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Volume 18 Issue 24

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USC study links social media to scooter safety

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Bird encourages its riders to wear helmets, but the company's Instagram tells a different story.

Just six percent of Bird's posts on Instagram featured people wearing helmets or other protective gear, according to a new University of Southern California study. Researchers analyzed the 324 posts on Bird's Instagram account published between Sept. 22, 2017 and Nov. 9, 2018. Bird has about 69,000 Instagram followers.

The company offers free helmets to any rider who requests one and its in-app tutorial emphasizes the need to wear a helmet. That message is not reinforced on social media, which is perhaps the most influential source of information for young riders, said Jon-Patrick Allem, an assistant professor of research at the Keck School of Medicine of USC who co-authored the study.

"People learn behaviors by looking at what their peers are doing," Allem said. "It endorses that it's okay to ride without a helmet and use these scooters without safety in mind."

Allem said Bird's views on safety have not been short-sighted. Rather, he believes the company has focused too much on a long-term vision.

"When I talked to Bird, their position is that cultural shifts will occur that will make society and

SEE **USC** PAGE 4







MENORAH

Courtesy photos

Thousands gathered in center court of the third street promenade for a grand Menorah lighting and concert on Saturday night December 8. The Shamash (leader candle) was lit by mayor Ted Winterer. Rabbi Isaac Levitansky, recited the traditional Havdala prayer for all those gathered, and Rabbi Eli Levitansky, Chabad of SMC, spoke about the significance of the seventh light of Chanukah. After the seven candles of the Menorah were lit, the crowd enjoyed a two hour concert by the world famous 8th day band, as well as hot chocolate, hot latkes, and crafts for the kids. The event was hosted by Chabad in S. Monica. For more information, please visit Jewishsmonica.com or call 310-453-3011.

California inferno gives rise to family-reuniting 'Angels'

JOCELYN GECKER
Associated Press

They have become known as the Angels of Paradise. But there is nothing ethereal about them.

They are online sleuths who know how to find people, and they have been putting their skills to use in the aftermath of California's catastrophic wildfire.

In the dark days that followed the Nov. 8 inferno, the deadliest in California history, social media filled with posts from people trying to contact loved ones from the Paradise area.

Panic spread as the magnitude of destruction came into focus: At least 85 dead. Nearly 14,000 homes destroyed. From across the U.S., people posted names of aunts, uncles, foster parents, distant relatives and long-lost friends or acquaintances and asked, "Does anyone know if they are safe?"

Nancy Collins knew she could help. A mother of two and a 911 dispatcher, Collins volunteers as a "search angel," someone who helps adoptees find their biological parents. She knows her way around public records and how to track people down.

She offered her services to the administrator of a newly created Facebook page, "Camp Fire Missing Persons, Paradise CA," after noticing panicked posts were piling up.

"I said, 'I have a bunch of genealogy friends, and we can help," said Collins, who lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and formed a team of eight "angels" from around the country and one in Canada, all of whom volunteer with a group called Search Squad . "The rest was history."

Working on laptops from their

SEE **ANGELS** PAGE 7

Fairmont workers preparing for strike

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Workers at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows may strike as early as Wednesday over demands for their new contract, which include increasing their pay to $25 per hour by 2022.

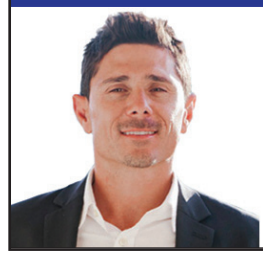
If Unite Here Local 11, a union that represents hospitality workers, calls them to strike, Fairmont workers will join employees of dozens of hotels across Los Angeles and Orange County in demanding healthcare for part-time workers, $1,000-per-month pensions, panic buttons workers can use if they experience sexual violence while working alone in hotel rooms and stronger protections for immigrants.

The union's contract expired on Nov. 30 and since Aug. 20, it has been negotiating a new contract that will last four years. 96 percent of the union's members voted to strike, and it will stage actions at hotels in Beverly Hills, Downtown Los Angeles and Orange County on Wednesday in conjunction with the Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

While the union is not planning an action at the Fairmont, spokesperson Andrew Cohen said workers there

SEE **FAIRMONT** PAGE 6


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Dec. 11

Reading/concert/live painting - Catherine Coan and Friends

Beach House Writer-in-Residence Catherine Coan's culminating event features a reading from her new collection of poetry, accompanied by live painting from Bert Esenherz and music by Stephen Rowe and the Lonely Loners. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting of the Santa Monica City Council. City Hall, 1685 Main St. 5:30 p.m.

Cursive Kids Club

Come join librarians Amy and Ingha for after-school fun with the Cursive Kids Club! Learn creative ways to form and write cursive letters, even if you never wrote cursive before. Make artsy and unique letters using glue, cake icing tubes, and more neat materials to write and create your own special handwriting style. All materials provided. For grades 3-5. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 12

Montana Mystery Book Group: The Dry

Receiving a sinister anonymous note after his best friend's suspicious death, federal agent Aaron Falk is forced to confront the fallout of a 20-year-old false alibi against a backdrop of the worst drought Melbourne has seen in a century. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Mindful Meditation

Instructor Henry Schipper, graduate of UCLA's Mindful Awareness program, teaches the basics of Mindful meditation. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main, 7 - 8 p.m.

Holiday Pajama Storytime

Kids can wear PJs and bring your favorite stuffed animal to get cozy with holiday stories. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main, 6:30 - 7 p.m.

