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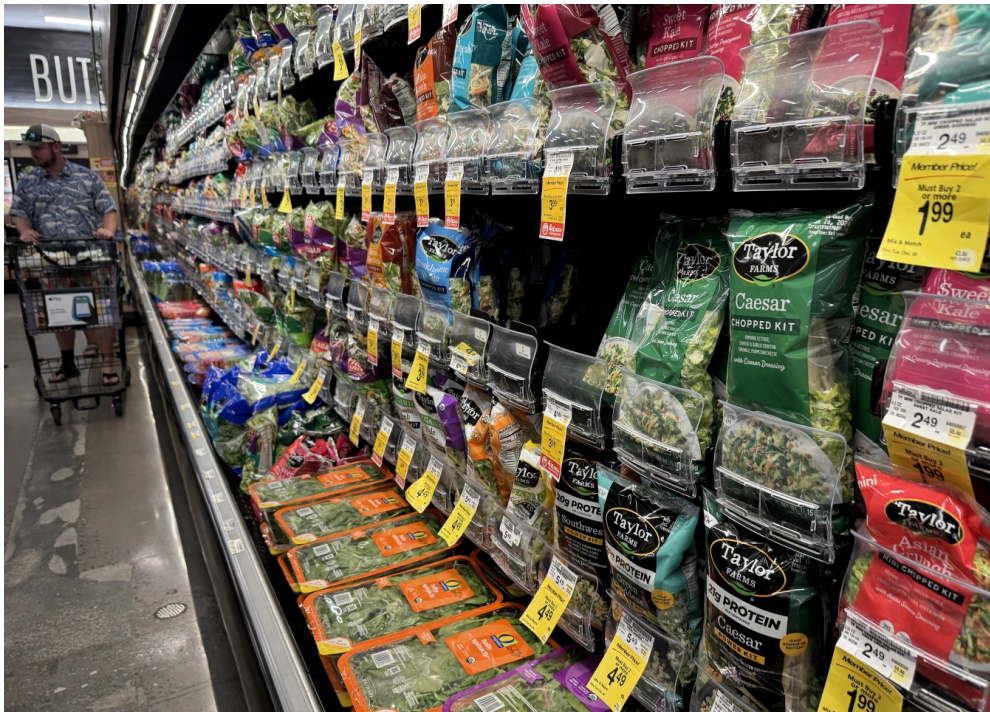
NEWS

Cyclospora outbreak, PUSD tree removal, Karen Bass on World Cup, odd skills and more



AirTalk Staff

Published Jul 21, 2026 9:01 AM



Packages of Taylor Farms salad greens are displayed at a Safeway store on July 16, 2026, in Kings Beach, California.

(Justin Sullivan / Getty Images)

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Cyclospora outbreak, PUSD tree removal, Karen Bass on World Cup, odd skills and more

Today on AirTalk: Cyclospora outbreak, PUSD tree removal, odd job skills, World Cup to Olympics, male versus female doctors and The Odyssey box office.

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FDA continues Cyclospora investigation. Here's what we know

The topic:

The FDA said Monday they remain focused on lettuce from Taylor Farms as the source of a multistate outbreak of a diarrhea-causing parasite, despite inaccurate test results that the government briefly publicized over the weekend. Food and Drug Administration officials on Monday said a laboratory test incorrectly identified a positive result for Cyclospora on a sample of lettuce from Taylor Farms. The FDA posted the finding to its website on Saturday but then said Sunday that the result had been a false positive.

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14:47

Listen to the conversation:

Guests: Dr. Kimberly Shriner, director of Infectious Disease and Prevention at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena, and Alice Callahan, Nutrition and Health Reporter for the New York Times.

The investigation: Federal and state authorities have been investigating a rise in cases of the parasite, initially linking the outbreak in five states to lettuce served at Taco Bell locations. On Saturday, Taylor Farms announced it was recalling 25 shredded lettuce and salad mix products sold under eight different brand codes. A number of U.S. food chains and suppliers use the products. In addition to tracing the supply chain of lettuce, FDA staff have begun testing samples of produce coming across the U.S. border.

With files from the Associated Press

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PUSD tree removal saga explained



Tree advocates put up a banner in front of PUSD's headquarters on June 16, 2026.

(Erin Stone / LAist)

The topic:

The city of Pasadena and Pasadena Unified School District continue to clash over the fate of nearly 200 trees, and time is running out.



16:19

Listen to the conversation:

Guests: Erin Stone, LAist senior climate and environment reporter, and Jessica Richards, founding member of Friends of PUSD Trees.

What's the backstory: The concern is about the contamination of soil in the wake of the Eaton Fire. Testing around the trees has found evidence of toxic metals, such as lead, left behind. The school district decided that the best way was to remove the trees located on district land to better address the soil contamination. The city is now fighting to stop that.

