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COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
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2 **Wildfire looting**
Potentially becoming a felony.

3 **PCH**
Closes once again.

4 **SMC**
Spring Media Series starts.

6 **Gas Buddy**
Where to fill up.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 60 WEDNESDAY 2/12/25 smdp.com

New legislation from Sacramento looks to curb drunk driving across California

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Legislative officials in California are aiming to curb a deadly issue that impacts Santa Monica and beyond.

This past week, Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Irvine) and colleagues held a press conference discussing her latest piece of legislation, AB 366. The bill takes aim at the state's drunk driving events, stopping the expiration of California's current interlock ignition device policy.

The bill requires anyone convicted of a first drunk driving offense to install the device in their vehicle, something Petrie-Norris said she says works because of results in the 35 states that have such legislation. She also stressed, though, that "these are not just statistics."

"These are mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, neighbors and friends," Petrie-Norris said. "This is an urgent call to action ... AB 366 is an opportunity for us to save lives, for us to stop these tragic and preventable deaths before the car even starts."

One of these preventable deaths was the passing of Sen. Bob Archuleta's granddaughter,

SEE **DRUNK DRIVING** PAGE 7

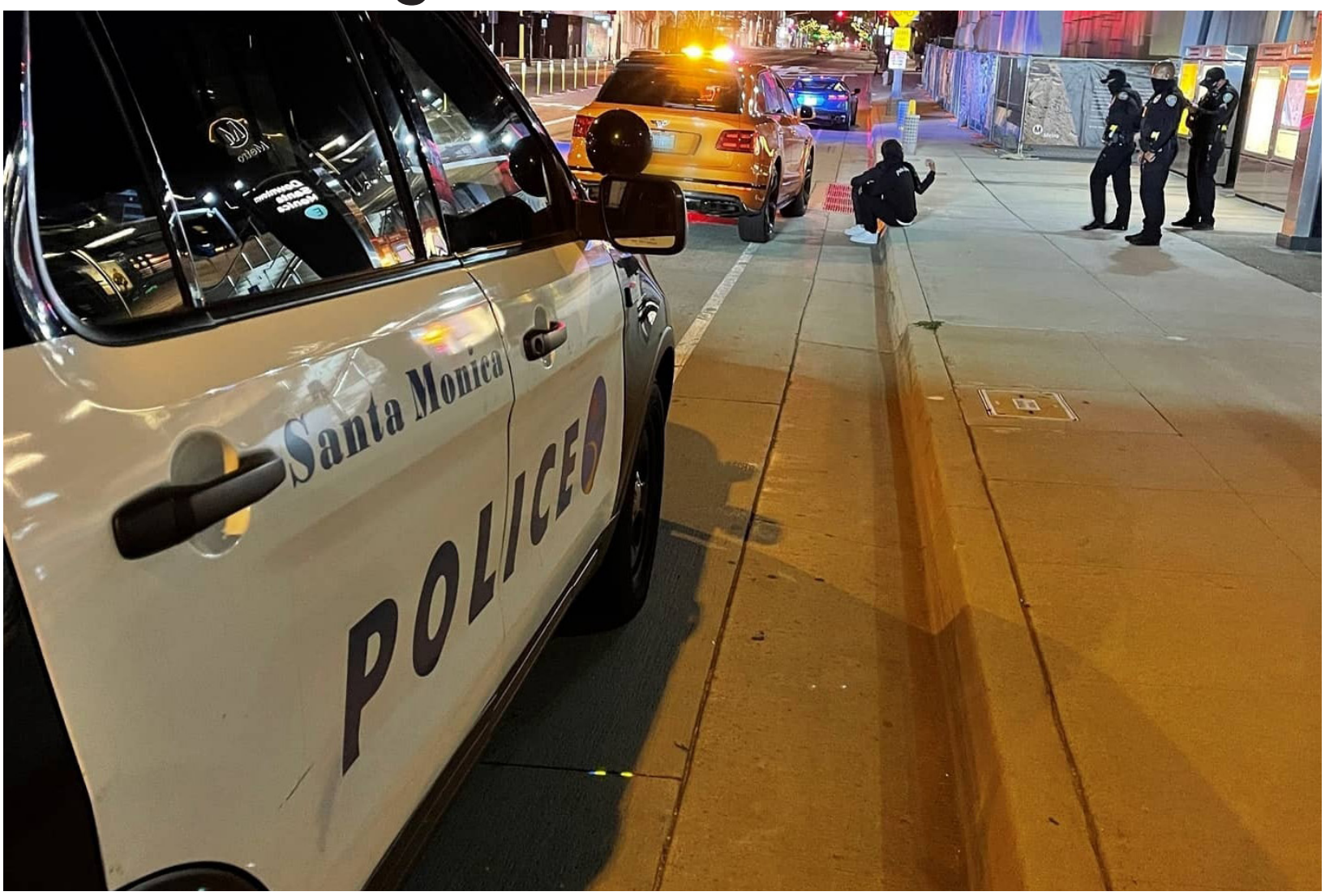


Photo Courtesy SMPD

DUI: California ignition lock legislation AB 366 looks to cut the number of impaired drivers in the state.

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City of Santa Monica

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- **RFP # 439 FILM PERMIT COORDINATOR PERMIT PROCESS IMPROVEMENT, MARKETING/OUTREACH, NOTIFICATION, MONITORING, AND COMPLIANT REFERRAL SERVICES**
- **Submission Deadline Is March 3, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.

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California bill would make wildfire looting a felony with prison time

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

California legislators came together on Monday to announce bipartisan legislation to strengthen penalties for looting and impersonating emergency personnel during wildfires and other natural disasters.

The push for harsher penalties comes as officials have promised to protect victims of the recent Eaton and Palisades fires from all manner of criminal activities. While the rhetoric has been strong, officials said existing laws are simply too weak to provide enough of a deterrent.

> Individuals who put our firefighters at risk and prey on communities when they are at their most vulnerable must be held accountable
> - Jesse Gabriel, Assemblymembers

Assembly Bill 469, introduced by Assemblymembers Jesse Gabriel (D-Encino), Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks), and Blanca Pacheco (D-Downey), would make looting a felony offense punishable by state prison time and close existing legal loopholes that have hampered prosecution of crimes in evacuation zones.

