage racks; artwork and décor; tools and hardware; luggage; household electronics; cleaning supplies; unopened items; and miscellaneous personal property.

Storage Auction Sale Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION – ABANDONED PERSONAL PROPERTYNotice is hereby given that, pursuant to California Civil Code sections 1983–1991 and applicable California law, the personal property listed below is believed to be abandoned by Armen V Yaghubyan and all other owners, occupants, partners, tenants, and/or subtenants at address: 5145 Corradi Terrace, Acton, CA 93510. Sale will occur only after expiration of the former tenant’s statutory right to reclaim personal property. Property remains reclaimable until Wednesday, September 09, 2026.If not reclaimed by that date, the property will be sold at public auction by the property owner/landlord, offered in bulk and/or bulk lots through a competitive online auction facilitated by MEGA Auctions, conducted on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.Auction access : WWW.MEGAAUCTIONS.NETItems to be sold are to include but are not limited to:Household goods; furniture (sectional sofas, recliner, bed frames, headboards, dresser, patio table and bench); kitchenware and small appliances (cookware, dishes, utensils, Crock Pot, mini blender); major appliances (Samsung top-load washer, Kenmore electric dryer, GE French-door refrigerator/freezer); computers and electronics (HP all-in-one desktop computer, HIKVision DVR, Sharp LED TV, Vizio sound bar, car audio equipment); audio equipment (Mr DJ dual 10-inch portable PA speaker); vacuums and cleaning equipment (Bissell, Eureka and Hoover); tools and hardware (Ryobi angle grinder, hardware); watches and personal accessories (Freeze chronograph watch, Samsung Galaxy Watch); clothing, footwear and bedding; storage bins and containers; security cameras and cabling; patio and outdoor items; and miscellaneous personal property.

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Name Change

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026166805. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ELDER BUDDY, 927 COEUR D ALENE AVENUE, VENICE, CA 90291, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): FAT SOUND MUSIC, LLC, 927 COEUR D ALENE AVENUE, VENICE, CA 90291. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ DAVID BARACH, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/03/2026. 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: 08/10/2026, 08/17/2026, 08/24/2026, 08/31/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026178009. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SANTI COACHING, 3626 DENVER AVE, LONG BEACH, CA 90810-2205, County of Los Angeles. Al #ON B2025008S574. Registered Owner(s): SANTI WATER STRATEGIES, 3626 DENVER AVE, LONG BEACH, CA 90810-2205. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 08/2026. 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/ MOISES SANTILLAN, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/19/2026. 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: 08/22/2026, 08/29/2026, 09/05/2026, 09/12/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26STCP02999. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 North Hill St Los Angeles, California 90012. Petition of Cate Woodson Schaberg for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Cate Woodson Schaberg filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Cate Woodson Schaberg to Jamie Woodson Schaberg. 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: 11/20/2026, Time: 8:30AM, Dept: 529. 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: 08/10/2026. VIRGINIA KEENY, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 08/15/2026, 08/22/2026, 08/29/2026, 09/05/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00394. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica 90401. Petition of Scott Hamilton Hunter McKinnies for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Scott Hamilton Hunter McKinnies filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Scott Hamilton Hunter McKinnies to Scott Hamilton Hunter. 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: 10-09-2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: AUG 14 2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 08/24/2026, 08/31/2026, 09/07/2026, 09/14/2026

Legal Notices

REQUEST FORPROPOSALS Notice is given thatproposals for On-CallAerial Photography andVideography UAVS for(BRC0000654) will bereceived by the County ofL.A. Public Works, until5:30 p.m., on 09/09/2026.For information, visithttps://dpw.lacounty.gov/contracts/opportunities.aspxor call (626) 458-2180.8/31/26CNS-4069836#SANTA MONICA DAILYPRESS

SMC

FROM PAGE 1

identifying an exceptional leader” and believe it is in the institution’s best interest to take the time needed “to get this decision right.” As part of the pause, the Board of Trustees will evaluate the search process and consider the best approach for moving forward, the statement said.

