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Illegally blocked billion.

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5 How Can We Stop

LA firestorms from happening again.



Volume 25 Issue 41

WEDNESDAY 1/14/26

smdp.com

County breaks ground on parking structure to triple capacity at Marina del Rey

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Los Angeles County has begun construction on a new public parking structure that will nearly triple parking capacity at one of the county's most popular coastal destinations.

The facility at Lot 4, located near Admiralty Way and Mindanao Way across from Trader Joe's, will provide 368 parking spaces when completed in late fall 2026. The lot closed Dec. 1 for construction.

"We've heard from Marina del Rey residents and families traveling from inland communities that limited parking is a real barrier to enjoying all that Marina del Rey has to offer," said Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell. The investment "helps remove parking obstacles and create a more accessible and inclusive waterfront for generations to come," she said.

The project is part of Marina del Rey for All, a county initiative aimed at improving public access to the waterfront by consolidating surface parking into multi-level structures.

Gary Jones, director of the Department of Beaches and Harbors, said the expansion addresses a critical need for families

SEE MARINA DEL REY PAGE 8

Father-Son team returns to war zone with lifesaving supplies



Courtesy photo

DUO: Brody Wilkes and Richard "Rich" Wilkes.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

A local restaurant will donate a portion of its sales this weekend to support a father-son humanitarian mission delivering vehicles and medical supplies to Ukrainian soldiers on the front lines.

Edgemar Restaurant + Lounge

on Main Street will host a two-day fundraiser Thursday and Friday, with proceeds from dinner service going toward the convoy scheduled to depart for Ukraine in late January. The event will also feature a virtual auction of items brought back from Ukraine, including military patches, a flag signed by soldiers, and the opportunity to name one of

the vehicles being delivered.

Brody Wilkes, who is undertaking the mission with his father, said the need for aid remains urgent.

"The war is not yet over," Wilkes said. "While I was lucky enough to enjoy the holidays safely with my

SEE FATHER-SON PAGE 11

SEE PARKING PAGE 11

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Court says Trump admin illegally blocked billions in clean energy grants to Democratic states

A federal judge ruled Monday that the Trump administration acted illegally when it canceled \$7.6 billion in clean energy grants for projects in states that voted for Democrat Kamala Harris in the 2024 election.

The grants supported hundreds of clean energy projects in 16 states, including battery plants, hydrogen technology projects, upgrades to the electric grid and efforts to capture carbon dioxide emissions.

The ruling was the second legal setback for the administration's rollback of clean energy program in a matter of hours. A separate federal judge ruled Monday that work on a major offshore wind farm for Rhode Island and Connecticut can resume, handing the industry at least a temporary victory as Trump seeks to shut it down.

A spokesman for the Energy Department said officials disagree with the judge's decision on clean energy grants.

Officials "stand by our review process, which evaluated these awards individually and determined they did not meet the standards necessary to justify the continued spending of taxpayer dollars," spokesman Ben Dietderich said. "The American people deserve a government that is accountable and responsible in managing taxpayer funds."

Projects were canceled in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Vermont and Washington state. All 16 targeted states supported Harris.

The cuts include up to \$1.2 billion for California's hydrogen hub that is aimed at accelerating hydrogen technology and production, and up to \$1 billion for a hydrogen project in the Pacific Northwest. A Texas hydrogen project and a three-state project in West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania were spared, according to clean-energy supporters who obtained a list of the DOE targets.

The city of St. Paul and a coalition of environmental groups filed a lawsuit after they lost grants.

Trump said in an interview last fall with One America News, a conservative outlet, that his administration could cut projects that Democrats want. "I'm allowed to cut things that never should have been approved in the first place and I will probably do that," Trump said in the Oct. 1 interview.

Vickie Patton, general counsel for the Environmental Defense Fund, one of the groups that filed the suit, said the court ruling "recognized that the Trump Department of Energy vindictively canceled projects for clean affordable energy that just happened to be in states disfavored by the Trump administration, in violation of the bedrock Constitutional guarantee that all people in all states have equal protection under the law."

The administration's actions violated the Constitution, foundational American values and "imposed high costs on the American people who rely on clean affordable energy for their pocketbooks and for healthier lives," Patton said.

Anne Evens, CEO of Elevate Energy, one of the groups that lost funding, said the court ruling would help keep clean energy affordable and create jobs.

"Affordable energy should be a reality for everyone, and the restoration of these grants is an important step toward making that possible," she said.

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

At-home STD tests offer new options for screening and treatment

New options for testing and treating some of the most common sexually transmitted diseases are becoming available, a trend that experts hope will keep downward pressure on U.S. infection rates.

Last year, the Food and Drug Administration approved the first at-home test that can detect three common infections in women — gonorrhea, chlamydia and trichomoniasis — as well as the first home-based kit for the virus that causes cervical cancer.

The agency ended the year by approving two different drugs for gonorrhea, the first new options for the disease in decades.

It's positive news after cases of sexually transmitted infections reached alarming highs before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted screening, education and treatment for sexual health nationwide.

But the pandemic years also brought positive developments for testing. The same technology used for the first over-the-counter coronavirus tests is now being translated into home-based kits for syphilis and other sexually transmitted infections. Previously, the FDA had mostly limited the use of such tests to health professionals.

"Sexual health can be stigmatized and people can be hesitant about testing," said Dr. Ina Park, a sexual health specialist at the University of California, San Francisco. "Now we have a lot of options for patients who may be wary of going into a provider's office."

NEW TESTS OFFER CONVENIENCE AND QUICKER TURNAROUND TIMES

Testing company Visby Medical launched its three-in-one test for women last year, following FDA approval in March. The urine-based test includes a vaginal testing swab and a small electronic device that develops the results and sends them to an online app for review.

The test, which costs \$150, also includes a telehealth consultation with a medical provider who can discuss the results and prescribe antibiotics or other medication, if needed.

The entire process — from buying the test to getting a prescription — can take as little as six hours, compared with several days under the traditional testing model, says Dr. Gary Schoolnik, Visby's chief medical officer.