"Individuals who put our firefighters at risk and prey on communities when they are at their most vulnerable must be held accountable," Gabriel said at a press conference announcing the legislation. "Looters – particularly those who impersonate emergency personnel – create chaos and confusion, endanger residents and first responders, and undermine public trust in evacuation orders."

The legislation comes in response to criminal activity during the recent Palisades and Eaton fires, where law enforcement arrested dozens of suspected looters. In one notable case, two individuals from Oregon were arrested for allegedly impersonating firefighters in the Palisades Fire evacuation zone by driving a decommissioned fire truck into the area.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman, who supports the legislation, said current looting laws are inadequate. While prosecutors can charge first-degree burglary carrying state prison time, the existing looting statute only provides for misdemeanor charges with maximum one-year county jail sentences.

He said the proposed changes close loopholes.

The bill would allow enhanced felony charges for looting and impersonating emergency personnel, including firefighters, police officers, and National Guard members during states of emergency. Protections would extend beyond the immediate disaster through the recovery and rebuilding period.

Ventura County District Attorney Eric Nasarenko cited three cases from previous wildfires that highlighted gaps in current law. In one instance during the 2017 Thomas Fire, thieves targeted evacuated families' vehicles in Oxnard, but prosecutors couldn't charge them under looting statutes because the vehicles were unlocked.

"We need to stop when theft occurs in the disaster zone in the state of emergency," Nasarenko said. "It needs to be charged appropriately, fairly, and it needs to represent the conduct of the crime."

Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna emphasized that fear of looting often makes residents reluctant to follow crucial evacuation orders.

"A lot of the heroic stories that occurred within law enforcement in these fire zones were going back to rescue people whose lives were in peril because they did not evacuate," Luna said. "I want people to feel confident to be able to leave their homes."

The legislation has garnered support from the California Professional Firefighters, California District Attorneys Association, and California Police Chiefs Association. Supporters hope to fast-track the bill through the legislature given ongoing concerns about mudslides and future disasters.

"When disaster strikes, no one should have to choose between following evacuation orders and protecting their property," said Assemblymember Pacheco. "This bill sends a clear message that we will not tolerate Californians being criminally targeted during their most vulnerable moments."

editor@smdp.com

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

PCH closed again due to fears of landslides

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Drivers who have never had an accident may be getting whiplash none-the-less this week as the Pacific Coast Highway has closed yet again.

The latest development in the ongoing fiasco of accessing the coastal road post-Palisades Fire was announced over the weekend when officials said a stretch of the iconic road through Malibu would be closed indefinitely due to new safety concerns.

The closure, spanning from Chautauqua Boulevard in Los Angeles to Carbon Beach Terrace in Malibu, comes as the National Weather Service predicts another round of heavy rainfall for the region from February 12 through 14.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), working with Los Angeles County Public Works, made the decision after observing significant slide activity north of Big Rock Drive and slippage along the hillside below Porto Marina Way. Officials note that slides can occur even between storms due to saturated soil conditions.

"The decision to remain closed is part of preemptive measures in response to and in preparation for additional rain," Caltrans officials said in a statement. The agency emphasized that debris basins in the area are currently at 80 percent capacity and must be cleared before next week's anticipated storms.

Access to the highway is now restricted to essential workers, including first responders, recovery agencies, and utility companies. Palisades residents can still reach their homes via Chautauqua Boulevard with appropriate passes.

PCH was closed immediately following the devastating fire. It was then partially reopened to allow resident access to the burn zone and a full opening was announced, then delayed but did occur just days before rain was forecast for the area.

The initial band of rain passed through without any significant problems but the recent wet-weather closure is causing havoc for the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District where staff and students face significant transportation challenges. According to a Superintendent Antonio Shelton, the majority of school staff and buses must now approach Malibu from the north, resulting in multi-hour commutes.

"We appreciate our bus drivers and our staff and teachers who are enduring multi-hour drives to support our students in Malibu," he said in a statement. The district has implemented vanpools from Santa Monica using alternative routes to assist staff members affected by the closure.

> We appreciate our bus drivers and our staff and teachers who are enduring multi-hour drives to support our students in Malibu
>
> - Antonio Shelton, Superintendent

The National Weather Service forecasts moderate rainfall amounts of 1 to 2 inches in coastal and valley areas, with 2 to 4 inches possible in mountains and foothills. These predictions have raised concerns about additional debris flows that could impact both roads and structures in the area.

During the closure, contractors will place steel plates to protect the slope along Porto Marina Way, while county workers continue debris removal operations. Emergency crews are also installing k-rail barriers at strategic locations along the highway.

The famous coastal route's status will be evaluated daily, though officials emphasize the need for caution, particularly in areas made vulnerable by recent fires. Residents whose homes survived the flames may find them endangered by the now wet conditions if significant slides occur and evacuation orders are possible in a worst case scenario.

Caltrans officials stressed their commitment to reopening the highway as soon as safety permits, acknowledging the significant impact on local communities. In the meantime, motorists are advised to plan alternate routes and avoid the area if possible.

editor@smdp.com





Surf report

WATER TEMP: **57.4**

WEDNESDAY — ***POOR TO FAIR*** | **SURF:** Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Little bump of peaky/soft surf possible from approaching coastal storm. Wind looks ok. It appears the surf could come up some, although doesn't look significantly larger than Tuesday (and some of our spot forecasts tend to show surf heights larger than what will actually occur on the shorter period W swell). Something to ride, but nothing special most likely.

THURSDAY — ***POOR*** | **SURF:** Shin to knee 0-1FT

Rideable surf - especially at the spots west of Pt Dume - with a potential decent AM wind window. Shorter to mid period W swell mix hangs on and could come up a bit from Wednesday. It doesn't look all that big, but should be rideable and potentially kinda fun (waist to maybe chest high). ESE or maybe SE wind ahead of the storm would favor the beachbreaks, with the points funkier/bumpier. Rain is likely, although the heaviest rain looks like Thu night or Fri AM at this point.

