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Appointed as Chief of Police.

Volume 25 Issue 28

CHRISTMAS EDITION 12/24 - 12/25

smdp.com

Malibu tackles PCH safety as national report reveals traffic crisis

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

As a national traffic safety report reveals that 112 people are killed on American roadways every day, Malibu is moving forward with more than \$50 million in safety improvements to Pacific Coast Highway, where speeding and inadequate infrastructure have contributed to numerous fatal crashes.

The Malibu City Council approved a comprehensive safety project that will install 19 new guardrails, 6,956 linear feet of new sidewalks, 9.7 miles of bike lanes and 27 new light poles along 16 miles of PCH. The approval comes as Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety released its 2026 Roadmap to Safety report, which found that

most states receive mediocre grades on traffic safety and need to adopt proven countermeasures to prevent deaths and injuries.

“The Roadmap to Safety is a call to action for our elected officials to address the ongoing crisis of motor vehicle crashes,” said Cathy Chase, president of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety. “With traffic fatalities 26% higher than their historic low point in 2011, and injuries 10% higher, state lawmakers and Congress must prioritize improving the safety of road users.”

In 2023, 40,901 people were killed in crashes nationwide and an additional 2.44 million were injured, according to finalized statistics. Preliminary numbers for 2024 remain historically high.

The Malibu project gained urgency following the deaths of

four Pepperdine University students who were struck while standing on a sidewalk. Councilmember Doug Stewart referenced the tragedy during discussion of the safety improvements.

“It’s not about just speeding on PCH. We have pedestrians that are in harm’s way,” Stewart said. “We’ve got to get them off the street and out of harm’s way. And if you look at the tragic accident with Pepperdine women, they were actually standing behind cars, and they still got hit.”

The national report evaluates states on six safety categories and assigns overall grades of green, yellow or red. Only five states and Washington, D.C., received the highest green rating, while nine states earned red ratings for lagging



SMDP

SEE PCH PAGE 11 **PCH:** Pacific Coast Highway safety is high priority in Malibu.

Google launches AI-Powered Route 66 digital archive ahead of historic highway’s centennial

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Google has unveiled an interactive digital hub that uses artificial intelligence to preserve and showcase the history of Route 66, offering users a virtual journey along America’s Mother Road as the iconic highway

approaches its 100th anniversary in 2026.

The Route 66 Rewind project, developed in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, features 33 roadside attractions across all eight states along

SEE ROUTE 66 PAGE 7

Major winter storm hits Los Angeles

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

A powerful winter storm began bearing down on the Los Angeles this week, prompting forecasters to warn of dangerous flooding, damaging winds and the potential for mudslides through Christmas Day.

The National Weather Service issued a flood watch for all of Southwest California as the storm system threatened to bring up to

11 inches of rain to foothill and mountain areas by Thursday evening. Forecasters described the event as a “very dangerous holiday storm” and urged residents to take protective action before conditions deteriorate.

“This is a major storm to affect Southern California,” meteorologists wrote in their forecast discussion Tuesday morning. “Anyone traveling on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day will need to exercise extreme

caution.”

The storm began with light rain Tuesday afternoon, with the heaviest precipitation expected Tuesday night through Wednesday. A second wave of rain was forecast for Christmas Day.

Los Angeles County officials also sent out warnings to residents who live near burned areas saying landslides or other problems are possible.

SEE RAIN PAGE 11



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Pop culture in 2025: A ring for Taylor, an ill-timed KissCam ... and whatever '6-7' means

In a year of pop culture moments, some things were old and some things were very new. What does the term "6-7" mean? Dictionary.com designated it the word of 2025 but even they couldn't define it. People were talking about "KPop Demon Hunters," and especially singing its songs. They were talking about the Coldplay KissCam, and how adorable the capybara was. But then there were two names that have dominated our pop culture for years now. Taylor Swift kept making records with her album sales, and got engaged. And Beyoncé finally won her overdue Grammy for album of the year.

Dictionaries define things. It's their job. So when dictionary.com pronounced "6-7" as their 2025 word of the year, you'd think they would have, well, defined it.

But no. "We're all still trying to figure out exactly what it means," they told us of this year's "linguistic time capsule."

But that's just how pop culture works, isn't it? Who's to explain why parents alone in their cars were suddenly singing "up up up" from that "KPop Demon Hunters?" song? Or why, in the Venn diagram of pop culture and zoology, it was the capybara that emerged victorious and beloved? Goodbye, Moo Deng. You're adorable, but so 2024.

Despite our new obsessions, though, some things remained constant — by which we mean Taylor Swift and Beyoncé, of course. It seems like every year gets bigger for Swift. But in 2025, she put a bow — or ring — on it with Travis Kelce, announcing "your English teacher and your gym teacher are getting married." As for Beyoncé, the musical goddess finally won that best album Grammy she long deserved — and, on tour, introduced a new force: her daughter, Blue Ivy.

So from the inexplicable to the familiar, here's our annual, highly selective journey down pop culture memory lane:

JANUARY

They may not be TAYVIS, but they're a delightful couple just the same: ZENDAYA and TOM HOLLAND are engaged. Let's hear it also for DEMI MOORE, who wins a GOLDEN GLOBE for her wild performance in "The Substance." At the bookstore, fans go wild for "ONYX STORM," the third installment of REBECCA YARROS' romantasy series. A NIRVANA reunion highlights FireAid, a fundraiser for relief efforts following the Los Angeles wildfires. At the Australian Open, U.S. tennis star COCO GAUFF mourns the temporary

loss of TikTok's app back home, drawing a broken heart on a TV lens.

FEBRUARY

"Salutations!" says SAMUEL L. JACKSON, introducing KENDRICK LAMAR, the first solo hip-hop artist — and Pulitzer winner — to headline the Super Bowl halftime show. (P.S. Is that SERENA WILLIAMS?) At the GRAMMYS, members of the Los Angeles Fire Department present BEYONCÉ with her best album trophy for "COWBOY CARTER" — the most awarded and nominated artist in Grammy history becomes the first Black woman to win the top prize in the 21st century. In the age of TikTok, you never know what's going to catch fire — like those hand-penned party invitations from 87-year old DOUG TURNER to his Pennsylvania neighbors, with the priceless line: "4 p.m. until the cops arrive."

