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SMDP Image

> "Brains turn into goo pretty quickly when they're degrading"

The mysterious case of the dead cormorants

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Photos began cropping up on social media around January 25: seabirds, ensconced in glistening sand, crumpled grotesquely in the golden hour light and strewn up and down the beach in Venice.

SEE **CORMORANT** PAGE 4




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COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

71st Annual "Stairway of the Stars" Concerts Shine a Brilliant Light on the SMMUSD Music Program

For the 71st year, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will present Stairway of the Stars, a musical extravaganza highlighting the outstanding music education programs, and showcasing the talents of students from every school in the district. Nearly 900 elementary, middle, and high school students will "star" in the "Stairway of the Stars" outdoor concert in the Santa Monica High School Greek Theatre on Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 4 p.m. Tickets are available at https://smapa.formstack.com/forms/stairway_of_the_stars.

This Stairway concert is extra special because the Stairway 2020 concert was canceled a week before the March show due to the early COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, and also canceled during 2021 due the continuation of distance learning. Music students and their teachers have persevered and excelled through distance learning, playing instruments with special masks in bags, bell covers on horns and rehearsing outside.

Also, in 2022, the district will return to the tradition of bringing choir, band, jazz band and orchestra students together in one big beautiful concert so nearly 900 students can experience the music of their peers and share the gift of music with their peers and the communities of Santa Monica and Malibu. This year, the guest conductors will be their own talented teachers, although they will have high school conductors conducting middle school and middle school conducting elementary, so students can become acquainted with their future teachers and conductors.

The 2022 Stairway Honor Award will be presented to the one and only Joni Swenson, the beloved but recently retired Director of Orchestras at Samohi for 17 years (2002-2020).

Joni Swenson grew up in Sacramento and began her incredible career teaching orchestra at Castillero Middle School in San Jose, followed by a position as Director of Orchestras at Lincoln High School in San Jose prior to her position at Samohi. Swenson graduated from UCLA and has guest conducted honor orchestras throughout California and has presented sessions at California Music Educators Association (CMEA) and Southern California School Band and Orchestra (SCSBOA) conferences.

She has served as the Orchestra Representative in both CMEA Capitol and Bay Sections and served on the California Orchestra Directors Association (CODA) board for many years. In 2001, Swenson was selected by San Francisco radio station KDFC Classical 102.1 as Music Educator of the Year. In 2004, she received the CMEA Le Blanc Outstanding Orchestra Music Educator Award, and she was selected as a finalist for the Los Angeles Music Center's BRAVO Award in 2008. In 2016, she received the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) Elizabeth A. H. Green School Educator Award and in 2020, she received the 2020 CMEA Richard L. Levin Orchestra Award.

During Swenson's tenure the symphony and chamber orchestras have performed at concerts in New York, Argentina, Uruguay, China, Czech Republic and Austria, and became the first public high school ensemble to perform at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, which is the home of the LA Philharmonic.

Joni Swenson became Director of Orchestras at Santa Monica High School in 2002 and despite having a primary residence in Mountain View, near San Jose, she arranged to live also in Santa Monica to serve the Samohi Orchestra program. She was proud to be a part of the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District and under her direction the orchestra program grew from four orchestras in 2002 to seven orchestras currently. In addition, under her direction, the Samohi Symphony orchestra became the first public high school ensemble to perform in Disney Hall! That performance became the talk of the music education world in Los Angeles and Joni went on to conduct the Samohi Symphony in Disney Hall on at least two other occasions. Joni retired from SMMUSD in 2020 and although she was honored and thanked "virtually" by her students and colleagues, they were not able to acknowledge her fantastic career in a concert setting, or in person, until now. The Santa Monica-Malibu District is so happy to welcome Joni back as the 2022 Stairway Honor Award Recipient.

Tickets are on sale to the community and available online until noon on the day of the concert at www.StairwayoftheStars.org. All tickets will be general admission. As a special thank you, any district employee will receive a free ticket when they show a valid district employee badge at the ticket table. Any remaining tickets for each concert will be on sale at the Samohi Greek Theatre ticket reception tables from 3 – 4 p.m. on the day of the concert. Parking will be available in the Civic Center parking structure on 4th Street at Civic Center Drive. Posted parking rates will apply.

They will be following Los Angeles County Department of Public Health guidance for smaller events and cultural institutions. For more details on COVID-related guidelines, please visit www.stairwayofthestars.org.

SUBMITTED BY GAIL PINSKER



How to get on the Supreme Court? Smile a lot, speak a little

DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

Keep a smile on your face. Don't talk too much. Avoid the news media.

It's advice Supreme Court nominees have heard for decades from the guides that presidents select to help steer candidates through the Senate confirmation process.

Federal judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, President Joe Biden's pick for the court, likely has been getting similar guidance from her helper, former Alabama Sen. Doug Jones, for the one-on-one meetings she's been having with senators and for her confirmation hearing that opens Monday.

"Stay out of the way, be on time and keep your mouth shut," is what Republican Tom Korologos says he has told the hundreds of nominees for executive branch and judicial positions, including the Supreme Court, that he has shepherded along during decades in and out of the federal government.

"It's an arcane art to teach a brilliant Bork, a brilliant Scalia and a brilliant Rehnquist how to behave in a confirmation hearing when you're up before a bunch of senators, some of whom may not like you," Korologos said in an interview.

Because of the high stakes involved — a lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court, sometimes with the chance to shape its ideological direction — modern presidents have put together teams of advisers to help smooth a nominee's path through a grueling, time-consuming process that also has become increasingly contentious.

The job of a guide often goes to an experienced Washington hand and combines many roles into one: coach, confidant, liaison to Capitol Hill and to the administration, traffic cop and strategist with the singular goal of helping the nominee win confirmation. But that isn't always a given, as history has shown.

Korologos shepherded the late Supreme Court Justices William Rehnquist and Antonin Scalia to confirmation. But he suffered defeat with the late federal judge Robert Bork, whom the Senate rejected in 1987 for a seat on the high court.

In the case of Jackson, Biden called on Jones to help guide the 51-year-old federal appeals court judge through the process. If confirmed by the Senate, Jackson will become the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court in its more than 232-year history.

White House counsel Dana Remus said Jones, himself a lawyer, was the "perfect choice" because of the relationships he developed in both parties during a short Senate stint that ended in 2021 after he lost a bid to be elected to a full Senate term.

"He is much beloved by R's and D's, with good reason," Remus told The Associated Press. "He's such a warm, engaging person."

Jones travels from Senate office to Senate office with Jackson and a White House entourage, filling her in on what to expect from each senator and often joining the small talk before and after meetings. She has met with 44 senators of both parties, including all 22 Senate Judiciary Committee members, in the three weeks since Biden announced her as his pick.

