WEATHER

Sizzling heat continues to break records

Temperatures reach new highs in cities across Southern California

By Emily McGinn
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Another day of heat has pulsed across Southern California, with temperatures reaching record-breaking highs in multiple cities across Orange and Los Angeles counties on Monday.

After seeing record-breaking heat on both Saturday and Sunday, Anaheim had another sizzling day. Temperatures hit a high of 104 degrees in Anaheim, shattering a previous record of 99 degrees set in 2020. Santa Ana reached 106 degrees, replacing a 1953 record of 103 degrees, said meteorologist Sebastian Westerink.

Downtown Los Angeles hit 104 degrees, breaking the 1971 record of 101 degrees. Pierce College in

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An unofficial thermometer reads 96 degrees amid a heat wave Monday in Pasadena. **MARIO TAMA — GETTY IMAGES**

Conservation urged as hot spell increases demand for electricity

City News Service

LOS ANGELES — Southern California power providers were monitoring the electrical grid Monday as a prolonged heat wave drove up demand, with customers being urged to conserve energy to help reduce the strain on the system.

The California Independent System Operator, or Cal-ISO, which manages the state's power grid, issued a "restricted maintenance operations" notice lasting from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday and today, urging suppliers "to avoid taking actions which may jeopardize generator and/or transmission availability."

"We are not forecasting any supply shortfalls at this time, but wanted to prepare

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HOT HOMES

$24.26M sale breaks record for Peninsula



This Palos Verdes Estates compound, which recently sold for a record $24.26 million, features a main house and guest pavilion designed in a classic Santa Barbara Spanish style. **PHOTO BY MARC AND TIFFANY ANGELES**

Palos Verdes Estates property is linked to champion quarter horse breeder

By Sandra Barrera
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A Santa Barbara Spanish-style estate on an oceanfront Palos Verdes Estates bluff recently changed hands for $24.26 million.

The Aug. 14 sale surpassed the previous record of $22.4 million, set by a Rolling Hills estate in October 2018, to become the Palos Verdes Peninsula's most expensive residential transaction on record.

Completed in 2016, the gated compound spans more than an acre on the westernmost point of the bluff, with 180-degree views. Its two homes total 12,472 square feet of living space with seven bedrooms and 11 bathrooms.

Public records identify the buyer as Landslide Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited liability company managed by Steven D. Burns and his wife, Jo.

Burns is an equine veterinarian and champion breeder of American quarter horses. According to the American Quarter Horse Association, runners bred by Burns at Burns Ranch in Menifee have earned more than $43 million.

Records also show Burns Ranch serves as the LLC's principal address.



The entertainment pavilion offers 180-degree views of the coastline.

A central terrace with a pool and spa connects the 7,022-square-foot main house to the separate 5,450-square-foot guest pavilion.

Inside the main house, reclaimed wood-beamed ceilings, French white oak, limestone floors, walls finished in Roman clay plaster, vintage Italian chandeliers and antique fireplace mantels from France set the tone.

A fireplace anchors the living room, while a butler's pantry links the formal dining room to the eat-in gourmet

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LOS ANGELES

Metrolink fare increases take effect this week

City News Service

LOS ANGELES — Metrolink fares for one-way tickets and its SoCal Day Pass increased Monday, marking the regional rail system's first fare increase in 13 years.

One-way ticket prices increased by an average of 14%, while the SoCal Day Pass will cost $19 on weekdays and $12 on weekends and holidays, according to Metrolink.

Nearly 80% of one-way ticket purchases increased by no more than $1, while less than 1% increase by more than $2, officials said.

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Metro trains are parked at the Metrolink Central Maintenance Facility next to the Los Angeles River on Jan. 4, 2024. **DEAN MUSGROVE — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

CRIME

Woman held in alleged spying

Irvine real estate agent suspected of doing surveillance on Taiwanese president's son at China's request

By Emily McGinn
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A suspected Chinese agent who lives in Irvine was arrested by federal authorities at Los Angeles International Airport on Sunday, Oct. 4 on suspicion of spying on a relative of a Taiwanese government official on behalf of the Chinese government, authorities said.

Wanying Zhang, also known as "Heather," allegedly conducted surveillance on the relatives of a high-ranking Taiwanese official last year, according to an affidavit. Zhang and another unnamed individual, described as someone employed in the construction field in the Los Angeles area, reportedly traveled to Seattle in September 2025 and rented an SUV to drive to a home and take videos.

