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@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

Bill aimed at boosting small housing units advances

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A bill to streamline construction of small backyard homes passed a key committee earlier this week.

Assemblymember Richard Bloom introduced A.B. 881, which passed out of the Assembly Local Government Committee Wednesday on a 7-0 vote, to remove barriers to constructing accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Bloom has heralded ADUs as a way to solve California's housing crisis and passed a bill in 2016 designed to ease local and statewide roadblocks to building what are sometimes called back houses or granny flats. The bill now heads to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

"Accessory dwelling units are an innovative and affordable housing that can help California meet its housing needs," Bloom said.

Thousands of ADUs have been built around the state since Bloom's 2016 bill passed, but many cities have restricted construction. In some instances, cities have prevented residents from converting their garages into ADUs because the law does not explicitly reference garages or required those who want to build ADUs to live on the property.

In Santa Monica, those who convert garages to ADUs must replace required parking spaces somewhere else on the property and property owners are required to occupy the primary residence or ADU. City Council approved tweaks to the city's ADU regulations last May that allow for bigger ADUs, however.

"Cities that have embraced ADUs have built or permitted thousands of new units, while those resistant to housing construction have pursued loopholes and erected new barriers," he said.

Bloom's bill would prevent local authorities from imposing owner-occupancy requirements on ADUs, which they are currently allowed to do under state law. In

SEE **HOUSING** PAGE 5

Man given nine years for identity theft scam

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A Santa Monica man has been sentenced to more than nine years in prison for an inter-state identity theft case and mortgage fraud case.

George French Jones, Jr.,

SEE **SCAM** PAGE 2

SMC student finds resilience in academic programs



Courtesy photo

STEM: Wally Lozano is using a variety of life skill programs to help attain his degree.

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

"Where am I going?"

Wally Lozano asked himself this question quite often while in between stints of an on-and-off tenure with his current community college, SMC. Lozano, 28, has overcome a tough upbringing and bouts of debilitating anxiety and is now on his way to a 4-year university to major in engineering.

A tinkerer since childhood, all Lozano had to do to transcend his humble, Inglewood-raised surroundings was to look inside and have the courage to say he wanted to reassemble himself.

Lozano grew up in a rough neighborhood, gang violence a part of everyday life.

"Many friends of mine never made it past high school," he said. "I knew I had to go to school to make a better life for myself but without concrete example of someone doing that, it always felt like a far-fetched idea. It was like saying you wanted to go to Mars or something."

To keep the temptation of street life at bay, Lozano would work with his uncle doing manual labor and installing water softeners throughout Southern California.

The job reinforced a love of tinkering for Lozano, who grew up taking toys apart and putting them

SEE **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS** PAGE 8

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SCAM

FROM PAGE 1

50, was sentenced to 116 months by U.S. District Judge Robert N. Scola in Miami, after previously pleading guilty to mail fraud and identity theft charges in connection with a mortgage fraud scheme involving two waterfront residential properties in Broward County, Florida. He was also ordered to pay $1,824,581 in restitution.

According to court documents, Jones identified two properties in Broward County Florida owned by a pair of corporations. Jones had no connection to those corporations but he forged documents and then submitted bogus loan applications to a private lender in which he pretended to be the owners of the Fort Lauderdale properties.

Jones created a pair of Canadian passports, to impersonate the corporate owners. He also created fictitious business names closely resembling the names of the actual companies, established email accounts in the names of the corporate owners and corporate operating agreements.

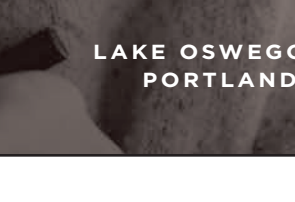
As a result of this scheme, Jones defrauded the private lender out of approximately $1.7 million dollars.

In addition to jail time, Jones was ordered to return property and cash that resulted from the scam including the total $1.7 million traced from the fraud, a Chevy Suburban and an additional $631,504 seized by the government from various accounts associated with Jones.

U.S. Attorney Fajardo Orshan commended the investigative efforts of the FBI. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Browne. Assistant U.S. Attorney Nalina Sombuntham is handling the asset forfeiture aspects of the prosecution.

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Trump 'strongly looking' at releasing migrants in Dem cities

BY JILL COLVIN AND COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

President Donald Trump said Friday he is considering releasing "Illegal Immigrants" in Democratic strongholds to punish congressional foes for inaction on the border— just hours after White House and Homeland Security officials insisted the idea had been rejected as fast as it had been proposed.

"Due to the fact that Democrats are unwilling to change our very dangerous immigration laws, we are indeed, as reported, giving strong considerations to placing Illegal Immigrants in Sanctuary Cities only," Trump tweeted. He added that, "The Radical Left always seems to have an Open Borders, Open Arms policy - so this should make them very happy!"

He told reporters later Friday he was "strongly looking at" the idea.

"They're always saying they have open arms. Let's see if they have open arms," he said.

His comments, which appeared to catch officials at the Department of Homeland Security off guard, came as critics were blasting news that the White House had at least twice considered a plan to release detained immigrants into so-called sanctuary cities as an effort to use migrants as pawns to go after political opponents.

"Sanctuary cities" are places where local authorities do not cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials, denying information or resources that would help ICE round up for deportation people living in the country illegally.

They include New York City and San Francisco, home city of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who on Friday called the idea "unworthy of the presidency of the United States and disrespectful of the challenges that we face as a country, as a people, to address who we are — a nation of immigrants."

The idea of pressing immigration authorities to embrace the plan was discussed in November and then again in February as the Trump administration struggled with a surge of migrants at the border, according to three people who spoke on condition of anonymity to outline private conversations. Homeland Security and ICE lawyers quickly rejected the proposal, according to the people, and it was dropped on the grounds that it was complicated, too expensive and a misuse of funds, two of the people said.

Earlier Friday, both the Department of Homeland Security and a White House official had insisted, in nearly identical statements, that the plan was dead on arrival.

"This was just a suggestion that was floated and rejected, which ended any further discussion," the White House official said.

But not, apparently, by the president, who revived the idea in his tweets.

The plan, which was first reported by the Washington Post, is one of many ideas considered by an increasingly frustrated White House in recent months as Trump has railed against the growing number of Central American migrant families crossing the southern border and looked for new ways to increase leverage on congressional Democrats to change laws that Trump insists are making the problem worse.

Officials say they are running out of options, and have proposed and recycled numerous ideas that have never come to fruition. Trump in recent weeks has discussed the idea of renewing his administration's controversial family separation policy. And he and aides are weighing forcing asylum-seeking families to choose between being detained together as their cases make their way through the courts or sending their children to government-run shelters.

There were at least two versions of the sanctuary city plan that were considered, according to one of the people familiar with the effort. One would have moved people who had already been detained and were being held elsewhere to places with Democratic opponents of the president, while the other would have transported migrants apprehended at the border directly to San Francisco, New York City, Chicago and other spots.

Revelation of the idea drew immediate condemnation on Friday from Pelosi and other Democrats.

The No. 2 House Democrat, Steny Hoyer of Maryland, criticized the idea of using Immigration and Customs Enforcement or any other federal agency as "retribution for political reasons."

