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Presents no-deficit budget.

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Schools close from fire risk.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Wind-whipped fire burns thousands of acres in Pacific Palisades



Matthew Hall

FIRE: Firefighters from across the region responded to the fire in Pacific Palisades including multiple kinds of air drops that tried to contain the blaze.

CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

Firefighters scrambled to corral a fast-moving wildfire in the Los Angeles hillsides dotted with celebrity homes as a fierce windstorm hit Southern California on Tuesday, fanning the blaze seen for miles as scores of residents abandoned their cars and fled on foot to safety with roads blocked.

Nearly 26,000 people in more than 10,000 households and more than 13,000 structures were under threat from the blaze on Tuesday afternoon, said Kristin Crowley, fire chief of the LA Fire Department.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom said he saw "many structures already destroyed." Officials did not give an exact number of structures damaged or destroyed in the blaze.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known, and no injuries had been reported, officials said at a news conference Tuesday afternoon.

Forecasters predicted the windstorm would last for days, producing isolated gusts that could top 100 mph (160 kph) in mountains and foothills — including in areas that haven't seen substantial rain in months. The National Weather service said it could be the strongest Santa Ana windstorm in more than a decade across Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

Roughly half a million utility customers were at risk of having their power shut off to reduce the risk of equipment sparking blazes.

SEE **FIRE** PAGE 8







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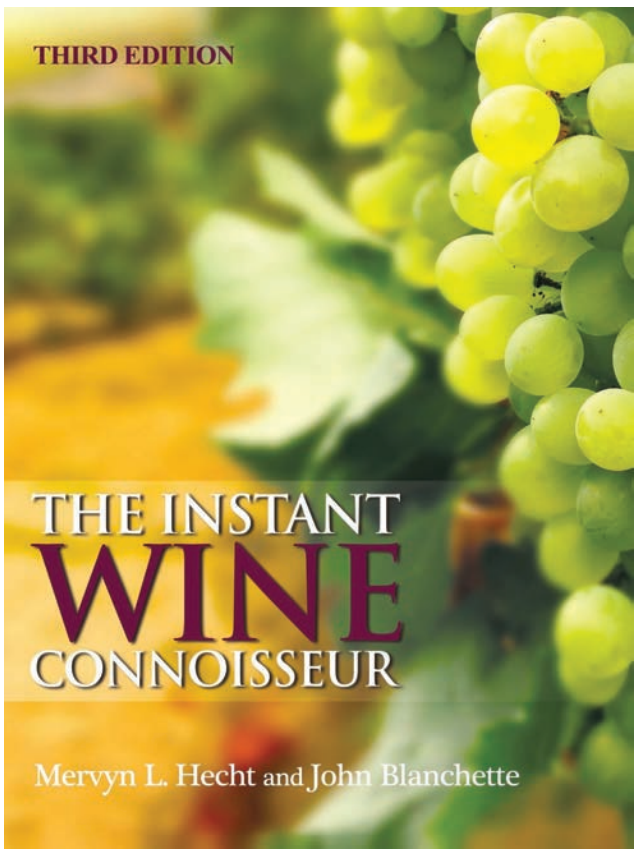
How to dispose of your Christmas tree responsibly



Scott Snowden

CHRISTMAS TREES: Lest we forget, taxpayers living in Santa Monica pay for what the City describes as a “white glove” municipal service to its residents.

★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



Daily Press Food &Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.

available at amazon

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Once again, before we even have time to finish charging the batteries on our recently received presents, the holidays have flashed before our eyes and are now in the past. And while we contemplate how we’re going to shift that seasonal overindulgence, we should also remember that we have a responsibility to properly dispose of our Christmas trees.

Every year, millions of fir trees are cut down, trucked across the country, stood in the corner of the living room like a disobedient child and forced to wear a gaudy glitter number that might feel more at home in Elton John’s wardrobe. All for just a few short weeks before being casually tossed away with the reverence of a used cotton bud.

But...they can still provide an invaluable service, by becoming useful composting material that can be used to grow other plants and vegetables. As such, discarded trees can be disposed of by being placed in a green composting bin for collection, but Santa Monica residents can also use the curbside collection option.

Until January 31, trees will be picked from the curbside or alley to receive a second life as mulch, helping to keep Santa Monica clean and sustainable. Mulch is a material spread on top of soil to protect it and improve the garden, it offers many benefits, including, conserving water, suppressing weeds and reducing erosion. There is no need to contact 311 to request the pickup, this service will be provided automatically.

“First, it may be difficult for someone to pick up and place a tree in their green container or for people in multi-family dwellings to fit multiple trees in shared green bins,” said Tati Simonian, Public Information Officer, City Manager’s Office.

> “First, it may be difficult for someone to pick up and place a tree in their green container or for people in multi-family dwellings to fit multiple trees in shared green bins
>
> - Tati Simonian, Public Information Officer

“To prevent extra lifting of trees by residents, our crews are ready to pick up trees placed on the ground next to residential containers curbside or in alleys within 10 business days from the time of placement,” Simonian said.

SEE **TREE** PAGE 11

Biden will announce the creation of two new national monuments to protect tribal lands in California

President Joe Biden is establishing two new national monuments in California that will honor Native American tribes, the White House confirmed Tuesday, as Biden seeks to conserve at least 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030 through his "America the Beautiful" initiative.

Proclamations set to be signed Tuesday will create the Chuckwalla National Monument in Southern California near Joshua Tree National Park and the Sáttítla National Monument in Northern California. The declarations bar drilling and mining and other development on the 624,000-acre (2,400-square-kilometer) Chuckwalla site and roughly 225,000 acres (800 square kilometers) near the Oregon border in Northern California.

The new monuments will protect clean water for communities, honor areas of cultural significance to tribal nations and Indigenous peoples, and enhance access to nature, the White House said.

Biden, who has two weeks left in office, is set to visit Los Angeles and the Eastern Coachella Valley on Tuesday after meeting Monday with the families of the victims in the New Year's attack in New Orleans.

Biden announced Monday he will ban new offshore oil and gas drilling in most U.S. coastal waters, including in California and other West Coast states. The plan is intended to block possible efforts by the incoming Trump administration to expand offshore drilling.

The flurry of activity has been in line with the Democratic president's "America the Beautiful" initiative launched in 2021, aimed at honoring tribal heritage, meeting federal goals to conserve 30% of public lands and waters by 2030 and addressing climate change.

The Pit River Tribe has worked to get the federal government to designate the Sáttítla National Monument. The area is a spiritual center for the Pit River and Modoc Tribes and encompasses mountain woodlands and meadows that are home to rare flowers and wildlife.

A number of Native American tribes and environmental groups began pushing Biden to designate the Chuckwalla National Monument, named after the large desert lizard, in early 2023. The monument would protect public lands south of Joshua Tree National Park, spanning the Coachella Valley region in the west to near the Colorado River.