The affidavit accuses Zhang, a 34-year-old real estate agent, of acting as an unregistered agent of a

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L.A. COUNTY

Supervisors will consider a ban on data centers

Zoning amendment would prevent them in unincorporated areas

City News Service

LOS ANGELES — The county Board of Supervisors will consider a proposal today to develop a zoning amendment prohibiting large-scale data centers in unincorporated Los Angeles County, citing concerns about the energy and water demands and potential public health effects associated with facilities used to power artificial intelligence.

The motion by Supervisor Hilda Solis would direct the Department of Regional Planning to begin drafting an amendment to the county's zoning code establishing definitions for different types of data centers based on factors including acreage, square footage, energy use and water consumption.

The proposed zoning amendment would distinguish hyperscale and artificial intelligence data centers from what the motion calls "beneficial use" facilities, including enterprise, accessory or sole-source data centers used for daily computational needs.

The zoning amendment would prohibit all data centers meeting the zoning amendment's definition of "large-scale" in every zone of unincorporated Los Angeles County.

"Given the pressing concerns to immediately

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SOUTH BAY HISTORY

Editor's note: South Bay History columnist Sam Gnerre is on vacation. His column will return in the Oct. 13 edition of the Daily Breeze.

ESTATE

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kitchen and breakfast room. The culinary space has French limestone countertops, a Wolf six-burner stove, a copper sink and Waterworks fixtures.

In the family room, fully retractable glass walls open to lawns, limestone patios and pergolas.

Other features of the main house include a home office, screening room and primary suite with direct access to an outdoor spa. The primary bedroom has a fireplace, while the bathroom has a separate tub and shower. A walk-in closet offers custom built-in storage and an island.

The two-bedroom guest pavilion has a secured wine cellar, gym and home office. A custom indoor grill, oversized dining area and multiple seating areas open to the pool terrace.

Garage parking for seven cars, Savant home automation and a security system round out the highlights.

The seller is Timothy D. Armour, retired chair and chief executive officer at Capital Group, acting as trustee of the Del Mar Trust. Through the trust, he purchased two separate properties to build the compound, paying $4.9 million for the first in July 2007 and $4.5 million for the neighboring lot in March 2011.



The pool and spa. **PHOTO BY MARC & TIFFANY ANGELES**

Interior designer Tim Clarke handled the interiors, while landscape architect Art Luna oversaw the grounds.

When the property first hit the market for $35 million in September 2023, Britt Austin of Vista Sotheby's International Realty told SCNG she expected the local market to strengthen, citing its large lots and scenic setting.

"I don't know why prices are (undervalued), but I think that will change," she said at the time.

After dropping the asking price to $29.75 million, the sellers eventually withdrew the property from the open market, Redfin shows. But Austin and her mother, Cari Corbalis — also of Vista Sotheby's International Realty — remained attached to the property.

Representing both the buyer and the seller, they finalized the record deal at 18.5% below that final public asking price.

POWER

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consumers in the event that we need to call a Flex Alert," the agency said Friday. "We will continue to monitor forecasted demand and supply conditions and will provide additional updates as necessary."

A Flex Alert is issued when Cal-ISO believes power demand may exceed supply and calls for voluntary conservation by residents. If conditions worsen, additional emergency alerts could be issued, potentially leading to rolling blackouts in the most critical power-shortage situations.

Southern California Edison said it is "closely monitoring the electric system and preparing for the potential impacts of increased electrical demand."

"We use every available resource to provide reliable service," according to SCE. "Even so, extreme heat can increase energy use and put extra strain on the electric system, which may increase the likelihood of temporary outages.

"We encourage customers to prepare now for possible outages and periods of increased energy use. Consider charging mobile devices, reviewing emergency plans and making sure any critical equipment has backup power if available. You can also help reduce strain on the grid by conserving energy from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., including limiting use of major appliances during those hours."

Power providers urged residents to take steps to conserve electricity during the heat wave. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power recommends setting thermostats to 78 degrees or higher during the hottest parts of the day and avoiding the use of major appliances such as washing machines, dishwashers and vacuum cleaners.

The LADWP also recommends avoiding the use of stoves and ovens, closing curtains and blinds to reduce sunlight, turning off lights and electrical equipment when not in use, and unplugging chargers and appliances that continue to draw power.

