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2 **Murder arrest**
In San Bernardino County.

3 **Eviction case**
Disabled tenant has six weeks to move.

5 **Westside Pavilion**
Purchased by UCLA.

8&9 **Pricey property**
Top home purchases from last year.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 36 | THE WEEKENDER 1/5-1/7 | smdp.com

Residents of Santa Monica get reminder to remain earthquake-ready

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Monday's minor quake centered off the Rancho Palos Verdes coast coupled with the news that Japan had been rocked by a massive magnitude 7.6 quake, causing untold damage and killing dozens, once again reminds us that our chosen location to live is vulnerable to significant seismic activity.

This month also marks the 30th anniversary of the Northridge quake that devastated much of Los Angeles City on January 17, 1994. This magnitude 6.7 event produced extremely strong ground shaking, causing the greatest earthquake damage in the US since the 1906 San Francisco event and resulting in over 70 fatalities.

"There was a lot of damage to Santa Monica in the Northridge quake," says Lindsay Call, Chief Resilience Officer for the City, adding, "Both of the hospitals and St. Monica's Catholic Church required massive rebuilding efforts."

According to a 2004 report by the California Policy Research Center, More than 1,600 housing units were damaged costing $70 million and the collapse of parts of Interstate 10 made Santa Monica hard to access for rescue workers.

The structure of the adjacent Santa Monica Mountains focused the Northridge earthquake's seismic energy on the city like a lens, said Dr. Thomas Jordan, then Director of the Southern California Earthquake Center at USC. Santa Monica's soft soil and older building stock may have also contributed to the devastation.

In essence, the entire Pacific Ocean coastline is a horseshoe-shaped tectonic belt of active volcanoes and earthquakes about 25,000 miles long and up to about 310 miles wide. Known as the Ring of Fire, it encompasses New Zealand, Fiji, Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan, Russia's east coast, Alaska and the entire west coast of both North and South America.

It's not a single geological

SEE **TREMORS** PAGE 12



USGS

EARTHQUAKE: The Northridge earthquake was a disaster and the recent minor quake centered off the Rancho Palos Verdes coast is a reminder to stay ready.



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Santa Monica man arrested for killing tenant in San Bernardino County

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A Santa Monica landlord has been charged with murder after allegedly strangling his 71-year old tenant during a fight.

William Durst, 54, was arrested on New Years Day in San Bernardino County where the Sheriff says he killed Jeffrey Cull.

According to the Sheriff, officers and firefighters were called to an address on the 55800 block of Montara Road on Jan. 1 and found Durst and Cull on the property. Cull was unresponsive at the time officers arrived and pronounced dead.

"Through the investigation, detectives learned Durst arrived at the location and attempted to force Cull to leave," said the Sheriff's office. "Cull refused to leave, and an argument ensued. Durst sprayed Cull with bear spray and placed him in a chokehold. Cull lost consciousness and succumbed to his injury."

Durst was arrested and booked for murder at the Morongo Basin jail where he remains without bail.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact Detective Shawn Thurman, Specialized Investigations Division at (909) 890-4904. Callers can remain anonymous and contact We-Tip at 800-78CRIME or wetip.com.

editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pico

One year into the Santa Monica Black Apology – Let 2024 be the Year of Action

The Committee for Racial Justice (CRJ) will kick off the New Year with a workshop on Jan. 7 at Virginia Ave. Park's Thelma Terry Center at 6 p.m. for supper, with program start at 6:30 p.m. (also on zoom). This will be the beginning of a series of workshops that will focus on the theme of One Year after the SM Black Apology – Let 2024 be the Year of Action. Because CRJ was started in the summer of 2011 in the wake of a racial incidence at SAMOHI, and so, a lot of their early work was done with the SMMUSD in addressing numerous educational issues, they decided to return to that arena to begin the new year by having Dr. Shirley Compton come and share what she is currently doing in her work as an Instructional Coordinator for the Black Student Achievement Plan in LAUSD. This plan "aligns with the Los Angeles Unified Strategic Plan's core beliefs of Equity, Collaboration, and Excellence. Its mission, objectives, and operation are designed to address the unique and unmet needs of Black students. This allows all students to benefit from an educational environment that values diversity and actively works towards eliminating educational disparities that have historically inhibited Black students' success in school systems nationwide." Those unable to join at VAP for a light supper, can register and receive the zoom link for 1/7 : https://us06web.zoomus/meeting/register/tZAsc-GpqzwvHNyrD-aR09JPKF9tteBoopdd

Dr. Shirley Compton is a 3rd Generation Santa Monica resident who attended local public schools and graduated from LMU with degrees in Sociology and African American Studies. She studied abroad in Ghana, West Africa as an ambassador for the university. Shirley also attended Chapman University for her teaching credential and the University of La Verne for her Master's in Education Administration. As an educator, she has experience teaching elementary through high school in public and private schools. She has served the Santa Monica community as an award-winning teacher at John Adams Middle School (JAMS), Assistant Principal at JAMS and Grant Elementary School, and Principal of Grant Elementary School. She completed her dissertation in 21st century teaching and learning at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon. She has supported her Santa Monica community as a member of the Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board, Parent Connection Group, and SAMOHI Black Parent group. Shirley is currently supporting eight LAUSD schools as an Instructional Coordinator for the Black Student Achievement Plan. She also owns and operates Global Citizens Leadership, a 501(c)(3) public service organization and Education & Advocacy Consulting, LLC.

When the Santa Monica City Council officially voted to adopt a resolution that was an apology to its Black citizens in December of 2023, commitments were made by City Council members to have that document be more than words. CRJ has not been able to obtain the list of actions taken in the first year of the Black Apology that is said by city staff to exist. So they are planning to focus coming workshops, through speakers and updates about work they've done, on specific actions that could be taken to show that the Black Apology was not just empty words.

Come join in this important workshop on zoom at 6:30 p.m. (register with the above link to be sent access) or meet in person on Jan. 7 at 6 p.m. for supper, if you are able.

For more information, call Joanne at 310-422-5431.

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE BERLIN

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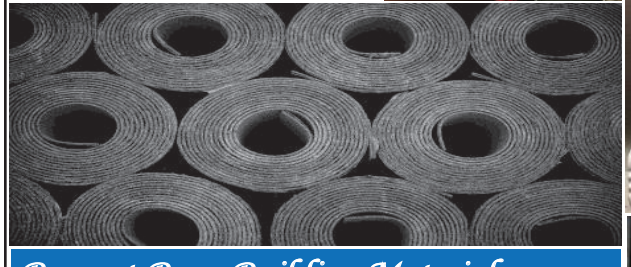


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City of Santa Monica

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that at its regular meeting of December 14, 2023, the Santa Monica Rent Control Board amended regulation Chapter 8, Subchapter C, Action on Complaint for Restitution of Rent Overcharges (Excess Rent) and Penalties, to conform the regulations to procedures necessary for effective administration of the rent control law.

These changes will become effective by promulgation the day after publication in the newspaper.

Court awards possession of commercial unit to owner in disabled resident case



Photo by Thomas Leffler

PROPERTY CASE: Plaintiff 3231-3301 OPB Buildings was awarded possession of 3301 Ocean Park Boulevard, Suite #208 in a ruling against defendant Scott Brutzman on Thursday.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A longtime Santa Monica resident living in a commercial property will have to vacate the space in February after losing his eviction hearing this week.

In a Thursday ruling in the Santa Monica Courthouse by Judge Lawrence Cho, plaintiff OPB Buildings, represented by property owner Scott Bentz, was awarded possession of 3301 Ocean Park Boulevard, Suite #208 in a case against defendant Scott Brutzman. The case over the commercial property was initially filed on September 26, 2023, after Brutzman was unable to cooperate with a 30-day notice to quit served by the plaintiff. The court's ruling states that Brutzman will have until February 18 to vacate the premises.

Brutzman had been fighting to stay in his suite, a situation complicated by the building's status as a commercial property, as well as his own health challenges and a lack of available financial and legal resources. He initially agreed to a month-to-month lease at the property in order to run his insurance business, and after the business faltered due in part to his health condition, he remained at the property to use as a living space. The case was initially slated for jury trial until a conference between parties waved the jury, allowing the case to be heard by Cho.

During Brutzman's testimony, he noted that Bentz had knowledge of his living situation at the property since around 2012. When questioned by the lawyer representing the plaintiff, Jonathan T. Dawson, Esq., Bentz clarified that he explicitly told Brutzman he could not live at the property, and noted that Brutzman had told the property owner that he was seeking alternate housing. When Brutzman was asked for evidence by Judge Cho as to Bentz's knowledge of the living situation, Brutzman could not provide said evidence, but did claim that Bentz had seen his living quarters and Bentz did tell him in the past to rearrange his quarters in order to be compliant with local fire code.