Advocates say the monument will protect a tribal cultural landscape, ensure access to nature for local residents and preserve military history sites.

"The designation of the Chuckwalla and Sáttítla National Monuments in California marks an historic step toward protecting lands of profound cultural, ecological and historical significance for all Americans," said Carrie Besnette Hauser, president and CEO of the nonprofit Trust for Public Land.

The new monuments "honor the enduring stewardship of Tribal Nations and the tireless efforts of local communities and conservation advocates who fought to safeguard these irreplaceable landscapes for future generations," Hauser said.

> The designation of the Chuckwalla and Sáttítla National Monuments in California marks an historic step toward protecting lands of profound cultural, ecological and historical significance for all Americans
>
> - Carrie Besnette Hauser, president and CEO of the nonprofit Trust for Public Land

National monuments like Chuckwalla and Sáttítla play a key role in addressing historical injustices and ensuring a more inclusive telling of America's history, she said.

The Chuckwalla monument is intended to honor tribal sovereignty by including local tribes as co-stewards, following in the footsteps of a recent wave of monuments such as the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, which is overseen in conjunction with five tribal nations.

"The protection of the Chuckwalla National Monument brings the Quechan people an overwhelming sense of peace and joy," the Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe said in a statement. "Tribes being reunited as stewards of this landscape is only the beginning of much-needed healing and restoration, and we are eager to fully rebuild our relationship to this place."

In May, the Biden administration expanded two national monuments in California — the San Gabriel Mountains in the south and Berryessa Snow Mountain in the north. In October, Biden designated the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary along the coast of central California, which will include input from the local Chumash tribes in how the area is preserved.

Last year, the Yurok Tribe in Northern

SEE **BIDEN** PAGE 11



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **58.5**

WEDNESDAY — ***VERY POOR*** | **SURF:** Shin to knee 0-1FT

Backside of the WNW swell that peaks Tuesday and there will also be some new shorter to mid-period NW swell mixing in. That spreads size around a little better and helps in the shape department. Santa Ana pattern looks likely with offshore flow for the morning continuing. Afternoon looking onshore.

THURSDAY — ***POOR TO FAIR*** | **SURF:** Shin to knee 0-1FT

A bit more SSW and less NW than Friday is likely - so potential for fun little lines at the points with more walled up shape at the beachbreaks. Stay tuned.

Weather

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 71. Windy, with a north northeast wind 25 to 35 mph decreasing to 15 to 25 mph.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 70.
Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 49.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/01/08	Wed	04:04 AM	5.48	H
2025/01/08	Wed	11:40 AM	0.32	L
2025/01/08	Wed	5:57 PM	2.90	H
2025/01/08	Wed	10:08 PM	2.09	L
2025/01/09	Thu	04:58 AM	5.87	H
2025/01/09	Thu	12:39 PM	-0.44	L
2025/01/09	Thu	7:17 PM	3.17	H
2025/01/09	Thu	11:14 PM	2.31	L
2025/01/10	Fri	05:51 AM	6.21	H
2025/01/10	Fri	1:29 PM	-1.03	L
2025/01/10	Fri	8:10 PM	3.45	H
2025/01/11	Sat	12:15 AM	2.35	L
2025/01/11	Sat	06:41 AM	6.47	H
2025/01/11	Sat	2:13 PM	-1.40	L
2025/01/11	Sat	8:51 PM	3.66	H
2025/01/12	Sun	01:09 AM	2.27	L
2025/01/12	Sun	07:28 AM	6.62	H
2025/01/12	Sun	2:53 PM	-1.54	L
2025/01/12	Sun	9:28 PM	3.80	H
2025/01/13	Mon	01:57 AM	2.15	L
2025/01/13	Mon	08:11 AM	6.62	H
2025/01/13	Mon	3:32 PM	-1.50	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: 1/6
17 34 46 66 67
Power#: 14
Jackpot: 240 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/3
20 42 46 59 69
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 62 M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 1/4
7 18 37 42 43
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: 14 M

FANTASY 5
Draw Date: 1/6
7 10 14 25 38

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 1/6
EVENING: 6 4 7
Draw Date: 1/6
MIDDAY: 6 2 1

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 1/6
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:42.46

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4493 HEAVY DUTY DEGREASER & CLEANER

Submission Deadline is February 6, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

BID #4494 GRAFFITI REMOVAL CONTRACTOR SERVICES

Submission Deadline is February 6, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: **Proposed Extension of Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance Number 2796 (CCS) Exempting City Projects During a Declared Local or State Emergency from Temporary Use Permit Requirements.**

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to extend Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance Number 2796 (CCS) exempting City-authorized uses during a declared local or state emergency from temporary use permit requirements. The Council adopted Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance Number 2796 (CCS) on December 17, 2024 and will expire unless extended by Council.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025 AT 7:00 PM**

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT:
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

You may also comment in person at the City Council hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment in person.

Address your comments to: City Clerk
Re: Extension of Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance Exempting City-authorized Uses from Temporary Use Permits

VIA EMAIL: councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: 1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please contact Steve Mizokami by e-mail at steve.mizokami@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 or (310) 917-6626 TDD at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Editor:

Why does Santa Monica tolerate unlicensed vehicle operators flagrantly violating traffic safety laws on our city streets, such as routinely running through stop signs and red lights, making unsafe turns, traveling against traffic, and even endangering pedestrians on sidewalks?

I am referring, of course, to persistent reckless and unsafe behavior by bicyclists, including constantly running through the new Stop Signs installed (supposedly for bicyclists' own safety), near the Idaho Avenue location of two serious collisions last year.

Indeed, a quick Google search suggests bicyclists refuse to stop (or even slow down) at Stop Signs because they find it "inconvenient" to do so. No word on whether they also find it inconvenient to cause collisions.

For anyone who doubts this unchecked recklessness causes injuries and even deaths consider that Santa Monica Department of Transportation data show bicyclists nearly equally at fault in serious crashes as motor vehicle drivers are, but far less likely to receive safety violation citations, as follows:

Bicycle-involved Fatal and Severe Injury crashes in Santa Monica (2010-2022)
Total: 72 = 100%
Driver at Fault: 31 = 43%
Cyclist at Fault: 26 = 36%
Other/No Fault: 15 = 21%
Citations at "Bicycle Safety Operations" (Sept-Dec 2023)
Total: 132 = 100%
Drivers: 97 = 73%
Bicyclists: 35 = 27%

Bottom line: The data clearly show safer-streets programs must include stronger enforcement of traffic safety laws for bicyclists.

