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WEDNESDAY
05.10.23

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 22 Issue 148

smdp.com

LA man arrested for selling fentanyl that resulted in triple overdose of local students

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Local law enforcement agencies marked National Fentanyl Awareness Day by announcing multiple arrests for fentanyl related crimes, including a suspect responsible for the triple overdose of a group of Santa Monica teens last year.

Officials announced the arrest of 22-year-old Los Angeles resident Adrian Benavides-Schorgi on May 9 in connection with a 2022 incident.

The three female students, who were all enrolled in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, were transported to the hospital from a Santa Monica apartment on May 24 of last year after overdosing on fentanyl-laced drugs. The following morning two of the girls were in critical but stable condition, while the third was conscious and alert.

Benavides-Schorgi, 22, of the Jefferson Park neighborhood is accused of selling counterfeit pills containing fentanyl that led to the girl's life-threatening overdoses who thought they were buying ecstasy. Benavides-Schorgi was charged by a federal grand jury with one count of distribution of fentanyl resulting in serious bodily injury for the alleged narcotics sale. He was arrested on April 27, and he was ordered held without bond at a hearing the following day. A trial is scheduled for June 20.

Santa Monica Police Chief

SEE **FENTANYL SALE** PAGE 8

Samohi celebrates construction progress of Exploration Building and Gold Gymnasium with steel topping ceremony



Grace Adams

STEEL: Eight months after construction began on the Exploration Building and Gold Gymnasium on the Santa Monica High School Campus, SMMUSD community members gathered to celebrate the completion of the buildings' frames. In keeping with a centuries old Scandinavian tradition, the final steel beam of each building was lifted into place, topped with an evergreen tree meant to symbolize that the building has reached its final height and serve as a good luck charm, according to Project Director Nathan Huntley of McCarthy Builders. Attendees at the event, which included SMMUSD Board members, Samohi Principal Marae Cruce, Chief Operations Officer Carey Upton and other district staff, teachers and students, also signed the beams before they were lifted away.

Both buildings are expected to be completed by Fall 2024. Once open, the Exploration Building will serve as a flexible learning space and the Gold Gymnasium will expand the campus's athletic facilities with multiple courts, workout and fitness spaces, yoga and dance studios and more.

The two buildings are being constructed as part of the third phase of the Samohi Campus Plan, a multi-year, multi-million dollar project to redevelop and renovate the campus. Funding for the work comes from Measure SMS, which was approved by Santa Monica voters in 2018.

In first increase since ballot box revolt, Rent Control Board proposes a 2.8% increase

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Rent Control Board will meet this week to determine allowable increases for rent controlled units and while the proposed figure is significantly higher than increases in recent history, it is less than half of the figure that roiled renters last year.

Rental increases in rent controlled units are established by a preset formula that limits rents to 75 percent of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This year, the CPI comes in at 3.7 percent meaning increases will be capped at 2.8 percent for the next year. The Rent Control Board has the option to establish a dollar cap on those increases which is also determined by a preset formula and if they do implement the cap it would be a maximum of $67 per month on units already paying $2,375 a month or more.

This year's general adjustment is the first since skyrocketing inflation rates upended the system and prompted a renter rebellion at the ballot box.

Record inflation rates last year of about 8.5 percent required the Board to establish a rent increase of 6 percent, which was at the time the highest allowable increase.

The last time the annual rent control adjustment reached 6 percent was in 1990. Prior to passage of the 6 percent cap amendment, the highest annual adjustments

SEE **RENT CONTROL** PAGE 4


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Report: Antisemitic incidents on the rise in California

TRÂN NGUYỄN
Associated Press

More than 500 antisemitic acts targeting Jewish people, including assault, vandalism and harassment, were committed in California last year, an increase of more than 40% from 2021, underscoring a proliferation of hate crimes and extremism in the state, according to a report released Tuesday by the Anti-Defamation League.

The ADL also cited increasing collaboration among extremist and white supremacist groups in a report detailing a wide range of hate crimes and violence. California saw at least six murders by members of extremist groups in 2021 and 2022 — the most in the nation — with three being linked to white supremacist groups, the report found.

The report on California comes after the Anti-Defamation League released another report, in collaboration with Tel Aviv University's Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry, that shows antisemitic incidents are at a new high worldwide, with the upward trend intensifying in the U.S.

In California, it found at least 518 antisemitic acts were committed in 2022, second only to New York with 580 incidents. That figure is a 41% increase from 2021, it said.

"There's a common thread that connects every part of California, north and south, east and west, and that's hate in all its forms," Oren Segal, vice president of the Anti-Defamation League Center of Extremism, said at a news conference Tuesday. "Addressing the proliferation of extremism, antisemitism and hate is not only a profound challenge, it is one of the challenges of our time."

> "There's a common thread that connects every part of California, north and south, east and west, and that's hate in all its forms"
>
> - Oren Segal, vice president of the Anti-Defamation League Center of Extremism

The civil rights organization's report, called "Hate in the Golden State", also found an increase in local white supremacist groups working together to spread propaganda and strengthen their presence across California. It shows how established groups such as the Proud Boys continue to target local LGBTQ+ events, especially drag queen story hours.

Supremacist or antisemitic groups such as the Goyim Defense League, Active Clubs and the White Lives Matter network are among the driving forces behind efforts in California to spread white supremacy ideology and organize anti-LGBTQ+ protests, the report said. Last year, the Anti-Defamation League recorded 296 instances of white supremacist propaganda being distributed in California, a jump of 91% from 155 instances in 2021.

It also details violence or harassment committed by supporters of QAnon, a baseless conspiracy theory that believed former President Donald Trump was waging a secret campaign against enemies in the "deep state" as well as a child sex trafficking ring run by satanic pedophiles and cannibals. It found supporters of the group were responsible for at least three violent attacks in 2021 and 2022, including the attack of Paul Pelosi, the husband of then-U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, in San Francisco last year.

Democratic state Sen. Scott Wiener, a gay Jewish lawmaker from San Francisco, called the report's findings "absolutely horrifying." Wiener said he has been the target of hate speech and death threats.

"We don't need to see statistics to know that there has been an explosion of hate and extremism," Wiener said at the news conference. "We need, as a matter of public safety and public health in California, to be very clear that we are going to have a zero-tolerance policy for this kind of extremist bigoted behavior."

The Anti-Defamation League says it has recorded at least 400 incidents where local lawmakers across the country were harassed or threatened between 2020 and 2022, with 64 instances in California.

California lawmakers and officials are attempting to address the trend. Last week, the Civil Rights Department unveiled a statewide non-emergency hate crime hotline. The hotline, serving as an alternative to law enforcement, helps connect people who experience or witness hate crimes with various resources, including legal and mental health assistance.

Democratic Assemblymember Cory Jackson of Riverside, who authored a bill that would create a hate crime intervention unit within the California Department of Public Health, said the extremism movement is gaining traction.

"This movement is well organized, is well funded, and they have a game plan, and they are executing that game plan," he said. "This is our opportunity to making sure that we don't take this lightly."



Hyundai and Kia thefts keep rising despite security fix

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

Nearly three months ago, Hyundai and Kia unveiled software that was designed to thwart an epidemic of thefts of their vehicles, caused by a security flaw that was exposed on TikTok and other social media sites.

So far, it hasn't solved the problem. Across the country, thieves are still driving off with the vehicles at an alarming rate.

Data from seven U.S. cities gathered by The Associated Press shows that the number of Hyundai and Kia thefts is still growing despite the companies' efforts to fix the glitch, which makes 8.3 million vehicles relatively easy targets for thieves.

From Minneapolis, Cleveland and St. Louis to New York, Seattle, Atlanta and Grand Rapids, Michigan, police have reported substantial year-over-year increases in Hyundai and Kia theft reports through April. An eighth city, Denver, which was hit early by the theft outbreak, reported a 23% decline from 2022 levels but still endured a high number of thefts.

So far this year, Minneapolis police have received 1,899 Kia and Hyundai theft reports, nearly 18 times the number for the same period in 2022.

