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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 65 WEDNESDAY 2/19/25 smdp.com

The role Santa Monica Airport played during the recent wildfire disaster and why that's so important

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

During the last City Council Meeting, Rachel Clark, Environmental Planner with the City Planning Division and Lindsey Call, Chief Resilience Officer, gave a chilling account of the potential disasters the City of Santa Monica must be mindful of. In addition to the longstanding threat of earthquakes, climate change has given us all a great deal to think about and prepare for, including sea level rise, flooding, landslides, extreme heat and of course, wildfires.

Santa Monica Airport (SMO) is set to close on December 31, 2028, as mandated by a 2017 federal consent decree and an ongoing campaign exists to convince elected officials to turn the space into a "great park." The City has gone to great lengths in numerous community outreach events to research what sort of uses the residents of Sunset Park and the Pico neighborhood want to see the land put to. However, very few – if any – of the options included an opportunity for the group of people who still maintain that the airport is a valuable resource, to offer their opinion.

Moreover, the somewhat predictable spectre of residential development has hinted at its



Cal Fire

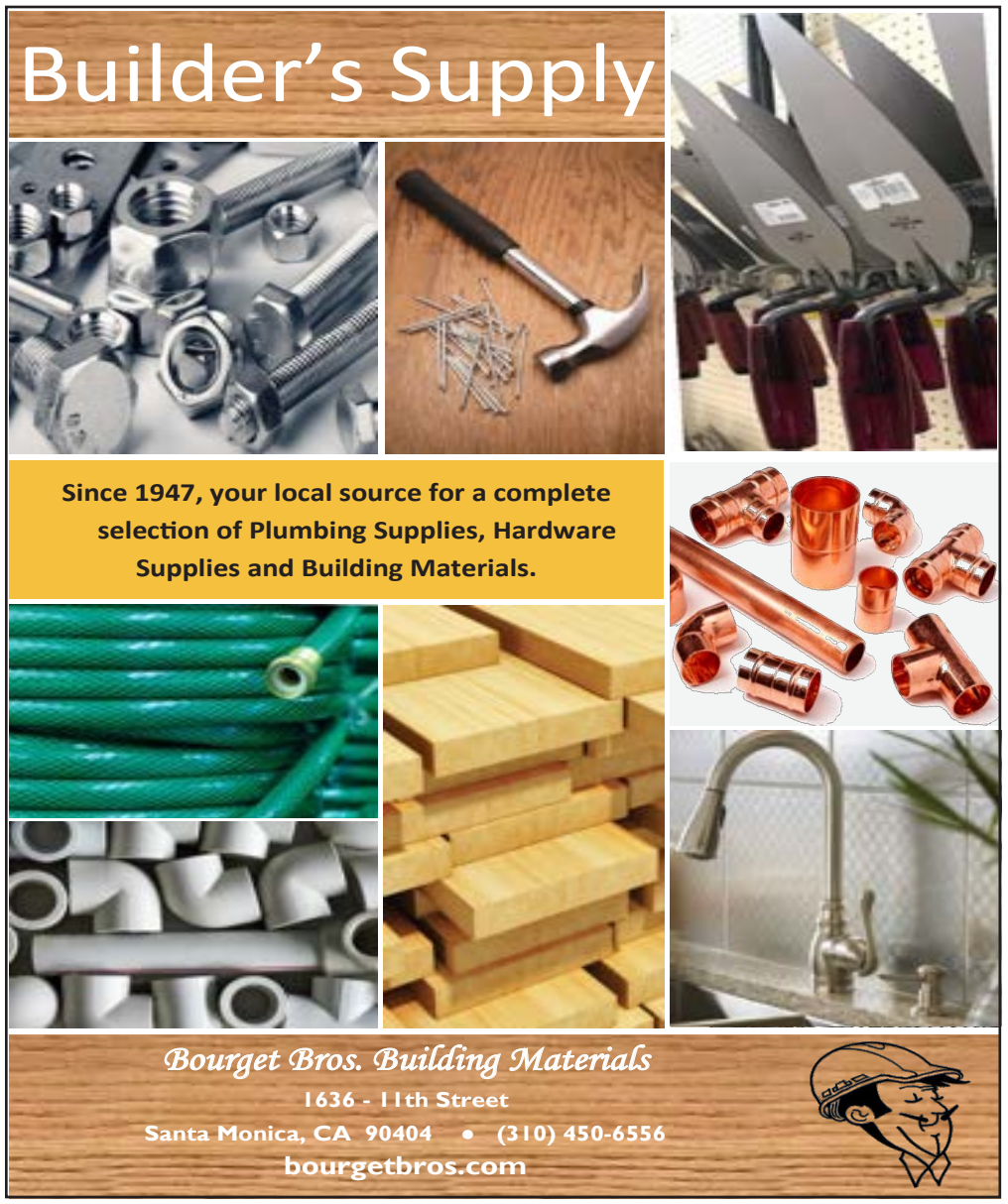
SEE **AIRPORT** PAGE 5

WHIRLYBIRD: Cal Fire's Sikorsky S-70i Firehawk medium-lift helicopter, seen here fighting the Eaton Fire was stationed at Santa Monica Airport.

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PCH closures make more impacts on Malibu school commutes



Photo by Matthew Hall

CLOSURES: The continued closures of Pacific Coast Highway have made travel to Malibu campuses extremely elongated.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District officials attempted to assuage concerns from Malibu parents recently, particularly as it pertains to January's school closures and how to handle future power outage situations.

At the Feb. 6 meeting of the SMMUSD Board of Education, Chief Operations Officer Carey Upton laid out the criteria the district uses to close schools, specifically Malibu campuses that missed nearly all of January due to the Palisades Fire. Upton stated that the district's goal is always to have schools open, but only defer whenever "specific safety factors" are crossed.

One of these factors is road closures in and out of Malibu, as schools will be closed if there are fewer than two major roads open in and out of Malibu. School buses can only reach Malibu campuses through Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), Topanga Canyon and Malibu Canyon; and with the on-and-off closures of PCH, buses traveling to Malibu from the north have been during multi-hour drives.

Despite the PCH closures, Malibu schools continued to operate as normal in the first week of February, before ongoing and planned closures of the PCH, Topanga and Malibu canyons for heavy rains closed schools on Feb. 13-14.

When it comes to the January closures and future weather events, SMMUSD officials also look at not only the feasibility of students getting to class, but the availability of staff to do so as well.

"We have distinct communities within Malibu, we acknowledge that ... but we also have to balance out what's the comfort level of our teachers, our staff, that's a priority as well," Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton said.

He added that while students in isolated, smaller communities like Point Dume can walk to school, he emphasized the comfort level of travel for Malibu staff, as well as having to plan for substitutes if teachers cannot get to campus.

While all Malibu campuses were hit by the Palisades Fire, another example of school closures due to safety took place in December, when the Franklin Fire burned up to the edge of Webster Elementary School's campus. Upton said that while students could reach the campus, the area wasn't in an evacuation zone and the school had power; smoke had caused enough damage to cause a campus closure.

To combat power shutoffs that occur during Red Flag warnings and other weather emergencies, the district added temporary generators to Malibu schools on Jan. 24, used at two campuses that same day. The generators were extended until Feb. 14, and the next step for the district to have an on-call generator contract for future power shutoffs.

Another temporary solution posed was courtesy a parent at Malibu Elementary School, who used connections at Tesla to have the company offer its Powerwall lithium-ion batteries for school use. Upton, in looking into it further, said that the Powerwall being primarily a residential use would not make it the "best solution." Permanent future solutions are also in discussion, including the potential for Malibu and Webster elementary campuses to use solar power from its installed roof solar panels during blackouts.

