

DAILY NEWS

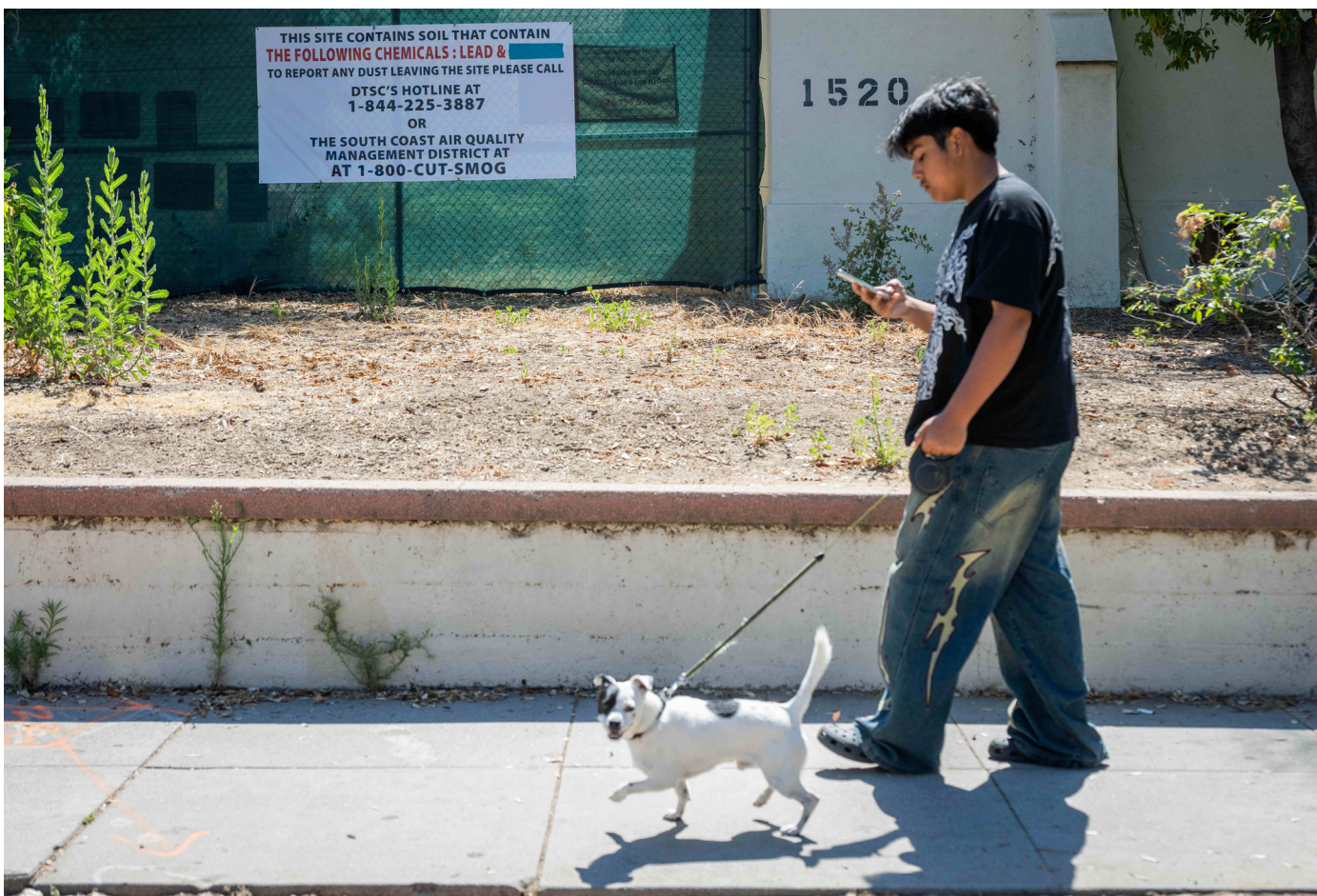
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AN EDITION OF THE REGISTER

\$2.50 | FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026 | DAILYNEWS.COM

PASADENA UNIFIED

Tree fight could delay school year, district says



A dog is walked past Washington Elementary STEM Magnet in Pasadena, where trees are on Pasadena Unified School District's list for removal due to soil contamination, on June 16. PUSD's plan to remove toxic soil from 11 sites has come under scrutiny from local community advocates over the proposed removal of about 200 trees. PHOTOS BY SARAH REINGEWIRTZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Officials: Protests prevent removal of toxic soil, leaving students at risk

By Ryan Carter and David Wilson
STAFF WRITERS

The Pasadena Unified School District said on Wednesday that community and city pushback over the district's efforts to remove trees on ground contaminated by toxins from the Eaton fire threaten "critical timelines" to fully restore campuses by the start of the school year.