> The scope of the problem is only expanding and is exponentially worse than it has been in the past
> - Brian O'Hara, the police chief of Minneapolis

"The scope of the problem is only expanding and is exponentially worse than it has been in the past," Brian O'Hara, the police chief of Minneapolis, said in an email. "We have some weeks where nearly as many Kias and Hyundais are stolen in a week as had previously been stolen in a year."

The most recent nationwide numbers on Hyundai and Kia thefts aren't yet publicly available. The figures for early 2023, as calculated by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, will be released until later this year. (Hyundai and Kia are part of the same South Korean corporate family.)

Some U.S. cities have reported that 60% or more of their auto theft reports now involve Hyundais or Kias. Videos on TikTok and other sites that illustrate how to start and steal Kia and Hyundai models — using only a screwdriver and a USB cable — have allowed the thefts to spread across the nation since late 2021.

In New York, the Hyundai-Kia theft problem has grown so worrisome that the city held a news conference last month to offer owners devices that can track their vehicles if they're stolen. Police there reported 966 Hyundai and Kia thefts as of April 30 — nearly seven times the number in the same period of 2022.

The disturbing theft rate, which authorities nationally have linked to other crimes including at least 14 reported crashes and eight fatalities, has persisted despite the automakers' unveiling of their anti-theft software campaign in mid-February.

"GLA is driving our crime," New York Mayor Eric Adams said, using an acronym for grand larceny of autos. "Kia and Hyundai are driving the GLAs."

Hyundai and Kia have said they're accelerating their distribution of the software, with Hyundai saying it's reached 6,000 installations a day. The company says it's using direct mail, phone calls, digital advertising and social media to try to reach the affected owners.

Ira Gabriel, a spokesman for Hyundai, said the company has tried to remove from social media the instructional videos that show how to steal the cars.

"But as new ones surface," he said, "there have been additional waves of thefts."

Kia said in a statement that it began developing and testing the security software last year.

"The process occurred at an accelerated pace and allowed us to begin rolling out the enhanced security software earlier this year in phases," the company said.

Safety authorities say the companies' software rollout has been far too slow. Of the 4.5 million Kia vehicles that are eligible for the fix, the automaker says it's installed the software on about 210,000 — nearly 5%. Kia says it has sent notifications to about 2.8 million of the affected owners and expects to have notified all of them by the end of this month.

For Hyundai, the figure is about 225,000 out of 3.8 million vehicles — roughly 6%. Hyundai said he expects to have contacted all the affected vehicle owners by May 18.

The companies' affected cars, many of them lower-cost models from the 2011 to early 2022 model years, were not equipped with a theft immobilizer. Such a device contains a computer chip in the key that must be recognized by another chip in the steering column before the engines will start.

Though most automakers have had the chips for years, Hyundai and Kia have lagged behind the industry as a whole in installing them on many models, thereby allowing thieves to exploit the security gap. In the 2015 model year, immobilizers were standard on 96% of other manufacturers' models but on only 26% of Hyundai and Kia models, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety said.

The automakers' service campaign to install the software should have been more aggressively pursued, said Michael Brooks, executive director of the nonprofit Center for Auto Safety.

Brooks suggested that if the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration had managed a recall of the affected vehicles, it would have stood a better chance of alerting owners to the danger and need to seek a repair.

"Unless people are really following the news," he said, "they might not know about theft issues."

Shakira Ellis, a music instructor from Long Beach, California, is among those who hadn't heard about the thefts — until her 2019 Hyundai Tucson was stolen in front of her home around 4 a.m. on April 25. The car, which contained some of her musical instruments, hasn't turned up.

Ellis, 26, said her Tucson lacked the immobilizer, and she hadn't been informed of Hyundai's campaign to distribute the software fix. If she had, Ellis said, she would have immediately taken it in to be fixed. She feels Hyundai should provide her with a new car to replace her stolen vehicle,

"I feel like I should be compensated," she said. "It's been ruined because it's defective. And people know. It's a target."

Even with a recall, not everyone takes an affected car to a dealer to be fixed. Recall completion rates, Brooks said, average only around 60% of owners.

Some of the vehicles, about 15% in Hyundai's case, can't be fixed with software. But both Hyundai and Kia say they'll pay for anti-theft devices for those owners.

In Minneapolis and other cities, police say teenagers, some of them too young to have a driver's license, have exploited the vulnerability. Often they crash or are involved in other crimes. The Minneapolis police recorded 209 cases of Hyundais or Kias being involved in hit-and-run injury crashes, and they're investigating 169 reports that Kias or Hyundais were used in other crimes.

Multiple cities, including St. Louis, Cleveland, Milwaukee and Seattle, have sued the automakers, accusing them of failing to install industry-standard anti-theft devices and placing an undue burden on city services.

"Kia and Hyundai prioritized profit over people by not installing engine immobilizers in these vehicles," Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb said in announcing his city's lawsuit.

> Kia and Hyundai prioritized profit over people by not installing engine immobilizers in these vehicles
> - Justin Bibb Cleveland Mayor

O'Hara, the Minneapolis police chief, said the thefts are a "public safety crisis" that is overwhelming communities.

"Juveniles are joyriding in these stolen models, and when they are caught by police, he said, they're rarely held accountable for their behavior" by the courts and youth corrections systems.

That can lead to more serious crimes, he said, "until they get very seriously injured or killed themselves."

Associated Press news researcher Rhonda Shafner contributed to this report from New York.

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California should keep its $60 million budget commitment to foster care children

Although it received little public fanfare, Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature last year made a life-changing investment in the lives of tens of thousands of California's most vulnerable children.

In the scheme of a nearly $300 billion state budget, it wasn't much – $20 million per year over three years to support Court Appointed Special Advocates. But it was enough to launch a vision for all foster care children in the state who could benefit from the one thing they need above all else: a stable relationship with an adult they can count on.

That's 50,000 kids who have endured a level of neglect or abuse so severe that a judge has been forced to remove them from their parents and declare them wards of the state. Given their circumstances, the odds are against these kids. After they become adults, if current trends hold, nearly half will become homeless within two years. About 1 in 5 will become incarcerated at some point.

The promise of receiving $60 million over three years enabled the California CASA Association to fashion a plan to increase the program's reach by recruiting more volunteers, strengthening the professional staff, and expanding public awareness to inspire additional community philanthropy.

That promising vision to reduce such negative outcomes is now imperiled, at risk of being nipped before it ever has a chance to bloom. Faced with a more challenging budget situation, Newsom has proposed eliminating the remaining two years of the promised appropriation.

Without that funding, California's foster children will be consigned to a status-quo future, one in which only about 16% benefit from having a one-on-one relationship with an adult advocate, a service that has shown uplifting results.

There are 50,000 humanitarian reasons for the state to follow through on its funding commitment. There is also a powerful economic incentive. It would cost about $4,000 per child to provide this care to every foster child. It costs taxpayers more than $35,000 a year in social services for homeless individuals, and more than $100,000 a year to incarcerate someone.

The reason such a modest investment could make such a powerful impact is that there is a legion of committed, carefully screened and highly trained volunteers around the state who serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates. Local CASA programs operate in 51 of California's 58 counties.

The state's 11,000 volunteer advocates are each matched with a child, and they stand by that child during traumatic and challenging times. They are there to listen, encourage and reassure.

They might do homework together or go to a museum. The advocate might be the only adult to attend the child's school concert, or the only adult to understand the child's particular health care or educational needs. The advocate learns the circumstances of each child and recommends to a judge the services the child needs and when it would be safe, and under what conditions, to return the child home.

Our courts and the overburdened professionals in our child welfare systems do what they can to see that these kids are housed, schooled and fed. Without the state's financial support, they can't provide the kind of one-on-one attention that can put them on a path to resiliency and ensure that their best interests are served.

Children who have an advocate are more likely to receive appropriate services, more likely to do well in school, more likely to be psychologically sound, more likely to be adopted rather than shuffled from one temporary placement to another, and more likely to be hopeful about their future.

