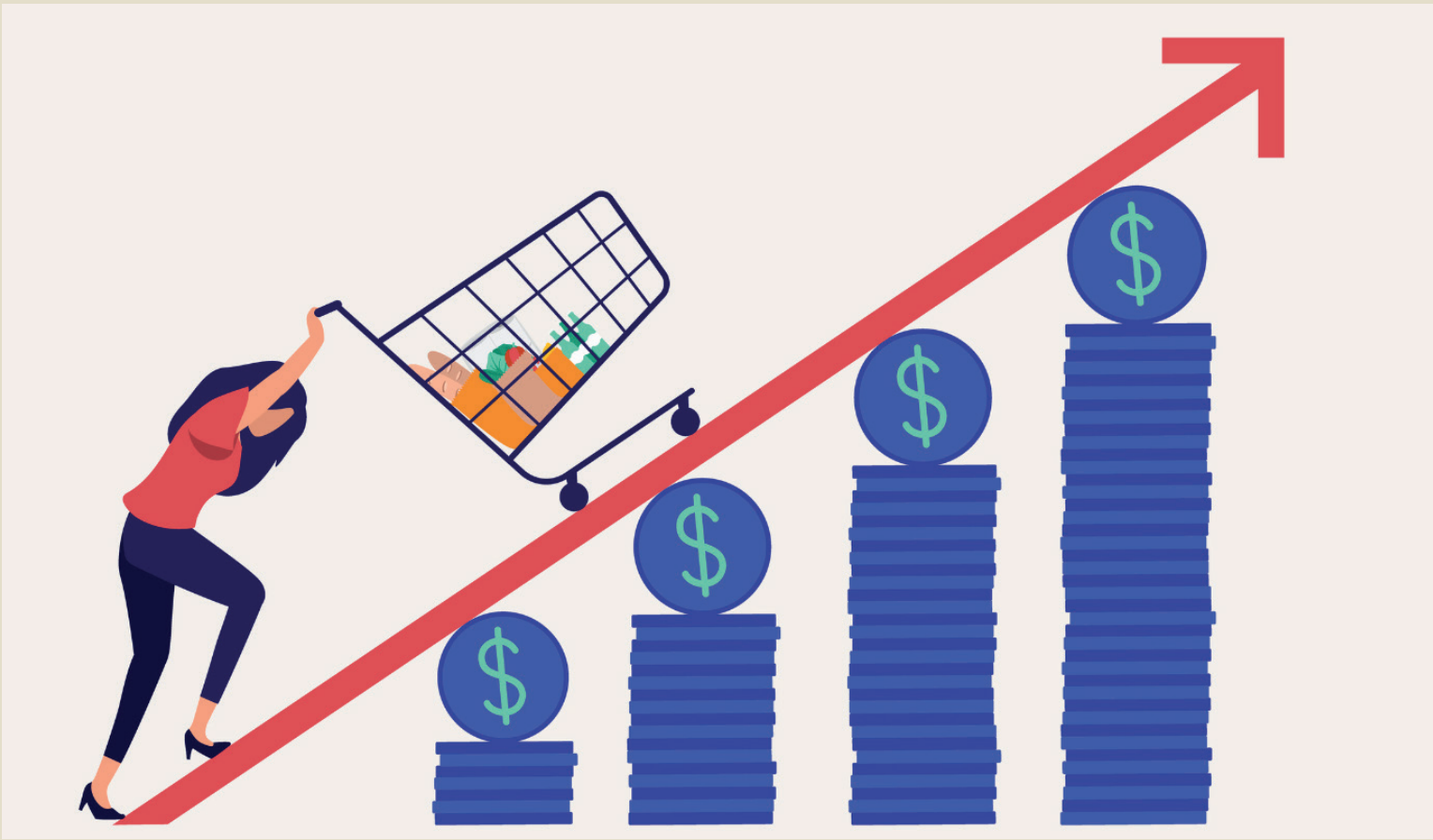


Rising Tides and Rising Tensions - Arrests made at protests as cost of living soars



An uphill struggle. Supermarket and fuel prices rose sharply. An increased cost of living puts more pressure on those around and below the poverty line; putting their economic stability and security at risk as they attempt to catch up to inflation.

Mass protests broke out at City Hall on 2nd June, following a steep rise in the cost of living, with markets reporting eye-watering inflation of between 10-40%. State police made several arrests and detentions in relation to the protests, which has left many citizens questioning whether their right to speak freely and protest is being respected.