Dawson's argument centered on not necessarily the fact that Brutzman was using the commercial property as a private living space, but more so that a 30-day notice to quit is all the property owner needs to provide as a commercial operator. Dawson noted that an initial 30-day notice to quit served in May 2023 contained a defect, and that a subsequent notice was served to Suite #208 in August 2023.

After testimony by both sides of the case, as well as the cross-examination of Brutzman by Dawson and a short examination of Bentz by Dawson, Judge Cho stated that the court must abide by unlawful detainer laws, and that the plaintiff had surpassed burden of proof by providing the 30-day notice to quit.

Cho did note that the court was "not unsympathetic" to Brutzman's health situation, and that it was "understandable" why he was living at the property. Brutzman's health challenges included two bouts with

SEE **PROPERTY** PAGE 12



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **60.4**

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

WNW swell on the way down with some reinforcing swell show in the late afternoon. Tide a little high early but the wind looks mellow as it drops into mid-morning.

SATURDAY
POOR
SURF: 0-1ft
Shin to knee

New WNW swell due to creep up into the fun zone over the day. Morning winds look light.

Weather

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 66. Breezy, with a north wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north northwest 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.
Friday Night: Clear, with a low around 45. North wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 63. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. Breezy.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2024/01/05	Fri	04:15 AM	4.64		H
2024/01/05	Fri	11:49 AM	1.18		L
2024/01/05	Fri	5:47 PM	2.68		H
2024/01/05	Fri	9:48 PM	2.21		L
2024/01/06	Sat	04:54 AM	5.02		H
2024/01/06	Sat	12:34 PM	0.48		L
2024/01/06	Sat	7:05 PM	2.90		H
2024/01/06	Sat	10:43 PM	2.40		L
2024/01/07	Sun	05:34 AM	5.44		H
2024/01/07	Sun	1:13 PM	-0.18		L
2024/01/07	Sun	7:52 PM	3.15		H
2024/01/07	Sun	11:36 PM	2.47		L
2024/01/08	Mon	06:15 AM	5.88		H
2024/01/08	Mon	1:50 PM	-0.77		L
2024/01/08	Mon	8:28 PM	3.36		H
2024/01/09	Tue	12:26 AM	2.43		L
2024/01/09	Tue	06:57 AM	6.31		H
2024/01/09	Tue	2:28 PM	-1.25		L

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/3
30 31 38 48 68
Power#: 8
Jackpot: 35 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/2
3 18 27 29 64
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 140 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 1/3
3 10 16 21 29
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 12 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/3
11 19 20 35 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/3
EVENING: 8 5 9
Draw Date: 1/3
MIDDAY: 5 2 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/3
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:48.73

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Petition to Admin Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Deborah R. Castleman CASE NUMBER: 24STPB00065 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of Deborah R. Castleman. A Petition for Probate has been filed by Lindsey Cano in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles-Stanley Mosk Courthouse. The Petition for Probate requests Lindsey Cano be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate.The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: Feb 2, 2024 Time: 8:30 a.m Dept. 9 Room - Address of Court: l Stanley Mosk Courthouse 111 N. Hill St Los Angeles, CA 90012 If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney or Party without Attorney: Charles M. Palmer SBN 296375 Clovis Law Group, LLP 725 Pollasky Ave, Suite 101 Clovis, CA 93612 01/05/24, 01/12/24, 01/19/24

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GET IT DAILY...

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It's a new year, but California will continue to struggle with existential issues in 2024



Photo by Rahul Lal, CalMatters

NEW YEAR: The state Capitol in Sacramento on July 6, 2022.

DAN WALTERS

California enters the new year with its existential issues still unresolved, and a new one – an immense budget deficit – threatens to make dealing with them even more difficult.

California has made very little progress, if any, on narrowing its shortage of housing, its levels of homelessness and poverty remain among the nation's highest, and its population is declining as hundreds of thousands of Californians decamp for other states.

The Legislature's budget analyst has calculated that California faces a $68 billion gap between revenue and already programmed spending over a three-year period that began in 2022. Annual deficits in the $30 billion range thereafter.

Next week, Gov. Gavin Newsom will quantify his version of the yawning gap and how he proposes to close it, touching off six months of negotiations with the Legislature on a 2024-25 budget.

It will dominate election-year discourse in California and complicate Newsom's simultaneous efforts to expand his national political image by portraying California as a model of compassionate and effective governance that should be emulated elsewhere.

Newsom and other statewide officials – Democrats all – will not be on the ballot this year, and it's certain that Democrats will continue to enjoy supermajorities in both legislative houses. California's only electoral uncertainties are which of three Democrats will fill the late Dianne Feinstein's seat in the U.S. Senate and outcomes in as many as 10 congressional districts that could determine which party controls the House of Representatives.

The big election year action will be on a spate of high-dollar ballot measures, particularly those that would affect how Californians are taxed. While it's coincidental that tax issues are arising just as the state experiences one of its periodic budget deficits, the juxtaposition does give the campaigns for and against them an added flavor.

The most prominent tax measure, sponsored by the California Business Roundtable and other corporate groups, would make raising state and local taxes more difficult. If passed, it would require voter approval of any state tax increases and increase voting thresholds for local taxes.

Democrats and their allies, especially public employee unions, despise the measure, and the Legislature seeks to undermine it with a constitutional amendment – also on the November ballot – that would increase the required voting margin for measures that increase margins for taxes.

In addition to those dueling propositions, a third measure, also placed on the November ballot by the Legislature, would lower the voting threshold for local taxes and bonds for infrastructure improvements. Having competing ballot measures on the same issue has become something of a trend in recent elections.

Those, however, are just three of the propositions that will, or could be, placed before voters this year.

Three other biggies are: a business-

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 12

COMMUNITY NEWS

West Los Angeles

UCLA acquires L.A.'s former Westside Pavilion to transform empty mall into the UCLA Research Park

UCLA has acquired the former Westside Pavilion shopping mall, which the university will transform into the UCLA Research Park — bringing together academics and industry partners from around the world to create a nexus of discovery and innovation that will benefit Southern California and beyond.

"This acquisition will be absolutely transformative for UCLA, our great city and the world. Gov. Gavin Newsom and the California Legislature helped make this possible through a generous state investment, and we are deeply thankful for their support," said UCLA Chancellor Gene Block. "We will remake the empty former mall into a state-of-the-art hub of research and innovation that will bring scholars from different higher education institutions, corporate partners, government agencies and startups together to explore new areas of inquiry and achieve breakthroughs that will serve our global society."

> "This acquisition will be absolutely transformative for UCLA, our great city and the world. Gov. Gavin Newsom and the California Legislature helped make this possible through a generous state investment, and we are deeply thankful for their support"
> - Gene Block, UCLA Chancellor

The 700,000-square-foot property, located 2 miles south of UCLA's Westwood campus, will initially host two multidisciplinary research centers: the California Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy at UCLA and the UCLA Center for Quantum Science and Engineering.

The new UCLA Research Park is made possible in part by an intended $500 million investment, with $200 million already allocated, from the state of California to establish and fund the immunology and immunotherapy institute at UCLA. The institute is also supported by a group of founding donors from the biotechnology, academic, entrepreneurship and philanthropic communities led by Meyer Luskin, Dr. Gary Michelson, Dr. Eric Esrailian, Dr. Arie Belldegrun, Sean Parker and Michael Milken.

In addition, Google — which previously leased part of the property — helped enable and support UCLA's acquisition. Favorable real estate market conditions helped create the historic opportunity for the university as well.

"California is the epicenter of global innovation — from the creation of the internet to the dominance of artificial intelligence, humanity's future happens here first," said Gov. Gavin Newsom. "Leveraging the next waves of technology and science — quantum computing and the immense potential of immunology — the UCLA Research Park will cement California's global economic, scientific and technological dominance into the 22nd century, and beyond."

"This purchase exemplifies the remarkable collaboration between the University of California, the state of California and our partners in the private sector," said UC President Michael Drake. "We're grateful to Gov. Newsom and the state Legislature for their continued support. Investments like this help ensure that the University can continue to thrive and serve people across California."

"The California Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy has the potential to reshape the future of science and medicine," said the institute's founding donors. "We are proud to join UCLA, UC President Drake, Gov. Newsom and the state Legislature in helping make California a world leader in decoding the still-mysterious workings of the human immune system and translating breakthrough discoveries into lifesaving immunotherapies. Launching a research park that joins biosciences with quantum science and engineering — as well as other emerging technologies, like next-generation artificial intelligence — is a once-in-a-generation event, and we are honored to be a part of it all."