And Rep. Bennie Thompson, D- Mississippi, who chairs the House Homeland Security committee, said: "The fact that this idea was even considered - not once but twice - serves as a reminder that the Trump Administration's reckless immigration agenda is not about keeping the country safe, but about partisan politics and wantonly inflicting cruelty. "

Transporting large groups of immigrants to distant cities would be expensive and burdensome for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is already strapped for cash. The agency has said it doesn't have the resources for immigrants processed by the Border Patrol and Border Patrol in most southern border sectors and is now instead releasing families after a health screening and criminal background check, leaving local nonprofits to help them

SEE **MIGRANTS** PAGE 7

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BOSTON, MA

ASICS Announces Multi-year Sponsorship Of Los Angeles Marathon

ASICS has announced a five-year sponsorship deal with Conqur Endurance Group that will make the true sports performance brand the official footwear and apparel partner and presenting sponsor of the Los Angeles Marathon beginning in 2020. This multi-year agreement comprises significant brand integration, on-site and instore event activations, digital and social content, broadcast integrations and online retail promotions. ASICS and Conqur will re-launch their partnership in January 2020, beginning with the Pasadena Half Marathon, as the two build on their rich history together ahead of the Los Angeles Marathon in March.

With a heritage deeply rooted in running, ASICS is making significant investments beginning this year to ensure it reclaims the top industry status including run focused activations and updates to its athlete roster – most recently signing multi-year sponsorship deals with female distance runners Emma Bates and Allie Kieffer. Emma is a 2018 USA Marathon Champion and was the first American female to cross the finish line in the 2019 NYC half marathon, placing 4th. Allie is a distance runner who placed 5th in the 2017 NYC Marathon and 7th in the 2018 NYC Marathon.

"Our partnership with Conqur to become the presenting sponsor of the Los Angeles Marathon solidifies our commitment to the run category." said Koichiro Kodama, CEO of ASICS North America. "ASICS is back and more dedicated than ever to drive our brand forward as we build off of the very foundation we were created on - performance running. We are honored to have this opportunity once again and look forward to reconnecting with our core audience to bring the west coast a community together to celebrate this great sport."

In addition to the 2020 Los Angeles Marathon, ASICS will expand its partnership in Southern California by becoming official partners of the Pasadena Half Marathon at the Rose Bowl, The LA Big 5K, and Santa Monica Classic 5K and 10K. ASICS will also look to support Conqur's extensive youth running and community programs.

"For the 30th Anniversary of the Los Angeles Marathon ASICS lit-up L.A. by spotlighting every mile of the Stadium to the Sea course. It's fitting that we're reconnected with ASICS in time for the Marathon's 35th Anniversary race on March 8, 2020. Conqur Endurance Group has grown over the past 4 years to become the running events and programming leader in Southern California," said Murphy Reinschreiber, Conqur's Chief Operating Officer. "Our yearround calendar of running events includes everything from kids' dashes to the Los Angeles Marathon. We are also very proud to provide extensive support for two of the most successful youth/school programs in the country, Students Run LA (SRLA) and 26th Mile. Over 70 charities successfully fund raise against our running events each year. And, through our LA Road Runners program, we are developing a large community of running clubs throughout Los Angeles to promote participation and the healthy running lifestyle."

"ASICS' focus on performance running and growing the reach of the sport enhances our mission," Reinschreiber continued. "We're excited by the opportunity to collaborate with ASICS to continue to grow the local, national and international stature and footprint of our races and programs through ASICS elite athlete appearances, retail stores, education and media. It's great to know that ASICS will be with us every step of the way."

Leading into the 2020 Los Angeles Marathon, ASICS will launch a collection of limited edition products, featuring footwear, apparel and accessories for the 2020 race. The collection will be available at asics.com, select ASICS retail stores and the 2020 Los Angeles Marathon Expo.

For more information, please visit www.goconqur.com.

SUBMITTED BY STEVEN N. POWELL | CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER CONQUR ENDURANCE GROUP

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- Maundy Thursday
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- Good Friday
  APRIL 19th
  12 to 3pm - Seven Last Words of Christ
  7pm - Service of Light & Darkness
- Holy Saturday
  APRIL 20th - 7pm Easter Vigil
- Easter Sunday
  APRIL 21st - 7am, 9am & 11am

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, April 13

Earthian Folk Dance with DaEun Jung

A free performance on the Santa Monica Pier! View an in-progress excerpt from DaEun Jung's residency project, the 'Earthian Folk Dance,' and contribute your own movement to the development of the EFD movement vocabulary. 3 - 4 p.m. Register online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/earthian-folk-dance-performance-workshop-with-daeun-jung-at-the-pier-tickets-56532285588

CoderDojo Workshop

Practice computer science and coding skills with volunteer mentors from the LA CoderDojo. Use laptops provided by the library or bring your own. Ages 8-17 Call 310-458-8621 or visit the Youth Services Department to register. 3 - 5 p.m. Main Library

VITA Tax Assistance

UCLA provides free federal and state income tax assistance for low to moderate income, seniors and disabled individuals. Pre-registration is recommended (www.vitaucla.org), assistance is given on a first come basis. Ocean Park Branch Library, 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

EXHIBITION: "Transportation"

From the scooter to the concert, "Transportation" explores many different modes of travel, that move people, physically and emotionally from one state to another. The Blue 7 Collective is a group of artists that exhibit work that is accessible to the Rider of the Blue 7 Bus and the connoisseur with deep pockets. Blue Seven Art Gallery, 3129 Pico Blvd. 2 - 6 p.m. 310-449-1444

Coming to America: Music by Immigrant Composers

Join the Santa Monica Symphony in celebrating the greatness of America's diverse cultural heritage with a concert of works by immigrant composers. Well-known composers Stravinsky and Rachmaninov share the program with Ernesto Lecuona (Cuba), Rózsa (Hungary) and Franz Waxman (Germany). All Santa Monica Symphony concerts are free and ticketless. Barnum Hall at Santa Monica High School 600 Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica All Santa Monica Symphony Concerts are FREE with open seating. For more information, please visit: www.smSymphony.org. Pre-Concert Lecture by KUSC's Rich Capparela at 6 p.m. Concert begins at 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 14

Leslie Beauvais Headlines Music Fundraiser

New Orleans born and raised, Leslie's musical journey began in musical theater, performing with the Young Americans, in the national Broadway touring company of "Les Miserables", and in the original production of the Richard Rogers Award winning musical "Hidden Sky". Leslie has recorded several fine albums, including "Stop the World" and "Waiting for My Conviction". Her latest CD, "Chemistry", is an album of personal transformation - a savory gumbo of Pop, Rock, Country, Folk, and Jazz, with just a touch of New Orleans spice. Doors open at 7:15 p.m. Concert starts at 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation: $15. Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Monica 1260 18th Street.

Monday, April 15

Main Library Book Group

This long-running book discussion group, which is always welcoming to new members, alternates between fiction and nonfiction on a month-to-month basis. The April title is The Gypsies by Jan Yoors. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

DIY Ribbon Easter Eggs

Get together with your friends for a fun day of Easter crafts! Make beautiful satin ribbon eggs to give to someone or keep it for yourself! Pico Branch Library, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The Arts Commission Meeting

The Arts Commission exists to ensure a regular and ongoing assessment of arts programs in the City, develop arts programs of innovative form, recognize and encourage the arts. Meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth Street.

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

CORRECTION

Due to a production error in the paper of April 12, the Laughing Matters column written by Jack Neworth titled "Little Stevie Miller is No Wonder" was incorrectly labeled as Culture Watch by Sarah Spitz. A revised version of the publication will be available online.