MARCH

It's OSCAR month! All hail to SEAN BAKER'S victorious, Brooklyn-set "ANORA" and its star, MIKEY MADISON. Also scoring an acting prize is ADRIEN BRODY for "THE BRUTALIST" — who probably should have found another place to put his chewing gum. "WICKED," an audience favorite, misses out on big prizes, but its stars, CYNTHIA ERIVO and ARIANA GRANDE, perform a rousing opening number. Meanwhile, the once-promising Netflix contender "EMILIA PÉREZ" wins two prizes but sees best picture chances evaporate in the wake of an uproar over past tweets from star KARLA SOFÍA GASCÓN.

APRIL

The blender! The poisonous fruit! The lizard! And SAM ROCKWELL! The Thailand-set third season of "THE WHITE LOTUS" is certainly a talker. KATY PERRY may be wishing she'd headed to Thailand rather than outer space: her Earth-kissing return from an 11-minute trip on a JEFF BEZOS Blue Origin rocket is widely mocked — even by Wendy's, which writes on X: "Can we send her back." On BEYONCÉ'S "Cowboy Carter" tour, a star has emerged — 13-year old BLUE IVY. In a megadeal, HAILEY BIEBER sells her Rhode skincare and makeup brand for a cool \$1 billion.

MAY

SEE POP CULTURE PAGE 8

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A mysterious fedora, a thieving cat and other stories that made us smile in 2025

Even the most dedicated doomscrollers smile once in a while. Here’s a look back at some of the Associated Press stories that captured attention around the world and provided moments of brightness throughout 2025:

ART AND INTRIGUE

The brazen heist at the world’s most visited museum in November wasn’t just a whodunit, it was a “who wore it.” Hours after thieves snatched the French crown jewels from the Louvre, an AP photographer snapped a picture of a sharply-dressed young man striding past police.

Who was this mysterious “Fedora Man?” A 15-year-old boy who favors elegant clothing inspired by history and fictional detectives.

“I didn’t want to say immediately it was me,” Pedro Elias Garzon Delvaux said a week later. “With this photo, there is a mystery, so you have to make it last.”

September marked the solving of another art-related mystery when scientists confirmed the source of the blue color in one of Jackson Pollock’s iconic paintings. While the origins of the reds and yellows splattered across the abstract expressionist’s “Number 1A, 1948” were well known, it took chemistry to confirm the rich turquoise as manganese blue.

Meanwhile, in New Zealand, a cat called Leonardo da Pinchy had more in common with the Louvre thieves than the artist who inspired his nickname. The felonious feline with expensive taste in clothing spent a year stealing laundry from clotheslines before his embarrassed owner posted photos of his hauls on Facebook. Those who showed up to claim their belongings in July included a woman who recognized her pink and purple underwear.

“He only wants stuff he shouldn’t have,” said Leonardo’s owner, Helen North.

Tales — and fins and feathers — of survival Also in the animals behaving badly category: a humpback whale that briefly swallowed a kayaker off Chilean Patagonia in February.

“I thought I was dead,” Adrián Simancas said. “I thought it had eaten me, that it had swallowed me.”

Simancas’ father captured the moment on video while encouraging his son to remain calm, and they both returned to shore uninjured.

Animals elsewhere this year were often facing their own challenges.

Roughly 7,000 baby chickens and other birds perished in an abandoned postal service truck in Delaware in May. But another 5,000 chicks who endured three days without food and water were rescued by a local animal shelter, where workers spent weeks caring for them and finding them new homes. Some of the adopters took hundreds, hoping for egg-

laying hens, while others took them as pets.

And though they weren’t in mortal danger, elephants at a San Diego zoo showed off their survival skills in April when a 5.2 magnitude earthquake struck Southern California. Video from their enclosure showed three older, female elephants scrambling to encircle and shield two 7-year-old elephants, named Zuli and Mkhaya.

“It’s so great to see them doing the thing we all should be doing — that any parent does, which is protect their children,” said Mindy Albright, curator of mammals at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

CELEBRATING GIRLS, GODDESSES AND THE WISE

For some parents in Nepal, child-rearing involves competing to have their daughters selected and sequestered as living goddesses. In October, 2-year-old Aryatara Shakya was celebrated as the new Kumari, or “virgin Goddess,” a position she will hold until she reaches puberty.

“She was just my daughter yesterday, but today she is a goddess,” her father, Ananta Shakya, said.

Another father’s involvement in his daughter’s milestone came in August, when 2,000 people turned out for 15-year-old Isela Anahí Santiago Morales’ quinceañera in Axtla de Terrazas, Mexico.

After few guests showed up to mark her symbolic passage from childhood to womanhood, Isela’s father posted about the leftover food on Facebook. An outpouring of support ensued, leading to a redo in August with a dozen music groups performing on two stages. Wearing a sparkly tiara and glittering pink ballgown, the soft-spoken Isela asked attendees to donate toys for vulnerable children instead of bringing gifts.

Meanwhile, some women elsewhere turned away from glamorous looks and ditched makeup altogether in 2025, perhaps inspired by actor Pamela Anderson’s barefaced appearance at fashion shows and film premieres.

“I’m not trying to be the prettiest girl in the room,” Anderson told Vogue during Paris Fashion Week. “I feel like it’s just freedom. It’s like a relief.”

While experts in September offered tips for going makeup-free, the world’s oldest woman offered more universal advice in the spring.

Ethel Caterham, 116, became the world’s oldest living person earlier this year. She described her method for longevity from her nursing home in Surrey, southwest of London:

“Never arguing with anyone,” she said. “I listen, and I do what I like.”

By HOLLY RAMER Associated Press



Surf report WATER TEMP: 62.8

WEDNESDAY SURF: 4-6ft+ VERY POOR Chest to 1 ft overhead

Chunky blend of SE/S windswell and small W swell. Wind outlook worth monitoring (but mostly bad). Chunky SE/S windswell through the morning and should still have some decent size for the open exposures early. Modest new NW swell shows through the day, looking strongest late. Wind outlook from the Euro is a lot better than the GFS so I wouldn't write the day off entirely. Might be a window to track down early.