Power shutoffs also mean the loss of school internet connection, adding extra importance into installing Starlink satellite internet services on campuses, an endeavor aided by City of Malibu staff. Malibu Councilmember Haylynn Conrad used her public comment to thank the district for help on Starlink, but also added that January was an example of why Santa Monica and Malibu should have separate districts.

"It is obvious that Malibu and Santa Monica do not belong together under a singular school district," Conrad said. "We agreed on this before the fires, and it's even more obvious now. We are sensitive to anyone affected by the Palisades and Franklin fires, (and) we are likewise focused on rebuilding our community and returning normalcy as soon as possible. That includes a strong public school system with local control."

thomas@smdp.com



Samohi, Saint Monica soccer still alive in playoff brackets



Photo by Thomas Leffler

SAMOHI: The Samohi Lady Vikings soccer season came to an end this past week at the feet of Notre Dame Academy.

DARRYL HARVEY AND THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Intern and SMDP Staff Writer

Several area high school teams are still alive in pursuit of championship glory.

With the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section playoffs kicking off this past week, teams from Samohi, Saint Monica, New Roads and Crossroads all posted playoff action. Two of these teams crossed paths on the soccer field, as the Samohi boys' soccer team outlasted Crossroads in a double-header.

On Feb. 14, Samohi defeated Crossroads 1-0, meaning Crossroads would have to win by two goals to advance. Going into extra time, the Roadrunners' Enzo Lopes scored a goal to take a 2-1 lead, needing just one more to take the contest. However, Samohi's Gabriel Sherman knocked through the golden goal in overtime, ending the contest at 2-2 and eliminating Crossroads.

The Vikings now sit at 22-2-1 on the year, with an unblemished 8-0 Ocean League record. The squad's next contest is a Wednesday home bout with JSerra Catholic, with the winner of the two-game set going on to face either Mira Costa, Loyola or Mater Dei in the CIF Southern Section Open bracket.

Other Samohi squads weren't as fortunate in playoff quests, including the girls' soccer unit, which fell in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division 4 bracket to Notre Dame Academy, 2-1. The Lady Vikings finished the season 10-10-1.

On the hardwood, the Lady Vikings also lost its opening playoff contest, a CIF Southern Section Division 3A duel with Lawndale 34-32. Lawndale junior Telayia Fuller accounted for 15 points, 12 rebounds and 4 steals; while sophomore teammate Kalani Pearson snatched 17 rebounds and recorded 6 steals. The Lady Vikings ended the year 11-15, 6-4 in Ocean League play. The Vikings' boys basketball unit finished 14-13 on the season, losing out on a playoff via tiebreaker with Beverly Hills in the Ocean League.

Earlier this month, several of Samohi's winter sports stars were part of the 2025 National Signing Day ceremony on campus. Boys' soccer's Gabe Sherman signed on to play at Cal State Fullerton, while teammate Orlando Popkin will be taking his talents to Oberlin College. On the girls' side of the soccer field, Drew Sievers signed on to play at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

For Saint Monica, the boys' soccer unit is also still in playoff contention, scheduled for a Santa Monica scrap with New Roads on Wednesday in the CIF Southern Section Division 8 Quarterfinals. The Mariners won the first two playoff games 2-1 over Calvary Chapel and 2-0 over Vasquez, with junior Alex Jurado coming up with a big goal in the latter game.

While boys' soccer continues its run, the Lady Mariners soccer and basketball units suffered playoff defeats last week. After winning its first CIF Southern Section Division 1 game 70-65 over St. Anthony, the Lady Mariners basketball squad lost its second round game against Moreno Valley, 64-41. The hardwood unit finished 20-9 on the year, 3-5 in the Del Rey League.

Lady Mariners soccer finished 7-6-2 (5-3-1 in league play), losing its first CIF Southern Section Division 6 game against Carpinteria, 3-0. The Mariners' boys basketball squad finished 18-10, but a 5-7 Del Rey league record left the team out of the playoffs.

While the New Roads' boys soccer squad is still in the Division 8 Southern Section bracket, the school's girls' team lost its opening Division 7 playoff bout to Oakwood, 4-0. The squad finished the season 4-3-5, 3-0-3 in Coastal League play, in a year marred by a long layoff due to the impacts of the Palisades Fire.

For Crossroads, the boys' soccer defeat to Santa Monica took place just days after the school's girls' basketball unit lost its first round Division 2AA matchup to Beckman, 52-41. Beckman's 1-2-2 full court press at the start of the game caused Crossroads problems, as the opponent jumped out to a 20-11 lead after the first quarter.

Beckman's motion offense was also an issue

SEE **PLAYOFFS** PAGE 5



Weather

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 67.
Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 51.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/02/19	Wed	12:35 AM	4.32	H
2025/02/19	Wed	08:33 AM	1.43	L
2025/02/19	Wed	2:41 PM	2.18	H
2025/02/19	Wed	4:51 PM	2.14	L
2025/02/20	Thu	01:25 AM	4.24	H
2025/02/20	Thu	10:43 AM	1.09	L
2025/02/21	Fri	02:55 AM	4.25	H
2025/02/21	Fri	11:53 AM	0.56	L
2025/02/22	Sat	04:24 AM	4.50	H
2025/02/22	Sat	12:35 PM	0.03	L
2025/02/22	Sat	8:02 PM	3.17	H
2025/02/22	Sat	11:09 PM	2.88	L
2025/02/23	Sun	05:28 AM	4.94	H
2025/02/23	Sun	1:09 PM	-0.46	L
2025/02/23	Sun	8:01 PM	3.39	H
2025/02/24	Mon	12:06 AM	2.51	L
2025/02/24	Mon	06:18 AM	5.43	H
2025/02/24	Mon	1:40 PM	-0.86	L
2025/02/24	Mon	8:14 PM	3.65	H
2025/02/25	Tue	12:50 AM	2.04	L
2025/02/25	Tue	07:01 AM	5.86	H
2025/02/25	Tue	2:09 PM	-1.15	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: 2/17
4 44 47 52 57
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 195 M

Fantasy 5: Draw Date: 2/17
3 4 31 32 39

Mega Millions: Draw Date: 2/14
11 19 31 49 56
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 145 M

Daily 3: Draw Date: 2/17
EVENING: 4 4 3
Draw Date: 2/17
MIDDAY: 5 5 6

SuperLotto Plus: Draw Date: 2/15
1 9 26 29 47
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 26 M

Daily Derby: Draw Date: 2/17
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:45.82

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has posted a list of unclaimed checks – any stale dated check older than three years as of **December 31, 2024** - and claim forms on the City's website at https://santamonica.gov/unclaimed-property-notice and at the following physical location: the Public Notices board in the City Hall Lobby. If said funds are not claimed by **April 7, 2025,** these funds will become the property of the City of Santa Monica in accordance with California Government Code Sections 50050 – 50056. These funds may be released to the depositor, their heir, beneficiary or duly appointed representative provided a claim form has been completed with the required information detailed below and an original signature.

Required claim information includes name, address, phone number, tax identification number, amount of claim, and grounds on which claim is founded. Claims must be submitted to the Finance Department, Attn: Financial Operations, 1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 09, Santa Monica, CA, 90401 or by email to finance.mailbox@santamonica.gov. Once a claim is submitted, the Finance Department will determine the validity of the claim and if additional information is required to process the claim. The City of Santa Monica reserves the right to deny any claim that is submitted with incomplete or invalid information.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to the Text of the Santa Monica Municipal Code to Increase the Maximum Allowed Height of Fences, Walls, and Hedges in the Front Setbacks of R2, R3, and R4 Zoning Districts and to Address the Rules for Measuring the Heights of Fences, Walls, and Hedges Located on Top of Retaining Walls.