Local advocates say more than 70 trees at PUSD sites have been cut down in the first month of what is the district's summerlong plan to remove trees. Removals are part of the district's effort to remediate soil contaminated by last year's disastrous fire. The initial plan to remove 193 trees was reduced after action by the PUSD Board of Education



Nina Raj of the Altadena Seed Library sits on limbs of an Aleppo pine to stop a contractor from fully taking down the tree at Pasadena Unified School District's headquarters.

to preserve up to 57 protected trees.

But advocates say that step was not enough to address the environmental disaster playing out in a region whose

tree canopy was comprehensively destroyed by the Eaton fire and subsequent debris removal and rebuild work.

See PUSD on Page A6

Old guard urges young activists to stand ground

By David Wilson
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Almost 30 years on from her two-year stay in a California redwood, environmental activist Julia "Butterfly" Hill looked up with pride Wednesday as Pasadena's next generation continued the fight to preserve trees.

Hill, along with fellow tree-sitter and activist John Quigley, visited the Pasadena Unified School District main office property Wednesday afternoon, and followed up with a visit to John Muir High School, where local tree advocates have

See TREES on Page A6

SCHOOLS

LAUSD put under financial oversight

County education office warns district may not meet future obligations

By Teresa Liu
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The Los Angeles County Office of Education has placed the Los Angeles Unified School District under heightened fiscal oversight after determining the nation's second-largest school district may be unable to meet its financial obligations in the 2027-28 and 2028-29 fiscal years, citing the cost of recently approved labor agreements, ongoing structural deficits and declining enrollment.

The determination was outlined in a July 2 letter from Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools Debra Duardo's office to the district and publicly addressed by LAUSD on Wednesday. It assigns a county fiscal expert to advise the district officials as they work to address

See LAUSD on Page A9

MIDDLE EAST

Retaliation by U.S., Iran expands with new targets

Airstrikes hit power plant, military bases in Gulf states

By Jon Gambrell
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The United States launched new airstrikes against Iran early Thursday, and Tehran responded by targeting U.S.-allied Mideast countries in an exchange of fire that threatened an interim deal intended to help end the war in the Middle East.

Back-and-forth attacks, including a day earlier, have repeatedly threatened the ceasefire. But Thursday's appeared bigger all around, with sirens sounding at least

See IRAN on Page A5

WILDFIRE RECOVERY

Palisades Village to reopen next month

Longtime stores returning to center, site's owner says

City News Service

Palisades Village, a shopping and dining center that closed following the January 2025 Palisades fire, will reopen to the public next month after more than \$100 million in renovations and remediation work.

Owner Rick Caruso revealed the reopening date in an Instagram post

Wednesday, writing, "I'm so excited to share the news: Palisades Village is officially reopening to the public on the morning of August 15th."

The outdoor shopping center survived the wildfire that devastated the coastal community, destroying thousands of homes and other structures throughout Pacific Palisades, but required extensive repairs and environmental remediation to remove contaminants left behind by smoke, ash and debris from the fire. Crews spent months restoring the

center, stripping buildings to their frames, treating wood and rebuilding walls and interiors to prepare stores and restaurants for reopening.

The retail and dining center, which opened in 2018, is now 99% leased, according to Caruso. Most former tenants are returning, while nearly one-third of the businesses will be new to the property.

"Longtime local stores like Loomey's Toy Store and K Bakery will

See PALISADES on Page A9



Construction work continues Thursday at Palisades Village, a shopping and dining center that closed following the 2025 Palisades fire. DEAN MUSGROVE — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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FORECAST

TODAY H: 89 L: 63 SAT. H: 87 L: 64 SUN. H: 88 L: 63 Full weather report B12

INDEX

Bridge B9 Business A8 Classifieds B9 Comics B9 C7,8 Nation+World... A7,10,12 Obituaries A9

Volume 115, Issue 191

Opinion A11 Puzzles B9 C6,8,9 Start Your Day A2



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