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Assaulting police.
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# Supervisors put Woolsey Fire report to bed

**EMILY SAWICKI**
SMDP Staff Writer

In hot, dry winds, amid drought conditions, the Woolsey Fire of November 2018 spread rapidly through the Santa Monica Mountains, burning nearly 100,000 acres of parched wildlands and neighborhoods alike. The fire killed three area residents.

Experts after the fact described Woolsey as the "largest, fastest wildfire disaster in County history." Wind gusted up to 50 miles per hour, allowing the fire to "jump" the eight-lane Ventura (101) Freeway from the San Fernando Valley into the Santa Monica Mountains. From there, it burned all the way to the ocean in a matter of hours.

The fire was a natural disaster compounded by layers of real and perceived human error and ineptitude: from the powerlines that sparked the blaze to the botched evacuation and the inability for fire engines to navigate the mountains or communicate while power was out, many elements combined to make it "one of the most devastating wildfires in the entire history of the county," according to Supervisor Sheila Kuehl.

SEE **WOOLSEY** PAGE 11

# At Skaggs trial, 4 MLB players testify they received drugs

**SCHUYLER DIXON**
AP Sports Writer

Four major league players testified Tuesday they received oxycodone pills from a former Los Angeles Angels employee accused of providing Tyler Skaggs the drugs that led to the pitcher's overdose death.

Pitchers Matt Harvey, Mike Morin and Cam Bedrosian and first baseman C.J. Cron played for the Angels during the years federal prosecutors say Eric Kay obtained drugs for players. Kay faces drug distribution and conspiracy charges.

After saying he was subpoenaed and would have used his Fifth Amendment right not to testify without immunity, Harvey acknowledged being a cocaine user before and during his season with the Angels in 2019. The former New York Mets star said he tried oxycodone provided by Skaggs during his season with the Angels and also provided drugs to Skaggs.

Morin and Cron testified to longer periods of getting oxycodone from Kay, while Bedrosian said he received three or four pills once and gave the rest back after taking one and not liking the way it made him feel.

Of the four players, only Cron is on a major league roster (Colorado Rockies). The others are free agents; Harvey, who played last year for the Orioles, said he believes his testimony will threaten his career.

Skaggs, 27, was found dead July 1, 2019, in a suburban Dallas hotel room after the team had traveled from Los Angeles and before the start of what was supposed to be a

SEE **SKAGGS** PAGE 11

# Sam Kardashian, known for patriotic displays, dies





Courtesy photos

**FLAG: Sam Kardashian started with an oversized American flag and added other flags to his custom pole over time. The displays drew the attention of local news agencies including the Evening Outlook and the Los Angeles Times.**

**EMILY SAWICKI**
SMDP Staff Writer

Sam V. Kardashian's family would tell you he was larger than life, just like his 30'x50' flag that waves proudly beside the Santa Monica (10) Freeway near Cloverfield on the eastern edge of town.

Kardashian, a longtime Santa Monican and the owner of Southern California Disposal & Recycling Company, died last week at the age of 81, but Old Glory will continue flying on the company's 100-foot flagpole, a testament to Kardashian's love of his country.

In 1974, Kardashian installed what was called at the time "the largest flag in the West," and the stars and stripes have remained flying there ever since.

"I think the country was going through some tough times, back in the '70s, and he just felt compelled to fly that flag to show his love for this country," Kardashian's son-in-law Haig "Mike" Matosian said. "Sam, doing things in Sam's way, wanted to fly the biggest flag he could, because he just never did anything small."

Kardashian's wife Paulette said Sam, like many children of immigrants at that time, was raised to be proud and thankful to live in America. The flag was his idea, paid for with his own money, and as it gained notoriety he was excited to be able to share something so positive with the Santa Monica community.

Both Matosian and Paulette said Sam was humble and big-hearted; he resisted using the flag in marketing material or to further his business, despite it being such a well-known symbol in town.

And, for as iconic as the large American flag is, Matosian said it's another flag that has elicited the most emotional response from the community.

After Kardashian began flying the 30'x50' flag, he was approached by the family of a U.S. soldier who was missing in action in the Vietnam War: Staff Sergeant James Michael Ray. Ray's family requested Kardashian fly a POW/MIA flag alongside the red, white and blue.

SEE **KARDASHIAN** PAGE 7


Gary Limjap
(310) 586-0339
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# California bills aim at social media, medical disinformation

**DON THOMPSON**
Associated Press

Two California Democratic lawmakers took separate aim Tuesday at pandemic disinformation they claim receives a broad audience and misplaced credibility through social media platforms — rejecting concerns that their legislation might carry free speech or business privacy considerations.

Sen. Richard Pan's proposal, which still is being finalized, would require online platforms like Facebook to publicly disclose how their algorithms work and how they promote user content, including which data sets are used and how they rank the prominence of user posts.

The platforms would also be required to confidentially share more detailed information with researchers, with the goal of creating more responsible algorithms.

Assemblyman Evan Low said his bill would label doctors' promoting of misinformation or disinformation about COVID-19 to the public as unprofessional conduct that could draw disciplinary action from the California Medical Board.

Though they are separate pieces of legislation, the lawmakers and bill supporters said social media has given a tiny minority of doctors an outsized voice and undeserved credibility that has cost lives by dissuading people from being vaccinated or undergoing lifesaving treatment.

"We want to ensure that the public knows how these algorithms and platforms are actually potentially pushing this information, disinformation, in front of people," said Pan.

Congress is considering a Platform Transparency and Accountability Act with a similar goal at the federal level, Pan said, but he wants California to take the lead.

"Ultimately, we shouldn't have to wait for whistleblowers like the Facebook whistleblower for us to understand how online platforms and social media have been negatively influencing our lives, including our ability to stop this pandemic," he said.

Facebook, owned by Meta Platforms Inc., did not immediately comment on the separate legislation. Free speech and online privacy organizations said they hadn't had time to review the bills, where details still are being worked out.

Pan is a pediatrician who also has backed controversial legislation to expand the reach of vaccinations, most recently by proposing to end a personal belief exemption in school-based COVID-19 vaccination requirements. Low also has promoted legislation that last fall helped draw more than 1,000 people to the state Capitol in Sacramento to oppose vaccine mandates.

Dr. Nick Sawyer, an emergency room doctor with the advocacy group No License for Disinformation, said Low's bill is aimed at "a very small number of very well-coordinated, well-funded and very, very active minority of physicians who are spreading the type of misinformation that is not nuanced at all."

Among other things, in order to impose discipline, Low's bill would require the medical board to determine that a doctor's disinformation prompted a patient to decline COVID-19 prevention or treatment that was not justified by the patient's medical history or condition.

Pan said the board would likely use a peer review process to establish a standard of care. If the board alleges a violation, medical experts would then review whether the doctor has violated that standard.

The California Medical Association hasn't taken a position on Pan's bill. But the association's president, Dr. Robert E. Wailes, said in a statement that misinformation has prolonged the pandemic, "making the work of our frontline health care workers more difficult and dangerous while harming community health."

The legislation differs from efforts in some other states like Florida and Tennessee, where Republican lawmakers have resisted doctor discipline proposals.

"This isn't a ... a policing of free speech," Sawyer said. "This is a call for protecting the public against dangerous misinformation which patients are parroting back to us in our emergency departments every day.

"Medicine obviously evolves over time, and we understand that," Sawyer said, "but many of the lies and the rhetoric that we hear coming out of these physicians are just simply not true."

Pan equated his legislation to common requirements that automobile and airplane manufacturers disclose important manufacturing details so that governments can decide if they are safe.

"In many ways, Facebook and other social media platforms have left us little choice but to regulate them in sharing more information about their policies since (a) they won't do it themselves and (b) they sue when academic researchers attempt to examine the harms," Kristen Martin, a professor of technology ethics at the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business and director of Notre Dame's Tech Ethics Center, said in an email.

She added: "I cannot think of another industry that thinks that not only do they not have to identify the harm caused by their products but also tries to actively stop others from testing it."

Pan's bill separately had support from Nathaniel Persily, director of the Cyber Policy Center at Stanford University.

