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SMC film, journalism students boosted by Golden Globe grant

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The best of 2024 in film will be competing over the next several months in a bevy of awards shows, and although the official schedule is still a mystery due to the ongoing fires in Los Angeles County, Santa Monica College was able to benefit from the major show before the blazes.

This month, the Golden Globe Foundation announced it has given the Santa Monica College Foundation two grant awards for the college's film production and journalism programs. The grants, which are made possible via revenue generated by licensing fees of the annual awards show, total $10,000 for journalism students and $35,000 for film production. The star-studded Globes took place Jan. 5 in Beverly Hills and live on CBS.

Student journalists working for The Corsair, a SMC tradition since 1929, are eligible for a piece of the $10,000 pie, which acts as a stipend for the work hours that could otherwise be spent at a full-time or part-time job. The $35,000 for film students is specifically earmarked for the film production capstone course, entitled "Making the Short Film."

The Golden Globe Foundation, formerly known as the Hollywood Foreign Press Association Foundation, has been working with SMC for several years now, with the organization's support directly allowing the film program Capstone course.

"(We are) tremendously proud to support the award-winning Film Production and Journalism programs at Santa Monica College," Golden Globe Foundation President Henri Arnaud said. "The training

SEE **SMC** PAGE 11

Local disabled swimmer breaks Paralympic barriers



Courtesy Photo

SWIMMER: Local intellectually disabled swimmer Tessa Nagy has been breaking barriers throughout her career.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Tessa Nagy has been making history from Santa Monica to the world stage, proving that anyone can achieve success with the right attitude.

At last month's U.S. Paralympics Swimming National Championships, Nagy took to the pool in Orlando, winning two silver medals in the 200 meter Fly and 4x100 Mixed Freestyle Relay, as well as a bronze medal in the 200 meter Freestyle.

Nagy, who was born with severe autism and severe intellectual disability, competed at nationals against the entire Paralympic field, not just those with comparable intellectual disability. Despite the challenge, the 24-year-old persisted, and will be taking her talents to Indianapolis in April for the Para Swimming World Series.

Her competitive swimming success has put her in rarified air, including this past year's feat of a new American record for an intellectually disabled swimmer in the 1,500 meter freestyle. Also this past year, Nagy became one of only six female swimmers with intellectual disability to compete in the US Paralympics trials.

Sitting with her father Daniel and stepmother Claire, Nagy expressed how much fun it was to compete and make friends, remarking that she loves medals and loves to go fast. That speed and skill in the pool was apparent from an early age, Daniel said, as she was taught swimming for her own safety at the age of 4.

SEE **SWIMMER** PAGE 6

Travel advisor pivots into finding home for evacuees, herself

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Antoinette Delio usually sends her clients to faraway places, but her latest plan was to keep herself and clients safe in Santa Monica.

The CEO & Founder of Luxury Travel and Beyond had the same disastrous fate as many in the Palisades Fire, forced to flee her home near Marquez Charter Elementary School. Seeing the fire rapidly approaching, she fled, followed shortly by her husband, straight into treacherous bumper to bumper traffic.

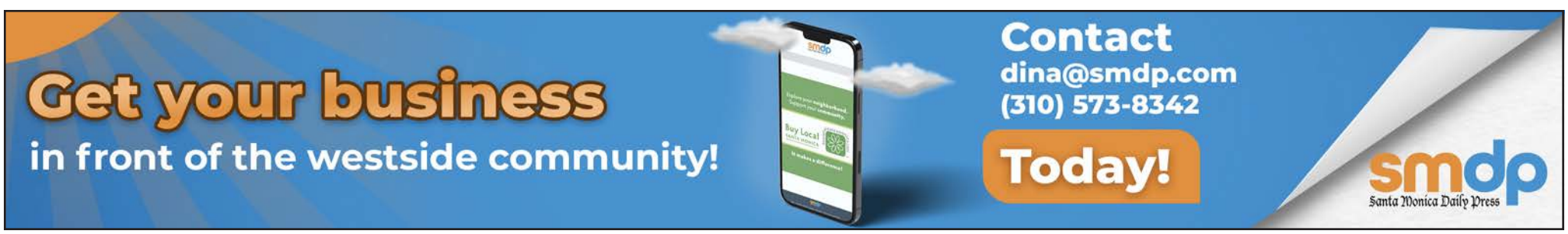
"I didn't take any clothing or anything," Delio said. "I got a few really important things that I knew where they were, but that was about it. I mean, we just had to get out."

Delio received the devastating phone call the next day that her home was gone, while also getting calls from her clients about a similar result. Wanting to do right for her own family as well as clients', she connected to Huntley Santa Monica Beach through a chain of phone contacts.

The Huntley is one of 27 local hotels extending complimentary discounts to first responders and evacuees, a mobilization that came together as soon as the scope of the Palisades Fire's destruction became apparent.

"The same day the wildfires broke out, we received messages of support from our incredible hotel partners sharing offers aiding those displaced and in need of accommodations … I'm inspired by how quickly our community stepped up to provide relief," Santa Monica Travel & Tourism CEO Misti Kerns said.

SEE **HOTELS** PAGE 6



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Trump wants to deport immigrants accused of crimes. California sheriffs could make that easy



Photo by Robert Gauthier, Los Angeles Times via Getty Images

DEPORTATION: People seeking asylum are detained by border patrol after crossing the U.S. and Mexico border near Campo on June 3, 2024.

California sheriffs once again find themselves navigating a difficult political calculus on immigration as President Donald Trump begins his second term.

They can enforce a state sanctuary law that some of them personally oppose, or they can roll out the welcome mat to federal immigration enforcement authorities whom Trump has promised will carry out the largest deportation program in American history.

Some California sheriffs have pledged not to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement authorities, based on their own policies or laws passed by their counties, and will forbid immigration agents from using county personnel, property or databases without a federal warrant.

Others said that while California law prevents direct cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, immigration authorities are free to use their jail websites and fingerprints databases to identify people of interest.

"Several state leaders would prefer we do not have any communication with ICE, however, that is not what (the laws) say," said Fresno County Sheriff John Zanoni. "ICE may access jail bookings through our public website and fingerprint information put into the national database to identify any incarcerated persons of interest to them."

And one sheriff, Chad Bianco of Riverside County, said he would work around California law, if he could, to ensure more people are deported.

CalMatters attempted to contact all 58 sheriff's offices in California. Twenty-seven responded by Friday afternoon. Most sheriffs who responded simply said they will follow state law, spelled out in a bill passed during the first Trump administration that limited California law enforcement participation in immigration enforcement.

Before Trump's inauguration today, immigration raids in the Central Valley earlier this month already had undocumented migrants and their families concerned about massive enforcement sweeps on immigrant-dependent industries like agriculture. Trump and cabinet officials from his first term have pledged "targeted arrests" of undocumented people, and view local law enforcement as "force multipliers" of that effort.

California sheriffs could play an influential role in determining whether someone gets arrested and deported because they manage the state's local jail system, where people suspected of committing crimes are held while awaiting trial. A bill named after a slain Georgia nursing student that is expected to pass in Congress could enhance sheriffs' sway over immigration enforcement by prioritizing deportations of undocumented immigrants arrested on suspicion of burglary and shoplifting, regardless of whether they're convicted.

The majority of sheriffs who responded to a CalMatters inquiry said they were balancing their duties with their need for cooperation from frightened immigrant communities. They worry those communities will shun all law enforcement if they fear deportation based on their immigration status alone.

"You don't know how many calls I've gotten from Hispanics in my area that I've known, I've grown up with, they're all worried about family members," said Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall. "I've got in-laws through my children calling me because they're concerned, but let's look at the ability to actually enforce this crap.

"Hell, I've got 50 deputies and I can barely

SEE **SHERIFF** PAGE 8

California officials warn against price gouging as rents soar in fire-stricken Los Angeles

Southern California's expensive housing market is going to get a lot more competitive after deadly firestorms torched more than 12,000 homes and other structures in the Los Angeles area, leaving tens of thousands of people without a place to stay.