With the funding received this year and the promise of two more years to come, these organizations fashioned a plan to be able to serve all 50,000 children who could benefit by 2032. Now the state must deliver on its commitment.

Although they are very young, California's foster children have already had quite enough of broken promises.

David Allen is a Court Appointed Special Advocate, or CASA, in Placerville. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GET IT DAILY...

Feinstein returning to Senate after facing resignation calls

MICHAEL R. BLOOD AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

Sen. Dianne Feinstein's office disclosed Tuesday that she is returning to Washington following an absence of more than two months in which the oldest member of Congress faced calls from within her own party to resign.

The 89-year-old California Democrat announced in early March that she had been hospitalized in San Francisco and was being treated for a case of shingles. But an expected return later that month never happened.

Few details emerged on Feinstein's condition, and some Democrats openly complained that her lengthy absence was compromising the Democratic agenda in the Senate, including slowing the push to confirm President Joe Biden's judicial nominees. Some in the House urged her to step down.

Earlier this month, Feinstein said in a statement that "there has been no slowdown."

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer confirmed Feinstein's return in a statement and said he was pleased "my friend Dianne is back in the Senate and ready to roll up her sleeves and get to work."

Feinstein's office said she was traveling and expected to be in Washington Tuesday evening. It wasn't immediately clear when she would appear in the Senate for evening votes.

Feinstein, who took office in 1992, announced earlier this year she would not seek reelection in 2024. The senator has faced questions in recent years about her cognitive health and memory and has appeared increasingly frail, though she has defended her effectiveness.

Last month, facing pressure over her extended absence, Feinstein made the unusual request to be temporarily replaced on the Judiciary Committee. At the time, she said her recovery had been delayed because of complications and provided no date for her return. Republicans in the closely divided chamber rejected the request, saying Democrats only wanted a stand-in to push through Biden's most partisan judicial nominations.

California Rep. Ro Khanna, a progressive, was the first to call for Feinstein to resign, saying in mid-April: "This is a moment of crisis for women's rights and voting rights. It's unacceptable to have Sen. Feinstein miss vote after vote to confirm judges who will uphold reproductive rights."

The politically moderate Feinstein has long had strained relations with the Democratic Party's left wing. A handful of other progressives have also called for her resignation.

But leading national Democrats remained largely silent about her absence. The White House has expressed support for the long-serving senator and wished her a speedy recovery.

Given her age and health problems, Feinstein is likely to face continued questions about her ability to serve.

If Feinstein decides to step down during her term, it would be up to Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom to fill the vacancy, potentially reordering the highly competitive race to succeed her. Newsom said in 2021 that he would nominate a Black woman to fill the seat if Feinstein were to step aside.

The leading candidates include Democratic U.S. Reps. Barbara Lee, Katie Porter and Adam Schiff.

Lee is Black, and becoming the incumbent could be a decisive advantage in the contest, but it's not known if Newsom would consider Lee, given that she is already running for the seat. Porter and Schiff are white.

Feinstein has had a groundbreaking political career and shattered gender barriers from San Francisco's City Hall to the corridors of Capitol Hill.

She was the first woman to serve as president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in the 1970s and the first female mayor of San Francisco. She ascended to that post after the November 1978 assassinations of then-Mayor George Moscone and City Supervisor Harvey Milk by a former supervisor, Dan White. Feinstein found Milk's body.

In the Senate, she was the first woman to head the Senate Intelligence Committee and the first woman to serve as the Judiciary Committee's top Democrat. She gained a reputation as a pragmatic centrist who left a mark on political battles over issues ranging from reproductive rights to environmental protection.

RENT CONTROL

FROM PAGE 1

were 7 percent in 1979 and 6.5 percent in 1980. In comparison, the 2021 adjustment was 1.7 percent and the 2020 adjustment was 1.4 percent.

The increase prompted local officials to propose a new charter amendment that would lower the maximum allowable rental increase to just 3 percent a year regardless of the CPI. That effort became Measure RC and the ballot measure also rolled back the 2022 general adjustment to an average of 3 percent.

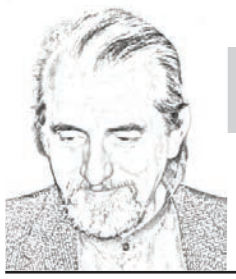
To accomplish the rollback, landlords who had increased rent by 6 percent for the months preceding the election had to reduce rents to a 0.8 increase for the remainder of the year. For example, a $1,000 payment would have increased to $1,060 for the first part of the year before dropping to 1,008 per month for the remainder of the year.

The result was an average increase of three percent for the year and this year's adjustment will be applied to that rate, meaning the increase of 2.8 percent would be applied to an annual rent of $1,030 in the example situation (taking the example rent to $1,059 this year).

This week's discussion will be limited to the formula mandated percentage increase and the Board will debate establishing the dollar cap next month.

The Board will meet on Thursday, May 11 at 7 p.m. in City Hall, 1685 Main Street. Visit https://www.smgov.net/Current_Board_Meetings.aspx for more information.

editor@smdp.com



OPINION **CURIOUS CITY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica is famous



Courtesy photo

COWBOY: Is it getting dark?

ALWAYS HAS BEEN

That's not a news flash. As soon as Los Angeles became a known entity, people discovered there was a charming beach town directly west. Drive, gallop, walk or take a train and when you hit the Pacific Ocean, there's Santa Monica.

We are possibly the best-known small city (under 100,000) in the world if you don't count ones known for an historic event. Bethlehem, Babylon, Auschwitz, Carthage, Gettysburg, Woodstock, Roswell and Los Alamos, maybe Tombstone and Sedona.

When I traveled for a year around Europe and North Africa 11 years ago, in the beginning I answered the question, where are you from in the US?, with "LA," figuring I would have to explain "Santa Monica." I was surprised to soon discover that a lot of people knew of Santa Monica. Quite a few people said they had visited here, or someone in their family had. But of course, give a lot of credit to "Baywatch" reruns. But is that so bad an image? The beach, the blue Pacific, sunshine and palm trees, lots of beautiful people, lifeguards saving lives, stopping crime and having a good time. It fit perfectly with the pictures the Beach Boys painted in song.

The LA Marathon ended here until recently. The 2028 Olympics are coming back, to a temporary beach volleyball stadium to be built just north of the Pier. The world will be watching. I remember as a kid in New Mexico watching Santa Monica shotputter Parry O'Brien crush the competition. He seemed like the biggest, most muscular man I could ever imagine. Charles Atlas, move over. Tarzan, bulk up.

Kevin Love, SM and UCLA, is currently on TV helping the Miami Heat make mincemeat of the NY Knicks (sorry, Spike). Don't forget tennis great Gussie Moran. And two good friends of mine used to compete with Wilt Chamberlain, Daily Press humor columnist Jack Neworth in tennis – he used to beat Wilt easily, but The Stilt wasn't built for that game — and lifelong resident ("never east of 4th Street") Joel Mark in beach volleyball – they were teammates and I wish I could have seen it, Joel at maybe 5'8, Wilt at over 7'.

MUSICIANS? ACTORS? WRITERS?

Too many to list, but Samohi's Alumni Hall of Fame documents a lot. (Good thing it wasn't housed in the HISTORY Building, which the school district unnecessarily demolished.) I just saw that alum Emilio Estevez is re-releasing his powerful film "The Way," where he directed fellow alumni/dad Martin Sheen. (I don't think there is a class to prepare you for that.) I know there were and still are a lot of top musicians living in Ocean Park, my 'hood.

I keep seeing the assertion that 40% of Santa Monicans make their living in the arts, so I think it might be true. Isn't that what we should be known for? We have also been the place that draws spiritual leaders and teachers. Not long after I moved to LA, Siddha yoga master Muktananda established two American beachheads, in NY, and on the Santa Monica beach, where he erected two huge tents and held forth for several weeks. I was fortunate enough to attend one of his weekend programs, and was very glad I had the opportunity.