Weather

Wednesday: Rain. High near 54. Calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 80%.
Wednesday Night: Rain. Low around 51. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 100%.
Thursday: Rain. High near 59. Breezy, with a south wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.
Thursday Night: Rain. Low around 52. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 100%.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/02/12	Wed	02:39 AM	1.50	L
2025/02/12	Wed	08:43 AM	5.98	H
2025/02/12	Wed	3:38 PM	-0.94	L
2025/02/12	Wed	9:58 PM	4.26	H
2025/02/13	Thu	03:16 AM	1.33	L
2025/02/13	Thu	09:17 AM	5.66	H
2025/02/13	Thu	4:04 PM	-0.60	L
2025/02/13	Thu	10:23 PM	4.35	H
2025/02/14	Fri	03:52 AM	1.24	L
2025/02/14	Fri	09:49 AM	5.21	H
2025/02/14	Fri	4:27 PM	-0.18	L
2025/02/14	Fri	10:47 PM	4.42	H
2025/02/15	Sat	04:30 AM	1.22	L
2025/02/15	Sat	10:23 AM	4.66	H

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/10
2 17 18 29 43
Power#: 3
Jackpot: 154 M

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 2/10
6 14 17 20 24

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/7
4 24 32 41 55
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 110 M

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/10
EVENING: 6 7 9
Draw Date: 2/10
MIDDAY: 5 5 4

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/8
2 6 27 41 47
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 24 M

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/10
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:48.95

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4498 REPLACEMENT SUPPLIES FOR ZOLL X-SERIES CARDIAC MONITORS. Submission Deadline is March 3, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00040 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of Michael Montesdeoca for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Michael Montesdeoca with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Miguel Angel Montesdeoca to Michael Angel Montesdeoca . The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall 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 03/14/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _ The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica, Ca 90401 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

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

Los Angeles DA Charges Protester with Felony for Throwing Objects on 101 Freeway, Faces 7 Years

A man faces more than seven years in prison for allegedly throwing objects at vehicles during an immigration protest on the 101 Freeway, prosecutors said Tuesday.

Martin Richard Torres, 41, of Los Angeles was charged with one felony count of throwing an object at a vehicle with intent to cause great bodily injury and one felony count of vandalism, District Attorney Nathan J. Hochman announced.

The incident occurred Feb. 3 around 11 a.m. near Spring Street and the 101 Freeway. Torres is accused of throwing an object at a vehicle and vandalizing a freeway sign.

Prosecutors requested bail be set at $775,000. Torres has prior convictions for serious or violent felonies, according to court documents.

"Everyone has the right to express their views and engage in peaceful protest — that is fundamental to our democracy," Hochman said. "But when actions cross the line into criminal behavior that endangers lives, my office will not hesitate to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law."

The case is being prosecuted by the district attorney's Central Trials Division and was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

SUBMITTED BY HOCHMAN'S OFFICE

Los Angeles

RAND Study: LA Foster Youth Move 15 Times Per Year, Face Housing Crisis After Age 24

Young adults transitioning from foster care in Los Angeles County face severe housing instability, moving an average of 15 times in one year, according to a new study released Tuesday.

The RAND Corporation report found that while half of the study participants secured permanent housing, those accommodations often came with strict age limits of 18 to 24 years and two-year maximum stays.

One-third of participants remained in temporary housing after a year, putting them at risk of homelessness, researchers said.

"Young people with foster care involvement are at extreme risk of experiencing homelessness, despite California's investment to extend foster care benefits up to age 21," said Sarah Hunter, the report's lead author and senior behavioral scientist at RAND.

The study followed 24 unstably housed youth throughout 2023, finding that stable housing correlated with improved quality of life and reduced reliance on public assistance. Participants were recruited from drop-in centers, transitional housing, shelter settings and the streets.

Researchers found that sheltered youth showed fewer depressive symptoms and reduced substance abuse compared to those without stable housing. They were also more likely to have government-issued identification and other legal documentation.

A previous RAND study estimated that one-third of homeless youth in Los Angeles County had been involved with the foster care system.

The report recommended several policy changes, including extending support services beyond age 24 and providing additional mental health resources. Researchers also called for more family housing options, noting that many participants had children of their own.

"Housing navigation and case management services need to be tailored and not dependent on geography, given this group's lack of residential permanency," the report stated.

SUBMITTED BY RAND

SMC

Santa Monica College Announces Free Spring 2025 Media Series Featuring Work-Life Expert, Design Leader

Santa Monica College announced Tuesday its spring 2025 Communication, Media & Design Series, featuring three free presentations beginning Feb. 25.

Work-life balance expert Joe Robinson will open the series with an online discussion about stress management and working smarter. Robinson, author of "Work to Live" and "Don't Miss Your Life," has appeared on "The Today Show," "NBC Nightly News" and National Public Radio's "All Things Considered."

Designer Rhys Newman will speak on campus March 3 about color categorization and understanding. His presentation will explore the work of ornithologist Robert Ridgway, whose 1912 publication "Color Standards and Nomenclature" influenced modern color science. Newman serves as Global Head of Design & User Experience at ABB E-Mobility and is the former Chair of the IDSA IDEA Awards.

International film promoter Tatiana Detlofson will close the series April 28 with an online presentation about promoting animated features. Detlofson, a voting member of the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, will discuss two new animated features: "Sauvages" by Claude Barras and "Living Large" by Kristina Dufkova. Her presentation will include strategies for Oscar campaign promotion.

The Newman presentation will be held at the SMC Center for Media and Design, while Robinson and Detlofson's talks will be conducted virtually via Zoom. All events are free and open to the public. The in-person event will be seated on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, visit smc.edu/events or call the SMC Office of Public Programs at 310-434-4100.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Will having 'too many cooks' complicate recovery from deadly Los Angeles fires?