Cocoa & Canvas

Just for teens! Sip hot cocoa while you create your own masterpiece with PAINT:LAB. Limited space; registration required. Sign-up in person or call (310) 458-8682. For grades 6-12. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Movie screen of Climate Warriors

Climate Warriors is a unique cinematic documentary that motivates everybody to become part of the climate warrior movement. A Panel discussion moderated by Bronwyn Major, Community Organizer, Surfer, Activist will take place after the film. Aero Theater, 1328 Montana Ave. 7 p.m. Please reserve your seats at https://climatewarriorsscreening.eventbrite.com.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Church says nuns embezzled from school to cover Vegas trips

Two nuns who worked for decades at a Catholic school in California embezzled a "substantial" amount of money from tuition and other funds and used it to pay for gambling trips to Las Vegas, church officials said Monday.

The embezzlement from Saint James Catholic School in Torrance appears to have gone on for as long as 10 years, Archdiocese of Los Angeles media relations director Adrian Alarcon said.

During that time Sister Mary Margaret Kreuper was the school's principal and Sister Lana Chang taught eighth grade students. Both retired earlier this year. Neither has been charged with a crime.

The amount taken from tuition payments and other funds is still being tabulated, Alarcon said, adding she couldn't confirm some reports that it was as much as $500,000.

In a letter to parents, Monsignor Michael Meyers called it "substantial."

"This matter came to our attention during financial reviews in connection with the change in leadership at our school," he said, adding no one else was implicated.

Alarcon said it is routine to conduct such a review after a principal retires.

Neither nun could be immediately reached for comment.

Meyers said both nuns acknowledged the theft when confronted, apologized and are cooperating with an ongoing investigation. He said they and their order, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, have promised to pay back the money.

"Sister Mary Margaret and Sister Lana have expressed to me and asked that I convey to you, the deep remorse they each feel for their actions and ask for your forgiveness and prayers," Meyers said in his letter. "They and their order pray that you have not lost trust or faith in the educators and administrators of the school."

The archdiocese has notified police, but Meyers said church officials don't plan to press charges at this point and instead want to see the matter resolved internally with the money repaid and the nuns disciplined by their order.

Sister Mary Margaret worked at the school for 29 years. Sister Lana taught there for 20 years.

BY JOHN ROGERS, ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Drummer suspected of embezzling $750K from charity concert

Prosecutors say the former musical director for the United Nations and Arsenio Hall's TV show has been arrested on suspicion of embezzling $750,000 from an overseas charity concert for homeless children.

The U.S. Attorney's office says Monday that Robin DiMaggio could face wire fraud charges. It wasn't known if he has an attorney.

Prosecutors say DiMaggio was wired $750,000 after agreeing to help the Peace for You Peace for Me Foundation to organize a concert in Bulgaria.

Officials say instead of putting the money in escrow to pay artists, the 47-year-old used it to pay personal expenses and buy his ex-wife a house.

If convicted, DiMaggio could face 20 years in prison.

In his career as a drummer, DiMaggio has played on albums by Paul Simon and Diana Ross.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO

US judge tosses bulk of suit against Trump immigration move

The Trump administration provided adequate justification for its decision to end a program that reunited hundreds of immigrants from Central America with family members in the U.S., a federal judge ruled Monday.

Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler threw out the bulk of a lawsuit that argued the termination of the Obama-era Central American Minors program was arbitrary and violated the U.S. Constitution.

The program allowed parents legally in the U.S. to apply to bring children or other family members living in Honduras, Guatemala or El Salvador to the U.S.

One of the goals was to discourage children from making the dangerous journey from those countries to the U.S. to be with family.

More than 1,300 people came to the U.S. under the program between 2014 and the end of 2016, according to figures cited in Beeler's decision.

When it ended the program in August 2017, the Trump administration revoked approval for roughly 2,700 additional immigrants who were set to travel to the U.S.

In her ruling, Beeler said the decision to revoke those approvals was arbitrary and capricious and required more analysis and explanation.

Linda Evarts, an attorney with the International Refugee Assistance Project who is representing plaintiffs, said she welcomed that part of the ruling and called the decision "an important first step."

Beeler in a separate order suggested the plaintiffs might be able to revise their lawsuit to address some of her concerns.

The judge, however, found the administration had sufficient policy and legal arguments for its decision to end the Central American Minors program.

The Obama administration granted refugee or parole status to 99 percent of the people it interviewed for the program, giving them a greenlight to come to the U.S., according to State Department figures in Beeler's decision.

The Trump administration argued that immigration law called for a more sparing, case-by-case approach. It also said granting parole broadly created an incentive for illegal immigration and contributed to security problems along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Beeler said the administration rationally concluded that the program was not consistent with its immigration policy and its view of immigration law. She said she was not authorized to second-guess those conclusions.

She also rejected arguments that the decision to end the program violated due process and equal protection.

BY SUDHIN THANAWALA, ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO

Agency: Fear of returning home spikes at US-Mexico border

The number of people expressing fear of returning to their home countries when stopped at the U.S. border with Mexico has spiked, according to figures released Monday by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

U.S. border authorities fielded 92,959 "credible fear" claims – the initial step toward asylum – in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, up 67 percent from 55,584 the previous year. The "credible fear" claims accounted for 18 percent of all people arrested or stopped at the Mexican border in the latest period, up from 13 percent a year earlier.

CBP publicly released the numbers for the first time as more migrants, many of them families and children from Mexico and Central America, seek asylum or other forms of humanitarian protection to gain entry to the U.S. The trend was highlighted by a caravan of more than 6,000 migrants, largely from Honduras, that arrived in Tijuana, Mexico, last month, many hoping to seek asylum across the border in San Diego.

Commissioner Kevin McAleenan noted that most asylum claims are ultimately unsuccessful in immigration court and he renewed the Trump administration's call for Congress to address "these vulnerabilities in our immigration system." Judges granted asylum in 21 percent of their cases in the 2018 fiscal year.

"These numbers reflect a dramatic increase in initial fear claims by those encountered on the border, which is straining border security, immigration enforcement and courts, and other federal resources," McAleenan said.