Residents can also use cooling centers instead of relying on home air conditioning.

A list of centers in Los Angeles is available at emergency.lacity.gov/heat.

HEAT

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Woodland Hills reached 106 degrees, knocking down the 2025 record of 105 degrees, said meteorologist Kristan Lund.

Several locations across Los Angeles County tied former records. At LAX, temperatures hit 101 degrees and Long Beach Airport reached 104 degrees, both of which broke records set in 1971. The Burbank Airport tied a 1943 record, clocking in at 102 degrees, according to Lund.

Riverside and San Bernardino counties did not shatter any records on Monday, Westerink said.

The heat wave was previously expected to break on Friday. But Westerink said that while Friday will likely "be a few degrees cooler," it appears that Southern Californians will not see significant relief until the weekend.

"The weekend will be when we really start noticing the cooling," Westerink said.

Today and Wednesday are expected to be the hottest remaining days of the heat wave across Southern California, though desert regions might see peak temperatures on both Wednesday and Thursday, Westerink said. The coastal areas might see some breezes over the next few days that make the weather feel cooler, but there will be little noticeable shift until the weekend, said Lund.

Previous weather reports had indicated there might be a chance of rain during the weekend following the heat wave.

But Westerink said rain is looking unlikely, though there is a small chance of rain and thunderstorms early next week.

METROLINK

From Page 3

The Metrolink Board of Directors approved the fare adjustments in June. Agency officials cited rising operating and maintenance costs, reduced post-pandemic ridership and declining state and federal funding.

"Metrolink has worked hard to keep fares affordable while the cost of operating and maintaining our regional rail system has continued to rise," Metrolink CEO Darren Kettle said when announcing the changes. "These pricing adjustments are one step in a broader effort we are taking to responsibly address those pressures and support Metrolink's long-term financial sustainability, while preserving a simpler fare structure and the valuable discounts that make our service more accessible to riders across Southern California."

Prices for the 5-Day Flex Pass and monthly passes will also change based on Metrolink's pricing model, which factors one-way fares into their cost. Some riders could see lower prices while others will see small increases, according to the agency.

Metrolink has operated under a simplified fare structure since July 2025, when it introduced products including the SoCal Day Pass and L.A. Zone Day Pass, officials said.

Discounts will continue for students, youths, seniors, riders with disabilities, veterans and active-duty military members, Medicare recipients and low-income customers.

More information is available at metrolinktrains.com/fare-change-2026.

SPY

From Page 3

foreign government. Federal law requires foreign agents to notify the U.S. attorney general.

WeChat messages obtained by the FBI show extensive communication between Zhang and two Chinese government officials before the surveillance operation. Messages that Zhang exchanged with Chinese officials following the trip to Seattle reportedly included videos, photos and license-plate information related to the person who Zhang was spying on, according to the affidavit.

CBS News reported Sunday, citing law enforcement sources, that the target was Ting-Yu Lai, the son of Taiwanese President Ching-Te Lai. Ting-Yu Lai, the station reported, works for the Dutch multinational electronics firm Philips.

"If the (People's Republic of China) wish(ed) to obtain leverage over the president of Taiwan during any potential conflict, the location and pictures of the close relatives of a high-ranking Taiwanese government official, including pictures of their homes and cars, could be useful to the PRC," federal authorities wrote in the affidavit.



Video from a Hertz office at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport allegedly shows Wanying Zhang waiting at the desk to rent a vehicle Sept. 1, 2025. **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

Federal authorities said in the complaint that Zhang was introduced to Chinese government officials in June 2025 through a former classmate of hers at Beijing's University of International Relations.

That same month, she flew to China and booked a private room in Changsha, where she met with the official and allegedly received her orders.

"I can take care of this thing," she allegedly texted the official.

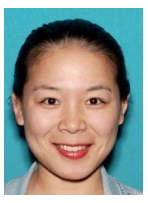
"I will be busy with work in L.A. this week," she texted the official on Aug. 26, 2025. "I will probably go to Seattle next week."

The official thanked her for her "hard work."

Outside the Seattle home, Zhang allegedly sent messages to the Chinese government official.

"Saw him. Young male. It's that young one," she said.

When the official asked if she's free for a video call, she replied with "I am recording," then sends the official two license-plate numbers.