He argued that increased transparency would help outsiders confront some of the ills of social media and perhaps change the companies' behavior while allowing for sensible government policies.

"The bottom line here is that we cannot live in a world where Facebook and Google know everything about us, and we know nothing about them," Persily said.

# For high court nominees 'When's your birthday?' matters

**JESSICA GRESKO**
Associated Press

Help wanted: Well-respected liberal jurist. Black. Female. Seniors need not apply.

President Joe Biden's search for a nominee to the Supreme Court isn't just limited by credentials, race and gender. The reality for the nation's oldest president — and for any president — is that for a lifetime appointment on the nation's highest court, youth is particularly prized.

It's simple math. The younger Biden's nominee, the longer she is likely to serve as a justice. The longer she serves as a justice, the longer liberals can expect to hold a seat on the court now dominated 6-3 by conservatives.

While a nominee's experience and academic and work credentials may be most important in the selection, how long the person can serve is clearly significant for the 79-year-old Biden in what may well be his only chance to nominate a justice.

"Younger is considered better, but not so young that you don't have a track record," said C. Boyden Gray, White House counsel to former President George H.W. Bush. And the age issue extends to nominating federal judges at all levels, he said.

Age may be most significant at the Supreme Court. It is often said that a president's picks are among his most lasting legacies, with recent justices serving 25 years or more. Retiring Justice Stephen Breyer, nominated by President Bill Clinton at 55, is retiring at 83.

Balancing age and experience, recent presidents have picked nominees in their late 40s and 50s, with 60 generally seen as the very upper end of the range. All three of Biden's most talked-about potential nominees are in that age window, but there's also a decade between the youngest and oldest.

California Supreme Court Justice Leondra Kruger is 45, while South Carolina federal Judge J. Michelle Childs is 55. In between is Washington, D.C., federal appeals court Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, 51.

On Tuesday the court transparency group Fix the Court tweeted that Republicans are pushing Childs for the seat "in part because she's the oldest of the potential nominees & more likely to die sooner." The group then voiced support for 18-year term limits, which would make age less a factor.

Breyer's fellow Clinton nominee Ruth Bader Ginsburg was nominated at 60 and served until her death in 2020 at 87.

"Some people thought I was too old for the job," Ginsburg said in 2019 at an event with Clinton. Noting that she was starting her 27th year on the court, she told the former president: "If you worried about my age, it was unnecessary."

"I did worry about it," the Democrat acknowledged, describing age as a "serious issue."

The concern about a nominee's potential longevity cuts across party lines. In 1991, when Justice Thurgood Marshall announced his retirement at 82, then-President George H.W. Bush said he would look for a nominee who "believes in the Constitution of the United States" and also "somebody who will be able to serve for a while."

He chose Clarence Thomas, then 43. No nominee since has been younger. Last year, Thomas marked 30 years on the bench. The Supreme Court's youngest-ever nominee was 32-year-old Joseph Story, who joined the court in 1812 and served for more than 30 years.

Former President Donald Trump also picked young nominees. Neil Gorsuch was the youngest in a quarter century when he was nominated at 49. He was followed by Brett Kavanaugh, then 53, and Amy Coney Barrett, then 48. The remaining members of the court — Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Elena Kagan, Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Justice Samuel Alito — were nominated at 50, 50, 54 and 55 respectively.

Knowing he was facing an uphill confirmation fight in 2016 to replace conservative Justice Antonin Scalia who died unexpectedly, President Barack Obama picked a moderate who was also older. Merrick Garland was 63. Still, Republicans controlling the Senate refused to hold a hearing for Garland, now Biden's attorney general.

For Biden, age may be of particular significance. While Trump appointed three justices, Biden is unlikely to be able to leave the same stamp on the court, even if he runs for and wins a second term. After Breyer, the court's two oldest members — Thomas, 73, and Alito, 71 — are conservatives unlikely to retire during a Democratic administration. The court's remaining liberals, Sotomayor and Kagan, are 67 and 61 and could still serve at least a decade longer or more.

As Biden decides whom to nominate, he'll be weighing multiple factors: candidates' records, Ivy League versus state school educations, prosecutor versus defense attorney backgrounds.

"I think younger ages are definitely a factor, and rightly, but not the only factor," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat on the Judiciary Committee and one of the senators who have met with Biden about the nomination.

Biden himself has acknowledged the role that age can play. In a 2010 interview as vice president, defending Obama's choice of Kagan, he brushed off criticism that the president had chosen another Harvard graduate and pointed out that she was then the administration's top Supreme Court lawyer.

He described her as "ready, willing, able" and, adding another key quality: "the right age."

Associated Press reporters Mark Sherman and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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

## DAILY POLICE LOG

### SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 326 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 14

Party Complaint 1900Blk 19th St 12:39 a.m.
Battery 1900Blk Main St 1:22 a.m.
Public Intoxication 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 1:48 a.m.
Fight 2200Blk 3rd St 2:29 a.m.
Arson 12th St / Olympic Blvd 2:40 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1200Blk 16th St 3:22 a.m.
Illegal Weapon 1500Blk Pacific St 3:36 a.m.
Arson 1500Blk 4th St 3:46 a.m.
Illegal Weapon 1400Blk Ocean Ave 4:21 a.m.
Battery 1500Blk 2nd St 6:06 a.m.
Encampment 2000Blk The Beach 6:43 a.m.
Encampment 2200Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:25 a.m.
Grand Theft 200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:01 a.m.
Petty Theft 1300Blk Stanford St 8:11 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:14 a.m.
Fight 400Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:18 a.m.
Burglary 600Blk Navy St 8:34 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 900Blk 4th St 8:41 a.m.
Attempt Burglary 1800Blk 9th St 8:43 a.m.
Fight 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 8:54 a.m.
Grand Theft 1400Blk 2nd St 8:56 a.m.
Vandalism 1700Blk Olympic Blvd 8:58 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1600Blk Georgina Ave 9:04 a.m.
Grand Theft 800Blk 10th St 9:05 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 22nd St / Michigan Ave 9:18 a.m.
Battery 1900Blk Pico Blvd 9:49 a.m.
Domestic Violence 2000Blk 4th St 9:56 a.m.
Domestic Violence 1000Blk Chelsea Ave 9:57 a.m.
Person Down 1200Blk 7th St 10:03 a.m.
Burglary 200Blk Wilshire Blvd 10:13 a.m.
Person With A Gun 2500Blk Main St 10:20 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 1600Blk Ocean Ave 11:00 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1200Blk Michigan Ave 11:01 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 2400Blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:03 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 2500Blk 28th St 11:25 a.m.
Found Property 1400Blk 16th St 11:42 a.m.
Grand Theft 2400Blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:56 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Longfellow St / Navy St 11:58 a.m.
Petty Theft 200Blk Broadway 12:01 p.m.
Lost Property 2500Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:05 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1600Blk Cloverfield Blvd 12:16 p.m.
Petty Theft 200Blk Broadway 12:27 p.m.
Encampment 1700Blk The Beach 12:59 p.m.
Battery 2800Blk Neilson Way 1:02 p.m.
Burglary 600Blk Idaho Ave 1:08 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 1:20 p.m.
Grand Theft 3300Blk Pico Blvd 1:22 p.m.
Burglary 2900Blk Neilson Way 1:30 p.m.
Person Down 1800Blk Ocean Ave 1:30 p.m.
Vandalism 1400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:34 p.m.
Encampment 400Blk Pico Blvd 1:39 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1600Blk 20th St 1:49 p.m.
Auto Burglary 2400Blk 20th St 1:55 p.m.
Petty Theft 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 1:56 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1900Blk Ocean Ave 2:00 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1100Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:20 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:26 p.m.
Assault 2800Blk Main St 2:36 p.m.
Rape 600Blk Broadway 2:38 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:44 p.m.
Illegal Weapon 7th St / California Ave 2:45 p.m.
Speeding 15th St / Montana Ave 2:54 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2000Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:07 p.m.
Petty Theft 300Blk Olympic Dr 3:14 p.m.
Person With A Gun 400Blk California Ave 3:30 p.m.
Vandalism 200Blk Ocean Ave 3:32 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1900Blk Ocean Ave 3:35 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1300Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:41 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 00Blk Sea Colony Dr 3:47 p.m.
Found Property 300Blk Olympic Dr 3:58 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 1400Blk Palisades Park 4:02 p.m.
Speeding 2600Blk Barnard Way 4:05 p.m.
Person Down Main St / Bay St 4:08 p.m.
Fire Request Police 2000Blk Main St 4:13 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 400Blk Broadway 4:18 p.m.
Battery 1200Blk 5th St 4:34 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 1400Blk Ocean Ave 4:46 p.m.
Auto Burglary 300Blk Olympic Dr 4:52 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 1400Blk 21st St 4:56 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 2200Blk 26th St 4:57 p.m.
Found Property 1500Blk 4th St 5:00 p.m.
Theft Suspect In Custody 200Blk Broadway 5:02 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:04 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 200Blk California Ave 5:47 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1900Blk Ocean Ave 6:02 p.m.
Encampment 1800Blk 9th St 6:08 p.m.
Attempt Auto Theft 2400Blk 33rd St 6:15 p.m.
Battery 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 6:18 p.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 3000Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:46 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 2500Blk California Ave 6:50 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 2500Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:08 p.m.
Public Intoxication 7th St / Olympic Blvd W 7:24 p.m.
Petty Theft 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:30 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1200Blk Ocean Ave 7:47 p.m.
Person Down 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 8:30 p.m.
Shots Fired 1100Blk 12th St 8:39 p.m.
Armed Robbery 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 8:39 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 17th St / Wilshire Blvd 8:59 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Main St / Bay St 9:03 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Ocean Ave / California Incline 9:10 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 1800Blk Wilshire Blvd 9:16 p.m.
Encampment 1400Blk 5th St 9:32 p.m.
Fight 1500Blk Ocean Ave 9:40 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper In Progress 1600Blk Ocean Ave 9:42 p.m.
Domestic Violence 1100Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 9:48 p.m.
Found Person 200Blk Mills St 10:34 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 1300Blk Lincoln Blvd 11:34 p.m.
Fire Request Police 1900Blk Pico Blvd 11:35 p.m.
Battery 1500Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:35 p.m.

