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Printed on Dec 21, 2020

Chance of Showers
REDWOOD EMPIRE — Chance of showers tonight and New Year's Day; light winds. Highs and lows: Ukiah 52 and 35, Santa Rosa 56 and 35. Extended forecast: occasional rain. (Statistics, page 11.)

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

SANTA ROSA, CALIF., MONDAY, DEC. 31, 1973

Final
10 cents

RANGE OF SR PRICES FOR REGULAR TODAY — .41.1 10 AND .46.3 10
Prices for Premium Gasoline — .46 1 10 and .50 3 10

AREA GASOLINE SCENE

Higher Prices And 10-Gal. Limits Loom

A higher price for gasoline — customer to 10 gallons The average accompanied to a 10 gallon purchase limit — is expected to hit Sonoma County in the Bay Area this week as a result of an agreement between federal officials and station operators.

But as of this morning gas yet.

Jim Campbell, president of the California Service Station Association, said yesterday that the Federal Energy Office will allow the price of gas to rise by about three cents.

This would be in exchange for a promise by gas station operators to voluntarily ration each

holding at around 46 for regular and 49 at supreme. But I've been supreme at 48.9 and 52. I don't think there's been any re- ports of price gouging in this area yet.

"All that price gouging is going on back East," said Jean Kaufmann of Jean's Shell, "Why get into all that trouble for a few cents?

"I think the idea of rationing is stupid, ridiculous. I'm shoot- ing all the gas I can get. I give them all they want, as long as they can pay."

"It's a stinking deal all the way around," is the way Joe Kothgassner looks at the gaso-

Kothgassner owns M and K call from Federal Energy Chief looks like someone is getting William Simon's Office Saturday greedy and coming in with bar- I greedy and coming in with bar- rels I won't give it to them." day or Tuesday" for station op- rels I won't give it to them."

Gulf stations still operating in "When we get relief we will the Crossroads Gulf, one of few retailers. keeping me open but I'm on thin ice. Our dealers are going stone broke."

"I'm almost out of fuel now. Regional complaint centers and I'll probably close early. have been set up by the Federal Tomorrow I can start my new Energy Office to receive calls allotment. I haven't been limit- from persons who suspect price ing my customers. But if I gouging or any violations of fuel gouge and coming in with bar- Redwood Empire residents rels I won't give it to them." may make complaints by call-

Campbell said a telephone ing San Francisco, 415-556-7300.

GAS PRICES

Simon Announces Hike

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The price of gasoline will be boosted by one-cent a gallon to compensate gasoline owners for an expected 20 per cent cut in fuel supplies, Energy Chief William E. Simon said today.

Simon will outline the details of the increase at a news conference later today, energy officials said.

Gasoline station operators have been caught in a squeeze between dropping gas supplies and increasing operating costs.

Simon said that effective in January, gas stations would receive about 20 per cent less gasoline than they did in 1972. The price increase is the first

outside the wholesale price ment of fuel allocation regula- increase currently allowable tions across the country. under President Nixon's Phase Simon announced Sunday IV economic program. that We are concerned over the Earlier this month, Treasury possibility of fuel being stock- Secretary George P. Shultz piled in excessive and unrea- formally transferred authority sonable amounts, which could for controlling petroleum prices create local shortages and to the Federal Energy Office disrupt normal distribution from the Council.

Simon said his Federal Energy Office (FEO) is check- ing for any abnormal stock piling" by refiners, importers, wholesalers and end users of crude oil or refined products," Simon also announced a general crackdown on violators of the mandatory allocation regulations are sub-against a gasoline station ject to criminal penalties," he accused of price gouging. It said. "Failure or fraudulent said U.S. District Court Judge activities regarding the alloca- William J. Bauer in Chicago tion program will be prosecuted signed the order against under the criminal code." McBride's Shell Service, locat- ed on Chicago's South Side.

Simon first revealed the one-cent gasoline increase during a television appearance on the NBC Today Show.