CBP didn't say how many people it stopped passed the initial screening, or "credible fear" interview, but historically about three in four clear the hurdle. They are detained or released, often with ankle monitors, while their cases wind through clogged immigration courts.

U.S. border authorities are increasingly telling asylum seekers to wait in Mexico, saying they are they are unable to process claims for everyone at once. The wait in Tijuana was about six weeks even before the latest caravan arrived.

Initial fear claims at official crossings – the prescribed way to claim asylum – more than doubled in the last fiscal year to 38,269, according to CBP. Claims by people who crossed illegally between ports of entry rose 43 percent to 54,690.

President Donald Trump last month ordered that asylum be denied to anyone who enters the country illegally from Mexico, but a federal judge in San Francisco blocked him. An appeals court upheld the judge's decision on Friday.

ELLIOT SPAGAT, ASSOCIATED PRESS

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

COLUMBIA, S.C.

Environmental groups to sue over offshore drilling tests

Two people with direct knowledge of the situation say environmental groups are going to sue President Donald Trump's administration over plans to conduct offshore drilling tests.

The individuals told The Associated Press on Monday that the federal lawsuit will aim to stop issuance of permits for the use of seismic air guns. They said the lawsuit would be filed by a coalition of environmental groups on Tuesday in a federal court in Charleston, South Carolina. The individuals spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak about the suit before it's filed.

Trump's administration has authorized five such permits, which aim to find oil and gas formations deep underneath the Atlantic Ocean floor from Delaware to central Florida.

Environmentalists say the blasts can disturb marine mammals.

BY MEG KINNARD, ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO

California utility to cover power lines to reduce fire risk

A Southern California utility wants to spend $582 million to cover some power lines and deploy cameras in areas at high risk for wildfires.

Southern California Edison shared its plans Monday with legislative employees. It comes as the utility is dealing with cleanup and repairs following the Woolsey Fire that tore through Los Angeles and Ventura counties in November.

The cause of that fire remains under investigation. The utility reported to the Public Utilities Commission on Thursday it's investigating whether an outage just before the fire sparked may have been caused by two wires making contact.

Many other utilities already insulate or cover power lines to minimize risks. Southern California Edison officials estimate its new mitigation plans will add an extra $1.20 to the average monthly bill.

BY KATHLEEN RONAYNE, ASSOCIATED PRESS

USC

FROM PAGE 1

road design conducive to e-scooter riders," he said. "When you think about how long that will take to occur, those aren't safety solutions that can keep up with a disruptive technology."

Before these societal changes take place, Bird should promote safety through channels that reach its users, most of whom are younger, Allem said. For example, he said, the company could post photos of riders wearing helmets on Instagram.

"Young people are exposed to products through online platforms, and Instagram is especially influential," he said. "That would be one avenue to consider promoting safety in addition to putting ads on the back of buses in Santa Monica."

Bird, along with three other e-scooter companies, entered into a pilot program with the City of Santa Monica in September. The program requires Bird to create interactive safety education for users and increase the availability of helmets for riders at the time of use.

Safety is still a concern, however. Santa Monica hospitals see a steady tide of scooter-related injuries and several residents joined a class-action lawsuit filed in October in Los Angeles County Superior Court that accuses Bird and other e-scooter companies of gross negligence and aiding and abetting assault because scooters often crash into pedestrians.

A Bird spokesperson said the company has invested $3.5 million in providing online and offline rider safety programs but believes Instagram is not a platform suited for rider education.

The spokesperson said only six percent of photos on its Instagram contain images of riders in motion without helmets and pointed out that the study does not account for whether riders featured on its feed were riding Birds or posing next to them.

"Posing beside a Bird should not require a helmet, just as posing by a parked car should not require a seatbelt," the spokesperson said.

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fare Thee Well Ms. O'Connor

It was twenty years ago today, that I was given a role to play. I can walk into a courtroom and speak to a judge from beyond the bar. I can go into chambers and chat with opposing counsel and an engaged, caring judicial officer.

Over the past 20 years I've represented over a thousand people in civil court, criminal court, worker's compensation appeals boards, and condominium associations, but primarily in family court where I've attempted with varying degrees of success to bring sanity and order to an insane, disordered and emotionally charged system.

My experience has been that there are marvelously devoted judicial officers, and others who are clearly well past their expiration date, and some who never should have been put in the family arena. The judicial demeanor required in family court is extreme restraint of tongue, near limitless patience, and a communication dexterity that is best pictured as the mom in The Incredibles. Judges have to explain extremely complex, intricate legal rules and theories to people with IQs in the 80s and then their next case can involve two highly trained lawyers who are skilled at verbal warfare - it's no easy feat.

The roster of most divorce and child custody lawyers like me ranges from the multi-millionaires I represent who are seeking protection from money hungry and obnoxiously aggressive attorneys, to the average joe, who just wants to strike a fair deal regarding child support. I've had cases where the parties had millions of dollars at stake and everyone was rational and fair and the case was over in a few meetings, and others where they barely had a couch to fight over, and it's hearings and fights for years.

After 20 years I've seen the best of humanity, and certainly the almost worst. What I've learned is that the system wants things and people to be in black and white, it needs stark contrast to make decisions. The problem is that humans are infinite shades of grey. I've represented a registered sex offender who was a marvelous father and due to one mistake in judgment, will spend his entire life living as a pariah. I've represented the "perfect" mother, and saw behind the mask to learn the truth, and pitied her children who will spend a lifetime recovering from her abusive behavior.

For 20 years I've tried to be a good guy. I know the law, I know what a judge is likely going to do, and more importantly I'm darned good at knowing what the other side is going to do. Frequently it doesn't matter. I may be a really smart divorce strategist, but if my client doesn't want to take direction, at the end of the day, all my talents go to waste.