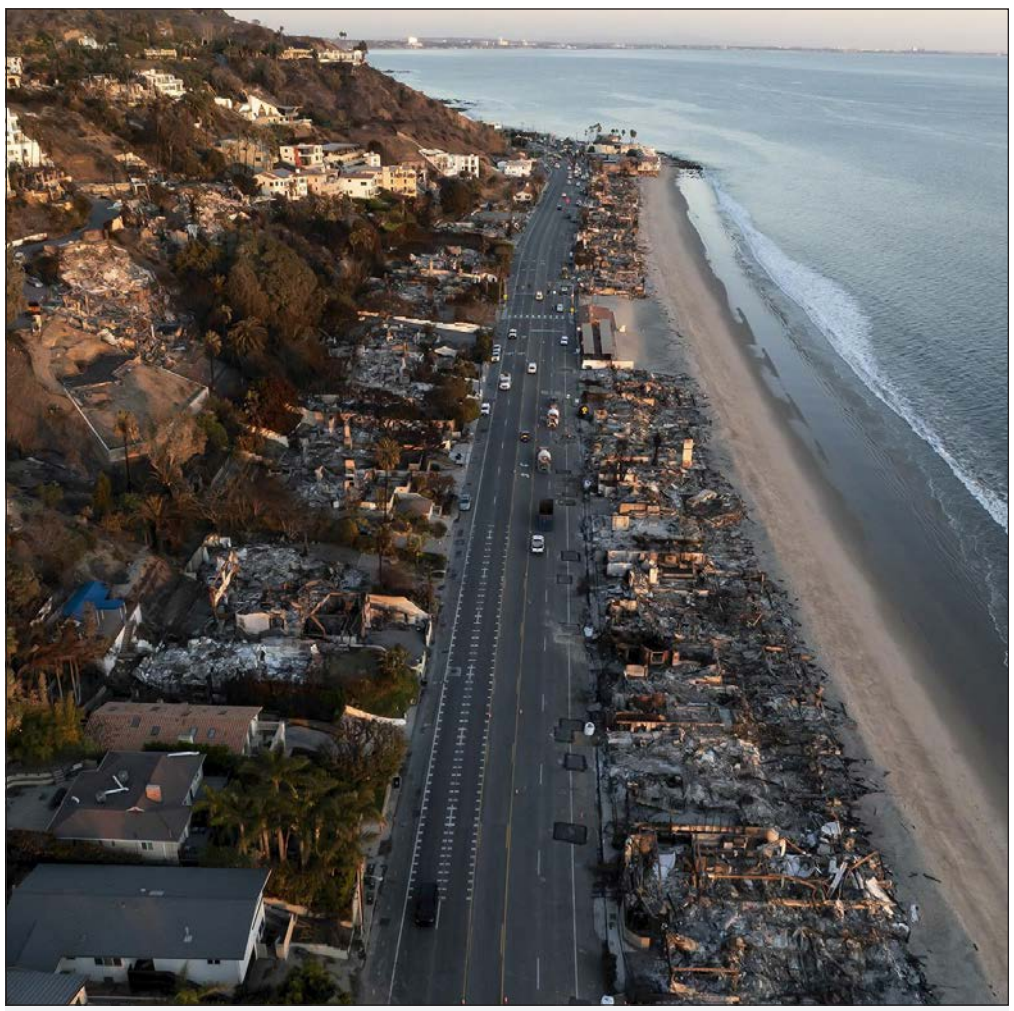


Photo by Ted Soqui for CalMatters

RECOVERY: An aerial view of the Palisades Fire destruction in Carbon Canyon in Malibu, on Jan. 15, 2025.

A proverb said to have arisen in 16th-century England postulates that "too many cooks spoil the broth." When too many people are working on a project without clear accountability, it may produce a shoddy outcome.

In fact, research conducted at Princeton University 11 years ago appears to validate this. Iain Couzin, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and the study's senior author, said it undercuts the so-called "wisdom-of-crowds" theory that champions multiple inputs.

"It's a starting point that opens up the possibility of capturing collective decision-making in a more realistic environment," Couzin said in a statement at the time. "When we do see small groups of animals or organisms making decisions they are not necessarily compromising accuracy. They might actually do worse if more individuals were involved. I think that's the new insight."

> It's a starting point that opens up the possibility of capturing collective decision-making in a more realistic environment
> - Iain Couzin

Examples of spoiled broth abound in the political realm, but a very obvious and current example is California's haphazard approach to its worst-in-the-nation homelessness crisis.

Multiple state agencies, cities and counties all deal with aspects of the situation. Despite an estimated $24 billion expended since Gavin Newsom became governor in 2019, the number of homeless people in California has continued to rise and the state auditor

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 7

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*Prices paying in card

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have risen 14.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.59/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 16.6 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 15.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 0.2 cents in the last week and stands at $3.624 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.95/g while the most expensive was $5.49/g, a difference of $1.54/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.58/g while the highest was $6.29/g, a difference of $2.71/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 4.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.09/g . The national average is up 2.2 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 9.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country..

Santa Monica Daily Press

Prop. 36 promised 'mass treatment' for drug offenses. Some counties aren't ready



Photo by Adriana Heldiz, CalMatters

PROPOSITION: A courtroom where CARE Court hearings take place at the San Diego County Superior Court in San Diego on Oct. 9, 2023.

It's been three months since California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 36, a new law that pledged to provide "mass treatment" for those facing certain drug charges. But since the law took effect on Dec. 18, some counties are scrambling to fulfill that promise.

Now, prosecutors have the ability to charge people convicted of various third-time drug offenses with a so-called treatment-mandated felony, which would direct them to substance use disorder or mental health treatment in lieu of up to three years in jail or prison.

But as some counties struggle to implement the mandate without new funding or, according to people involved in enforcing the law, sufficient resources, more and more people are being charged without a clear path to the treatment that the law was supposed to offer.

CalMatters spoke with judges, district attorneys, public defenders and behavioral health experts in counties of various sizes that have started enforcing the new law. As of Feb. 4, nearly 30 people have been charged with the treatment-mandated felony in Yolo County. In Stanislaus County, roughly 140 people have been charged with the new felony as of Feb. 10. And in Orange County, that number has passed 500 as of Feb. 7.

At an early glance, CalMatters learned of a handful of people who have been placed in treatment since the law took effect. That number could increase in the weeks ahead as people move through their court process and the law is further implemented. A person can accept treatment at any point between their arraignment and jury trial.

While enthusiasm for the new law runs high from prosecutors and law enforcement, the machinery of government hasn't quite caught up. The text of the measure did not spell out the details of how courts would implement Prop. 36, forcing court administrators, judges, district attorneys, behavioral health experts, probation officers and public defenders to quickly stand up new processes as many people are charged and incarcerated.

Treatment is "the greatest obstacle," said Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge, Stephen Manley, who founded the county's mental health treatment court and co-founded its drug court.

"We simply do not have the treatment in this state," he said. "When you can't place people in treatment, what is the alternative?"

The measure came with no funding. That's one of the reasons why Gov. Gavin Newsom opposed the initiative.

"It's about mass incarceration, not mass treatment," Newsom said at a press conference in September. "What an actual insult it is to say it's about mass treatment when there's not a dollar attached to it."

The Legislative Analyst's Office estimated the measure would cost tens to hundreds of millions of dollars a year in increased criminal justice costs. Republican state lawmakers who backed Prop. 36 wrote a letter to Newsom in December urging him to commit more funding.