Already there are reports of rent-gouging, prompting elected leaders to issue stern warnings against the practice and pleading with the public to report unethical property owners who hike up rents above the allotted 10% cap.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a statement Saturday that it is illegal for landlords to accept rent that exceeds the cap, even if someone is offering to pay a higher amount.

"You cannot jack up prices and take advantage of disaster victims, plain and simple," he said at a news conference.

A modern three-bedroom condo in a downtown LA high-rise, for example, that was offered at $5,500 a month in October popped back up on Zillow this week with a new asking rent of $8,500. On Saturday, the listing was removed.

The entire state has struggled with the twin crises of housing and homelessness, only recently starting to make inroads to build more affordable homes.

ARE LANDLORDS ALLOWED BY LAW TO INCREASE RENTS?

California law prohibits price-gouging after an emergency has been declared, meaning that individuals and businesses cannot increase the price of goods and services such as gas or rentals by more than 10% from before the emergency was declared.

Price-gouging is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and $10,000 fine for each violation.

Protections related to housing are generally in effect for 30 days. But on Thursday, Gov. Gavin Newsom extended prohibitions on motel, hotel and rental housing to March 8.

Is there evidence of increased rents in the Los Angeles area?

Tenants rights and landlord association groups have called for strict enforcement against rent gougers amid media reports of obscenely high prices.

People on social media are crowd-sourcing examples of egregious increases, and even inputting their findings into a shared Google document.

A four-bedroom, four-bath house in Encino, for example, seeking renters at $12,000 a month in December was re-listed Jan. 13 with a new price of $14,000. A three-bedroom, four-bath house in LA listed for rent at $16,000 in September was re-listed this week at $29,000 a month.

All exceed the 10% cap. By Saturday, both listings had been removed.

WHAT HELP DOES FEMA PROVIDE TO PEOPLE WHO NEED HOUSING?

Displaced people with homeowners or renters insurance can receive living expenses to stay at a hotel or rental.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has several programs for displaced residents. It will pay for short-term stays at participating hotels and motels. It also provides cash in advance for housing through its displacement and rental assistance programs.

FEMA also reimburses out-of-pocket lodging expenses that are not covered by insurance.

WHAT ABOUT MORTGAGE RELIEF FOR HOMEOWNERS?

Newsom's office on Saturday announced that five major bank lenders have agreed to provide mortgage relief to affected homeowners, including a 90-day grace period on mortgage payments, 90-day waiver of late fees, and 60- to 90-day moratorium on new foreclosures.

The banks are Bank of America, Citi, JPMorgan Chase, U.S. Bank and Wells Fargo.

ARE HOUSING PLATFORMS HELPING WITH ANTI-GOUGING ENFORCEMENT?

Short-term rental platform Airbnb said Wednesday that hosts in Los Angeles and Ventura counties who try to raise prices by more than 10% will instead receive an error message. The company is also sending reminders to hosts that price gouging during a state of emergency is illegal.

Zillow is posting "important information for renters during a state of emergency" on area rentals, informing applicants of the law.

By JANIE HAR Associated Press

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Surf report

WATER TEMP: **56.7**

TUESDAY
POOR
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

NW swell from Sunday/Monday gets a refresh. Breezy Santa Ana winds in the morning, expected to shift to a moderate WNW sea breeze in the afternoon.

WEDNESDAY
POOR
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Fading NW swell and SW pulse for smaller surf, still fun zone for good exposures west of Pt. Dume. Trend towards weaker waves continues Thursday into Friday. Light winds due through the day, most favorable in the AM.

Weather

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 63.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/01/21	Tue	02:21 AM	4.25	H
2025/01/21	Tue	10:03 AM	1.77	L
2025/01/21	Tue	3:13 PM	2.40	H
2025/01/21	Tue	7:05 PM	2.09	L
2025/01/22	Wed	03:15 AM	4.39	H
2025/01/22	Wed	11:30 AM	1.21	L
2025/01/23	Thu	04:12 AM	4.60	H
2025/01/23	Thu	12:24 PM	0.62	L
2025/01/24	Fri	05:05 AM	4.90	H
2025/01/24	Fri	1:03 PM	0.07	L
2025/01/24	Fri	8:11 PM	3.07	H
2025/01/24	Fri	11:15 PM	2.78	L
2025/01/25	Sat	05:54 AM	5.27	H
2025/01/25	Sat	1:37 PM	-0.42	L
2025/01/25	Sat	8:28 PM	3.27	H
2025/01/26	Sun	12:11 AM	2.63	L
2025/01/26	Sun	06:37 AM	5.68	H
2025/01/26	Sun	2:09 PM	-0.84	L
2025/01/26	Sun	8:48 PM	3.45	H
2025/01/27	Mon	12:56 AM	2.39	L
2025/01/27	Mon	07:17 AM	6.06	H
2025/01/27	Mon	2:40 PM	-1.16	L

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/18
14 31 35 64 69
Power#: 23
Jackpot: 20 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/17
8 10 37 54 69
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 20 M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 1/18
4 7 8 28 33
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 18 M

FANTASY 5
Draw Date: 1/19
5 10 18 19 30

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 1/19
EVENING: 2 6 1
Draw Date: 1/19
MIDDAY: 2 4 8

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 1/19
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:45.80

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Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMUNITY NEWS

Countywide

Federal and Local Law Enforcement Officials Form Task Force to Combat Crimes Related to Los Angeles-Area Wildfires

The leaders of federal and local law enforcement agencies have joined together to create the Joint Regional Fire Crimes Task Force to investigate and prosecute fire-related crimes as Los Angeles County recovers from devastating wildfires. The Task Force will focus on investigating and prosecuting criminal actors seeking to exploit the wildfire crisis.

The Joint Regional Fire Crimes Task Force includes representatives of the United States Attorney's Office; the FBI; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); Homeland Security Investigations (HSI); the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office; the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office; the Los Angeles Police Department; and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Members of the Task Force will meet to discuss case leads, develop and share crime intelligence, and facilitate the efficient prosecution of crimes related to the Los Angeles County wildfires. The Task Force will primarily focus on four areas: looting, burglary and impersonation offenses; crimes related to arson; illegal drone activity; and financial fraud targeting both disaster victims and those wishing to make charitable donations.

"We will not permit victims to be re-victimized," said United States Attorney Martin Estrada. "Our community has suffered tremendously, and we are here to support them. The Joint Fire Crimes Task Force is committed to addressing crimes coming out of the fires, including any looting, arson, illegal drone flights and fraud. As the rebuilding process begins and donations and relief funds come in, we must ensure that those seeking to take advantage through criminal activity are held fully accountable."

"Every crisis generates the best of us – brave first responders and average people who step up financially to support victims – as well as the worst in our society, including those who steal well-intentioned money or defraud victims who are already suffering," said Akil Davis, the Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office. "In addition to our efforts to combat fraud, we will devote resources to the task force to investigate allegations of arson, and we will not tolerate careless and criminal drone operators who put firefighters and residents in harm's way. The FBI will commit resources to address this new crop of criminals callously taking advantage of the vulnerable during and after these devastating wildfires."

"ATF possesses unparalleled expertise in determining the origin and cause of fires, even under the most complex and challenging conditions," said Jose Medina, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the ATF Los Angeles Field Division. "Our agency offers a comprehensive set of resources for arson investigations, including certified fire investigators, chemists, electrical engineers, accelerant-detection canines, and a state-of-the-art fire research laboratory. Arson destroys lives, businesses, and entire communities. Together with our partners, we are committed to identifying, apprehending, and prosecuting those responsible."

"Far too often, during tragic events like the Los Angeles-area wildfires, we have seen greedy individuals seek to line their pockets and divert critical funds from those most in need," said HSI Los Angeles Special Agent in Charge Eddy Wang. "HSI Los Angeles and partner agencies will do our part to help the region recover and rebuild by ensuring that disaster-related funds will go to individuals and families that lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods – and not unscrupulous fraudsters."