It's rather like the current situation we have at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. The Generals know what to do, but it's the President who makes the final call.

I write all of this with the current Santa Monica City Council in mind. They lost at trial on districting. As a lawyer I'd tell them to suck it up, and move on. But they're the client. And let's face it, they have a very large purse to fund the fight, and if they delay another year, or three, they stay in power - guaranteed. Who cares if they waste millions of taxpayer dollars, there's more where that comes from.

Tonight is Pam O'Connor's swan song. For now. Could she return? Of course. Should she? Not my call. But after 24 years, I'd say time to hang it up, go write your book and peddle your connections as a lobbyist/consultant and fade to the history books.

Ms. O'Connor has been on the council my entire legal career. Remarkable. Her service to the city should be noted, even when I didn't agree her, she was at least in the game, representing her constituents, I hope. Fare thee well Ms. O'Connor, and thank you for your 24 years of service.

David Pisarra is a family law attorney focusing on fathers' rights and men's issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

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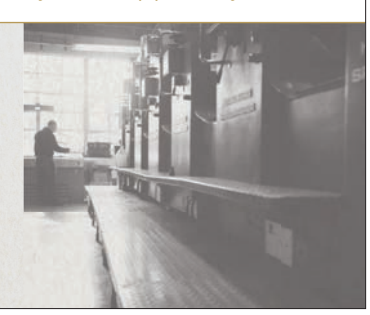
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FAIRMONT

FROM PAGE 1

are still under strike authorization and the strike can be called at any time.

In addition to the union's five main demands, workers at the Fairmont are asking the hotel to protect their jobs and benefits and offer severance packages while the hotel undergoes a major renovation.

The Miramar's employees will not need to wait for the hotel to agree to provide panic buttons. Santa Monica City Council voted in October to create legislation to require employers to provide hotel workers with panic buttons they can use to report misconduct and remove themselves from dangerous situations.

"When you work at night or work alone in an isolated room, you can't ask for help," said Miramar employee Liliana Hernandez. "The panic buttons are going to be small and you can push it in your pocket without anyone noticing."

Local 11 lobbied for the legislation and is trying to establish similar laws through ballot measures in Long Beach and Palos Verdes.

"We want the entire hotel industry to take sexual harassment and assault seriously," Cohen said.

But Fairmont, which is owned by AccorHotels, a French giant that employs more than 250,000 workers worldwide, may have to make other concessions in its contract with Local 11, particularly on pay and pensions.

Hernandez said workers are prepared to strike if necessary for $25 per hour by 2022 because of the rising cost of housing in Los Angeles and Santa Monica.

"Rent is impossible to pay, but our salaries have stayed where they are," she said.

Hernandez said many of her coworkers are almost 65 but it will not be possible for them to retire with the pension Fairmont currently offers.

"We're fighting for them because they've been working for almost 40 years and should be able to retire soon," she said.

Fairmont could not be reached for comment.

madeleine@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DEL MAR

Trains briefly halted after California bluff collapse

Train service was briefly interrupted when part of a seaside bluff collapsed near tracks just north of San Diego.

Officials in the city of Del Mar say nobody was hurt when the rain-saturated cliff came tumbling down shortly before 9 a.m. Monday.

Train traffic was halted for about two hours while crews cleared and assessed the tracks.

Jon Edelbrock, Del Mar's director of community services, tells the San Diego Union-Tribune the collapse narrowed a popular hiking trail along the tracks – leaving it only a foot (less than a half meter) wide in some spots.

Edelbrock urges walkers and hikers to avoid the area.

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ANGELS

FROM PAGE 1

living room sofas, home offices and kitchen counters, they communicated in online chat groups and divvied up hundreds of posts. They used public databases to find property deeds, court records and bankruptcy filings, and logged onto people-finding sites like Ancestry.com, BeenVerified.com, the online White Pages and others. They looked for cellphone numbers and email addresses and names of friends, relatives, neighbors and associates who might have clues.

In the four weeks since the fire started, the search angels have connected nearly 250 people with the relatives and friends they were searching for. They are one of several missing persons groups that sprung up on Facebook with the intention of helping strangers in a time of need, harnessing the power of social media and dogged investigative work.

"I reached out to the angels, and they really are angels," said Delisa Gaeta, 55, who was concerned about her foster father, whom she hadn't seen in years. "I threw a lifeline out there, and they grabbed hold of it and reeled it in. They just made it happen."

At first, Gaeta didn't know if her foster father, Dale Wingett, had made it out of his Paradise home alive. Authorities had no information on him, and after two weeks of trying to contact him, she was losing hope. Then she saw his picture in a local newspaper at a Thanksgiving dinner for survivors in the Northern California city of Redding. Gaeta desperately wanted to speak to Wingett and see if he needed help.

"It became a group project," said Dawn Kosmakos, a search angel who lives in Martinez, in the San Francisco Bay Area. "It was like, 'OK, girls. Let's find him!"

They alerted the sheriff's office, did online searches and tried calling family and a property management company, Collins said. They found out Wingett had left Redding and was heading about 80 miles (130 kilometers) south, to the city of Willows.

"We called every hotel in Willows and said, 'If he checks in, can you give him this message?'" said Collins, and that's how they found him. Wingett got the message, called them back, got Gaeta's number and called her. They have since emailed and spoken several times.

For Wingett, the connection brought happiness at a time of great loss.

"We have had really moving talks," said Wingett, contacted by phone at a hotel in Sutter Creek. "She told me that even though I was her foster father, to her I was her father. That hit me pretty strongly."

Gaeta says she has peace of mind after weeks of sleepless nights.

"I am so grateful to the work of these women," said Gaeta, who lives in the Bay Area city of Santa Clara. "They gave me the best Christmas gift."