"The success of Proposition 36's treatment-

SEE **PROP. 36** PAGE 11

DRUNK DRIVING

FROM PAGE 1

Samantha, who was killed by a drunk driver over the holidays. The senator and his wife received the news on Christmas Eve.

"They couldn't even identify (her at first) … she was only 30 years of age, got her Master's, ready to start her life as a social worker and help those who truly need help, and that drunk driver unfortunately took her life," Archuleta said. "This is a profound loss to our family, but a tragedy no family should endure."

The senator added that this isn't a Republican or Democrat issue, but a "family issue" that requires bipartisan support.

Santa Monica is not immune to California's drunk driving epidemic, neighboring the City of Los Angeles that is one of the 10 cities with the worst drunk driving rates in the country. According to the California Office of Traffic Safety, of the 522 victims of Santa Monica accidents causing death or injury in 2022, 36 of those involved alcohol.

The same year, 162 DUI arrests were made in Santa Monica, with CDC research stating that an offender arrested for their first DUI has driven, on average, 80 times while intoxicated. Santa Monica Police Department Public Information Coordinator Myesha Morrison reminded residents last year that impaired driving can also come from marijuana, prescription medication or over-the-counter drugs.

Someone who made those arrests for years, California Association of Highway Patrolman President Jake Johnson said these accidents transcend "all walks of life, all genders, all races (and) ages."

> "We have 40 million registered vehicles in the state of California"
> - Jake Johnson, California Association of Highway Patrolman President

"We have 40 million registered vehicles in the state of California," Johnson said. "That is a lot of drivers, and there's not enough cops to go out (and) arrest everybody out there. We need this (interlock) device. California should be on the forefront of technology, we shouldn't be behind, and we're behind when it comes to interlock devices."

Petrie-Norris said now that the bill has been introduced, she is looking forward to the beginning of committee hearings within the next two months.

thomas@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 5

has found that Newsom's Interagency Council on Homelessness, which was supposed to coordinate state efforts, had failed to do so.

Local homelessness efforts have also suffered from a lack of clear responsibility with city and county officials pointing fingers at each other.

What's happening or not on homelessness is a warning that a new crisis — recovery from the highly destructive and deadly wildfires that swept through Los Angeles — could be botched.

On Monday, UCLA's Anderson School of Management estimated property losses of between $95 billion and $164 billion, and other estimates range as high as $250 billion. The tasks of cleaning up, financing and rebuilding schools and other public infrastructure, as well as thousands of homes and commercial structures, are almost unfathomably difficult.

As the fires were finally tamed, political figures such as Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, and local civic leaders and organizations began raising money and proposing pathways for recovery operations.

However, as the Los Angeles Times has reported, the plethora of recovery organizations makes it difficult to determine who's really in charge, a lack of clarity compounded by fires having struck both neighborhoods within the city limits, such as Pacific Palisades, and those governed by the county, such as Altadena.

The recovery response got off to a bad start when Bass appointed Steve Soboroff, a prominent civic leader, as her recovery czar only to face backlash about being paid $500,000 for a few months' work. He ultimately agreed to work for free, but the flap implied that decisions were being made without being fully vetted.

Meanwhile, Rick Caruso, another civic leader whom Bass defeated to become mayor, has announced his own recovery effort, sparked by losses suffered by members of his family, and has sharply criticized Bass, who faces a reelection campaign next year.

Newsom has spent many days visibly monitoring firefighting efforts, getting a $2.5 billion allocation from the Legislature and seeking federal funds from President Donald Trump, a longtime political foil. However, just after making a quick trip to Washington to bolster requests for money, Newsom signed legislation appropriating millions of dollars to battle Trump in court over other issues, most prominently immigration.

Newsom also issued a decree waiving regulations to allow homeowners to rebuild their homes, even in neighborhoods shown to be prone to destruction in previous fires.

Historians will see the fires that blackened much of Los Angeles this year as one of the state's most significant events and how recovery is managed, or mismanaged, will be legend.

By Dan Walters. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

WILLARD B. "BILL" MORRIS, JR.



June 7, 1943 - December 1, 2024

Willard B. "Bill" Morris, Jr., was born June 7, 1943 in Knoxville, TN, to Roslyn Hurt and Willard B. Morris Sr., of Minneapolis. Bill attended schools in Brainerd, MN, including Washington High, class of 1961, where he was a photojournalist for the yearbook. He earned a BA in sociology from California State University and served as a deputy sheriff in West Hollywood, Los Angeles County, for 35 years, continuing as a reserve deputy in retirement. He married Linda (Lockwood) of Santa Monica, CA, residing there until he retired and moved to Ojai, CA, where Bill pursued his lifelong interest in engines, auto mechanics and the automobile. Bill died of heart failure in Ojai, on December 1, 2024, leaving his soulmate Linda and 3 children: Kenneth Morris, of Ojai, CA, Pamela (Jim) Palmer of Thousand Oaks, CA, Melissa Bourestom of Dallas, TX, and a sister, Patricia (Dave) Peterson of Pequot Lakes, MN. A memorial is planned for this spring in California. For information contact Linda at thrutraffic@pobox.com.



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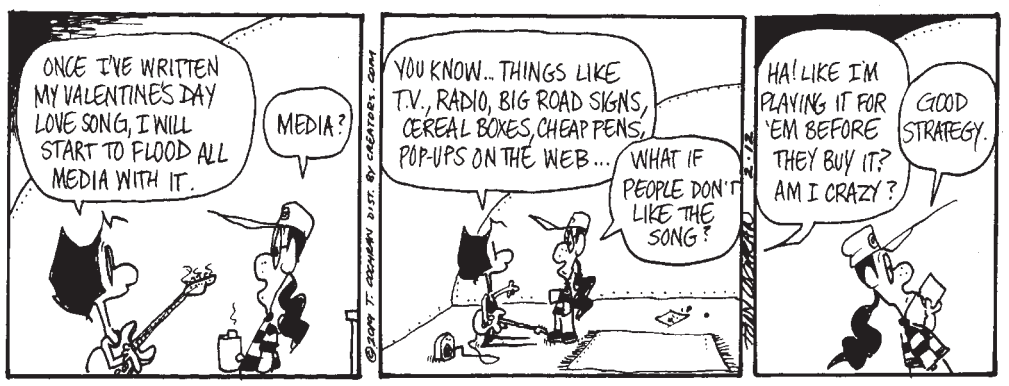