THURSDAY SURF: 2-3ft+ POOR Thigh to stomach

Chunky S/SSW windswell. Worth keeping an eye on the end of the day. Watching for continued southerly windswell across SoCal exposures as some small NW windswell mixes in. Southerly wind is looking like an issue for most regions all day. Santa Barbara and Ventura, maybe even North LA, could see wind back off some in the later PM but a full cleanup looks unlikely.



Wednesday: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. High near 63.
Wednesday Night: Showers. Low around 56. Breezy, with a south southeast wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
Thursday: Showers. High near 60. Chance of precipitation is 90%.
Thursday Night: Showers. Low around 54. Chance of precipitation is 100%.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/12/24	Wed	12:41 AM	3.59	H
2025/12/24	Wed	04:50 AM	2.73	L
2025/12/24	Wed	10:52 AM	5.16	H
2025/12/24	Wed	6:23 PM	-0.12	L
2025/12/25	Thu	01:24 AM	3.77	H
2025/12/25	Thu	05:55 AM	2.75	L
2025/12/25	Thu	11:40 AM	4.61	H
2025/12/25	Thu	7:01 PM	0.24	L
2025/12/26	Fri	02:08 AM	4.05	H
2025/12/26	Fri	07:22 AM	2.63	L
2025/12/26	Fri	12:43 PM	3.95	H
2025/12/26	Fri	7:42 PM	0.68	L
2025/12/27	Sat	02:53 AM	4.44	H



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>

 Draw Date: 12/22 3 18 36 41 54 Power#: 7 Jackpot: 1.7 M	 Draw Date: 12/22 1 14 16 18 19
 Draw Date: 12/19 1 11 27 39 59 Mega#: 18 Jackpot: 100 M	 Draw Date: 12/22 EVENING: 9 5 4 Draw Date: 12/22 MIDDAY: 6 8 7
 Draw Date: 12/20 1 13 22 31 37 Mega#: 18 Jackpot: 13 M	 Draw Date: 12/22 1st: 05 - California Classic 2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms 3rd: 07 - Eureka Race Time: 1:47.22

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Name Change

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025274030. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SUNSET PARK ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY RESIDENTS 2 SPEAR, 2528 29TH ST., SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): TERI DAVIS BERNSTEIN, 2528 29TH ST., SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/2025. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ Teri Davis Bernstein, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/10/2025. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 12/24/2025, 12/31/2025, 01/07/2026, 01/14/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025278452 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MICROFEST RECORDS, 229 Rennie Ave, Venice, CA 90291, LA County. Registered Owner(s): John Schneider, 229 Rennie Ave, Venice, CA 90291. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A. s/ John Schneider, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on December 16, 2025. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: December 24, 2025, December 31, 2025, January 7, 2026, January 14, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025249160 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FURUTANI & CO., 1725 Baldwin Pl, Montebello, CA 90640, Los Angeles County. Registered Owner(s): FURUTANI & CO. LLC, 1725 Baldwin Pl, Montebello, CA 90640. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/1/2025. s/ Joey Furutani, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/5/2025. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish on: 12/3/2025, 12/10/2025, 12/17/2025, 12/24/2025.

Name Change

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. 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: 01/23/2026, 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: 12/18/2024, 12/24/2025, 12/31/2024, 01/07/2025.

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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Christmas and New Years
Food & Events

SMDP’s Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes Christmas and New Years restaurant offerings, New Years parties, Mariah Carey’s Holiday Bar, and much more!

Ring in the New Year - East Coast Countdown Celebration: Enjoy a family-friendly New Year’s Eve celebration in Downtown Santa Monica, concluding with an “East Coast Countdown” to accommodate earlier bedtimes. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 8:30 pm – 9:30 pm downtownsm.com/events-calendar/8958/ring-in-the-new-year-east-coast-countdown-celebration

55th Annual Santa Monica Playhouse New Year’s Eve Musical Revue: The long-running, one-night-only musical comedy revue rings in the New Year with an upbeat, family-friendly musical show. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 6 & 9:30 p.m. www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/new-years-evemusical-revue.html

New Year’s Eve shows at The Crow: Join an absolutely stacked lineup featuring stand-up comics, dazzling drag artists, and (yes) real, actual clowns for a two-hour burst of pure, symbolic joy. Pull My Finger: Family-Friendly Comedy Show is Wednesday, Dec. 31,, 5p.m. and New Year’s Eve Cabaret & Comedy Show is Wednesday, Dec. 31, 8p.m., 2525 Michigan Ave. crowcomedy.com

The Bungalow Santa Monica - New Years Eve Spectacular: Keep a glass in hand from their premium open bar while the room fills with music and a little mystery. DJ Steve 1Der keeps the groove alive all night long.

Classic Big Top touches drift through the space and bring the celebration to life in true Bungalow style. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 101 Wilshire Blvd. <https://www.tixr.com/groups/thebungalowsm/events/the-bungalow-santa-monica-new-years-eve-spectacular-163448>

New Year’s Eve MASSIVE Beach House Music Festival: Ring in 2026 with a large-scale music festival, featuring house music and dancing right in the heart of Downtown Santa Monica. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 8p.m., 1212 3rd Street Promenade <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/massive-nye-beach-house-music-festival-tickets-1970765777492>

New Year’s Eve Santa Monica Pub Crawl: Participate in a festive NYE bar crawl, which includes VIP entry and exclusive drink specials at some of Santa Monica’s most famous destinations. Wednesday, Dec. 31 eventbrite.com/e/santa-monica-new-years-eve-pub-crawl-party-2026-tickets-1145215493369

New Years Eve at Hotel Casa del Mar: Dance your way into 2026 by the sea with a lavish Roaring ‘20s–themed New Year’s Eve celebration. General Admission tickets are \$225 per person plus tax and gratuity, and include three premium drink tickets, passed appetizers, late-night bites, a midnight champagne toast, and a festive balloon drop. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 9p.m., 1910 Ocean Way eventbrite.com/e/the-new-years-party-of-the-century-at-hotel-casa-del-mar-tickets-1974534400545











Bodega Wine Bar’s New Year’s Eve: No cover bash at 814 Broadway, 8p.m. - 1:30a.m. with a live DJ, drink specials, Jell-O shots and good vibes all night. [instagram.com/bodegasantamonica](https://www.instagram.com/bodegasantamonica)

Champagne at the Stroke of Twelve at The Georgian Room: Enjoy an evening of live musical entertainment, flowing glasses, and celebratory moments that carry us from dinner to the dance floor, and for those staying late, into the new year. They



Courtesy image
NYE: The Bungalow is among the places hosting New Years celebrations.