"The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, in partnership with local and federal law enforcement agencies, will relentlessly pursue and hold accountable those who despicably seek to exploit this tragedy for personal gain," said Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman. "We want to send a clear and unequivocal message to criminals: If you seek to commit crime during this crisis, from arson, looting, burglary and theft to price gouging and financial scams, we will arrest you, prosecute you, and seek to punish you to the full extent of the law. As billions of dollars in vital aid relief pour into Los Angeles County, our Task Force, comprised of over a thousand prosecutors and thousands of law enforcement agents, will protect those who have suffered from being victimized again. Justice will be swift, certain and significant. Los Angeles County has been tested before and prevailed; and we will prevail again."

"I am proud to stand with this powerful collaboration as we work together to ensure that no individual or business gets away with illegal or predatory conduct, including price gouging. People preying on others will face criminal justice," said Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto. "In addition, with so many people now facing uncertainty about their future, my office is also leaning in to bring every legislative, executive and civil resource at our disposal to help us get through this emergency, and to heal, recover and rebuild together. As Angelenos, it's what we've always done."

"As our community continues to deal with these devastating wildfires, we remain steadfast in our commitment to protect our residents from those who would exploit their vulnerability," said Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert G. Luna. "Whether it's arson, illegal drone activity disrupting first responders, or fraud targeting victims and donors, this joint task force will investigate and hold individuals accountable. These efforts are about protecting our communities and ensuring those affected by this unimaginable disaster recover without fear or further victimization."

"The Joint Task Force brings together individuals and agencies with the most experience and best resources to ensure that those suspected of breaking the law are identified and held accountable," said LAPD Chief of Police Jim McDonnell. "The LAPD will not allow criminals to compound the devastation of our residents, and we will devote whatever resources are necessary to protect them."

The Joint Regional Fire Crimes Task Force will aggressively pursue offenders in the following categories:

LOOTING, BURGLARY, CURFEW VIOLATIONS AND IMPERSONATION

The Task Force and partner agencies are investigating any looting, burglary, robbery, grand theft, impersonation of firefighters or law enforcement, curfew violations, and related crimes stemming from the Palisades Fire, the Eaton Fire, and other wildfires. To date more than 50 individuals have been arrested, and nine defendants have been charged and face maximum sentences ranging from six years to life in prison.

ARSON

Members of the Task Force and fire authorities are investigating the Palisades Fire, the Eaton Fire and the other wildfires that started over the past week. At the request of the U.S. Attorney's Office, ATF Los Angeles and the LAPD, ATF deployed its renowned National Response Team to the Palisades fire to investigate. These specialized investigators are working around the clock to determine the origins of these fires.

In addition, as wind events and dry conditions continue to leave the region vulnerable to wildfires, the Task Force will aggressively prosecute anyone who attempts to cause new fires by malice or reckless behavior. The federal arson statute carries a five-year mandatory minimum prison sentence and a statutory maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison. Those penalties can increase to life sentence if a death has occurred. Under California law, arson carries a prison sentence of up to nine years.

ILLEGAL DRONES

Fire personnel must be able to perform their duties without interference. Illegal drone activity in active fire zones has disrupted operations, including one instance where a drone collided with a fire suppression plane.

The areas around the Palisades and Eaton fires are under temporary flight restrictions through January 25, and it is a crime to fly a drone in these areas. The FBI has deployed equipment to detect drones flying in these restricted areas. The federal offense of flying a drone in ones of these restricted airspaces carries a penalty of up to one year in federal prison and a fine of up to $75,000.

FRAUD

The Task Force will not allow fire victims to be re-victimized by fraud and theft. Its efforts focus on ensuring that relief funds reach those in need and working to swiftly prosecutor those engaged in defrauding donors.

Generous people around the world are making donators to assist victims. Unfortunately, this creates opportunities for scams as criminals exploit disasters for their own gain by sending fraudulent solicitations or creating deceiving websites. Potential donors are urged to make donations only to known entities and to avoid giving donations in cash or via wire transfer.

The Task Force will also investigate the misuse of aid programs administered by government agencies, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA). Federal agencies are deploying significant financial resources to support homeowners, renters, nonprofits and businesses affected by the fires, and any attempt to misuse these funds through fraud or identity theft will be vigorously investigated and prosecuted.

There are numerous other potential scams that might victimize victims such as contractor fraud. The Task Force will target any individual seeking to defraud victims of the wildfires.

Price-gouging laws went into effect immediately upon the declaration of a state of emergency. No person and no business can increase pricing on housing, shelter, food, water, clothing, pet care, health care or any other essential goods or services by more than 10% without violating the law. The Los Angeles City Attorney's Office is leading Task Force efforts in this area. Violations of the price gouging statute are subject to criminal prosecution for up to one year in prison, plus a fine of up to $10,000. They are also subject to civil enforcement actions to include civil penalties of up to $2,500 per violation, injunctive relief and mandatory restitution.

Members of the Task Force remain committed to seeing that victims of these devastating fires receive justice and that those who exploit or harm them are held accountable.

Members of the public are encouraged to report wrongdoing to authorities at any law enforcement agency. For example, tips may be directed to the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI or https://tips.fbi.gov/home. The public may also report examples of financial fraud to the National Center for Disaster Fraud at (866) 720-5721 or www.justice.gov/DisasterComplaintForm.

SUBMITTED BY THOM MROZEK

Countywide

The Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains Rescues Endangered Fish from Fire Damaged Topanga Creek

As a result of the burn damage to the lower Topanga Creek watershed due to the Palisades Fire, the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM) performed an emergency rescue and relocation on Friday, January 17, to benefit two endangered fish species, the tidewater goby and the southern steelhead trout.

The RCDSMM team, USFWS, State Parks and LA County Dept of Beaches and Harbors and Lifeguards, led by Principal Conservation Biologist, Rosi Dagit, rescued the fish from Topanga Creek and transported them to safe locations where they will be cared for until their habitat recovers. The tidewater goby were transferred to temporary holding facilities at the Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach, and the Heal the Bay Aquarium, Santa Monica. The southern steelhead trout rescue planning is underway in coordination with CDFW and NMFS, and locations are being scouted and secured.

"Rescuing this genetically unique population of both gobies and trout needs to happen now," said Dagit. An estimated 500 southern steelhead trout and an undetermined number of tidewater goby are the target of these immediate rescue efforts.

Donations to support the RCDSMM's emergency operation are tax deductible and may be made through its website: https://www.rcdsmm.org/fire-recovery/. For future updates and opportunities on ways to help heal the wild spaces impacted by recent fires, you can follow, tag and share posts from the RCDSMM on Facebook, Instagram and X @rcdsmm.

The RCDSMM has proudly served the local community for over 60 years, and offers programs and services focused on watershed management, restoration, wildfire prevention programs, research, and education throughout the Santa Monica Mountains and surrounding areas. The RCDSMM plans and implements oak woodland, riparian and wetland restoration projects, conducts monitoring for various sensitive habitats and species, works toward the recovery of endangered fish populations, implements habitat creation and enhancement, evaluates homes for fire risk, plans interpretive design projects, and coordinates environmental education programs for learners of all levels.

The mission of the RCDSMM is to promote land stewardship and resource conservation through ecological research, conservation planning and design, habitat restoration and environmental education, while adhering to the highest standards of transparency and accountability as a public agency.

SUBMITTED BY RCDSMM

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Countywide

Los Angeles County District Attorney and Orange County District Attorney Urge Governor Newsom to Amend Special Legislative Session to Make Looting a Felony Punishable by State Prison Sentence

Looting during a local emergency would become a felony punishable by a state prison sentence and make it a strike under California's Three Strikes Law under proposed legislation by Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman and Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer, sending a strong regional message to opportunistic thieves that these crimes will not be tolerated, and that justice will be swift and it will be decisive.

District Attorneys Hochman and Spitzer are calling on California Governor Gavin Newsom to amend his prior proclamation to convene special session of the state Legislature in order to enact urgency legislation that would increase the punishment for looting, send defendants convicted of looting to state prison, require suspected looters to go before a judge instead of being allowed to be cited and released, and make looting ineligible for diversion, which under current law allows defendants to have their crimes erased from their record as if the arrest never occurred.