The acquisition caps a multiyear effort by Dr. John Mazziotta, vice chancellor for health sciences and CEO of UCLA Health, to establish the institute at UCLA and provide it with leading-edge facilities.

"UCLA's goal is to build the immunology equivalent of Silicon Valley in Los Angeles," said Mazziotta. "Given the university's expertise and state-of-the-art facilities, we are expecting to attract the world's best scientists in immunology and immunotherapy, as well as top students."

The institute will draw on the expertise of UCLA faculty members, scholars from different higher education institutions, and other leading scientists and practitioners in clinical and biomedical scientific research, including human genetics, genomics, computer science, engineering and information science. Researchers will pursue new tools, treatments and vaccines for cancer, autoimmune and immune deficiency disorders, infectious diseases, allergies, heart conditions, solid organ transplantation and other major health-related issues.

The UCLA Research Park will also be home to the UCLA Center for Quantum Science and Engineering, which conducts research in the emerging field of quantum science and technology — including quantum computing, communication and sensing — with the aim of dramatically increasing information processing power by harnessing the unusual behavior of subatomic particles. Founded in 2018 and operated by the UCLA College's Division of Physical Sciences and the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering, the center

SEE **UCLA** PAGE 6

More hospitals are requiring masks as flu and COVID-19 cases surge

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

More U.S. hospitals are requiring masks and limiting visitors as health officials face an expected but still nasty post-holiday spike in flu, COVID-19 and other illnesses.

While many experts say this season likely won't prove to be as deadly as some other recent winters, it still could mean hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and many thousands of deaths across the country.

New York City last week instituted a mask mandate for the city's 11 public hospitals. Similar measures were ordered last week at some hospitals in Los Angeles and Massachusetts. Some hospitals reinstated masking rules for employees months ago, in anticipation of a seasonal rush of sick people.

> "What we're seeing right now, in the first week of January, is really an acceleration — of flu cases, in particular"
> - Dr. Mandy Cohen, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Flu and COVID-19 infections have been increasing for weeks, with high levels of flu-like illness reported in 31 states just before Christmas. Updated national numbers are to be released Friday, but health officials predict infections will grow in many states well into January.

"What we're seeing right now, in the first week of January, is really an acceleration — of flu cases, in particular," said Dr. Mandy Cohen, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

There is some good news. Flu and COVID-19 cases may peak by the end of the month and then drop, Cohen said. Though the flu has been skyrocketing, this year's cases are being caused by a strain that usually doesn't cause as many deaths and hospitalizations as some other versions. What's more, signs suggest current flu vaccines are well-matched to the strain.

"I don't think it's going to be overwhelming," said Dr. William Schaffner, Vanderbilt University infectious diseases expert. He deemed the current season "moderately severe."

The CDC is pointing the public to an agency website where people can look up their county, which can help them make decisions about whether to wear masks or take other precautions. Cohen urged people to get vaccinated and to seek treatment for flu and COVID-19.

Vaccinations are down this year, officials say. About 44% of U.S. adults had gotten flu shots by Dec. 23, according to the most recently available CDC vaccination survey data. Only about 19% of U.S. adults were reported to have received an updated COVID-19 shot as of early December.

COVID-19 cases are causing more severe disease than the flu but have been rising less dramatically. Health officials are keeping an eye on JN.1, a new version of the ever-evolving coronavirus. The omicron variant was first detected in the U.S. in September and just before Christmas accounted for an estimated 44% of COVID-19 cases.

The JN.1 variant may spread easier or be better at evading our immune systems, but there is no evidence that it causes more severe disease than other recent variants, health officials say. Current evidence indicates vaccines and antiviral medications work against it.

The CDC also has reported disappointing vaccination rates against another seasonal bug, respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV. That is a common cause of mild cold-like symptoms, but it can be dangerous for infants and older people. RSV cases rose in the fall but appear to have plateaued and are even going down in some places, according to the latest data.

At Hillsdale Hospital in southern Michigan, a 65% increase in respiratory illness activity in late December triggered a limitation to visitors in the birthing center. Only a spouse, a support person and grandparents can visit. They all must wear a mask and not show symptoms of sickness.

The restriction is common for the hospital around this time of year, said Dr. Nichole Ellis, a pediatrician who is the hospital's medical chief of staff. But it's more difficult this season, she added.

"In the past, we would have one … disease that we were tracking or monitoring at one time," Ellis said. "But now, babies and children will have multiple diseases at the same time. It's not that they just have RSV … but they're getting RSV and COVID at the same time, or influenza and RSV at the same time because all of the diseases are prevalent in our community."

Kenya Hunter in Atlanta contributed.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com



FRIDAY | JANUARY 5

KING CHRIS AND THE GROOVE THING

Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. Born in a Louisiana bayou, KING CHRIS gathered his Sensibilities as a Singer as a young boy in churches and spiritual gatherings. where he was educated on the power of music and the spirit of the song. King Chris brings his SOULTOPIA SHOW from the Juke joints to L.A. Special guests and top players make the spirit of music come over you. Experience this special show. Feel good and Be Entertained. Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St, $10.

SATURDAY | JANUARY 6

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

The morning starts with a 10 a.m. check-in at Guest Services before heading to the shoreline in front of the Beach House. The first plunge takes place around 10:15 a.m. starting with the youngest Polar Bears, followed by the rest. The most stalwart Polar Bears can take part in the 300-yard swim around a buoy. After the invigorating ocean plunge, warm up in the heated Beach House pool. Gather with friends and family, enjoy a cup of hot chocolate, and grab a photo with Pat the Polar Bear mascot. Pool admission will be charged for Polar Bears and others entering the pool deck to visit, soak, swim in the heated pool, or take a hot shower. In-person registration will be available but may be limited on the day of event. Parking is $3 per hour or $8 per day. Pool Admission: $10/adult, $5/senior adult age 60+, $4/youth age 1-17. Please call 310-458-4904, email beach.house@santamonica.gov or visit www. annenbergbeachhouse.com for more information.

HAVEN NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

Stop by for information on free financial coaching services, including budgeting, credit counseling, and identity theft recovery. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

MUSIC FOR STORYTELLING WITH MILESTONE MUSIC

Charlsey Miller of Milestone Music leads this interactive music class where kids use their voices, dance moves, and imaginations to practice the fundamentals of music (rhythm, tempo, melody, rhyme) and create a brandnew original song. Limited space; free tickets available at 10:30 a.m. For ages 4-8. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue, 11 - 11:45 a.m.

SOUNDWAVES NEW MUSIC CONCERT

Soundwaves celebrates LA's diverse history of innovative underground music with free performances by world-class artists. Started in 2016 by librarian, author, and musician Jeff Schwartz with composer Daniel Rothman, and funded by the Santa Monica Public Library, Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library, and the Amphion Foundation, Soundwaves has collaborated with presenters including the Angel City Jazz Festival, Microfest, PianoSpheres, Jacaranda Music, the Dog Star Orchestra Festival, the Santa Monica Department of Cultural Affairs, and Cold Blue Music. Jan. 6: Isaura String Quartet. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY | JANUARY 7

SANTA MONICA AIRPORT ANTIQUE MARKET

Noted as One of the Top Ten "Flea Markets' in America, visit the Santa Monica Airport Antique Market, a fun outdoor (and dog-friendly!) market full of many great dealers with furniture, antiques, collectibles, art, vintage clothes, jewelry, rugs and much more. Santa Monica Airport, 2800-3200 Airport Ave, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. $5.

PARTY ON! A SOBER COMEDY SHOW

Party On! is more than just a night of laughs, it's a celebration of recovery and a testament to the power of humor in overcoming addiction. Headlining comics from HBO, Netflix, and late night shows, will speak to the sober experience, but every comedy fan will love this show. Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Ave, 7 - 8:30 p.m. $20. https://jetbook.co/e/party-on-a-sober-comedy-showcmck

MONDAY | JANUARY 8

BABY TIME

Introduce your child to storytime with interactive books, bounces, and more! Free tickets are available at 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. For ages 0-17 months. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Session 1: 10:30 - 10:50 a.m. Session 2: 11:30 - 11:50 a.m.

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UCLA

FROM PAGE 5

has received funding from Boeing and the National Science Foundation, among others, and counts more than two dozen UCLA faculty from the fields of physics, engineering, computer science, chemistry, mathematics and biostatistics among its members. Notably, the center will also house the Quantum Leap Challenge Institute for Present and Future Quantum Computation, an NSF-funded initiative that includes UCLA and seven other universities.