"We were all really upset... We wanted to bring a peaceful, yet forceful light to the fact that not everyone can afford to put food in their mouths," Piper Riggs, a singer who spearheaded the protests, emphasised in a recent interview with the Gazette; "People [are] robbing people just for food. They're that desperate!" And these concerns are not unfounded, as one of our very own writers was threatened with violence by someone begging for food while preparing for this week's edition.

Local business owner, Tony Forelli, who was also part of the

protests wants people to look at the bigger picture, "A little change can affect a whole lot" he stated "A dollar or two on a bottle of water means we're having to spend more to buy up materials [and] keep our services going."

But the rise in prices hasn't all been bad news for everybody, as fishmongers and anglers have recorded a marked increase in profits, bringing some merit to the theory that 'A rising tide lifts all boats'. Piper however, remains sceptical, "There's not enough jobs... You provide me a job for every single fucking person in this state, then I'll even begin to entertain that thought."

This protest however, was met with antagonism as State Police descended upon the demonstration. "I ended up getting arrested outside of City Hall for loitering and inciting violence" Piper declared "No-one was calling for violence. No-one hurt anybody. There was never any violence."

But Tony thinks the aggravation

from local law enforcement was a result of confusion "The cops had their guns out trying to move people along, not a great way to do things" Tony conjectured "Cops were trying to chase people, and maybe the wrong people."

The Gazette has not received a response from the State Police, despite approaching them for comment.

The whole ordeal has left people like Piper feeling disenfranchised "We have the right to peaceful protest... The State was joined in a shared struggle.... Why would I put faith in [the government], when they have already done the wrong thing to every citizen in this state?"

However, we still urge those affected to appeal their charges if they feel they have been wronged. Not only to seek recourse, but also to bring further light to what has happened.

As for the future, Tony warns that "If inflation continues to rise... there's going to have to be measures put in place to ensure that businesses can run."

CAMPAIGNS FOR NON-EXISTENT MAYOR POSITION UNDERWAY

LifeInvader has been ablaze with posts about people running for the office of Mayor. However, officials at City Hall have stated that they are unaware of any upcoming elections for Mayor.

The Gazette believes this misunderstanding has come about due to some off-handed comments made during the week's protests.

Given recent events, an elected seat at the table for key policy decisions may be what the citizens of San Andreas need right now.



A Seat at the Table The oval, where key policy decisions are discussed.

THIS WEEK



San Andreas Shells Out for Turtles
S.T.D. huge success, despite multiple attempts to disrupt fundraiser.
► *More on Page 2 >>*



Phantom Curator Strikes Again
Los Santos' prolific art thief still at large, several priceless paintings and sculptures stolen.



Gone-vernor Remains in Hiding
State Governor still uncontactable amidst rumours they fled to Cayo Perico after natural disaster.



Pride Month in Full Swing
Ahead of the big parade next week, The Gazette wants to wish everyone a happy Pride Month; regardless of your gender, sexual orientation or romantic partners; whether you have them or not. Though our paper is yellow, our colours are rainbow at heart. Love who you want to love, be who you want to be. Happy Pride SA.



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HELP WANTED

The Gazette is looking to hire photographers, guest writers and feature columnists.

Our inbox is also open for leads and potential advertisers.

If interested, please contact our editor on 555-4686

Keep an eye on our LifeInvader (@SAGazette), as we may be looking for story specific interviews and photos through the week.



Scam Andreas - Con Artists sweep across state



Ways to protect yourself from the common scams

This week alone, writers at the San Andreas Gazette have been the targets of several scams and cons. We talk through our experiences, what to look out for, and how to protect yourself.

It's not uncommon for our writers and editors to receive phone calls from unknown numbers, but this week has our lines have been ringing with calls from the IRS, our bank, and the police; or at least that's who they claimed to be.

One tactic a lot of phone scams have in common is that they rely heavily on trust and belief that the person on the other end of the phone is who they say they are. Whether that's through fake credentials or through intimidation, their first goal is usually to ensure their target accpets that they are a figure of some authority. **Verify their information; if you already have a number for the service they claim to be from, hang up the phone and call them back on the number you trust.**

Scammers will also use a sense of urgency in order to try and circumvent people's logical reasoning, telling people to "act now or else..." there will be some dire consequence; jail time,

losing all your money, losing your home; these are all tactics to scare you into acting without thinking clearly. **Take some time to step back and evaluate the situation.**

Not all scams take place over the phone however, some con artists are brazen enough to lie and cheat, to steal people's money, right in front of their faces.

We have heard reports of dodgy tow drivers offering passers-by payment for letting them put their car on the truck for a photo, and then charging a drop fee to get their car back off the bed.