The District Attorneys' proposed legislation would also create a new looting offense of trespass with intent to commit larceny, which closes a loophole in existing law to allow prosecutors to punish thieves who are sifting through the ashes of burned homes searching for valuables, which is not a crime under current California law.

> "Last week, thousands of people across Los Angeles left their homes on a windy day not knowing that a few hours later everything they own would be reduced to a pile of ash and the clothes on their back"
>
> - Todd Spitzer, Orange County District Attorney

"There is a special place in jail for those who exploit the vulnerable in the wake deadly fires," said Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman. "As hundreds of thousands of families face the unimaginable anguish of fleeing their homes, uncertain whether they'll ever return, the last thing they should fear is the added trauma of criminals preying on their misfortune. Opportunistic burglars and looters who target fire victims in their time of crisis are not only breaking the law—they are further deepening the suffering of those already facing unimaginable loss. These criminals deserve the harshest penalties, and current laws simply do not go far enough to ensure they are held fully accountable. I stand alongside Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer in demanding stronger penalties for looting during disasters. We call on Governor Newsom and the Legislature to act swiftly and decisively to protect fire victims in Los Angeles County and send a clear and unyielding message: We will not tolerate looting in our state, and we will always prioritize the safety and dignity of our communities over the greed of criminals."

The District Attorneys' proposed legislation language was submitted to the Legislative Council on Monday.

"Last week, thousands of people across Los Angeles left their homes on a windy day not knowing that a few hours later everything they own would be reduced to a pile of ash and the clothes on their back," said Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer. "Dozens more perished, unable to escape the flames whipped into a fury by devil winds. And yet, in the darkest hours of the darkest days of their lives, while bodies are still sitting in graves of ash, criminals are circling like vultures they are to pick through the ashes looking to steal anything of value. Current law falls woefully short for punishing these scavengers who are nothing more than graverobbers, stealing the last remaining possessions from those who have already lost everything, including their own lives. Our homes are not just buildings made of wood and glass, they are built with memories and laughter and sweat and tears. And now that so many of those walls have burned to the ground, leaving their owners with just their memories and their tears, we must demand accountability, and we must demand punishment, for those who are seizing the opportunity to plunder what little remains. We are urging Governor Newsom and the state Legislature to enact this urgency legislation and help hold these criminals accountable for their crimes."

The legislation proposed by District Attorneys Spitzer and Hochman would:

Increase punishment for looting (PC 463) to 2 year-3 year-4-year state prison felony (from 16 months-2 year-3-year county jail wobbler).

Create new felony looting offense of trespass with intent to commit larceny, 2 year-3 year-4-year state prison felony.

Create new looting enhancement, adding 1-2-3 years for any felony offense committed during a local emergency.

Requires judicial review prior to release of anyone arrested for looting (i.e., no cite and release).

Designates looting (PC 463) as a serious offense under California's Three Strikes law.

Excludes looting from eligibility for diversion.

SUBMITTED BY THE LA AND ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICES

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SWIMMER

FROM PAGE 1

"She just always wanted to be in the pool all the time, and she would swim around … she never needed rescuing," Daniel said.

A Santa Monica lifer, Nagy took special day classes at the Lincoln Middle School pool with intellectually disabled peers, where her fellow students would watch in awe as she went back and forth completing laps. As she moved up to Samohi, her barrier-breaking became more apparent, becoming the only intellectually disabled autistic swimmer in Samohi history to earn a spot on the girls swim team.

Swimming for the Lady Vikings from 2015 to 2018, Nagy eventually made varsity her senior year despite zero accommodations. Having to earn the spot like everyone else, she did so, with her stepmother saying she was the "first one in, last one out" and "the heart of the team."

"They weren't sure how they would be able to work with (Tessa), but she ended up, just as Coach (Matt) Flanders would describe her, (as) a machine," Claire added. "She never got tired, she always did what he said."

Near the end of her Samohi career, Nagy made the cut for the U.S. National Paralympic Team, swimming a 400 meter freestyle just 0.1 seconds below the National Team entry time. Her qualifying race just so happened to be at the Mecca of swimming, the Olympic & Paralympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Since making the team, she earned gold at the 2022 U.S. Paralympic National Championships and has competed internationally in places like Mexico, Australia and France. Along with Indianapolis, she will be making a stop in Bangkok, Thailand in 2025 to continue punching her passport.

Helping her competitive journey in every step has been local outfit TSM Aquatics, who took on Nagy in 2019.

"Tessa has fun competing and swimming fast," TSM Coach Ellis Miller said. "As an athlete with multiple severe intellectual disabilities, she has gone further in her sport than perhaps any other similar U.S. swimmer … we are immensely proud of her."

Miller added that Nagy still needs more supporters "who see her potential" in order to pave the way for her progress. Daniel said her daughter's journey, while exciting, has been a "very daunting experience" because of so many being highly doubtful that Tessa could achieve what she has.

Claire stated that to continue the movement for intellectually disabled swimmers that Tessa is pioneering, parents cannot be silent about the need for inclusion in all athletics.

"Parents have to share with other parents, not to be bullied, to be advocates for their kids and don't allow discrimination to happen … it takes a tremendous amount of work, and some families don't have the time to do that work … it takes parents talking to other parents," she added.

This year's schedule is just an appetizer for Nagy's ultimate goal of competing in the 2028 Paralympic Games, held in her Los Angeles backyard. Her participation would be yet another boundary smashed in a life full of pool exploits.

"I think ultimately with Tessa, if you give her the opportunity, she surprises everybody," Claire added.

thomas@smdp.com

HOTELS

FROM PAGE 1

Even in her personal time of crisis, Delio was able to meet with her clients at check-in and bring them up to their rooms, adding another personal touch to her efforts.

"They're just so happy here," Delio said, despite the situation. "I ran into them (and) they just couldn't be more grateful. The people here are unbelievable, and they've been hosting so many firefighters and everywhere you look, they're all families from the Palisades."

Delio and her fellow hospitality professionals met this past week at a PROST event at Hotel Casa Del Mar, a soiree slated to be cancelled until it was repurposed as a victims fundraiser. Between hotels donating stays and taking part in a silent auction, she was proud of her industry, a sentiment shared by Kerns.

"Throughout times of immense challenge, we continue to see hundreds of our local businesses all stepping up," Kerns said. "Not only providing meals, rooms and various services but also supporting Santa Monica nonprofits and community members, and they do so with immense grace and care."

Hotels will continue to welcome evacuees and first responders, Kerns added, even as evacuation mandates were lifted in Santa Monica. Delio said that others with spaces in their homes and apartments should also consider hosting those displaced.

"I just always want to make sure everybody's taken care of," she said. "Anybody that has a place for people to live is really, really helpful right now."

thomas@smdp.com



Courtesy Photo

HOTELS: The Huntley Santa Monica Beach is one of dozens of local hotels offering discounts for first responders and those displaced by wildfires.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Countywide

Water FAQ from the LA Waterkeeper

Q: What is the relationship between water, climate change, and the 2025 LA wildfires?

Warming temperatures and shifting weather patterns due to climate change are making natural disasters like wildfires bigger, more frequent, and harder to predict, as evidenced by the scale of the current disaster during a typically "cold" month like January.

A phenomenon called weather whiplash, or hydroclimate whiplash, created conditions for these wildfires. The last two years saw record-setting winter rainfall, which fueled significant plant growth, followed by one of the driest winters on record. The explosion of vegetation from recent years has since dried out. Paired with unusually hot and dry Santa Ana winds, this dried brush created perfect conditions for these catastrophic blazes. According to researchers for Environmental Resource Letters, climate change is increasing the odds that windy periods occurring deeper into the traditional "rainy season" will overlap with extreme dryness, in turn increasing the chance of fire.

Q: Why did fire hydrants temporarily run dry in the Pacific Palisades?