GAS PRICES IN SANTA MONICA

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	SHELL 1866 Lincoln Blvd	\$4.⁶⁹
	ARCO 332 Pico Blvd	\$4.⁵⁹
	CHEVRON 1330 Santa Monica Blvd	\$4.⁶³
	CHEVRON 1732 Lincoln Blvd	\$4.⁷⁹
	SHELL 1802 Cloverfield Blvd	\$4.⁷⁹
	CHEVRON 2601 Wilshire Blvd	\$4.⁶⁹
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Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 10.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.39/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 35.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 6.3 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 4.3 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$3.575 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at \$3.49/g while the most expensive was \$5.79/g, a difference of \$2.30/g. The lowest price in the state was \$2.69/g while the highest was \$6.09/g, a difference of \$3.40/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 5.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.79/g. The national average is down 26.4 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 21.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

Darrick Jacob Appointed as Santa Monica Chief of Police

City Manager Oliver Chi has announced the appointment of Darrick Jacob as Santa Monica’s next chief of police.

Jacob has served with the Santa Monica Police Department since 2004 and has been acting chief since August 2025. His appointment reflects more than two decades of service to the city and a leadership approach centered on accountability, professionalism and community trust.

“Chief Jacob is one of the most exceptional leaders that I have had the privilege of working with in my career,” Chi said. “He brings deep institutional knowledge, exceptional judgment and a calm, values-driven approach to leadership.”

Jacob’s appointment is also significant for the department, as he is the first internal candidate selected to serve as Santa Monica’s chief of police in more than 40 years.

During his tenure with SMPD, Jacob has served in a variety of leadership and operational roles, including deputy chief beginning in 2020. His experience spans patrol operations, investigations, organizational management and citywide public safety coordination. Prior to joining SMPD, Jacob served with the Northridge Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. He is also a veteran of the United States Navy.

As acting chief, Jacob has refocused the department’s operations around four core priorities: crime reduction, homelessness, traffic safety, and community and youth engagement.

A central component of Jacob’s leadership approach is increasing officer visibility throughout the city, including a renewed emphasis on foot beats, bike patrols and high-visibility deployments in neighborhood, commercial and pedestrian-heavy areas.

“Our responsibility is not only to reduce crime, but also to address the fear of crime that impacts how people experience their city,” Jacob said.

Under Jacob’s leadership, the department has reached full sworn staffing for the first time in nearly two decades, supported by City Council approval of additional over-hire positions.

Chief Jacob holds a bachelor’s degree in health science and a master’s degree in public administration from California State University, Northridge.

His appointment is effective as of Dec. 14. He will be sworn into service Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 10 a.m. The public can view live on the City’s YouTube channel.



Courtesy photo

CHIEF: Jacob has served with the Santa Monica Police Department since 2004 and has been acting chief since August 2025.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Beach

Annual Polar Bear Plunge Set for Jan. 10 at Annenberg Community Beach House

The eighth annual Polar Bear Plunge will take place Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, offering community members of all ages an opportunity to dive into the new year with an invigorating ocean plunge.

The event begins at the Annenberg Community Beach House Guest Services kiosk for check-in before participants head to the beach. At approximately 10:15 a.m., participants will take a group plunge into the Pacific Ocean, followed by a 300-yard swim around a buoy for those wanting to test their stamina.

After the ocean experience, participants can head to the Annenberg Community Beach House pool, open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., to warm up, enjoy complimentary hot chocolate or take photos with Pat the Polar Bear.

Admission is required for the pool, deck area and heated showers: \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors age 60 and older, and \$4 for youth ages 1-17.

The schedule includes pool opening and check-in at 10 a.m., ocean plunge at 10:15 a.m., a 300-yard buoy swim at 10:25 a.m., with the event ending at 2 p.m.

Santa Monica Harbor Patrol, Los Angeles County Fire Department Lifeguards and city of Santa Monica lifeguards will be on hand to support the ocean plunge and buoy swim.

Advanced online registration is available at <https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/activity/search/detail/100943>. In-person registration may be limited on the day of the event.

The Annenberg Community Beach House is located at 415 Pacific Coast Highway.



Courtesy photo

OCEAN: On Saturday, January 10, 2026, the eighth annual Polar Bear Plunge will take place, giving locals of all ages a chance to start the new year with a revitalizing ocean plunge.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

ROUTE 66

FROM PAGE 1

the historic route from Chicago to Los Angeles. The digital archive combines AI-generated video, contemporary street views and archival materials to transport users between past and present.

“It can be hard to visualize what Route 66 must have felt like in its heyday, so we saw a natural fit here to help make the past feel a little closer using Google’s AI tools,” the Google Arts & Culture Team said.

The centerpiece of the project is an interactive “rewind” feature that allows users to toggle between Google Street View imagery and historically inspired video footage. The vintage-style videos are generated using Veo, Google’s AI filmmaking tool, and Flow technology to recreate the atmosphere of traveling the route in decades past.

For 11 of the featured locations, Google worked directly with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to source archival photographs that informed the AI-generated videos, ensuring historical accuracy in the recreations.

The virtual road trip experience places users inside a classic car as they visit legendary motels, service stations and restaurants along the route. An AI radio feature adds depth to the experience, offering commentary generated by Gemini, Google’s AI assistant, along with era-inspired music created using Lyria, an AI music generation tool.

Users can switch between radio stations to hear insights about each location or ask questions about specific sites to receive live responses from Gemini. The hub also includes maps, videos, photos and written histories of the route.



Courtesy photo

PROJECT: The Route 66 Rewind project, developed in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, features 33 roadside attractions across all eight states along the historic route from Chicago to Los Angeles.

The project took several years to develop, beginning with a suggestion from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in anticipation of Route 66’s centennial. A key challenge involved onboarding 15 partner organizations, 10 of which were new to the collaboration, and supporting them in sharing their expertise on the platform.

“Their knowledge of the Route and its history is unparalleled, and supporting them in sharing their cultural expertise means that the small business, diverse communities, quirky road signs and Americana, and so much more will have a digital home even if the physical location changes,” the Google Arts & Culture Team said.