Rev. Michael Beckwith held small spiritual gatherings in his living room in the early '80s and moved to the basement of the Miramar Hotel for more space. That's when I went with a friend and loved what I heard. My daughter was christened there, by Beckwith and Terry Cole-Whittaker. The congregation kept outgrowing its space and is now in the beautiful Saban Theatre in Beverly Hills. Rev. Beckwith, a tough baller despite being vertically challenged, has risen from that basement to worldwide prominence.

So very much in our rich history to be proud of, but –

WHAT ARE WE KNOWN FOR NOW?

You know the sad litany. Mentally ill homeless on the streets, a disproportionately large population, with nowhere good to go, committing crimes and making a walk down the street a gamble for residents. Business owner John Alle has been a vocal critic of city leaders, saying they need to do much more, and spearheaded hanging a huge banner on the Promenade that reads, "Santa Monica is Not Safe." It's hard to refute that, but the banner has been carried on news programs across the globe and become well-known and infamous. It does damage to our image, and will be hard to live down.

So many complex problems. Not enough police but no money, largely because of more than $200,000,000 in legal judgments over a city employee who sexually abused hundreds, over 10 years, then committed suicide. Will that be the legacy that Santa Monica is known for?

That is horrible, of course, but our City government has been known for spending our money foolishly for decades, from the bus "bench" fiasco to an office annex that was so "green" it cost $50M more than it needed to.

I hear it all the time, I get emails, I read social media. People here are fed up, angry and almost hopeless. They are moving out, from their beloved town, because they just can't take it any more. This is/was a very special place, and its treasures have been systematically plundered for the greed of a few.

Yes, some small progress is being made, in the face of great odds and resistance. The last City Council election was two steps backwards. There is a lot of money on the table here, folks. And the folks in Sacramento are a big problem, but the bigger one is City Councils who have offered no resistance when they should be organizing and fighting the conjunction of money and politics.

I'm just a simple cowboy scribe from New Mexico but this is my home now, nearly 40 years, and I know when the sun is setting, and I'm being taken for a ride. I'm also an optimist, that it is never too late. But as Dylan wrote recently, "it's not dark yet, but it's getting there."

When COVID hit and so much changed overnight, I knew, and I wrote, that we must re-emerge with radically different ways of doing things. It was a wakeup call, that politicians have ignored. Now we must do that job for them. We can create a brave new world or watch the darkness take over. I will be working until that last light disappears.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 37 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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Danielle Schlosser, PhD
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Kristen Choi, PhD, RN, FAAN
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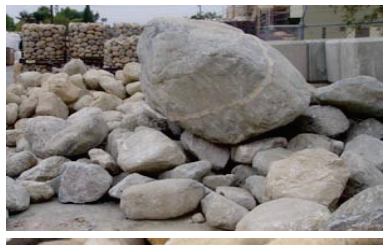





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Jury finds Trump liable for sexual abuse, awards accuser $5M

LARRY NEUMEISTER, JENNIFER PELTZ AND MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

A jury found Donald Trump liable Tuesday for sexually abusing advice columnist E. Jean Carroll in 1996, awarding her $5 million in a judgment that could haunt the former president as he campaigns to regain the White House.

The verdict was split: Jurors rejected Carroll's claim that she was raped, finding Trump responsible for a lesser degree of sexual abuse. The judgment adds to Trump's legal woes and offers vindication to Carroll, whose allegations had been mocked and dismissed by Trump for years.

She nodded as the verdict was announced in a New York City federal courtroom only three hours after deliberations had begun, then hugged supporters and smiled through tears. As the courtroom cleared, Carroll could be heard laughing and crying.

Jurors also found Trump liable for defaming Carroll over her allegations. Trump did not attend the civil trial and was absent when the verdict was read.

Trump immediately lashed out on his social media site, claiming that he does not know Carroll and referring to the verdict as "a disgrace" and "a continuation of the greatest witch hunt of all time." He promised to appeal.

Trump's lawyer, Joseph Tacopina, shook hands with Carroll and hugged her lawyer, Roberta Kaplan, after the verdict was announced. Outside the courthouse, he told reporters the jury's rejection of the rape claim while finding Trump responsible for sexual abuse was "perplexing" and "strange."

"Part of me was obviously very happy that Donald Trump was not branded a rapist," he said.

He defended Trump's absence, citing the trial's "circus atmosphere." He said having Trump there "would be more of a circus."

Tacopina added: "What more can you say other than 'I didn't do it'?"

In a written statement, Kaplan said the verdict proved nobody is above the law, "not even the president of the United States."

Carroll, in her own statement, said she sued Trump to "clear my name and to get my life back. Today, the world finally knows the truth. This victory is not just for me but for every woman who has suffered because she was not believed."

It was unclear what, if any, implications the verdict would have on Trump's third presidential bid. He's in a commanding position among GOP contenders and has faced few political consequences in the wake of previous controversies, ranging from the vulgar "Access Hollywood" tape to his New York criminal indictment.

His GOP rivals were mostly silent after the verdict, a sign of their reluctance to cross Trump supporters who are critical to winning the presidential nomination. Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, one of the few vocal Trump critics in the race, said the verdict was "another example of the indefensible behavior of Donald Trump."

Carroll was one of more than a dozen women who have accused Trump of sexual assault or harassment. She went public in a 2019 memoir with her allegation that the Republican raped her in the dressing room of a posh Manhattan department store.

Trump, 76, denied it, saying he never encountered Carroll at the store and did not know her. He has called her a "nut job" who invented "a fraudulent and false story" to sell a memoir.

Carroll, 79, sought unspecified damages, plus a retraction of what she said were Trump's defamatory denials of her claims.

The trial revisited the lightning-rod topic of Trump's conduct toward women.

Carroll gave multiple days of frank, occasionally emotional testimony, buttressed by two friends who testified that she reported the alleged attack to them soon afterward.

Jurors also heard from Jessica Leeds, a former stockbroker who testified that Trump abruptly groped her against her will on an airline flight in the 1970s, and from Natasha Stoynoff, a writer who said Trump forcibly kissed her against her will while she was interviewing him for a 2005 article.

The six-man, three-woman jury also saw the well-known 2005 "Access Hollywood" hot-mic recording of Trump talking about kissing and grabbing women without asking.

The Associated Press typically does not name people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they come forward publicly, as Carroll, Leeds and Stoynoff have done.

The verdict comes as Trump faces an accelerating swirl of legal risks.

He's fighting a New York criminal case related to hush money payments made to a porn actor. The state attorney general has sued him, his family and his business over alleged financial wrongdoing.

Trump is also contending with investigations into his possible mishandling of classified documents, his actions after the 2020 election and his activities during the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Trump denies wrongdoing in all of those matters.

Carroll, who penned an Elle magazine advice column for 27 years, has also written for magazines and "Saturday Night Live." She and Trump were in social circles that overlapped at a 1987 party, where a photo documented them and their then-spouses interacting. Trump has said he doesn't remember it.

According to Carroll, she ended up in a dressing room with Trump after they ran into each other at Bergdorf Goodman on an unspecified Thursday evening in spring 1996.

They took an impromptu jaunt to the lingerie department so he could search for a women's gift and soon were teasing each other about trying on a skimpy bodysuit, Carroll testified. To her, it seemed like comedy, something like her 1986 "Saturday Night Live" sketch in which a man admires himself in a mirror.

But then, she said, Trump slammed the door, pinned her against a wall, planted his mouth on hers, yanked her tights down and raped her as she tried to break away. Carroll said she ultimately pushed him off with her knee and immediately left the store.

"I always think back to why I walked in there to get myself in that situation," she testified, her voice breaking, "but I'm proud

SEE **TRUMP** PAGE 8

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

SMC Student Film "Azizam" Accepted into The American Pavilion at Cannes's "Student Short Films" Category

"Azizam" — a Santa Monica College (SMC) student film—has been accepted into The American Pavilion Emerging Student Showcase during the 2023 Cannes Film Festival. The showcase runs May 20-27, 2023. "Azizam" will screen in the "Student Short Films" category; Santa Monica College is the only community college in this category, alongside student films from USC and UCLA.