To achieve safer streets, I suggest requiring license tags for bicycles to operate in Santa Monica. Make the tags easy to afford but expensive to avoid (i.e., a dollar or two for the tags, but a large fine for failure to display them), as well as establishing a DMV-like "point system" for violations of traffic safety laws and a schedule of fines and tag suspension if violation points accumulate.

After all, traffic safety enforcement does not tolerate any other class of vehicle operating unlicensed on city streets, routinely running through stop signs and red lights, making unsafe turns, traveling against traffic, and endangering pedestrians, so should not tolerate it from reckless bicyclists either.

Peter DiChellis, Santa Monica

Editor:

President Jimmy Carter's passing in his 100th year allows us to reflect on how much America has changed since he left the White House. After WWII, every American President in the 1940's, the 1950's and the 1960's devoted his policies to building up the Middle Class. By the time President Carter completed his term, the American Middle Class was the second largest Middle Class in the history of the world.

This all changed when Carter's successor, Ronald Reagan entered the White House. Reagan focused on huge tax cuts for the top 10% and paid for them by cutting virtually every program supporting middle class America. These policies were continued with more tax cuts for the top 10% by George W. Bush and Donald Trump. As a result, according to the Economic Policy Institute, the ration between the salaries of the average CEO to the average American worker went from 30.4/1 in 1979 to 399/1 in 2021. In addition, homelessness which was virtually non-existent in 1979 has increased almost 8000% since Jimmy Carter was President.

Harley Frankel, former Senior Staff Aide in The Carter White House

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After 2 years of shortfalls, California governor proposes $322B budget with no deficit

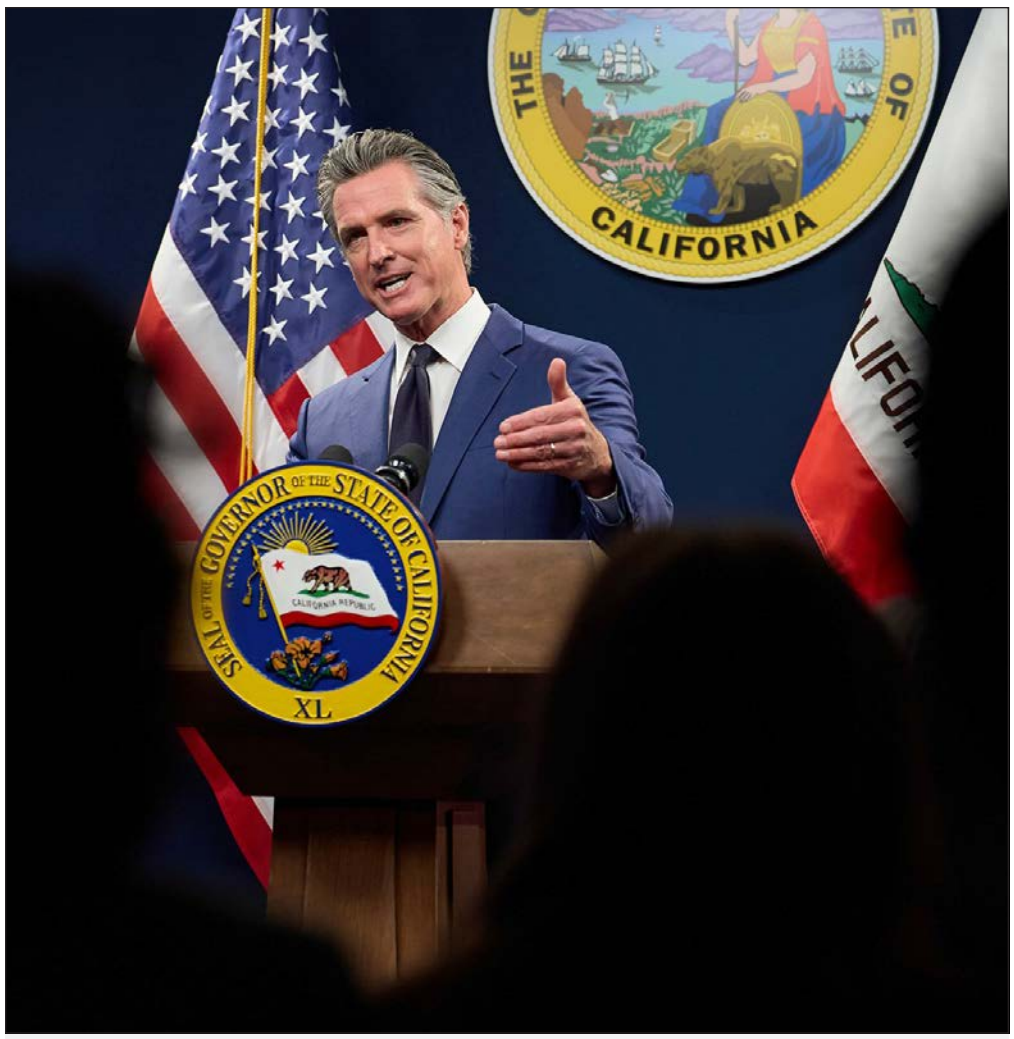


Photo by Fred Greaves for CalMatters

NEWSOM: A $322 billion budget without a deficit has been proposed by California Gov. Gavin Newsom.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has proposed a $322 billion budget without a deficit, a welcome change after two years of significant budget shortfalls in the nation's most populous state.

But the budget Newsom announced Monday is mostly a placeholder as California waits to see if incoming President Donald Trump will follow through on threats to revoke billions in federal dollars, which could force lawmakers to make painful cuts to essential programs. About a third of California's budget relies on funding from the federal government, including tens of billions of dollars to provide health care services. Trump takes office on Jan. 20, and Newsom must sign the final budget by the end of June.

> "This is not just a transportation project. This is a transformation project
>
> - Gavin Newsom, California Gov.

California lawmakers already opened a special session to consider giving a fresh $25 million to Attorney General Rob Bonta's office to defend against or take on potential legal challenges from the Trump administration. Fights are likely between California and Washington, D.C., over climate policy and immigrant rights. State senators have also proposed additional funding to provide free legal services to immigrant communities.

Finding a way to balance the budget in the face of potential federal funding losses will be a major test for Newsom, who is entering the last two years of his last term and continues to be seen as a future presidential contender.

One project that could be at risk is the state's high-speed rail project, which would eventually carry passengers between Los Angeles and San Francisco but is woefully underfunded and behind

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 7

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Malibu schools reopen only to close again due to wildfire

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

As students return to Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District campuses this week, the lingering impacts of pre-winter break are still being felt for the Malibu contingent.

On Monday, Webster Elementary School reopened for one minimum day after the campus closed due to damage from December's Franklin Fire, before all Malibu campuses were closed Tuesday and Wednesday due to safety concerns related to damaging winds in the area. SMMUSD officials stated they would continue to monitor the situation along with the City of Malibu and Southern California Edison (SCE).