No official explanation of the “unforeseen circumstances” or additional details on why the search has been paused were provided but some college officials speculated the ongoing problems at the institution may have prompted some candidates to scuttle their own applications.

Officials emphasized that no current staff contracts are pending approval that are tied to or affected by the search timeline, and that the college’s leadership team continues to actively manage enrollment and financial initiatives independent of the presidential search. The college said it appreciates the community’s patience and will provide further updates as the process continues.

The pause comes as SMC works to fill the seat currently held by Superintendent/President Kathryn E. Jeffery, who will retire effective Dec. 31, 2026.

A COLLEGE UNDER FISCAL STRAIN

The search pause arrives amid one of the most difficult stretches in SMC’s recent history. In July, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges notified Jeffery that the college scored “at-risk” on the commission’s Composite Financial Index, automatically triggering enhanced monitoring. Colleges that remain on enhanced monitoring for three consecutive years without resolving their fiscal issues could face adverse action.

The commission pointed to four factors: a structural deficit in which expenses exceeded revenue for three straight years, from 2022-23 through 2024-25; a significantly unfunded retiree benefits liability; a 34% decline in cash reserves over three years; and multiple expired labor contracts.

Jeffery said the data underlying the warning predated cost-cutting measures the college has since taken, including layoffs, furloughs and pay freezes, and noted that SMC has ratified contracts with two of its unions, though faculty negotiations continue. Still, Academic Senate President Vicenta Arrizon said the tentative 2026-27 budget shows a structural deficit of roughly \$7.6 million with no clear plan yet to close it, and that the college meets five of seven state indicators of fiscal distress.

FIRE REPORT

FROM PAGE 2

requested “refinements,” though she said “material findings” were not altered.

Separately, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors commissioned the McChrystal Group, led by retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal, to conduct an independent review focused on public alerts and evacuations during both the Eaton and Palisades fires. That report, released Sept. 25, 2025, found “no single point of failure” but identified “a series of weaknesses, including outdated policies, inconsistent practices and communications vulnerabilities.” Only four county staff members were trained on the county’s new Genasys alert system when the fires broke out. The report found the Palisades Fire response benefited from strong interagency coordination and pre-positioned resources, in contrast to west Altadena, where residents reported receiving little warning

Enrollment troubles are compounding the budget strain. Non-resident enrollment has dropped sharply, driven in part by a federal rule change restricting international student visas. Trustees have also criticized the state’s Student-Centered Funding Formula, which cut the college’s cost-of-living adjustment and capped enrollment-growth funding among the lowest in the state.

The warnings follow a difficult spring in which trustees voted 6-2 to finalize the termination of 45 classified employees — including custodians, administrative assistants, parking enforcement officers and tutors — amid a \$14.7 million deficit. College reserves have fallen 61% since peaking at \$43.9 million in 2021-22, driven largely by rising salary and benefit costs and a wave of retirements. SMC’s final adopted budget is expected in September, following a state budget revision.

JEFFERY’S TENURE AND MOUNTING CRITICISM

Jeffery became SMC’s superintendent/president in 2016, succeeding Dr. Chui L. Tsang with her recent compensation of about \$498,000.

Her tenure has drawn increasing scrutiny as the fiscal crisis has deepened. Last year, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved an amendment to her employment agreement establishing a \$250,000 post-retirement supplemental income plan, to be distributed over five years following her retirement, along with retiree medical benefits and two paid 30-day sabbaticals. The plan, described as recognition of her “below-market salary,” passed on the board’s consent agenda during the same period the college was cutting classes and laying off classified staff — a move unions and faculty condemned as a betrayal of frontline workers.

The Faculty Association has been among the most persistent critics, arguing the crisis stemmed largely from local decisions rather than unavoidable external forces.

Trustees themselves have recognized broad leadership failures but have not singled out Jeffery while defending their past approval of raises for administrators.