Previously, a nurse or doctor would have to collect a sample, send it out to a lab, get the results and then schedule a follow-up appointment to discuss the results.

"Many patients are very hard to track down and a lot of them, if they have a positive test result, are never treated and are lost to follow-up," said Schoolnik, who is also a professor emeritus at Stanford Medical School.

The FDA approved Visby's test based on study results showing that it correctly detected the three infections with accuracy rates around 98% or higher. That's similar to tests performed at hospitals and health clinics.

Some home-based tests still require outside input to get the results.

For example, in May the FDA approved

Teal Health's testing kit for HPV, the virus that causes cervical cancer. The company's Teal Wand allows women to collect their own vaginal sample, which is then placed in a tube and shipped to a laboratory for processing.

“

Many patients are very hard to track down and a lot of them, if they have a positive test result, are never treated and are lost to follow-up

- Dr. Gary Schoolnik

”

Updated federal guidelines for HPV screening released earlier this month endorsed self collection for the first time.

THE FDA RECENTLY APPROVED THE FIRST NEW GONORRHEA DRUGS IN DECADES

The bacteria that causes gonorrhea has constantly evolved, developing resistance to nearly every antibiotic used to treat it.

Both of the two new drugs can be taken by mouth, a major advantage over the current standard of care: an injection of the antibiotic ceftriaxone.

Nuzolvenc, developed through a public-private partnership, comes in granules that dissolve in water. Bluejepa, from GlaxoSmithKline, is a tablet that is also approved to treat urinary tract infections.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention previously recommended another drug, oral azithromycin, alongside injectable ceftriaxone, but dropped the pill from its guidance after signs that gonorrhea was growing resistant to it.

"We were down to one class of antibiotics recommended to treat gonorrhea and we had no other good options," said Park. "So to have two new options in the same year is very exciting."



Surf report

WATER TEMP: 59.9

WEDNESDAY | SURF: 1-2ft
POOR TO FAIR

Knee to thigh

Overlapping run of WNW swell continues - plan around the big tide swings. Mid period WNW leftovers linger from the early week swell, new round of long period WNW swell moves in through the second half of the day. Expect the morning high/dropping tide to be slow but occasionally fun on the right gear. WNW swell energy nudges up a bit later in the day as the tide turns around. Wind currently looks favorable - light offshore flow early, weak onshore W wind developing through the afternoon.

THURSDAY | SURF: 1-2ft
POOR TO FAIR

Knee to thigh

Fresh round of WNW swell tops out with fun surf for the winter points. Quality WNW swell peaks, deepwater swell in the same range all day. Points that handle the AM tide offer a good early morning window. Size is going to be pretty close to later Tuesday. Spots that can't handle the higher tide are slow early and improve by the mid to later morning as the tide starts to drop. Spots that favor a negative low tide are the go in the afternoon.

Weather

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 78. North northeast wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around 49. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 77. North northeast wind around 5 mph.

Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 48.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/01/14	Wed	06:01 AM	5.26	H
2026/01/14	Wed	1:42 PM	-0.25	L
2026/01/14	Wed	8:32 PM	3.27	H
2026/01/15	Thu	12:15 AM	2.67	L
2026/01/15	Thu	6:41 AM	5.52	H
2026/01/15	Thu	2:13 PM	-0.55	L
2026/01/15	Thu	8:55 PM	3.39	H
2026/01/16	Fri	12:56 AM	2.53	L
2026/01/16	Fri	7:17 AM	5.76	H
2026/01/16	Fri	2:42 PM	-0.76	L
2026/01/16	Fri	9:17 PM	3.49	H
2026/01/17	Sat	01:32 AM	2.36	L

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Draw Date: 10/11
22 24 40 52 64
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 20 M



Draw Date: 10/11
20 23 26 31 33



Draw Date: 10/10
3 8 17 46 63
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 48 M



Draw Date: 10/12
MIDDAY: 4 9 2
Draw Date: 10/11
EVENING: 3 1 3



Draw Date: 10/11
17 30 36 38 39
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 17 M



Draw Date: 10/11
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:40.30

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Name Change

Name Change

DBA

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00645. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Katherine Chen for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Katherine Chen filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Katherine Chen to Katherine Chen Mason. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 01/24/2026, Time: 8:40 A.M., Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 12/17/2025. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/24/2025, 12/31/2025, 01/07/2026, 01/14/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00006. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Fang Shi for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Fang Shi filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Shiyuan Zhang to Simon Shiyuan Zhang. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 02/13/26, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 01/06/2026. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/14/2026, 01/21/2026, 01/28/2026, 02/04/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00642. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Richard Bruce Spitznass Jr. for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Richard Bruce Spitznass Jr. filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Richard Bruce Spitznass Jr. to Richard B. Spitznass. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 01/22/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 12/16/2025. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/24/2024, 12/31/2024, 01/07/2025, 01/14/2025

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OPINION

UNMUTED

Devan Sipher

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How do we keep our humanity and our sanity?

Believe it or not, we're only two weeks into the new year. It should be a time of rejuvenation and optimism, but, instead, it feels like we're slogging through a daily assault from our news feed. This article isn't about the latest authoritarian outrage du jour, nor is it about any kneejerk leftwing response. This article is for everyone else, everyone who is simply trying to go about their lives with a modicum of stability.

The past week, I've been repeatedly finding myself in my kitchen with my hand in a box of cereal, without knowing how I got there. But when I replay the sequence of events, there's a pattern. One moment I'm reading about the President threatening a political adversary or an island nation, and the next thing I know, I'm in the kitchen. I don't pass "Go." I don't collect \$200. I just go directly to carb loading. The only thing worse than doom scrolling is doom binging.

The healthier response might be to avoid reading or watching the news, to avert our gaze until things return to normal. But that assumes that things will in fact return to normal, and there's no guarantee. We are in uncharted territory, at least in this country. In Venezuela, there were years of acquiescence as Hugo Chávez transformed a wealthy democracy into a pariah state, and most of us know what happened to Germany in the 1930s.