The digital hub places special emphasis on California’s role as the final, dramatic segment of Route 66, with dedicated coverage of the route’s

endpoint in Santa Monica. Google collaborated closely with the California Historic Route 66 Association to highlight key locations along the state’s stretch of the highway.

The preservation effort comes as many physical Route 66 landmarks face an uncertain future. The project aims to create a lasting digital record of sites that may be disappearing from the physical landscape.

“Using tools like Veo and Gemini can help animate historical locations and images in a way that makes them still feel real and relevant, even if that atmosphere has disappeared in the physical world,” the team explained.

Google launched the project with a celebration event at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, focusing on the Oklahoma City chapter, which includes eight partners, four of them new to the collaboration.

The tech company hopes the project will demonstrate that Route 66 remains more than a static piece of history. Partner organizations have contributed stories ranging from unique architecture to pop culture impact to profiles of people living along the route today.

“We hope they enjoy the ways that AI can be used to enhance this experience of history in a thoughtful and fun way,” the Google Arts & Culture Team said.

The Route 66 digital hub is accessible at [google.com/route66](https://www.google.com/route66) and is designed to appeal to both American and international audiences interested in exploring the legendary highway’s history and cultural significance.

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POP CULTURE

FROM PAGE 2

A crisis, at CANNES! The film fest bans nudity on the carpet — do they think this will halt the “naked dress” phenomenon? Bonne chance. Also at Cannes, TOM CRUISE again shows he’ll risk life and limb to entertain, this time atop a classic biplane in “MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: THE FINAL RECKONING.” Across the ocean, the MET GALA turns its focus to menswear and Black style over the centuries. “It took a minute,” says an approving SPIKE LEE. “You belong with me,” SWIFT sings, buying back the rights to her first six albums. Finally, cue the “Chicago Pope” memes — in honor of the first American pope, LEO XIV. Later this year, he’ll reveal his WORDLE strategy.

JUNE

“The world will know you as pop stars — but you will be much more than that.” Like, perhaps, the surprise, multigenerational hit of the summer? “KPOP DEMON HUNTERS” starts streaming this month, and in August will give Netflix a big box office win with its singalong screenings. On TV, it’s a new season of love — “LOVE ISLAND USA,” that is, chronicling the goings-on at a luxury villa in Fiji. It’s the album cover that launched a thousand conversations: Some are offended when SABRINA CARPENTER illustrates her “MAN’S BEST FRIEND” album with a photo of her on all fours, with a man holding her hair. Is it offensive, a purposeful joke, or nothing at all? Meanwhile politics finds its way into the GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL in Britain, as rap-punk duo BOB VYLAN spark a police probe after leading a chant calling for “death” to the Israeli military.

JULY

OASIS begins a reunion tour, and the GALLAGHER brothers are still getting along! “SYDNEY SWEENEY has great jeans,” goes the much-discussed advertisement, and American Eagle insists it’s about the denim. CBS says it will end STEPHEN COLBERT’S show in May 2026 — a move that will remove from air one of President DONALD TRUMP’S most outspoken critics. We cannot leave July behind — although at least two people would have loved to — without mentioning the saga of the COLDPLAY KISSCAM. Finally, within six days, the world loses three ‘80s icons: mustachioed wrestling icon HULK HOGAN, heavy metal godfather OZZY OSBOURNE, and beloved “Cosby Show” actor MALCOLM-JAMAL WARNER.

AUGUST

Let’s just give this whole entry to pop culture’s biggest “LOVE STORY” — because, baby, she said yes! TAYLOR-TRAVIS skeptics eat their words when the couple announces their happy news, in what’s destined to become one of the most liked posts in Instagram history. It’s the fairytale culmination of a courtship that began during the Eras Tour and for two years captivated millions around the world but especially Swifties, the pop star’s loving and fiercely protective fan base.

SEPTEMBER

Proving once again that Hollywood loves stories about itself, the EMMYS heap awards on SETH ROGEN’S movie-biz satire “THE STUDIO.” Also triumphing is “THE PITT,” the edgy medical drama starring beloved “ER” veteran NOAH WYLE that beats out the mighty “SEVERANCE.” Perhaps the biggest Cinderella story of all: 15-year-old OWEN COOPER, the youngest Emmy winner in over 40 years for the searing “ADOLESCENCE.” Also this month, JIMMY KIMMEL is temporarily suspended by ABC bosses for comments that angered supporters of the slain CHARLIE KIRK. The world says goodbye to ROBERT REDFORD, Hollywood’s golden screen idol turned influential activist.

OCTOBER

“So, how was your October?” “Oh, 6-7.” That’s apparently how one should use the new viral term — accompanied by that palms-up gesture. You know who has better moves than that? BAD BUNNY, who hosts the season premiere of “SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE.” In SWIFT updates, her new album “THE LIFE OF A SHOWGIRL” sets sales records. The shocking LOUVRE HEIST captures the world’s attention, not least for the impossibly dapper stranger who walks into an AP photographer’s frame. Another sad loss: DIANE KEATON, famous for her fedoras, vests and especially “La di da, La di da.”

NOVEMBER

Are we at the end of the yellow brick road? The “WICKED” press tour, which reached all ends of the universe actual and fictional, wraps with the release of JON M. CHU’S second installment, “WICKED: FOR GOOD.” The reviews are much less, er, enthusiastical this time, but the movie defies gravity at the box office. That’s not enough for JONATHAN BAILEY, aka FIYERO, who is named People’s Sexiest Man Alive. Another fan favorite, ROBERT IRWIN, is also having a very good month: a decade after his sister, BINDI, did the same, the son of late conservationist STEVE IRWIN is crowned winner of “DANCING WITH THE STARS.”

DECEMBER

One award after another! Excuse the rather obvious pun, but it’s the perfect one to describe momentum in the OSCARS race. While some films see their fortunes fade on GOLDEN GLOBE nominations day, the emerging favorite is “ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER,” director PAUL THOMAS ANDERSON’S father-daughter saga of political resistance starring LEONARDO DiCAPRIO and newcomer CHASE INFINTI. Its success also lends a victory to WARNER BROS. in the middle of its NETFLIX acquisition deal — which, at year’s end, is in a holding pattern, facing antitrust challenges and a hostile takeover effort from PARAMOUNT, and sowing one fear after another that the very nature of entertainment will change.