New space at the UCLA Research Park will facilitate greater collaboration between the center and its partners and will solidify UCLA's leadership role in this developing field, according to Miguel Garcia-Garibay, dean of physical sciences, and Alissa Park, dean of engineering.

Both the quantum center and the immunology and immunotherapy institute will provide opportunities for UCLA students, early-stage faculty and others, offering unparalleled research and training opportunities in a unique interdisciplinary environment.

The UCLA Research Park will also serve campus units spanning the disciplines, as well as the broader university community. In addition to its flexible work areas, the former mall includes a full 12-screen multiplex movie theater that may be converted into lecture halls or performance spaces, allowing UCLA to offer programming across the arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences.

"The research park directly embodies UCLA's strategic priority of expanding scholarship and engagement to benefit the public good," said Roger Wakimoto, UCLA's vice chancellor for research and creative activities, who helped envision the new development. "The park's scientific, technological, humanistic and creative advances will help to promote economic growth throughout the Southern California region and beyond."

The property is easily accessible by a number of public transportation lines, including the Westwood/Rancho Park Metro station, which connects directly to downtown. It is also minutes away from UCLA's Westwood campus by bus, which will help facilitate travel to and from the site by faculty, staff and students.

FROM EMPTY MALL TO MASSIVE RESEARCH PARK

UCLA acquired the property and the attached multiplex theater — occupying 10800, 10830 and 10850 W. Pico Blvd. — from Hudson Pacific Properties and Macerich. The companies redeveloped a significant portion of the former mall, updating building systems infrastructure and conducting a major seismic retrofit, as well as adding a new window wall, concrete building facades, courtyards, terraces and patio areas. Hudson Pacific Properties and Macerich also worked closely with Google on converting part of the property to flexible office space.

"With its acquisition and exciting plans for a research park, UCLA will continue to transform this incredible property in ways that serve Los Angeles and the world," said Victor Coleman, chairman and CEO of Hudson Pacific. "We look forward to working together post-acquisition on the continued redevelopment of the property to help UCLA realize its full vision for the site."

"We're delighted that UCLA will be further developing this state-of-the-art facility to help accelerate transformative research and innovation," said Scott Foster, Google's vice president of real estate and workplace services. "Google has called the greater Los Angeles area home for over 20 years, and we saw an opportunity for the space to be better utilized in a way that benefits the broader community."

This latest major acquisition — UCLA's third in the past 15 months — is part of a transformative expansion designed to broadly extend UCLA's top-flight resources and institutional expertise, deepen the campus' connections to Los Angeles' diverse and dynamic communities, and meet the growing demand for top-tier higher education across the city and region.

Each acquisition has been an adaptive and sustainable development, repurposing existing structures for new uses while avoiding the need for major construction.

"We now have a remarkable opportunity to transform the Westside through the UCLA Research Park and to cement UCLA's and L.A.'s position at the forefront of innovation and discovery," said Allison Baird-James, UCLA's interim vice chancellor and chief financial officer, who helped broker the deal.

The vast new space, which straddles the southeast and southwest corners of Pico Boulevard and is connected by an enclosed pedestrian bridge over Westwood Boulevard, features a broad metal and glass facade and open areas with 17-foot ceilings, panoramic windows and expansive atriums inside and out. In addition to research labs and offices, the property has the potential for additional uses, including classrooms, lecture halls and event venues.

A fixture of West Los Angeles since its opening in 1985, the Westside Pavilion quickly became a much-visited retail location and gathering spot and continued to evolve over the following three decades. At one time, the site featured a three-level bookstore and multiple movie theaters and appeared as a backdrop to numerous movies and TV shows. Over the past decade, it suffered from a decline alongside other indoor malls across the country, leaving storefronts largely empty.

"We recognize the former Westside Pavilion's place in L.A.'s history and are grateful for the chance to turn the empty former mall into the future home of discoveries that will change the world," Block said.

UCLA'S RECENT EXPANSION IN L.A.

In June of this year, UCLA bridged the gap between Westwood and downtown Los Angeles with its purchase of UCLA Downtown, a 334,000-square-foot building in downtown's Historic Core.

And in September 2022, the university acquired its UCLA South Bay campus, including the 24.5 acres of the former Marymount California University campus in Rancho Palos Verdes and an 11-acre residential site in San Pedro — allowing UCLA to expand its offerings, serve more students and advance the University of California's 2030 systemwide goals.

"I have the greatest confidence that the seeds we are planting and investing in today will become great trees," Block said, "and that in the decades to come, these acquisitions will solidify UCLA's place as an institution of unequaled positive impact."

SUBMITTED BY RON MACKOVICH-RODRIGUEZ

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HOA HOMEFRONT

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Reader Questions – Are Unexplained Assessment Increases and Vague Agendas OK?

KELLY G. RICHARDSON, ESQ. CCAL

Hi Kelly, we just received a notice two days ago that our HOA assessments will increase 10%. The new increase takes effect in 3 weeks. We did not receive any prior notice of such a large increase and numbers for the 2024 budget seem off. In my opinion this is poor money management to give homeowners an increase notice with only 3 weeks' notice. Shouldn't an HOA know that they need this big of an increase MONTHS in advance? J.S., Aliso Viejo.

Dear J.S.: HOA boards may increase regular assessments up to 20% per fiscal year without a vote of the homeowners, per Civil Code Section 5605(b). However, HOA boards, when increasing the budget, should explain to the members why increases are necessary. Communicating to homeowners above and beyond the bare legal requirements helps build trust in the HOA board.

You have mentioned that the notice of the assessment increase was not received by you until about three weeks before coming due. There are two possible issues here. First, Civil Code Section 5605 requires the new year's budget be announced at least 30 days before the end of the fiscal year. Second, any assessment increase must be announced individually to each member at least 30 days before the increased assessment becomes due, per Civil Code Section 5615. Please note that these two deadlines are "sending" deadlines, not receiving deadlines, so your HOA may have been timely on these two points.

Thanks for your question, Kelly

Dear Mr. Richardson: The board agenda has few details about agenda items so homeowners do not know the information or details about agenda items, making it difficult to ask questions or get clarification prior to the board taking action. What are the rules about making the board packet, excluding executive session items, available to homeowners? L.O., Nipomo

Dear L.O.: Boards are required to notify members of the items to be discussed in the upcoming board meeting in the posted agenda. However, the statute requiring this, Civil Code Section 4930(a), does not define "item." Some boards post deliberately vague agendas to give themselves "wiggle room" as to what they can discuss. As you can attest, this frustrates the members who would like to know what the board is working on. Boards would do well to consider not just providing the bare minimum disclosure, to build trust and confidence in their neighbors in the community.

L.O., boards are not required to share the packets of information they receive from management. Also, this is not necessary since homeowners have the right to watch the board's deliberations but do not have the right to participate in those deliberations.

HOA boards can do several things to make their constituent neighbors more confident in their governance. First, provide more information in the posted agenda and not a vague almost meaningless couple of words. Second, during the meeting, take a moment to describe the issue at hand. Lastly, on major decisions consider opening the floor to a brief open forum.

As to executive session information, the allowable topics for executive session must be kept confidential to protect homeowners, HOA employees, or the HOA itself, so that information cannot be distributed outside the board. So, no, that information should not be shared.

Best, Kelly

Kelly G. Richardson, Esq. is a Fellow of the College of Community Association Lawyers and Partner of Richardson Ober LLP, a California law firm known for community association advice. Submit column questions to kelly@roattorneys.com. Past columns at www.HOAHomefront.com. All rights reserved®.

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Westside REAL ESTATE TOP

Malibu

Paci
Palisa

NOMA

$14,300,000

1923 La Mesa Dr.

7 bd, 8 ba, 5,162 sqft

Sold on Feb. 17
Listed by David Offer, Berkshire Hathaway and Ania Patterson, Kerry Patterson Company
Bought with Jeremiah Eden and Wendi Chandler, Sotheby's International Realty

NOMA

$10,510,000

235 19th St

6 bd, 7 ba, 8,872 sqft

Sold on Sept. 18
Listed by David Offer, Berkshire Hathaway
Bought with Ben Chuang, Keller Williams Realty Irvine

NOMA

$13,500,000

306 Georgina Ave.

4 bd, 5 ba, 6,705 sqft

Sold on June 21
Listed by F. Ron Smith and David Berg, Compass
Bought with Tara Rodgers, Compass

NOMA

$9,946,000

150 Esparta Way

6 bd, 9 ba, 8,854 sqft

Sold on Aug. 23
Listed by Aaron Kirman, Christie's AKG and Vincent Petrosino, KW Advisors
Bought with Michelle Liberman, Compass

NOMA

$15,434,000

210 Marguerita Ave

6 bd, 9 ba, 10,218 sqft

Sold on Feb. 27
Listed by David Kramer and Andrew Buss, Hilton & Hyland
Bought with Nicole Gozin

The Beach

$17,000,000

924 Palisades Beach Rd

5 bd, 8 ba, 4,176 sqft

Sold on Feb. 27
Listed by Veronica Klein, Compass
Bought with Rachel Lillard, The RECollective

● SOLD

P 10 HOMES SOLD IN 2023



NOMA

$22,500,000

2121 La Mesa Dr

6 bd, 8 ba, 9,288 sqft

Sold on Dec. 4
Listed by Delaram Rivani, Carolwood Estates
Bought with Delaram Rivani, Carolwood Estates

NOMA

$10,300,000

502 16th St.