## DAILY FIRE LOG

### SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 44 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 14

EMS 2800Blk Neilson Way 2:29 a.m.
EMS 2600Blk Broadway 5:05 a.m.
EMS 400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:08 a.m.
EMS 100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 5:49 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk 2nd St 7:23 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 7:29 a.m.
EMS 800Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:54 a.m.
EMS 3100Blk Pico Blvd 8:14 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:14 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300Blk 4th St 9:11 a.m.
EMS 900Blk Wilshire Blvd 9:30 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk 7th St 10:03 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk Stanford St 10:51 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400Blk 12th St 12:13 p.m.
EMS 600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:53 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 15th St 1:02 p.m.
EMS Main St / Pico Blvd 1:08 p.m.
EMS 1800Blk Ocean Ave 1:28 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200Blk 9th St 1:54 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:29 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk Euclid St 2:33 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Pico Blvd 2:34 p.m.
Vehicle Into A Structure 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:44 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 6th St 2:56 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Main St 4:08 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 15th St 4:13 p.m.
EMS 2400Blk 31st St 4:34 p.m.
Vehicle Into A Structure 1400Blk Ocean Ave 4:38 p.m.
EMS 2700Blk 11th St 5:20 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk 14th St 5:23 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 200Blk California Ave 5:47 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:25 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:27 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk 18th St 6:42 p.m.
Public Assist 300Blk Olympic Dr 6:45 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 3000Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:46 p.m.
EMS 100Blk California Ave 8:05 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 8:30 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 8:31 p.m.
EMS 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 9:35 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk Ocean Ave 9:42 p.m.
EMS 2900Blk 2nd St 10:38 p.m.
EMS 900Blk Harvard St 11:10 p.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 1900Blk Pico Blvd 11:24 p.m.

# CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

### ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 AT 7:47 A.M.

Officers responded to a Disturbing the Peace call on the 700 block of Wilshire. Upon arrival, the Officer contacted the subject who then proceeded to expose himself to the Officer while yelling nonsensical statements. Clinton James Grout was booked for Public Nudity and later cited out with a future court date.

### ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 AT 9:11 A.M.

Officers responded to 76 Gas Station on the 1700 block of Cloverfield regarding a call about someone being hit. Upon arrival, Officers contacted the victim who relayed that he had approached the subject to offer him information about shelters and where to obtain warm blankets. The subject began to act erratically and subsequently hit the victim in the head multiple times, causing him to fall to the ground. Additional units apprehended the subject while the victim was being interviewed. The subject became combative with officers and proceeded to spit in multiple officers' faces and kick them in the chest. Donte Levon House was ultimately booked for Felony Battery, Felony resisting arrest, resisting/delaying an officer in his/her duties, and battery on a custodial officer.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Los Angeles**

### Public Health drops mask mandate for K-12 schools

LA County will enter into a post-surge period today as daily COVID hospitalizations remain below 2500 for the seventh consecutive day. A modified LA County Health Officer Order will be posted and effective at 12:01 a.m. on Feb. 16 recommending, but no longer requiring, outdoor masking at outdoor mega events and outdoor spaces at TK-12 schools and childcare sites.

Public Health is also launching additional post-surge strategies for COVID-19 case investigations, including a new text messaging option that provides information for people who have tested positive and allows these individuals to complete their case interview on-line.

Residents who test positive will receive an initial text message from DPH with easy-to-follow instructions for isolation and links for additional information, including a link requesting they complete an online case interview survey. Residents can complete the survey at their own pace over the next 8 days.

Public Health will continue to maintain a call center for residents who test positive where they can receive information and support. Residents can call 833-540-0473 seven days a week from 8am - 8:30pm. Residents will also receive additional information at testing sites about what to do if they do test positive.

Residents are reminded to remain home when sick, isolate if they test positive and quarantine if they were in close contact with someone with COVID-19.

SUBMITTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH

# Letter to the Editor

**Killeen Pilon** Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Editor:

I find it odd that the first I heard of this project was on a billboard announcing the demolition of buildings housing currently operating small businesses (with the exception of Gelson's) at the shopping center on the s.e. corner of Lincoln and Ocean Park.

These businesses are ones I frequent on foot as I live 2 blocks away in senior housing operated by Volunteers of America. I feel very lucky to have obtained an apartment there 10 years ago.

I do not consider the location to be ideal, however. Lincoln Boulevard was US Highway 1 before Caltrans handed part of it over to Santa Monica/LA County some years back. It used to be referred to as "Stinkin' Lincoln". In my opinion it is an apt moniker for its current manifestation and the highway designation is equally so.

While the air may not be as smoggy as it once was, there is an abundant amount of exhaust fumes from motorcycles, cars, small and large commercial vehicles -including multi-ton trucks, a lack of an ozone layer above us, and a shocking disregard for the safety of pedestrians by drivers of motorized vehicles, including electric scooters, bicyclists both in the street and on the sidewalks.

Improvements promised through the LINC have not entirely materialized and Covid-19 damage to Santa Monica City Government created further neglect.

Now this preposterous proposal for housing and a design that is so rudimentary and lacking in essential components it is a terrible joke AND it makes a meager dent in the kind of housing we need and currently unhoused people can afford.

Hoping that Zoom meeting on February 17 can accommodate the hordes of Santa Monica residents who attempted to join the last meeting which allowed only 100 of us in.

Killeen Pilon, Santa Monica

Editor's note: The meeting will be available online at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82892453793.

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**PUBLISHER**
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

**PARTNER**
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra,
Matthew King,
Kimberly Jaffe.

**CIRCULATION**
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com
Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

**STAFF WRITERS**
Clara Harter
clara@smdp.com

Emily Sawicki
emily@smdp.com

**DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING**
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE**
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

**PRODUCTION**
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com
Diana Corona
diana@smdp.com
Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

AWARD WINNER

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Santa Monica Daily Press

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

# Companies revert to more normal operations as COVID wanes

**ANNE D'INNOCENZIO**
AP Retail Writer

For the first time in two years for many people, the American workplace is transforming into something that resembles pre-pandemic days.