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

are offering an early seating from 5:30 - 8p.m. and a late seating starting at 8p.m. 1415 Ocean Ave. <https://resy.com/cities/santa-monica-ca/venues/the-georgian-room/events/nye-2026-at-the-georgian-room-2025-12-31>

ONGOING: Ice at Santa Monica (through Jan. 19); “Two Bit Circus” Pop-Up; Museum of Illusions;

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Christmas Morning Brunch at Fitoor: The festive brunch features abundant buffet stations including Burmese Khow Suey, Chaat, Frankie & Dips, Dosa, Mains, and Desserts, ensuring guests head into the holiday fully satisfied. \$105/person.

Jameson’s Pub All You Can Eat Christmas: You get your choice of turkey, ham, or prime rib with all the fixin’s for \$19.99 per person while getting to watch all the games. 2702 Main St. santamonica.jamesonsirishpub.com

Christmas Dinner at Orla by Michael Mina: On Christmas Day, enjoy menu items that combine the best flavors of the California Coast and the Mediterranean Sea that honors Chef Michael Mina’s Egyptian and Greek Heritage, such as Spiced Turkey Confit, Butternut Squash Risotto, with Pumpkin Pie and Passion Fruit Labneh Cheesecake. 1700 Ocean Ave. <https://www.opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=1352833&restref=1352833&experienceId=550735>

Christmas Day at The Penthouse at Huntley: Celebrate with a special three-course prix-fixe menu while enjoying panoramic ocean views and signature cocktails.1111 2nd St. penthouserestaurant.com

Christmas at 1 Pico at Shutters on the Beach: Enjoy Italian-inspired seasonal fare in a relaxed ocean-view setting. 1 Pico Blvd. shuttersonthebeach.com/dining/1-pico

Christmas at Terrazza at Hotel Casa del Mar: Enjoy dishes such as glazed ham, grilled branzino, or stuffed conchiglioni, all paired with festive decor and ocean vistas. 1910 Ocean Way hotelcasadelmar.com/dining/terrazza

New Years Eve at Cosetta: Enjoy a four or five course menu of classical italian elegance — plus caviar, truffles, and hanukkah brisket. 3150 Ocean Park Blvd. cosettala.com/nyebash

New Year’s Eve at Orla by Michael Mina: Celebrate with a four-course meal while overlooking the Pacific Ocean at Orla by Michael Mina. Diners can enjoy a Mediterranean-inspired menu, enjoy live music, followed by a nightcap in the lobby. Sip on complimentary champagne and receive festive party favors when the clock strikes 12. 6pm - 12am; First Seating: \$125 per person plus Tax & Gratuity, Second Seating: \$175 per person plus Tax & Gratuity. Schedule your reservation [HERE](#).

NYE at Pasjoli: Ring in the New Year with an elegant multi-course French tasting menu, festive holiday flavors, standout cocktails and wines, and a celebratory midnight toast — the perfect upscale NYE. They are offering an early 3-course menu and a late 5-course menu. More details [here](#).

New Years’ Eve at Xuntos: For New Year’s Eve (“nochevieja”) Spanish-style, Xuntos is pulling out all the stops with a celebratory Tapas Tasting feast showcasing seasonal, premium ingredients. Think shellfish, seafood, jamón, caviar y buenos tiempos para todos! Let’s raise a glass together to a maravillosa 2026! 516 Santa Monica Blvd. opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?experienceId=597478&restref=1316665&rid=1316665

Cosetta’s New Year’s Day Hawaiian BBQ: Enjoy an all you can eat buffet, hula hoops hoedown, 24oz Mai Tai, and more. Thursday, Jan 1, 3150 Ocean Park Blvd. <https://www.cosettala.com/nydbbq>

Further Afield: Mariah Carey’s Holiday Bar: This limited-time “Black Irish” cream liqueur pop- includes over-the-top glittery decor, holiday-themed cocktails, and plenty of photo ops for the “Queen of Christmas” fans. Now through December 28, 8440 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood mariahsholidaybar.com

Looking Ahead: LA Art Show (1/7-11); DineLA Restaurant Week (1/23 – 2/6); SaMo Symphony Annual MLK Concert (1/17); Frieze LA Art Show (2/26 - 3/1)

If there’s something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Christmas and New Years Food & Events

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6799

The old enemy

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

Anchor	Draw	Ground	Play
Appeal	Drop	Hayden	Runs
Bails	Duck	Hussey	Score
Ball	Edge	India	Shade
Batsman	Extra	Infield	Spin
Bowler	Fair	Leggie	Warne
Break	Family	Loss	Waugh
Byes	Fast	Mid on	Wicketkeeper
Coach	Fence	Not out	Win
Declaration	Finals	Oval	
Delivery	Four	Pads	
Dink	Grass	Pakistan	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Road trip stopover



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 24)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Today's luck comes from defining "luck" well or, to put a finer point on it, specifically. Because there is no universality to good fortune. What gives you a dollop of joy? Remember it, wish for it, look for it, and you'll experience it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Like a magician using clever sleight-of-hand, you'll dabble in a bit of harmless misdirection today, all to charm, entertain and delight your audience. You're after their bright, surprised smiles, and you'll get them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Mood fluctuation is totally normal given all you're doing now. When the pace of life takes a lot of energy, you may not have a ton left for self-care. Do try and offer yourself tenderness and as much leeway as possible.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People around you are more tuned into you than you think. You'll get the evidence of that today. It may influence your future behavior, knowing someone is listening, watching and caring about what you do next. Maybe this feels like love.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What you need is out there, waving its little arms, saying, "Hey! Over here!" The funny part? It might look nothing like what you ordered. Stay open. The right thing's en route, even if it's wearing a disguise.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's not a creature alive who thrives in bondage. You don't like feeling controlled, even if the one controlling you is you. If your rules are too strict, you'll rebel. What if you let go of the discipline today? What if you did what you naturally want to do?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Everyone seems to have an agenda today -- something they're subtly aiming for, like a mood, a moment or a feeling. Most do it unconsciously. Not you. You know exactly what you want. Guide the action toward it, and enjoy the results.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Love wears many disguises. It can even look like debate, challenge or people on opposite sides of the room. Beneath each is the same impulse: to meet someone where they are, whether through engagement, contrast or by giving them space while you admire from a distance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a clown in every class, and today you're that holiday jester, lighting the room with really charming comic relief. Your playful timing hits just right, and you also know when to bow out and let the room glow on its own.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When to speak and when the unspoken says more. When to open and when to close the door. When rhyming's good and when it's a bad call. Your timing is stellar. You'll sense these "whens" one and all.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Life offers a buffet of possibilities, so with whom shall you "dine?" Seek the company of people who need your help, because helping will feel good. Other contenders: the cheerful people who have an attractive attitude and/or interesting takes.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The force we call "destruction" has a negative reputation because people forget that it's half of the force we call "creation." Today, you'll dismantle the fixture that's been stressing you out, clearing space for something functional, lovely and far more reflective of the real you.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Mountains of France
- 5 Cribs, cots, etc.
- 9 C sharp alas
- 14 Fancy party
- 15 Sandwich cookie
- 16 Boxing match site
- 17 Flightless Aussie birds
- 18 Regretted
- 19 Has to have
- 20 TWO OF THE OCTET
- 23 Scribble (down)
- 24 British reference set: Abbr.