"These have been engaging and respectful discussions that showcase her extraordinary qualifications, experience, intellect, and character," Jones said Thursday in a statement.

Stephanie Cutter, a veteran Democratic strategist who guided Justice Sonia Sotomayor, said Supreme Court nominees should decline interview requests to avoid saying anything that could be taken out of context and become so problematic that it jeopardizes the nomination.

A nominee's judicial opinions, other writings and speeches provides their opponents with plenty of fodder to chew over, she said.

"You don't want to add anything new to it," Cutter said during a recent Politico podcast.

Jackson wrote nearly 600 opinions as a federal trial and appellate court judge. Her nominee questionnaire tops out at more than 2,000 pages and the Judiciary Committee has access to more than 12,000 pages from the Sentencing Commission, where she once served.

She has been on a charm offensive since Biden announced her on Feb. 25, meeting individually with as many of the 100 senators as possible before the hearing, which will consume most of next week. She will spend at least two days answering questions from Judiciary Committee members before the full Senate votes on her nomination.

"That's something they need to be prepared for before they just walk into it," said Dan Coats, a Republican former U.S. senator from Indiana who helped guide Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers until she withdrew after encountering bipartisan opposition. President George W. Bush then nominated judge Samuel Alito, and Coats helped usher him to confirmation.

Coats said his team's motto was "three months of hell, lifetime job" — a reminder that "it's going to be over in three months and then nobody's going to mess with you for the rest of your life."

The timetable has narrowed considerably, though, since Alito's confirmation in January 2006.

Republicans rushed Amy Coney Barrett, the court's newest justice, through the process in about a month after her nomination by President Donald Trump. She joined the court just before the November 2020 election, which Trump lost.

Democrats are eyeing an equally swift process for Jackson, hoping she can be confirmed by mid-April to succeed retiring Justice Stephen Breyer. White House officials working on her nomination declined to discuss their process in any detail.

Coats said his team met at the White House every morning to review the list of senators the nominee was scheduled to see that day and go over their known concerns, anticipate questions and hash out answers. The team met again afterward to discuss how things went.

He said he counseled Alito to "keep a smile on your face."

"It was the best unpaid job I ever had," Coats said of his stint as a guide.

Korologos said he always advised nominees to "have the passion and enthusiasm of a commencement address, inspiring and lofty" in their answers, but at the same time "say nothing."

He encouraged them to be deferential

SEE **COURT** PAGE 7

DAILY POLICE LOGS

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 298 CALLS ON MARCH 17

Traffic Hazard 1500Blk 4th St 12:00 a.m.
Construction Noise 7th St / Montana Ave 12:28 a.m.
Armed Robbery 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:47 a.m.
Loud Music 2100Blk 20th St 5:51 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1800Blk 10th St 5:55 a.m.
Petty Theft 1400Blk 10th St 6:22 a.m.
Battery 2400Blk Main St 6:23 a.m.
Encampment 1500Blk 4th St 6:40 a.m.
Fight 1200Blk 4th St 7:18 a.m.
Illegal Weapon 600Blk Ashland Ave 8:06 a.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 2200Blk 6th St 8:16 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 2nd St / Marine St 8:16 a.m.
Burglary 500Blk California Ave 8:39 a.m.
Burglary 1700Blk Stewart St 8:45 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1100Blk 11th St 8:50 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1700Blk California Ave 9:22 a.m.
Petty Theft 300Blk Bay St 9:23 a.m.
Burglary 1100Blk 15th St 9:26 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300Blk Olympic Dr 9:49 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 2000Blk Main St 9:49 a.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 4th St / San Vicente Blvd 9:54 a.m.
Grand Theft 2400Blk 20th St 10:25 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 300Blk 20th St 10:26 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100Blk Euclid St 10:34 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 900Blk Michigan Ave 10:40 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1800Blk Euclid St 11:06 a.m.
Battery 2400Blk Ocean Front Walk 11:08 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 2500Blk 2nd St 11:08 a.m.
Petty Theft 2200Blk Main St 11:28 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1100Blk Yale St 11:35 a.m.
Person With A Gun 7th St / Taft Way 11:36 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 2400Blk Main St 11:39 a.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1000Blk 10th St 11:43 a.m.
Petty Theft 300Blk Arizona Ave 11:47 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000Blk Ocean Ave 11:48 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 200Blk Mills St 11:50 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1100Blk Yale St 11:59 a.m.
Battery 1300Blk 26th St 12:02 p.m.
Domestic Violence 900Blk Ocean Ave 12:03 p.m.
General Parking Problem 300Blk Olympic Dr 12:07 p.m.
Fraud 900Blk Euclid St 12:15 p.m.
Encampment 600Blk Kensington rd 12:26 p.m.
Panic Alarm 1600Blk Main St 12:30 p.m.
Panic Alarm 1600Blk Main St 12:30 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 800Blk 11th St 12:34 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1000Blk 11th St 12:38 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2600Blk Arizona Ave 12:52 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:24 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 7th St / Broadway 1:39 p.m.
Grand Theft 100Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:42 p.m.
Loud Music 900Blk Ocean Ave 1:43 p.m.
Petty Theft 2800Blk Neilson Way 1:47 p.m.
Auto Burglary 2000Blk Ocean Ave 1:53 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1200Blk Ocean Ave 1:54 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1400Blk Olympic Blvd 2:00 p.m.
Grand Theft 300Blk Olympic Dr 2:02 p.m.
Missing Person 300Blk Olympic Dr 2:04 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:14 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 14th St / San Vicente Blvd 2:32 p.m.
Loud Music 2000Blk Ocean Front Walk 2:39 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 100Blk Montana Ave 2:50 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1000Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:55 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1500Blk 15th St 3:07 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 2100Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:33 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 2nd St / Colorado Ave 3:35 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 2nd St / Broadway 3:37 p.m.
Extortion Investigation 2900Blk 2nd St 3:49 p.m.
Petty Theft 1400Blk 10th St 4:16 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1700Blk Oak St 4:22 p.m.
Fight 2700Blk Main St 4:22 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 10th St / Pacific St 4:23 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1900Blk Lincoln Blvd 4:42 p.m.
Fire Request Police 1100Blk Pico Blvd 5:14 p.m.
Found Senile Person 22nd St / Wilshire Blvd 5:17 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 10th St / Pacific St 5:20 p.m.
Loud Music 1200Blk 6th St 5:35 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1500Blk 6th St 5:46 p.m.
Battery 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 5:54 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1600Blk Cloverfield Blvd 5:54 p.m.
Vehicle Burglar Alarm 1100Blk 4th St 5:54 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400Blk 6th St 5:55 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:01 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 1100Blk Euclid St 6:20 p.m.
Petty Theft 3100Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:21 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 6:24 p.m.
Battery 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 6:33 p.m.
Fight 100Blk Colorado Ave 7:02 p.m.
Attempt Strongarm Robbery Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 7:04 p.m.
Petty Theft 800Blk 7th St 7:09 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1400Blk Berkeley St 7:15 p.m.
Battery Now 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 7:19 p.m.
Theft Suspect In Custody 200Blk Broadway 8:16 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Main St / Olympic Dr 8:36 p.m.
Loud Music 2600Blk Main St 8:38 p.m.
Battery Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 8:44 p.m.
Suicide 2600Blk 6th St 8:48 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Now 9th St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:11 p.m.
Keep The Peace 500Blk Wilshire Blvd 9:22 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 2400Blk Michigan Ave 9:32 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 15th St / Montana Ave 9:41 p.m.
Domestic Violence 4300Blk Berryman Ave Apt 4 9:49 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1300Blk 2nd St 9:54 p.m.
Person With A Gun Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 9:59 p.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 1100Blk 12th St 10:27 p.m.
Loud Music 2600Blk Main St 10:30 p.m.
Party Complaint 1000Blk Hill St 10:35 p.m.
Rape 2000Blk Ocean Ave 10:37 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2400Blk Centinela Ave 10:59 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 400Blk Georgina Ave 11:19 p.m.
Family Disturbance 2500Blk Pico Blvd 11:32 p.m.
Domestic Violence 00Blk Bay St 11:48 p.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order 2500Blk Pico Blvd 11:57 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOGS

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 39 CALLS ON MARCH 17

EMS 1800Blk 9th St 2:06 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1100Blk 21st St 6:04 a.m.
EMS 2400Blk Main St 6:26 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 17th St 6:59 a.m.
EMS 800Blk 4th St 7:03 a.m.
EMS 600Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:36 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk 6th St 7:38 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk Main St 9:49 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 800Blk Montana Ave 11:08 a.m.
EMS 800Blk California Ave 11:25 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 11:30 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 11:49 a.m.
EMS 2200Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:51 a.m.
EMS 2400Blk 5th St 12:32 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:58 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk Ocean Ave 1:43 p.m.
EMS 2700Blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:46 p.m.
EMS 1600Blk 16th St 2:23 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 2:49 p.m.
EMS 1600Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:52 p.m.
EMS 22nd St / Wilshire Blvd 3:31 p.m.
EMS 2200Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:33 p.m.
EMS 2200Blk 20th St 3:47 p.m.
EMS 800Blk 22nd St 4:31 p.m.
EMS 3rd St / Beach St 4:40 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk Pico Blvd 5:13 p.m.
EMS Barnard Way / Ocean Park Blvd 6:02 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 6:05 p.m.
EMS 11th St / Arizona Ave 7:05 p.m.
EMS 6th St / Raymond Ave 7:09 p.m.
EMS 2300Blk Hill St 7:13 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 2nd St 8:18 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 17th St 8:31 p.m.
EMS 2600Blk 6th St 8:48 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire Ocean Ave / California Ave 8:52 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 10:20 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk Pico Blvd 10:27 p.m.
EMS Neilson Way / Bay St 10:52 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 2nd St 11:14 p.m.

CRIME WATCH

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 THURSDAY, MARCH 3 AT 6:46 P.M.

Officers arrived at Vons on the 700 block of Broadway regarding a Fight. Upon arrival, security relayed that the subject had attempted to steal items. Security confronted the subject and the subject returned the items and left. About ten minutes later, the subject returned and security again asked him to leave, this time escorting him out. While security walked back towards Vons, the subject hit the security guard with a cane. Elijah Timothy Sumler was arrested for Assault with a Deadly Weapon.



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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

FY 2020/21 Annual Water Main Replacement Project SP2640

Bids will only be accepted through the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL, ProcureNow or https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via ProcureNow immediately after bid close time.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK: Not Required
PROJECT ESTIMATE: $6,000,000
CONTRACT DAYS: 360 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $2,000.00 Per Calendar Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have an **A or C-34** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

"The City of Bell spectacle is what happens to communities without their own old-fashioned, diligent news coverage." - Terry Francke, Journalist

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

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Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER

CORMORANT

FROM PAGE 1

"I've passed about 10 of these dead birds in just a few minutes," a Twitter user named Laura Lee reported. "What's going on?"

That has been the question at the heart of a weeks-long investigation that was launched in the hours after reports began to flood in of a potential die-off.

The birds at the center of the investigation are known as Brandt's cormorants. They're large, black marine birds with curved necks and long, hooked beaks. They feed, nest and spend their lives along the Pacific coast between Mexico and Alaska.

"They're gregarious birds. They breed in a big colony," International Bird Rescue Director of Research and Veterinary Science Rebecca Duerr said.

•••

When the bodies of dead cormorants first began turning up, a range of theories emerged as to what caused the birds' deaths. Suspects included pollution, sea temperature rise, bacteria from heavy rain run-off, starvation, avian influenza (bird flu) and parasites.

"Most of some of the more recent, notable die-off events have been linked to human activity," Luke Ginger, Heal the Bay water quality specialist, said the first morning the birds were reported. Ginger said at that point they knew no details, but that a 2019 marine mammal die-off was thought to be linked to "changes in the foodweb structure of the ocean, because when the water warms up, that kind of throws off different things like fish migration, that throws off spawning times for fish. And, as a result, the entire food chain is out of synchronization."

Coliform bacteria washing out of storm drains was another early theory, quickly debunked by LA County Public Health's chief veterinarian Karen Ehnert.

"It's just one species of birds involved; there's not been any fish die-off or anything," Ehnert said. "There's another issue with some of our beaches [that] have been contaminated with coliforms in the past, which can happen after rains, where there's runoff out into the ocean and it can be contaminated with that. But we've not heard of any humans being ill or anything — just this one type of bird."

Social media users surmised it could be bird flu, which at the time was cropping up all over Europe, particularly in Germany and the United Kingdom. Duerr said that, fortunately, no Brandt's cormorants have been found with the ailment.

Ehnert floated the idea of a parasitic protozoa outbreak, but said in previous instances the protozoa did not kill Brandt's cormorants; it just made them noticeably ill.

"During an outbreak back in 2019, the birds were actually neurologic and stumbling and everything and were sick," Ehnert said. "They weren't just found dead. So, we can't absolutely say that's what it's going to be. That's why we need these test results, because we can't make any judgment until we have some sort of cause of death."

So, teams went out to collect as many specimens as possible and begin the investigation. That team included specialists from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Los Angeles Animal Services, Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors and the nonprofit International Bird Rescue, who have been counting, collecting and analyzing the remains of dozens of dead birds that have washed up on beaches from Marina Del Rey to Malibu since the start of the year. Initially, the remains of about 100 birds were counted, although researchers speculated there could be many more.

Duerr said counts can be tricker along

> A team of scientists has spent the past two months investigating a die-off of cormorants found in Venice.