Jeffery has defended her record and the college’s transparency, pushing back on criticism and casting the layoffs as decisions that weigh heavily on her. She has said the accreditation data was “backward-looking” and did not reflect steps already taken to address the deficit.

editor@smdp.com

during the Eaton Fire. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger said the county would “take these findings and turn them into action.”

The McChrystal review was explicitly “not intended to investigate or assess blame” and excluded city, state and federal agencies from its scope. A dispute over LAFD staffing levels on the morning the fire broke out remains unresolved: Bass has said 1,000 firefighters who could have been on duty were sent home “on Chief Crowley’s watch,” while former Chief Kristin Crowley told the City Council the department “did not have enough apparatus to put them on,” citing more than 100 broken-down engines, trucks and ambulances. CAL FIRE was part of the unified command structure that took over the incident but has not issued its own separate response review.

editor@smdp.com

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 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 7049

My native garden

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

Acacia	Fern	Huon	Pests
Beds	Ficus	Insect	Rain
Birds	Figs	Kangaroo	Rockery
Bottle	Fruit	paw	Shrubs
Bunya	Grass tree	Kauri	Soak
Bush	Gums	Leggy	Soil
Cane	Gypsum	Loam	Staghorn
Cover	Habit	Manure	Teloepa
Cypress	Heirloom	Micro	
Disease	Hothouse	Mulch	
Erica	Humus	Paper daisy	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Vegetarian delight

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 31)

It's your Year of One Golden Decision. The single choice changes your entire reality for the better, and you make the same one again and again until it's natural for you to live in this new uplifted state. More highlights: You'll easily build strength and vitality because you're in the right environment and surrounded by people on the same mission. A lucrative professional breakthrough. Gemini and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 10, 5, 16 and 42.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Big version: Find out what it's really like to live as the profession you admired as a younger person. The currently achievable version: Distill the job to its essence, which involves solving a certain kind of problem.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Big version: See those dozens of locations that have long intrigued you. The currently achievable version: Pull together a vision board of your dream travels and start planning the most affordable one. You don't have to believe yet.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Big version: Spend time with the one you idolize. The currently achievable version: Ponder your interview questions and answer them yourself with research and imagination. You're already more like this person than you think.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Big version: Experience another era firsthand. Currently achievable version: Cook its food, wear something inspired by its fashions and plan a day with its music, customs and ideas. The interest turns into a hobby, then a pursuit.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Big version: Gather brilliant people and improve your corner of the world. Currently achievable version: Invite two thoughtful people to brainstorm a problem you're all well acquainted with. These ideas will break things open and lead to the next practical action.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Big version: Invent something that solves a common frustration. Currently achievable version: Study the inconvenience from different angles. Take on one small aspect of the problem. Sketch the roughest version that could possibly work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Big version: Perform for an audience eager to see what only you can do. Currently achievable version: Consider every interaction as a chance to share some of your uniqueness. Even the most structured interactions have room to be yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Big version: Live in the house that exists in your imagination. Currently achievable version: Choose one corner of your present home and give it the color, comfort and character of that dream. The process is addictive, and results will spread throughout your space.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Big version: Vanish into the wilderness until the modern world lost track of you. Currently achievable version: Spend an afternoon where the trees outnumber the people and your phone has very little to contribute.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Big version: Master the instrument whose sound goes straight through you. Currently achievable version: Investigate how to borrow, rent or own the instrument. Learn one song.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Big version: Meet the people in your family who lived before photographs could capture them. Currently achievable version: Follow one name through records, places and stories until this person begins to take shape.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Big version: throw a lavish celebration for everyone you love. Currently achievable version: Gather a few favorite people around something delicious, and give the occasion a novel name and a memorable purpose.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

