



## Underdogs proving they belong in World Cup 2026 tournament

SPORTS, 1C

# The Desert Sun

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### PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL SHORTFEST



A still from the short film "Squash Casserole," which will screen at the 2026 Palm Springs International ShortFest.

## Desert stories get their spotlight

Emma Sasic Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

Move over, Hollywood, the Coachella Valley is ready for its closeup. • The upcoming Palm Springs International ShortFest, which runs June 23-29, will feature more than 300 short films from all around the world. • Screenings will take place at Festival Theaters in Palm Springs, with the full lineup available at [psfilmfest.org/shortfest](https://psfilmfest.org/shortfest).

The local area also has its own spotlight in the Valley Visions program, which features seven shorts that were filmed in the desert, tell stories about the community or feature works made by filmmakers who call the valley home. Films spotlight local myths from the Cahuilla Nation, personal discoveries people make in the middle of the desert and tell poignant stories from a long-standing establishment in Palm Springs.

All of these films with local connections, which comprise the Valley Visions program, will screen at 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 23.

Here is a look at each film ahead of the festival's opening day.

### 'E.D.G.A.R. (Enhanced Data Gathering Analysis Robot)'

Directed and written by Virginia de Witt

In the near future, though the desert might look the same,

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A still from the short film "SH(OUT)," which will screen at the 2026 Palm Springs International ShortFest.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL SHORTFEST

## Well in the Desert gets \$1M donation

### Nonprofit using funds to buy new building

Sam Morgen

Palm Springs Desert Sun  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Palm Springs-based homeless service provider Well in the Desert has received a record-setting \$1 million donation as the organization searches for a new home.

The nonprofit announced a philanthropist had donated the funds to aid the group in purchasing a permanent home. Well in the Desert is being

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Well in the Desert volunteer Grace Reyes, left, hands a hot meal to Raul Rivera inside Oscar's in downtown Palm Springs on July 16, 2025.

TAYA GRAY/THE DESERT SUN

### DESERT HOT SPRINGS

## Council approves temporary ban of data centers

Sam Morgen

Palm Springs Desert Sun  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Desert Hot Springs City Council has passed a temporary moratorium on data centers, joining a growing list of Coachella Valley cities that have sought to slow development of the artificial intelligence computing facilities.

The trend stems from the recent controversy over a proposed — but since-rejected — data center in the city of Coachella.

In a unanimous vote during its meeting Tuesday, June 16, the Desert Hot Springs council barred any data centers from being approved by local authorities for 45 days, although the council expressed its intent to extend the ban for up to two years. There are currently no data center proposals pending in the city, but the moratorium was imposed as a preventive step based on community concerns, a city spokesperson said.

"If you look at within our city boundaries, there's really no compelling place where you could put a data center without some form of negative impact," Councilmember Dirk Voss said during the meeting.

All members of the council expressed concerns over the potential for the city's groundwater — which feeds its spa industry — to become depleted if data centers come to DHS. They also worried data centers would add

See **DATA CENTERS, Page 2A**

### STATE ASSEMBLY PRIMARY

## Imperial mayor tops Ortiz in challenge

Tom Coulter

Palm Springs Desert Sun  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Imperial Mayor Ida Obeso-Martinez is poised to advance to the November general election against incumbent Republican Assemblyman Jeff Gonzalez in a race to represent a rural desert district that flipped to the GOP in 2024.

While Gonzalez had a comfortable lead in first place, Obeso-Martinez, a Democrat, was in second with 24.1% of the vote in the primary race to represent Assembly District 36, which

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### MORE INSIDE

La Quinta City Councilman Steve Sanchez concedes loss to Riverside County Supervisor Manny Perez. **3A**

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