Los Angeles beaches that are "groomed" with machinery and lack volunteer beach monitors, often called Beach Watch, who are more prevalent in other parts of the state.

"Consequently, that information in much of the state gives us a background level of stranding, like what's normal mortality," Duerr said. "It lets us spot when there's a spike in death of a certain species. That's very difficult down here, especially on those west-facing beaches in LA, just because they are groomed." Simply put, cormorant remains could be collected amid the cigarette butts and driftwood and discarded without ever being counted.

But where feasible, LA County employees have stepped in since the die-off was first reported.

"Beaches and Harbors staff are going out and collecting birds to properly dispose of them," Ehnert said. She added: "At least in the areas where Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors is in charge, there's a pretty good count. I can't say beyond our area, and I don't know, actually, the whole jurisdiction, because they're not our department.

"If they go all the way up into Malibu, there's a lot fewer staff, and areas that are a little more remote," Ehnert continued.

"We're not specifically looking for these, and I don't know any groups that are," California Wildlife Center veterinarian Dr. Guthrum Purdin said of the Malibu beaches, "but because the beach lifeguards are very aware of what's on the beaches, they may be picking some of them up, and they are certainly picking up some for us — live and not alive."

LA County Beaches and Harbors collected 35 dead cormorants on Jan. 27 and another 18 the following day, all on Venice Beach. Between Jan. 29 and Feb. 24, another 60 or so bodies were collected.

•••

Cormorants are social. They eat together — with a whole colony often going after schools of fish all at once — and nest together,

SEE **CASE** PAGE 5

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CASE

FROM PAGE 4

which means they are also susceptible to the same environmental factors. Unlike seagulls and sandpipers, they spend most of their time out on the water or on offshore islands, so they aren't the type of bird you'd see eyeing your beach picnic. They also eat fish exclusively.

"These are really interesting birds, because they're diving birds, but their wings are really not waterproof. So, one of the things the public will see as they're out on jetties and on piers is they're spread out to dry," Russ Curtis, a spokesperson for the International Bird Rescue, described. "[Their wings] get waterlogged if they don't dry them out."

Spend enough time on the Southern California coast in the winter and you'll probably see a Brandt's cormorant at the end of a pier. The population grows in size during winter months when northern waters are less hospitable.

"My understanding is their population is fairly stable," Krysta Rogers, senior environmental scientist for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, said. "They're not classified as threatened or endangered. So, it appears that their population overall is pretty healthy, and they're relatively abundant along the coast."

Rogers said Brandt's cormorants are known to breed on the Channel Islands. Neither Rogers, nor Duerr, nor the other specialists quoted in this story were able to provide an approximation for the total population number in our area, but Rogers estimated a die-off of this size would be "locally important … significant, but probably not overly significant."

•••

Still, when specimens began to trickle into the International Bird Rescue center in San Pedro, veterinary scientists were paying attention.

"What happens when there is a big die-off is that whatever local wildlife center ends up taking in the animals is like, 'Oh my God, we've got something going on here,'" Duerr said. "So, the animals get transferred to us and all of a sudden we get a big influx of something."

But whereas many times die-offs involve a mix of live and dead specimens, the January event was exclusively dead birds — dozens of them, in varying states of decay.

"Having a live animal that has a problem is much more informative than a whole bunch of dead animals that are decaying on the beach," Duerr said. "It gives us a much better idea of what was going on with all those other ones."

Unfortunately, the specimens collected in January were already rapidly deteriorating.

"Generally, these were dead birds found on the beach and they had been in the water, so their condition is not all that great," Ehnert said.

The results of the first wave of necropsies appeared to bear that out.

Roughly five weeks after the first samples were sent out for necropsy, results were in — kind of.

The first birds sent into UC Davis' California Animal Health Food Safety Lab in San Bernardino were necropsied but no obvious cause of death was found.

Then, in February and early March, more Brandt's cormorants were found washed up on local beaches. But these birds were alive, if very ill.

"Initially, we only were hearing about dead birds being found, but there were no reports of ill birds. That has changed recently and there have been some cormorants with neurologic symptoms," an emailed statement from the Department of Public Health described on March 3. It later added: "The investigation is ongoing, but it is appearing that early on, the deaths may have been related to starvation in juveniles, and now we are seeing birds becoming ill with a protozoal infection."

What are the odds of back-to-back unrelated die-offs of the same species in the same location? Not totally out of the question, it turns out.



Emily Sawicki

BIRDS: The birds washed up on local beaches over the past weeks.

"Pretty much with any wild animal, if they have a good breeding year, the following winter is often hard on the young animals of the year," Duerr said. Less life experience and more competition can result in starvation-related die-offs.

"Adults are generally more competent at being alive," Duerr said. "They have extra tricks up their sleeve when things get tough."

But the degraded specimens make it difficult to perform thorough necropsies on cormorants' brains — the most direct way to detect many potential causes of death, including the protozoic parasite sarcocystis calchasi, which Duerr, Ehnert and Rogers all quickly zeroed in on as the most likely culprit.

"Brains turn into goo pretty quickly when they're degrading," Duerr said.

So, when seriously ill birds arrived at the International Bird Rescue — birds that refused to eat food or medicine, in serious neurological distress — virtually all died or were euthanized, and Duerr began preparing them for dissection and necropsy. Based on symptoms, the team believed it was likely the birds were infected with sarcocystis calchasi, a type of microscopic parasite known to exist locally in two types of birds, known as "intermediate" and "definitive" hosts. The "intermediate" hosts are rock pigeons, which are prevalent virtually everywhere in the United States. The "definitive" hosts are two types of local raptors: red tailed hawks and Cooper's hawks. Generally speaking, the parasites live in cysts that grow in the muscles and brains of rock pigeons, which are preyed upon by hawks. When hawks eat infected pigeons, the parasites enter their digestive system and eggs are released as excrement, which find their way back into the pigeons (not known to be picky eaters).

In that way, the parasite's life cycle continues. Sarcocystis calchasi, like all parasites, does not want to kill its host. Its goal, if a protozoa can have a goal, is to stay in its cycle.

So the idea that the protozoa has found its way out of that cycle and into what Rogers called a "dead-end" host, Brandt's cormorants, is still a bit of a puzzle for researchers.

However, results proved the hypothesis true — most (though not all) of the later February and March specimens were found infected with the pathogen.

Duerr posited that the cycle could be: eggs in raptor waste flushing into the ocean, being eaten by filter-feeders (like mussels), those being eaten by fish, which are then eaten by Brandt's cormorants. At that point, the cycle ends and the parasites eventually die.

•••

Sarcocystis calchasi was first found in Brandt's cormorants in 2019, and it has reappeared in the species every winter since, making 2022 the fourth consecutive year.

"Why Brandt's cormorants are more susceptible to it than another species of cormorant or another species of seabird, we don't know," Rogers said. "It could just be that we haven't detected it yet. Or it could be that they're just not susceptible to it."