- 25 Toon skunk Pepe
- 28 Wedding cake level
- 30 Hardly any
- 33 Professional joke teller
- 34 Crop on stalks
- 35 Bull in Spain
- 36 THREE OF THE OCTET
- 39 Long distance in astronomy: Abbr.
- 40 Winter resort footwear
- 41 Choose by ballot
- 42 NASA's six-person orbiter: Abbr.
- 43 Risk taking, for short
- 44 Snatch forcibly
- 45 Sheep's sound
- 46 Assist
- 47 TWO OF THE OCTET
- 54 Approximately
- 56 Close tightly
- 57 Begin again with
- 58 Linguini or Ziti

- 59 Mambo bandleader
- Puente
- 60 Rarely rained on
- 61 Pamphlet printing machine
- 62 All over again
- 63 Houseplant holders

DOWN

- 1 Ripened, as cheese
- 2 The Dalai ____
- 3 In addition
- 4 Wide belt
- 5 Take out a loan
- 6 Spout lava
- 7 See 43-Down
- 8 Ginger ale, for instance
- 9 ONE OF THE

OCTET

- 10 Turned loose
- 11 Impolite glance
- 12 In addition
- 13 Profs.' helpers
- 21 Spout, as lava
- 22 Without stopping
- 25 Pillages
- 26 TV trophies
- 27 Docking place
- 28 Discussion focus
- 29 Cornea neighbor
- 30 Supposedly sly animals
- 31 Standing tall
- 32 Refuses to
- 33 251, in Roman numerals
- 34 Pickle-to-be,

informally

- 35 Flooring square
- 37 Congress' cable channel
- 38 *Rigoletto* composer
- 43 With 49- and 7-Down, what the octet are
- 44 "Weeping" tree
- 45 Boxing matches
- 46 Taper off
- 47 Medicinal amount
- 48 Mexican "are"
- 49 See 43-Down
- 50 Mouse catcher
- 51 Equator's latitude
- 52 Spruce up, as prose
- 53 Unspoken okays
- 54 Downloaded program
- 55 Chocolate shape

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PCH

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dangerously behind in adopting recommended laws. The remaining 36 states received yellow or caution ratings.

Vickie Brown of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, whose son Darius was killed by a drunk driver, said the report provides states with a clear path forward.

“This report card gives every state a clear roadmap to fill dangerous gaps in their traffic safety laws,” Brown said. “Drunk driving crashes are 100% preventable, and these road-tested laws will save many lives.”

The report found that no state has enacted all 18 of the organization’s optimal countermeasures. Based on its safety recommendations, states across the nation need to adopt 534 countermeasures, including improvements to seat belt laws, motorcycle helmet requirements, child passenger safety measures, graduated driver licensing programs and automated enforcement systems.

Malibu’s project addresses several areas identified in the national report. The city council also approved an additional \$1.6 million for enhanced safety measures, including innovative speed detection technology that will adapt signal timing to create more red lights when speeding is detected, and infrastructure for a five-location speed enforcement camera system.

The national report notes that 27 states need to permit red light cameras by law and

21 states need to permit automated speed enforcement. Currently, 28 states do not have red light cameras in use and 25 states do not have automated speed enforcement in use.

Councilmember Steve Uhring, who cast the lone dissenting vote on the PCH project, expressed frustration that the improvements don’t adequately address speeding, which he called the primary cause of fatalities on the highway.

“Speeding is the number one cause of death on PCH, number one cause has been all along,” Uhring said. “I spent \$55 million and I’d like to see something happen on PCH, which at least starts to slow down the traffic, because that’s what’s killing people.”

Chris Olson, chief of police at the University of Arizona and a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, emphasized that proven solutions exist to reduce fatalities and injuries.

“The solutions outlined in this report are proven to reduce the risk of fatalities and injuries,” Olson said. “We must get going on them.”

The Malibu project will also realign two intersections, install 22 upgraded curb ramps, construct three retaining walls and create a law enforcement pullout area. The California Department of Transportation is funding the improvements, which represent phase one of a two-phase pavement rehabilitation plan for the coastal highway.

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damaging winds. There was also a chance of weak, short-lived tornadoes or waterspouts, especially Thursday when colder air aloft creates additional instability.

The storm system features an atmospheric river with precipitable water values peaking around 1.5 inches and integrated vapor transport values between 750 and 1,000 kilograms per meter-second. A strong upper-level southwesterly jet will interact with this very moist tropical air mass to produce the prolonged heavy rainfall.

Snow levels will remain above 7,500 to 8,000 feet through Christmas Eve before dropping to around 7,000 feet Christmas Day, bringing accumulating snowfall to mountain resorts.

Marine conditions were expected to become exceptionally dangerous Tuesday afternoon through Thursday, with gale to storm-force winds north of Point Conception. The weather service strongly advised vessels, especially small craft, to remain in safe harbor. South-facing harbors were considered particularly vulnerable to the combination of south swell and strong winds.

A high surf advisory was in effect through Saturday morning, with large, choppy and dangerous surf expected to produce hazardous rip currents. Minor to locally moderate coastal flooding was possible for south-facing shores through Thursday.