"Azizam" is SMC's eighth student film to be accepted into the showcase (SMC's 2021 entry, "Broken Layers", won Best Short). Written and directed by SMC student Alci Rengifo and produced by Jose Gutierrez and Katia Arami, "Azizam" is set in 1971 Iran. Two young students from opposite ends of society meet by the sea in a time where revolution hangs in the air. Bijan (Shahrooz Mahmoodi), the son of aristocrats close to the Shah's regime, prepares to leave for college and feels the pressures of a future already decided by his powerful father. He meets Layla (Rana Ghiassi), a girl from the "wrong side of Tehran", who forces him to question everything. Their bond will challenge class and social divisions in a world soon to disappear.

"When we began making Azizam the challenge was to tell this story in a way where we could prove the power of film to erase artificial boundaries," said Alci Rengifo. "Although I am Latino, I grew up hearing about the Iranian Revolution through my mother, a Salvadoran immigrant who met Iranian students about to participate in the revolution when she moved to the United States in the 1970s. My hope was to challenge how that particular era tends to be seen purely from a western perspective in mass media."

Rengifo further stated that "Azizam" was filmed before the current, women-led uprising in Iran, "so it is also stirring to see history catch up with our film." "'Azizam' is about how history is a human experience and how the past is mere prologue. In that spirit, I want to express support for the Iranian people's ongoing struggle and its powerful slogan of 'Woman Life Freedom,'" he added.

In addition to Mahmoodi and Ghiassi, "Azizam" stars Zina Torab, Afshin Katanchi, Nakta Pahlevan, Ali Azizian, and Wayne Hodges. Other credits include SMC film production faculty lead Salvador Carrasco as executive producer; Vishal Solanki, cinematographer; Joelle Brianne Graham, editor; Valeria Zuniga, production design. Students from Prof. Carrasco's SMC Film Production classes acted as crew members. The original soundtrack was by Juan-Salvador Carrasco and Kazumo Asai, recorded by Astral Mixtape. 'Azizam' was filmed at Corona Del Mar State Beach, found after a long search for a locale that could emulate certain coastal areas of Iran.



Courtesy Image

MOVIE: "Azizam"—a Santa Monica College (SMC) student film—has been accepted into The American Pavilion Emerging Student Showcase during the 2023 Cannes Film Festival. The showcase runs May 20-27, 2023. Azizam will screen in the "Student Short Films" category; Santa Monica College is the only community college represented in this category, alongside student films from USC and UCLA.

"'Azizam' is the quintessential example of the "global citizenship" approach to filmmaking that we embrace at the SMC Film Production Program," said Salvador Carrasco. "The film was written and directed by a half-Salvadoran, half-Colombian student who immersed himself in the specificity and complexities of Persian culture ('Azizam' takes place in 1971 Iran and is spoken in Farsi) and, with the collaboration of a talented cast and crew, managed to achieve a powerful cinematic story that transcends borders and achieves a truly universal dimension."

SMC student films have won numerous accolades—including production grants from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) and the Russo Brothers Italian American Film Forum, co-production sponsorships from Keslow Camera, Roundabout Entertainment, Enhanced Media, and the Next Generation Indie Film Awards Foundation; the Panavision Limelight Award at the Ojai Film Festival; Best Short at the Vienna Independent Film Festival, Palm Award at the Mexico International Film Festival, several Gold Remi Awards at WorldFest-Houston, Best Short at Port Blair International Film Festival in India, Best Short Drama at the San Diego International Film Festival; Best Short at the Prague Independent Film Festival; Prix Interculturel at the International Festival of Film Schools in Munich; and Winner at the Women's Independent Film Festival, among many other awards. In addition, SMC short films have been selected to screen in many other prestigious domestic and international film festivals.

Several films that have played at The American Pavilion Emerging Filmmaker Showcase have gone on to be shortlisted for Academy Award nominations. For more information on The American Pavilion at Cannes, visit www.ampav.com.

SMC offers an Associate of Science degree and Certificate of Achievement in Film Production. To learn more, visit www.smc.edu/filmproduction or email Carrasco_Salvador@smc.edu. The film program—as well as the films that come out of it— is on YouTube as the "Santa Monica College Film Program" channel.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH



FENTANYL SALE

FROM PAGE 1

Ramon Batista joined law enforcement representatives from six counties who coordinated with the Drug Enforcement Administration on a series of arrests around the region related to fentanyl crimes.

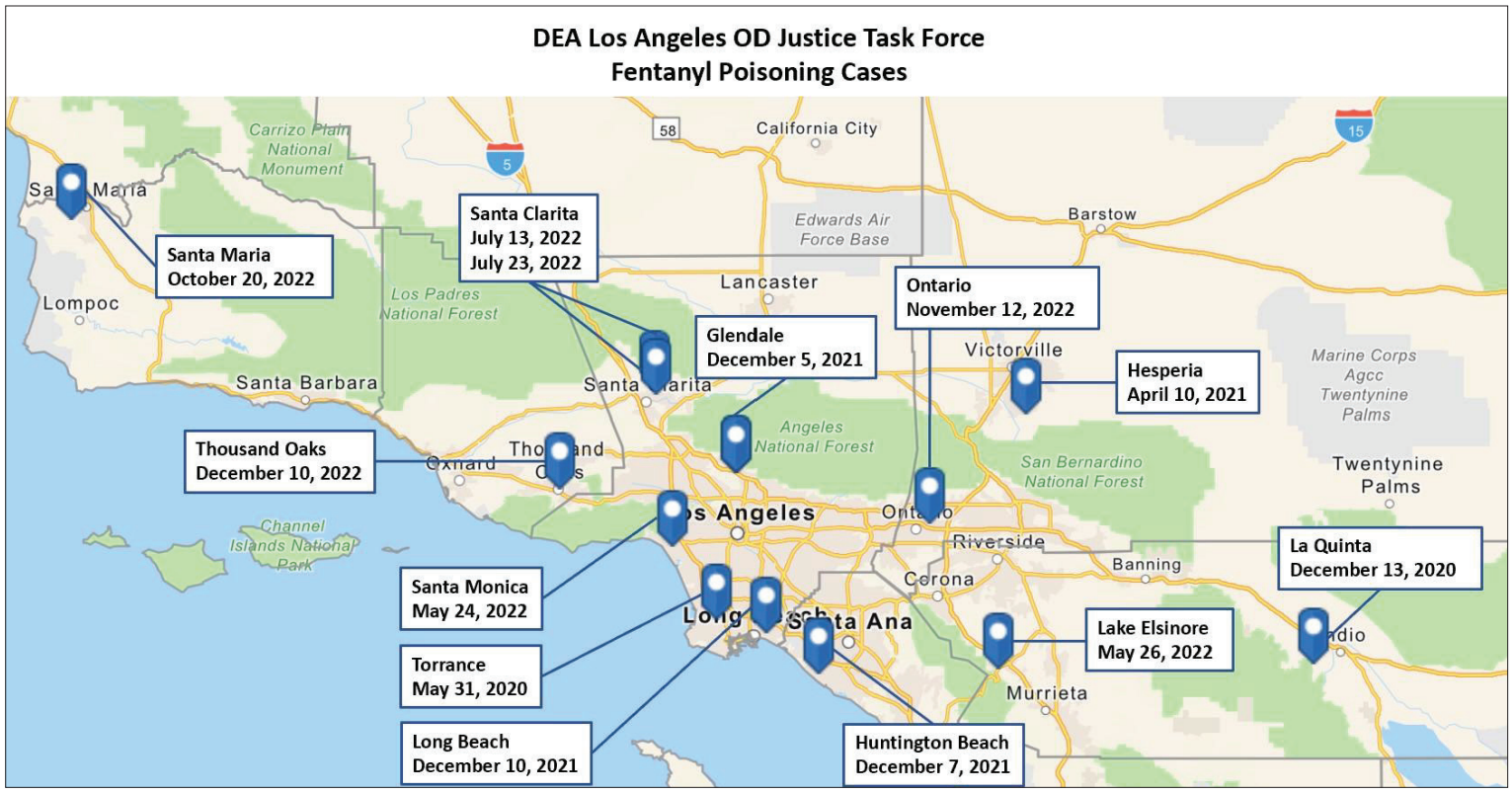
Of the 12 cases highlighted, the Santa Monica incident was the only one not resulting in death. Most other suspects are all being charged with distribution and/or possession of fentanyl resulting in death but one is alleged to have operated a large fentanyl sale network online.