5 bd, 8 ba, 6,320 sqft

Sold on June 12
Listed by Loraine Silver and Shann Silver, Compass
Bought with Susan Kastner, Compass

The Beach

$13,400,000

1022 Palisades Beach Rd

7 bd, 10 ba, 7,049 sqft

Sold on Aug. 31
Listed by Paul Pekar, Compass
Bought with N/A

NOMA

$13,900,000

1628 Georgina Ave.

6 bd, 9 ba, 8,617 sqft

Sold on June 16
Listed by Monique Contro-Navarro and Santiago Arana, The Agency
Bought with Monique Contro-Navarro and Santiago Arana, The Agency

All data gathered at redfin.com Santa Monica Daily Press

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Another scary incident on Ocean Ave.

Recently at Blue Plate Taco, an older white man walked up to the parklet on Ocean Avenue carrying a half empty bottle of vodka, yelling Happy New Year, and became disruptive to guests and tourists on Ocean Avenue. This weekend was particularly busy with tourists due to Rose Bowl and this is what our diners saw. I personally apologized to several tables who said they had never stayed in SM before and were totally shocked with what they saw over the past few days and would not come back.

The disruptive man was then joined by a friend who came by smoking a joint, and they started getting into it. He was waving the bottle around and then moved all of his belongings into our parklet. I told my team to call 911 and ambassadors. I went to take a photo, as I knew the police would request that, and he started getting hostile, flipped me off and then approached me and my coworkers yelling from afar that he was going to kill us and was using the bottle threateningly. He called me the N word, called my coworker BOY and was insanely ranting, pacing and threatening. A few police cars drove by slowly on Ocean while this was going on and we tried to flag them down but they continued to drive by. My coworker tried to protect the people at the restaurant and asked him to move on but he continued. It was scary for all and sickening. I told him the police were coming and he started moving toward MEAT where he took a newspaper, his lighter and his leather jacket and lit it on fire. We and the MEAT team had to put out the fire. I called 911 several times as nobody showed. The private security ambassadors showed up five minutes later and observed us putting out the fire, shaken up. The female security team member said she recognized this guy. When police came, he had left the scene, as usual and headed up Broadway. There were three officers and we immediately told them which direction he went in. They did not pursue but only asked for details of the situation. “How was he holding he bottle? How was he threatening? What was he saying?”

I was pretty hysterical as nobody really seemed to care about finding this guy. The female officer asked me to recreate how the crazy guy approached me and how close he got so I showed them at which point the police warned me for being aggressive and too close to the female officer. It was pretty patronizing as if I were being unreasonable.

I then told them how frustrated I was as this is a regular occurrence and nobody pursued this person who had turned the corner five minutes prior? The answer was one again, “We can’t do much,” and blaming state laws saying that they could try to arrest him but he would most likely get out. I assume from past experience that I will get a call from the City to see if I will press charges on this guy, if in fact he was apprehended. With the frequency of these types of episodes, I would have to make it a full time job to press charges. I have three businesses in SM that generate tax dollars to pay for City salaries in addition to being a SM resident for 35 years paying property taxes. So ... You can walk on the streets of SM with an open bottle, smoke crack in front of our kids, threaten people with a bottle and slam them with racial slurs, light a fire and I get cited for a table three inches too far on the sidewalk?

There were tourists galore in SM this weekend with Rose Bowl and that is what they are seeing. We are all tired of the City blaming the state. You simply do not see this in Beverly Hills or Manhattan Beach. We have businesses there as well and this DOES NOT happen. We have been promised more presence on Ocean Avenue where tourists pay over 500/night for a room and I see no difference. Things are getting worse. The Economic development team at the City of SM, transportation department and other teams call periodically to tell us we cannot have a cover on our parklet to protect guests from rain and sun, yet there are no consequences to driving tourism to the ground or threatening residents and business owners? Anarchy is present on the streets yet we are all being forced to comply with rules that have nothing to do with what is best for the economy and building business?

I have written to the State as advised and they say it is up to the City and City Attorney to enforce and provide places for mentally ill or criminals to go. This all seems like a poorly run machine where nobody is accountable or cares enough to step up. I have received so many calls from individuals asking for private meetings to discuss the root of problems and I simply cannot see a reason why the people who run the City cannot come together with common goals of safety and helping businesses thrive like other cities? Can we not all meet once again with solutions other than, “we have hired more police?” Or once again blame state legislation? The state of affairs is sad in DTSM. Locals and tourists stay away from Ocean Avenue and the park which is a space we should all be proud of. It is ridden with homelessness and drugs. Whatever is happening now is not working and we do not feel safe. Can anyone offer new solutions? In a recent meeting with the City about outdoor dining, I was told that the City was looking to SF for guidance? That is about right as REI and several of the other reputable retailers are leaving

SEE **INCIDENT** PAGE 12

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Court records bring new, unwanted attention to rich and famous in Jeffrey Epstein's social circle

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Before and after he was exposed as a pedophile, Jeffrey Epstein loved to mingle with the world's elite.

The millionaire invited politicians and academics to his private island and luxury homes. He offered celebrities rides on his private jet. He and his girlfriend, the socialite Ghislaine Maxwell, hung out with princes and supermodels. They made donations that brought them into contact with leading philanthropists.

After Epstein killed himself while awaiting trial on sex-trafficking charges in 2019, many of those people have apologized for associating with him and said they were unaware he was habitually abusing underage girls.

Newly released court records have revved up interest again in the big names who associated with Epstein and Maxwell, who is serving a 20-year prison term for helping recruit and abuse Epstein's victims.

Many of those people have never been accused of any wrongdoing, but have nonetheless become the subject of a whirlwind of conspiracy theories. Others have, for years, been denying claims made by one of Epstein's victims — Virginia Giuffre — that they participated in illicit sex.

Here is a look at some of the people who have been getting renewed attention because of the release of the documents, which included deposition testimony by Epstein's victims, people who worked for him, Giuffre and Maxwell.

JEAN-LUC BRUNEL

The court records contain repeated references to Jean-Luc Brunel, a French modeling agent and close friend of Epstein who killed himself in a Paris jail in 2022 while awaiting trial on charges that he raped underage girls. Brunel was accused by Giuffre and others of using promises of modeling work to induce people, including minors, into sexual encounters.

Brunel's estate was sued this week in California by a woman who alleges that he and others sexually assaulted her while she was working as a model in New York. She says that on one occasion, she was driven to a home in Canada and kept there for several days while men abused her.

Brunel's attorneys have maintained his innocence, saying his suicide "was not guided by guilt but by a deep sentiment of injustice."

LESLIE WEXNER

The records also contain fleeting references to Leslie Wexner, the retail titan behind Victoria's Secret, The Limited and other store chains. Epstein had managed Wexner's money for years, but their relationship soured following Epstein's 2006 arrest in Florida and jail term for paying an underage girl for a sexual act.

After Epstein was indicted on federal sex-trafficking charges and killed himself in jail, Wexner said he had been embarrassed by his ties to Epstein. He also publicly accused Epstein of misappropriating "vast sums" of his fortune but didn't offer details.

ALAN DERSHOWITZ

Among the more familiar names in the records is Alan Dershowitz, a former Epstein attorney and retired Harvard University law professor. Giuffre had long accused Dershowitz of sexually abusing her a half-dozen times in Florida, New York, New Mexico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

But Giuffre withdrew her claim against Dershowitz in 2022, saying she " may have made a mistake " in identifying him as one of the men she had sex with at the request of Epstein or Maxwell. "I was very young at the time," she said, and "it was a very stressful and traumatic environment." Dershowitz said at the time that she deserved credit for acknowledging her error.

PRINCE ANDREW

Some of the most sensational allegations have involved Britain's Prince Andrew, who was a longtime friend of Maxwell's and continued visiting Epstein even after his imprisonment in Florida for a sex crime.