Water systems designed for normal urban use and relatively limited firefighting efforts (e.g., for fighting fire on a small cluster of homes) were over-taxed due to the large and widespread nature of these fires. The lack of water coming out of hydrants was related to their inability to retain sufficient pressure to push the water uphill where it was needed, not due to a lack of available water in the region.

Q: Did the lack of water from fire hydrants mean that firefighting stopped in the area?

No. According to reporting published in LAist, LADWP delivered 19 water trucks to support ongoing firefighting efforts while several million-gallon water tanks that typically provide water to these neighborhoods refilled.

Q: What are the likely impacts of these fires on local water quality?

The 2025 LA wildfires, which as of January 14, 2025 had burned over 40,000 acres and destroyed more than 12,000 homes, are expected to have significant impacts on local water quality. Fires release a host of contaminants into the environment, especially from manmade materials from firefighting efforts as well as destroyed homes and infrastructure. Runoff can cause ash and debris, as well as common materials such as lead-based paint, asbestos, and heavy metals, to leach into the water supply. Some areas are under unsafe water advisories, and residents have been told to avoid tap water.

One major environmental concern is the use of flame retardants. While generally considered safe for humans, phosphorus-based retardants can be toxic to aquatic ecosystems. When these chemicals enter streams and rivers, they can cause harmful algal blooms and harm fish, amphibians, and other wildlife. Despite the Forest Service's ban on aerial retardant drops in sensitive areas like waterways, exceptions are made when human safety is at risk. Flame retardants can contain PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals."

Runoff from the fires is also affecting LA's beaches. The LA County Health Department has issued ocean water advisories for areas from Surfrider Beach to Dockweiler State Beach, warning beachgoers to avoid water contact near storm drains and creeks.

Q: What are the likely impacts of these fires on LA's water system?

The full extent of the 2025 LA wildfires' impact on the region's water system is currently unclear, as conditions remain too dangerous for experts to conduct proper testing. However, based on similar disasters, significant and long-lasting damage to water distribution systems is expected. According to the NRDC, high heat from wildfires can melt or degrade plastic pipes, releasing hazardous compounds into the water supply.

In the coming days and weeks, water experts will assess the damage to determine whether flushing the system of these compounds will be sufficient or if more extensive repairs are needed. As Daniel McCurry, a USC civil and environmental engineering professor, told Wired, recovery for LADWP-served areas could take days to weeks, but smaller providers in regions like Altadena may face longer delays due to limited resources. In some cases, McCurry noted, rebuilding damaged systems could take years.

Q: What could the LA region do to better prepare for future events of this nature?

The Los Angeles region can take both immediate and long-term steps to better protect its communities and ecosystems. In the short term, recovery efforts must prioritize public health through proper cleaning and remediation. In the long term, Los Angeles must also focus on bolstering its climate resilience. Stricter building codes and enforcement of those codes, requiring fire-resistant materials in new construction, and encouraging landscaping that reduces flammability may help mitigate fire risks in rebuilt neighborhoods. Likewise, LA must make significant investments in overhauling its aging infrastructure. Nearly 29% of LA's water pipes are over 80 years old, which already contributes to dangerous leaks and sewage spills on a regular day and are vulnerable to failure during emergencies.

Q: What changes are needed to ensure that the region always has enough water on hand to fight fires?

The region must rethink its overall approach to water management. Investments in resilient local water supplies, like wastewater recycling, stormwater capture, cleaning up contaminated groundwater and conservation are essential to reduce reliance on imported water and lower the carbon footprint of our state's water infrastructure. Transporting water from far flung places leaves us vulnerable to interrupted delivery from these water sources due to increasingly common natural disasters of all types throughout the state.

Q: What, if anything, is the connection between the Delta Conveyance project, Sites Reservoir, and firefighting capacity in Los Angeles?

The LA region has ample local water available at this time. There is no need to increase water deliveries from the Bay-Delta or any other source from which LA imports water for the region to be able to fight the current fires. The sources of our water imports (i.e., Mono Lake, Bay Delta, Colorado River) are drying up due to climate change, and are themselves at risk of future interruptions due to natural disasters. We should therefore be focusing our efforts on new, local water supplies to make LA water secure.

SEE **BRIEFS** PAGE 11

MLK Day



Photo by Thomas Leffler

CELEBRATE: Santa Monica took the time for celebration and reflection Monday morning, as The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther Ming Jr. Westside Coalition held its 40th anniversary edition of the holiday event. At the John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center, the packed house took in speeches from Mayor Lana Negrete, Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Torosis and keynote speaker Sonya Young Aadam, CEO of the California Black Women's Health Project. In addition, several education awards were handed out to deserving students across Los Angeles, and performances were given by SIRE and the Alexander Hamilton High School Dance Team.



SHERIFF

FROM PAGE 2

keep a lid on crime in a county of 90,000. How are these guys coming out here with all of this 'We're gonna deport 10 million people' or something. No, that's ridiculous. It's not gonna happen."

Kendall said he undoubtedly has people in his community who have committed serious crimes and are also undocumented, and wants those people arrested.

"If they want to go out and deport all the criminals, knock yourselves out, but let's pick and choose what's important and what is not,"he said.

One consistent theme: Every sheriff who responded to CalMatters said immigration enforcement isn't their job. But some of them went further, pledging not to honor immigration holds, while others said they will neither "prevent nor hinder" immigration enforcement agents from doing their jobs.

SANCTUARY LAW DIVIDED CALIFORNIA SHERIFFS

When Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation making California a sanctuary state in 2017, barring police from inquiring about people's immigration status and participating in federal immigration enforcement, the reaction from the Trump administration was immediate.

The administration cut off hundreds of millions of dollars in law enforcement grants to sanctuary cities that limited cooperation with federal immigration authorities. The Biden administration restored the grants in 2021.

Several California sheriffs were outspoken critics of the sanctuary law during Trump's previous presidency. A group of San Joaquin

> "I will do everything in my power to make sure I keep the residents of Riverside County safe
>
> - Chad Bianco

Valley sheriffs traveled with Trump to the border in 2019, where they endorsed his immigration policies.

One of them, Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux, said he doesn't agree with California's sanctuary law, and said any governor who supports it should be removed from office.

But Boudreaux said he wants to distinguish between targeted enforcement of "felonious" people, which he supports, and massive immigration raids.

"Now, if they come into the area saying, 'Hey, we're just going to scoop up as many people as we can that are here illegally,' we're not going to do that, because (we) have a community to serve," Boudreaux said. "If you can separate the difference between that, you should be able to see what I mean."

Boudreaux pledged to keep working with federal immigration authorities within the parameters of California law.

"(If) I have a federal counterpart that comes into my county asking for assistance, I'm going to give it to them," Boudreaux said.

Bianco, the Riverside County sheriff and one of Trump's most outspoken allies in California, took office in 2019. Now, Bianco said he's ready to work around state law to step up immigration enforcement.

"I will do everything in my power to make sure I keep the residents of Riverside County safe," Bianco said to KTTV-TV in November. "If that involves working somehow around (California's sanctuary law) with ICE so we can deport these people victimizing us and our residents, you can be 100% sure I'm going to do that."

IMMIGRANT ADVOCATES WATCHING SHERIFFS

Eva Bitran, Immigrants' Rights project coordinator at the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, said her organization would be watching for violations of the state sanctuary law, which would typically involve police calling federal immigration authorities at jails or during arrests.

That's what happened to Daniel Valenzuela in 2019, when Corona police interrogated him about his immigration status during a traffic stop, then transferred him to U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents. Valenzuela was then deported.

The ACLU sued the city of Corona, which paid Valenzuela a $35,000 settlement.

"Our expectation is that the sheriffs will follow the law," Bitran said. "We will be watching to ensure they do so."

In 2020, Los Angeles County banned the warrantless transfer of inmates to immigration enforcement custody. Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said his department does not honor immigration detainers unless presented with a federal warrant.