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider a Resolution recommending to the City Council that the City Council adopt an Ordinance amending the text of the Zoning Ordinance to increase the maximum allowable height of fences, walls, and hedges in the front setbacks of R2, R3, and R4 zoning districts and to address the rules for measuring the heights of fences, walls, and hedges located on top of retaining walls.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025 AT 6:00 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 planningcomment@santamonica.gov or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

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

Address your comments to: **Shira Moch, Associate Planner**
Re: Fence, Wall, Hedge Height Limits Text Amendment

VIA E-MAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Shira Moch by e-mail at shira.moch@santamonica.gov. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. 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 de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

Russell D. Walker W.A.T.E.R. Program Makes Waves in Water Safety

Every year, countless families in L.A. County seek opportunities to enjoy the water, whether at pools, lakes, or beaches. Yet, access to safe swimming spaces and water education remains limited for many Black families. This Black History Month, we recognize the late Assistant Chief Russell D. Walker, L.A.'s first Black lifeguard, whose transformative work in water safety led to the creation of the W.A.T.E.R. (Water Awareness, Training, Education, and Recruitment) Program in 1986, which was renamed in his honor in 2021.

Initially focused on recruiting diverse candidates for the Lifeguard Division—then part of the Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH)—W.A.T.E.R. was created to open doors for youth in diverse inland communities, ensuring people of color had access to ocean-related careers. After the division moved to the Fire Department, the program evolved. Today, the "R" stands for "Recreation," reflecting a broader mission to provide free water safety education and aquatic access for all youth.

Each year, W.A.T.E.R. equips 6,000 children in public schools and non-profit organizations across Los Angeles County with lifesaving water skills, including transportation at no cost. The program is a cornerstone of Marina del Rey for All, DBH's initiative to ensure equitable access to coastal resources for underrepresented communities.

WADE INTO LIFELONG SKILLS

Nationally, drowning is a leading cause of accidental death particularly for Black children. A USA Swimming Foundation study found that 64% of Black children have little to no swimming ability, compared to 40% of white children. In L.A. County, these disparities persist, with many Black communities facing barriers to water safety, education and access. Before children can learn to swim, they must first feel comfortable in the water, recognize potential risks, and develop basic safety skills. Programs like W.A.T.E.R. provide this foundation, ensuring that all children gain lifesaving water confidence regardless of their background.

Through activities like kayaking, paddleboarding, and water safety training, W.A.T.E.R. introduces youth to structured aquatic experiences, turning hesitation into confidence. The program also opens doors to careers in lifeguarding, marine biology, and environmental conservation, where Black representation remains minimal.

KEEP WALKER'S LEGACY AFLOAT

Russell D. Walker believed water safety is a right, not a privilege. His vision lives on through W.A.T.E.R., equipping the next generation with essential water skills and career opportunities. Whether it's a child's first time in the water or their first step toward a lifeguarding career, the program opens doors that have long been closed.

DBH honors Walker's legacy by expanding Ocean Safety Days, advancing water education, and improving access to aquatic safety. Get involved by signing up your organization, encouraging a school, or spreading the word. Visit beaches.lacounty.gov/waterprogram or email WATER@bh.lacounty.gov to learn more. Let's ensure every young person in L.A. County can wade into W.A.T.E.R., build confidence, and stay safe.

SUBMITTED BY CATRINA LOVE

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
ORDINANCE NUMBER 2800 (CCS)
(CITY COUNCIL SERIES)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA (CITY) Amending Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 3.36 to establish provisions for the issuance of prohibition orders for the Santa Monica Department of Transportation pursuant to Sections 99171 and 99172 of the Public Utilities Code

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2800 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

On August 19, 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill (SB) 1417 into law, which adds Santa Monica Department of Transportation (DOT) to a list of transit districts that can issue prohibition orders to any person cited for committing certain acts against the property, facilities, or vehicles of its transit district, such as the City's Big Blue Bus. The law went into effect on January 1, 2025. The Ordinance amends Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 3.36 to establish the provisions listed in SB 1417 for the issuance of prohibition orders by DOT. The provisions include establishing an advisory committee for the purpose of evaluating the procedures for, and issuance of, prohibition orders and to ensure that personnel charged with issuance and enforcement of prohibition orders receive training as recommended by the advisory committee.

The Ordinance takes effect 30 days after adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

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AIRPORT

FROM PAGE 1

presence twice in the last two City Council meetings. During the January 28 meeting, there was a Study Session Item that specifically looked at different land use scenarios and their potential impact.

Housing was raised a number of times through the course of the discussion by numerous members of council including Councilmember Jess Zwick who said it should be an option and Councilwoman Natalya Zernitskaya who agreed, saying, "I think housing should be considered for at least one of the other scenarios."

Then, during the aforementioned introduction and first reading of the amended Safety Element of City's General Plan in the February 11 meeting, Clark spoke of recent revisions made to the December draft of this plan in response to feedback from Council.

"I want to emphasize that the revised language neither precludes nor commits the City to a 'great park' or any other particular land uses, those changes were done to make sure we are legally compliant with CEQA, that we are not presupposing any specific project," Clark said, adding, "We are not saying that we are developing – or not developing – any particular uses, including a 'great park.' So I just want to assure the community we are still moving on with the process of community engagement."

These are small, but extremely significant tweaks in the language being used in conversation surrounding the future of Santa Monica Airport.

During the recent North of Montana Association meeting on Fire and Emergency Preparedness, which featured guest speakers including Mayor Lana Negrete, Fire Chief Matthew Hallock and Lindsey Call among others, CalFire Unit Chief Shane Littlefield, spoke of how SMO was utilized during the Palisade wildfire when wind conditions affected Camarillo airport to such an extent that firefighting and emergency aircraft were moved to Santa Monica so they could operate from there.

"Camarillo was going to be heavily impacted by [wind velocities] so we had a spread of over 30 helicopters to get out of Camarillo, because if they were just parked there, they weren't going to take off at all," Littlefield said.

He explained how during the Palisades incident, two type one helicopters (Sikorsky S-64 Skycranes) holding at least 3000 gallons of water, one type two (typically a Bell 412EPX) and two type three helicopters (typically Airbus AS-350 B3) were all moved to Santa Monica Airport.

The very next day, an additional five more firefighting helicopters were relocated and stationed at SMO, along with a HLCO, which is an airborne firefighter who coordinates, assigns, and evaluates the use of aerial resources in support of incident objectives and two Cal Fire Bell UH-1 "Huey" helicopters that can be utilized for troop shuttle or emergency evacuation.

"So at the height of it, we had a total of 13 helicopters parked at Santa Monica, which was instrumental in being allowed to fly from – I think it was Saturday in particular – because being able to have a short response time, where we're not moving them hours away and utilizing fuel to get away from it, having that airport and that asset to us truly helped," Littlefield said.

And then there was the Franklin Fire.

"We did utilize Santa Monica for two days out of the Franklin fire for our recon helicopters, our smaller helicopters, the type three, and then our HLCO platform. And then, on top of that, with Santa Monica for the duration of the incident, due to the size and the complexity [of the wildfire], a lot of us have to fly to [various] locations for meetings and Santa Monica became our hub for our transportation helicopters to get me over to the heat and fire, or even out to the Hughes fire or back to our regional center at Riverside," Littlefield said.