I'm not saying that we're headed in the same direction. I'm just saying that it's a possibility, and the notion that it's even a possibility is unacceptable. It should be inconceivable, and we owe it to ourselves to make it so. It's our obligation to stay informed, to be vigilant, and to speak out. And to teach our children to speak out against arrogance, greed and cruelty, of any political persuasion. We create the world we want to live in, with every word and action. As individuals we may seem vulnerable and powerless, but throughout history, it's when the vulnerable stand together that tyrants are defeated – and would-be tyrants as well.

I'm not suggesting it's easy. I started writing this column a week ago. Every time I sat down to write, I got up to eat. (There's a theme here.) I wanted to avoid this topic almost as much as I wanted to write about it. I'm guessing I'm not the only one experiencing an internal tug of war about engaging with the deluge of unsettling headlines, but since I have subscriptions to nine newspapers,

I seem to be glutton for punishment. However, being a news junkie (by trade and predilection), I have a couple hacks that might be helpful in this era of media overload:

1. For starters, I don't read any articles about news that's going to happen in the future. Reporters don't have crystal balls, so anytime they're writing about events that haven't yet occurred, it's merely speculation. If it's about potential Oscar nominations, it's relatively harmless, but when it comes to government actions, there's more than enough actual news to fret about without worrying about what's to come.

2. I don't read any articles about social media posts. I don't need to know what random thought the President (or his digital communications lackey) had at 3 a.m., and trust me on this, you don't either. If you're a fan, you can follow the account directly, and if you're a foe, you don't need the additional agitation.

These kinds of articles are empty calories, and they deplete our limited time and mental stamina. They exist largely because they're clickbait. It turns out that despite our protestations, we often enjoy getting riled up. We often choose to feel victimized. But if you're tempted to feel sorry for yourself in this new year, I recommend reading The New Yorker essay by the late Tatiana Schlossberg, who died December 30th.

Ms. Schlossberg, the daughter of Caroline Kennedy and granddaughter of President John F. Kennedy, found out she had leukemia immediately after giving birth to her own daughter in 2024. Rather than being home with her newborn and two-year-old son, she spent the next year and a half mostly in medical facilities, enduring bouts of repetitive surgeries and ravaging chemo that failed to buy her additional years with her young family.

It's so easy to think we have it hard, to imagine that others' lives are easier. We see this play out politically in red and blue states, as people dwell on injuries in the past and fears of the future rather than gratitude for what they have.

"Being in the present is harder than it sounds," Ms. Schlossberg wrote. It seems especially so right now, but her eloquent yearning for her loved ones reminds us how fortunate we are for whatever fleeting time we are granted. So let's be grateful in addition to vigilant. Let's be the leaders we need in 2026.

Devan Sipher can be reached at Devan@SMDP.com.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Here's how we can stop LA firestorms from happening again

Photo by Jules Hotz for CalMatters

FIRE: A chinook helicopter approaches the Palisades Fire as it burns Mandeville Canyon in Los Angeles on Jan. 10, 2025.

One year ago, in early January, the Eaton and Palisades fires devastated the communities of Altadena and Pacific Palisades. Driven by extremely dry, warm and powerful winds, the fires destroyed more than 10,000 homes and claimed at least 31 lives.

HOW CAN WE MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN?

The good news is, science has provided a clear answer: The only effective way to protect homes and lives from wildfires is to implement direct measures to create fire-safe communities — including home hardening, defensible space pruning next to homes and businesses, and evacuation planning and assistance.

This community-based approach is highly successful in saving towns from firestorms.

Importantly, the evidence also indicates that vegetation removal and management beyond 100 feet from homes and other structures provide no additional safety benefit.

More bad news: State and federal politicians of both parties are supporting

the wrong things.

At the state level, only 2% of all wildland fire funding is being allocated to the proven fire-safe community measures, while the other 98% is being spent ineffectively, mostly on activities in wildlands, such as logging and removal of chaparral, distant from homes.

And at the federal level, there are no requirements that any wildland fire funds be spent on fire-safe community measures. The Infrastructure Act of 2021 includes hollow language about community wildfire protection but focuses on logging in the "wildland urban interface."

The Act not only ignores many at-risk communities that are nowhere near forests — such as Altadena and Pacific Palisades — but it also defines the wildland urban interface so broadly that it allows backcountry logging on public lands, miles from the nearest home.

Even after the profound losses of homes and lives in the Eaton and Palisades fires, Congress' response so far

SEE FIRE PAGE 8

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Man accused of recklessly driving U-Haul into Iran protest in Los Angeles, police say

A man accused of steering a U-Haul truck toward a Los Angeles demonstration over the weekend in support of Iran's protests was arrested on suspicion of reckless driving but was not formally charged and was subsequently released Monday, authorities said.

The Los Angeles Police Department said in a press release that officers monitoring the protest Sunday stopped the box truck and directed the driver to turn around as he was approaching a large crowd. Video posted on social media shows the truck speeding down a road where protesters were gathered on the sidewalk, as some shout in surprise.

After police stopped the truck, protesters descended on it and tore off a banner on it that read "No Shah. No Regime. USA: Don't Repeat 1953. No Mullah." The crowd attacked the driver who then drove toward a group of officers as demonstrators jumped out of the way, the department said. Officers then formed a line between the crowd and the driver before taking him into custody.

Police initially said one person was hit by the truck, but on Monday the department said no one was struck. Two people declined treatment after paramedics evaluated them at the scene, the fire department said.

The sign on the box truck was an apparent reference to a U.S.-backed coup in that year that toppled then-Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh, who had nationalized the country's oil industry. The coup cemented the shah's power and lit the fuse for the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which saw Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini usher in the theocracy that still governs the country.

From exile in the United States, Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi, the son of the shah who fled Iran just before the Islamic Revolution, has called on Iranians to join the demonstrations. Some Iranians have chanted pro-shah slogans, which were once

punishable by death, highlighting the anger fueling demonstrations that began over Iran's sanctions-crippled economy.

The protesters gathered Sunday afternoon in Westwood, a Los Angeles neighborhood that's home to the largest Iranian community outside the country. Some of the demonstrators were waving Iran's lion and sun flag, an emblem of its former ruler, the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Some of the Iranian diaspora in the United States support the end of the Iranian government's rule but oppose a return of the monarchy.