Rajiv Srinivasan, 37, of Houston, has agreed to plead guilty to distribution of fentanyl resulting in death and conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute controlled substances, acknowledging that his drug trafficking activities caused at least three deaths.

Srinivasan admitted in the plea agreement that over approximately nine months in 2022, he and his co-defendant "engaged in at least 3,800 drug transactions with approximately 1,500 customers across the country, selling at least 123,688 pills resembling M30 pills which in fact contained fentanyl," in addition to approximately 20 pounds of methamphetamine and lesser quantities of fentanyl powder, black tar heroin, and cocaine.

"Drug traffickers operating on the darknet use encrypted communications and decentralized currency in an attempt to conceal their illicit trade, but the joint efforts announced today are evidence that their perceived anonymity is a myth," said Donald Alway, the Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office. "We will continue to use every tool at our disposal to identify drug trafficking on the darknet, including sales of pills pressed with fentanyl, a poisonous ingredient that's led to an unprecedented number of deaths in the United States each year."

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that, according to the CDC, is up to 50 times as potent as heroin and a major contributor to fatal and non-fatal overdoses across the nation. It is colorless and odorless and can be deadly in quantities as small as a few grains of sand. Many people who overdose on fentanyl unknowingly ingest it laced in pills or powders.



Courtesy Image

ARREST: Law enforcement officers announced 12 arrests in fentanyl-related cases.

Santa Monica teenager Sammy Berman Chapman died in February 2021 after ingesting a fentanyl-laced pill he purchased from a dealer on Snapchat and mistakenly believed to be Xanax.

Berman's parents have since become strong advocates for parents who want to stop social media sites from facilitating drug sales.

The couple, prominent TV therapist Dr. Laura Berman and her husband Samuel Chapman, also launched a new awareness campaign yesterday.

"Drug dealers are using social media to target kids and social media companies are doing nothing to stop it," says Mr. Chapman in a video.

The couple are supporting passage of a proposed bill in Sacramento that would hold social media companies accountable for the sale of drugs on their platform.

SB 287 by Berkeley State Senator Nancy Skinner, permits the California Attorney General, District Attorneys, and some city attorneys to hold social media platforms accountable for when they either knowingly or negligently cause children to buy controlled substances, die by suicide, develop eating disorders, or become medically addicted to the platform. It is broadly supported by medical associations, children's advocacy groups, parents, and kids and is opposed by Big Tech trade group TechNet and the Chamber of Commerce.

While the Chapman's work was not tied directly to the arrests, law enforcement officials echoed their critiques of online drug sales.

"The two main drivers that are causing fentanyl related deaths in our community and throughout the nation are accessibility and deception," said DEA Los Angeles Special Agent in Charge Bill Bodner. "Social media platforms have made fentanyl widely available to anyone with a smartphone and made every neighborhood an open-air drug market. The deceptive marketing tactics used by the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels have created a vast pool of victims who unknowingly ingested fentanyl and did not make a choice to be harmed or die. Through the DEA Overdose Justice Task Force we continue to send a strong message to individuals who engage in drug trafficking resulting in death or great bodily injury that selling even one fentanyl pill will have significant consequences in the federal criminal justice system."

The 12 new cases announced this week are a result of the ongoing efforts of the Overdose Justice Task Force, a DEA-led project designed to investigate fatal fentanyl poisonings and identify the individuals who provided the fentanyl that directly caused the deaths. Since the project's launch in 2018, and including the cases announced today, the United States Attorney's Office has filed charges against 64 defendants who allegedly sold drugs that resulted in a fatal fentanyl poisoning.

editor@smdp.com

Classifieds

Help Wanted

Vice President, Investment Team - Santa Monica, CA. Source and execute private equity investments. Provide analytical,strategic and project mgmt support to the co's portfolio companies and investment partners. Originate, prioritize, analyze, evaluate, and underwrite new investment opportunities. Evaluate new investment proposals. Prep investmentpresentations, fin'l models and asset mgmt plans alongside deal teams and present to investment committees w/ seniorteam members. Reqs Bach's deg or foreign equiv in Finance, Economics, or a related field, plus at least 2 yrs of work expat a private equity firm, analyzing and supporting private equity transactions and assisting in the mgmt of portfoliocompanies. The base annual salary for this position is $200,000/yr. Mail or email cover and resume to Annie Chau, ChiefOperating and Compliance Officer (info@angelesequity.com), Attention: Code AEPVP22, Angeles Equity Partners, LLC,2425 Olympic Blvd, Ste 660E, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

TRUMP

FROM PAGE 6

to say I did get out."

She never called police or noted it in her diary. Carroll said she kept silent for fear Trump would retaliate, out of shame and because she worried that people would see her as somewhat responsible for being attacked.

The jury awarded Carroll $2 million for Trump's sexual abuse and $20,000 in punitive damages. For defamation, jurors awarded $1 million for Trump's October statement, another $1.7 million for harm to Carroll's reputation and $280,000 in punitive damages.

Tacopina told jurors Carroll invented her claims after hearing about a 2012 "Law and Order" episode in which a woman is raped in the dressing room of the lingerie section of a Bergdorf Goodman store.

Carroll "cannot produce any objective evidence to back up her claim because it didn't happen," he told jurors. He accused her of "advancing a false claim of rape for money, for political reasons and for status."

In questioning Carroll, he sought to cast doubt on her description of fighting off the far heavier Trump without dropping her handbag or ripping her tights, and without anyone around to hear or see them in the lingerie section.

The lawyer pressed her about — by her own account — not screaming, looking for help while fleeing the store or seeking out medical attention, security video or police.

Carroll reproached him.

"I'm telling you he raped me, whether I screamed or not," she said.

There's no possibility of Trump being charged with attacking Carroll, as the legal time limit has long since passed.

For similar reasons, she initially filed her civil case as a defamation lawsuit, saying Trump's derogatory denials had subjected her to hatred, shredded her reputation and harmed her career.

Then, starting last fall, New York state gave people a chance to sue over sexual assault allegations that would otherwise be too old. Carroll was one of the first to file.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 10)