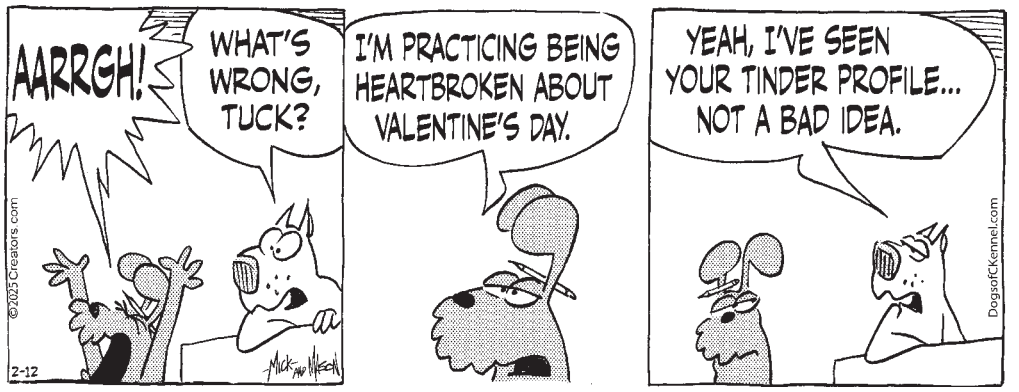
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



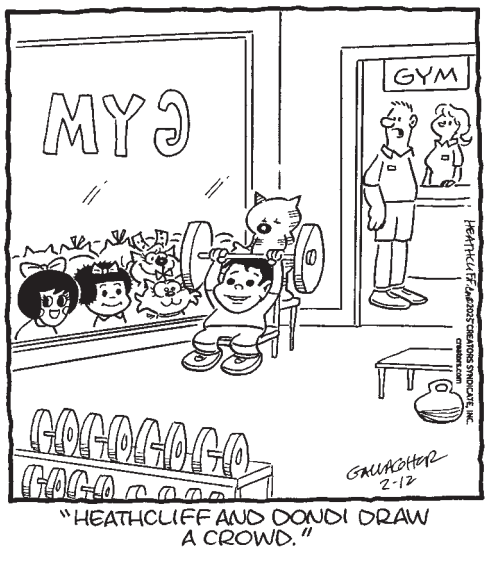
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

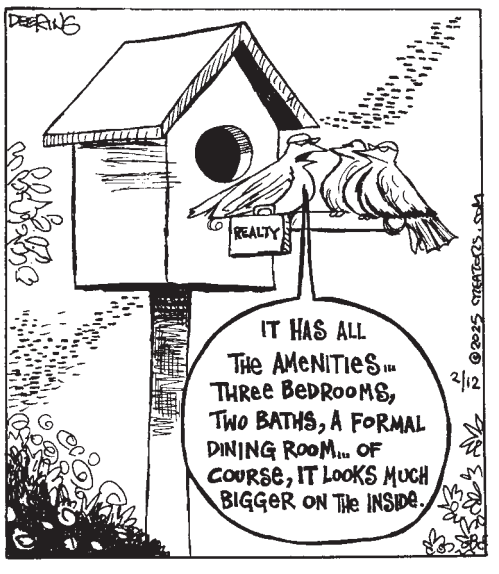
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HEATHCLIFF AND DONDI DRAW A CROWD."

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 25 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6484

Interrupted sleep

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

Apnea	Divan	Loaf	Snore
Beds	Doss	Lodge	Sofa
Berth	Doze	Lounge	The land
Board	Drowse	Nanna nap	of Nod
Bunk	Floor	Nightie	Tired
Cots	Hammock	Out cold	Torpor
Cover	Hotel	Quilt	Trance
Crash	Inactive	Rhythm	Turn in
Crib	Lethargy	Rise	
Deep	Lie down	Sheet	
Delta waves	Like a log	Siesta	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 12)

If you wonder why so many seem to come into your sphere this year, it's because you are uniquely compelling and magnetic. Also, you guide people to roles where they light up. More highlights: You pay closer attention, notice more and feel bigger, and for these reasons, you'll be astoundingly creative. You'll be paid and rewarded for it. Also, the tables will turn in a situation that is decades old. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 6, 7, 20 and 42.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even though you desire success, you recognize that it can be scary. If you do well, you'll be in unknown territory. Remember how you faced the unknown before and not only managed it but eventually learned to own it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your personal life is like a house party where people come and go, giving the festivities a kind of arc. If everyone arrived at the same time, it wouldn't be as interesting, manageable or fun. The natural rhythm of arrivals and exits is for the best.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's something calling for your attention, urging you to track it. By recording this data, you'll gain clarity and control, setting the stage for positive change. Awareness through numbers can transform your life.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your personal life may feel short-staffed, and that's because there really are a few openings. Define the position and you're more likely to get a qualified candidate, this time with the skills, values and other qualifications you hold dear. Quality applicants forthcoming.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A bold playfulness is inside you, just waiting for the recess bell to ring. The thing is, once you're no longer in school, such bells cannot liberate you. That's good news. Liberate yourself. Ring your own bell.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Establish boundaries that honor your limits and energy. Define what you're willing to give and hold firm. Balance comes when you stop overextending and others start stepping up. Let fairness guide your actions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your relationship with food, like your relationships with people, is something you're working on. Instead of being hard on yourself, reflect on what might help. No single moment defines your self-care journey.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're not doing what's expected because it's expected, though the expected thing might coincidentally just happen to also be what you feel like doing. It might also be a way to conserve energy when you don't care either way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If only you could flip a switch to protect yourself from getting hurt by certain people. But if you could, you'd be less human, as things that run on circuits tend to be machines. Trust that your empowerment is organic, resilient and intelligent beyond logic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Certain people have a way of getting under your skin. You deserve the space to prioritize your own needs. Give yourself some breathing room to focus on other things, and it will help reduce the emotional intensity of these relationships.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are full of potential, love and wisdom. Make room in your life for people who truly match your energy, intentions and values. Humor is high on the list and encompasses many of your other values like intelligence and presence.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The difficult truth is that a lot of people are working from their own wounds, limited perspectives or unresolved stuff, which can make it difficult for them to show up for others in the ways they truly want or need to - a fact of life not to be internalized by you.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

