

COMMUNITY

Runners brave wind, rain during marathon



Xavier Smith wins the Long Beach Marathon on Sunday. PHOTOS BY AXEL KOESTER



Jules Madzia is the first female finisher of the Long Beach Marathon on Sunday.

Thousands of participants take to the streets for one of city’s largest events

By Christina Merino
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A light drizzle and wind were the weather conditions that thousands of runners had to face this year for the 42nd annual Long Beach Marathon on Sunday morning. As this year’s participants took on city streets, thousands of spectators were along Shoreline Drive to cheer them on. Friends and family held up signs, and made a lot of noise as marathoners made their way through the 26.2-mile course. The Long Beach Marathon is one of the city’s largest annual events, which also includes a popular half-marathon. The event was sold out again this year, with more than 28,000 participants, organizers said. This year’s winners were fast,

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Thousands of runners participate in the 2026 2XU Long Beach Marathon on Sunday. The Long Beach Marathon is one of the city’s largest annual events.

LOS ANGELES

Medical debt crushing for patients in hospitals

A new screening process aims to help low-income families

KFF Health News

Every Tuesday, Naman Shah sees tuberculosis patients at a small public clinic in Los Angeles’ San Fernando Valley. Shah, a physician and epidemiologist at the L.A. County Department of Public Health, pores over images of battered lungs, listens to labored breathing and checks medications. It’s part of an initiative dating to the early 20th century to control infections so tuberculosis doesn’t spread. “We like doing things upstream,” Shah said, “meaning before they happen, not after the damage is done.” Today, Shah and his colleagues are applying the same principle to medical debt. A key part of that effort is a new system to allow every hospital in L.A. County to easily screen patients for financial aid. The goal: to stop low-income families from getting a bill that buries them in debt. Shah estimates this system could prevent several

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2026 ELECTIONS

Attorney general candidates talk homelessness

Former Huntington Beach city attorney Gates challenges Bonta

By Charlie Borla
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The race for California attorney general is just the latest showdown between Democratic incumbent Rob Bonta and Republican Michael Gates. In 2023, while Gates was still city attorney for Huntington Beach, Bonta’s office sued the Orange County coastal community for refusing to submit a compliant housing element plan to lay out where new housing could be built. Huntington Beach officials turned around and filed a federal lawsuit against the state arguing that as a charter city, it’s not required to abide by certain state laws, though a lower court and a federal court ultimately rejected

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Worst of Tropical Storm Rachel’s wrath seems to be over

Long Beach’s Peninsula hard hit, warming on way

By Erika I. Ritchie
and Christina Merino
STAFF WRITERS

Southern California girded for surging surf from the remnants of Tropical Storm Rachel on Sunday — feared to become the worst of several days that saw high tides, pounding waves and severe flooding — but for many coastal residents, the rainy morning brought a surprise. “The (forecasts) were a little off”

Dave Kiff, Laguna Beach’s city manager, said. “Friday’s swell was larger than indicated, and yesterday’s was about the same — and this morning seems less.” Laguna Beach Public Works crews worked late into Saturday night, scooping out sand from one side of Main Beach to build 15-foot-high sand berms along the surfline. The towering mounds were meant to buffer raging waves and high tides that on Friday had rushed over the sand, across the boardwalk and onto Coast Highway, snarling traffic and drawing a gaggle of onlookers. Residents of Newport Beach and other cities around the region that were

hit in recent days by enormous waves and Rachel’s proximity to Southern California were also relieved Sunday. But the Peninsula neighborhood in Long Beach was still taking a beating after several days of severe destruction, which included extreme flooding, damaged bulkheads, a mangled boardwalk, 13 homes red tagged and several evacuations. The red-tagged homes sustained more damage during high tides on Saturday night and through Sunday morning, Long Beach city officials said. The new destruction was still being

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Rachel Mellon walks along the Long Beach Peninsula boardwalk as it is hit by high surf from Tropical Storm Rachel on Sunday. DREW A. KELLEY — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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