Tysons Foods said Tuesday it was ending mask requirements for its vaccinated workers in some facilities. Walmart and Amazon — the nation's No. 1 and 2 largest private employers respectively — will no longer require fully vaccinated workers to don masks in stores or warehouses unless required under local or state laws. Tech companies like Microsoft and Facebook that had allowed employees to work fully remote are now setting mandatory dates to return to the office after a series of fits and starts.

"There has been a sharp decline in COVID-19 cases across the country over the past weeks," Amazon told workers in a memo. "Along with increasing vaccination rates across the country, this is a positive sign we can return to the path to normal operations."

Microsoft, based in Redmond, Washington, on Monday announced plans to open its West Coast buildings on Feb. 28 with a hybrid mix of working in the office and home. Facebook parent Meta Platforms, which had planned to bring workers back to the office on Jan. 31, will now require them to return — with proof of a booster shot — on March 28.

That's a stark reversal from just weeks ago when the omicron variant of COVID-19 was peaking, prompting companies to double-down on mask requirements and enforce daily health screenings while delaying return-to-office plans for remote workers.

The U.S. has since seen COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations plummet. Cases have plunged from 455,000 a day two weeks ago to 150,000 on Monday. COVID-19 hospitalizations have fallen 45% from the peak one month ago and are now at levels similar to when the country was coming out of the delta variant surge in September. And nearly 65% of Americans are fully vaccinated.

"I think we are in a much better place than we were six months ago, or a year ago," said Jeff Levin-Scherz, an executive in the health practice of consulting firm Willis Towers Watson. "We are somewhat better protected than we were at any point in the past. But the new normal isn't going to be the old normal. It will be somewhat different. "

Many office workers will still be required to wear masks in the office and get regularly tested. Front-line workers like store clerks and restaurant staff who were already physically going to work will have to adjust to maskless colleagues and customers — whether they like it or not.

Then there are the old realities of their pre-pandemic routines: dealing with rush-hour commuter traffic, putting on dressier clothes again and working alongside co-workers for the first time in two years.

Megan Chichester, a 48-year-old graphic artist who works at a packaging company in De Soto, Kansas, received notice that she will have to return to the office in April. She has only stopped in the office a couple times since the pandemic began.

"I'm excited to see people in person because I have missed them," she said. "But then on the other side, it's also a little strange because I'm so used to not being around people that there's a little bit of anxiety about it."

Adding to the anxiety is the fact that she has seen return-to-office dates scuttled repeatedly over the past couple years when cases surged.

"It's kind of like you're getting whiplash because you don't know what month you're really returning," she said.

Several states, including New York and New Jersey, have retreated from some of their own restrictions as their case counts decline but the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is not yet ready to tell everyone to take off their masks.

Many businesses — small and large — are figuring out what's best for them based on the attitudes of their customers and workers.

JPMorgan, which started requiring workers to return to the office in some form in early February, said that masking is now voluntary for employees who are fully vaccinated, except for those in cities or localities that still require it; unvaccinated workers will still need to wear a mask. Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley announced a similar policy in their U.S. offices.

Brian Anderson, marketing manager at a supplement store outside of Chicago, said they've been under a state mask mandate since last August. But as soon as Illinois lifts the mandate Feb. 28, they won't require customers to wear masks.

"Our customer base is more fitness-focused and definitely not mask wearers," he said. Store workers can wear a mask, but it won't be required.

By contrast, Jeff Moriarty, co-owner of Moriarty's Gem Art in Indiana, says they'll continue to ask customers to wear masks even though there hasn't been a mandate in his state since 2021. His business provides masks and hand sanitizers at the entrance.

"The reason behind this is because we do have older associates working in our store, and our owners are over the age of 65," he said. "We understand that some customers will choose not to wear masks, but we will continue to have it as a recommendation option."

Companies that have imposed their own vaccination requirements for staff also must navigate the changing dynamics surrounding the virus.

The Supreme Court last month knocked down a federal nationwide workplace mandate but companies are allowed to maintain their own requirements and many are keeping them in place. Others, like Starbucks, have decided to eliminate their

SEE **COMPANIES** PAGE 7

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Citywide**

### City of Santa Monica and Building Bridges Art Exchange Invite Public to Black History Reception, Art Walk on February 19

The City's Black History Month Committee and Building Bridges Art Exchange are partnering to host an art reception on Saturday, February 19, 2022, to introduce exhibits focused on Black health and wellness. The event is from 2-3 p.m. at Building Bridges Art Exchange at the Bergamot Station Arts Center (2525 Michigan Ave., Unit F2). Following the reception, the public is invited to browse the art exhibits at Building Bridges and take a self-guided art walk of the other Bergamot galleries displaying Black History-themed exhibits. Click here to RSVP and read more about the other gallery offerings.

The Black History reception and art walk will highlight exhibits that the City and the Quinn Research Center collaborated on to honor historical and present-day Black figures who contributed to the health and wellness field in Santa Monica. The public will also be able to browse artwork created by local students. Refreshments will be served. Attendees will be required to wear masks indoors and outdoors regardless of vaccination status.

"It's an honor to share the indelible mark that Black health workers have left on the Santa Monica community," said Delana G. Gbenekama, equity and communications coordinator for the City and founder and lead of the Black History Month Committee. "I hope conversations about wellness extend beyond Black History Month as we all continue deeply reflecting on our own health and learning about Black contributions and talent in Santa Monica and beyond."

"As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, 'The time is always right to do what is right.' We are so honored to partner with the City of Santa Monica to celebrate Black lives in our community during Black History Month with a focus on community wellness, health and creativity," said Marisa Caichiolo, founder and executive director of Building Bridges Art Exchange. "The work with the community and for the community based on diversity, peace and understanding has been in the core of our organization."

The event will also feature artwork by Chelle Barbour, a mixed media artist with an interdisciplinary practice based in Los Angeles. Barbour is best recognized for her diverse Afro-Futurist and Afro-Surrealist collages that challenges the notion of agency and black beauty. Additionally, actress, author, comedian, musician, filmmaker, playwright and domestic violence survivor Lorinda Hawkins Smith will portray Biddy Mason, who made major contributions to Black health and wellness. Bridget "Biddy" Mason is a major inspiration for Smith who enjoys sharing her story and is honored to have portrayed her in the art installation at the Los Angeles Public Library - Historical Portraits Project. Click here to read more about Chelle Barbour and Lorinda Hawkins Smith.

The art reception is made possible in part by the generous support of GoodRx, a leading consumer-focused digital healthcare platform. GoodRx's technology delivers strong savings, trusted information and access to care to make healthcare affordable and convenient for all Americans. Since 2011, GoodRx has helped consumers save over $35 billion and is one of the most downloaded medical apps over the past decade.

Black History Month is an effort of the City's Black History Month Committee. The Black History Month Committee is composed of City staff who work in coordination with Black community leaders and local organizations to make the events a success. View the full event roster at santamonica.gov/blog/black-history-month-2022.

BUILDING BRIDGES ART EXCHANGE is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to cultivating an understanding among cultures worldwide through international art exhibitions (workshops-lectures), art exchanges and artists residencies. Learn more about Building Bridges Art Exchange at buildingbridgesartexchange.org.

SUBMITTED BY MIRANDA IGLESIAS, PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

**Citywide**

### Rotary Club of Santa Monica Invites Applications for Community and Youth Grants

The Rotary Club of Santa Monica is currently accepting applications for its Community and Youth Grants program from non-profit organizations serving the Santa Monica community. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 25, 2022.

Grants range from $500 to $3,500. Funds may be requested for sustainable projects such as new construction or renovation materials as well as supplies, equipment, and furnishings, including items related to COVID-19 mitigation. Funds are not available for operating expenses, salaries, giving or endowment campaigns, fund-raising or other events, sectarian religious projects, political activities, and foundations that fund other non-profits.