Tuesday saw a new round of Santa Ana winds in the Malibu area that will continue into Wednesday, with the National Weather Service calling for damaging wind gusts up to 80 mph at the Malibu coast. Due to the high winds and increased wildfire risk, SCE issued a Public Safety Power Shutoff alert for parts of Malibu on Tuesday, including in areas where Malibu campuses reside.

Webster was not spared from the flames of the Franklin Fire, which was active between Dec. 9 and Dec. 18 and burned through over 4,000 acres of Malibu land, according to Cal Fire. SMMUSD reported that the fire damaged the campuses' ground array of solar panels, as well as damaged a few

SEE **MALIBU** PAGE 11



Courtesy Photo

MALIBU: Students returned to Webster Elementary School on Monday following damage suffered to the campus from the Franklin Fire.

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BUDGET

FROM PAGE 5

schedule. Trump canceled nearly $1 billion in federal funding during his first term in 2019, and several Republican Congress members are already taking aims at the project over its costs. President Joe Biden later restored the federal dollars allotted to it.

Perhaps anticipating a challenge, Newsom also traveled Monday to a construction site for the project to highlight progress including obtaining all environmental permits needed for building.

"This is not just a transportation project. This is a transformation project," Newsom said. "To the cynics that are filled with cynicism, that stand on the sidelines and don't engage, we're here making this work."

On the budget, Newsom gave few details about the proposed spending but boasted of progress on issues where the state has faced criticism, including investment on education and infrastructure and efforts to solve the homelessness crisis. The Democratic governor said he's optimistic about the state's future despite the uncertainties ahead.

"We're also walking into headwinds, a radically different moment in U.S. history," he said. "We need to be prepared."

Newsom's administration plans to provide more details on the budget proposal before Friday's deadline to present it to lawmakers. Newsom announced the numbers early before heading out of state for former President Jimmy Carter's funeral services.

Newsom said he's proposing little new spending, but the budget does allow the state to fully implement the country's first universal transitional kindergarten program, which would make such school free for some 400,000 4-year-olds throughout California. That's an effort Newsom has championed since 2021. His plan also includes increasing the state's film and TV tax credit to $750 million annually to bring back Hollywood jobs that have gone to New York and Georgia.

He said good planning in the last budget allowed the state to avoid a major shortfall this year.

"Last year, we endeavored to make this year's budget a nonevent," he said.

The governor's office also estimates tax revenues for this year are $16.5 billion above projections, thanks to the booming stock market and rapid income growth for high-income Californians.

That has helped the state weather the sluggish economy with limited job growth and ongoing weak consumer spending.

California's economy is the fifth-largest in the world. Last year the state faced an estimated $46.8 billion budget deficit and in the year before, a $32 billion budget shortfall. The state also saved $1.2 billion over two years by eliminating roughly 6,500 vacant positions in state departments and another $3.5 billion from cutting travel budgets and modernizing IT systems, Newsom said.

Still, such deficits have forced the state to pare back or delay some of its progressive policies that were fueled by record-breaking surpluses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unlike most states, California taxes capital gains — mostly money made from investments and stocks — at the same rate as money made from wages and salaries. The result is nearly half of the state's income tax collections comes from only 1% of the population. That has led to unpredictable, large swings in revenue in California's budget.

> We're looking at $20 to $30 billion deficits, and unless we start doing something to address that now, it's going to become very difficult
>
> - Roger Niello, Republican state Sen.

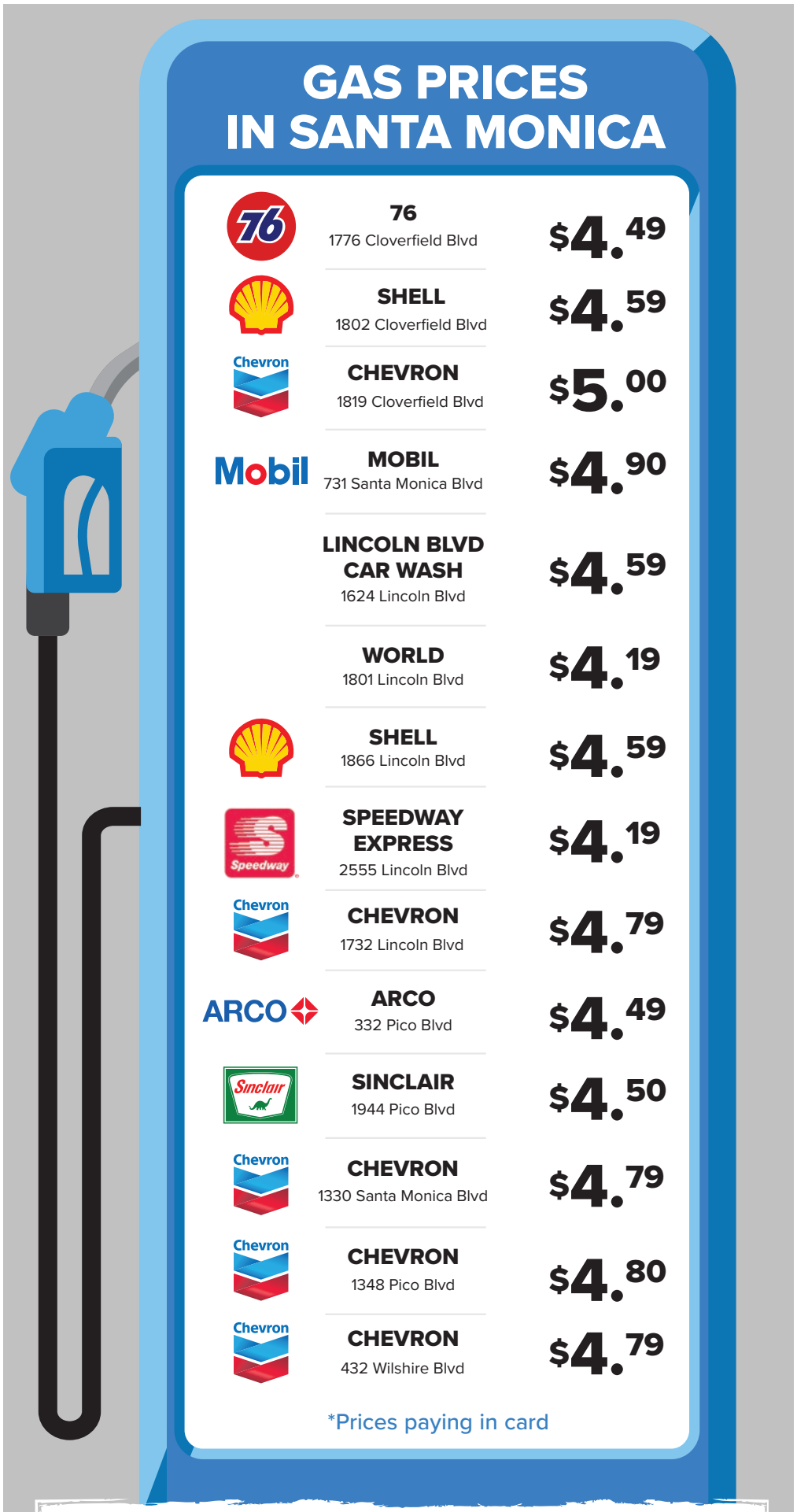
Republican state Sen. Roger Niello, who sits on the budget committee, said the governor failed to provide a plan to help address future budget deficits. In November, the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office warned the state could face double-digit shortfalls in the next few years.