Simon said Sunday that the government had launched an investigation into possible of any part of the fuel boarding of petroleum supplies and had stepped up enforce- ment.

allocation programs passed the mandatory allocation program. Willful violators of the mandatory allocation The Justice Department an- was acting under the Economic nounced, meanwhile, that it Stabilization Act, which sets has obtained its first temporary restraining order Sunday ceiling prices for gasoline. (Continued on Back Page)

PLEASED DESPITE WATERGATE

Nixon Reviews the Year

SAN CLEMENTE (UPI) — In his sense of satisfaction. And President Nixon looks back on he has no reason for self- his accomplishments of the past year with a personal "sense of achievement," Haig added, despite the shat- "Above all he is all the more convinced by the blows of Watergate, as determined to go on with his job according to White House Chief of as long as he is in office and Staff Alexander M. Haig Jr. to focus all of his attention on the

"Under no circumstances" completing the tasks ahead," will Nixon resign, Haig said. He said Nixon has made today in a year-end stock- taking, and a look to the future, long term aspects of the

When asked if Nixon would energy problem the "first resign if impeached, Haig said priority" for his attention in the "I don't think it's a contingency new year. The battle to control we're going to have to face," inflation is the second main The House Judiciary Commit- problem, the official said. toe is preparing to launch its "This guy is strong and impeachment inquiry. hearty and well balanced," the

The President is looking official said, speaking of Nixon forward to the new year and is "absolutely determined" to that there has been some continue in office, "faithful to the unraveling" of Nixon's mental, the mandate the American state as a result of Watergate, people gave him in November. Since he arrived at the 1972," Haig said. Western White House six days

"I think you can only capture ago, Nixon has "been getting a the President's mood and well needed rest," Haig's attitude when you view it in the said. "He walks on the beach, context of his personal realiza- getting exercise. But he tion of what he has achieved ... never stops work.

"We all needed a break," he explained. "This is a time for reflection. I for one am all of us to try to get into a different environment ... to get away from the pressures. It's a working period ... to see senior staffers had been shaken where we have been and where we are going."

White House officials realize the coverup until March 21. He that Watergate is not behind said "I can't think of anything them, but the side said the to substantiate that. I don't driving motivation" is "damn believe that."

The torpedos, fall speed ahead." Nevertheless, it was learned. The general rejected recent that there was a scramble to reports that after an attempted find out who made the period of "openness", Nixon statement to the Washington has back to his old lifestyle, Post Watergate reporters and isolated from the mainstream, the White House went to conferring only with Gen. lengths to knock it down Alexander M. Haig, his chief of publicly. staff and Ronald Ziegler, his The status of "Operation press secretary. Candor," a term the adminis- The allegation is incompre- tration rejects for the Pres- hensible to me," he said. "I've ident's efforts to clear his name, spent more time with the also was undergoing revisions President in recent days than I Haig said. over had. It doesn't mean Haig Documents regarding the is the sole source of his advice, controversial donations by the It doesn't mean Ziegler is dairy industry and International- press corps what the President campaign will be made public does every day," he said. within a matter of days, the On the question of Watergate general said. Also under active consideration for disclosure are Haig said "The people want to know, did the President "white papers" on the secret participate in the coverup. He "plumbers" operation in the says 'No.' If the courts prove (Continued on Back Page)

MABEL STRONG

Mabel Strong A Candidate

Mabel Strong, appointed Sono- ma County tax collector in October 1972, announced today she will run for a full four-year term of office this year.

Mrs. Strong, the first woman to hold an elected position in Sonoma County government, was named to the office by the Board of Supervisors following the resignation of Jimmie Anderson. She had been assistant tax collector.

"It's been a challenge and I enjoy it," said Mrs. Strong, "and I'd like to keep on doing it." The new term would begin January, 1975.

A Sonoma County employee for 29 years, Mrs. Strong began her career with Charles Scott, county treasurer in 1944.

Index

Bridge	7
Classified	15-20
Comics	12, 13
Crossword	7
Editorial	4
Entertainment, TV	7
Sports	8, 9
Obits	11
Women	6

107TH YEAR — NO. 68

MORE FLOOD INSURANCE

Nixon Signs Disaster Bill

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. (UPI) — President Nixon today signed a bill allowing millions of homeowners and small business- men to purchase up to $35,000 worth of flood insurance at a rate of 25 cents per $100 of coverage. Under the measure, called the 1973 Flood Disaster Protection Act, homeowners are free and merchants can buy a maximum $200,000 of coverage at reduced costs. The new ceilings are about double the ones available previously.