THEY'RE HANDLED by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Zeppelin
- 6 A sight for sore ____
- 10 Highest cards in poker
- 14 Speed-measuring device
- 15 ____ Scotia, Canada
- 16 Waterproof canvas covering
- 17 Last Greek letter
- 18 Improves, as wine
- 19 Become fatigued
- 20 Containers to dip brushes into
- 22 Metal that rusts
- 23 Tiger or tabby
- 24 Accompany to a party
- 26 Feels concern
- 29 Prescription amount
- 31 "This can't be good!"
- 32 Stadium level
- 34 ____ code (telegraph system)
- 39 Home storage spaces for plates and bowls
- 42 Sharp part of sports shoes
- 43 Pepsi or Coke
- 44 Butcher's inventory
- 45 Car's ____-view mirror
- 47 Disreputable, as a bar
- 49 Meeting's to-do list
- 53 "Dear ____ or Madam..."
- 54 Orchard plant
- 55 Pieces of luggage
- 61 Handed-down tales
- 62 Look ____ (investigate)

- 63 Root beer and ginger ale
- 65 Very eager
- 66 Genesis paradise
- 67 "Bald" bird
- 68 Observes
- 69 Italy's capital
- 70 Target shooting sport

DOWN

- 1 "Dude!"
- 2 Bedside light
- 3 Creative thought
- 4 Yuletide wise men
- 5 Walk like a parade horse
- 6 Pass into law
- 7 Meditative exercise system
- 8 ____ so (nevertheless)
- 9 Talks back to
- 10 Storage room just under a roof
- 11 Egypt's capital
- 12 Mistake
- 13 Paid out
- 21 Eat a sample of
- 25 "Half" prefix for circle
- 26 Crunchy potato snack
- 27 Prefix meaning "against"
- 28 Boulder or pebble
- 29 Home's interior design
- 30 Word-of-mouth
- 31 Grants permission for
- 33 Ancient Andes dweller

- 35 "My treat!"
- 36 Clarinet accessory
- 37 Hang around
- 38 Superlative suffix
- 40 Group of cattle
- 41 Elementary
- 46 Not as difficult
- 48 Clears a whiteboard
- 49 Book of maps
- 50 Orchard of oranges
- 51 Weird and scary
- 52 Requirements
- 53 Precious ____ (gem)
- 56 Loosen, as shoelaces
- 57 Line on a list
- 58 Moisten thoroughly
- 59 Outer border
- 60 Reduced-price event
- 64 Full collection

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			

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08/31/26

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



MONDAY | AUGUST 31

WEEKLY PALISADIANS GATHERING IN SANTA MONICA

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Bardonna 1601 Montana Ave Santa Monica. Displaced Palisadians are welcome to join for connection and discussion. No formal agenda. No RSVP necessary. Organized by Stephanie Kana of Oasis Palisades. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/weekly-palisadians-gathering-in-santa-monica/18461166/2026-08-17T08>

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/18461167/2026-08-03T09>

IN-PERSON - RESET @ REGENT SANTA MONICA: BREATH & SOUND EXPERIENCE

5:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Regent Santa Monica Beach 1700 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica. Let's get together IRL at Santa Monica Beach... We're excited to officially launch RESET at the Regent Santa Monica Beach and begin our newest DEN Wellness Residency on August 31st, closing out National Wellness Month with a truly special experience. Expert facilitator, Christina Joy, will guide a meditation and gentle breathwork session, helping guests arrive fully present and deepen their experience. Kiki Matoba will lead an expansive crystal bowl sound journey, while Sebastian Casper & Jessica Lisette create an immersive soundscape with hand pans, crystal bowls, chimes, and other healing instruments. Together, these modalities will create an immersive evening designed to help guests slow down, reconnect, and leave feeling restored ++ ready for the week. \$37.05. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/in-person-reset-regent-santa-monica-breath-sound-experience/19686151/2026-08-31T17>

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/11526040/2026-08-03T18>

ALIVENESS: A WAY BACK TO YOURSELF

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Kama 11788 West Pico Boulevard Los Angeles. A live talk with certified

holistic health coach Jenn Smukler. You are capable, dependable, and holding everything together. And somewhere along the way, you stopped feeling like yourself inside of it. This talk is for the high-capacity person who has been running on overdrive for so long that aliveness started to feel like a luxury — something you will get to when things slow down. Except they never do. Jenn Smukler is a certified holistic health coach whose work centers on one question: what does it cost you to keep abandoning yourself in the process of taking care of everyone else? Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/aliveness-a-way-back-to-yourself/19660835/2026-08-24T19>