"And me personally, I flew out of Santa Monica four times to get to different locations throughout the incident, which everybody knows, driving out of Santa Monica or Malibu to get to Riverside in a timely manner is not [an option] during a rush hour on a Friday afternoon," Littlefield added.

During this last City Council meeting, Santa Monica's Airport was only really discussed in terms of it representing a potential hazard itself as Clark spoke of the number of accidents over the last 30 years, noise complaints and the potential soil and groundwater contamination. Not once was its role in the recent catastrophic wildfire disaster so much as even mentioned. It took public input from Eve Lopez, a Santa Monica resident, attorney and commercial pilot to establish that there actually is a connection.

"The Governor's Office of Emergency Planning actually has an aeronautical unit, which as we've seen, it's the helicopters that get rid of these massive fires, particularly during a wind event. And so there [are] huge resources available," Lopez said.

"That is why the airport saved so many lives because they were able to call and get authority, or, I should say, tell the airport that we're coming in with 13 helicopters, because we need to be close to that fire. When the wind shifted in Camarillo, they could not take off, they needed Santa Monica. Basic human decency is about ensuring that we mutually aid our neighbors, especially to the north … I understand the politics behind the airport, but here and now, that airport is here and operational and it is a proven asset."

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PLAYOFFS

FROM PAGE 3

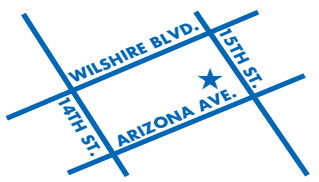
for the Lady Roadrunners, utilizing screening to get open shots effectively throughout. For the Roadrunners, Georgia Koff-Gilmore finished with 11 points, while Sage Rawles finished with 9 points.

While winter sports playoffs are still ongoing, schools are also turning attention to the spring season, with sports like baseball, softball and lacrosse making 2025 debuts this week.

One roster to keep watch for in the spring is the Samohi Vikings baseball unit, which begins its 2025 campaign Wednesday against South Torrance. The Vikings made it all the way to the 2024 CIF Southern Section Division 5 championship tilt, and will look to go deep in the playoffs once more.

Two of the team's senior leaders, Blue Hunter and Isaac Liberman, have signed on to play college ball at Rollins College and Cal State Monterey Bay, respectively. Samohi softball was also represented during signing day, as Talia Yermian will be moving on to Canisius University after her 2025 senior Samohi season.

thomas@smdp.com

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City of Santa Monica

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ORDINANCE NUMBER 2801 (CCS)
(CITY COUNCIL SERIES)

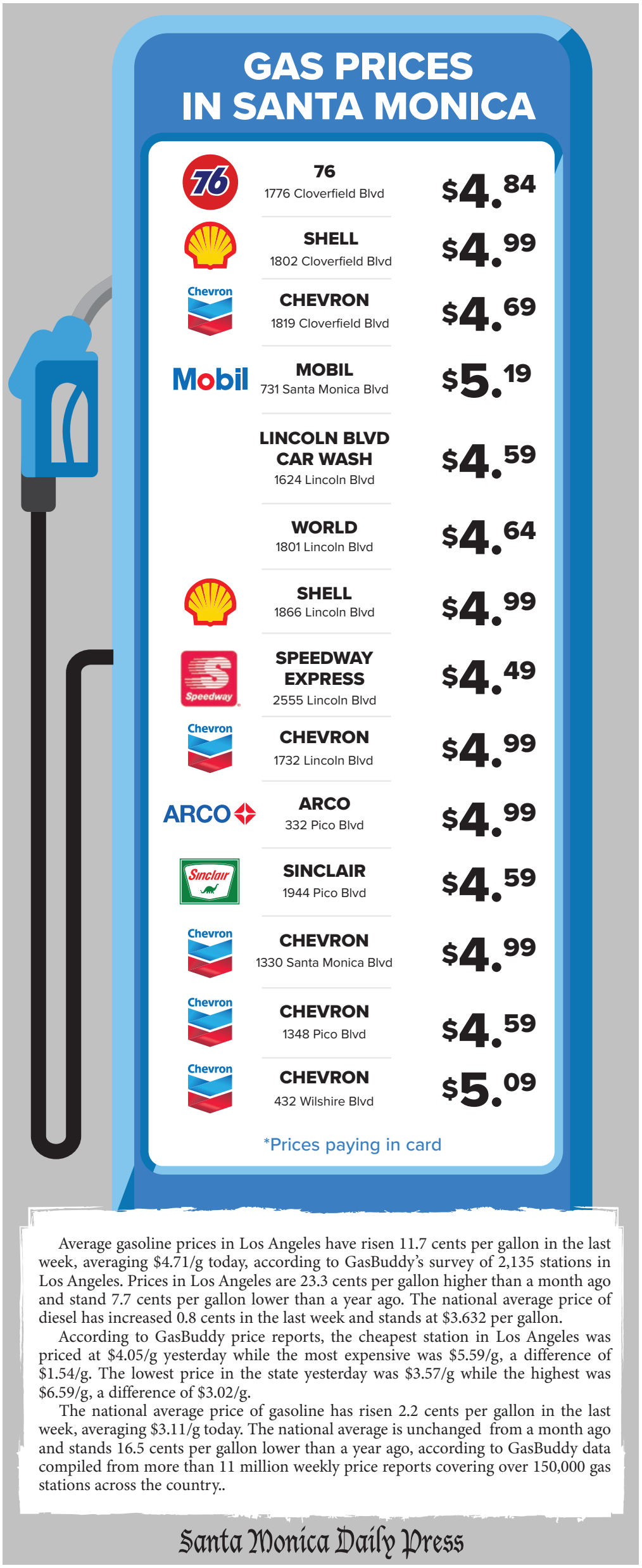
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA AMENDING SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 3.32.020 CONCERNING USE OF THE CITY SEAL AND OTHER SYMBOLS

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2801 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2801 (CCS) ("the Ordinance") amends Santa Monica Municipal Code section 2.32.020 to prohibit use of the City seal and other City logos and insignia for campaign purposes, and prohibits City elected officers from wearing the seal or logo to partisan rallies or events for the purpose of influencing the electorate. The depiction of City public resources such as City Hall, the Pier and Pier Sign, City busses and fire trucks, etc., may appear in campaign materials such as paid advertising, clothing items, and accessories, only with the following disclaimer prominently included: "This publication is not sponsored or approved by the City of Santa Monica," to prevent the false impression of City sponsorship or approval of the message and to avoid public confusion. The ordinance does not otherwise limit the depiction of City resources in non-campaign or non-political contexts. Violation of the ordinance is a misdemeanor subject to a fine of up to $500, or any interested person may bring a civil action to enforce.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com



Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have risen 11.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.71/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 23.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 7.7 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 0.8 cents in the last week and stands at $3.632 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $4.05/g yesterday while the most expensive was $5.59/g, a difference of $1.54/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was $3.57/g while the highest was $6.59/g, a difference of $3.02/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 2.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.11/g today. The national average is unchanged from a month ago and stands 16.5 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

Gutted courses, fewer majors, faculty layoffs: Who will feel Cal State's 8% budget cut?

MIKHAIL ZINSHEYN
CalMatters



Photo by Semantha Norris, CalMatters
COLLEGE: The quad at San Francisco State University in San Francisco on July 7, 2023.

For all the math taught at college, the California State University system is stumped over an arithmetics problem it has less than five months to solve: How to keep operating when the governor has proposed cutting $375 million from its budget.