This is the beginning of a meaningful build. Your ability to elicit and apply excellent feedback will net you brilliant results. You'll make things people need, and they'll become happy, praiseful customers of yours. You'll soak up the love and radiate it, too. More highlights: VIP tickets, natural wonders and the resolution you've waited for. Sagittarius and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 3, 7, 19 and 32.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Relationships knit together with shared experiences, not a shared point of view. Each has a different version of the story, and it will be fun to listen, compare and contrast them all.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're in charge of your own agenda. Don't drive yourself too hard. You'll be more productive when you make a loose plan and give yourself the flexibility that comes from a long list of options.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The reason you get to be in your current position is because you've earned it. So, while you feel lucky, don't forget the hard work that was essential to your journey. There's more of that ahead.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you can't think of what to say, don't worry. Silence is golden, especially when it's infused with the simple intention to honor the other person. Timing, intuition and kismet are working in your favor.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You will become more powerful, but not through sources outside yourself. For this reason, it makes no sense to seek power, only to grow it. Let go of unnecessary baggage, plug energy drains and committing to training.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Check in with yourself about the dynamics of a relationship. Is there balance? Is anyone on a pedestal? Bring it all back down to earth. Healthy relationships are like art — you have to draw the line someplace.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll deal in gray areas. Instead of thinking in terms of wrong and right, consider what ideas are helpful or not. Mentally untie yourself from ideas that aren't useful. What you thought was inevitable is actually just one possibility.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Love is knowing specifically what makes a person special. You take the time to know precisely what makes a person unique. To recognize those qualities when it matters is among the greatest gifts you could give.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You will feel inspired to toss out a regret. Pretend it's a smooth, flat stone you can skip across the still waters of reason. Watch it sink and let the ripples circle out to reassure you that your load is lighter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's beautiful how you appreciate other people's accomplishments. Can you apply the same enthusiasm to self-appreciation? You'll get where you want to go by being able to encourage yourself when it matters.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Battling your fear takes too much energy. Befriend it instead. Thank your fear for keeping you safe, heightening your perception and helping you correct your course when necessary. Once acknowledged, fear typically calms down.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're in the mood to be more social. Activities you typically take on solo will be made sweeter with the right company. Doings like reading, entertainment and exercise will take on new dimensions with the added insight of interesting people.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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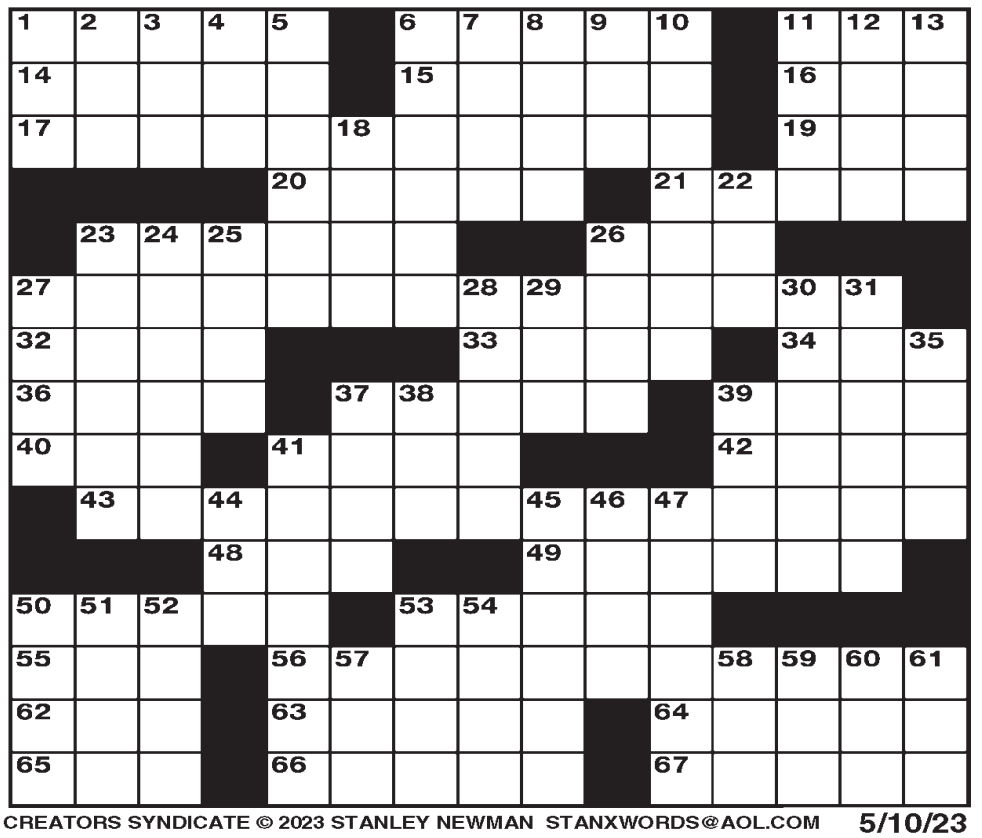
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			3					
5	6			1		3		

Newsday Crossword

CLOSURES by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Pet canine, informally
6 Ziti or spaghetti
11 Reward for good service
14 Because of
15 Petroleum-hauling ship
16 Verse of tribute
17 Team's starting players
19 Doctor's charge
20 Breakfast bread
21 Conventional
23 Strong and fit
26 Golf peg
27 Group of social media posts
32 Low denomination bills
33 Long-handled weed removers
34 Wide shoe width
36 Drapery holders
37 Hit the roof
39 Pride parade letters
40 Deg. for a curator
41 "No problems here!"
42 Prefix for space or dynamic
43 Many a fast food enterprise
48 Donkey
49 Adds decorations to
50 Hardly hefty
53 More elegant
55 Letters before an alias
56 Start of a play
62 Room with a recliner
63 Treasure holder
64 Tiny amounts
65 Droop a bit
66 Pet feline, informally
67 Where buses are boarded

DOWN
1 Sharable print file format
2 Yes, in Paris
3 Above, in poetry
4 Dollar fractions: Abbr.
5 Spa near a pool
6 Beef stew ingredient
7 Broadcasts
8 Narrow cut
9 Morning coffee break time
10 Debating team members
11 Soybean product in soup
12 Creative notion
13 Banana discard
18 Just adequate
22 Lay eyes on
23 Hurried away
24 "Woody" broom brand
25 Nickname akin to Liz
26 "With this ring I __ wed"
27 Document to fill out
28 Military uniform color
29 Blouse or shirt
30 Sea bordering Greece
31 Demolition rubble
35 British prep school
37 Some pickup trucks
38 Fireworks display reaction
39 Cowardly Lion portrayer
41 Available at a store
44 "Open wide" word
45 Soundness of mind
46 Genesis paradise
47 Wagging tails from Wales
50 Young fellows
51 Build-it-yourself furniture store
52 Bunch of pals
53 What shoes surround
54 Technical school: Abbr.
57 __ Beta Kappa
58 Plot to park in
59 "What was __ think?"
60 Short snooze
61 Twisty letter

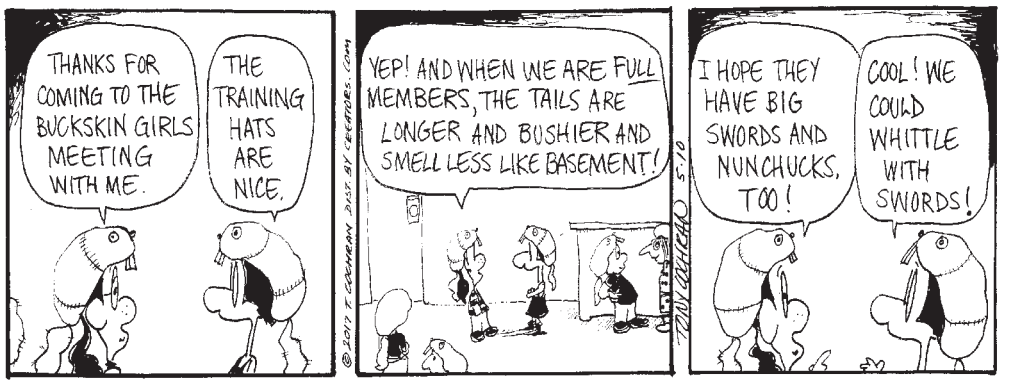


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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



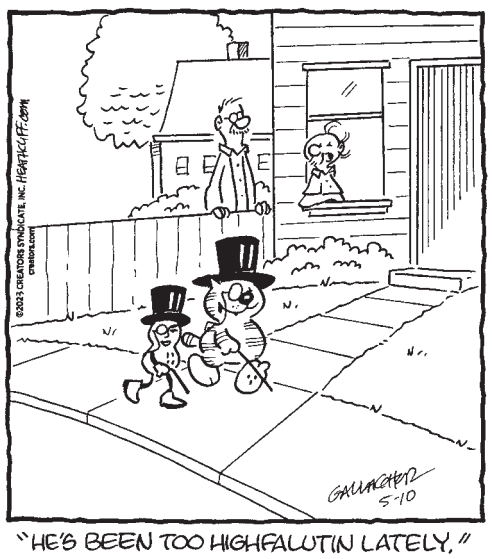
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