"We're looking at $20 to $30 billion deficits, and unless we start doing something to address that now, it's going to become very difficult," Niello said in an interview.

Newsom said Monday that he supports efforts to grow the state's rainy day fund but acknowledged it would be a "herculean effort."

By TRÂN NGUYỄN Associated Press





Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have risen 2.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.35/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 3.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 34.8 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 1.5 cents in the last week and stands at $3.488 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.57/g yesterday while the most expensive was $5.26/g, a difference of $1.69/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was $3.29/g while the highest was $5.79/g, a difference of $2.50/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 5.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.03/g today. The national average is up 3.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 2.9 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

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[1] "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020
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6255

FIRE

FROM PAGE 1

In the Pacific Palisades neighborhood in western Los Angeles, a fire swiftly consumed nearly 2 square miles (just over 5 square kilometers) of land, sending up a dramatic plume of smoke visible across the city.

The entire Pacific Palisades Community was under an evacuation order on Tuesday and while flames were clearly visible just across the canyon in Santa Monica, the city was not in direct threat of the flames. However, residents in the Eastern area of Malibu were warned to be prepared to evacuate if the fire spread.

Santa Monica closed traffic on the PCH to facilitate evacuations as a steady stream residents moved south to escape the path of the fire.

It was one of several blazes across the area.

Sections of Interstate 10 and the scenic Pacific Coast Highway were closed to all non-essential traffic to aid in evacuation efforts. But other roads were blocked. Some residents jumped out of their vehicles to get out of danger and waited to be picked up.

Resident Kelsey Trainor said the only road in and out of her neighborhood was completely blocked. Ash fell all around them while fires burned on both sides of the road.

> We looked across and the fire had jumped from one side of the road to the other side of the road
>
> - Kelsey Trainor

"We looked across and the fire had jumped from one side of the road to the other side of the road," Trainor said. "People were getting out of the cars with their dogs and babies and bags, they were crying and screaming. The road was just blocked, like full-on blocked for an hour."

An Associated Press journalist saw a roof and chimney of one home in flames and another residence where the walls were burning. The neighborhood that borders Malibu about 20 miles (32 kilometers) west of downtown LA includes hillside streets of tightly packed homes along winding roads nestled against the Santa Monica Mountains and stretches down to beaches along the Pacific Ocean.

Long-time Palisades resident Will Adams said he was down in town when the fires started and immediately went to pick his two kids up from St. Matthews Parish's school, which is now in the line of the fire.

His wife, who was at home, was driving down the main evacuation road for residents in the upper part of the neighborhood when embers flew into her car.

"She vacated her car and left it running," Adams said. She and many other residents walked down toward the ocean until it was safe.

Adams said he had never seen a fire this low into the neighborhood in the 56 years he's lived there.

"It is crazy, it's everywhere, in all the nooks and crannies of the Palisades. One home's safe, the other one's up in flames," Adams said.

He watched as the sky turned brown and then black as homes started burning. He could hear loud popping and bangs "like small explosions," which he said he believes were the transformers exploding on the electric poles.

Actor James Woods posted footage of flames burning through bushes and past palm trees on a hill near his home. The towering orange flames billowed among the landscaped yards between the homes.

"Standing in my driveway, getting ready to evacuate," Woods said in the short video on X.

Actor Steve Guttenberg, who lives in the Pacific Palisades, urged people who abandoned their cars to leave their keys behind so they could be moved to make way for fire trucks.

"This is not a parking lot," Guttenberg told KTLA. "I have friends up there and they can't evacuate … I'm walking up there as far as I can moving cars."

The erratic weather caused President Joe Biden to cancel plans to travel to inland Riverside County, California, where he was to announce the establishment of two new national monuments in the state. Biden will deliver his remarks in Los Angeles instead.

The Los Angeles Unified School District said it was temporarily relocating students from three campuses in the Pacific Palisades area due to the fire.

Amazon and MGM Studios canceled a premiere of Jennifer Lopez's new film "Unstoppable" due to the fires and high winds.

The winds will act as an "atmospheric blow-dryer" for vegetation, bringing a long period of fire risk, said Daniel Swain, a climate scientist with the University of California, Los Angeles and the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

"We really haven't seen a season as dry as this one follow a season as wet as the previous one," Swain said Monday.

Recent dry winds, including the notorious Santa Anas, have contributed to warmer-than-average temperatures in Southern California, where there's been very little rain so far this season.

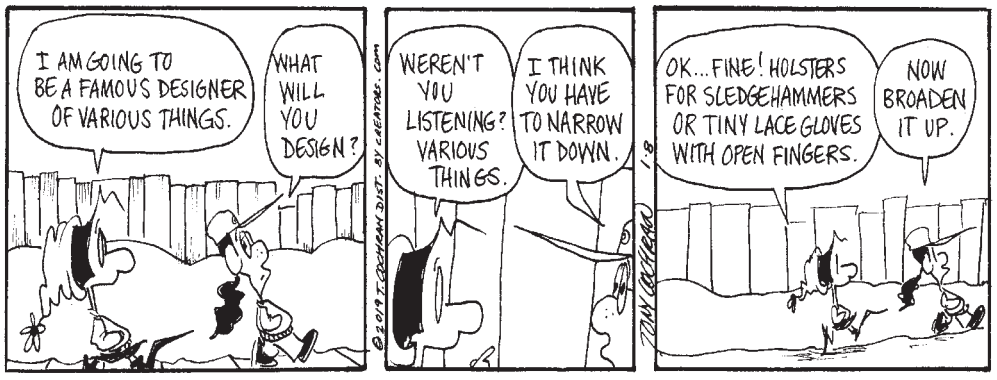
Southern California hasn't seen more than 0.1 inches (0.25 centimeters) of rain since early May. Much of the region has fallen into moderate drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Meanwhile, up north, there have been multiple drenching storms.