Giuffre sued the prince in 2021, claiming that when she was 17 she had sex with him multiple times at Maxwell's request.

Andrew denied her claims, saying he didn't remember ever meeting her. The allegations damaged his public standing and led Andrew to withdraw from some royal duties.

Giuffre and Andrew settled the lawsuit in 2022 without it ever going to trial.

The newly released records include mentions of Giuffre's allegations and a transcript of a deposition in which she was questioned by Maxwell's attorneys about whether she made up some of her stories about powerful men to impress reporters.

Giuffre insisted she was telling the truth, and that inaccuracies in some of her published interviews were the fault of reporters.

The unsealed court papers also included a more detailed version of a well-known story by one of Epstein's victims, Johanna Sjoberg, who described an evening at his New York home involving Giuffre, Maxwell and Prince Andrew.

At one point, she testified, they pulled out a puppet of Prince Andrew that had been made for a British television program.

"And they decided to take a picture with it, in which Virginia and Andrew sat on a couch," Sjoberg said. They put the puppet on Virginia's lap, and I sat on Andrew's lap, and they put the puppet's hand on Virginia's breast, and Andrew put his hand on my breast, and they took a photo."

BILL CLINTON

The former president flew several times on Epstein's private jet, and once publicly praised the financier's intellect and philanthropic efforts.

Sjoberg testified in her deposition that, while she never met Clinton, Epstein once remarked to her that "Clinton likes them young." She took the remark as a reference to young women or girls.

Clinton has not been accused of wrongdoing, though, by any of Epstein's victims. He has previously said through a spokesperson that while he traveled on Epstein's jet he never visited his homes, had no knowledge of his crimes and hasn't spoken to Epstein since his Florida conviction.

Other documents released included legal arguments over whether Clinton should be deposed. Giuffre's attorneys argued the former president was a "key person who can provide information about his close relationship" with Epstein.

DONALD TRUMP

The records briefly mention former President Donald Trump, who socialized with Epstein but also is not accused of misconduct. Video footage unearthed by NBC News following Epstein's federal indictment in 2019 showed the two chatting at a party at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in 1992.

The video had been recorded as part of a profile of Trump, who was newly divorced at the time. It shows the future president surrounded by young women, whom NBC identified as cheerleaders for the Buffalo Bills.

Later in the video, Epstein arrives at Trump's Florida estate, and the two men are seen talking and gesturing at the women on the dance floor.

"I knew him like everybody in Palm Beach knew him," Trump said when the video emerged. "He was a fixture in Palm Beach. I had a falling out with him a long time ago. I don't think I've spoken to him for 15 years."

STEPHEN HAWKING

The new records include a single reference to the late theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking. His name appears, misspelled, in an email Epstein sent proposing a reward be paid to anyone who could debunk a baseless claim that Hawking had participated in "an underage orgy."

Hawking, who died in 2018, had attended one of Epstein's academic gatherings in 2006.

GLENN DUBIN

The records include a claim from Giuffre that she was pressured to have sex with billionaire Glenn Dubin, a claim he denies. Giuffre said in a deposition that Maxwell "told me to go to Glenn Dubin and give him a massage, which means sex."

Dubin has said he has flight records and other evidence proving Giuffre's allegations against him are false.

Epstein dated Eva Andersson-Dubin, a former Miss Sweden, off and on in the mid-1980s, and the two remained friends after breaking up. Andersson-Dubin later married Dubin with whom she had three children. Andersson-Dubin testified in Maxwell's federal trial, saying she trusted Epstein with her young daughters and denying taking part in a group sexual encounter with a key accuser.

BILL RICHARDSON

Giuffre also claims she was pressured to have sex with former U.S. ambassador and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson. The new documents include a few mentions of Richardson, including a deposition in which Giuffre says she had been ordered to give him a massage.

Richardson, who died last year, previously said that Giuffre's claims were fabricated. A spokesperson in 2019 denied that he had ever met Giuffre.

GEORGE MITCHELL

Former U.S. Senator George Mitchell was also among the men Giuffre claims abused her. Like Richardson, Mitchell also denied ever meeting her. The new records contain little mention of Mitchell.



PROPERTY

FROM PAGE 3

cancer (prostate and Leukemia), as well as the contraction of Graft vs Host Disease (GvHD) as a result of bone marrow donations necessary to suppress his last bout with cancer. GvHD is a condition that ravages the host body and has left Brutzman with vastly reduced vision and severely compromised mobility. Brutzman noted that due to poor eyesight, he could not read off documents provided to him by health professionals discussing his condition, documents that were admitted into evidence by Cho despite relevance objections from Dawson.

The judge also stated that whether Bentz knew of Brutzman's living status or not was irrelevant to the case, with Cho adding that he "could understand" if Bentz was sympathetic and allowed Brutzman's residency, but that arrangement was not legal in turning the lease into a residential tenancy.

"(The) court can't just have OPB Buildings allow (Brutzman) to stay there and reside there on commercial premises," Cho said.

Cho asked how long Brutzman would need to find alternative housing, with Brutzman replying he would need six months. The judge replied by stating he could not give Brutzman that much of a timeframe, asking if six weeks would be enough time, in which Brtuzman replied in the negative. After conferral between Dawson and Bentz, Dawson stated that they did not foresee the lockout process occurring within a month, leading to Cho's motion to pause a vacate of the premises until February 18. Brutzman also asked the judge if he could appeal the case, in which Cho said that was within his rights to do.

During testimony, Brutzman said he had been shown three alternative housing sites within the past 18 months, but that none were of reasonable accommodation to his health conditions. He did note that he had recently been put into contact on a new housing option by a friend in the real estate industry, a housing unit within Santa Monica that would qualify for Section 8 Housing. The unit contains two bedrooms, which would allow for space for Brutzman's two alternating caretakers.

The plaintiff waived holdover damages and other legal costs related to the case, accepting the judgment awarding OPB Buildings possession of the premises.

thomas@smdp.com

INCIDENT

FROM PAGE 10

as they do not feel SAFE!!!!!

QUESTION:

1. What can we do to protect ourselves from this type of threatening person other than call the police who often show when it is too late? ? I have asked this many times and no answer.

2. Why is the allegiance to the "HELPLESS" on the street who are often times dangerous over the people who are contributing and working long hours to support the City? Can anyone offer an explanation?

3. If SM Police are truly unable to keep people in jail, and they keep getting out, why is the City beefing up police?

4. We are aware of the new DTSM security team. What exactly are they able to do? A few days ago I saw them surrounding a zombie homeless man who was sprawled across the sidewalk blocking pedestrians on Colorado. Are they not able to move these people or take them somewhere, where they can get help?

Seems like nobody in SM government is making needed changes or realizing how dangerous and scary this is to people who are working in the area. Most importantly it is terrible for business.

Something has to change. My teams have asked that I reach out to the City to get answers on how they can feel safer. Can someone let us know if the guy was found?

Jennifer Rush Blue Plate Restaurant Group



TREMORS

FROM PAGE 1

phenomenon, rather it's the result of subduction of different tectonic plates at convergent boundaries around the Pacific Ocean. Within this zone are between 750 and 915 active or dormant volcanoes, representing about two-thirds of the world total, together with about 90% of the planet's earthquakes.

One of the most famous fault lines in the world is the San Andreas fault, which runs almost the entire length of California. It narrowly misses the City of Los Angeles and instead runs under Palmdale and San Bernardino, but it was movement in this strike-slip fault line that caused the 1906 San Francisco disaster. But that's not to say the Los Angeles — and indeed the City of Santa Monica — avoids any fault lines.

There are over a hundred smaller active faults in the local vicinity, including the Hollywood fault, the Newport-Inglewood fault, the San Jacinto and Elsinore faults and yes, the Santa Monica fault too. Our sunny, seaside city lies on a relatively small fault line, roughly half a mile wide that runs from the western corner of the Pacific Palisades border and ends just past Century City.

Moreover, the Palos Verdes fault zone (PVFZ) runs close to 70 miles from the Santa Monica Bay, south down the coast, under the Palos Verdes peninsula and out into the ocean off of Dana Point and scientists believe this fault system is capable of triggering up to a 7.8 quake. It was a slip in a smaller fault line called the San Pedro Basin fault line, which branches off of the PVFZ, that caused Monday's temblor and that was only a magnitude 4.1.

Thankfully though, the PVFZ appears to be less active than other fault zones including the San Andreas fault, which ruptures every couple hundred years. The PVFZ has a recurrence interval of between 580-610 years for single segment ruptures and 760-1110 years for the type of multi-segment ruptures that could produce a 7.8 quake.