Other cons rely on you being compliant in something that is potentially illegal, or at least a grey area. This acts as a way to prevent you from informing the authorities after they have made off with your money. **The rule of thumb: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.** Act with caution when it seems someone is offering "free money".

Finally, if you have been the victim of a scam or fraud, please **report it to the police**. We know it may feel embarrassing to come forward and admit you were conned, but ultimately anyone can have a lapse of judgement. The more information the authorities have, the more likely they are to catch the people responsible, and the more likely it is that you can get your money back.

San Andreas Shells Out for S.T.D.

4th June was dubbed "Save the Turtles Day" as fundraising efforts to protect the endangered species came to a head at a packed live-music event.

Over \$6,000 was donated in ticket sales alone, with the night featuring performances by Alex and Piper Riggs, at the newly opened Todd's Barcade.

"I've been pushing for this kind of thing for quite a while." Trooper Amana of the San Andreas State Police addressed to the crowd in attendance; having been hospitalised by illegal turtle poachers in the Zancudo conservation area merely days earlier; "I feel very passionately about those tiny little animals in the north"

Celebrations were briefly interrupted after threats were made to the turtles' habitat on LifeInvader by a local ecoterrorist, and again when a serial stabapist cornered a member of the State Police in the toilets. But not to be dissuaded, event co-ordintator Molly Saint, managed to get everything back under control and keep the party going; culminating in an artistic demonstration of turtles migrating to their new habitat in the Los Santos Canal.

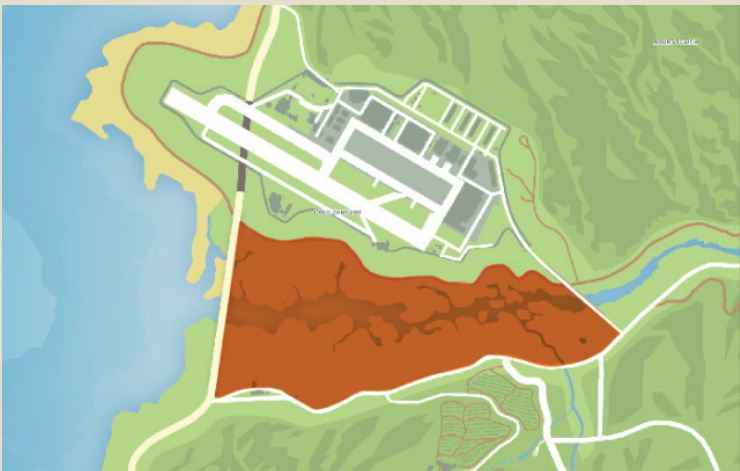
But what can the average citizen do to help, outside of fundraising efforts like this one? Ranger Bigsby, of the San Andreas Park Rangers took to the stage and advised "If you see someone, and they're fishing for turtles, tell them 'Hey, don't do it!'", he later clarified his position saying "The best way we can do that is to inform... educating other people that don't know goes a long way".

"Turtles are being poached out of their homes"

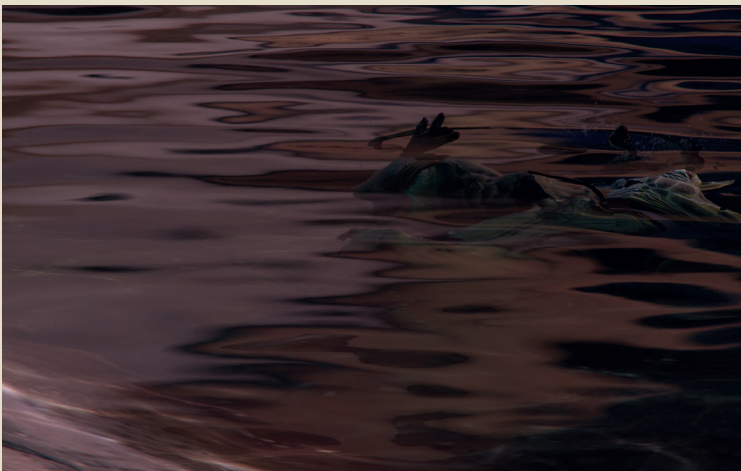
Ranger Bigsby of the San Andreas Park Rangers



Not all heroes wear half-shells. Trooper Amana (left) and the turtles (right), with patrons watching on in the background as they take a memorable selfie after the artistic demonstration in the Los Santos Canal.



Protected Region A map of the Zancudo River conservation area, shown in brown; bordered by the Zancudo Trail, the fort approach road, Great Ocean Highway and Route 68



Home Sweet Home A turtle settling into its new habitat, swimming down the San Andreas Canal

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