MAGIC BY THE SEA: JAMES MAKO & GREG VAN HOLSBECK

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Illusion Magic Lounge 1418 4th St Santa Monica. Our signature "Magic by the Sea" series brings the World's Best Magicians to Santa Monica! \$22.01 to \$63.96. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/magic-by-the-sea-james-mako-greg-van-holsbeck/19742884/2026-08-31T19>

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/18847307/2026-08-03T21>

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/18409321/2026-08-03T21>

TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 1

LADIES GOLF CLINIC

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Four Wood Golf 828 Pico Blvd, Suite 5 Santa Monica. Join us every Tuesday from 9:30–11:00 AM for a relaxed, social golf experience designed for women of all skill levels. Whether you're picking up a club for the first time or looking to build confidence in your game, Matchas & Mulligans is all about learning, connecting, and having fun in a welcoming, pressure-free environment. Led by our in-house golf pros, you'll learn new skills each session. Blend of light instruction with a social atmosphere — the ladies' clinic is perfect for improving your skills while meeting like-minded golfers. \$60.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/ladies-golf-clinic/19572527/2026-09-01T09>

[golf-clinic/19572527/2026-09-01T09](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/ladies-golf-clinic/19572527/2026-09-01T09)

AUTHOR TALK WITH BERONDA MONTGOMERY

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Join us for a riveting conversation with award-winning biologist Beronda Montgomery as we discuss her book, When Trees Testify: Science, Wisdom, History, and America's Black Botanical Legacy. The histories of trees in America are also the histories of Black Americans. Pecan trees were domesticated by an enslaved African named Antoine; sycamore trees were both havens and signposts for people trying to escape enslavement; poplar trees are historically associated with lynching; and willow bark has offered the gift of medicine. These trees, and others, testify not only to the complexity of the Black American narrative but also to a heritage of Black botanical expertise that, like Native American traditions, predates the United States entirely. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/author-talk-with-beronda-montgomery/19500850/2026-08-25T11>

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. The adult acrylic/oil workshop is \$48.00 plus the cost of canvas (canvas available for purchase in studio). Workshop cost includes easel set up, paint, brushes, apron, 2 hours of instruction and clean up. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/acrylic-oil-painting-workshop-tuesday/19429773/2026-09-01T13>

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/17128550/2026-09-01T14>

SYNAPSE CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATER STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHERS AUDITION

2:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. CPC 304 Core Performance Center, SMC Main Campus, 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Students must present two minutes of live dance material they wish to be developed for the production. Participants accepted by audition must enroll in Synapse - Dance 55A. This course offers performance experience and is organized as a modern dance company for concerts and dance productions. Students participate as dancers and choreographers. Styles range from modern to postmodern, contemporary ballet, jazz, and hip hop fusion. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/synapse-contemporary-dance-theater-student-choreographers-audition/19305360/2026-09-01T14>

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/18825639/2026-09-01T15>

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/19106860/2026-09-01T16>

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 2

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/19479748/2026-09-02T10>

PACIFIC PALISADES FARMERS MARKET

1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Palisades Village 15225 Palisades Village Ln Pacific Palisades. A meaningful first step back, and a chance to gather again! There are some places that become more than a weekly stop. For years, the Pacific Palisades Farmers Market has been a Sunday tradition, a place to fill a basket with fresh produce, run into neighbors, catch up with a favorite farmer and begin the week surrounded by the familiar rhythm of community. This August, we are incredibly grateful to begin gathering again. On Wednesday, August 19, the Pacific Palisades Farmers Market will return in a new capacity at Swarthmore at Palisades Village, welcoming the community from 1:30-5:30 PM on Wednesdays. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pacific-palisades-farmers-market/19662337/2026-09-02T13>



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