HOUSING

FROM PAGE 1

many cities, if someone wants to build an ADU on a property, they have to either live in the home already on the lot or in the ADU. That means a lot with a single-family home on the rental market could not house an ADU.

Owner-occupancy requirements have also made banks wary of issuing loans to construct ADUs because they call the longevity of the units into question, Bloom said. If someone buys a lot with a single-family home and an ADU, they would have to tear down the ADU to comply with such requirements.

The bill clarifies other provisions in the state's ADU laws that govern their relationship to public transit and the types of existing structures that can be converted to ADUs. It also removes a provision that allows localities to block ADUs by claiming they impact traffic flow and public safety.

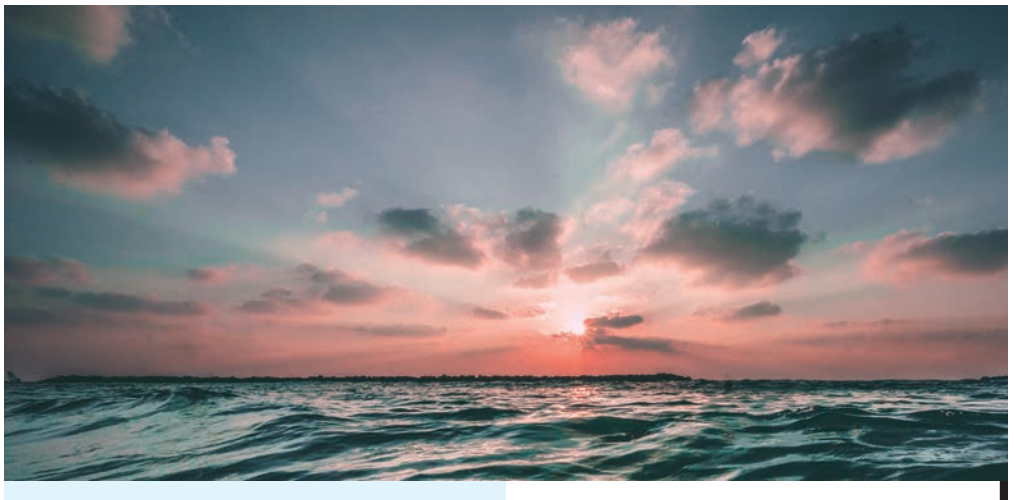
Existing law prohibits a local agency from imposing parking standards for an accessory dwelling unit if, among other conditions, the accessory dwelling unit is located within 1/2 mile of public transit. The bill would make that prohibition applicable if the accessory dwelling unit is located within 1/2 mile walking distance of public transit.

The bill would also require local agencies to approve build permits to convert garages to ADUs. Many cities have prohibited such conversions because existing state law provides for the conversion of accessory structures, but does not explicitly reference garages.

"A.B. 881 will help ADU statute to function as intended," Bloom said.

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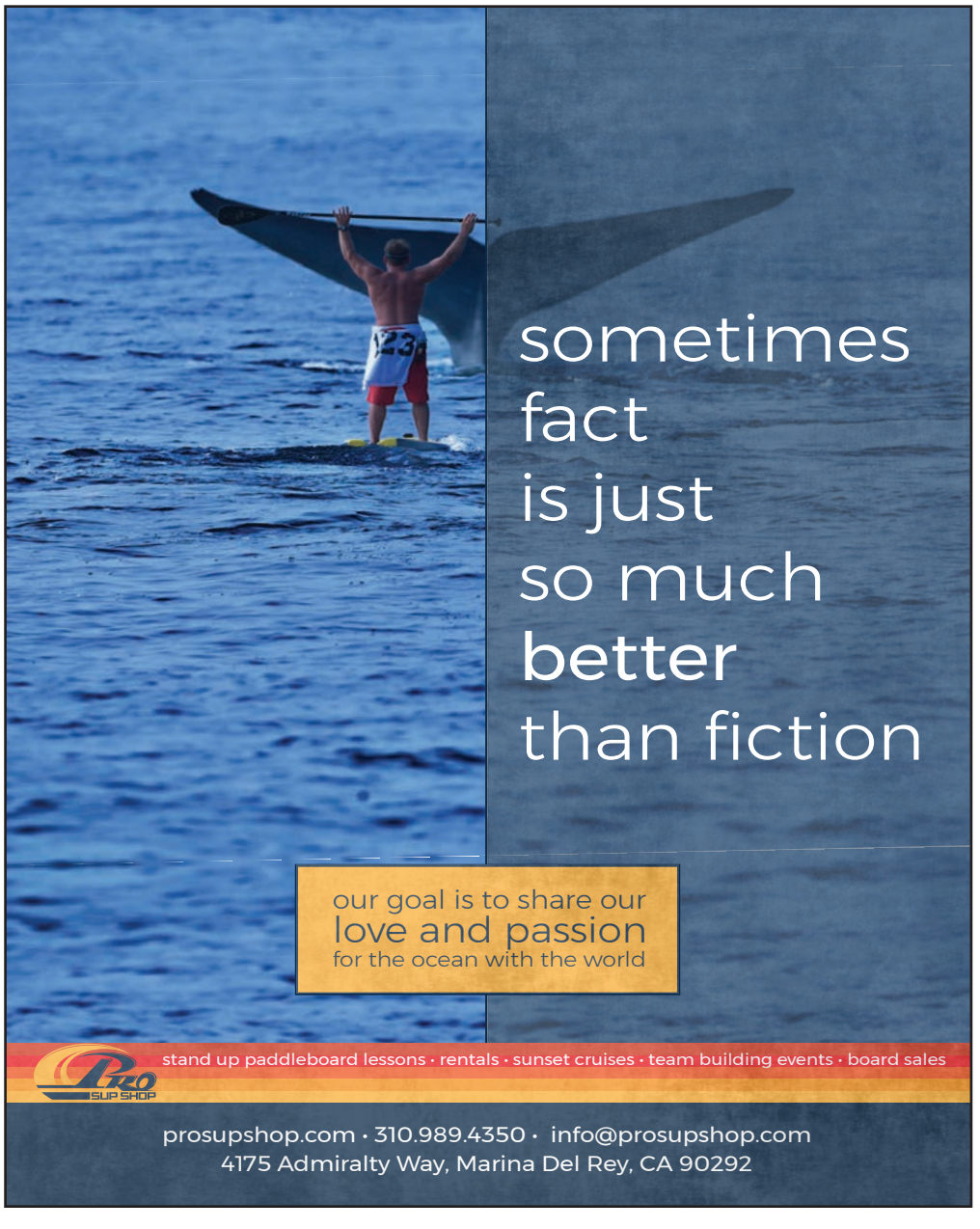
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As cashless stores grow, so does the backlash

BY ALEXANDRA OLSON AND KEN SWEET
AP Business Writers

Hembert Figueroa just wanted a taco.

So he was surprised to learn the dollar bills in his pocket were no good at Dos Toros Taqueria in Manhattan, one of a small but growing number of establishments across the U.S. where customers can only pay by card or smartphone.

Cash-free stores are generating a backlash among some activists and liberal-leaning policymakers who say the practice discriminates against people like Figueroa, who either lack bank accounts or rely on cash for many transactions.

Figueroa, an ironworker, had to stand to the side, holding his taco, until a sympathetic cashier helped him find another customer willing to pay for his meal with a card in exchange for cash.

"I had money and I couldn't pay," he said.

The issue got some high-profile attention this week when retail giant Amazon bowed to pressure from activists and agreed to accept cash at more than 30 cashless stores, including its Amazon Go convenience stores, which have no cashiers, and its book shops. Amazon declined to say when the change would happen.

