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HORSE RACING

Santa Anita opening day arrives

Rains delayed Classic Meet from usual Dec. 26 start; Baffert's entries win big

Staff and wire reports

After dodging the puddles during a particularly wet week, Santa Anita Park's opening day finally arrived Sunday for its annual Classic Meet. Throngs of racing fans arrived, too, at the iconic Arcadia park.

Sunday's card featured six

graded stakes races, highlighted by the Grade I Malibu Stakes on a mild Sunday with no sign of sprinkles. And it was a sunny day indeed for trainer Bob Baffert, whose horses Nysos and Nevada Beach captured first and second place in the Grade 2 Pincay Stakes. And his horses also won two Grade I events, as Usha won

the La Brea, and Goal Oriented finished first in the Malibu.

Star of the day Nysos was a heavy favorite, going off at 1-5, having won six of his seven previous starts.

"I'm here to see Nysos," said racing fan Dion Williams of Seattle, enjoying his first trip to the landmark park. "I've been to Del Mar and Emerald Downs and Churchill Downs.

See **RACING** on Page A6



Jockey Kazushi Kimura and Secured Freedom win the second race of the Classic Meet at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia on Sunday.

KEITH BIRMINGHAM
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TOURNAMENT OF ROSES

Parade wouldn't turn without volunteer



Jim Gruettner, shown Dec. 18, knows the Tournament House in Pasadena very well. He's given tours of the Pasadena landmark, one of his many duties in nearly five decades as a volunteer for the Tournament of Roses. On Thursday, he will help float drivers make the turn onto Colorado Boulevard for the Rose Parade. **PHOTOS BY TREVOR STAMP**

Jim Gruettner is part of crew helping floats navigate Colorado Boulevard

By David Wilson
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On a past New Year's Day, a teammate of Jim Gruettner's on the Rose Parade's "turning crew" handed out pairs of red gloves.

At the time, it was just a nice gesture from a colleague, who had spotted the accessories while shopping for an upcoming ski trip. And the brightly colored gloves contrasted nicely with the crew members' all-white suits.

Gruettner, a nearly 50-year veteran volunteer with the Tournament of Roses, has transformed his pair of red gloves into something of a trademark.

Like he has every year

See **TURNING** on Page A6



In addition to leading tours of the Tournament House and being part of the red-gloved "turning crew" on the Rose Parade route, Pasadena native Gruettner has decades of anecdotes of parade and Rose Bowl moments he eagerly shares with Jan. 1 spectators.

CALIFORNIA

Law aids detained, deported parents

Starting in 2026, caretakers can be named for children in case of immigration arrests

By Linh Tat
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A new law allowing parents to designate someone to care for their child in the event they are detained or deported by federal immigration authorities will soon take effect in California.

Starting Thursday, the Family Preparedness Plan Act expands the type of relative who can qualify as a "caretaker" and creates a process by which a parent may nominate a caretaker to be a "temporary joint guardian" through probate court.

The new law also prohibits licensed child day care facilities and state preschool programs from

See **PARENTS** on Page A7

COMMUNITY

Torrance's 'living legend' celebrates her 100th birthday

By Madeline Armstrong
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Nobody would guess that Kimi Inadomi is 100 years old. She lives alone, goes up and down two flights of stairs every day, exercises, frequently completes crossword puzzles — and, until September, she was driving.

And just a few weeks ago, Inadomi was honored by the city of Torrance, where she has lived for 40 years, as a centenarian. With five children, 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, she is truly a "living legend," according to her son, Ken Inadomi.

"To celebrate her eightieth birthday, we dedicated

See **BIRTHDAY** on Page A7

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FORECAST

TODAY
H: 70
L: 52
TUE.
H: 71
L: 60
WED.
H: 63
L: 55
Full weather report B12

INDEX

Bridge B9
Classifieds B9
Comics A9,10,B9
Horoscope A8,B9
Local A3
Nation+World A12

Volume 141, issue 363

Puzzles A8,10,11
Sports B1
Start Your Day A2



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