Areas where gusts could create extreme fire conditions include the charred footprint of last month's wind-driven Franklin Fire, which damaged or destroyed 48 structures, mostly homes, in and around Malibu.

Associated Press writers Jaimie Ding in Los Angeles contributed to this report, Julie Watson in San Diego, and videojournalist Eugene Garcia in Los Angeles contributed.

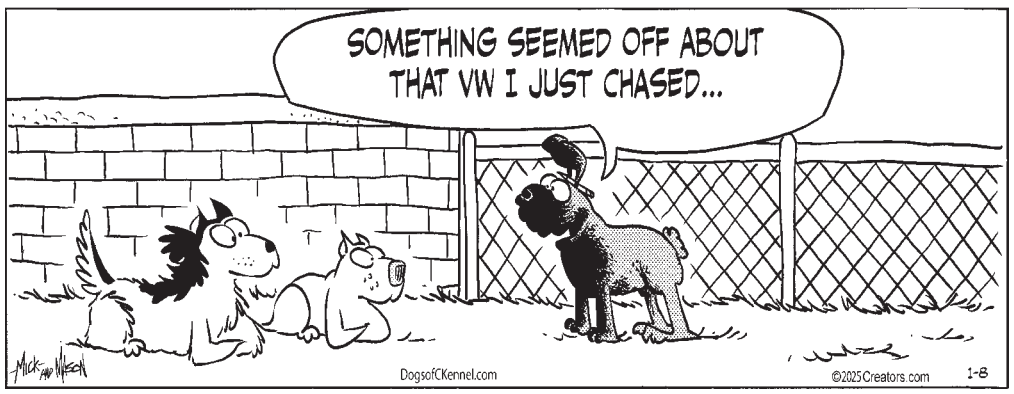
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



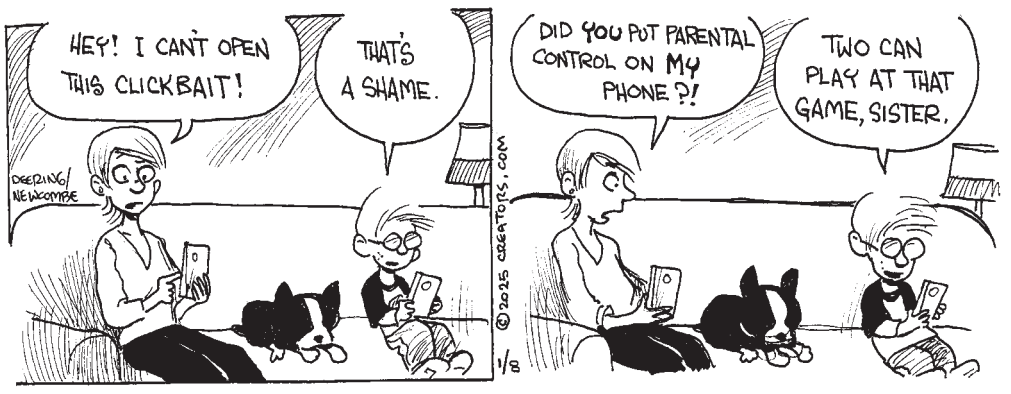
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



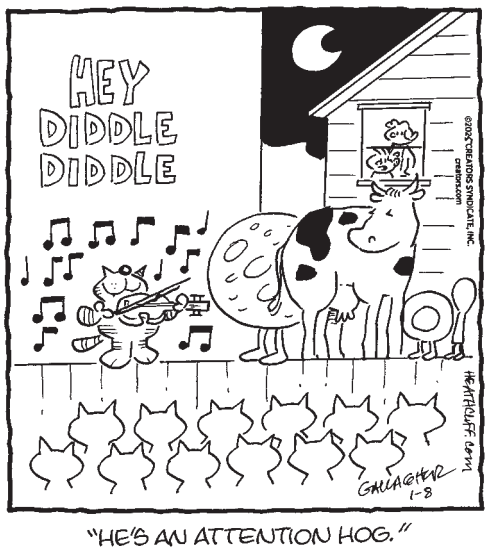
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

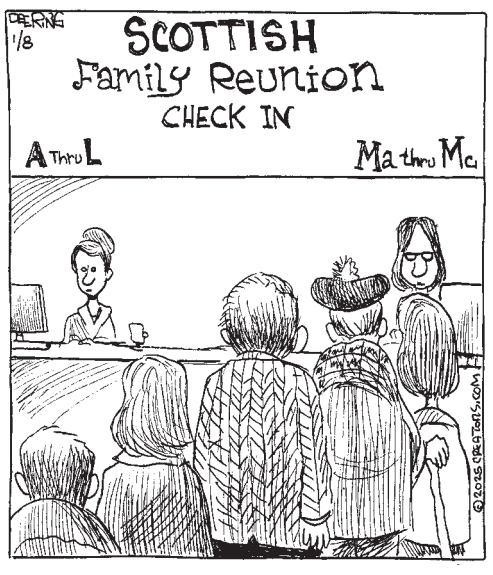
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S AN ATTENTION HOG."

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 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6449

Outback trek

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

Amata
Amble
Bore
Camp
Cart
Cautious
Ceduna
Centre
Cold
Copper
Crops
Danger
Dirty
Drums
Dry
Dusty
Echidnas
Empty
Emus
Fences
Fuel
Gates
Goanna
Heed
Ills
Lakes
Lead
Lizards
Madura
Mirages
Papunya
Rain
Resorts
Rice
Risk
Saddle
Safari
Salt
Scrub
Seasons
Snaps
Stones
Sun
Tank
Thorny devil
Tour
Travel
Vast
West
Zinc

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 8)

You'll enter the arena of ever-changing circumstances. Don't hesitate to adapt because it's what makes you a star. More highlights: Abundant charisma and chemistry is yours, and you'll win friends easily, start a group and become a legend. You'll update a skill. You'll sign a life-changing document. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 3, 33, 10 and 14.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Are they wondering what you're going to say and do next? Then you're in a good position. You have their attention, and that's enough to leverage into the next thing you need. You're on your way!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Many have meditated on world peace, though none did achieve it. Even so, do not doubt that harmonizing your being, in whatever way feels best to you, will make a difference. If you feel more at ease, so will others around you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've the dedication to do what it takes, but often the instructions aren't clearly stated. The importance of an observational process cannot be underestimated, and this takes patience and time to watch and learn. You have both, so relax into it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll strike a lovely balance with your communication today, with directness and specificity. Some of this is instinctual. Even if you haven't thought things through, you sense that the situation needs a confident approach and you rise to the occasion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Seeing others further along in their journey may leave you wishing you'd started sooner. You're here now, and that's what matters. However it looks, these are the ideal circumstances. Move forward and love and support will surround you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're effective on multiple levels today, practical, financial, emotional, and then there's something else - a realm of uncanny power or coincidence, however you want to see it. You'll think of someone, and then they show up in your world.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your choices may seem impractical, and this is because they absolutely are. Who said everything has to be practical? As you stave off the dullness of the world with capriciousness and whimsy, your approach favors more than just you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are many excellent aspects to pretending. But there are dangers, too. You never know when someone's going to believe the pretense, or worse prefer it. Whatever you pretend, today will require you to keep pretending in the future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When a solution comes easily, you'll move on to the next puzzle. When it doesn't, you'll keep after the one you have until there's a breakthrough. Either way, you're solving problems, so you can be proud of the fact that you're part of the solution.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You love to slip into a state of flow and join with an experience so that thought and action are one continuous wave. You'll be once more immersed in such a state, living the moment of your own peak performance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your social conscience will be activated once more. Whatever you buy is a signal of approval to the seller. To buy something is to promote the ways it was made. If you saw it made in front of you, would you feel differently about it?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You'll need less from the world, but you'll be given more. Paradoxically, when you stop chasing, things seem to flow to you effortlessly. Your self-sufficiency becomes magnetic, drawing opportunities and kindness from unexpected places.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

