

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Animal rescue groups struggle to stay open



Maria Dales, right, founder of German Shepherd Rescue of Orange County, and volunteer Carol Sumner give attention to twins Mirabelle and Manfred in Newport Beach on Aug. 25. PAUL BERSEBACH — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Adoptions for dogs drop while save requests increase, nonprofit founder says

By Erika I. Ritchie
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After fostering hundreds of homeless German shepherds for more than nine years, there's one success case a Yorba Linda couple doesn't forget.

It was 4-month-old Kuzco, who Jennifer Coakley and her husband, Steve, took in. The challenging pup loved being the alpha.

His first adoption failed, and the German shepherd returned to the Yorba Linda couple at 9 months. Committed to not giving up, Steve Coakley put in extra training hours, and German Shepherd Rescue of Orange County, for which the couple fosters, even paid for professional training.

About a year later, Kuzco was adopted by a new family. On May 5, he celebrated his fifth birthday with a Cinco de Mayo party thrown by his smitten pet parents in his Pomona home.

That outcome is exactly what Maria Dales, who founded the German shepherd rescue in 1999, lives to



Belgian Malinois puppies play in Steve and Jennifer Coakley's backyard in Yorba Linda on Wednesday. The couple is helping raise the 12 puppies to be put up for adoption. Five puppies already have adopters and seven still need homes. MARK RIGHTMIRE — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

see: Matching a rescue with a safe and suitable — and forever — home.

But now, Dales said adoptions for large dogs have dropped by half, while calls for help have increased significantly, and her rescue group is on the brink.

Public shelters and private rescues across Southern California are seeing an increase in large dog abandonment and owner requests for assistance.

Now, animal advocates and shelter officials say they are at a crisis point with very few options, resulting in higher euthanasia numbers.

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SOUTHLAND

Experts debate homicide rate drop

Decline seen in many large cities attributed by some to change in strategy, leadership

By Nathaniel Percy
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The number of homicides handled by many large policing agencies is down across Southern California, mirroring a national trend experienced in big cities.

Some who study crime cite changes in strategy and leadership as driving factors behind the decreases, while others warn the figures are just a return to normal after a COVID-19 pandemic that caused insecurity and stress, most notably in impoverished areas.

"We should not be prepared to pat ourselves on the back," said Frank Vram Zerunyan, a professor of the practice of governance at USC's Sol Price School of Public Policy. "We want to reduce those numbers to the point where we feel more comfortable."

Among local law enforcement agencies, 2021 and 2022 were particularly deadly years, according to homicide numbers collected by the Southern

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ECONOMY

1.2M immigrants gone from U.S. labor force under Trump, early data reveals

By Corey Williams
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's tomato season and Lidia is harvesting on farms in California's Central Valley.

She is also anxious. Attention from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement could upend her life more than 23 years after she illegally crossed the U.S.-Mexico border as a teenager.

"The worry is they'll pull you over when you're driving and ask for your papers," said Lidia, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition that only her first name be used because of her fears of deportation. "We need to work. We need to feed our families and pay our rent."

As parades and other events celebrating the

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ANAHEIM

Disneyland to close 8 attractions

Resort adds to roster of rides, shows temporarily shuttering for refreshes

By Brady MacDonald
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Disneyland will close eight attractions for seasonal refurbishments as the Anaheim theme park resort heads into the hectic Halloween season, which has become one of the busiest times of the year.

Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, the Mark Twain Riverboat, the Sailing Ship Columbia, Dumbo the Flying Elephant, Pirate's Lair on Tom Sawyer Island, Main Street Cinema, Pixie Hollow and "Fantasmic!" will temporarily close this month as part of the standard refurbishment schedule at Disneyland and Disney California Adventure.

The eight new attraction closures join Radiator Spring Racers, Star Tours, the Storybook Land Canal Boats, the Casey Jr. Circus Train and "Great Moments with Mr. Lincoln," which were already shuttered for



Parkgoers ride Dumbo the Flying Elephant on July 17 at Disneyland in Anaheim. The Fantasyland attraction will close for a refurbishment Sept. 16-17. JEFF GRITCHEN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

refurbishment.

Big Thunder Mountain Railroad in Disneyland's Frontierland will close today for an extended refurbishment expected to run through at least Oct. 9.

Traffic on the Rivers of America at Disneyland will be disrupted, with the Mark Twain Riverboat closed for refurbishment Monday

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Inland cities are home to apartment bargains


Jonathan Lansner
COLUMNIST

Seeking a Southern California rental bargain typically means a residence with no coastal breezes.

My trusty spreadsheet reviewed apartment data from RentCafe, tracking the average rent and apartment size in complexes with 50 or more units. The study looked at 200 big U.S. cities as of March and included 28 markets in Southern California.

To measure value, the cost to rent per square foot was calculated for each local spot. That math clearly tells you that apartment shopping is mainly about location.

Contemplate that the average apartment in Southern California's 10 bargain cities costs \$2.48 per square foot. In the 10 most expensive spots, however, it's \$3.30. That's a 25% savings.

That gap does not include renters making any concessions on the size of their rental. Apartments in the cheapest cities average 850 square feet. The priciest places? 852.

The big gap shows up in the rent itself: \$2,114 in the region's bargain cities and \$2,817 where rent is highest.

While hidden gems might be found in any location, the math strongly suggests bargain-hunting tenants should focus inland.

Consider that the 10 cheapest cities, per square foot, had average geographic coordinates in Upland, not far from

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