There is no federal law that requires stores to accept cash, so lawmakers are working on the issue at the state and city level.

Earlier this year, Philadelphia became the first city to ban cashless stores, despite efforts by Amazon to dissuade it. New Jersey passed a statewide ban soon after, and a similar ban is working its way through the New York City Council. Before this year there was only one jurisdiction that required businesses to accept cash: Massachusetts, which passed a law nearly 40 years ago.

"The potential societal cost of a cashless economy I think outweighs the potential benefits for businesses," said Ritchie Torres, a New York City councilman for the South Bronx who introduced the bill.

Policymakers argue that while cashless enterprises aren't widespread now, the practice could expand to more services, including some that cater to lower-income people.

Walmart-owned Sam's Club opened its first cashier-less store in Dallas last year, using technology that allows customers to scan and pay for items with their smartphones. Kroger has installed similar technology in about 400 stores nationwide.

Stadiums in Tampa Bay, Florida, and Atlanta have started to go cashless, or nearly cashless, and the Barclays Center, where the Brooklyn Nets play, is now effectively cashless as well.

Advocates for cashless bans worry technology is moving too fast for the 6.5% of American households — 8.4 million — who do not have a bank account, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Figueroa is among the much larger group considered "underbanked," meaning they have a primary bank account but regularly rely on alternative financial services like check cashers. More than 24 million U.S. households are underbanked, according to the FDIC.

The issue disproportionately affects African-American and Hispanic communities. About 17% of African-American and 14% of Hispanic households have no bank accounts, compared to just 3% of white households, according to the FDIC.

Figueroa, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, only opened a credit union account two years ago. It took another year to build up enough funds to use his debit card regularly.

He still occasionally relies on a check casher if he needs money quickly, and much of his income comes in cash from his weekend job as a busboy. He has no credit card and no apps on his phone and has only shopped online three times.

Business owners who go cashless say they are following the lead of the majority of customers who are abandoning cash payments. Retailers are under pressure to cater to customers with heightened expectations for fast and seamless service, driven by companies like Amazon, Uber and Grubhub.

Leo Kremer, co-owner of Dos Toros, said the volume of cash transactions at his stores fell from about 50% a decade ago to 15% last year. That made the cost and logistics of handling cash especially onerous. Before going cashless, Dos Toros locations were robbed twice.

Still, Kremer said the company would adjust if legally required to accept cash.

"There are no bad guys on this issue. Everyone is trying to do the right thing and make sure there are no unintended consequences," he said.

Critics say banning cash-free stores is an over-reaction.

There are no overall estimates on how many U.S. stores have gone cashless, but it remains a rarity. In New York City, the trend appears to be gaining traction mostly with "fast casual" dining establishments like Dos Toros. Far more common are stores that require a minimum purchase for non-cash payments.

"To call this a trend is a bit of an exaggeration," said J. Craig Shearman, a spokesman for the National Retail Federation in Washington. "It's not something the average customer would expect to see at every store at the mall any time soon."

In testimony to a New York City Council committee, Kremer argued that businesses that "consistently serve the unbanked and underbanked population aren't going to go cashless. It wouldn't make sense for them."

But financial experts who work with low-income people caution against making assumptions about the shopping preferences or buying power of those who rely on cash.

"I'm uncomfortable with the idea that certain people don't shop here so it's fine to exclude them," said Justine Zinkin, CEO of Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners, a financial counseling nonprofit affiliated with the credit union where Figueroa banks.

AP Retail Writer Joe Pisani contributed to this report from New York.

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WINNER

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MIGRANTS

FROM PAGE 3

make travel arrangements.

Flights chartered by ICE cost about $7,785 per flight hour, according to the agency. They require multiple staffers, including an officer who coordinates, several others who fly and monitor passengers and an in-flight medical professional. The agency also uses commercial flights but requires that migrants to pay for those. It's unclear if that would be the case for families, who usually arrive with no money and rely on relatives already in the U.S. to pay for transportation.

Still, many "sanctuary" communities would likely welcome the immigrants in question and have nonprofit legal groups that could help them strengthen their legal cases to stay in the country.

Matt Albence, ICE's new acting director, denied the White House pressured immigration officials to implement the idea when he was serving as deputy.

"I was asked my opinion and provided it, and my advice was heeded," he said in a statement.

The Department of Health and Human Services said this week that it had started scouting vacant properties that could be turned into facilities for holding migrant children in several cities, including Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Phoenix, and San Antonio.

Those facilities would be licensed by each state and likely take several months to be approved and opened, separating them from the rapidly expanding emergency shelter at Homestead, Florida, and the now-closed tent facility at Tornillo, Texas.

The Defense Department has also been reviewing a number of military bases to find a location that can house up to 5,000 unaccompanied migrant children as the U.S. braces for a surge of people crossing the U.S.-Mexico border this spring. Health and Human Services submitted the request for space last month, as Homeland Security leaders warned that tens of thousands of families were crossing the border each month. HHS has traditionally been responsible for providing temporary shelter to unaccompanied migrant.

ICE is tasked with arresting people living in the country illegally — including some who have been here for decades. Under the Trump administration, ICE has significantly stepped up arrests, including of people who have no U.S. criminal records.

In response, some cities have banished ICE from jails where agents could easily pick up immigration violators. Police in New York, Baltimore and Seattle rarely, if ever, disclose information about when suspected criminals in the U.S. illegally will be released from custody.

The Trump administration has already tried and largely failed to punish sanctuary cities for failing to cooperate with federal authorities.

Democrats have said they will tackle immigration bills, possibly as soon as they return from their spring recess, and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell has indicated an interest in working on the issue.

McConnell on Thursday called for bipartisan talks aimed at bolstering asylum laws and addressing border security.

Associated Press writers Nomaan Merchant in Houston, Astrid Galvan in Phoenix and Lisa Mascaro and Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

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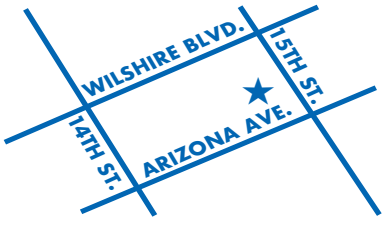
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ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

FROM PAGE 1

together.

This job applied the same mechanics. But what could he do with this career? Though the gig proved lucrative, there was no room for growth.

"It would've been an endless cycle of doing the same thing over and over," Lozano said. It wasn't for me. It felt like that when I got to SMC, too."

Lozano enrolled in community college in 2012 and struggled with academics and his own anxiety.

He was in and out of classes, signing up and dropping out due to some difficulties learning and panic attacks. The panic attacks caused by his anxiety made him want to drop out completely.

He was unsure of how to ask for help.

When he was not in school he'd work odd jobs again such as plumbing and construction, jobs that recently at the time but didn't challenge Lozano.

"Where am I going?"

With friends going to SMC, Lozano took a shot at school again.

A friend turned him on to the school's Adelante program, a success-oriented program focused on helping Latino students, and Lozano's educational goals became clearer.

He signed up for the school's STEM program, which gave him invaluable educational and career opportunities, such as stints at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory Undergraduate Scholars (JPLUS) program, NASA's Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) program and the USC Liquid Propulsion Laboratory at Viterbi School of Engineering.

The program also led him to SMC's Center for Wellness and Wellbeing.