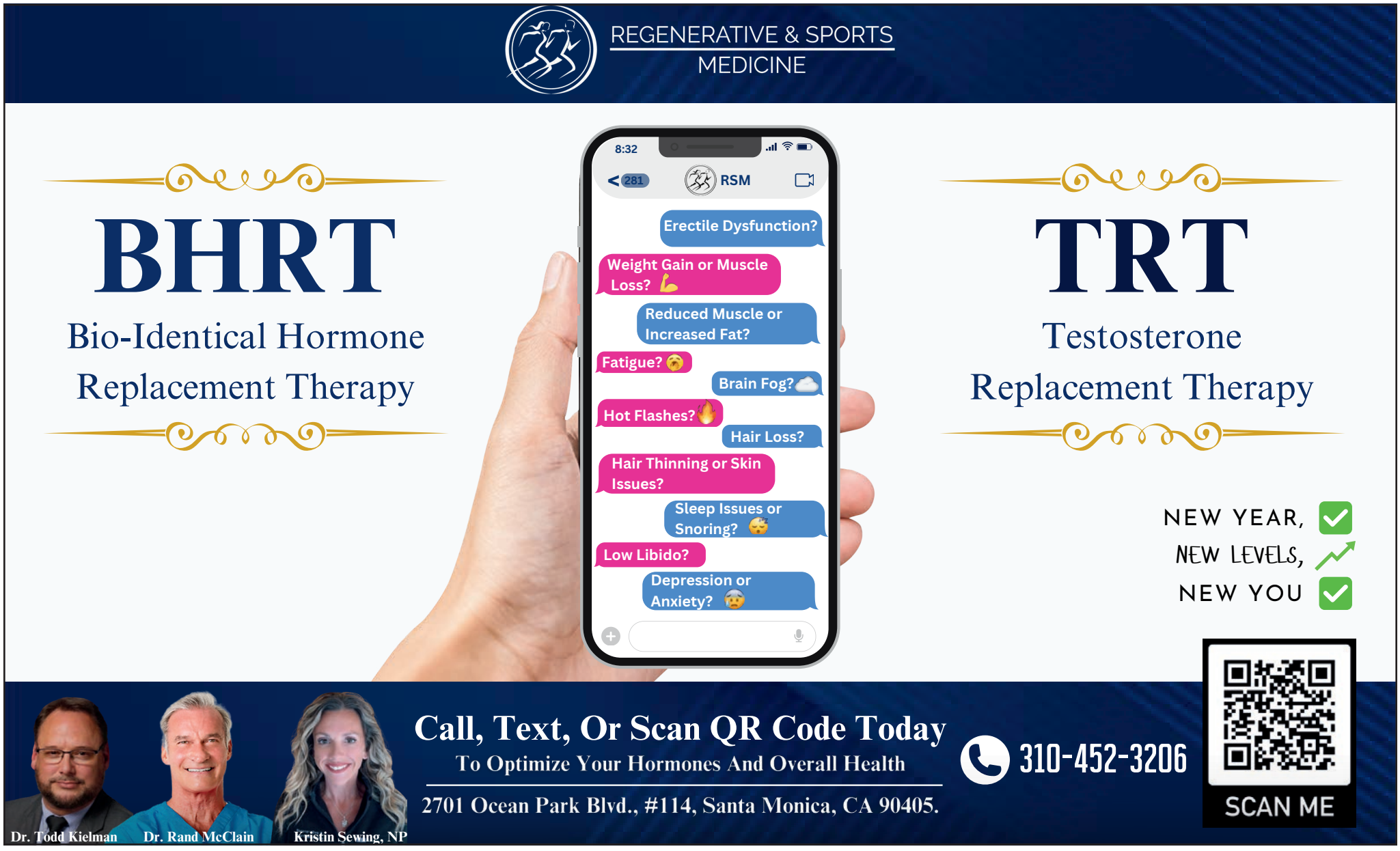
Between 2018 and 2023, the last date for which data was available, there were 4,192 transfers of people from California jails to immigration authorities.

But it's street enforcement that has people worried in both the Central Valley and downtown Oakland, where the Alameda County Sheriff's Office is already trying to tamp down rumors of immigration raids.

"We want to assure you that this information is false," said Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. Roberto Morales. "This information has caused panic and anxiety in our communities.

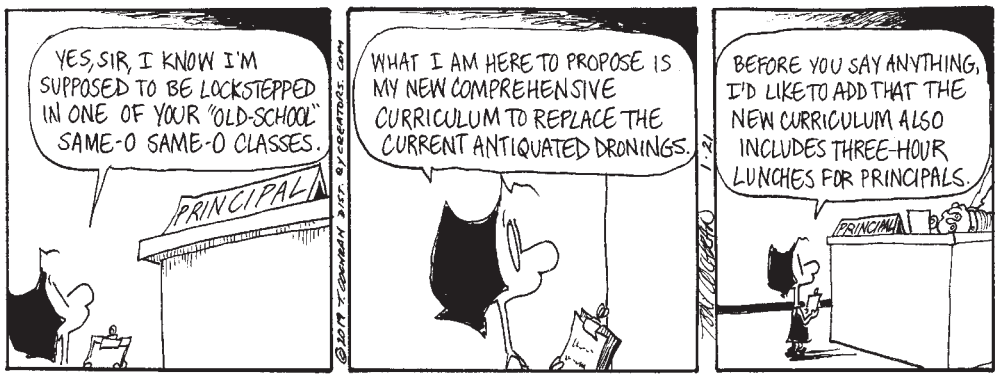
"While we respect criminal warrants issued by a judge, Sheriff's Office personnel do not comply with administrative immigration warrants. Importantly, we believe that local law enforcement involvement in ICE deportation operations undermines our community policing strategies and depletes local resources."

By Nigel Duara and Tomas Apodaca. CalMatters reporter Cayla Mihalovich contributed to this story. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



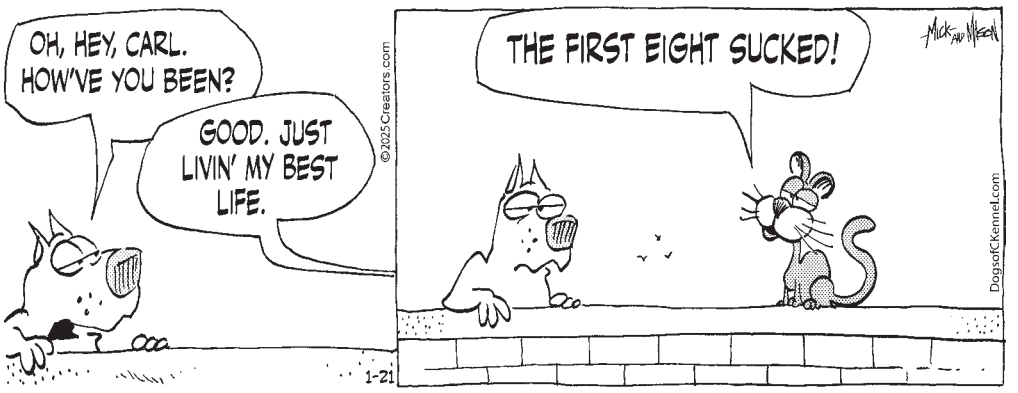
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



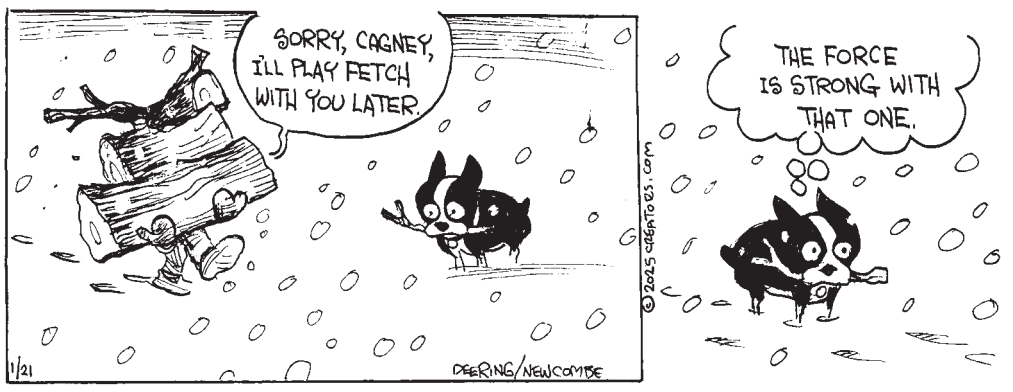
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"SURPRISINGLY, IT'S A HIT."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6462