Diana Sauer, 39, feels a similar sense of gratitude and wonder for the work of the angels, who use methods for finding people that many don't know exist.

"I owe them everything," said Sauer, who lives in the San Francisco area but grew up in Paradise and was worried about her father's best friend, Russell Anderson. "I don't think I would have found him without them."

Anderson is 70 and lived simply, she said, with no cellphone or internet.

"It made him one of those very difficult people to find," said Sauer, who knew Anderson had no children but was close with his ex-wife's daughter, Charmaine. Sauer did not know Charmaine's last name, but the angels found her.

"They ended up finding Charmaine's marriage record, then they found birth records showing she had children. They found her children on Facebook and asked, 'Do you know Russell, and is he with you?'"

The answer was yes. She spoke to Anderson on the phone for 40 minutes, and caught him up on her life, her marriage, her own children. They hadn't spoken in 15 years. "It was a very sweet conversation between two people that love each other and haven't seen each other in a long time."

Several people that Collins' group tracked down appeared on the official list of people unaccounted for after the fire. That list, managed by the Butte County Sheriff's Office, is down to six names from a high of 1,300 last month.

Sheriff Kory Honea acknowledged the work of Facebook groups in the effort but said his agency wasn't coordinating with them or using their resources, primarily because it was so swamped with other work.

"If the Facebook group knows that (people) are safe, they should call us and let us know. There's no way my staff can check the myriad of Facebook pages," Honea told The Associated Press.

Collins said when her team located a "missing" person who was on the official list, they emailed the sheriff's office and also told friends and family of those found to contact the sheriff's office to have their names removed.

Susie Elliot, 63, tried to get official information about her cousin in Paradise, Dee Riley, but called the sheriff's office and got repeated busy signals.

For over two weeks, Elliot, who lives in San Dimas, near Los Angeles, checked everywhere she could think of for Riley. She contacted the Red Cross, which was running shelters for fire evacuees, and it had no record of Riley so directed her to the Butte County Sheriff's Office, where she couldn't get through. She learned Riley's house burned down and started getting anxious. Then she did a Google search using words like, "missing people in Paradise," and found the Facebook group.

On Nov. 27, Elliot posted a message to the group saying she couldn't find her cousin. Within minutes, Kosmakos was on the case. Kosmakos, a stay-at-home mom and part-time administrative assistant, said she found Riley's cellphone number after a few quick online searches.

"By 3 p.m. the next day, I was in touch with my cousin," said Elliot, who learned her cousin was safe and was renting an apartment near Sacramento.

"I couldn't believe they found her in less than 24 hours," Elliot said.

The angels say they all have personal reasons for doing the work they do.

"I was in a foster home myself. I really don't have much family," said Collins. "So, for me, I get joy connecting others to their family."







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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 61.3°

TUESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3 ft waist to stomach high
New SW/SSW swell continues to slowly fill in. Minor NW swell.

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3 ft waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Modest SW/SSW swell continues. Small WNW swell.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 000 Calls For Service On Dec. 00.
HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Fraud 1500blk Ocean 4:25:15 p.m.
Petty theft 1300blk 6th 4:24:39 p.m.
Bike theft 700blk 7th 4:12:02 p.m.
Stalking 1500blk Montana 4:11:38 p.m.
Trespassing 800blk Pico 4:10:46 p.m.
Encampment 22nd / Pico 4:08:23 p.m.
Burglary 2400blk Virginia 3:24:42 p.m.
Suspicious person 700blk Ozone 3:20:18 p.m.
Battery 1600blk Lincoln 3:12:41 p.m.
Grand theft auto 300blk Olympic 3:06:39 p.m.
Exhibition of speed 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:05:59 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries city prop involved 900blk 19th 3:04:35 p.m.
Elder abuse 1700blk Cloverfield 2:29:36 p.m.
Auto burglary 1700blk Centinela 2:18:50 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1400blk 2nd 2:18:00 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 2300blk Ocean Park 2:12:20 p.m.
Petty theft 2900blk Main 1:56:50 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 2nd / Broadway 1:51:55 p.m.
Auto burglary 2600blk Main 1:14:34 p.m.
Petty theft 600blk California 1:07:17 p.m.
Battery 1100blk Lincoln 12:52:59 p.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 800blk San Vicente 12:49:22 p.m.
Auto burglary 300blk 12th 12:42:50 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 400blk 16th 12:08:17 p.m.
Petty theft 1200blk Wilshire 12:05:37 p.m.
Battery 600blk Santa Monica 11:42:59 a.m.
Hit and run misdemeanor investigation 2300blk 10th 11:07:43 a.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 800blk San Vicente 10:13:55 a.m.
Encampment 26th / Pico 9:38:31 a.m.
Vehicle blocking driveway 1400blk 6th 9:22:05 a.m.
Elder abuse 1100blk Pico 9:15:02 a.m.
Traffic collision - unknown injuries 2nd / Marine 9:12:44 a.m.
Encampment 1500blk the beach 9:01:12 a.m.
Encampment 20th / Wilshire 8:59:34 a.m.
Hit and run misdemeanor investigation 2300blk 10th 8:48:14 a.m.
Encampment 900blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:37:46 a.m.
Encampment 800blk the beach 8:20:08 a.m.
Burglary 2400blk 14th 8:15:45 a.m.
Burglary 2400blk 14th 7:38:46 a.m.
Fraud 300blk Olympic 6:16:13 a.m.
Petty theft Ocean / Colorado 6:15:41 a.m.
Petty theft 2600blk Wilshire 6:15:15 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 1400blk Euclid 1:44:56 a.m.
Domestic violence now 11th / Santa Monica 1:30:35 a.m.
Loud music 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 12:38:55 a.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 24 Calls For Service On Dec. 9.
HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