There he was diagnosed with hypomania, the leading cause of his anxiety and panic attacks that impeded his learning.

To tackle this, Lozano began psychotherapy and taking resilience exercises sponsored by Goruck, an organization that's provided military special forces training.

One of the exercises Lozano undertook was The 50-mile Star Course, a resilience exercise which required Lozano to carry around a 30 to 40-pound weight in a rucksack for 18 hours total.

The exercise has taken him through all of Los Angeles, seeing people's lives from other perspectives.

Sometimes he walks from his home of Hawthorne to SMC, the walk giving Lozano time for calm, time for reflection.

Where is he going? Upward and onward to a brighter future.

The process has been a boon for Lozano, who, through the help of the resilience exercises, is now on course to transfer in the fall to a four-year institution.

"Everyone has some sort of baggage," Lozano said. "Something we're carrying around and we walk with it. This is a very physical way to figure out how I'm living with anxiety within my life. We have this heavy weight you're always carrying around."

Lozano hopes to help his community, specifically lower income and POC community members, with his impending degree.

He hopes to be an example to his community and help guide others to where they're supposed to be going.

"Some of us have long and short walks to our destination. The point is that we understand what's on the other end of that journey."

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TIFFANY HOGAN, M.D., *Oncologist (left)*
SHANON PETER, M.D., *Internist (right)*

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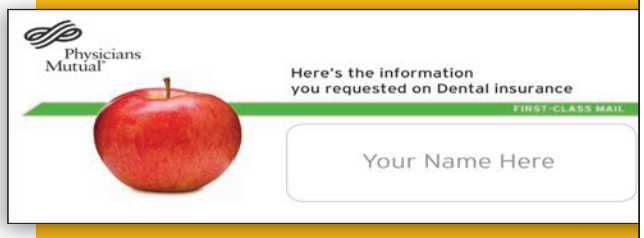
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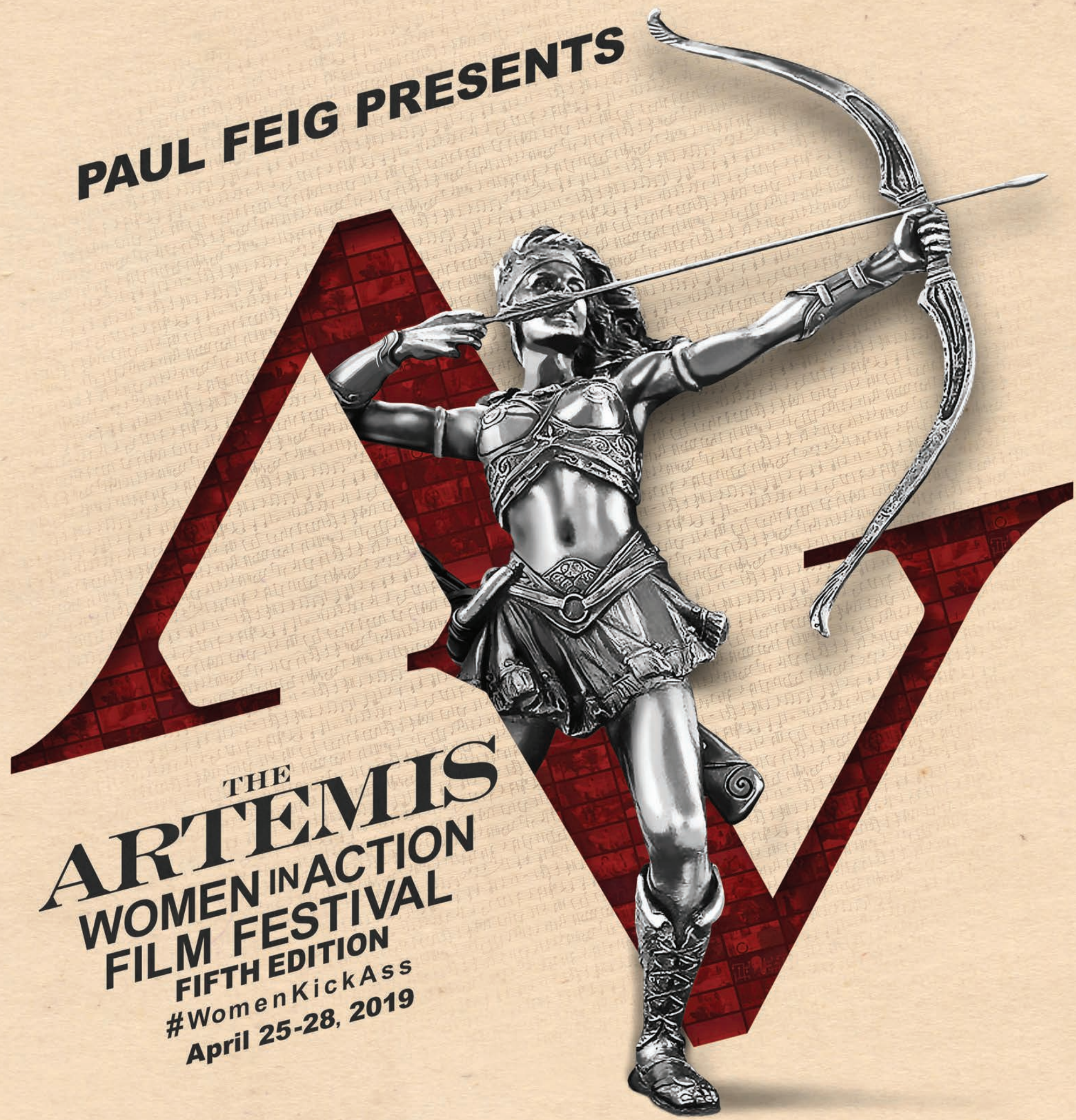


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California fire report offers list of ideas, no commitments

BY KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

California could create its own power purchasing entity, change the standards that make utilities responsible for damages from wildfires and discourage new housing in areas at high risk of wildfire.

Those are among the recommendations in a report Gov. Gavin Newsom presented Friday aimed at addressing a host of problems related to wildfires, chief among them how to maintain a safe, affordable electricity supply for California amid worsening fires.

But the 58-page report, crafted by a "strike team" of government and outside experts fails to take strong positions on possible solutions, instead outlining a smorgasbord of recommendations and leaving lawmakers to decide how to proceed.

It offers dire predictions about the consequences of inaction, warning of gaps in electricity service, even more destructive fires and spiking costs for customers.

"The status quo is not an option. Doing nothing is unacceptable," it concludes.

Two of California's deadliest and most destructive wildfire seasons in state history hit in 2017 and 2018, with 85 killed in a single Northern California wildfire last November. Insurance losses for that fire alone topped $8 billion.

PG&E, the nation's largest utility, filed for bankruptcy in January over concerns it couldn't afford potentially billions of dollars in liability from fires caused by its equipment. Officials haven't determined what caused the November fire, but PG&E has acknowledged its equipment likely sparked the blaze.