Duerr said pathogens traveling through the food chain often take "micro pathways" to infect a particular species, since some fish, for instance, are only preyed upon by certain birds. That could be the case for this outbreak.

How big of a factor is rainfall in the passage of the parasite to local cormorant populations? In the first winter sarcocystis calchasi was found in local Brandt's cormorants, monthly rainfall went from 90 millimeters in December 2018 up to 217 mm in January 2019, 392 mm in February, 128 mm in March and 3 mm in April.

"These patterns of rain that we've been getting where it's just a real burst over a relatively short period of time, rather [than] drawn out over months, could very well influence the severity of these outbreaks, because the severity is dependent upon how many parasites a particular individual ingests," Rogers said. "So, if an animal, theoretically, just ingests one to two of these parasitic eggs, it may not cause any problems, whereas if they get a really large dose, all at one time, then that's more likely going to develop into clinical disease. And so it could be that these very significant rain events that we've been having these last few years do play a role in the amount of water that is getting flushed out from the city." Rogers said that theory was still speculative.

Regardless, the possibility of sarcocystis calchasi infection in humans or pets who frequent local beaches is incredibly minute, if not totally out of the question.

Rogers said the parasite is known only to circulate in avian species; parasites adapt to live in certain environments, and are very unlikely to jump from birds to, say, mammals. Still, the existence of these pathogens is a good reminder to stay out of the ocean following heavy rainfall.

As for Brandt's cormorants, they're out of luck: "As long as we have rock pigeons, it's probably something we're going to see at least periodically in these cormorants," Rogers said.

emily@smdp.com

City of Santa Monica

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Charnock Wells 13 and 18 Replacement Project
SP2663

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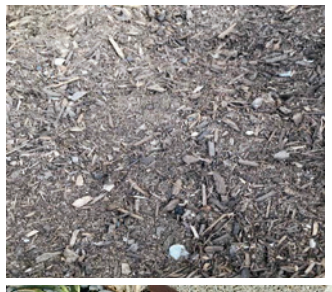


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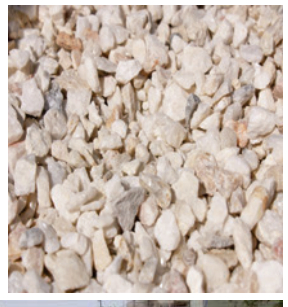
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California reduces supplies to water agencies amid drought

KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

California's urban water users and farmers who rely on supplies from state reservoirs will get less than planned this year as fears of a third consecutive dry year become reality, state officials announced Friday.

Water agencies that serve 27 million people and 750,000 acres (303,514 hectares) of farmland, will get just 5% of what they've requested this year from state supplies beyond what's needed for critical activities such as drinking and bathing.

That's down from the 15% allocation state officials had announced in January, after a wet December fueled hopes of a lessening drought.

But a wet winter didn't materialize and unless several more inches of rain falls this month, the January-March period will be the driest start to a California year at least a century.

"We are experiencing climate change whiplash in real time with extreme swings between wet and dry conditions. That means adjusting quickly based on the data and the science," Karla Nemeth, director of the California Department of Water Resources, said in a statement announcing the cutback.

State water supplies aren't the only source for many of California's water agencies. But the minimal allocation means calls for conservation are likely to continue, with state and local officials urging people to take shorter showers, pack full washing machines and dishwashers, and use less water on lawns and washing cars.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, recently announced an $8.25 million public awareness campaign designed to encourage people to be more mindful of their water use.

So far, Californians haven't fulfilled Newsom's call for a voluntary 15% reduction in water use compared to 2020.

January's water use was up 2.6% compared to the same month in 2020, amid dry conditions and warm temperatures.

Newsom's administration hasn't enforced mandatory cutbacks, as former Gov. Jerry Brown did during the state's last drought, which lasted from 2012 to 2016.

But California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot said recently that local or regional governments might issue their own water use curtailment orders.

"Water is a precious resource, particularly in the American West, and we have to move away from clearly wasteful practices," he said.

California is in its second acute drought in less than a decade, and scientists say the U.S. West is broadly experiencing the worst megadrought in 1,200 years, made more intense by climate change.

People adapted their water use during the state's last drought, in part by ripping up sprinkler-hungry lawns and replacing them with drought-resistant landscaping. Many of those water-saving habits stuck.

But the dry conditions that began anew in 2020 are demanding more conservation, as reservoirs such as Lake Oroville and Shasta Lake remain below historical levels and less water from melting snow is expected to trickle down the mountains this spring.

Current predictions estimate the state will have about 57% of its historical median runoff this April through July, said Alan Haynes, hydrologist in charge for the California Nevada River Forecast Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

A persistent lack of water can produce a range of negative consequences, including farmers fallowing fields and endangered salmon and other fish dying.

The water providers that rely on state supplies have a certain amount they of water they can request from the state, and the state makes determinations through the winter on how much they will get based on supply.

In December, before the major snowfall, state officials told water providers that they wouldn't get anything beyond what was needed for immediate health and safety, such as drinking and bathing. The state upped that to 15% of requested supplies in January.

"What is our plan here to sustain through what may be a very long drought? Nobody knows, and I don't think we're getting the miracle March that we hoped for," said Jennifer Pierre, general manager for the State Water Contractors, which represents the agencies that rely on state supplies.

She said the state needs to plan for future droughts by spending money to line canals so they don't leak and protect against water loss, improve groundwater basins and provide more financial incentives for people to make their properties more drought friendly.

Critics of California's water policy say the larger problem is that the state promises more water each year than it has to give. That's led to a continued diminishment of supply in federally and state run reservoirs, said Doug Obegi, an attorney focused on water for the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"We basically have a system that is all but bankrupt because we promised so much more water than can actually be delivered," he said.

Officials on Friday also announced a plan to seek a temporary exemption from water quality requirements in Northern California's Delta, the part of the state's watershed where the freshwater rivers and salty ocean water mingle.

That would allow the state and federal water projects to release less water into the Delta from the Shasta, Folsom and Oroville reservoirs — which are the state's major water supply sources.

The water quality standards are designed, in part, to ensure the water doesn't get so salty it can't be used for farming, drinking and protecting the environment.

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Everything you need to know about the 2022 Oscars

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Final preparations are underway for the 94th Academy Awards and a long awaited return to Hollywood's glamourous normalcy after a muted ceremony and ratings low last year. Here's everything you need to know about the 2022 Oscars, including where to watch the live show, who's expected to win and what the big controversies are this year.

WHEN ARE THE OSCARS?

The Oscars will be held on Sunday, March 27, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. The ceremony is set to begin at 8 p.m. ET and will be broadcast live on ABC.

WHO IS HOSTING THE 2022 OSCARS?