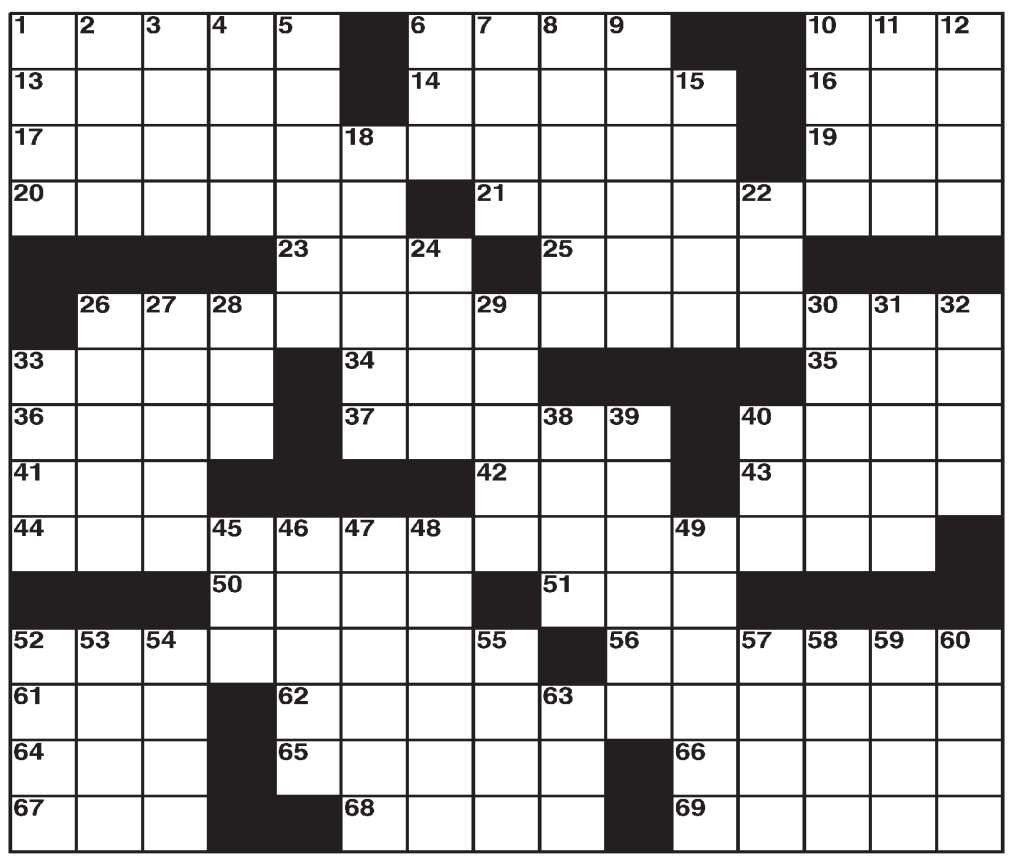
COOKBOOK BITS by Steve Faiella
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Aromatic closet wood
6 Informal discussion
10 Belly muscles
13 Wonderland girl
14 Backyard barbecue spot
16 Zodiac feline
17 Speedy Dodger or Yankee substitute
19 Light brown shade
20 Small sofa
21 Extremely attractive
23 Ingested
25 Word-of-mouth
26 Help slightly with a clue
33 Parks of civil rights fame
34 Liquid in a pen
35 "__ we there yet?"
36 Merely
37 Targets for a hammer
40 Voice of the iPhone
41 "Drink" suffix for lemon
42 Boy king of Egypt
43 Shakespeare's river
44 Quickly send some correspondence
50 Fencing sword
51 Granite State sch.
52 Ranch hands tending cattle
56 Boxes for oranges
61 "Now I understand!"
62 Mishandle an opportunity
64 Half of a dozen
65 Feudal laborers
66 Treat poorly
67 Any plaything
68 Job to be done
69 Saw socially

DOWN

1 Toothpaste tube tops
2 Novelist Wiesel
3 By __ of (due to)
4 S&L ID
5 Get leftovers ready
6 PC's "brain"
7 Install on a wall
8 When many go to lunch
9 __ del Fuego (South American island group)
10 Female choral voice
11 Boyfriend
12 Male children
15 Cathedral instrument
18 Keep possession of
22 Right-angle shapes
24 Sicilian volcano
26 Toyota rival
27 Maui and Sicily
28 Roll-call "no" vote
29 Japanese dog
30 Give up, as a right
31 Wrong move
32 Horse rider's strap
33 Highway
38 Amazing thing
39 Foul odor
40 Occupied a chair
45 Sarcastic laugh
46 Newspaper essays, for short
47 Weasel-like animal
48 Indiana Jones' hat
49 Sewing needle insert
52 Group seen in a play
53 Cincinnati's state
54 Candlelike in feel
55 UV protection numbers
57 Swedish singing foursome
58 With no slack
59 "If all __ fails..."
60 Winter glider
63 Scolding sound



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01/08/25

MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

TREE

FROM PAGE 2

To take advantage of this free service, please follow these simple steps:

- Remove the tree's stand.
- Remove any decorations, ornaments and lights.
- Place your tree at your normal collection spot (either curbside or alley).

"Our crews are working hard to pick up holiday trees to further divert materials from landfills and contribute to our sustainability," said Resource Recovery and Recycling Administrator Carlos Collard.

"We ask that residents remove the lights, decoration and the tree stand and leave the tree at your normal collection spot curbside or in the alley by January 31. Residents should not put the trees in their green bins to continue to save that space for their food scraps and yard waste. There's no need to submit a 311 request," Collard said.