The report covers PG&E's bankruptcy, the effect of climate change on wildfires, how to protect ratepayers from cost spikes and whether the state's regulatory system needs to be modernized. The team included representatives from state agencies including the Public Utilities Commission, Department of Insurance, Office of Emergency Services and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Newsom has also hired the high-powered law and investment firms O'Melveny and Myers and Guggenheim Securities to provide expertise at a cost of more than $6 million over six months, according to

SEE **FIRE** PAGE 15

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 339 CALLS ON APRIL 11

Battery 2700blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:18 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1300blk Chelsea Ave 3:19 a.m.
Fight 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 5:05 a.m.
Identity Theft 1400blk 26th St 6:05 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1100blk 12th St 7:12 a.m.
Vehicle Out Of Space 1800blk Main St 7:19 a.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order 900blk 19th St 8:13 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1200blk Ocean Front Walk 8:28 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 2400blk Main St 8:28 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 10th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:53 a.m.
Encampment 1300blk Interstate 10 9:03 a.m.
Battery 1500blk 10th St 9:09 a.m.
Encampment 1400blk Cloverfield Blvd 9:28 a.m.
Burglary 1100blk Euclid St 9:41 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1500blk 4th St 9:52 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 4th St / Colorado Ave 9:55 a.m.
Encampment Centinela Ave / Pico Blvd 10:44 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 800blk 6th St 10:45 a.m.
Fraud 2300blk Michigan Ave 10:48 a.m.
Threats /S 2200blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:49 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk The Beach 10:56 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 700blk Ashland Ave 11:26 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2600blk Montana Ave 11:27 a.m.
Hit And Run Main St / Pico Blvd 1:05 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2800blk Virginia Ave 1:15 p.m.
Petty Theft 1300blk Montana Ave 1:41 p.m.
Hit And Run 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 1:58 p.m.
Burglary 1100blk Euclid St 2:48 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500blk 9th St 3:03 p.m.
Burglary 800blk 3rd St 3:16 p.m.
Death 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 3:25 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 23rd St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:35 p.m.
Fight 1500blk Yale St 3:49 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1700blk Ocean Ave 3:56 p.m.
Petty Theft 1700blk Ocean Ave 3:57 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1200blk Harvard St 4:14 p.m.
Burglary 1400blk Euclid St 4:16 p.m.
Battery 1400blk 16th St 4:29 p.m.
Battery 1400blk 16th St 4:36 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 900blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:06 p.m.
Panhandling 1500blk Broadway 5:21 p.m.
Panhandling 1500blk Broadway 5:21 p.m.
Fraud 1300blk 20th St 5:32 p.m.
Burglary 800blk 20th St 5:54 p.m.
Rape 1800blk 9th St 6:34 p.m.
Encampment 1500blk 10th St 6:40 p.m.
Fight 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 6:44 p.m.
Battery 1100blk 12th St 6:56 p.m.
Petty Theft 1400blk Harvard St 8:06 p.m.
Fraud 400blk 16th St 8:28 p.m.
Petty Theft 300blk Santa Monica Pl 8:50 p.m.
Theft Suspect In Custody 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 9:07 p.m.
Battery 100blk Wilshire Blvd 9:33 p.m.
Auto Burglary 100blk Kinney St 10:01 p.m.
Fight 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:07 p.m.
Drunk Driving 200blk Montana Ave 11:11 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 20 CALLS ON APRIL 11

Battery 2700blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:18 a.m.
EMS 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:46 a.m.
Haz mat - level 1 1500blk 4th St 2:22 a.m.
EMS 200blk Santa Monica Pier 2:27 a.m.
EMS 3100blk 23rd St 4:38 a.m.
EMS 2900blk Exposition Blvd 4:48 a.m.
EMS 2400blk Main St 8:28 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 7th St 9:39 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 5th St 10:02 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Ocean Way 11:14 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 12:38 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Ocean Ave 12:58 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury 23rd St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:36 p.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 4:34 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Ocean Park Blvd 5 p.m.
EMS 600blk Marine St 5:06 p.m.
EMS 1000blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:06 p.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 6:58 p.m.
EMS 2600blk 28th St 7:28 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 8:37 p.m.
EMS 800blk 10th St 9:55 p.m.

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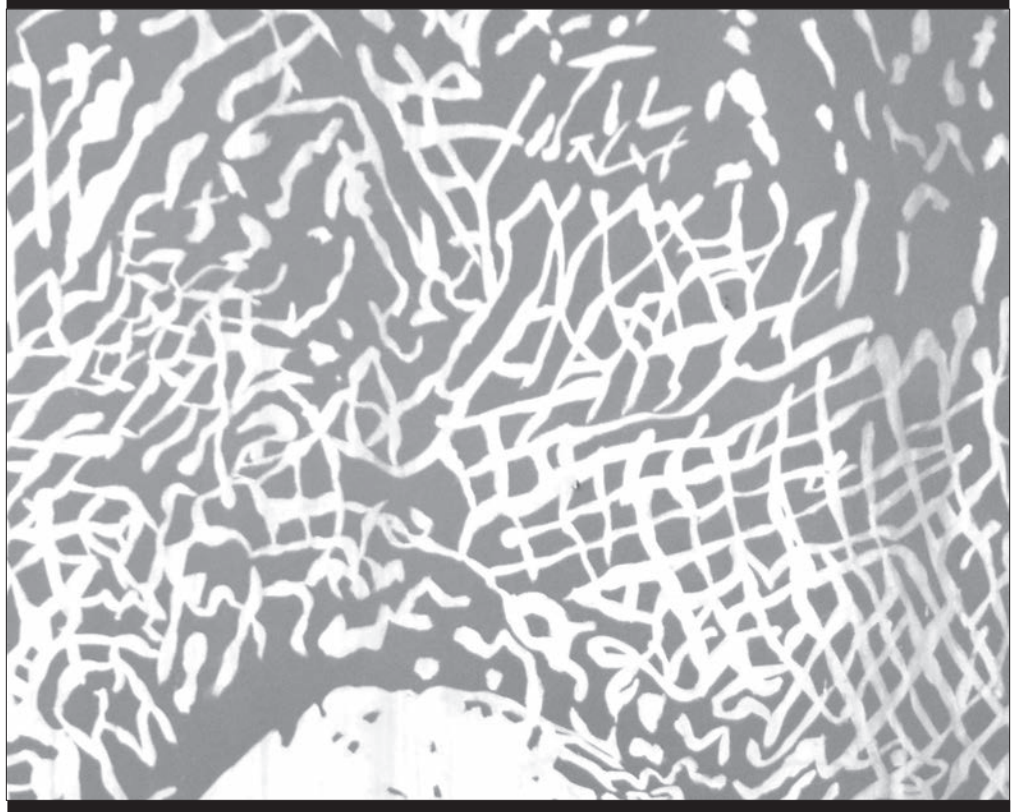
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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 56.5°

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Fun S swell holds. Short period NW swell drops out. Light winds in AM hours.

SUNDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high
Lingering S swell and minor NW swell mix. Light SE/S winds in AM hours.