Regina Hall, Amy Schumer and Wanda Sykes are taking the stage to co-host the ceremony, which has been without an emcee for the past three years. Producer Will Packer said each woman brings something different to the show.

WHO IS PRESENTING?

Show producers will continue adding names throughout the week, but at the moment stars expected to hand out awards Oscar night include Lady Gaga, Kevin Costner, Samuel L. Jackson, Zoë Kravitz, Anthony Hopkins, Lily James, Daniel Kaluuya, Mila Kunis, John Leguizamo, Simu Liu, Rami Malek, Lupita Nyong'o, Rosie Perez, Chris Rock, Naomi Scott, Wesley Snipes, Uma Thurman, John Travolta, Yuh-jung Youn, Ruth E. Carter, Halle Bailey, Sean "Diddy" Combs, Jamie Lee Curtis, Woody Harrelson, Shawn Mendes, Tyler Perry and Tracee Ellis Ross.

WHICH MOVIES ARE NOMINATED FOR BEST PICTURE AT THE 2022 OSCARS?

The 10 movies competing for best picture this year are: "Belfast"; "CODA"; "Don't Look Up"; "Drive My Car"; "Dune"; "King Richard"; "Licorice Pizza"; "Nightmare Alley"; "The Power of the Dog"; "West Side Story." (Here's the full list of 2022 Oscar nominations.)

WHAT WERE THE MOST SURPRISING OSCAR SNUBS?

There were a lot of surprises Oscar nominations morning.

Some exclusions that stood out include Denis Villeneuve, whose "Dune" got the second most nominations (10) behind "The Power of the Dog" (12) including best picture, but who failed to get a directing nomination for himself.

The best actress category was especially brutal this year, leaving out Lady Gaga for "House of Gucci," Jennifer Hudson for "Respect" and Caitriona Balfe for "Belfast" and Renate Reinsve for "The Worst Person in the World."

WHAT ARE THE PREDICTIONS FOR THE WINNERS ON OSCAR NIGHT?

"The Power of the Dog" is the presumed frontrunner for best picture and best director, for Jane Campion, but there is also the possibility that "CODA" will take best picture. Either way, it'll be the first time a streaming service has won best picture. Other likely winners include Will Smith for best actor ("King Richard"), Jessica Chastain for best actress ("The Eyes of Tammy Faye"), Troy Kotsur for best supporting actor ("CODA") and Ariana DeBose for best supporting actress ("West Side Story").

WHAT ELSE CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE OSCARS?

Organizers have promised that they will keep the broadcast to three hours and Packer (whose films include crowd pleasers like "Girls Trip") wants to make it as entertaining as possible while still honoring the nominees and winners.

"The show will flow, not unlike a movie, in that there will be different themes and a different feel and different energy throughout the night," Packer said in an interview with IndieWire. "It will not feel or look or sound like one show for three hours. It's taking you through the course of this cinematic journey."

Best song nominees like Beyoncé, Van Morrison and Billie Eilish are also in talks to perform.

ARE THERE ANY CONTROVERSIES THIS YEAR?

The Oscars are so high profile that every year someone is upset about something (especially when changes are involved) but this year the biggest controversy is over the decision to present some awards before the live broadcast begins and edit them into the show later.

The eight awards are for shorts (live action, animated and documentary), editing, score, hair and makeup, sound and production design. The decision has its defenders, but also an army of high-profile detractors, including Campion, Villeneuve, Steven Spielberg, Chastain and Penelope Cruz.

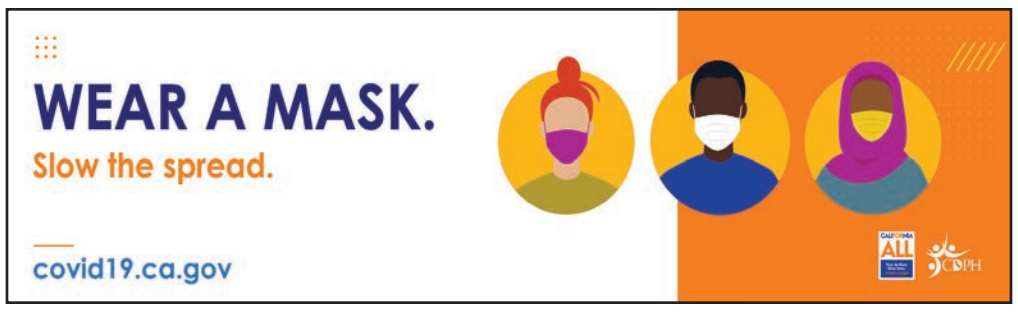
COURT

FROM PAGE 2

to senators and to follow one of his most important pieces of advice, something he calls the "80-20 rule."

In Korologos' view, a nominee is "winning" if senators on the committee are doing 80% of the talking. A 60-40 ratio means the nominee is "arguing" and is "in trouble."

At 50-50, it's over. They've "blown it," Korologos said.

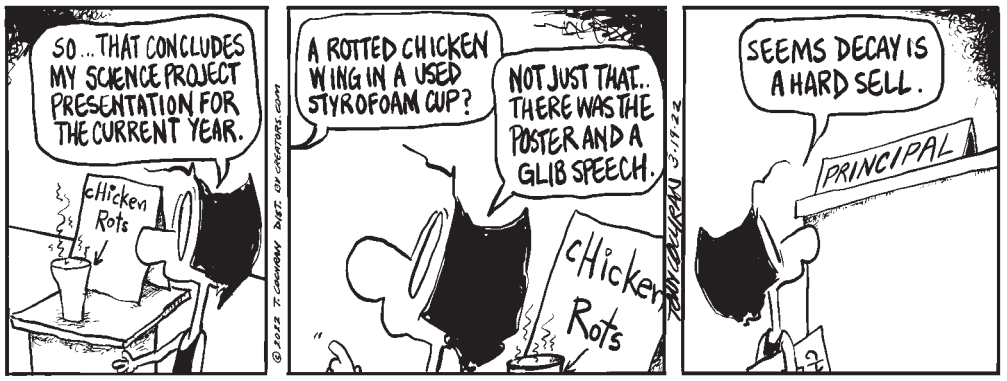


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By TONY COCHRAN



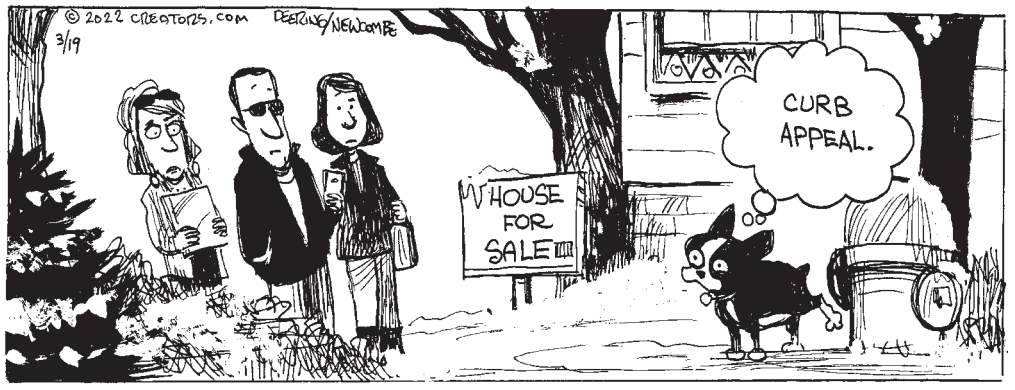
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Heathcliff

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"FLEA BATH."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **59.2**

SATURDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 3-4ft Waist to chest	Lingering NW swell as modest SSW swell peaks. Wind doesn't look great but could be manageable. Most spots best early before the tide gets too deep.
SUNDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder	Rise in NW swell mix and NW winds looking increasingly likely as a storm may drop through the region. SSW swell lingers. South facing spots may have a window.