According to Simonian, offering the holiday tree pickup service also allows residents to continue to use their green bins for food scraps and yard waste. Around this time of year, residents may have more gatherings centered around food and there may be more leaves and other yard waste to pick up. "We don't want trees to take up all the space in the green bin and not leave any room for food scraps and yard waste," she said.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

BIDEN

FROM PAGE 3

California also became the first Native people to manage tribal land with the National Park Service under a historic memorandum of understanding signed by the tribe, Redwood National and State Parks and the nonprofit Save the Redwoods League, which is conveying the land to the tribe.

By COLLEEN LONG and MATTHEW DALY Associated Press. Daly reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Jaimie Ding in Los Angeles and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

MALIBU

FROM PAGE 6

perimeter buildings and roofs. Prior to the winter break, students and staff at Webster who wanted to learn or work relocated to Malibu Elementary. Malibu Elementary, Malibu Middle and Malibu High Schools reopened post-fire on Dec. 16.

In a note to the community on Jan. 5, SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton stated that a professional restoration/cleaning service and industrial hygienist "worked hard during winter break to ensure the campus is clean, healthy, safe and ready for staff and students to return."

"I saw for myself the destruction of the Franklin Fire to parts of Malibu including areas around Webster Elementary ... we are thankful to the Los Angeles County Fire Department and CalFire for their brave and tremendous efforts to keep the fire from wreaking more havoc on our beloved school," Shelton said.

Work over the break included cleaning and restoring all classroom contents, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, electronics, carpets, floors and building exteriors. Additional cleaning in campus spaces, such as the library, will continue as students return to school.

"I wish you all the best as we kick off the start of our spring semester of the 2024-25 school year," Shelton added. "We are looking forward to a great start of the year with student learning, curiosity, enthusiasm and a sense of belonging at our Malibu schools."

The future of Malibu's Middle and High campus was also in focus before the winter break, as the SMMUSD Board of Education awarded an agreement with C.W. Driver, LLC., for Preliminary Services of the campus plan's Phase 2. The phase, which will begin construction in summer of 2026, will bring a new Middle School Hub Building, gymnasium/multi-purpose space, and natatorium/pool to the campus.

> I saw for myself the destruction of the Franklin Fire to parts of Malibu including areas around Webster Elementary ... we are thankful to the Los Angeles County Fire Department and CalFire for their brave and tremendous efforts to keep the fire from wreaking more havoc on our beloved school
>
> - Dr. Antonio Shelton, SMMUSD Superintendent

thomas@smdp.com

To learn how to feature your upcoming event on the SMDP and various digital event calendars

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WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 8

STRATEGIES TO PREVENT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Virtually. Conversations around body safety should happen in every family and can be done with ease and without fear or discomfort. Come discover how you can start this conversation with your child today. To register for the Zoom meeting, visit: https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4p37ye0tx7x8156869h449vpwk/202501081030.

COMPUTER BASICS - ONLINE SAFETY

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Computer Training Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Tips and tricks to protect yourself from scams when working or playing online. For beginners.

THURSDAY | JANUARY 9

UPDATE ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Monica Moore, from the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Research and Care at UCLA, discusses the latest findings related to the symptoms and causes of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Learn about the latest treatments available and research being conducted to find a cure.

RENT CONTROL BOARD MEETING

7 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations.

TAYLOR SWIFT NIGHT

7 - 11:30 p.m. The Buffalo Club, 1520 Olympic Blvd. The Eras Tour is coming to an end and there's a Taylor-shaped hole in our hearts. Come join us to celebrate Taylor and all her Eras of music. Night includes Taylor Swift Music Bingo and a Taylor Swift Look-a-like competition. Tickets $19.89, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/taylor-swift-night-tickets-1096408761119.

FRIDAY | JANUARY 10

POLITICS & LUNCH

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The Huntley Hotel Santa Monica Beach, 1111 Second St. Meet new Santa Monica City Councilmembers Ellis Raskin, Barry Snell and Natalya Zernitskaya with Q&A and Networking. To register, visit: https://santamonicachamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/24916.

SATURDAY | JANUARY 11

GROWING HERBS SUCCESSFULLY

9 - 11 a.m. Main Street Community Garden, 2318 Main St. Join for a special workshop by Stephen Reid, UC Master Gardener and certified herbalist on Growing Herbs Successfully. He will focus on tips and techniques to grow herbs, how to grow herbs in small spaces and containers, and how to start from seeds vs. small plants. He will also discuss using herbs for general wellness and their unique medicinal properties focusing on Nettles, Calendula and Rosemary. Limited seating, please bring a chair or blanket.

SANTA MONICA ARTS COMMISSION

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. City art and culture programs are guided by the 9-member Santa Monica Arts Commission, which was formally established in 1982 to ensure a regular and ongoing assessment of art programs in the City. Appointed by the Santa Monica City Council, Arts Commissioners advise the Council on matters of policy, and strive to encourage the flow of art into the City and stimulate art activity here.

PROJECT SAVE OUR SURF BEACH CLEAN UP

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Santa Monica Beach Tower 26, 2559 Ocean Front Walk. Join Project Save Our Surf for a fun afternoon of music and refreshments cleaning the beach. Buckets and gloves will also be provided for the cleanup. To register, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/project-save-our-surf-beach-clean-up-tickets-1126335532899.

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

1 - 2:30 p.m. Santa Monica Pier, 1594 Ocean Ave. For each Master Your Camera Controls session, a maximum of 5 attendees sit for 90 minutes with the instructor who will walk you through the manual camera controls of your specific camera. Have fresh batteries and a card for your camera. Tickets $98, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-your-camera-controls-photography-workshop-tickets-949333430847.

AUTHOR EVENT

4 - 5 p.m. Zibby's Bookshop, 1113 Montana Ave. Zibby's Bookshop is excited to welcome Dr. Jay Zigmont and Florence Wlodarski to celebrate "The Childfree Guide to Life and Money," an essential and comprehensive personal finance and money management guide for Childfree and Permanently Childless people. General admission free, copy of the book $20, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/author-event-dr-jay-zigmont-x-florence-wlodarski-tickets-1117952288389.

REFLECTIONS- A ONE-MAN PLAY

7 - 8:30 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. Actor Pierce Wallace's one-man play on President Lyndon Baines Johnson from Texas. 55 minute run-time. Reception to follow. Tickets $25, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reflections-a-one-man-play-by-pierce-wallace-tickets-1113159001539.

SUNDAY | JANUARY 12

SNOWY PLOVER BEACH WALK

9 - 10:30 a.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. Explore the restored dune habitat and life cycle of the small, white snowy plovers that make this stretch of beach their winter home. To register, visit: https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4bndjxgq3y06963nd58awy-qswn/202501120900.

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