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date: 4/10
12 21 23 39 67
Power#: 6
Jackpot: $101 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/9
11 22 34 44 58
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: $140 M

SuperLOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 4/10
4 16 22 31 42
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: $35 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/6
6 17 33 35 38

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 4/12
Midday: 4 2 2
Draw Date: 4/11
Evening: 3 6 2

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 4/11
1st: 04 - BIG BEN
2nd: 02 - LUCKY STAR
3rd: 12 - LUCKY CHARMS
RACE TIME: 1:47.74

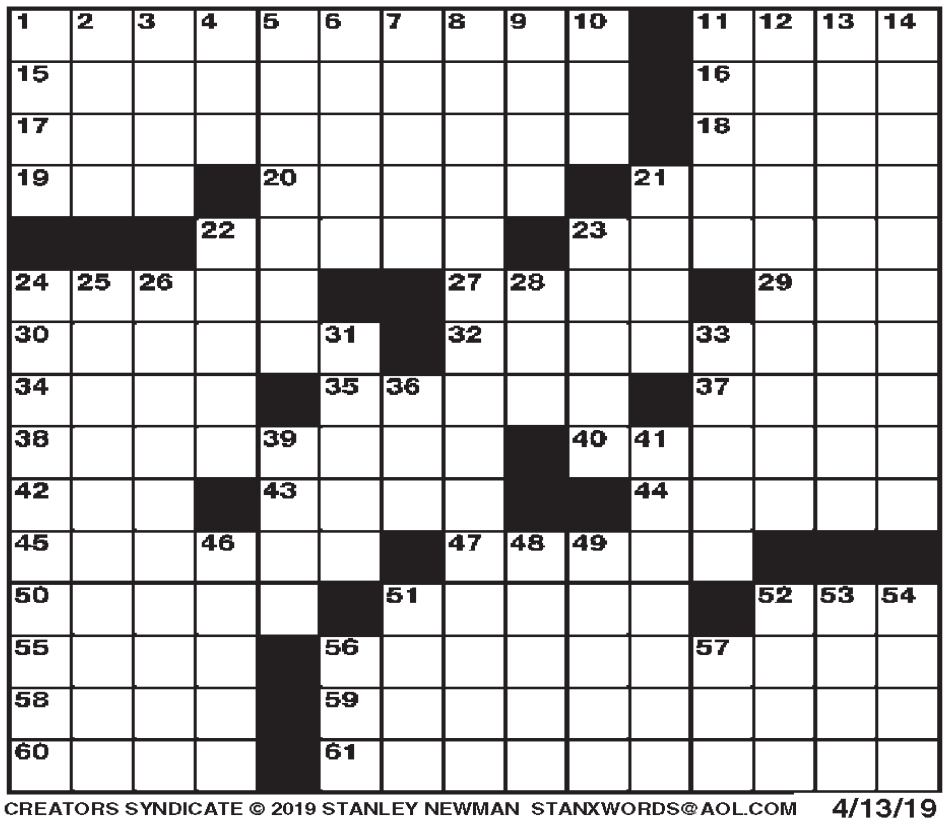
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Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Andrew Bell Lewis
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Check on overflow
11 French city near Luxembourg
15 Dovetailing
16 *Créature*
17 Regular port arrivals
18 Except
19 Internal mediator
20 Today's straw handbags, e.g.
21 Actor who "will return" in 2020
22 Uber Eats designation
23 Spanish social monitor
24 Brings up
27 Dijon dear
29 Three-time *Time* Person of the Year
30 Mob rule
32 Antonym of "seafaring"
34 "Some made __ and helpless rush": Whitman
35 Authenticate
37 Bound around
38 Preparing for posting
40 Make a play for
42 Starter like auri-
43 Near __
44 Inspiration for Mamet and Miller
45 Restrict
47 Daughter of the law and order Titaness
50 Spirit
51 Illumination opening
52 Smucker-filled lunch, perhaps
55 Random profusion
56 When the dotcom bubble burst
58 First "We Need a Little Christmas" singer
59 Traditional 12/24 warmer in the South
60 __ dog
61 Smooth talker's supply

DOWN
1 Very old-style "Dig this!"
2 Instrument with oscillators
3 Czechia's second city
4 Hoppers, e.g.
5 Supremely neighboring
6 20th Century Fox logo element
7 Ray above a bed
8 One who's always up
9 A subject of the *Twelve Caesars* bios
10 Successes for some runners
11 Measure of Man
12 Wharton figure
13 End of the line, at times
14 Rumination stations
21 Helped to begin
22 Source of seven La Scala premieres
23 Does more than graze
24 Markle acquisition of 2018
25 Extraneous
26 Scandal likened to Watergate
28 Big D dunker
31 Newborn number innovator
33 Business end of a bulldozer
36 Babies __ (recently shuttered retailer)
39 Tennyson turndown
41 1991 US Open semifinalist at 39
46 Borne
48 With 56 Down, red-carpet regular
49 Downed
51 Slavic form of Elijah
52 Spring break mecca nickname
53 Storied sibling sobriquet
54 Top grosser before *Star Wars*
56 See 48 Down
57 Most populous of six states, for short



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 4/13/19

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

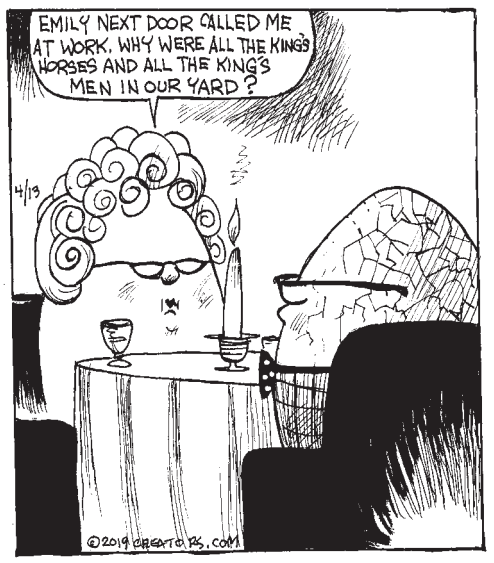
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



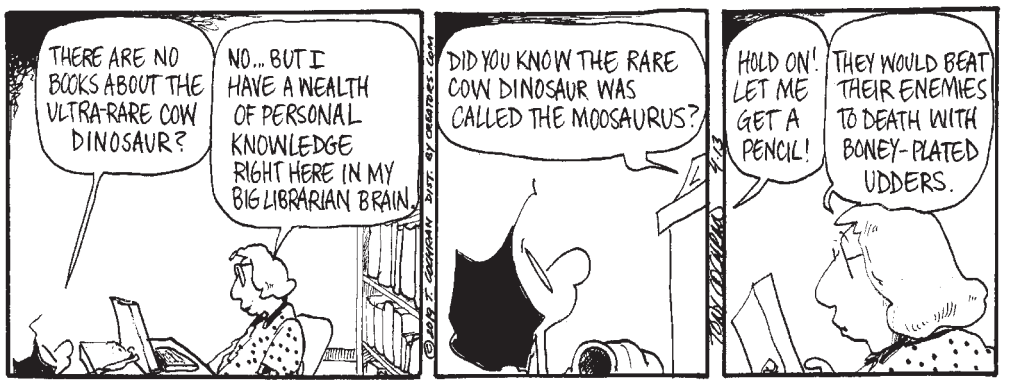
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



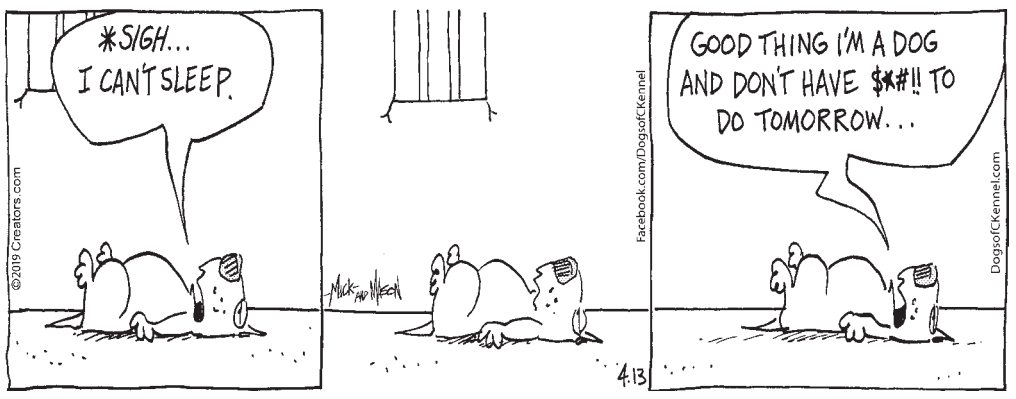
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