EMS 1500 block 4th 8:21 a.m.
EMS 300 block Olympic 9 a.m.
EMS 1500 block 5th 9:35 a.m.
EMS 1800 block 19th 10:01 a.m.
Automatic alarm 600 block 26th 10:43 a.m.
EMS 1000 block Marine 10:55 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1400 block 7th 11:55 a.m.
EMS 1500 block Ocean 11:57 a.m.
EMS Euclid / Wilshire 1:57 p.m.
EMS 1500 block 2nd 2:10 p.m.
EMS 6th / Colorado 2:35 p.m.
EMS 300 block Santa Monica Pier 2:55 p.m.
EMS 0 block Village Pkwy 3:22 p.m.
EMS 900 block 10th 3:58 p.m.
EMS 500 block Colorado 4:20 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1300 block 15th 4:49 p.m.
EMS 900 block Broadway 5:08 p.m.
Haz mat - level 1 1800 block Wilshire 5:22 p.m.
EMS 2100 block Ocean 7:01 p.m.
EMS 500 block Olympic 8:02 p.m.
Miscellaneous outside fire 2200 block Virginia 8:56 p.m.
Electrical fire - no fire visible 12:00 a.m. block Wilshire 11:59 p.m.

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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 12/8
14 32 34 46 61
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 230M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/7
4 10 20 33 57
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 245M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 12/8
11 17 32 35 45
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 30M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/9
5 9 14 19 28

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 12/9
MIDDAY: 0 9 3
Draw Date: 12/9
EVENING: 3 0 6

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 12/9
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:43.67

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**

WORD UP!

logogriph

1. an anagram, or a puzzle involving anagrams.
2. a puzzle in which a certain word, and other words formed from any or all of its letters, must be guessed from indications given in a set of verses.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Medical Myths

■ In 2008, a widely reported study found that the more overweight one is, the healthier.

■ Study authors reported that being 5 to 10 pounds overweight offered added protection from ailments ranging from tuberculosis to Alzheimer's disease. Even more excess poundage supposedly improved recovery from pneumonia and various other infections. And outright obesity purportedly improved eyesight, fended off cancers and reversed baldness.

■ The study was a hoax, which should have been obvious to readers perusing the funding agencies: McDonald's, Burger King, Taco Bell, Domino's Pizza, Sara Lee and Krispy Kreme.

MYSTERY PHOTO

SPONSORED BY Ice at The Plaza at Santa Monica



The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

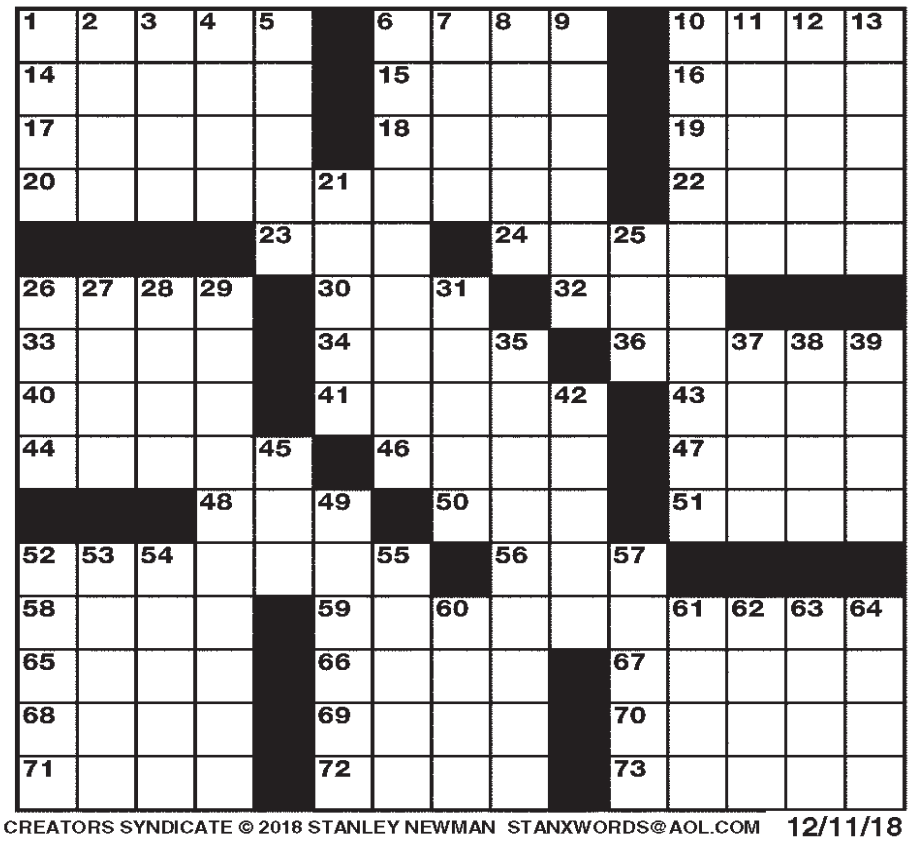
		1		9				3
	4			8		1	6	
8		3	1					5
								2
3	5		6	2	7		8	1
4								
9					4	5		6
	7	8		5			3	
5				7		2		

Newsday Crossword

GOOD MORNINGS by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Grocery shoppers' references
6 Be bold
10 Helper: Abbr.
14 Tiny spot of land in the sea
15 Spanish cheers
16 Turn __ (become)
17 Catch in a trap
18 Manner of walking
19 Plant's underground part
20 Bank's cash dispenser
22 Stubborn equine
23 Cow's sound
24 Parts of most state legislatures
26 "Very funny!"
30 Be regretful about
32 Scratch up
33 Eve's second son
34 "No warranty" condition
36 __ out (intimidate)
40 Group playing a game
41 Resulted in
43 Angel's topper
44 Handbag holder
46 Burn slightly
47 Word of regret
48 Unruly crowd
50 Kitchens and parlors: Abbr.
51 Gave temporarily
52 Takes it easy
56 Writer Edgar Allan __
58 Give off
59 What tops the "e" in "soufflé"
65 Apex
66 Street or avenue
67 Discover, as an idea
68 Impolite look
69 All finished
70 Wipe clean
71 Untidy scene
72 Went fast
73 Change the color of again