Zhang

A week later, Zhang sent some of the photos and videos to the official via WeChat, the affidavit says.

It claimed that the messages "make clear that Zhang was acting at the direction and request of one or more PRC officials," though she never notified the attorney general that she would be acting as an agent of a foreign government.

Images from a neighbor's security camera included in the complaint allegedly show Zhang and the other person appearing to film Ting-Yu Lai and his family as they arrived home on Sept. 1, 2025.

The affidavit cited Zhang's last-minute booking and her brief use of a rental car during the trip to Seattle as further evidence of Zhang acting on behalf of the Chinese government, describing these actions as "tradecraft methods used by foreign intelligence officers."

In a statement. First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli, who added that Zhang was attempting to travel to China when she was arrested.

Zhang's arrest comes four months after Eileen Wang, then mayor of Arcadia, was arrested on suspicion of acting as an agent of the Chinese government.

Wang was charged on May 11 and resigned from the Arcadia City Council the same day. From 2020 to 2022, Wang and Yaoning "Mike" Sun of Chino Hills operated the U.S. News Center, a website claiming to be a news source for local Chinese Americans.

During that time, they are accused of receiving and executing "directives" to post content on the website from government officials within the People's Republic of China.

Chinese officials used WeChat to send prewritten articles to post on the website, including one in 2021 that denied the existence of forced labor camps in the Xinjiang region, authorities said.

Wang pleaded guilty to the charge on May 29 and faces a maximum 10 years in federal prison. She was scheduled to be sentenced today.

Sun, Wang's former fiancé and campaign adviser, is serving a four-year federal prison sentence after pleading guilty to the same charge.

DATA

From Page 3

prevent the environmental and health effects of data centers powering AI from impacting unincorporated County residents, it is imperative that the Board of Supervisors act on the recommendations to prohibit these facilities expediently," according to the motion.

The proposal comes amid growing interest in the environmental effects of the computing infrastructure required for increasingly powerful AI systems.

"Data centers servicing artificial intelligence (AI) consume high rates of energy, over-utilize water resources, contribute to environmental pollution, and impact public health in ways that are still being understood," according to Solis' motion.

The motion states that the growth of artificial intelligence has fueled development of hyperscale or large-scale data centers that can be larger and consume more resources than facilities traditionally used to service computer networks and store data.

It also points to opposition to proposed data centers in the San Gabriel Valley. According to the motion, the Board of Supervisors received 101 pages of public comments, primarily calling for a moratorium on data centers.

The motion cites actions by Monterey Park, Montebello, Baldwin Park and El Monte to restrict or halt data center development and notes that Alhambra voters are scheduled to consider a similar ballot measure in November.

The county began examining the issue in April, when the board approved a motion directing county departments to study the potential health, environmental and safety effects of data centers, along with their impact on electrical and water resources.

A subsequent county report recommended amending Title 22 of the county zoning code to define data centers and prohibit hyperscale facilities in all zones.

According to Solis' motion, the county's director of Regional Planning on Sept. 17 invoked existing authority under Title 22 to rely on the absence of a similarly defined land use to prohibit large-scale data centers while a comprehensive zoning amendment is developed.

Today's motion would direct Regional Planning to inform residents in unincorporated communities about that action.

It would also direct the Department of Public Health, working with County Counsel, to determine whether the county's noise regulations should be amended to address "low frequency and continuous noise associated with large- scale data centers."

The county's chief executive officer would be directed to identify funding needed to prepare and implement the zoning amendment, its required California Environmental Quality Act analysis and any changes to the county's noise regulations.

The motion additionally calls for Regional Planning and County Counsel to be prepared to introduce a moratorium if a proposed data center in an unincorporated area presents what the motion describes as a "current and immediate threat to public health, safety, and welfare."

Such a moratorium would target facilities posing a serious risk or nuisance involving health, safety or environmental resources, particularly water and energy resources.

The item is scheduled to be considered when the Board of Supervisors meets today.

Thought for the day

ALFRED TENNYSON, ENGLISH POET

"Sunset and evening star, / And one clear call from me! / And may there be no moaning of the bar, / When I put out to sea. / But such a tide as moving seems asleep, / Too full for sound and foam, / When that which drew from out the boundless deep / Turns again home." (first stanzas from "Crossing the Bar," 1889)

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