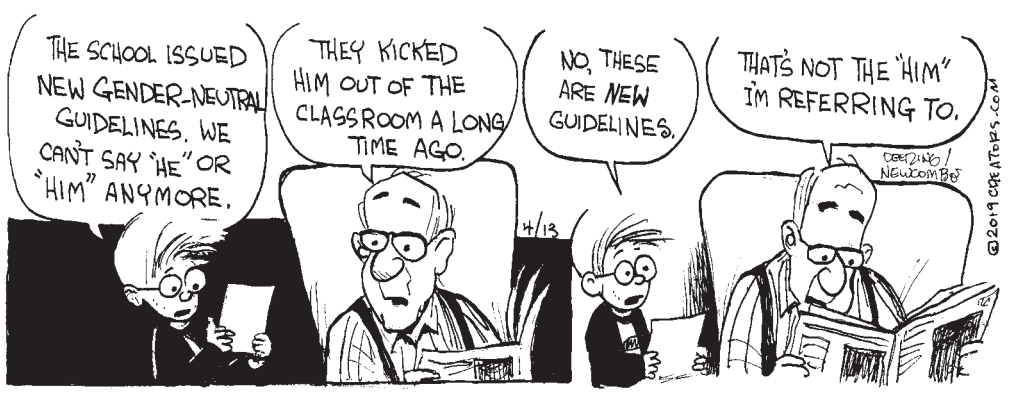
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 13)

You're careening toward a new level of self-actualization in which you'll do things you've wanted to do for a long time as well as things you never imagined. The people you surround yourself with matter a lot. Be proactive in this regard, and enjoy numerous benefits to your personal and professional life. Pisces and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 30, 8, 14 and 6.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're willing to fight for what's right but not overly focused on finding out what's wrong. There's a time and a place for digging around to find the problems and solve them. Right now it's more about breezy rapport building.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Maturity comes from experience – often, not always. Those who don't also reflect on what happened, make decisions about what to do and lose, and keep going forward may get older without getting wiser.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). For some reason you're struggling against what you want. Maybe it presents a conflict with what you wanted in the past, or with how others see you. Dig deeper for enlightenment. Ask, "If I get this, what will it do for me?"

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Just because someone is in a position of authority doesn't make that person better than someone who is in a low-status position. In fact, there are many benefits to being on the ground level today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Social time is not wasted time, though it can verge on that if not commandeered to some extent. Things go better when you know your purpose for the interaction, even if that purpose is just to relax and have fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The saying "these are the good old days" is completely true. So take pictures, not just of people's faces but of the ordinary things. The kitchen in the morning and the parked car will be future nostalgic details.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). To learn that your expectations were unrealistic and adjust your thinking – that's maturity. But what about when your expectations were well within the realm of reason and still not met? That's character building.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The problem may be that you're taking too much responsibility for the actions of others. The line between helping and enabling can be hard to see when you're standing on it. Ask a trusted friend for a second opinion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Children fantasize about who they'll be when they grow up. Grown-ups do the same. Our identities are in continual development, to which you can attest. You're seeing yourself differently, moving in a new direction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A most fulfilling day awaits during which you're likely to act in support of another with the full knowledge that it will not progress any goal of your own, except the goal of being helpful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The thing that will add to your repertoire and broaden your vision is not harder work in the same direction. Rather, it's a recognition of more parts of yourself, specifically the acceptance of your shadow.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's as impossible to have a real relationship with a fantasy person as it is to have a fantasy relationship with a real person. Perhaps there's a reason to have both kinds of relationships in your life. Just keep the categories straight.

Pluto Poses Profundity

Love requires sacrifice – nothing big. In fact, usually it's so small it's barely noticeable. But small things add up. To avoid feeling resentful later, figure out how to reframe the sacrifice. Turn it into something you do for yourself, maybe for spiritual reward, or even pleasure. These profundities come via the sun's square to Pluto.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION

"I'm a 46-year-old Libra who has done so many things in her life. I've been writing seriously for the past 10 years and written two novels. I really want to make my living at this, and I enjoy it so much. My first novel was represented but not sold. My second novel is nearly finished, and I've got to find a new agent. Will I have the success I dream of with this career?"

Yes. Your sign has a special relationship with the arts and metaphorical thought process. Your well-honed aesthetic helps you add detail – specificity to your work. But most importantly, you work well with the professionals you trust, are not defensive about notes and are able to rewrite using expert help. The key to making your living with writing has more to do with energy flow than it does talent. Right now you are excitedly looking to a future where you're a professional writer, and that's exactly the spirit you must keep. When you start getting rejection letters, the tendency is to start to worry and fear that it will never happen for you. Fight this tendency and remain in the buzzy optimism that surrounds you now and you'll attract the success you so desire.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

Revered Founding Father, co-author of the Declaration of Independence and third American president Thomas Jefferson was born under a Sagittarius moon, which is the moon of exploration. One of Jefferson's many achievements was supporting Lewis and Clark's Voyage of Discovery to the Pacific Ocean. Mercury in dreamy Pisces indicates the ability to communicate a vision. Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis@gmail.com.

WORD UP!

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noun [yoo-ni-kawrn]
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FIRE

FROM PAGE 10

contracts obtained through the California Public Records Act.

The state has no formal role in the bankruptcy, but the report affirms the state should monitor it closely and intervene if needed.

Other recommendations include discouraging new development in high-risk fire areas. California is in the midst of a housing crisis and as urban areas become more expensive many have chosen to move into more rural areas. The report says the state should try to encourage more building in urban and low-risk areas "to provide an alternative to those otherwise shut of the state's housing market."

The report also raises the possibility of changing California's strict liability standards that require utilities to pay for damages from wildfires caused by their equipment, even when the company is not deemed to have acted irresponsibly. Utilities have repeatedly tried to change the standard with no success.

The report said any changes in utility liability rules should give incentives to utilities to invest in safety and critically, impose penalties for failing to do so. It said any changes also must continue to hold shareholders, not customers, responsible for safety failures. It suggests adjusting how much profit utilities and their executives can make based on their wildfire safety performance.

On insurance, the team recommends that the governor and Legislature consider whether insurers should be obligated to offer insurance to customers in high-risk areas, whether they should be obligated to offer reduced rates to property owners and communities that have taken extra mitigation against fire and whether policy limits should be increased to recognize current California construction costs.

The financial stability of California's three major investor-owned utilities — PG&E, Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas & Electric — is necessary for California to keep electricity costs low and meet its renewable energy goals, the report concluded.

While only PG&E has filed for bankruptcy, the other two utilities have had their credit ratings downgraded recently. The report warned low ratings make it harder for utilities to access cash they need to invest in making their power lines safer.

"These downgrades, and the prospect of additional utility bankruptcy filings, directly impact Californians' access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity," the report said.

It also explores the possibility of California creating its own power source for reliable electricity as the market diversifies, though it offered few details on how a state-run power procurement entity would work.

More Californians are getting their electricity from municipal providers or from local renewable sources rather than through traditional utilities, which could lead to potential gaps in electric service.



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