Videos shared on social media show demonstrators scrambling out of the truck's way while a few chase after it. The vehicle stopped several blocks away, its windshield, mirrors and a window shattered. ABC7 news helicopter footage showed police officers keeping the crowd at bay while demonstrators swarmed the truck, throwing punches at the driver and thrusting flagpoles through the driver's side window.

The city attorney's office did not immediately respond to emails and voicemails asking about possible charges against the 48-year-old driver. Police said he was arrested on suspicion of reckless driving. He hadn't yet been officially charged and was released on Monday.

Investigators searched the truck, "with nothing significant being found," the police statement said.

U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened Iran with military action over its crackdown on protesters in nationwide demonstrations that activists said Monday had left nearly 600 dead across the country.

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press. Associated Press journalists Julie Watson in San Diego and Michael Catalini in Trenton, N.J., contributed to this report.

STD

FROM PAGE 3

THE NEW TESTS AND DRUGS COME AS STD RATES ARE FALLING AGAIN

The CDC's provisional data for 2024 showed a third consecutive year of fewer gonorrhea cases, and the second year in a row of fewer adult cases of chlamydia and the most infectious forms of syphilis.

Experts point to several factors behind the trend, including less sexual activity among young people, increased use of an antibiotic as a morning-after pill to prevent infections and more at-home screening.

The new tests could drive further reductions, although some experts urge caution.

As more people test at home it could become harder to track national infection

rates, which previously have been reported by a handful of large testing laboratories.

Additionally, the new tests and drugs come with higher price tags that may limit access. For example, Visby's \$150 test is not covered by insurance.

Add to that recent Trump administration funding cuts to the CDC and other public health agencies and there could be more challenges on the horizon.

"I'm feeling very optimistic about the fact that people have more testing options and also that we now have access to new drugs," Park said. "What I fear is these cuts to public health are going to decrease access to sexual health care for populations who can least afford to take advantage of these new options."

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press

editor@smdp.com

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 1.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.31/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 21.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 6.9 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 2.3 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$3.475 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at \$3.29/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$5.79/g, a difference of \$2.50/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.29/g while the highest was \$6.79/g, a difference of \$4.50/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 0.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.73/g today. The national average is down 17.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 28.9 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.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Inflation cooled slightly in December though it remains above Fed's target

Inflation cooled a bit last month as prices for gas and used cars fell, a sign that stubbornly elevated cost pressures are slowly easing.

Consumer prices rose 0.3% in December from the prior month, the Labor Department said Tuesday, the same as in November. Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core prices rose 0.2%, also matching November's figure. Increases at that pace, over time, would bring inflation closer to the Federal Reserve's target of 2%.

Many economists had expected inflation to jump last month as the government resumed normal data collection after the six-week shutdown last fall, so the modest increases that matched the November figures came as a relief. The price of manufactured goods was flat in December, a sign that the impact of tariffs may be starting to fade.

"Distortions caused by the government shutdown have made the inflation data harder to interpret, but the recent run of figures suggests inflation has peaked," Michael Pearce, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics, wrote in a note to clients.

Signs that inflation is cooling could make it more likely that the Federal Reserve will reduce its key interest rate later this year, which could translate into lower borrowing costs for mortgages, auto loans, and credit cards.

Even so, the large price increases in recent years for necessities such as groceries, rent, and utilities have left many American households feeling squeezed, turning "affordability" issues into high-profile political concerns. Food prices have jumped about 25% since the pandemic.

President Donald Trump, stung by last year's election results that suggested voters are souring on his handling of the economy, has responded with an array of initiatives intended to address rising costs, including a proposed ban on Wall Street firms buying homes, a 10% cap on credit card interest rates, and the suspension of many tariffs on imported goods, such as coffee, pasta, and furniture.

Still, grocery prices jumped 0.7% in December from the previous month, a sign food costs remain elevated. Compared with a year ago, food prices have risen 2.4%, Tuesday's figures showed, a bigger increase than in 2024 or 2023.

Trump celebrated Tuesday's figures on social media: "Great (LOW!) Inflation numbers for the USA," he posted. He also celebrated estimates that the economy expanded at a solid pace in last year's fourth quarter: "Thank you MISTER TARIFF!"

Yet in a speech Monday, John Williams, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and a key member of the Fed's rate-setting committee, said that tariffs have likely increased inflation by about a half-percentage point.

"Tariffs aside, underlying inflation trends have been pretty favorable, and we're seeing no signs of broader inflationary pressures," Williams said. He expects inflation will peak in the first half of this year, before declining toward 2% by 2027.

Tuesday's report is the first clear measure of inflation since September. The six-week government shutdown last fall suspended the collection of price data used to compile the

inflation rate, and the government didn't issue a report in October and November's figures were partially distorted by the impact of the closure.

Most prices in November were collected in the second half of the month, after the government reopened, when holiday discounts kicked in, which may have biased November inflation lower. And since rental prices weren't fully collected in October, the agency that prepares the inflation reports used placeholder estimates in November, that may have biased prices lower, economists said.

Still, Tuesday's report suggested that inflation didn't change even with newer, more comprehensive figures. Consumer prices rose 2.7% in December, compared with a year ago, the same figure as November, while core prices increased 2.6% from a year earlier, also unchanged.

Inflation has come down significantly from the four-decade peak of 9.1% that it reached in June 2022, but it has been stubbornly close to 3% since late 2023. The cost of necessities such as groceries is about 25% higher than it was before the pandemic, and other necessities such as rent and clothing have also gotten more expensive, fueling dissatisfaction with the economy that both President Donald Trump and former President Joe Biden have sought to address, though with limited success.

The Federal Reserve has struggled to balance its goal of fighting inflation by keeping borrowing costs high, while also supporting hiring by cutting interest rates when unemployment worsens. As long as

inflation remains above its target of 2%, the Fed will likely be reluctant to cut rates much more.