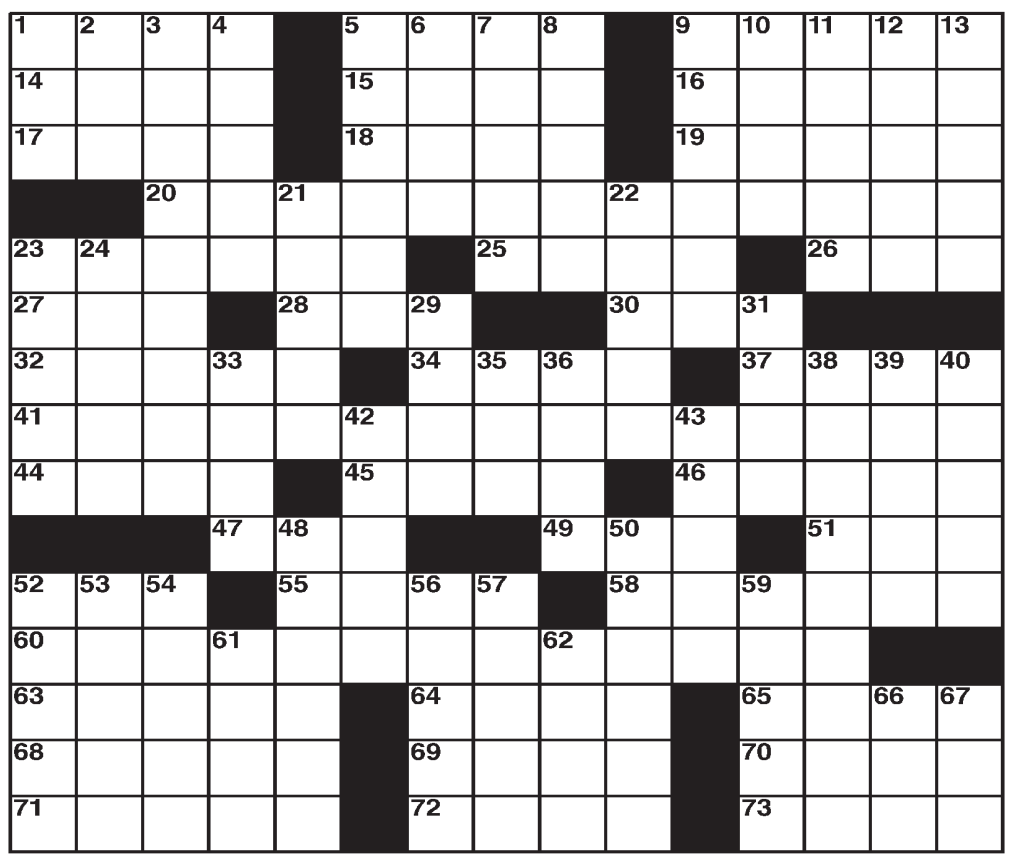
HIGH SPOTS by Bruce Venske
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Atoms with a charge
5 Easy task
9 Stadium walkways
14 Bit of wit
15 Rabbit relative
16 Onetime *At the Movies* cohost
17 Building's location
18 Therefore
19 Unusual knickknack
20 Optimal health
23 Little bit
25 Russian refusal
26 Take a taste of
27 DC lobbying group
28 Half-square shape
30 Vigor
32 *Little Miss Sunshine* actor Alan
34 Skeptical comment
37 Be durable
41 Venerable oral-care cream
44 Brontë heroine
45 Wraps up
46 Print-shop gadget
47 Common urban tree
49 Mouth, informally
51 007 author Fleming
52 __-med student
55 White gem
58 Punishes Junior, old-style
60 Conference of world leaders
63 Roughly
64 Resurface, as a road
65 Place for a keyhole
68 Line on a book jacket
69 Tech-support client
70 Successor of the German mark
71 Scornful look
72 Ivy League school, for short
73 Meal in a slow cooker

DOWN

1 Smartness stats
2 French assent
3 Fussy person
4 Swiftness
5 Israeli coin
6 Certain undercover cop
7 Inert gas in the air
8 Showy flower
9 Say from memory
10 Be beside
11 Be worthy of
12 Earlier
13 Covered with rocks
21 Insurance seller
22 Profundity
23 Place to park
24 Join in wedlock
29 Big cat
31 Arrange in advance
33 "Understood"
35 Physique, so to speak
36 Handicraft Web store
38 Inviting to dinner
39 Barbecued food
40 Migratory seabirds
42 Entice
43 Kid lit Longstocking
48 Mill around
50 Toward the rear of a ship
52 Exams for HS juniors
53 Apply, as ointment
54 Be overtheatrical
56 Intensify
57 Office copier contract
59 South American range
61 Stubborn equine
62 Make level
66 Metal-filled rock
67 Propel with oars



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PROP. 36

FROM PAGE 6

focused approach depends heavily on the availability of well-funded mental health and substance abuse services, which are critical for breaking cycles of addiction and reducing recidivism," the GOP legislators wrote.

And Sen. Tom Umberg, a Democrat from Santa Ana, introduced legislation to help facilitate the implementation of Prop. 36.

"Every Californian should be treated equally under the law," said Umberg. "It is my intent to make sure we fulfill the mandate of Prop. 36."

WHAT IS A TREATMENT-MANDATED FELONY?

An arrest is made. A judge reviews the charges at an initial hearing. But then what?

Under a treatment-mandated felony, someone who expresses interest in treatment will be assigned a "drug addiction expert" who will assess them and decide what kind of treatment they need. That treatment can involve mental health treatment, job training, and "any other conditions related to treatment or a successful outcome for the defendant that the court finds appropriate," the measure said.

If they accept, they would enter a guilty or no contest plea and begin treatment. If they don't agree to it, they would go to jail or prison if convicted. Those who finish treatment will have their charges dismissed.

Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig, a prominent supporter of Prop. 36, said it's OK that counties are taking different approaches to carrying out the law.

"Everybody's going to do it a little bit differently," he said. "But it's moving along. There are no surprises right now."

EVALUATIONS UNDER PROP. 36

While the statute calls for a drug addiction expert to perform evaluations, it remains an "open question" in many counties as to who will take on that role, said Sacramento Superior Court Judge Lawrence Brown, who is the chairperson of the Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee within the state court system's policymaking body, the Judicial Council.

"In our county, (the behavioral health department) receives a high volume of requests for drug treatment and mental treatment pre-Prop. 36 so it's adding onto their already considerable workload without any specific funding," he said.