However, the San Andreas fault is generally believed to be overdue for a sizable quake and that could still very much affect Santa Monica.

As such, the City takes earthquake preparedness very seriously. In addition to the risk of partial or complete building collapse, falling debris and ruptured pipes, much of the danger exists long after the actual tremor has subsided. Those ruptured pipes could be gas mains, clean water could quickly be in short supply and fire becomes a huge risk.

"One of the biggest things that we've done is implement a robust seismic retrofit program in Santa Monica. And in my opinion, that's the most critical thing we can do to save lives and property in Santa Monica," says Call. "We're not at 100% just yet, so work still needs to be done by local businesses, landlords and so on to implement those seismic requirements on their buildings per the requirements of the program, but we're constantly working on it," she says.

"After every earthquake, even the most recent one in Japan, we learn something new about how we can improve things. Japan has some of the best building codes for earthquakes in the world and there's always an opportunity to learn and do more. Many of the things we've implemented in California have come from lessons learned from Japanese earthquakes," Call says.

There are also a lot of guidelines that everyone in California is advised to follow, not just residents of Santa Monica. In addition to the standard Drop, Cover and Hold On drill, there are a number of procedures that should be followed after the tremors have subsided. A detailed list can be found at earthquakecountry.org/step6/ but among the most important are shutting off the gas mains, shutting off electricity at the main breaker switch, locate a fire extinguisher and first aid kit if possible, let people know you're OK and check on others.

Call says that after every major disaster, neighbors in the building or nextdoor have to help each other out, so maybe it's time to make friends with that super-annoyingly noisy tenant who lives in the apartment upstairs.

"You're more likely to be rescued by a neighbor than an actual first responder in those catastrophic incidents," she says. "So it's important to have that connectivity in a neighborhood before a disaster event. If a community has a neighborhood watch group, have that conversation about earthquake response and ask, how could we all coordinate with one another after the shaking stops?"

Call also suggests downloading the MyShake app from the Apple App Store, ensuring your phone settings are adjusted to receive emergency alerts and even enrolling in the City of Santa Monica Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.

"CERT provides a three day course on disaster preparedness topics, and how individuals and households can prepare themselves for disaster events, and what they should do in the immediate aftermath of an emergency event," Call says.

The program has been on a hiatus since the pandemic, but will return to full, regular scheduling this month. Details can be found at https://www.santamonica.gov/.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

backed initiative to repeal the Private Attorney General Act, a unique California law that allows private citizens to file class-action lawsuits against corporations; an oil industry referendum that would repeal the Legislature's imposition of a 3,200-foot buffer between oil wells and "sensitive receptors" such as schools and homes; and the latest of many attempts to make it easier to enact rent control laws.

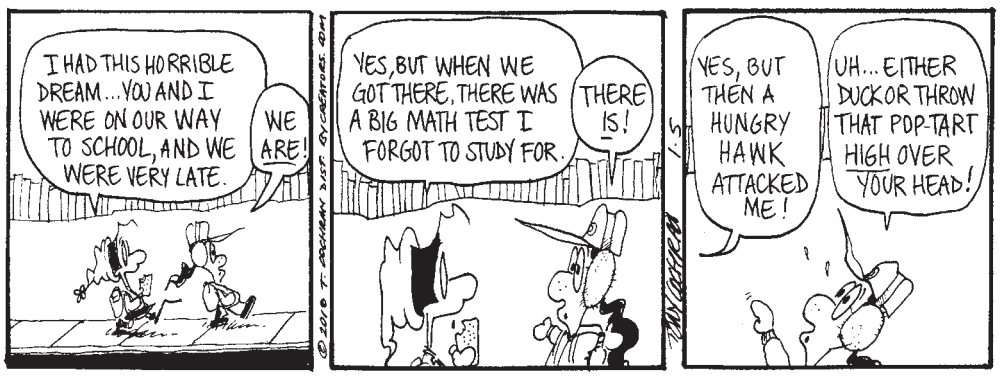
All in all, voters will decide one measure on the March primary ballot – Newsom's mental health bond – and at least a dozen others in November. Competing interests could easily spend a quarter-billion dollars to persuade voters.

Interestingly – and perhaps sadly – none of them will materially affect the aforementioned existential issues that have come to define California in the 21st century. The chances are quite strong that when Californians look back on 2024 a year hence, those issues will be as depressing as ever.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

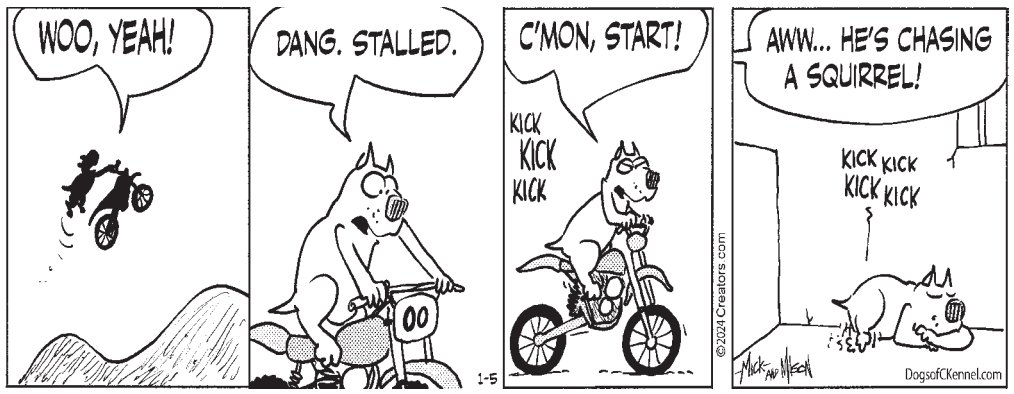
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



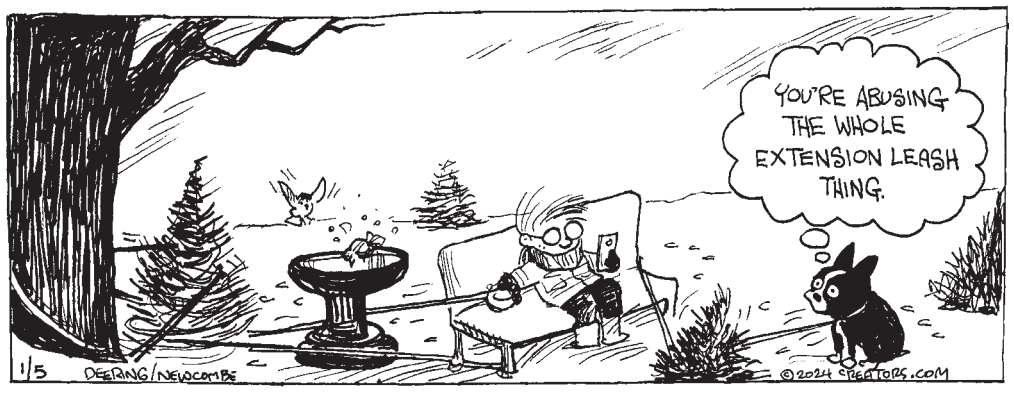
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I TOLD YOU-NO WIZARDRY!"

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 13 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Roadtrip

S	L	E	E	P	T	B	N	O	I	T	A	C	A	V
N	P	A	A	A	O	D	R	O	W	S	Y	E	M	F
O	R	O	R	R	O	A	D	S	A	K	U	L	I	U
O	B	E	I	A	N	O	T	E	I	R	U	A	L	E
Z	E	N	S	D	C	E	C	P	A	R	K	S	K	L
E	G	C	P	T	A	F	R	E	I	P	E	A	C	E
S	A	I	S	S	R	R	S	O	A	R	L	G	S	T
T	R	A	T	U	S	C	K	N	L	N	T	N	B	O
A	F	O	S	T	O	H	E	E	L	P	S	O	R	M
W	P	E	C	N	A	D	I	O	V	A	X	L	U	N
E	A	C	E	O	E	M	O	G	I	D	N	E	B	K
L	E	R	U	T	N	E	V	D	A	W	N	E	U	F
L	S	B	E	E	C	H	W	O	R	T	H	G	S	O
R	I	D	E	U	C	E	B	R	A	B	A	S	K	O
L	O	S	T	Y	E	L	L	A	V	L	U	S	H	D

Adventure	Explore	Lush	Scone
Avoidance	Fast	Motel	Sleep
Barbecue	Food	Ocean	Snooze
Bask	Fuel	Omeo	Stawell
Beechworth	Geelong	Parks	Stop
Bega	Iluka	Peace	Suburbs
Bendigo	Lake	Pira	Surf
Boring	Lane	Radio	Taree
Cars	Lara	Rest	Trip
Dawn	Laurieton	Ride	Vacation
Drowsy	Lima	Roads	Valley
Eden	Lost	Sale	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 5)