Non-profit organizations may apply annually for funding with limitations noted in our grant application process and guidelines. Applications and instructions can be obtained on the Rotary Club of Santa Monica's website www.rotaryclubofsantamonica.org/grants; for questions, email admin@rotaryclubofsantamonica.org. Organizations must provide proof of non-profit 501(c)(3) status, requested supporting materials, and be able to verify that the funds benefit Santa Monica residents or community and align with Rotary's service mission.

SUSAN ANNETT, COMMUNITY & YOUTH GRANTS COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

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# Interfaith Update

Kathleen Benjamin
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

## Call and Response



Courtesy photos

KATHLEEN BENJAMIN

February is Black History Month. In 1926 historian Carter G. Woodson set aside the second week in February to honor Black achievement because it coincided with the February birthdays of Abraham Lincoln, whose Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves (kinda, sorta), and Frederick Douglass, the great orator and abolitionist. Of course, February 14 marks Valentine's Day, a feast celebrating a Christian martyr that has morphed into a celebration of romance. And Rosa Parks was also born in February.

The Universe has guided me to remember February is also the month of Trayvon Martin. Trayvon, who entered the world on February 5, 1995, and then tragically, shockingly, senselessly, left it on February 26, 2012. A 17-year-old boy in a gray hoodie carrying a bag of Skittles. Gone.

How to reconcile these seemingly disparate markers in time celebrating Blackness and love and the life of a Black boy — Black History Month, Valentine's Day, Rosa Parks and Trayvon Martin — all falling within the second month of the year?

I believe they are uniquely bonded, interconnected, as are we all. The life and death of Trayvon Benjamin Martin, and the acquittal of his murderer, inspired the hashtag #blacklivesmatter and a movement. In remembering Trayvon, we are called to reflect on the journey that brought us to this point in time, a place of rebirth and transformation. We remember 1619. We remember the contradictions inherent in America's founding, namely the cry for liberty and justice — but only for a particular gender and race. We remember Dr. King and his message, which was not one of platitudes and pacification, as some might have us believe. Bernice King frequently writes how her father's message has been coopted and misrepresented by those who would deny Black people their civil rights, their humanity.

And by "us," I am not just referencing those who are African American like me, or female, like me. Whose ancestors were dragged across the Middle Passage. Who are still being denied the right to vote, 58 years after the passing of the landmark Civil Rights Act. I am calling upon all those who walk and talk and breathe and have a beating heart, regardless of race, sex or religious affiliation, to listen to the call — and to answer it.

In the Baptist church of my childhood, we engaged in call-and-response. As Reverend Luther McGraw of New Bethel in Venice delivered The Word, we would shout, "Well, well!" Or"Tell it!" And my favorite: "Preach!" This dynamic vocal exchange is beautifully captured in Say Amen, Somebody, a 1982 documentary film about gospel music that captivated me. I felt this same ecstasy when watching the seminal 2018 documentary about Aretha Franklin's recording of Amazing Grace, the most successful gospel album of all time, and Henry Louis Gates' 2021 PBS documentary, The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This is Our Song, based upon a book of the same name.

Echoing Reverend McGraw's cadences was the drum. When Black people were enslaved in America, they played the drum to entertain, but also to communicate messages over long distances. Slaveholders promptly banned it once they realized the percussive lifeline it represented.

Today, I hear the call in the names of individuals like Trayvon Martin and George Floyd and Amir Locke, who was shot to death by the police a few weeks ago. When I first created an Instagram account, I posted bright yellow squares capturing in white letters the names of those I wanted to "hold in love and light." Among them, Tamir Rice, another Blackboy gunned down by white supremacy, Sandra Bland, who would have turned 35 on February 7, and Alan Kurdi, the three-year-old Syrian refugee whose lifeless body on a beach was captured in a photograph that broke wide open the hearts of people across the globe.

The names and causes have become a constant drumming in my ears as they flood newsfeeds. So many lives dashed! In the end, these three words best capture those who most need to be held. "All of humanity." Let us bathe everyone in love and light. Let us hear the call and respond. "All of humanity" needs all us.

The Interfaith Update is produced by the Santa Monica Area Interfaith Council.

## CORRECTION

A story published on Feb. 15 incorrectly stated only one current Santa Monica or Malibu student had committed to playing collegiate athletics so far this year. Samohi swimmer Annalena Siering signed to compete on the UCSD swim and dive team, a D1 program. Siering is one of two Samohi senior athletes who have committed to playing in the NCAA alongside Samohi soccer goalkeeper Cassidy Van Cott.

## KARDASHIAN

FROM PAGE 1

Kardashian agreed, and from then on, every year between Memorial Day and Independence Day, the black and white POW/MIA flag accompanies the American flag.

"When we fly that flag, I'm not kidding, our phone starts ringing off the hook," Matosian said. "You get a lot of vets that would call, and those were the ones that were the most emotional, at least in my experience, and you know, vets calling up just in tears sobbing about how much they appreciate it flying."

Tucked into a scrapbook Kardashian created with photos and memorabilia about the flag is a letter written by a woman named Marjorie Pickett, dated September 1974.

In her letter, Pickett wrote about how disheartened she had become learning that draft dodgers were to return from Canada, where they fled to avoid the Vietnam draft.

"I was sitting here not caring to go on living when I saw your big flag and I know it was your flag that sent Bob to serve," Pickett wrote. "He isn't home yet. The news of the returning cowards from Canada is sending many of us to the streets this Saturday. Thank you for flying your flag and I hope my son will be home soon either for burial or to recover from his POW experience."

Also in the scrapbook was a note Kardashian wrote about why he chose to fly the large flag.

"I am of Armenian heritage. My parents came from Armenia to the United States of America in 1913," Kardashian wrote. "I am first generation American. My parents literally kissed the ground they walked on and always told us, my brother and sisters, that there was not a better place to live in or go to, than this great country, America."

Kardashian's family shared information about his life. Born in Boyle Heights, he was the youngest of eight children born to Varus and Nuvart Kardashian, Armenian immigrants from Kars, in what was then the Russian Empire. Kardashian spent his formative years in Baldwin Hills, attending California Military Academy and Dorsey High School, where he was a star athlete in multiple sports. In 1964, he married the love of his life, Paulette Adalian. Sam and Paulette moved to Santa Monica, where they raised their family and established Southern California Disposal, the company he would own and operate until the end of his life.

Matosian said Kardashian's love of his country and community lasted throughout his life.

"He loved his family, he loved his state, he loved this country and especially loved the city of Santa Monica," Matosian said. "He couldn't talk smack about Santa Monica because he just thought it was the best place in the world to live."

In addition to his loving wife Paulette, he is also survived by his two children, Tamara Matosian and husband Haig "Mike" Matosian, Luke Kardashian and wife Seta Kardashian. He was the proud grandfather to his five grandchildren: Sammy (Marisol), Valentina, Max (Ashley), Tiffany (Shant), and Sabrina; and two great grandchildren: Sammy and Danny.

Funeral services will be held at Saint Monica's Catholic Church, 725 California Avenue in Santa Monica on February 24, 2022 at 10 a.m. followed by the graveside service at Woodlawn Cemetery located at 1847 14th Street.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Ararat Home of Los Angeles - Westside Guild at ararathome.org or 5655 Jumilla Avenue, Woodland Hills, CA 91367.

emily@smdp.com






Courtesy photos

**KARDASHIAN: The flags prompted passionate responses from those who saw them.**

## COMPANIES

FROM PAGE 4

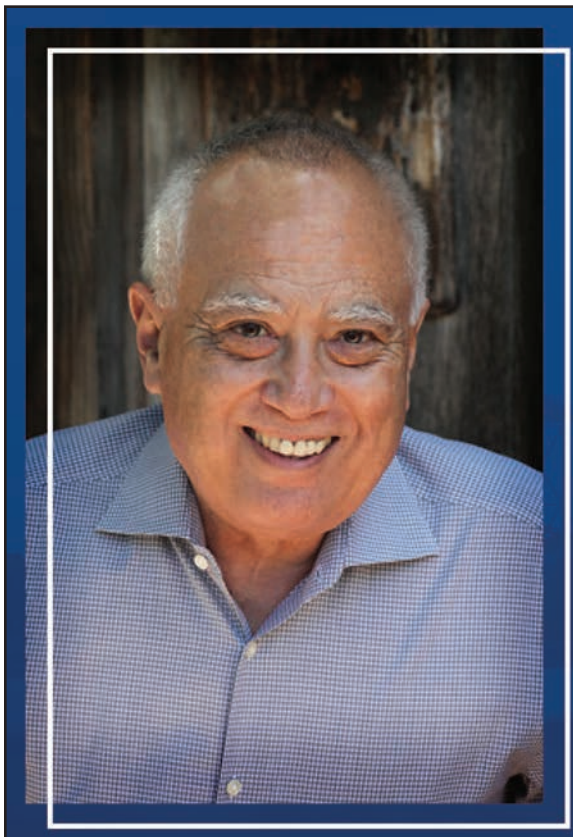
mandate in the aftermath of the high court ruling.