The Fed reduced its key rate by a quarter-point in December, but Chair Jerome Powell, at a press conference explaining its decision, said the Fed would probably hold off on further cuts to see how the economy evolves.

Trump, meanwhile, has harshly criticized the Fed for not cutting its key short-term rate more sharply, a move he has said would reduce mortgage rates and the government's borrowing costs for its huge debt pile. Yet the Fed doesn't directly control mortgage rates, which are set by financial markets.

In a move that cast a shadow over the ability of the Fed to fight inflation in the future, the Department of Justice served the central bank last Friday with subpoenas related to Powell's congressional testimony in June about a \$2.5 billion renovation of two Fed office buildings. Trump administration officials have suggested that Powell either lied about changes to the building or altered plans in ways that are inconsistent with those approved by planning commissions.

In a blunt response, Powell said Sunday those claims were "pretexts" for an effort by the White House to assert more control over the Fed.

"The threat of criminal charges is a consequence of the Federal Reserve setting interest rates based on our best assessment of what will serve the public, rather than following the preferences of the President," Powell said.

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

Happy Birthday Marion!

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AT SANTA MONICA STATE BEACH



Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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or email legal@smdp.com

Summons

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) Case No. 24SMCV03549. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: JASPER HUNTER. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: JESSICA HUNTER. NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more

information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center, your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney is: Melissa Fox, Esq., 100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 700, Santa Monica, CA 90401, (310) 555-1234. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/14/2026, 01/21/2026, 01/28/2026, 02/04/2026

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MARINA DEL REY

FROM PAGE 1

visiting from inland neighborhoods.

"Parking is the starting point of their visit to the Marina," Jones said. "This project improves that experience by expanding capacity, adding modern amenities, and making it easier for people to get to the shoreline."

The new structure will operate 24 hours daily and include accessible parking stalls, electric vehicle charging stations and a redesigned surface lot. A pay-and-display system with on-site pay stations will manage the facility.

The project also incorporates public art. Artist team FreelandBuck will install abstract sail forms along the structure's Mindanao Way-facing exterior, celebrating the marina's maritime heritage.

A new plaza and rest area will connect the

parking structure to the Marvin Braude Bike Path and the Marina del Rey Visitors Center, supporting what officials call a "park once" approach that encourages visitors to explore on foot, by bicycle or via transit.

The Department of Beaches and Harbors manages Marina del Rey harbor and 23 miles of Los Angeles County beaches, including Zuma, Malibu Surfrider, Venice and Manhattan beaches. Marina del Rey attracts millions of visitors annually for recreation, waterfront dining and community events at Burton Chace Park.

During construction, alternate parking is available at other county-operated lots. Information is available at beaches.lacounty.gov/marina-parking.

The county is pursuing similar parking consolidation projects as part of its broader coastal access and climate resilience initiatives.

maaz@smdp.com



Courtesy photo

LOT: The facility at Lot 4, located near Admiralty Way and Mindanao Way across from Trader Joe's, will provide 368 parking spaces when completed in late fall 2026.

FIRE

FROM PAGE 5

has been the so-called "Fix Our Forests Act," proposed legislation currently in the Senate that would override environmental laws to expedite taxpayer-subsidized, backcountry logging of mature trees and clearcutting on public lands — in the name of wildfire management.

More than 100 environmental groups strongly oppose it. Alarmingly and ironically, the act would eliminate the very environmental analysis that would inform land managers about whether a particular logging or chaparral removal project would worsen wildfires and increase threats to nearby communities.

This is not merely an academic concern. Many of the U.S. Forest Service's own scientists are sounding the alarm, as evidence increasingly indicates "thinning" and other logging activities erode the natural windbreak that denser forests have, making fires spread much faster and more intensely.

This means fires can reach towns more rapidly, giving people less time to safely evacuate and first responders less time to

arrive and assist.

Similarly, abundant science indicates that removal of chaparral — native shrub habitat — in the name of curbing wildfires tends to convert landscapes into far more combustible, invasive grasslands, which can carry flames more quickly toward nearby houses and businesses in southern California.

As hundreds of scientists have warned, recent wildfires have raced through large areas of "thinned" forests and "fuelbreaks," burning down entire communities.

The truth is, most people do not have the knowledge or resources to make their homes and communities fire-safe. Many people need assistance. Elected officials — Democrats and Republicans — must change course. Instead of advancing legislation that pleases logging industry campaign contributors, they should prioritize measures that directly help create fire-safe communities. Otherwise, the devastation of January 2025 is all but guaranteed to recur.

Chad Hanson, based in the southern Sierra Nevada mountains, is a wildfire scientist with the John Muir Project.

Agnes



By TONY COCHRAN

Dogs of C-Kennel



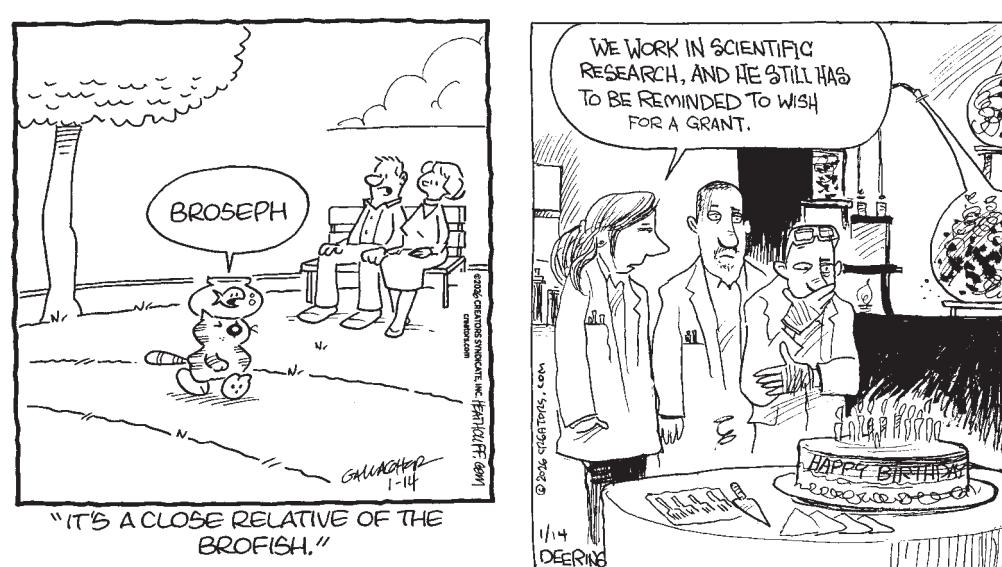
By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