Following the main storm system, cooler and showery conditions were forecast Friday and Saturday, with snow levels dropping to 4,500 to 5,000 feet. An additional half-inch to one inch of rain was expected in mountains and foothills Friday, with lighter amounts Saturday.

The forecast office issued flood watches, high wind warnings, wind advisories and high surf advisories covering most of Southwest California through the holiday period.

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WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 24

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://smdp.com/events/#!/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/12382446/2025-12-17T08>

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://smdp.com/events/#!/details/star-stories-with-pam/15607289/2025-12-17T12>

VINO & VINYL - WEDNESDAY HAPPY HOUR

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The Venice West 1717 Lincoln Blvd, Venice. Unwind and set the vibe with Vino & Vinyl, our laid-back happy hour at The Venice West. Enjoy half-off bottles of wine, food and bar specials, and a rotating selection of classic vinyl spinning from 6–7:30 PM. Perfect for music lovers, wine drinkers, and anyone looking to ease into the evening, Venice style. Happy Hour Join us weeknights from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM for our restaurant’s Happy Hour, featuring great deals including \$5 beers & snacks, \$10 craft cocktails, and more! Age Requirement All shows at The Venice West are 21+ only, unless otherwise stated. Valid government-issued photo ID is required for entry. Guests who cannot provide proof of age will not be admitted and no refunds will be issued. Parking Please note that residential/street parking is the only parking available near the venue. We strongly encourage rideshare services (Uber, Lyft, etc.) for a safe and convenient experience. Accessibility (ADA) We strive to make The Venice West welcoming and accessible to all guests. If you or someone in your party requires ADA seating or other special accommodations, please reach out to us in advance at info@venicemusicgroup.com so we can best prepare for your needs. Recording Policy To maintain the integrity of the live performance experience, audio and video recording is strictly prohibited during all comedy events unless otherwise specified. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Ticket Policy All ticket sales are final and non-refundable. In the event of a cancellation without a rescheduled date, a full refund will be automatically issued to the original form of payment. By purchasing a ticket, you agree to this policy. Please double-check the event title, time, and location before completing your purchase. For questions, contact us at info@venicemusicgroup.com. We look forward to hosting you at The Venice West—thank you for supporting live entertainment and our artists! Visit: <https://smdp.com/events/#!/details/vino-vinyl-wednesday-happy-hour/17651745/2025-12-24T18>

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 25

CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviértase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Visit: <https://smdp.com/events/#!/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2025-12-25T11>

OAKWOOD ROOTS FARMERS AND WELLNESS MARKET

11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 685 Westminster Ave Venice. Oakwood Roots Venice Farmers’ and Wellness Market is a hub for local foods, wellness classes, and holistic healing. We are dedicated to fostering a strong community, supporting local businesses, and advocating for sustainable practices. Join us in creating a healthier and more connected neighborhood. This is part of a larger effort to revitalize the abandoned parking lots across the street from the park into a community hub, in partnership with Community Corporation of Santa Monica and Hoopbus. Visit: <https://smdp.com/events/#!/details/oakwood-roots-farmers-and-wellness-market/14548473/2025-12-25T11>

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://smdp.com/events/#!/details/football-showings-at-the-whaler-/17408731/2025-12-25T00>

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 26

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-/15793351/2025-12-26T08>

STAR STORIES WITH MISS SANDY

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. STAR Stories With Miss Sandy Children are invited to share the joy of storytelling and reading with our special STAR volunteer, Miss Sandy. Come three times and take home a free book. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#!/details/star-stories-with-miss-sandy/15607291/2025-12-26T14>

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS AT THE SURFING FOX

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 120 Colorado Ave CA Contact Info (424) 214-1830 matt.sedgwick@candrpr.com Visit thesurfingfoxsm.com to view menus and learn more Santa Monica. Erinn Alissa performs acoustic folk pop with her guitar Friday nights at The Surfing Fox. Enjoy a night of live music, tasty bites, and Foxtails! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#!/details/live-music-fridays-at-the-surfing-fox/14385252/2025-12-26T18>

RAIN

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Coastal and valley areas south of Point Conception can expect 3 to 6 inches of rain, while foothills and mountains could see 5 to 11 inches through Thursday, according to the weather service. Areas north of Point Conception will receive slightly less, with 2 to 4 inches expected along the coast and valleys and 4 to 7 inches in higher elevations.

Peak rainfall rates south of Point Conception were expected to reach 0.60 to 1.25 inches per hour, with a 20% to 30% chance of isolated rates as high as 1.50 inches per hour across south-facing slopes. The intense rainfall rates, combined with the prolonged duration of heavy rain, prompted forecasters to designate south-facing mountains and foothills as high-risk areas for widespread flooding.

“Widespread and significant urban flooding will be likely along with rock/mudslides and debris flows,” forecasters warned, noting the threat extends beyond recent burn areas. Streams, rivers and creeks were expected to see rapid flows, increasing the risk of swift-water rescues.

Strong winds will compound the flooding threat. High wind warnings were issued from noon Tuesday through 3 p.m. Thursday for Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, as well as mountains and deserts in Ventura and Los Angeles counties. Gusts of 60 to 80 mph were forecast for those areas, while widespread gusts of 35 to 55 mph were expected across the region.

The combination of saturated soil and powerful winds raised concerns about widespread downed trees and power lines, particularly in areas under high wind warnings.

The Storm Prediction Center placed the region under a marginal risk for severe thunderstorms Tuesday night and Wednesday. Any thunderstorms that develop could bring brief but intense rainfall and

Share the Stoke

Have you ever tucked your toes in the sand of Mother's Beach on a quiet morning?

You breathe in the cool crisp air with nothing but you and the sound of your paddle dipping in the calm flat water. It's the steady churn that puts your body back into the right kind of rhythm and helps the rest of life feel a little lighter. That feeling is the kind of gift that money can't buy.

But you're in luck because money can buy...
Pro SUP Shop rental packs & memberships.

Choose from five visits, ten visits or go unlimited and give them a stack of incredible mornings.

Let's be honest, most gifts end up collecting dust but people actually remember and use our rental packs again and again.



Located on the Southwest end of the Jamaica Bay Inn parking lot at
4175 Admiralty Wy, Marina del Rey, CA (Entry on Palawan or Marina Lot #10)