Peter Naughton, a 46-year-old who works at the Walmart in Baton Rogue, Louisiana, said most workers are worried about the mask requirement going away. He plans to keep wearing his mask because it protects him and other people.

"It's not over. It's still here. It's going to be here for a while," Naughton said of the pandemic. "So we need to, you know, take precautions ...You never know if another variant is coming, which is very possible."

AP Writers Tali Arbel, Mae Anderson and Ken Sweet in New York; Heather Hollingsworth in Mission, Kansas; Matt O'Brien in Providence, Rhode Island, and Dee-Ann Durbin in Detroit contributed to this report.

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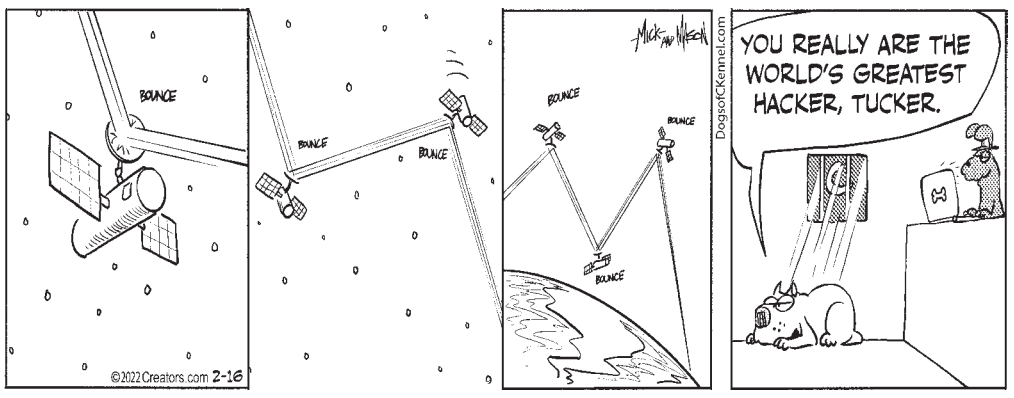
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By TONY COCHRAN




## Dogs of C-Kennel

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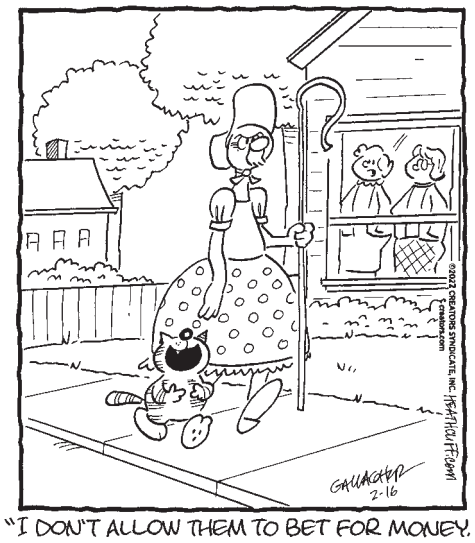

## Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE




## Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER




"I DON'T ALLOW THEM TO BET FOR MONEY."

## Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING







## SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 61.0°

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Chunky NW swell mix on tap through the day. A 6'+ high tide will have most breaks struggling in the morning but wind looks like it will be light.

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
NW swell mix could ease through the day but hold decent size in the morning. New SSW swell creeps in. The high tide doesn't help the cause but wind could be favorable. A day to watch.

## WEATHER

**Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 62. North wind 5 to 10 mph.
**Wednesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 50. South southwest wind around 5 mph.
**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 68. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

| Date | Day | Time (LST/LDT) | Predicted (ft) | High/Low |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022/02/16 | Wed | 02:33 AM | 1.63 | L |
| 2022/02/16 | Wed | 08:39 AM | 5.87 | H |
| 2022/02/16 | Wed | 3:38 PM | -0.84 | L |
| 2022/02/16 | Wed | 9:57 PM | 4.06 | H |
| 2022/02/17 | Thu | 03:08 AM | 1.43 | L |
| 2022/02/17 | Thu | 09:12 AM | 5.74 | H |
| 2022/02/17 | Thu | 4:04 PM | -0.69 | L |
| 2022/02/17 | Thu | 10:23 PM | 4.23 | H |
| 2022/02/18 | Fri | 03:47 AM | 1.27 | L |
| 2022/02/18 | Fri | 09:47 AM | 5.43 | H |
| 2022/02/18 | Fri | 4:30 PM | -0.41 | L |
| 2022/02/18 | Fri | 10:50 PM | 4.41 | H |
| 2022/02/19 | Sat | 04:29 AM | 1.15 | L |
| 2022/02/19 | Sat | 10:25 AM | 4.94 | H |
| 2022/02/19 | Sat | 4:56 PM | 0.01 | L |
| 2022/02/19 | Sat | 11:20 PM | 4.58 | H |
| 2022/02/20 | Sun | 05:18 AM | 1.08 | L |
| 2022/02/20 | Sun | 11:09 AM | 4.29 | H |
| 2022/02/20 | Sun | 5:22 PM | 0.52 | L |
| 2022/02/20 | Sun | 11:54 PM | 4.71 | H |
| 2022/02/21 | Mon | 06:17 AM | 1.04 | L |

## DAILY LOTTERY

**POWERball calottery**
Draw Date: 2/14
16 25 27 49 55
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 20 M

**calottery MEGA MILLIONS**
Draw Date: 2/11
11 16 23 24 30
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 53 M

**SuperLotto calottery PLUS**
Draw Date: 2/12
2 10 23 42 44
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 17 M

**calottery Fantasy5**
Draw Date: 2/14
14 17 21 25 27

**calottery Daily3**
Draw Date: 2/14
EVENING: 2 9 4
Draw Date: 2/14
MIDDAY: 8 0 7

**calottery Daily Derby**
Draw Date: 2/14
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:40.93

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## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 16)

Your experiences will be shaped by integrity, boldness and vitality as you sing life's song out loud. People will remember how you made them feel. You'll hone relevant professional skills, discover a niche and assemble a team to get the goal. Love blossoms in the spring then floats and flies through summer. Libra and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 2, 22, 19 and 36.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The ambitious will need to hold on tight through twists and turns. As for the striving-averse, don't worry. Life gives the best fun to those who were simply trying to solve the problem of the day.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Like most growing things, it feels right to you to follow the sun. Being highly mobile, you've also learned to seek shelter to avoid overexposure. You'll shine when it feels healthy and duck out before things get too intense.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've a sensor for what's good for you. You know what you want before other people even know it's an option. Acting on this will take a mix of boldness and charm.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are roads going where you need to go. You don't have to pave your own; you just have to get on track. Look around for people who've been here longer and can teach you this terrain.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Laughter and applause are the soundtrack of your life. Your natural inclinations will make internal editing and self-control fundamental to appropriate socializing. But you'll love most those who can handle your rawness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A creative vibe takes hold, and it's impressive what your imagination can come up with. In fact, these fantasies aren't that far from reality when the right effort is made.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Although you may feel neglected, this isn't necessarily a bad thing. In fact, it may relieve a lot of pressure. Recent demands on your attention might make solitude seem like a luxury.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Something will make you feel like dressing up before you go out. This is intuition nudging you into your future. The greeting of an attractive stranger is the first step to something wonderful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Being told what to do doesn't sit well with you. Even so, as soon as you remove your resistance, you'll realize the instructions are a gift. Following them simplifies your life significantly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It may be embarrassing, but team-building games and icebreakers build bonds. Playing for an hour can reveal more about a person than a hundred meetings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Either a game will be won or a joint effort will be successful. In the end, it will not be about the prize but about the relationships that grow from the experience.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Don't be afraid to share your expectations and your wishes with others. You can do that with charm and without seeming demanding. It's a skill you're constantly developing.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

## Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

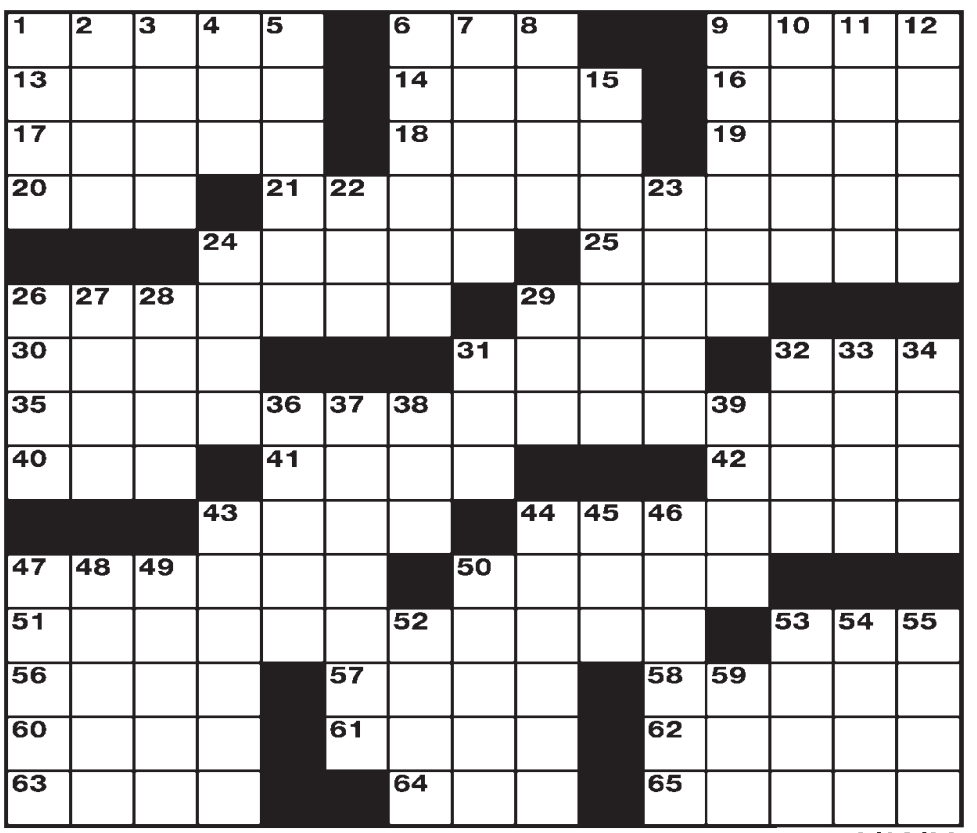
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | | | | | | | 3 |
| | | | 6 | 8 | | | | |
| | | | | 1 | | 4 | 8 | 6 |
| | | 5 | | 7 | 2 | | 3 | |
| | | 4 | | | | 2 | | |
| | 7 | | 4 | 6 | | 9 | | |
| 6 | 4 | 1 | | 2 | | | | |
| | | | | 9 | 5 | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | 2 | 1 |

## Newsday Crossword

**FINISHED FIRST** by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**
1 Wastes time doing nothing
6 Ooh and __
9 Engrave deeply
13 Give feedback
14 Blueprint detail, for short
16 Sneaker or pump
17 Instrument played by humming
18 Prefix for chute
19 Apple or pear
20 Sneaky
21 Having no choice
24 Insurance seller
25 Fire-starting rocks
26 Oval-shaped pills
29 Grain in beer
30 Tops with frosting
31 Flying-related prefix
32 Misfortune
35 Over many decades
40 Up to now
41 McCartney or Revere
42 Get ready, briefly
43 Maui or Oahu
44 Attached with thread
47 Surface of a tooth
50 Shopper's splurge
51 Cooked perfectly
53 Clumsy one
56 Ingenious thought
57 Sound of a happy tabby
58 Lake near Reno
60 Driveway surfaces
61 Physician's "Right now!"
62 Fair-haired guy
63 Hang around
64 Photo __ (camera sessions)
65 "Omigosh!"

**DOWN**
1 Annoys
2 Negotiation goal
3 Averse to work
4 "Green" prefix
5 Innocent victim
6 Trees associated with Colorado
7 In separate places
8 Wife of Zeus
9 __ de corps (morale)
10 Rosebush hazard
11 Orbiter with a tail
12 "High" parts of footwear
15 Cost of a taxi ride
22 Former soldier
23 Metallic mixture
24 "Not to mention . . ."
26 Milwaukee or Miami
27 Overexertion result
28 Sassy
29 "I'm not impressed!"
31 Water east of the US
32 Hospital section
33 Two-tone cookie
34 Major sports broadcaster
36 Underdog's win
37 Horses' fast paces
38 Coloration
39 Fencing weapon
43 "Whatever you like!"
44 Brief bursts of energy
45 Make a miscue
46 Elapsed, as time
47 Polishes for publication
48 Acknowledge silently
49 "It's the end of __!"
50 Sandal fastener
52 Parking space filler
53 "If you insist!"
54 Top-notch
55 Government agents, for short
59 Boxing great Muhammad __



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# What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

## WEDNESDAY | FEB 16

**STORYTIME: CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH**
10:30 to 11 a.m. Join us at this virtual storytime! Enjoy books by black authors and illustrators. Ages 2 & up. Space is limited. Register here: https://bit.ly/YouthProgramSignUps.

**MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION**
Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson. 7 to 8:30 p.m. The Pulitzer Prize-winning, bestselling author of The Warmth of Other Suns examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. To register, email library@santamonica.gov

**DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET**
Arizona Ave. (between 2nd & 4th)
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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CITY TV: Cable Channel 16
LIVE STREAM: https://www.youtube.com/user/Citytv16santamonica or https://www.smgov.net/video
TELECONFERENCE: https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/ydwjtdjt
DIAL-IN NUMBER: 1 (415) 466-7000 (US), PIN 5851065 #
5: 30 p.m.

## THURSDAY | FEB 17

**ADULT LITERACY TUTORING**
Volunteer literacy tutors work one-on-one with adult learners in a library setting. Tutors meet with learners once or twice per week to work on learning goals. For information about becoming a volunteer adult literacy tutor, visit VolunteerMatch at https://tinyurl.com/mtubkz84. To learn how to become an adult learner, call (310) 458-8603 or email us at literacy.program@santamonica.gov.

## FRIDAY | FEB 18

**TOURS OF THE MARION DAVIES GUEST HOUSE**
Santa Monica Conservancy docents share the rich history of the Beach House site from the 1920s onward. Free 20-minute visits docent tours are available on a walk-up basis, for groups of up to six people on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 12pm - 2pm. Just head to the Marion Davies Guest House where you will be greeted by a docent. Please note masks are required while indoors. Schedule subject to change, check the website calendar or call 310-458-4904 to confirm dates and hours. Annenberg Community Beach House. 12 - 2 p.m.

## SATURDAY | FEB 19

**NOTABLE BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP**
Any Human Heart by William Boyd
A novel in the form of the journals of Logan Mountstuart, which chronicles his childhood in Uruguay, education at Oxford, wartime exploits, career as an art dealer, and retirement in France. To register, email library@santamonica.gov.
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

## SUNDAY | FEB 20

**BUILDING BLOCKS FOR KINDERGARTEN**
Access via YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/SantaMonicaPL/playlists
These short bilingual English/Spanish video segments focus on kindergarten-readiness skills through reading and activities. Track Building Blocks activities your child completes through the virtual platform Beanstack and earn points towards a prize drawing for book packs. Register here: smpl.beanstack.org.