DOWN
1 *Mona* __ (da Vinci work)
2 Does not exist
3 Shut a door loudly
4 Semester
5 Radiator output
6 Outdoor structures for canines
7 Jai __ (fast-moving game)
8 Horse controllers
9 High regard
10 Undercover officer on a plane
11 Pig's nose
12 Took illegally
13 Carryall bags
21 What a reef is made of
25 Short snooze
26 Derbies and fedoras
27 Aid and __ (help in a crime)
28 Listen to
29 Schools that alumni attended
31 Duck source of feathers
35 Ran wild, as cattle
37 New Haven school
38 Big family
39 Throw a party
42 Screen legend Welles
45 Chicken __ (childhood malady)
49 Goatees, for example
52 Monarch's domain
53 Game-show question reader
54 Green citrus fruits
55 Ice cream utensil
57 Old-time anesthetic
60 Walking stick
61 Swampy ground
62 Just slightly
63 Optimistic
64 Leg joint



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/11/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 11)

You've taken dominion over language at many points in your development, from when you first started speaking to when you were learning the lingo of a certain group. Now you'll use words to empower yourself. Truly, the right ones repeated often enough will magnetize your most cherished desires. Scorpio and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 35, 21, 36, 8, and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You'll be tempted to take on many things at once, but this will not move you ahead in the least – and will in fact contribute to future anxiety. One thing at a time is the way to go. It will center you. Happiness depends on being grounded.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Trust is basically a prediction. To predict a person, you have to know a person. To know a person, you have to put aside your wish of who you want that person to be and pay close and careful attention to who the person really is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
If you were your own best friend or parent or child, you would spend a good deal of time, attention and money on the things you thought would delight and develop you. So just do that. It's the most loving thing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Relationships without risk can be called a lot of things – helpful, convenient, mutual, comforting, comfortable – but they cannot be called passionate. Passion requires risk. No risk, no passion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You may find that the original motivation for an action has died out and you are now either unmotivated or scraping by on residual fuel. It's time to find a new purpose. Whom are you doing it for?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Be careful not to personalize impersonal things. An injury to your plans isn't really an injury to you unless you take it as such. You can always make another plan. You're quite brilliant at it, actually.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
You pride yourself on having an open mind, though you also realize there comes a time in which you really must attach to one belief, idea or direction. It doesn't have to be an attachment made with Super Glue, though. Think Velcro.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
It's not really about changing yourself at this point, as all improvements come from befriending the person you already are. Ask questions of yourself as you would any person you're trying to get to know.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Things are not as they seem, nor are they different from what they seem; rather, they are on a spectrum of representation lying somewhere between what looks about right and what couldn't possibly be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Nothing is possible without empty space. Furthermore, you are in just the heightened state of awareness to recognize the peace that's present wherever those moments of silence fall.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
It's just one of those conundrums. By virtue of trying to impress someone, you fail to. So work instead on appreciating yourself more and more until the outward validation loses its punch.

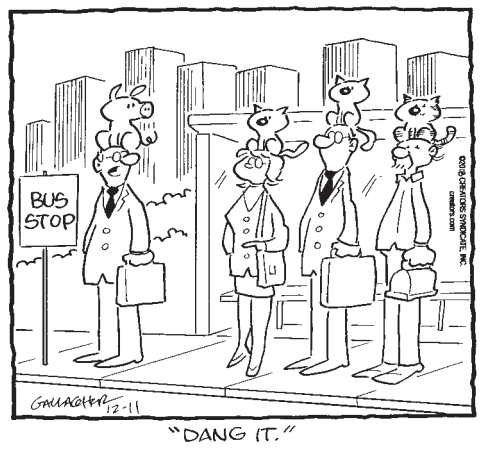
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
If you don't try to love, your heart may ache from loneliness. And if you love, your heart will ache from usage. Lost love is automatic heartache. So there's no way to avoid an aching heart, but you can at least choose which kind.

Are You Missing Something?

There's a classic "Seinfeld" episode in which Kramer tries to get tips from Jerry about taking a shower. In a moment of insecurity, Kramer is bent on making sure he has not somehow missed a powerful, crucial point about bathing that everyone else is in on. The Aquarius moon suggests that there is no magic secret to uncover. Do it your way.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO
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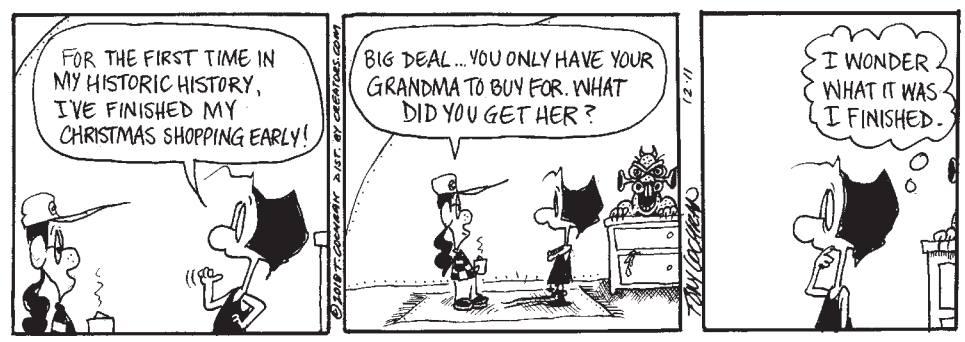
Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