Rainforest magic

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

Accessible	Damp	Gastropod	Moth
Algae	Dark	Goanna	Orchids
Ants	Elkhorn	Green	Paths
Aril	Fauna	Ground	Python
Bats	Ferns	cover	Rainfall
Bees	Fig	Heat	Smell
Bird	Fish	Insects	Snails
Bites	Foliage	Koala	Soil
Bush	Fresh	Lichen	Spider
Butterfly	Frog	Mist	Timber
Care	Fruit	Moss	Vine

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 21)

"Cool" is an elusive aesthetic achieved by few, but they think you're cool, and they are right. You will accept change easily, adapt quickly and wow them with your work. One special relationship lights up your adventures. More highlights: a contest win, a journey to the sea, and adding to your portfolio with help from friends. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 2, 22, 24 and 18.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). At first, your special interest was an attraction, a spectator sport, a lark at best. Now you're the attraction, a player in the game, practically a pro, and you'll adjust your priorities to represent this status change.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's OK when you and the other person don't see eye to eye. It is only wise to welcome diverse points of view, as no eyeball on earth can take in the whole picture. It is by entertaining different perspectives that you become wise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Disinterest and nonchalance will serve you better than eagerness or need, which appeals to the greedy nature of those trying to sell you on something. Don't rush into any purchase or commitment. What's helpful now will still be helpful later.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you don't make your happiness top priority, who will? Whatever is standing in the way, you can meet it, surmount it or make peace with it and change your course. There is more than one way to bliss.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Those who have been limited in their exposure to parts of the world you know very well will seek comfort, courage and protection for things you consider opportunities. You've an uncanny ability to make strangeness feel like home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Because you have tremendous emotional intelligence, you read people, situations and your own psyche with rare nuance. This skill can be a double-edged sword - it sharpens your understanding but sometimes amplifies your pain.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People are drawn to you because they sense you are the real deal. Your generosity and lack of ulterior motives create a magnetic charm. You'll receive loyalty, trust and opportunities without ever needing to ask.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're so responsible to others, you sometimes forget to make sure your own needs are met. Those are the most important ones. If you're depleted of resources essential to your vitality, you won't be in a position to help others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Delusion is the unrealistic cousin of hope. It may even pass for hope in a line-up and can be just as helpful in certain situations. So, whether it's delusion or hope giving today its rosy glow, either is better than pessimism.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If they say you are a workaholic, it's a mistake. Your business is about more than money - it's a way to get more out of life. You'll show this in the way you manage the nuances of the day.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Talent is necessary, work more so. You'll be among the ones who put in the most work and net tremendous experiences and wins today. Ambition is the extra sauce that will take you to the top.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are clever. Solutions you come up with feel obvious to you, but no one is thinking to explore the same path. Keep going. New wells of energy and purpose will be released.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

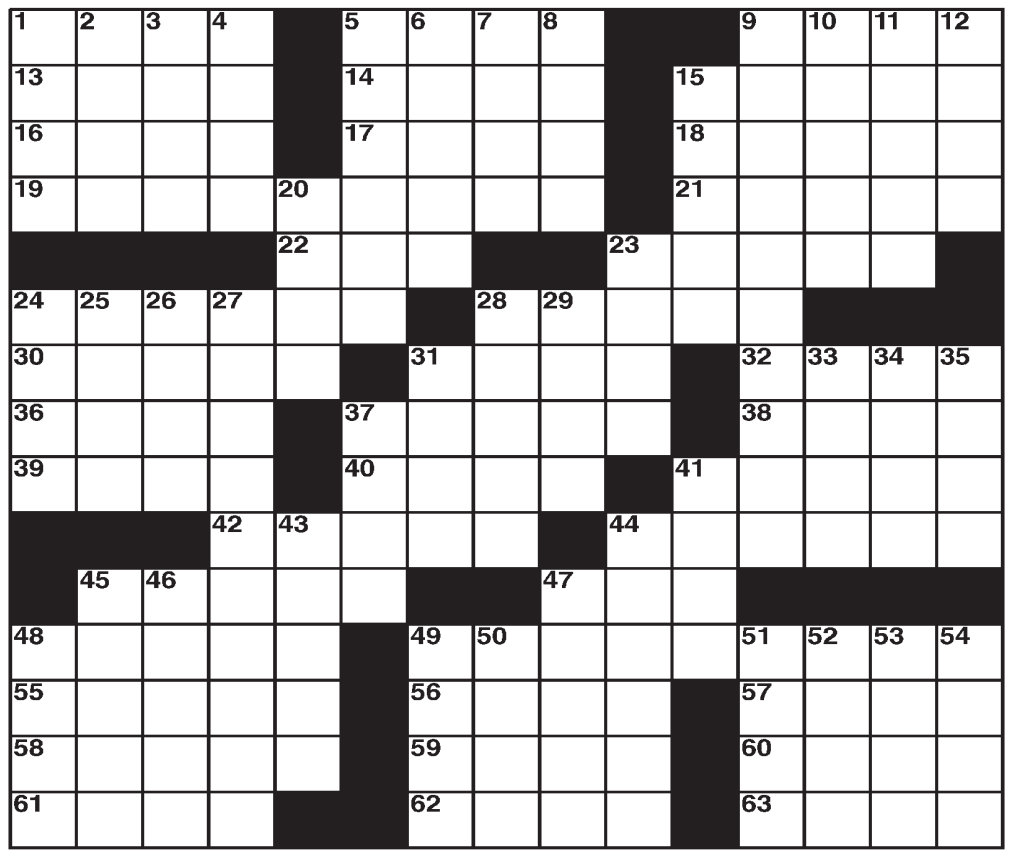
EDIBLE CYLINDERS by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Healthful resorts
5 Golf pegs
9 Used needle and thread
13 Row of a poem
14 __ mater (former school)
15 Extra tire
16 Part of a molecule
17 Animal's den
18 ONE WAY sign shape
19 Cylindrical stuffed pasta
21 Slight colorations
22 __ in a million (very rare)
23 Remove soap from
24 Entices
28 Informal language
30 Strong smells
31 Clean and orderly
32 Salespeople, for short
36 Storybook brute
37 Bit of a jigsaw puzzle
38 Creme-filled cookie
39 Gave temporarily
40 Farmland measure
41 More crafty
42 Urban districts
44 Not making a sound
45 Eyeglasses, informally
47 Traditionally rainy mo.
48 Petroleum-yielding rock
49 Cylindrical filled tortilla
55 Mrs. George W. Bush
56 Cast a ballot
57 Enthusiastic, as a sports fan
58 Fire-setting crime
59 Frankenstein's assistant
60 Tolkien's __ *of the Rings*
61 Unwanted garden plant
62 Folk wisdom
63 Amazes

DOWN

1 Shut (a door) angrily
2 Mideast pocket bread
3 Author unknown: Abbr.
4 "Half" prefix for circle
5 Eagle's claws
6 Make ecstatic
7 Give off, as light
8 Dress of India
9 Cylindrical Chinese appetizer
10 Deserves to receive
11 Composed a letter
12 Current events
15 Glossy gown fabric
20 Foldable beds
23 Hourly charge
24 Hacksaw or drill
25 Small advantage
26 Poetic daybreak
27 Cylindrical salty snack
28 Fortune-tellers
29 Doily material
31 Pleasant
33 A Great Lake
34 Ball-__ hammer
35 Arrange in some order
37 Skillets and woks
41 Voice of the iPhone
43 Large body of water
44 Shape of a globe
45 Divide up with others
46 Temporary halt
47 Film performer
48 Picnic's shredded cabbage
49 Wickedness
50 Canceled, as a rocket launch
51 Tra __ (singing sounds)
52 Declare to be true
53 Highly worrisome
54 Says further



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2025 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

01/21/25

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

SMC

FROM PAGE 1

students receive at SMC and the work they produce year after year speak volumes to the potential of community college students who bring fresh perspectives, their diverse backgrounds, and unparalleled grit to the vital work of telling stories and bearing witness."