Without the money, the nation's largest public four-year university system — enrolling more than 460,000 students — is likely due for a lot of subtraction: fewer professors teaching students due to layoffs and employment contracts that aren't renewed, gutted academic programs and cancellation of majors that students are already enrolled in.

It's already happening at some campuses, including San Francisco State and more recently Sonoma State, whose interim president intends to take the rare step of laying off tenured faculty, ending majors and totally shuttering the university's NCAA Division II intercollegiate athletics. "One of the things that people notice when they come to campus is that the lawns don't seem to be mowed like they used to be, that there is a lot of trash and garbage around," said Emily F. Cutrer, Sonoma State's interim president, at a Cal State trustees hearing late last month.

And that's all before the planned spending cuts Gov. Gavin Newsom outlined in his proposed 2025-26 budget in January. The final budget is due by late June. It also comes at a time in which the system overall grapples with the reality that it hasn't been able to afford itself since 2021, due to a mix of rising labor and insurance costs and greater student needs, plus a drop in enrollment after the COVID-19 pandemic. If the reductions were to hold, what's happening at Sonoma State "is the first of what we will see at every Cal State University campus," said Sen. John Laird, a Democrat from Santa Cruz, who chairs the subcommittee on education finance. He made those comments during a Senate budget committee hearing in late January that began reviewing the governor's budget proposal, which includes the $375 million cut.

In an interview last week, Laird said the cut is "untenable." On paper, it amounts to a nearly 8% cut to Cal State's support from the state budget, but with the system's growing labor expenses and inflation, he views that as closer to a 10% to 12% cut. He said his top priority this year is ensuring those cuts never strike Cal State or the University of California, which faces identical planned reductions.

Less money would also undermine the Legislature's and governor's ongoing efforts to enroll more new California residents. It would "prohibit new enrollment… and that's just not acceptable," Laird told Calmatters.

Newsom's proposed cuts reflect a larger budget problem for the state. Last year lawmakers and the governor closed a $47 billion projected deficit in part by cutting most state agency budgets by 7.95%. Lawmakers were able to persuade Newsom to delay those cuts to UC and Cal State by a year to give the systems more time to prepare. Newsom's proposed budget for next year basically maintains the university cuts he and lawmakers agreed to last June. The system has been in a state of panic over these planned reductions since last summer.

As for finding money in budget negotiations this year to stave off the cuts partially or fully, the odds seem stacked against Cal State. Last month Newsom's Department of Finance issued a letter saying that the recent Southern California fires and projected deficits of several billion dollars after 2025-26 "underscores the need for continued vigilance to strengthen budget resiliency and fiscal stability to protect and preserve essential programs." Julia Lopez, a Cal State trustee, attempted to translate that jargon in lay terms: "Don't expect things to be much better in May. In fact, you may even plan for further cuts in May, and certainly don't start anything new," she said at January's trustees meeting.

The governor seeks only about $570 million in new spending, underscoring just how fragile that balanced budget calculus is. The costs of natural disasters, including the Los Angeles area fires, and a dropoff in federal support for the state could wreck California's budget plans. Laird's counterpart in the Assembly, Chula Vista Democrat David Alvarez, said in an interview that some cuts may be necessary but the hit both systems would be taking under this plan is unfair. "I'm just being realistic about our budget situation."

He noted that the cuts to Cal State and the UC would represent 40% of all the reductions to the state budget in Newsom's January budget. That's because the two campuses receive a combined $10 billion in direct state funding, so an 8% cut bites off a much larger amount than it does for agencies with smaller operating budgets. Alvarez called the planned reductions to UC and Cal State "disproportionate." The issue is now a major concern for the leaders of the Legislature's powerful budget committees. On Monday the chairperson of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee sent a letter to the director of the finance department echoing Alvarez's points. "A cut this significant will undoubtedly result in cuts to direct services for students and possible layoffs or furloughs," wrote Sen. Scott Wiener, a Democrat from San Francisco.

The 2025-26 budget can only be finalized through negotiations between legislative leaders and Newsom. Laird said he "will work over the next five months to try to make sure that the Senate leadership agrees with me." Right now, 42 out of the 119 state lawmakers in office represent a district with at least one Cal

SEE **CAL STATE** PAGE 11

California city makes 'aiding' or 'abetting' a homeless camp illegal



Photo by Dai Sugano, Bay Area News Group

HOMELESS: The homeless encampment near the corner of Osgood Road and Washington Boulevard in Fremont on Feb. 6, 2025.

MARISA KENDALL
CalMatters

The Fremont City Council gave final approval this week to an ordinance that bans camping throughout the entire city, while also making anyone "aiding, abetting or concealing" a homeless encampment guilty of a misdemeanor.

The aiding and abetting clause has sparked alarm from local outreach workers who worry they could be targeted for helping people living in camps, and experts in homelessness law who say they've never seen anything quite like it in California. Council members considered changing that part of the ordinance Tuesday night, but ultimately passed it as-is 6-1.

"Our public spaces belong to the entire community and it's really not compassionate at all to cede our public spaces to a select few individuals at the expense of everyone else in the general public," said Councilmember Raymond Liu, who voted in favor. "Families should be able to take their children to the parks, to the libraries, without fear, and all residents should be able to use our public spaces without encountering any unsafe conditions."

Council members discussed the camping ban at length in a five-hour meeting Tuesday, where nearly 200 people lined up to speak for and against the measure during public comment. It was an unusual amount of fanfare for an ordinance that the city council already passed once earlier this month – Tuesday's vote was a "second reading," which typically is just a formality that warrants no discussion.

But the controversy surrounding the ban, which prohibits camping on all sidewalks, streets and parks in Fremont and makes anyone who aids or abets such a camp subject to a $1,000 fine or six months in jail, prompted the City Council to reevaluate the ordinance.

Three council members, plus the mayor, expressed interest either in removing the aiding and abetting clause or adding language to specify that it wouldn't be used to punish people for handing out food, water and other essentials in homeless camps.

That change seemed likely to go through until minutes before the final vote. But after City Attorney Rafael Alvarado said multiple times that the aiding and abetting clause would target people who help unhoused people set up illegal camps, not people who give out food, council members changed course. Ultimately, they passed the measure as-is.

Changing the language would have forced council members to re-introduce the ordinance, meaning they'd have to go through two more votes. By the time the City Council voted Tuesday, it was almost midnight.

The text of the ordinance doesn't specify what qualifies as aiding, abetting or concealing a homeless encampment. That leaves some uncertainty as to how the ordinance will be enforced, despite Alvarado's assurances, UC Berkeley Law professor Laura Riley told CalMatters.

"That might be their stance at the time of adoption," she said, "but there's nothing in the language of the ordinance itself that prevents targeting people from doing things as humane as giving unhoused people tarps when it's raining."

In practice, local police often determine how they will enforce an ordinance, Riley said. How the Fremont aiding and abetting clause is interpreted could change when the city's leadership changes, she said.

The city attorney's statements were small comfort to Vivian Wan, CEO of Abode Services, which provides food, tents, clothing and other services to unhoused people living in camps.

"We worry about the 'concealing' portion, as PD/City staff in Fremont have been known to pressure us to share confidential information, including where a participant is staying," she said in an email to CalMatters. "I think this ordinance may be used to compel such information, breaking the trust with folks that often takes years to build."

The measure also puts the city of Fremont at odds with the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern and Southern California, which, in a letter to council members signed by several other aid and human rights groups, said the aiding and abetting clause is "patently unreasonable and will expose the City to legal liability."