WEATHER

Saturday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 64. North northeast wind 5 to 15 mph.
Saturday Night: Chance of showers after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 69.
Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54. Breezy.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/03/19	Sat	04:38 AM	0.26	L
2022/03/19	Sat	10:39 AM	4.93	H
2022/03/19	Sat	4:48 PM	0.09	L
2022/03/19	Sat	11:02 PM	5.17	H
2022/03/20	Sun	05:22 AM	0.06	L
2022/03/20	Sun	11:23 AM	4.41	H
2022/03/20	Sun	5:14 PM	0.57	L
2022/03/20	Sun	11:32 PM	5.31	H
2022/03/21	Mon	06:12 AM	-0.02	L
2022/03/21	Mon	12:15 PM	3.78	H
2022/03/21	Mon	5:41 PM	1.11	L
2022/03/22	Tue	12:07 AM	5.34	H
2022/03/22	Tue	07:10 AM	0.02	L
2022/03/22	Tue	1:21 PM	3.13	H
2022/03/22	Tue	6:08 PM	1.68	L
2022/03/23	Wed	12:50 AM	5.23	H
2022/03/23	Wed	08:25 AM	0.11	L
2022/03/23	Wed	3:04 PM	2.65	H

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3 28 34 35 58
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9 14 28 59 60
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 29 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 3/16
21 28 33 45 46
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 26 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/17
7 15 19 29 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/17
EVENING: 6 8 6
Draw Date: 3/17
MIDDAY: 3 2 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 3/17
1st: 11 - Money Bags
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 19)

It's no accident when your life falls into beautiful balance, it's a direct result of your choices. The most important one is to surround yourself with people who are good for you. You'll approach basic needs like nutrition, exercise and sleep with an intelligent response. Work will be stimulating and empowering. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 30, 1, 18 and 48.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). So many ruin a good thing by looking for a better thing. Not you. You know when luck is on your side. You'll like, enjoy and celebrate what you get.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There are those who do what's right to avoid getting in trouble, and those who do what's right because it's who they are. Realize which type you are dealing with, and don't trust the ones in the first category with your keys.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Romance, fame and riches are all different in theory than they are in reality. You'll enjoy reality more when you don't expect it to be like the dream.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The feeling of trying or striving is very different from the feeling of knowing, doing or handling. If you can figure out how to be confident in an activity you have never done before, you will have better luck with it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Talk about what you want. This will help to bring it into existence. One idea changes everything. Which one? A savvy friend can help you figure it out. Your supporters can hear your plans without feeling threatened or jealous.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You could easily take on something small and finish it by the day's end. However, things get exciting when you go bigger. What's worth doing can't be done alone. Tasks that force you to reach out are favored.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Belief is a first step. But if you don't or can't believe, it's fine. Then stepping is the first step. Your mind will catch up later. It does help to have good people around you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Focusing too intently and too small is a danger now that can prevent you from seeing the many opportunities that exist around you. For perspective, talk to people who are different from you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll accomplish what needs doing if you disallow distraction. It's time to crack down. Don't let yourself do anything else until the main thing is finished.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'd be stumped if you had to pinpoint a single event that altered the relationship. It was probably something minor, and it wasn't your fault, but that's irrelevant now. What matters is the fix.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What happened long ago is still part of your inner scenery, drifting on a lake of thought. Eventually it will wash up on a far shore. But for now, you have better things to think about. Direct your mind to do just that.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you first made a decision, you weren't sure. Now fresh developments have you loving your choice. The more you love it, the less you need other people to love it.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

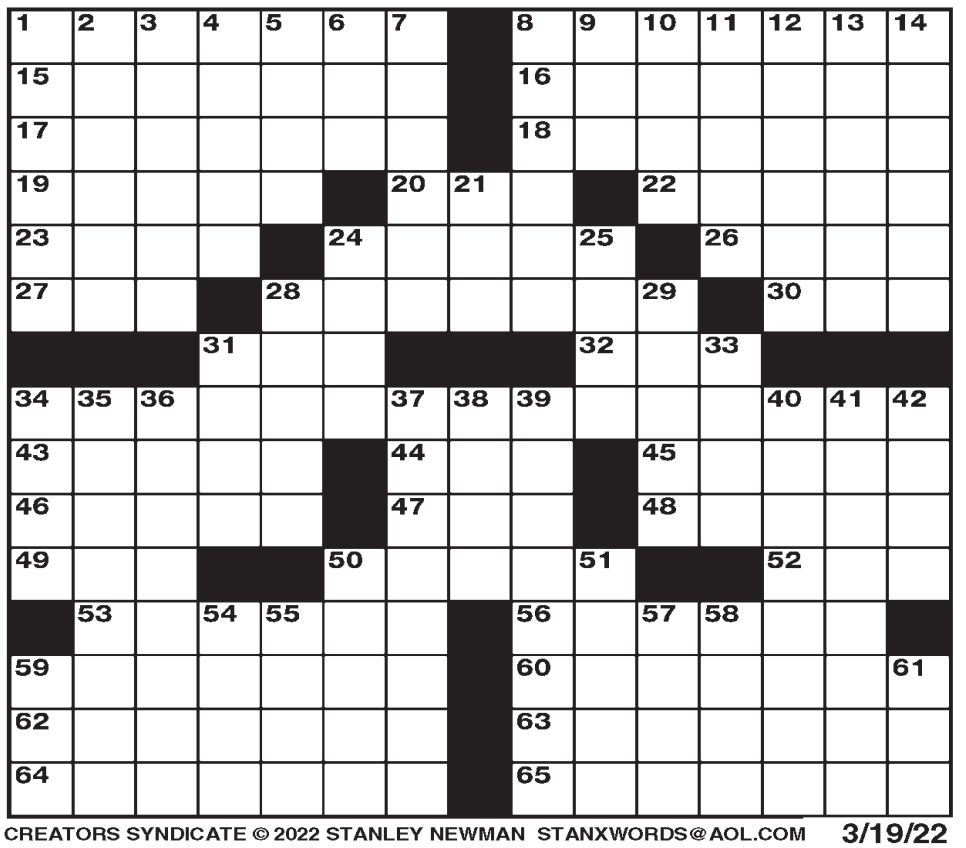
9		3	6				7	
				7		6		3
6			1				2	
			7		2		8	5
				3				
2	4		9		5			
	3				7			8
4		7		1				
	2				4	5		7