A short time earlier today, Nixon signed legislation authorizing the government to sell nearly 4000 million in stockpiled materials, particularly copper and aluminum, on grounds that the federal supply far exceeded national defense needs.

The White House announced Nixon's actions as he continued his whittle down the pile of about 50 bills sent to his desk by Congress before it adjourned 10 days ago for a month-long recess.

About 25 measures still were awaiting Nixon's okay, including a $73 billion defense

appropriations bill and another measure to increase Social Security benefits by 11 per cent.

Nixon also was expected to sign legislation establishing an international commission to study the situation at federally subsidized leisure hotels during contemplated current system of disaster relief when he signed it.

Under the measure, called Henry A. Kissinger, who joined the 1973 Flood Disaster Protection Act, homeowners are free to purchase up to $35,000 worth of flood insurance at a rate of 25 cents per $100 of coverage, and merchants can buy a maximum $200,000 of coverage at reduced costs. The new ceilings are about double the ones available previously.

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provisions of the act also Kissinger left his signed right at Nixon's request for two more years and to report on the peace emergency program set up in conference.

Kissinger flew to California to help make adequate. Taking his cue from the fixed insurance available to President, Kissinger left his residents and merchants in government plane at home and hazardous areas who might not flew to Los Angeles on a be able to obtain it otherwise. regular TWA flight. Nixon, in But under the new bill, people an unprecedented move by a living or doing business in such president in office, flew as a places will cease to be eligible first class passenger on a for future federal assistance United Airlines jumbo jet last unless their communities take weeks, saying he wanted to save (Continued on Back Page)

P.D.'s New Look

Look for the P.D.'s NEW LOOK with the new Year! Full color comics on Sunday, Jan. 6 A new Medley magazine, A new Empire Weekend Section Friday, Jan. 4 All designed for better reading in the new year

Still No Identity On Slain Girl

Sheriff's detectives continued efforts today to identify the young girl whose nude body was found Friday in Mark West Creek.

Several phone calls were checked out by officers, but nothing definite had been established.

The victim's upper teeth were false and she had a gold crown on the lower right side of her mouth, which officers hope will assist them to identify her accurately.

She is described as 18 to 25 years of age, possibly of Mexican-American descent. Five feet leading to the arrest and conviction with long dark hair, brown eyes and both ears pierced.

Her nude body was found by Marin authorities in Mark West Creek, near where the remains of three other girls were found in the Franz Valley within the past two months.

The pathologist who performed an autopsy Saturday said preliminary information indicated she was strangled to death.

Sheriff Don Striepeke asked anyone with information to come forward.

"Faithful to" Secret Witness will not be identified.

Notice to Readers

For the first time in three years and two months The Press Democrat is raising its subscription rates.

Effective tomorrow, Jan. 1, 1974, The Press Democrat home delivered rate will be $3.25 per month.

The mail subscription rate outside Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino counties will be $4 per month.

Home delivery and mail delivery of The Press Democrat on Sunday only will be $1.45.

Newsstand and street sale price of the daily Press Democrat will be 15 cents. Sunday will remain at 25 cents.

A portion of this increase will go to the newspaper carriers and motor route drivers, who are independent contractors.

Panas To Replace Belden As Urban Renewal Chairman

Michael Panas, chairman of Santa Rosa's Urban Renewal Agency for a number of years, has been returned to that post by City Council appointment.

On Wednesday, the council will reaffirm acceptance of the resignation of current chairman Lester M. Belden and install Panas to head the five-man agency.

Belden offered a letter of resignation effective today, according to Mayor Gregory Jones Jr. He served on the agency since October 1969, following 10 years on the City Planning Commission. Belden's law practice workload was given as the reason for his resignation.

Belden, an attorney, lost a race for City Council in 1972 to Councilman Murray Zatman by 31 votes.

Panas, vice president of Imperial Savings and Loan Association, is a member of several civic organizations of the North and main- a number of years. Hetwice- age of the Santa Rosa main of urban renewal began to boom- flow, was first named to the in the city. He was named to a four-year term in August 1963 and served value as chairman during a duration of terms. Frederick Browne, current ground and assistance when he Thomas Luecke in December- agency vice chairman, said The was named to the agency.

MICHAEL PANAS

LESTER BELDEN

Press Democrat today he recog- Panas' experience and

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