More than two-dozen California cities and counties have either passed new ordinances or beefed up old ordinances banning camping in recent months, after the U.S. Supreme Court gave them more freedom to do so. But none of those bans appear to include specific language that makes it a crime to aid or abet a camp.

In a statement to CalMatters, the Fremont

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 11

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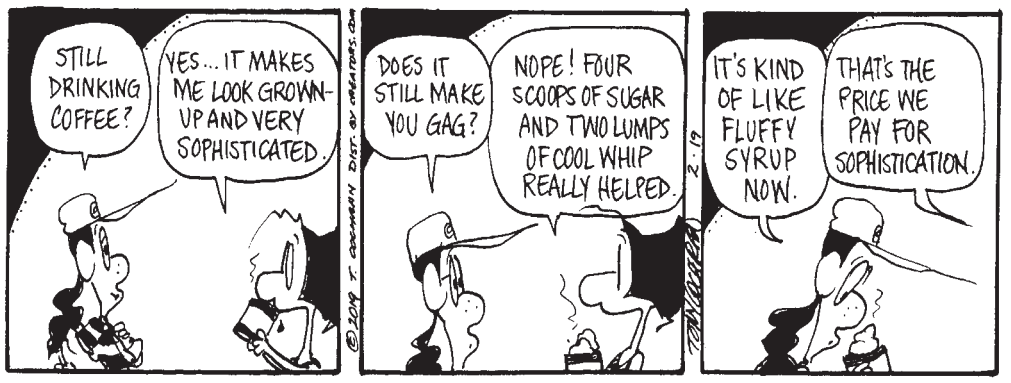






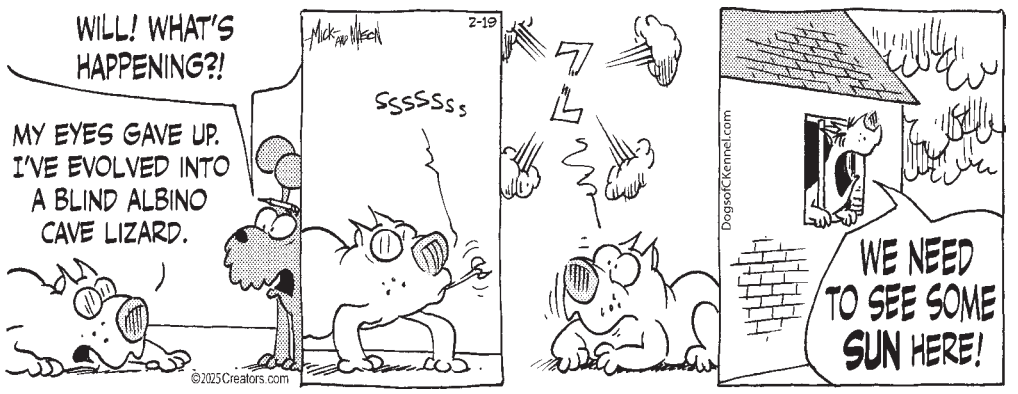
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



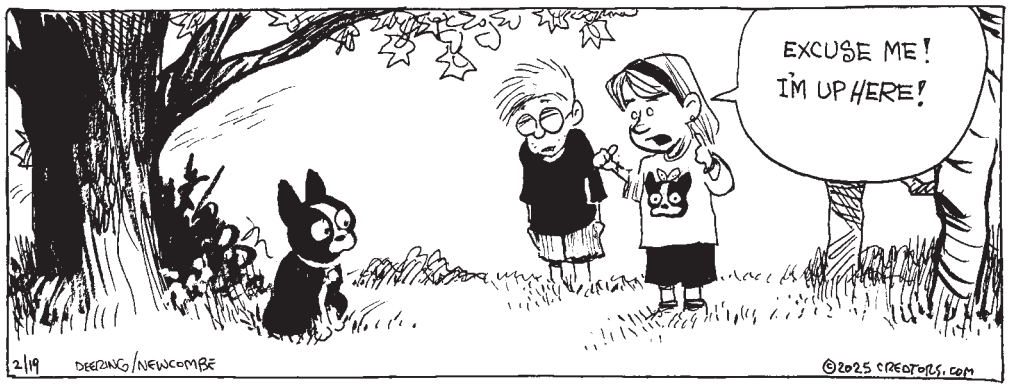
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



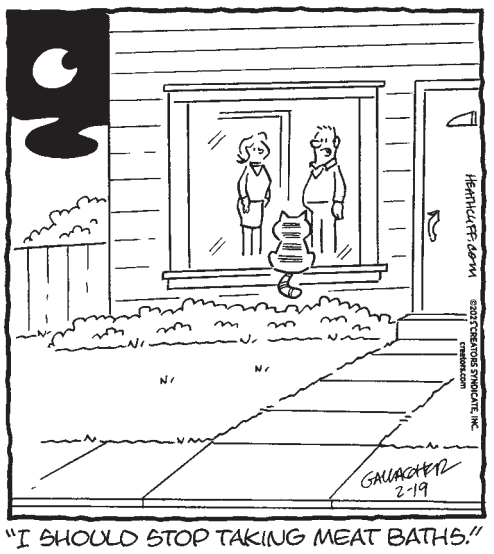
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I SHOULD STOP TAKING MEAT BATHS."

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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6491

All in the family

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

Acosta	Evans	Lang	Nunez	Soto
Adams	Garza	Leon	Owen	Stokes
Adkins	Gibbs	Long	Park	Tate
Bush	Gill	Luna	Peterson	Tyler
Byrd	Gray	Lynch	Quinn	Webb
Cain	Green	Mack	Reid	White
Cannon	Gross	Maldonado	Riley	Wise
Cobb	Guerra	Moran	Rios	Wolfe
Dean	Hail	Neal	Ruiz	Woods
Dennis	Hall	Newman	Ryan	
Diaz	Harmon	Nichols	Shaw	
Dunn	Kelly	Norton	Sims	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 19)

You'll be in environments that amplify what you are good at, that lift your effervescent spirit and attract your perfect team. Together you will be like a wave, moving the world with your energies, work, processes and products. More highlights: You'll use your humor and charm, lifting spirits wherever you go. Also, family solidarity, celebration and truly fun competitions. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 20, 15, 26 and 31.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Give yourself some well-deserved grace as you reflect on interactions. See the nuances in what happened. Notice patterns, both in how others engage and how you respond. The awareness will be powerful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can admire and see people in a certain way, and that can bring you pleasure even if they don't reciprocate. Reciprocation is nice to have, but not having it is OK, too, because it's your way of seeing others that you're really in love with.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The excellent relationship experiences have taught you, but the not so excellent ones have taught you more. You'll be reminded of both lessons and would do well to apply them to your current situation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Only you can determine what's worth wanting for yourself, and with time, the answer may evolve in ways you never expected. Your desires are as dynamic as you are, shaped by growth, experience and the unfolding of life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Among the most satisfying forms of justice, poetic justice ranks high. When life rhymes - whether literally or figuratively - it feels like the universe is aligning, delivering outcomes meaningful and fitting, and with an unexpected twist of irony.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a fine line between danger and opportunity, with each holding the potential to shape the other. Today, that line is blurred, and the thrill lies in not knowing which is which, making this a time full of exhilarating unpredictability.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Ambition can cloud your perspective, making you see what you want to be true rather than what actually is. But that vision is powerful. It's the spark that drives you to turn what you dream into reality.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Bad manners come from the misinformed or poorly taught. Good manners are easily attained by those who ask the right questions and follow directions. You'll navigate situations gracefully, gain what you need and build lasting bonds.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You crave quick answers and would love a guarantee, but that's not in the cards today. This is the very beginning of a long story, and there are many clues in this part - foreshadowing, even.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Conflict isn't a natural or comfortable space for you, and that's not a flaw; it's a reflection of your values and the kinds of relationships you cultivate, where harmony, mutual respect and kindness take precedence.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The good things about you don't disappear because of what you're going through. Your capacity to love, your creativity, your ability to care for others - those things are always there.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You see beauty in your life and reflect it in the world around you - whether it's through your actions, your intention or how you move in a room - which shows such confidence and presence. A lot of people work their whole lives to find that, and you have it.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