None of the three people who have requested treatment evaluations in Yolo County, a community of about 220,000 people near Sacramento, has received one as of Feb. 5. According to the county's director of Health & Human Services Agency, Nolan Sullivan, that's because no agency has the resources. The county is working on a temporary plan.

"They created an expectation for this really robust position to do work that, frankly, would be great, but it doesn't exist today," Sullivan said. "That is the biggest implementation gap we have in Yolo today."

HOW WILL TREATMENT-MANDATED FELONIES BE PROCESSED?

Most of California's 58 counties have adult drug courts, which vary from court to court but generally provide treatment to offenders struggling with substance use disorders, often alongside reduced charges. But 10 counties lack such courts, according to a recent tally by state officials, and people in the California justice system say that, even when the courts exist, treatment options are lacking.

"The best drug court in the world can't do a thing without treatment in place," said Manley.

Some counties are planning to fold treatment-mandated felony cases into existing collaborative justice programs, such as drug courts. Others plan to create a standalone court.

Orange County, for example, has already set up its own Prop. 36 court. For now, its behavioral health care agency has used existing resources and leveraged opioid settlement money to help pay for staff. Orange County Health Care Agency Director Veronica Kelley said they know how to stretch a dollar but the long-term plan remains a work in progress.

"There are unintended consequences with lots of our legislation and our propositions. I don't want the unintended consequence to be that I have to cut another needed program to support this," said Kelley.

As of Jan. 30, the Orange County Health Care Agency has received 111 referrals for the new felony, according to Kelley. Seven people accepted treatment, three of whom have since absconded. Warrants have been issued for their arrests.

"You have to be ready and treatment is hard," she said. "Addiction is a complicated disease."

Compared to others, her community has an abundance of treatment options for people who want it. That's not always the case in smaller counties.

"If we had a rush of dozens of folks being referred to us through this process, frankly, I don't know how we would handle that load today," Sullivan of Yolo County said. "If folks are asking for treatment and there's none available for a variety of reasons, what ownership do they have? I think it could be a pretty big barrier."

In Stanislaus County, a community of about half a million people in the northern San Joaquin Valley, District Attorney Jeff Laugero wants to funnel people through its drug court.

"We want the treatment to be successful so that's why we're working with all of our justice partners to try and figure out what the best practices are and how it's going to work," he said. "I absolutely believe there is sufficient treatment, at least currently."

But Stanislaus County Chief Deputy Public Defender Jennifer Jennison said the county had a major shortage of treatment even before voters approved Prop. 36. In her view, the district attorney is wrong to charge people with treatment-mandated felonies because often that treatment simply isn't available.

"It's reckless," she said. "And people in need of treatment are sitting in jail without any end in sight, making their situation much worse."

Cayla Mihalovich is a California Local News fellow. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 12

COMPUTER BASICS

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Computer Training Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Join for a free hands-on introduction to using email to send messages, files and photos.

SIMPLE STRATEGIES TO PREVENT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

1 - 2 p.m. Virtual. Conversations around body safety should happen in every family and can be done with ease and without fear or discomfort. Come discover how you can start this conversation with your child today. To register, visit: https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4p37ye0tx7x8156869h449vpwk/202502121300.

COOKIES & CARD CRAFTING FOR KIDS

3:30 - 5 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Make a Valentine's card for your loved ones and decorate cookies. All materials provided. For ages 2-10.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB

4:30 - 6 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Join the adventure for one-shot sessions with characters you have created or pick-up a readymade character for the day's journey. All materials provided. Ages 9-14.

LITERARY LOUNGE

6:15 - 7:30 p.m. Tutoring Center, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Discover the joy of social reading at the Literary Lounge; a space for bibliophiles to bond over books, with music and refreshments. Bring your own book or choose one from a collection of staff favorites.

WICKS & WINE

6:30 - 9 p.m. AJA Vineyards, 1417 2nd St. Join for a fun evening of candle making and wine tasting. Unleash your creativity as you craft your own custom scented candle, sip on some delicious wines and socialize with friends. Tickets $65, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wicks-wine-at-aja-vineyards-tickets-1218666055979.

AN EVENING WITH DUCKHORN VINEYARDS

7 - 9 p.m. Marina Del Rey Hotel, 13534 Bali Way, Marina del Rey. This Valentine's season, treat yourself (and maybe someone special) to an unforgettable evening featuring the world-renowned Duckhorn Portfolio. Ticket includes welcome glass of Sparkling Rose and a three-course dinner paired with Duckhorn wines. Tickets $75, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-duckhorn-vineyards-at-marina-del-rey-hotel-tickets-1092815463469.

ORIGINAL UNDERSTUDIES

8 - 9 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater, 1323-A 3rd St. Promenade. The Bear Supply Hour is now Original Understudies, a cast of both fresh and veteran comedians in fast-paced sketch and long form improv. Every show features special guests creating a high-octane, one-of-a-kind improvised spectacle. Tickets $10, to purchase visit: https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pe.c/11565659.

THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 13

UPDATE ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Monica Moore, from the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Research and Care at UCLA, discusses the latest findings related to the symptoms and causes of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Learn about the latest treatments available and research being conducted to find a cure.

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

6 - 8 p.m. Community Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. This is a special meeting of the Library Board and Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library. Agenda and minutes are available at: https://www.santamonica.gov/santa-monica-public-library-board.

RENT CONTROL BOARD

7 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations.

BIENNIAL BUDGET COMMUNITY MEETING

7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Thelma Terry Building, Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. The city will provide an overview of the budget outlook and gather input on community priorities. Interpretation services in Spanish will be provided.

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 14

VALENTINE'S DAY MOVIE

2 - 4 p.m. Community Room, Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. Be our Valentine this year with a screening of "Book Club: The Next Chapter," sponsored by the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library.

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 15

WHAT THYME IS IT?

9 - 11 a.m. Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd. Learn how to infuse oils with herbs and make a sage bundle. Stop by for pancakes hot from the griddle, small bags of compost from the garden, and veggie seeds for your home garden.

UC MASTER GARDENERS

10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Visit with the UC Master Gardeners at the Saturday Pico Farmers Market. The booth is filled with free advice on how to care for plants, how to troubleshoot a gardening problem, and much more. Free seeds and seedlings are available on a limited basis.

NOTABLE FICTION BOOK GROUP

11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Virtual. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets virtually to discuss prize-winning fiction titles. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. This month's title is "Song of Solomon" by Toni Morrison.

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