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Lester Ruff
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Had a blast
8 Follow-up designation
15 OK to be moved
16 Never broadcast
17 March march VIP
18 Copyright law concept
19 Go formal
20 DocuSign contract format
22 Reason for an appliance store discount
23 What a new cop takes
24 Overpowering feeling
26 Sticks on your feet
27 *M*A*S*H* extras
28 Windfall
30 __ legs
31 Word related to "feud"
32 Staples in newsletters
34 Busted
43 It's in your blood
44 Arts.gov proprietor
45 Tycoon from Texarkana
46 They're innocent
47 Vowelless Scrabble play
48 Something to build on
49 Part of a ring
50 Had status
52 What a craft should be called
53 What might get you a premium bargain
56 Stifle
59 Removing without warning
60 They're smiling on big league caps
62 How some prefer their shells
63 Publisher's semi-strong selections
64 Home to a SOUTHERN-MOST POINT buoy
65 Overpowering feeling

DOWN
1 King Solomon's "prime thing"
2 Set up
3 Possible park prohibition
4 Wreck
5 Payoff numbers
6 Catered to
7 Sauteuse, for instance
8 Stuffed souvenir of Iceland
9 Org. that publishes *What Would Florence Do?*
10 Maraud
11 They're under bonnets and boots
12 They're under hoods
13 Scottie's close relative
14 Texas oil center
21 Holder of markers
24 User of scanning devices
25 Policy chief
28 What bulls wallow in
29 Agree to
31 Err
33 Action initiator
34 Luzón, for one
35 It's more than a Strong Breeze
36 Knockout of an escort
37 Proceeding as planned
38 Ender for snooze or booze
39 Net
40 City built to be a capital (1956-1960)
41 Cryptozoologists' mecca
42 Imitation indicator
50 Carries on
51 What the Parthenon's columns are
54 Turn aside
55 Table __
57 They're tops
58 Bonehead
59 Go on at length
61 Foul territory



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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

SATURDAY | MARCH 19

NOTABLE BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP
A community-led book club, focusing on books which have won major prizes or are otherwise notable. Contact jeff.schwartz@santamonica.gov for the Zoom link. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION, HIGH
Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica, CA, 90405. Visit smmusd.asapconnected.com or contact Olga Saucedo at osaucedo@smmusd.org or (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 to enroll. Classes will begin in a virtual format. If live classes become possible, they will take place at the Pico Branch Library, 2100 Pico Blvd. 12 - 3 p.m.

DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA WALKING TOUR
Discover downtown Santa Monica's architecture, history and culture with one of our highly engaging docents. See where Jim Morrison played his first show and visit the lavish Art Deco hotel that housed a speakeasy during Prohibition. Tours are free for members and $10 for the general public. The reservation link is smc.givecloud/dwt. The walking tour covers about 6 blocks in 2 hours and begins at the city's first landmark, the 1875 Rapp Saloon. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 1436 2nd St.

SUNDAY | MARCH 20

COURTYARD & SPLASH PAD OPEN
The Annenberg Community Beach House gated area, including the courtyard and splash pad, are open to the public daily. Please note, from September - May hours are subject to change with short notice. Check the Beach House website calendar or call 310-458-4904 to confirm.

MONDAY | MARCH 21

MAIN LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Join a community-led discussion of books selected by the group. Contact jeff.schwartz@santamonica.gov for the Zoom link. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD MEETING
The public can only attend this meeting via live stream at: https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/bzqpkgwe. DIAL-IN NUMBER: 1 (415) 466-7000 (US), PIN: 8508476 # 7 p.m. Agenda available online at https://www.smgov.net/departments/pcd/agendas/Architectural-Review-Board/2022/20220321/a20220321.htm

MINUTE-TO-WIN-IT MONDAYS
Competitors have just one minute to complete the challenge, with each week bringing a different challenge. Play solo or with friends and family! Top 10 times posted weekly. For families. Week 3: Catch Me if You Can
Competitors get 1 minute catch 10 pencils from the top of their hands, starting with 1 pencil and then gradually adding more. If they miss, they start again from 1 pencil. Register at https://bit.ly/YouthProgramSignUps. Main Library. 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION, HIGH
Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. Learn more about California adult education at caladulted.org. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica, CA, 90405. Visit smmusd.asapconnected.com or contact Olga Saucedo at osaucedo@smmusd.org or (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 to enroll. Classes will begin in a virtual format. If live classes become possible, they will take place at Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

TUESDAY | MARCH 22

STORYTIME: HELLO SPRING!
Let's say goodbye to winter and hello to spring with songs and stories. Ages 2 & up. Space is limited. Register here: bit.ly/YouthProgramSignUps. 10:30 to 10 a.m. Pico Branch. Library

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 23

TEENS, TWEENS & THEIR DIGITAL LIVES
Learn tips and tools for guiding middle and high school students through digital challenges, from the complexities of social media to navigating online drama. This 4-week workshop series, using a Common Sense Media curriculum, is designed for parents and caregivers of youths ages 11 & up. Light refreshment will be provided, and attendees will receive free books on the topics discussed. Register at bit.ly/YouthProgramSignUps. Pico Branch Library. 6:30 - 8 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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5423

Weather forecast

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

Acute
Autumn
Barometer
Beer
Calm
Change
Chill
Cold
Cool
Damp
Destroy
East
Equipment
Fine
Fire
Foggy
Front
Gale
Gusts
Hail
Heat
Hot
Lows
Maps
Melt
Mild
Moon
Newspaper
Night
Ocean
Path
Precipitation
Racks
Radio
Rain
Ridge
Rural
Salad
Screen
Shade
Snow
Solar
Sorbet
Sprinkler
Star
Sullen
Swim
Thaw
Vane
Wave
Wreak

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
A real treat for the senses

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2022019815 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 1/27/22. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as RUBY RAE'S 216 W 4th Street San Dimas, CA 91773. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are RUBI MONTANEZ 216 W 4th Street San Dimas, CA 91773. If corporation or LLC-Print State of Incorporation/ OrganizationThis Business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date) 01/2022 Registrant/ Corp/ LLC Name /s/: RUBI MONTANEZ.This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 1/27/22 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish, 02/26/22, 03/05/22, 03/12/22, 03/19/22.

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