With files from [LAist](#)

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We reached out to PUSD, but the district declined to join for this conversation. They shared the following statement linked [here](#).

More about our guests:

- Erin Stone, LAist senior climate and environment reporter
- Jessica Richards, founding member of Friends of PUSD Trees, a grassroots advocacy group formed to oppose the removal of trees by the PUSD

Odd jobs that gave you unusual but useful life skills



What skill from an odd job do you still carry along?

(jacoblund / iStockphoto)

Topline:

We've all had an odd job that's not the end all be all but helped us get by during a certain period of life. And some of these jobs resulted in skills you couldn't have developed any other way.



18:26

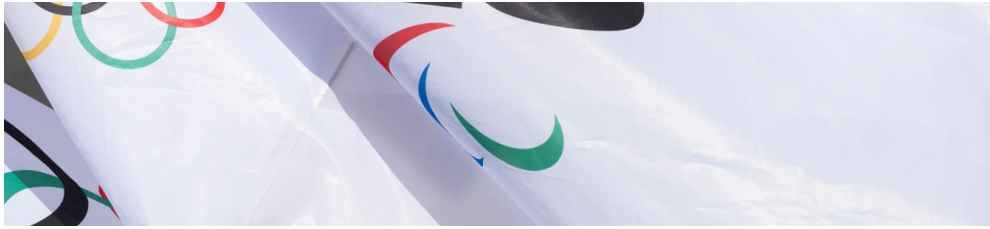
Listen to the conversation:

Guests: Makenna Cramer, LAist Housing and Homelessness Reporter, and Delaine Ureño, LAist Sr. Institutional Giving Officer.

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Successes and shortfalls of the World Cup





The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and SoFi Stadium will share the opening ceremony. The Coliseum will be the site of the closing ceremony.

(Myung J. Chun / Getty Images)

The topic:

With the World Cup wrapped, L.A. is moving on to the 2028 Olympics Games. Now less than two years away, what has the city learned over the course of the games to prepare itself for the upcoming world stage?



18:15

Listen to the conversation:

Guests: Karen Bass, LA mayor, and Libby Rainey, LAist reporter covering the World Cup and the LA28 Olympics.

The successes: One of the major hits of the World Cup were the local L.A. watch parties that allowed residents to gather together and watch the games on the big screen free of charge.

The shortfalls: The World Cup did not bring in as many tourists as expected. According to a May report from the American Hotel and Lodging Association, 65% of L.A. respondents said that hotel bookings were lower than expected.

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The unknowns: The city and county have still not released a full plan on how they will address the unhoused population during the 2028 games, but it is clear that those who reside outside Olympic venues will be relocated.

New research looks at how male and female doctors approach diagnostics differently



Do you have a preference when it comes to male and female doctors?
(Wavebreakmedia / iStockphoto)

The topic:

New research from UCLA Health found that across 1.5 million emergency department visits, women physicians requested more diagnostic tests and admitted more patients to the hospital than their male counterparts.



Listen to the conversation:

Guest: Ishani Ganguli, associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

The data: Researchers found women physicians ordered 3% to 5% more laboratory and imaging tests, and also hospitalized 3% to 5% more patients than male physicians. The added testing was just as likely to uncover findings suggestive that

additional care may have been clinically appropriate.

Context: No difference in mortality rates was associated with the difference in additional testing.

Provider preferences: Multiple studies have shown that women doctors provide marginally better health outcomes than their male counterparts. Studies on whether patients prefer doctors of a specific gender are mixed, with a minority of patients preferring doctors that match their gender.

How 'The Odyssey' sailed away with the box office



Matt Damon is Odysseus in *The Odyssey*.
(Melinda Sue Gordon / Courtesy Universal Pictures)

The topic:

Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey* defied box office expectations on its opening weekend, reaching number one with over \$124 million domestically. Of that revenue, 53% came from premium format screenings, as *The Odyssey* is the first film to be shot entirely on 70mm Imax cameras.



18:07

Listen to the conversation:

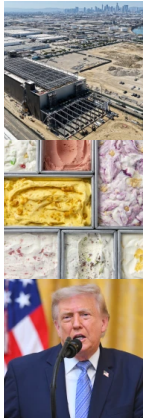
Guests: Dañiel Martinez, LAist Weekend producer, and Paul Dergarabedian, head of Marketplace Trends at Rentrak.

Defying the odds: The success of *The Odyssey* is no small feat with the run time

nearing three hours and its R rating. The Greek epic also sits in stark contrast from this year's other summer box office successes, such as *Obsession* and *Backrooms*, two horror movies aimed at younger audiences from unknown directors.

Christopher Nolan: Listen to Larry Mantle's interview with Nolan on the making of *The Odyssey* [here](#).

More AirTalk episodes



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