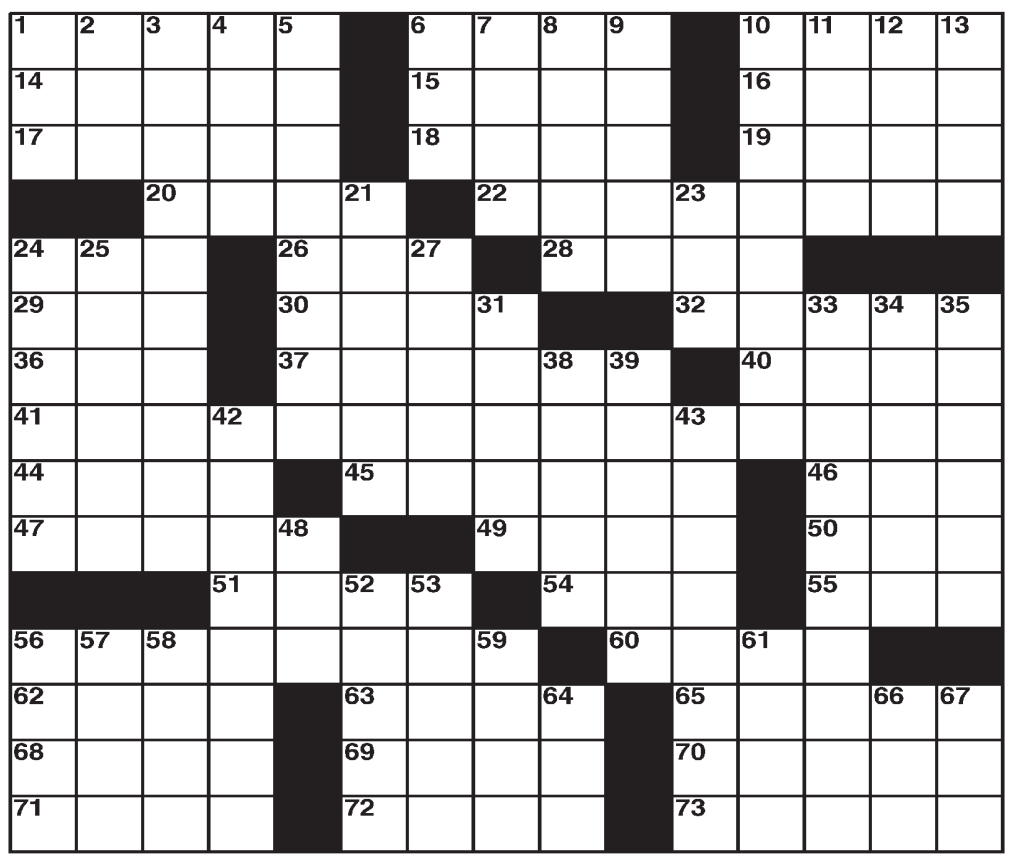
WAY COOL by Jerry Clarkson
Edited by Stanley Newman
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ACROSS

1 Top of the head
6 Cash dispensers, for short
10 Pets that purr
14 Melodic
15 Friendly talk
16 Spherical coif
17 Loosen, as knots
18 Top of some heads
19 Fight tooth and __
20 Keogh plan alternatives: Abbr.
22 Annual Alaskan race on snow
24 Ribs cookout, for short
26 Full collection
28 Made haste
29 Baseball great Gehrig
30 At any time
32 Shapes of hockey pucks
36 Point opp. WNW
37 Blue jeans
40 All over again
41 Route for 22-Across
44 Italian farewell
45 Looked happy
46 Spelling contest
47 Winfrey's production company
49 Home document
50 Industrious insect
51 Otherwise
54 Shade tree
55 Qt. fractions
56 22-Across team members
60 Canine's squeal
62 Edith __ (Cotillard Oscar role)
63 Rarely rained on
65 Sibling's daughter
68 In that case
69 Brazilian soccer great
70 Transportation on rails
71 __-do-well
72 Pack away
73 Leafy side dish

DOWN

1 Letters after R
2 Pro and __
3 Model T Ford, for one
4 Hideout
5 "Fine with me"
6 German exclamation
7 Southeast Asian
8 Hotel room cleaners
9 Piece of bacon
10 From Toronto or Quebec
11 Miles off
12 Small band
13 Auctioned off
21 Disconnects
23 Actor Danson
24 Laundry bottle
25 Croatia neighbor
27 Coffee-break hr.
31 Unwilling to yield
33 Attribute of some upscale ads
34 Component of concrete
35 Candies and cakes
38 Free-for-all brawl
39 Unwilling to yield
42 Much-desired
43 Miscellaneous things
48 From ancient times
52 Bath bars
53 Marsh bird
56 Create, as a web
57 Vitality
58 Make less complicated
59 Rural tower
61 Former Italian coin
64 Lawn dampener
66 Espionage org.
67 Come to a close



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02/19/25

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CAL STATE

FROM PAGE 6

State campus. Laird's district includes two.

The 23 campuses together generate $7 of economic activity for every dollar the state spends on Cal State, a system report calculated in 2021. The ripple effect includes campus and student spending on goods, wages, housing and construction.

CAL STATE'S BUDGET CRISIS

Seventeen campuses have cut a combined 1,200 workers between fall 2023 and fall 2024 while six campuses added almost 400 employees. San Francisco State posted the highest losses, with 180 employees. That amounts to 7% of workers, said campus president Lynn Mahoney, at the trustees meeting last month. Three other campuses — Dominguez Hills, East Bay and Los Angeles — each reduced their workforces by more than 100 employees, according to data the system's chancellor's office shared with CalMatters.

Some of those losses were due to layoffs. In other cases faculty or staff left on their own and the campuses chose to leave those vacancies unfilled. And that doesn't include the job losses announced this year. Cal State Dominguez Hills sent layoff notices to 30 non-faculty staff last month, the school's spokesperson said. Despite $164 million in extra revenue this year from recently approved higher tuition, the system's finance team projects a deficit of $375 million due to ever-growing costs for student financial aid as well as campus insurance, utilities, employee health care and the loss in state support. It's an amount equal to the annual operating budget of Fresno State, which enrolls about 24,000 students. The system has also been relying partly on one-time reserves to plug budget shortfalls the past two years.

"There will be zero new funding for compensation increases" if the state cuts go through next year, said Ryan Storm, an assistant vice chancellor at Cal State overseeing the system's budget planning, at the trustees meeting last month. "There will be no new funding for mental health services for our students or our facility improvements," he added later in his remarks. About three-quarters of the system's operating budget is spent on salary and benefits. And that budget shortfall is on top of another fiscal blow to the system: the delay of about $250 million in promised funding from Newsom as part of his annual "compact" with Cal State to grow state support in exchange for higher student enrollment and improved graduation rates. All told, Cal State is looking at around $620 million in less funding than it would get for 2025-26 were the state to live up to its end of the compact deal and avoid the budget cut. The system's operating budget is about $8.6 billion — a mix of state support and tuition revenue.