## MONDAY | FEB 21

**MAIN LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**
Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson. Memoir, courtroom drama, and social critique combine in this powerful and popular look inside the criminal justice system. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

**SNOOZER'S STORYTIME ADVENTURES**
Bi-weekly on Mondays: 12p.m. Checkers Library TV presents Snoozer's Storytime Adventures, a bi-weekly virtual series that brings children's books to life with an uplifting story, craft and song. Access the program here: https://www.youtube.com/user/SantaMonicaPL/playlists

**GALLERY OPEN**
Open daily, no reservations or admission fee. Schedule subject to change with short notice, check calendar or call (310) 458-4904 to confirm. Annenberg Community Beach House. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
**310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com**

# FIND THE WORDS

**This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.**

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## Around the campfire

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

Advice
Akubra
Away
Bays
Boat
Boil
Bottler
Cache
Chat
Cocky
Conversation
Cozy
Deet
Digger
Doona
Esky
Family
Fees
Fire
Flash flood
Fuel
Glee
Heat
Hike
Idle
Info
Inlet
Kidney
Knife
Koala
Lair
Lazy
Lightweight
Magpie
Maps
Mate
Ocean
Peace
Quilt
Rest
Rods
Room
Rope
Scrub
Share
Skite
Sugar
Toast
Towel
Zack

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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## WOOLSEY

FROM PAGE 1

Before embers had cooled, public outcry arose alleging failure by all levels of government. In response, LA County Supervisors launched an investigation into the man-made issues surrounding the fire — from preparation to emergency response and everything in between — commissioning an extensive after-action report, which came in the form of a 203-page review by the independent consulting firm Citygate Associates, LLC. Published in November 2019, that review also included 86 recommendations for improvements.

On Tuesday, Feb. 8, LA County Supervisors voted unanimously, 5-0, to lay the report to rest. Kuehl emphasized that the report's findings would be useful to help prepare for and respond to future disasters.

"The plan included 86 recommendations and I'm happy to report that 80 percent of those have already now been implemented," Kuehl said at the meeting. "They will go on to improve overall safety during states of emergency countywide."

Tuesday's motion described the ongoing work toward improvements: "During the last quarter of 2021, Citygate conducted one-on-one meetings with representatives from the principal departments to discuss in depth the progress made by each department. Based on Citygate's assessment (and as detailed in the attached final report), the departments have completed 81 percent of the recommendations in the AAP [after action plan] despite the disruption and workload increase caused by the COVID-19 pandemic."

Of the remaining 19 percent of recommendations, the County motion said some would require long term commitments; others were not feasible in the near term at all.

Malibu Mayor Paul Grisanti, who was first elected to city leadership in 2020 but who has lived in Malibu since the 1970s, said many of the report's recommendations have already been implemented.

Speaking with the Daily Press, Grisanti pointed to several key recommendations that had been fulfilled, beginning with No. 8: "Continue to train officers and commanders on TIER (Take Initiative Engage and Report) for Fire Front Following and Life Safety First implementation to allow flexible engagement."

Grisanti, who has in the time since Woolsey joined a neighborhood volunteer fire brigade, called the item a key improvement in preparation for an inevitable future fire.

"That is something that was drastically missing," Grisanti said. "The people who responded to the fire were expected to wait for orders, and it resulted in a very bad reaction from the community. This thing here will also enable the fire brigades we have in Malibu to interact and be part of helping them respond to the next fire."

When asked to elaborate, Grisanti described the frustration of residents whose homes burned in the hours and days after the initial fire front passed through. Grisanti said local brigades would be empowered to assist professional firefighters "in the fire-front following role," mopping up embers.

"That is a role that was totally ignored during Woolsey," Grisanti said, describing residents requesting help from idle fire engines in the days following the fire.

"I know a couple of people who are successful in convincing out-of-area firefighters to come to their house and save their house and their neighbor's house," Grisanti said. "But for the most part, we got [told that] people were waiting for orders. And that is where the independent action portion of this comes into effect, and will make people much more pleased with the fire department in the aftermath [of the next fire]."

Another notable improvement, according to Grisanti, was recommendation No. 12: "Ensure incident response / tactical maps can be sustained without internet connection and digitally or physically transferred to outside resources."

With cellular communication down and smoke blocking satellite connections, fire engines were stuck waiting for orders or unable to enter neighborhoods because of the risk of getting stuck on dead-end streets or in deadly "box canyons" where fire can trap engine crews.

Kuehl also addressed improved communications in her remarks at the Tuesday meeting.

"LA County Fire also acquired a new mobile command software," Kuehl said. "It's been field tested and will be deployed for department-wide use next fire season. In addition, their new handheld and vehicle mounted mobile radios and computers [are] being deployed for all operational units."

Kuehl further pointed to increased capacity for the animal evacuation centers in Castaic, supporting evacuations for homes and ranches located in LA County including the Malibu area.

"So, although there's plenty of work still to be done, you can see that improvements have been made, both on the ground and system wide," Kuehl said, adding, "My heartfelt gratitude to OEM [Office of Emergency Management]; they are going to take up the torch of overseeing the remaining recommendations and all the departments that really put forth an effort to continuously improve safety for all of our county residents."

Of the recommendations that have not been implemented, two were identified as "not feasible." One of those, No. 30, was an exemption to clean air standards for diesel vehicles. The other, No. 77, was an item that would potentially save burned-out residents thousands of dollars and months of red tape: "Work with FEMA to ensure inclusion of foundation removal reimbursement when necessary. This is not included in FEMA's debris removal program, which may be based on tornado and hurricane emergencies that do not typically affect foundations."

FEMA's program to remove debris in the wake of natural disasters does not cover demolition and removal of home foundations, leaving the expense to private homeowners.

Grisanti expressed regret that the recommendation was labeled "not feasible" in the final County document.

"Number 77 is the one that really was terrible for us," Grisanti said. "When you have a situation like that, foundations get cooked. They will not support a house again and you need to remove them. And for FEMA to not include foundation removal reimbursement was a terrible mistake. And apparently they're still working on it, but FEMA has been recalcitrant."

emily@smdp.com

## SKAGGS

FROM PAGE 1

four-game series against the Texas Rangers. A coroner's report said Skaggs had choked to death on his vomit, and a toxic mix of alcohol, fentanyl and oxycodone were in his system.

Kay served as the team's public relations contact on many road trips, and the trip to Texas was his first since returning from rehab. Kay was placed on leave shortly after Skaggs' death and never returned to the team.

Federal prosecutors are trying to establish that Kay was the only one who could have provided the drugs that led to Skaggs' death, and that the drugs were delivered after the team arrived in Texas. The defense counters that Skaggs had multiple suppliers, and that the last drugs Kay gave him were before the team left.

Harvey said Skaggs had another source but didn't get many drugs from that source. Harvey said he had his own drug supplier on the East Coast, and said he got oxycodone for Skaggs from that supplier.

The defense asked Harvey and Morin if they were aware of the danger of mixing alcohol and oxycodone, and they said they were. Defense attorney Michael Molfetta asked Harvey if he ever asked Skaggs to be careful.

"Looking back, I wish I had," Harvey said. "In baseball you do everything you can to stay on the field. At the time I felt as a teammate I was just helping him get through whatever he needed to get through."

Testimony was continuing later Tuesday, the fifth full day of testimony in Kay's trial.

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Help Wanted

Tech Mentor Founder of 3-person Santa Monica startup needs advice from knowledgeable CTO-ish type person for its 2-sided Network Effects platform (which is set to fill a huge market void that, currently, no one has conceptualized or identified). I have a resourceful and committed engineer, and we're 75% to completion of MVP, yet I am constantly concerned about long term security issues! This is where I need expert guidance! Please call me, Stephanie, at 310-351-9976 or email at stephanieroberts@lovetoair.com if you are interested and available for sharing your knowledge and experience. Thank you.

Help Wanted

Engineering Data Scientist sought by Snap Inc. in Santa Monica, CA (Hybrid work permitted - may work remotely whennot reporting into Snap Santa Monica, CA office.) Quantitative analysis, data mining & presentation of data. M.S. or for.eq. req. Resumes: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #EDS-0122-YK. EOE.

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