Your boundless generosity, delightful thoughtfulness and sweet consideration for others will set a shining example for all. Wish carefully — some will come true through mere happenstance and more through the intentional effort and dedication you invest. More highlights: a trip overseas, a community build and a huge cash bonus. Sagittarius and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 21, 4, 14 and 10.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your role as an advocate and protector will be emphasized. You'll get behind a loved one's interests or jump to the rescue in some way. The people in your life will feel lucky to have you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's only normal for self-esteem to waver. At its core, it's a belief, and questioning beliefs from time to time is a wise thing to do. Doubt will whisk through your mind like fast-moving weather, and then you'll be back to full confidence.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Our brains run on expectation. We're constantly guessing what's coming up. Enjoyment will be enhanced or diminished by your projection about what could be. There's a benefit to getting ahead of it; figure out what people expect going in.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People only say "no judgment" when they are judging and "trust me" when they are not entirely trustworthy. Beware of the words and phrases that point, perhaps not intentionally, but quite actually to their opposite.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There are times when good enough is good enough. This is not one of them. Before you hit "send," ask questions to get educated on the difference between "good" and "great."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To avoid overconfidence, you'll temper your interactions, running them at full force in your mind and then backing it way off in practice, because you can always add more, but you can't unsay what's been said.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll benefit from the help of a teacher. Perhaps this will be a person who is gifted at the art of conveying information, though it's important to note that some of the best teachers are obstacles, enemies and mistakes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When it comes to investing, you have many options including your heart, time, money, effort, hopes and more. You can't go all-in with everything. Choose one or two and go incrementally, testing the waters to see what happens.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You would use every last one of the 1,440 minutes of this day to make life better for those you love if you could. Give more of those minutes to your own self-care, as those minutes are what make all other service possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll consider what people are getting out of their interactions with you and see ways to adjust to create a mutual advantage. How people feel when they are with you is not the whole relationship, but it's a huge part.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The most powerful forces, like wind, gravity and love, are invisible. We identify them by the effects they have on objects and people, by what they change and how. You'll act in secret and align with the great forces.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Feelings are fickle. They run when chased; when grabbed at, they fly. Feelings will come and go as they please. You can work to conjure them, but they will decide on their own whether your efforts warrant their company.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

C	L	A	D		I	N	E	P	T			F	O	X
L	I	F	E		S	E	V	E	R		M	A	N	X
O	B	O	E		A	R	E	N	A		A	X	E	L
G	R	U	M	P	Y	O	L	D	M	E	N			
S	A	L	S	A	S					E	D	I	T	H
				D	O	C	H	O	L	L	I	D	A	Y
	T	A	T			L	I	M	O		B	I	R	D
H	I	D	E		M	O	R	A	L		L	O	P	E
A	T	O	M		O	V	E	N			E	T	S	
H	A	P	P	Y	M	E	D	I	U	M				
A	N	T	E	S					N	O	C	O	S	T
			S	L	E	E	P	Y	H	O	L	L	O	W
J	O	L	T		A	C	H	O	O		I	D	L	E
O	W	E	S		T	R	I	L	L		F	I	V	E
B	L	T			S	U	L	K	Y		F	E	E	T

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

3	5	4	9	7	6	2	1	8
7	1	8	3	5	2	9	4	6
2	6	9	1	4	8	7	5	3
6	3	1	4	2	7	8	9	5
4	8	7	6	9	5	1	3	2
5	9	2	8	1	3	4	6	7
8	4	5	7	3	1	6	2	9
9	7	3	2	6	4	5	8	1
1	2	6	5	8	9	3	7	4

		6	5		9		1	
	9				6			7
1		5	7				9	
3						1		8
	6		2	1	5		3	
5		9						2
	2				8	9		1
8			9				2	
	3		4		7	6		

Newsday Crossword

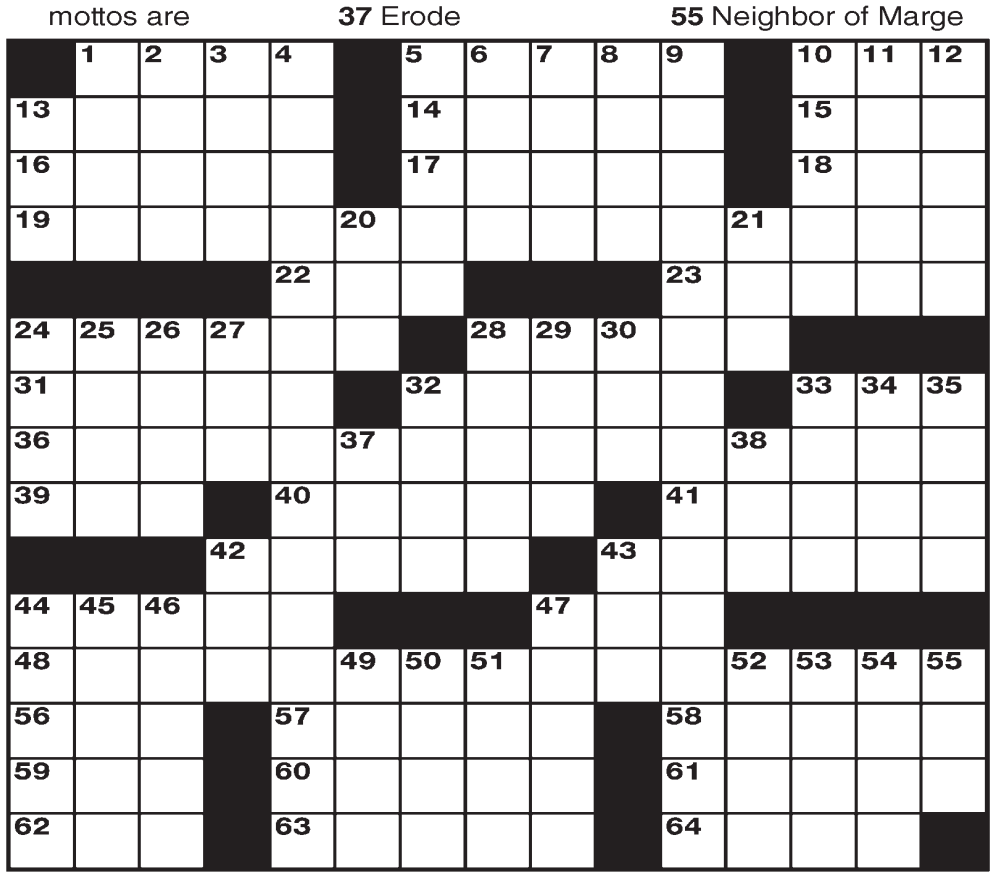
15 SECONDS by Winston Emmons
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Percolate
5 Quotable catcher
10 Order partner
13 Flower feature
14 Father of 6 Down
15 Mimicking
16 Stars in 10 Down
17 Bonn bedtime
18 Massive quantity
19 Three seconds
22 Spanish pronoun
23 BVD alternative
24 Cochise or Geronimo
28 __ Ababa
31 Intense enthusiasm
32 Rather distant
33 Earth, at the beginning
36 Three seconds
39 Clue suspect's title
40 Destiny goddesses
41 Midriff protrusion
42 Climber's spike
43 Goes quickly
44 Rocky Mountain resort
47 NL West team
48 Three seconds
56 Brazil's __ Francisco River
57 Turk neighbor
58 Witless
59 Green autos, for short
60 Old-fashioned refusal
61 Aged, as Chardonnay
62 Spot for drivers
63 Lamb sandwiches
64 US accident investigator

DOWN

1 Informal meeting
2 Musical work suffix
3 Merit
4 Three seconds
5 "Exactly right!"
6 Old Testament twin
7 Contest of quickness
8 Retro cheers
9 Three seconds
10 What many state mottos are
11 Lacking help
12 Mascara applicators
13 DC donor
20 Jargon suffix
21 Performed as
24 Car radio designation
25 Poker holding
26 Extra conditions
27 UK detective group
28 Otherworldly
29 Follows relentlessly
30 Homer's holler
32 Regarding
33 Area to board
34 Oklahoma city
35 Lofty verse
37 Erode
38 Spectrum section
42 Medal of Freedom architect
43 __ Lanka
44 Patience, for instance
45 Barrel strip
46 Plain talk
47 Off-target
49 Big name in western fiction
50 Mystery author John Dickson __
51 Mindful of
52 Small pest
53 Upscale retail chain
54 4.0 spoiler
55 Neighbor of Marge



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