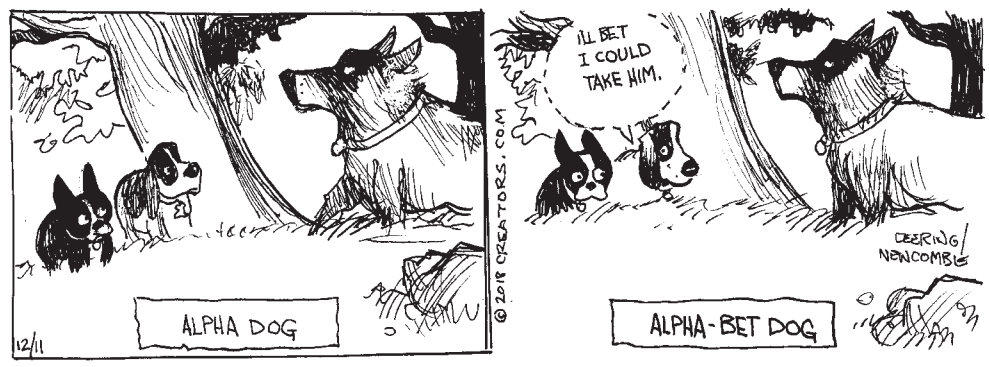
Agnes
By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel
By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill
By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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For Sale	Jewelry	Roommates	Massage	Yard Sales	Psychic
	WantedvvTravel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

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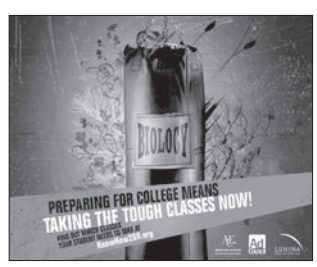
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Dems: Pelosi foes seek term limits on leaders, panel chairs

ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

Democrats who have opposed Nancy Pelosi's effort to become speaker next year want her to commit to limiting how long lawmakers could serve as House party leaders or committee chairs, people familiar with the discussions said Monday.

Should Pelosi, D-Calif., and her foes reach agreement, it could move her toward the support she'll need when the new House convenes Jan. 3 and votes on its new speaker. So far, she's encountered a small bloc of Democrats saying they oppose her, in part because they want Pelosi and other long-serving leaders to step aside and give younger lawmakers room to advance.

Negotiations were still underway and it was unclear when an agreement might be reached, said several Democrats who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe private conversations. A spokesman for Pelosi, who currently is House minority leader, declined to comment.

Pelosi led Democrats to an Election Day triumph last month, gaining at least 39 House seats (with several races still unresolved) and winning control of the chamber. Pelosi has led House Democrats since 2003, mostly in the minority, and wants to regain the speaker's post she held from 2007 until January 2011 as the first woman to hold that job.

As Pelosi tries nailing down the last votes she will need to assure her election, she has resisted explicitly saying how long she would serve. She says that would diminish her clout by making her a lame duck.

But she stopped short of opposing term limits for committee chairman when questioned last week by reporters. She said she's "always been sympathetic" to the idea and said "that's a debate" for House Democrats to decide.

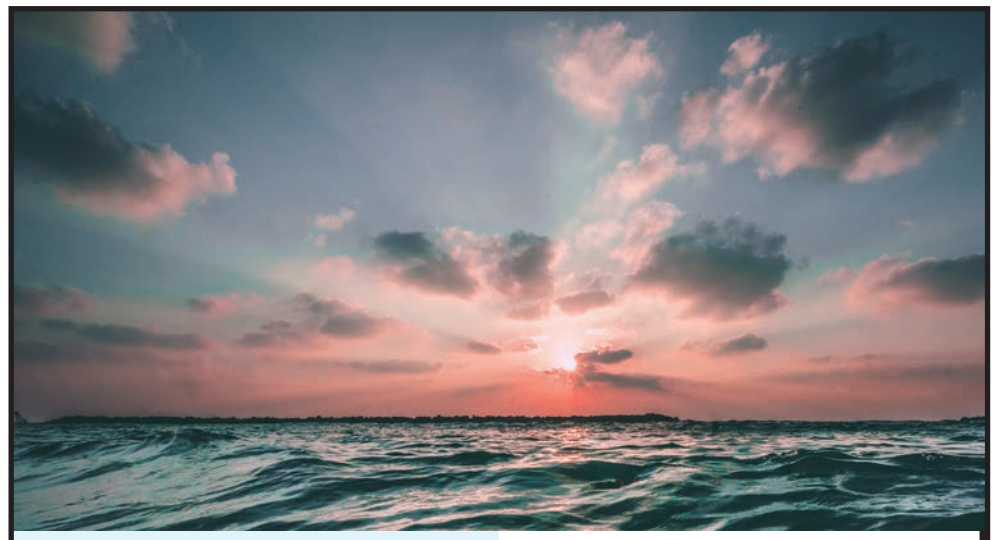
A term-limit deal could run into opposition by senior Democrats and some members of the Congressional Black Caucus, many of whom are from safe Democratic districts and can accrue years of seniority. The changes would have to be approved by a vote of House Democrats, and then by the full House.

Assuming all House members vote for a specific candidate and all Republicans oppose her, Pelosi will need 218 votes to become speaker. If Democrats have 234 seats — the number they've won so far — she could lose no more than 16 Democrats and still prevail.

Sixteen Democrats signed a letter last month opposing her, but she's been making deals with some opponents to win their support.

Participants say Rep. Ed Perlmutter, D-Colo., who signed that letter, has been a leader in talks with Pelosi.

House Republicans currently limit committee chairs to three consecutive two-year terms, though GOP lawmakers can vote to grant waivers. There are no limits on party leaders.



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