The Capstone course has students working hands-on under guidance of faculty to produce a short film. Past films have been invited to lauded festivals like the Cannes Film Festival and Vienna Independent Film Festival. Publications have taken notice of the program as well, as Moviemaker Magazine listed the SMC program as one of the 30 best film schools in the United States and Canada in 2024.

As for the journalism program, The Corsair student paper has been around since 1929, an endeavor SMC Journalism and Media Studies professor Sharyn Obsatz calls a "First Amendment Paper" due to all decisions on content being made by student editors.

"They come to us for advice, but we don't interfere on what they want to do," Obsatz said. "We just kind of train them, and then they run it like it's their own."

Students who have contributed to The Corsair, are going for their Bachelor's Degrees and have a financial need are eligible for the scholarship, something Obsatz says she knows "about what a difference it made" for recipients.

"I'm very thankful for it because I feel like there's a lot of satisfaction … doing good journalism can be very satisfying," she added. "It also can be very stressful, and so anything you can do to show them appreciation … I consider it. It's a way to show appreciation to the students who are doing this important work on campus."

thomas@smdp.com



Courtesy Photo

SMC: The staff of the Santa Monica College student newspaper, The Corsair, has been boosted by $10,000 worth of scholarships from the Golden Globe Foundation.

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 7

Q: Would Los Angeles have been better equipped to fight these fires had the Delta Conveyance project and/or Sites Reservoir already been built?

No. The challenge that made it difficult to respond quickly to the fire storm that hit the Palisades and Altadena was not related to the availability of local water.

Q: In what ways does LA's reliance on imported water increase its vulnerability to climate-driven disasters?

Nearly 19% of the state's electricity is used for water-related activities like the pumping and transporting of millions of acre-feet of water across vast distances, making it a substantial source of greenhouse gas emissions. With the increase in extreme weather events due to climate change, LA's reliance on imported water also leaves it vulnerable to natural disasters that could reduce the ability of the State Water Project and Los Angeles and Colorado River Aqueducts to reliably send water to Southern California.

Q: What types of investments are most likely to provide the LA region with reliable and affordable access to water in the long run?

The best thing the region could do is to commit to strengthening local water resilience through investments in wastewater recycling, stormwater capture, groundwater cleanup, and conservation/efficiency. Property owners in areas that face high wildfire risk might also consider investing in fire-safety cisterns, as described on page 85 of this report. Water agencies in the region could provide incentives for homeowners to install such cisterns, which make it possible for property owners to protect their own property from embers without tapping into shared water resources that firefighting agencies also depend upon in times of crisis.

SUBMITTED BY SEVERN WILLIAMS



TUESDAY | JANUARY 21

SBA CONSULTATION

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, 2525 Main St. Walk in and get help applying for the US Small Business Administration's Disaster Relief loans to help homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes recover from the wildfires.

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Patio Room, Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Come, learn and have fun each week with something new, like exercise, talking with friends, learning, guest presenters and health & wellness. For more information, call 310-458-8688.

BOOKS & BAGELS

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library ,501 South Venice Blvd., Venice. Join each month for bagels, coffee and tea. There will be a thoughtful discussion of the current selection and discuss other great things we've been reading. Copies available at the front desk. Provided by Friends of Venice Library.

TEEN COUNCIL

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library, 2920 Overland Ave. Make a difference in your community at the library. Teens ages 12-18 are welcome to join and earn volunteer credit for participating. Discussions include what to do to help the library, plan fun events, and more. Snacks are funded by the Friends of the Palms-Rancho Park Library. Contact Bella at prncho@lapl.org with any questions.

MYSTERY & THRILLER BOOK GROUP

7 p.m. Virtual. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets virtually to discuss domestic and international titles in the mystery and thriller genres. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. This month's title is "The Fury" by Alex Michaelides.

BRYAN CALLEN

7:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd., Venice. Actor, comic and co-host of "The Fighter & The Kid" podcast Bryan Callen returns to The Venice West in preparation for the release of his latest one hour special called "Never Grow Up." For ages 21 and up. Tickets $30, to purchase visit: https://www.ticketweb.com/event/bryan-callen-early-show-the-venice-west-tickets/14123963. To purchase tickets for the 9:30 p.m. show, visit: https://www.ticketweb.com/event/bryan-callen-late-show-the-venice-west-tickets/14123973.

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 22

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

SMI Room, Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr. The goal of the Santa Monica Human Services Commission (HSC) is to advise City Council on priorities and strategies involving the well-being, equity, and needs of vulnerable, low income, and at-risk residents including youth and families, seniors, and people experiencing homelessness.

THURSDAY | JANUARY 23

LA LAW LIBRARY OFFICE HOURS

2 - 6 p.m. Lobby, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. A LA Law Library legal research specialist helps patrons find answers to legal questions, learn about the law, or prepare to go to court. Legal research specialists are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice, help fill out forms, or interpret the law.

BOURBON TASTING WITH BUFFALO TRACE

7 - 9 p.m. Marina Del Rey Hotel, 13534 Bali Way, Marina del Rey. Get an inside look at the artistry and dedication that goes into each bottle of expertly curated bourbon. General admission ticket includes a three-course dinner and a take-home souvenir. Tickets $60, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bourbon-tasting-with-buffalo-trace-at-marina-del-rey-hotel-tickets-1091308305519.

FRIDAY | JANUARY 24

CHINESE PAPER LANTERNS WITH EMMY LAM

3:45 - 4:45 p.m. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. It's the Year of the Snake! Learn about Lunar New Year and other Chinese Festivals and make a paper lantern. All materials provided. Space is limited; free tickets available at 3:30 p.m. For ages 8 & up.

COMEDY PARTY AND BENEFIT SHOW

7 - 10 p.m. ARTime Barro, 302 Pico Blvd. BackDoor Comedy is back in 2025 with great comedy, food and music. Happy hour from 7 to 7:45, comedy from 7:45 to 9, after party from 9 to 10. Food from Bello Pizza. Benefit show for the LA wildfires. Tickets $30, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-comedy-party-benefit-show-for-the-la-wildfires-tickets-1141720459629.

POETRY COLLECTION CELEBRATION

8 - 9:30 p.m. Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice. Authors Nancy Miller Gomez ("Inconsolable Objects"), Lynda V.E. Crawford ("Washing Water") and Lynne Thompson ("Blue on a Blue Palette") are celebrating newly published collections and will be reading from their latest books. Enjoy a reception and book signings after the program. Tickets $10, students/seniors $6, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nancy-miller-gomez-lynda-ve-crawford-lynne-thompson-tickets-1118331051279.

SATURDAY | JANUARY 25

ARTISTS & FLEAS VENICE MARKETPLACE

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney, Los Angeles. Artists & Fleas in Venice is located in the vibrant, artistic heart of Venice at the corner of Abbot Kinney and Westminster Avenue in the outdoor lot of Westminster Avenue Elementary School. Join 50+ merchants for a fabulous lineup of art, design, food trucks and vintage.

THE SANTA MONICA MOST LOVED *contest is back!*

MOST LOVED 2025 Santa Monica

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
LAUNCHING: **FEBRUARY 10TH**

Starting February 10th, you can cast your votes and celebrate the businesses, places, and experiences that make our community truly special.

Whether it's that cozy coffee shop, the friendly fitness studio, or the unbeatable brunch spot, your votes make all the difference!

SMDP.COM/ML25

Let's come together to highlight the heart of Santa Monica! Stay tuned for more details, and get ready to spread the love!

For more information on the contest contact: dina@smdp.com | 310.573.8342