Zack Hill



By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Heathcliff



By PETER GALLAGHER

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6831

Naming our daughter



Addison	Bella	Faye	Leah	Rachel
Alayna	Brooke	Greta	Lily	Reese
Alice	Carol	Hadley	Londyn	Remi
Alma	Catherine	Happy	Luna	Rose
Alyssa	Deanne	Henrietta	Maya	Rowan
Amber	Eden	Iris	Mckenzie	Rylee
Andrea	Edna	Irma	Molly	Tamara
Aria	Eliana	Isla	Name	Tania
Arya	Elsa	Janet	Naomi	Tess
Avery	Emma	June	Norah	Valentina
Ayla	Faith	Karen	Nova	Zoey

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Preparing your properties



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 14)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't waste time envying what a friend has when you can simply go out and get your own. It's when you see something in the world that is not accessible to you that the pangs persist and then turn into something else entirely - motivation, then pure drive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A daily ritual is so much a part of feeling like yourself that if you were to skip it, all else would feel slightly askew. This is your ideal moment to level up the practice with a small improvement. It ripples out to the rest of your life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you thought the gray areas were complex, wait until you get into the rest of the crayon box. But you're the artist of this life. You know that every color can have its place and use in the picture - some you use a lot, some just a dot. You can make this work.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's little to do but plenty to adjust to, which is the harder task. Flexibility is its own form of strength. Give yourself credit for your ability to adapt and settle in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Just as nutritional needs vary from person to person, so do other needs such as novelty, social interaction, creative generation and physical exertion. So, don't go by anyone else's prescription. Only you know what feels right.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Knowledge is as bright as sunbeams and just as tricky to deliver. You can't hand someone a sunbeam. When you organize your ideas around what lights you up, others come closer to absorb what you know.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have an instinct about who you can trust, and it's not always the one who is the right pick on paper. How you feel around people is more important than how their profile reads.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). In the echo chamber of the internet, with its crowdsourced consensus and recycled takes, you have a chance to offer something that wasn't there before. People are hungry for what isn't being said. You're well positioned to say it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A well-supported idea in both therapy and relationship research is this: Psychological safety shows up as not having to perform your mood. In other words, the people who let you be you no matter what it looks like at the moment are treasures, and you really feel that today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your vitality makes you courageous, and your courage fills you with vitality, so the cycle keeps looping until your head hits the pillow tonight. By then, you'll have a few stories to tell about this day, which is the happy consequence of your daring.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Maybe you'll notice that you are the thing that is "not like the others" today, but that's a good thing. Everything that is different about you is an asset, not a liability. You'll elevate the scene you're in just by being you, with minimal filtering.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As spiritual awareness expands, the ego naturally contracts. Perspective grows and self-importance fades, replaced by curiosity, humility and connection. Today, there will be less of a need to prove, protect or perform, and yet you are more fully yourself.

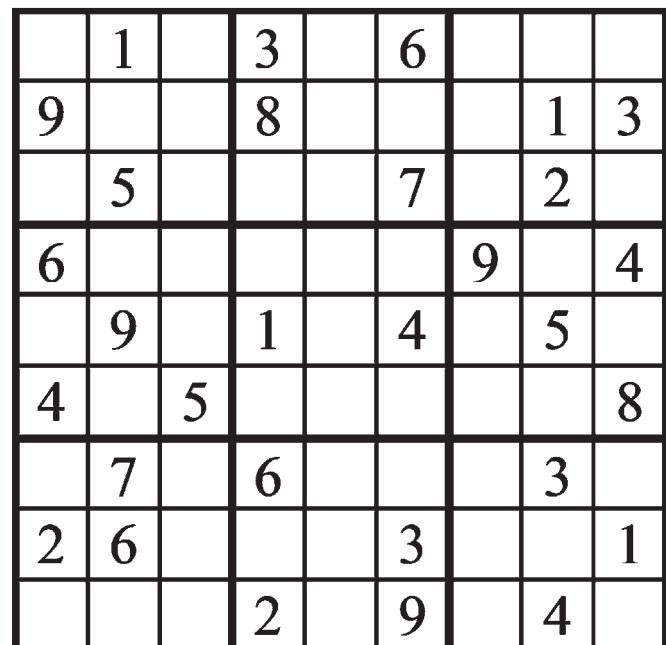
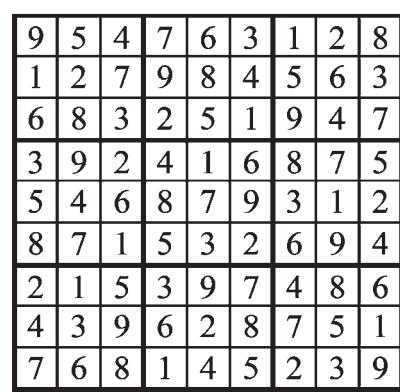
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD



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



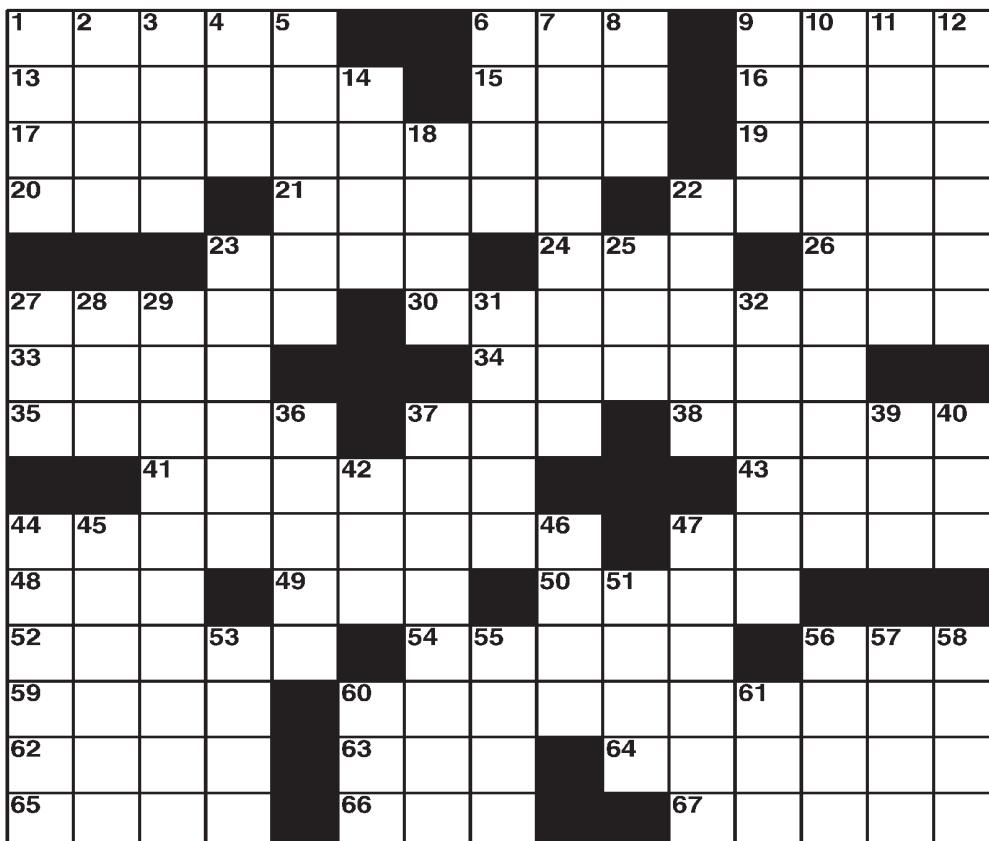
Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Capital of France
6 Government-issued ID
9 Prefix meaning "all"
13 Strikingly unusual
15 "___ cares?" ("So what?")
16 Regretted
17 Carefully separate, as hair strands
19 "If all ___ fails..."
20 Shade tree
21 Long-lasting attack
22 Must, informally
23 Sicilian volcano
24 Antidrug agcy.
26 Under the weather
27 Musical drama with divas
30 Metaphor for gentle handling
33 Volcanic flow
34 Nullify
35 Get into clothes
37 Miles ___ hour
38 Wristwatch holder
41 Sweet fruity drink
43 Jacob's twin
44 Large, tender beef cuts
47 Buy a meal for
48 Mine resource
49 Antiques Roadshow network
50 Is in debt to
52 Foamy coffee
54 Daily publication
56 Medicine-testing agcy.

DOWN

59 Low-cal
60 Actor playing Thanos in Marvel films
62 ___-friendly software
63 Genesis boat
64 Serious and dignified
65 Long-lasting hairdo
66 Alps, for instance: Abbr.
67 Actress Witherspoon
7 Office machine for destroying documents
8 "Ready or ___..."
9 Triple-decker cookie
10 Infinite realm of parallel timelines
11 Snuggle up
12 Standards of perfection
14 Adam's eldest
18 Mountaintop
22 Fancy parties
23 Pencil tip
25 Yolk holder
27 ___-fashioned (quaint)
28 Golf standard
5 Midday snooze
6 Gift-bag goodies
1 Tennis great Sampras
2 Figure skating jump
3 Wander around
4 Part of TGIF
15 Miles ___ hour
16 Riverbank frolickers
19 Range of view
20 Globetrotter's document
21 Very thin battery
22 Stay ___ (don't move)
23 Unpaid bill
24 Furl for storage
25 Poker declaration
26 Certain undergrad
27 "Holy" brat
28 Attic creations
29 Time in office
30 Poses questions
31 Leave in haste
32 Grows darker
33 Actress Hathaway
34 Strawberry spread
35 World Cup cheer
36 Motionless



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2026 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

01/14/26

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

PARKING

FROM PAGE 1

make parking more straightforward while encouraging visitors to stay longer downtown.

But after pushback from downtown businesses and residents, city staff developed an alternative Downtown Parking Access Program. The proposed framework would charge \$1 for the first 90 minutes on weekdays and weekends, then \$3 to \$4 for parking between 90 minutes and three hours, depending on the day. Rates would increase to \$10 to \$12 for three to five hours and \$20 to \$22 for stays longer than five hours.

City staff is also evaluating an 18-month pilot program for gyms, yoga studios and similar businesses that would offer tiered annual parking validation programs. Schools operating downtown would be able to provide 30-minute drop-off and pickup validations at no cost.

The full proposal will come before the City Council on Jan. 27. A future phase may explore spend-based validation for restaurants and retail businesses in coordination with Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.

In the meantime, the old rates — including 90 minutes of free parking — remain in effect at downtown structures.

While downtown structure rates remain on hold, parking prices have risen elsewhere across the city as of early 2026. Drivers now pay about 25 cents more per hour on average at street parking meters and hourly beach lots.

Many meter rates that were around \$1.75 per hour are now \$2, and mid-city public lots that charged \$1 per hour now charge \$1.25. Beach parking has also increased, with flat all-

day rates rising by roughly \$2 to \$5 depending on location and season.

The city has introduced seasonal pricing at the beach, with higher fees during the busy spring and summer season from April through October and lower rates in winter. Despite the increases, city staff say Santa Monica's beachfront parking remains among the least expensive on the Southern California coast.

Parking permit costs have also risen significantly. The annual fee for a first residential permit increased from \$23 to \$40 in mid-2025, while visitor permit fees jumped from \$35 to \$70 per year. City officials said the increases were intended to better manage crowded curb parking and support sustainability goals, though some residents criticized the steep hikes.

The city also converted about 28 formerly free neighborhood lots near parks, libraries and neighborhood commercial streets into paid facilities that now charge 25 cents per 30 minutes, capped at \$5 per day.