Cal State leaders are adamant about lobbying lawmakers to prevent the cuts, from alumni groups to presidents appealing to their state representatives, said Greg Saks, who heads external relations and communications for the system, at the January trustees meeting.

SONOMA STATE SPOTLIGHT

Sonoma State had more than 9,000 students in 2018. Now it's down to 5,800. Since 2020, the school has shed $26 million in expenses to fill the budget hole left by losing nearly 40% of its students in the last six years.

Those cuts meant far fewer lecturers. It also means the loss of 70 staff plus eight tenured or tenure-track professors — largely through attrition or unfilled vacancies. Gone also are 26 management positions. Now the school faces an additional $24 million deficit in 2025-26. And like several other campuses with declining enrollments, Sonoma State will be rerouting a few million dollars to the campuses that are growing. "That demonstrates the right type of leadership," said Alvarez when asked about Sonoma State's plans to shrink its payroll. "When you don't have resources, you have to make those tough decisions." That dire budget picture prompted Cutrer, Sonoma State's interim president, to propose cancelling 23 degree programs by the end of this school year, including philosophy, economics, modern languages, physics, theater, dance, geology, women and gender studies. Those majors enroll 302 students. And while 114 will graduate this spring, 56 will need to find a new major and 132 will need a "teach-out" plan to finish their majors, which may include online classes and counting other courses as satisfying their programs.

While Alvarez acknowledges the necessity of "tough decisions," he is less thrilled about telling some students already enrolled in cancelled majors that they have to find new ones. "I don't think that's the right approach."

Cutrer's team also plans to lay off 46 full-time faculty, ending the NCAA sports programs that affect 11 teams and 36 coaches, and not renewing contracts for 60 lecturers. The expected moves have been met with outcry from the campus community and deep concern from local politicians. "These actions will have far-reaching consequences not only for the university and its students, but also for the broader Sonoma County community, our local economy and the ability of businesses and public institutions — including county government — to recruit and retain a skilled workforce," said a letter from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors to Cal State's leadership last month.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAN FRANCISCO STATE

San Francisco State declared a financial emergency in December after its enrollment sank from almost 29,000 students to less than 23,000 since 2019.

"So when my freshman class declined by 20% I needed 20% fewer sections of college writing, so a number of lecturer faculty didn't get any courses," said Mahoney, in an interview last month.

Lecturers, who are faculty and typically sign contracts per semester or year based on course availability, have fewer job guarantees than tenured professors.

By leaving vacancies open and cutting academic programs, the campus saved $26 million this year. But that doesn't close the budget gap because the university has $8 million more in wage increases for its employees this year. And the proposed 8% statewide cut would mean an additional $20 million shortfall next year for San Francisco State.

"The greatest cost is to our lecturer faculty, many of whom are proud products of the CSU who have worked for San Francisco State for many decades," Mahoney said in late January to the trustees.

She then read a note from an unnamed student who wrote "cutting jobs may provide a temporary financial fix, but it risks undermining the very foundation of the university's mission to provide high quality."

Systemwide, campuses have cancelled nearly 4,000 course sections between 2021 and 2024, even as enrollments have been climbing again after a brief dropoff. "This results in increased class sizes, which can impact student success, especially in student populations that need additional support," Storm said.

Mahoney told CalMatters that "this is as dire as anything I heard during the Great Recession."



WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 19

BOBA WITH BADGES

4 - 6 p.m. Dr. T House, 1709 Pico Blvd. Join SMPD at Dr. T House for bubble tea with the police. No agenda or speeches, just an informal opportunity to ask questions, discuss public safety concerns and get to know the officers and neighbors in your community.

FREE WALK-IN LEGAL CLINIC

4:30 - 7 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica residents can meet one on one with a lawyer from Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles for help with housing issues. Immediate assistance is available by calling LAFLA directly at 800-399-4529 or visit lafla.org/gethelp.

PLANNING COMMISSION

6 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. Established in 1946, the Planning Commission envisions Santa Monica as a city of wellbeing, sustainability, and equity, and seeks to balance the many needs and priorities within our community in accordance with the City's General Plan and Specific Plans. The Commission acts through open and civil discourse that is informed by public input, impartial analysis, and best practices in land use and planning.

THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 20

POST-FAIR 2025

11 a.m. - 8 p.m. 1248 5th St. Post-Fair is the pilot edition of an alternative three-day art fair. The fair will feature 29 local, national and international galleries and project spaces. Also takes place Feb. 21 and 22 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets $10, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/post-fair-2025-tickets-1127982970429.

LEGO CLUB

4 - 5 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Join in the popular LEGO club, explore the limits of your building imagination or try out one of the suggested builds. All materials provided. For ages 18 months - 11 years old.

LIBRARY LOVERS' MONTH

4 - 5 p.m. Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Stop by one of these pop-ups and write al love letter to the library and receive a special Library Lovers' Month token of appreciation, while supplies last.

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

6 - 8 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Council and Director of Community Services in all matters pertaining to public recreation including playgrounds, music and entertainment. The Commission will consider the budget of the Community and Cultural Services Department and make recommendations to the City Manager and the City Council.

MONTANA BRANCH BOOK GROUP

6 - 7:30 p.m. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. This community-led monthly discussion group meets in person at the Montana Branch to discuss a mix of fiction and nonfiction titles, often on topics chosen from current events. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. This month's title is "Master Slave Husband Wife" by Ilyon Woo.

AUSTIN NASSO'S COMEDY METAVERSE

8 - 9:30 p.m. Illusion Magic Lounge, 1418 4th St. Austin Nasso, a former Microsoft software engineer turned full-time comedian and impressionist, bringing a fresh perspective to the comedy world with his tech-savvy humor and impeccable impressions. Tickets $34, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/austin-nassos-comedy-metaverse-tickets-1226944346569.

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 21

ART SAVES LA

7 - 11:59 p.m. Famecast Creator Brand Accelerator, 1533 26th St. Join for a night of creativity and community, celebrating local artists and their incredible work. Half of event proceeds will be donated to IBTU, a local charity responding to the Pasadena and Eaton fires. Tickets $25-$50, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/blakbook-presents-art-saves-la-tickets-1210145761549.

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 22

CITRUS ORCHARD CARE AND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

9 - 11 a.m. Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd. Join for the annual Citrus Care and Maintenance Workshop in partnership with the LA County Master Gardener Orchard Management Team. Herb Machleder, Daniela Roveda and Jeff Warner will give guidance on proper care of your citrus trees, including tool maintenance, pruning techniques, disease and pest management, as well as fertilizing and water needs. RSVP at https://www.santamonica.gov/events/40qwns18w4f-67shxpxaa4py3n3/202502220900.

SAVE VENICE BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd. Here local poets and speakers share about the rich history of the Oakwood neighborhood in Venice. For more information, call 213-228-7430.

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 7

city attorney's office said the aiding and abetting language is nothing new – it's already illegal in Fremont, as in many cities, to aid or abet any crime. When asked about that by council members during Tuesday's meeting, Alvarado said even if the new camping ban didn't have that specific clause, "in theory," someone could still be penalized for aiding and abetting a homeless encampment.

But Riley said it's significant that the new camping ban explicitly makes it a crime to aid and abet an encampment – language she's never seen in any other active camping ban in California.

"This does seem to be going further," she said. "Because by making it explicitly tied to this section of the code, to me, it signals that there is intent to prosecute under this section."

Legal experts CalMatters spoke with said this is extremely unusual. No other city, to the best of CalMatters' knowledge, has attempted to use general municipal code in the fashion this ordinance would.



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