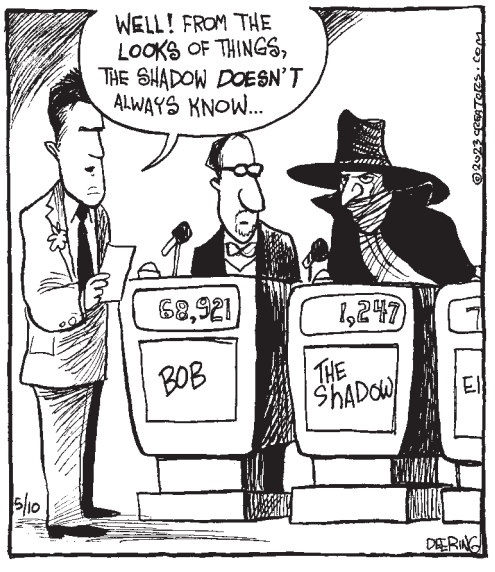
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S BEEN TOO HIGHFALUTIN LATELY."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 31 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 5840

Grafton's glory

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

Architecture
Arts
Bridges
Cane field
Clarenza
Colour
Dairy
Drought
Gallery
Gardens
Gwydir
Heat
Highway
Hospitality
Hotels
Houseboat
Junction Hill
Koolkhan
Nymboida
Parks
Princess
River
Rural
Southampton
Street
Trails
Ulmarra
Vast
Welcome

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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

WEDNESDAY | MAY 10

CLEAN BEACHES COMMITTEE MEETING

The mission of the Clean Beaches & Ocean Parcel Tax Citizens Oversight Committee is to uphold the mission of the City of Santa Monica Watershed Management Plan: to restore a healthier balance between the urban environment and the natural ecosystem, including the Santa Monica Bay, by reducing the pollution in urban runoff, reducing urban flooding, and increasing water conservation, recreation opportunities, open space, and wildlife and marine habitat. The Citizens Oversight Committee consists of five (5) residents of the City of Santa Monica. The Committee meets quarterly at 6:30 P.M. at the Civic Center Parking Structure, 330 Olympic Drive, 2nd floor Santa Monica Institute (SMI) Room, Santa Monica, California.

THURSDAY | MAY 11

ROCK N COMEDY NIGHT

8:30 at the door 9:00pm show starts. Comedians from Netflix, BET, Prime etc. Hosted by Reid Clark. raffles, prizes and giveaways. Rock N Pies 1120 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA

FRIDAY | MAY 12

SMC OPERA THEATRE PRESENTS: ELIXIR OF LOVE BY GAETANO DONIZETTI

Janelle DeStefano and Mercedes Juan Musotto, Directors. SMC Opera Theatre joins forces with the SMC Symphony Orchestra to present a fully staged production of L'elisir d'amore, Donizetti's delightful comedy about a young man who buys an "Elixir of Love" from a traveling salesman to try to win the heart of his girl before she marries someone else. SMC Performing Arts Center The Broad Stage

SATURDAY | MAY 13

BEACH WALK & SKETCH

Guided by a naturalist, join others in this peaceful pursuit to sketch our beautiful coastline. We'll provide the binoculars, drawing boards, pencils, and newsprint, or bring your own easy-to-carry sketching tools. Annenberg Community Beach House 415 Pacific Coast Highway. Santa Monica, CA 90402 https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beach-walk-sketch-tickets-586017583367

ART AT THE AIRPORT

Art At The Airport is a monthly series of open studios that provides a rare glimpse into over 20 professional artist studios as well as the opportunity to buy art directly from the artists. 18th Street Arts Center Airport Center 3026 Airport Ave. Santa Monica, 90405

SUNDAY | MAY 14

BREATH OF THE DIVINE MOTHER

Join us in celebration and healing of divine motherhood through the breath. There are many ways to relate to the Divine Mother, be she your actual physical mother, your chosen mother, the mother who chose you, the internal mother or someone beyond the confines of traditional motherhood. They are all accessible at this level of consciousness reached in our breath practice. IntoMeSea, 1812 Lincoln Blvd. Santa Monica, 90404

KIKI YEUNG PRESENTS CRAZY WOKE ASIANS KUNG POW FESTIVAL IN SANTA MONICA!

Kiki Yeung & Santa Monica Playhouse Present 2nd Annual Crazy Woke Asians Kung Pow Festival! One Night! 3 Stages! Celebrate Asian Heritage Month! 30+ Asian American comedians! Fundraiser for Seniors Fight Back and Chinatown Service Center. Event Partner Rising Filipinas. Comedians, as seen on Netflix, Hulu, ABC, HBO/Max, Comedy Central, Netflix is a Joke Festival, Laugh Factory, and more! Santa Monica Playhouse: 1211 Fourth St, Santa Monica, CA 90401 https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kiki-yeung-presents-crazy-woke-asians-kung-pow-festival-in-santa-monica-tickets-582545167277

MONDAY | MAY 15

LIGHTING OF HISTORIC CITY HALL

City Hall will be illuminated in red, gold, blue, and green lights representing colors common in themes across Asian and Pacific Islander cultures to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month. 12:00 am Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street Santa Monica, CA, California 90401

TUESDAY | MAY 16

HOLLYWOOD TO FINE ART: SCREENING & PANEL DISCUSSION WITH 5 ARTISTS

Santa Monica Art Museum (SMAM) hosts a one-night-only screening and panel discussion on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, with five exhibiting artists about their backgrounds working in film, television, music, advertising, and their current photographic work on view at the museum. Santa Monica Art Museum _SMAM_ 1219 3rd Street Promenade Santa Monica, CA 90401 https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hollywood-to-fine-art-screening-panel-discussion-with-5-artists-tickets-627443980837

WEDNESDAY | MAY 17

FUTURE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

We all have ideas, so the city is holding three Ideas Exchange events in May. They're part of an initiative called Future of Behavioral Health to address the causes and consequences of mental health and substance use disorder-related issues. Denver-based Initium Health is organizing the sessions and helping the city envision future steps to serve those in crisis and impacted community members. Hear best practices from national leaders and share the solutions you'd like to see. Annenberg Community Beach House

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **60.4**

WEDNESDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:**	2-3ft Thigh to waist	Some uncertainty on wind but it does look ok at this point and AM conditions decent/clean - maybe some leftover crumble/lumpiness. Surf will gradually rebuild as new, long period SSW to S swell builds.
THURSDAY *FAIR TO GOOD*	**SURF:**	4-6ft Chest to overhead	Wind looks ok in the morning and surf will be on the rise as new SSW swell builds to a peak in the PM. Not much NW running so beachbreaks pretty walled up.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 64. West northwest wind 5 to 15 mph.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 55. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. East wind 5 to 15 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 55.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/05/10	Wed	12:17 AM	5.53	H
2023/05/10	Wed	08:20 AM	-0.65	L
2023/05/10	Wed	3:55 PM	3.15	H
2023/05/10	Wed	6:46 PM	2.92	L
2023/05/11	Thu	01:25 AM	5.10	H
2023/05/11	Thu	09:33 AM	-0.49	L
2023/05/11	Thu	5:07 PM	3.48	H
2023/05/11	Thu	8:52 PM	3.01	L
2023/05/12	Fri	02:53 AM	4.68	H
2023/05/12	Fri	10:42 AM	-0.38	L
2023/05/12	Fri	5:52 PM	3.93	H
2023/05/12	Fri	10:58 PM	2.58	L
2023/05/13	Sat	04:27 AM	4.42	H
2023/05/13	Sat	11:37 AM	-0.26	L
2023/05/13	Sat	6:28 PM	4.43	H
2023/05/14	Sun	12:15 AM	1.83	L
2023/05/14	Sun	05:48 AM	4.30	H
2023/05/14	Sun	12:23 PM	-0.05	L

DAILY LOTTERY

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/8
15 20 33 36 43
Power#: 12
Jackpot: 109 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/5
16 18 28 42 43
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 83 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/6
7 17 21 29 42
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 57 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/8
10 11 21 29 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/8
EVENING: 9 2 6

Draw Date: 5/8
MIDDAY: 6 3 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/8
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:46.63

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