Several additional policy changes have taken effect. As of Jan. 12, paying for parking with a credit or debit card includes a 2.95% convenience fee, with a flat 25-cent fee per transaction at meters. The city says the surcharge offsets bank processing costs that previously cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

Santa Monica also ended its free parking incentive for electric vehicles on Sept. 30, 2025, after about two decades. All drivers, including EV owners, must now pay posted meter rates.

editor@smdp.com

emailed Nick and Darrell saying he thought it was a great idea, and asked their thoughts," Wilkes said. "The response came just a minute later: 'No brainer.' So from the time of my initial email to Dom, to Edgemar saying yes, only six minutes had passed."

The fundraiser runs during dinner service from 5 p.m. until close on Jan. 16-17 at the restaurant, located at 2435 Main St. Guests will receive pamphlets describing auction items, with QR codes linking to bidding pages.

Auction items include a velcro patch collection, unit patches from receiving Ukrainian military units, a personalized Ukrainian license plate, and the chance to name a convoy vehicle and choose a message to be written on it. Winning bidders will receive an American-Ukrainian flag patch, a Driving Ukraine T-shirt, and a thank-you video from Ukrainian soldiers.

Wilkes also plans to bring an American-Ukrainian flag to the fundraiser for attendees to sign, creating what he hopes will be a message that Santa Monica stands with Ukraine. He said he will invite Santa Monica Mayor Caroline Torosis and city council members to attend and be the first to sign the flag.

For Wilkes, the mission holds personal significance beyond the humanitarian goals.

"To undertake this convoy alongside my Dad is a real privilege and experience I am so grateful to have," he said. "This convoy is not only a great thing to do to help people in need, but a chance to bond with my Dad, an opportunity denied to so many others."

Wilkes said any amount raised represents success, as it will support Ukrainian forces who otherwise would not receive the aid.

maaz@smdp.com

"In the same minute I emailed Dom about a fundraiser for my Dad and I's campaign, he

**WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 14****DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - WEDNESDAY MARKET**

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica Arizona Avenue (Between 4th & Ocean) Santa Monica. One of the largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/12382446/2026-01-14T08>

STAR STORIES WITH PAM

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. STAR Stories With Pam Children are invited to share the joy of storytelling and reading with our special STAR volunteer, Pam. Come three times and take home a free book. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/star-stories-with-pam/15607289/2026-01-14T12>

 FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY: YOGA FOR EVERYONE!

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Venice. Through body awareness, movement, and breath, you will be guided on how to bring your body, mind, and spirit back into balance for overall well-being. All levels are welcome. Generously funded by Friends of Venice Library. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/friends-of-venice-library-yoga-for-everyone/17751141/2026-01-14T12>

SCOT NERY'S BOOBIE TRAP

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. WORLD-CLASS AND INGENIOUSLY STUPID. "The #1 show in Los Angeles." - TripAdvisor Since launching in 2015, Scot Nery's Boobietrap has destroyed audiences at hundreds of sold-out performances in Los Angeles and around the West Coast. An underground entertainment phenomenon, Boobietrap shines as a proof of concept for just how incredible live performance can be. The exquisitely-curated experience serves up one life-changing moment after another, blowing minds and rebuilding them in real time. "The best variety show in the world." Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/scot-nery-s-boobietrap/17758957/2026-01-14T18>

THURSDAY | JANUARY 15**WALKING MEDITATION**

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Los Angeles. Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. We'll meet Tuesday's and Thursdays at 8 am at lifeguard tower 28 (paid parking available in the Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South) After some basic instructions we'll walk silently together for approximately 50 minutes on the shoreline at a natural leisurely pace from tower 28

towards the Santa Monica Pier and back. Everyone is always welcomed to join whether new to meditation or with many years of experience. Looking forward to meeting and meditating with you all. Please feel free to reach out with any concerns or questions and please arrive 5 minutes early. Don't forget to check schedule for any changes or cancellations. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/walking-meditation/16206460/2026-01-15T08>

CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Cada semana será algo nuevo: Ejercicio, Hablando con amigos, Aprendizaje, Presentadores Invitados, Salud y Bienestar. Hay comida para los adultos mayores que participan durante las dos horas. Para más información llame al (310) 458-8688. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2026-01-08T11>

REBUILD COMMITTEE - SANTA MONICA & PALIBU CHAMBER

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Zoom link to be sent before the meeting Santa Monica, CA. Rebuild Committee - Santa Monica & PaliBu Chamber Must be a Member to attend - either a member of Santa Monica Chamber or PaliBu Chamber. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/rebuild-committee-santa-monica-palibu-chamber/15499169/2026-01-15T15>

FOOTBALL SHOWINGS AT THE WHALER!

101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 info@venicewhaler.com Does not apply on holidays Santa Monica. Enjoy food & drink specials during every football game! The Whaler shows every college and nfl game on all tvs every week all season! (Sound is only on if that is the only game playing). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/football-showings-at-the-whaler-/17408731/2026-01-08T00>

FRIDAY | JANUARY 16**DRUNK THEATRE: THE WILDEST IMPROV COMEDY SHOW!**

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica. A comedian takes five shots of whiskey in a row and tries to perform an improvised play with five sober comedians. What could go wrong?! Drunk Theatre is the entirely improvised, unpredictable, and crazy comedy show that'll kick your weekend into overdrive. Reserve your spot now as limited seating and space is available. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/drunk-theatre-the-wildest-improv-comedy-show-/15793351/2026-01-09T08>

APRÈS CHALET

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Regent Santa Monica Beach 1700 Ocean Ave Santa Monica. Après Chalet is a pop-up that transforms seaside cabanas into LA's chicest winter retreat. Each private cabana holds its own holiday ritual: a curated s'mores kit, a warm welcome cocktail, and the crackle of fire from a glowing firepit reserved exclusively for your group. Winter-white decor and twinkling lights frame the scene, as live music drifts through the salt air and a dedicated fireside mixologist creates enchanting, seasonal cocktails. \$55.00 to \$125.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/apr-s-chalet/17758170/2026-01-09T16>



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