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WEEKEND EDITION
03.14.20 - 03.15.20
Volume 19 Issue 105

School Closures
Los Angeles Schools have closed due to Coronavirus.
Page 4

Begging For An Arrest
A man was arrested for panhandling.
Page 9

@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com



Courtesy photos

NOW OPEN: **The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce held two ribbon cuttings recently. CycleBar is a new fitness club located at 1221 2nd Street in Santa Monica and their ribbon-cutting was on February 28. Tipsy Chef held a ribbon cutting on March 4. They are located on 2435 Main Street.**



Restaurants ask community to keep ordering delivery as public health officials urge social distancing

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

As Los Angeles County public health officials urge people to avoid public spaces to fight coronavirus, Santa Monica restaurants are taking cleaning to the next level and doubling down on delivery to maintain financial stability.

Local restaurateurs hope that by sanitizing surfaces frequently, spacing tables farther apart and removing self-service food and utensils, they will both prevent the virus from spreading and preserve a customer base so they can continue to pay their staff. But with many people choosing to bunk down at home, restaurant owners are also shifting to delivery in the hopes that they can bolster flagging business by offering those in self-isolation an alternative to canned beans and frozen veggies.

Mark Peters, general manager of pizzeria Dagwoods, said staff are cleaning the restaurant, washing their hands constantly and keeping their distance from customers. Sanitizer dispensers have been installed in the kitchen and dining area and customers can request that delivery drivers leave orders at their doors.

Staff are being reminded to stay home if they feel sick, Peters said. Santa Monica mandates 40 hours of paid sick leave for small businesses and 72 hours for large businesses.



Courtesy photo

PIZZA: **Take-out and delivery are good options this week.**

"As a restaurant we're always on top of sanitation and cleanliness, but obviously with the coronavirus we're just really, really, really making sure to always go the extra step," he said.

Santa Monica's Rustic Canyon Family restaurant group said in an email to customers Friday morning that all nine of its restaurants,

SEE **RESTAURANTS** PAGE 7

UCLA explores virtual care to aid rural communities

TEDDY ROSENBLUTH
SMDP Intern

A virtual therapy program developed by UCLA researchers may give patients access to early intervention treatments, helping bridge the healthcare gap between rural areas and cities.

The program allows parents to video call therapists to learn play-based treatment methods and then review home-recorded videos of their session with specialists. In conditions like autism, early intervention can dramatically alter the course of the disorder's progression.

Shafali Jeste, the director of the Care and Research in Neurogenetics Clinic, developed this program after conducting a clinical trial on the importance of early intervention for autistic children. After a year of trying to recruit patients to this study, only three families had volunteered.

She realized for many parents, who already had to juggle taking care of a disabled child, trekking to the hospital for counseling once a week wasn't feasible. Other parents, like Brandon Crawford, lived thousands of miles away from large hospitals that offered this type of early intervention.

"We're in this place where we're diagnosing earlier and earlier and recommending intervention but it's hard for parents to access those, especially if they have to travel long distances," Jeste said.

Jeste said she had met with many parents who knew their children had a genetic predisposition for autism and knew early treatments would help but just couldn't travel to a major hospital for the time intensive treatments.

"That is very, very scary," she said.

Crawford's son, John, was

SEE **VIRTUAL CARE** PAGE 7

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Chairwoman of Congressional Black Caucus endorses Joe Biden

KAT STAFFORD
Associated Press

The chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus has endorsed Joe Biden for president, an influential nod of support that could bolster his 2020 Democratic campaign.

The endorsement by Democratic Rep. Karen Bass of California on Friday is the latest testament of a growing coalescence of support for Biden's White House bid. Biden's campaign has seen a resurgence powered by black voters, who have helped cement his front-runner status after commanding wins in several recent primaries, including in South Carolina, in several Southern states and just this week in Michigan.

"It's very clear to me that he is the best person, not just to beat (President Donald) Trump, but he is the person to lead at this time," Bass said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I think him having a long-standing history of working with African American communities, most notably in his own state but around the country, was qualitatively different from the other candidates."

Biden's progressive rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who has performed well among younger and Latino voters, has struggled to garner support within the African American community. Black voters will continue to be a key demographic as both campaigns eye upcoming primary contests in states with large black populations, like Georgia.

Bass said she held off endorsing a candidate because two CBC members, Cory Booker and Kamala Harris, were running for president. Booker and Harris have since dropped out and endorsed Biden, a former vice president and U.S. senator from Delaware.

The CBC as a whole is not officially endorsing a candidate, Bass said, but the majority of members have already announced support for Biden. The powerful group, created in 1971, is composed of most African American members of Congress, making up nearly 25% of the Democratic majority in the House. Of the 54-member group, 37 have endorsed Biden, including House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn, who has been credited with helping turn the tide for Biden with a big win in Clyburn's home state of South Carolina.

One member of the CBC, Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, has endorsed Sanders.

Although Biden has strong support within the African American community, especially among older voters, concerns have been raised about his ability to energize young and progressive voters.

Bass, a progressive Democrat who is serving her fifth term in a congressional district that includes south Los Angeles and Culver City, said she believes Biden would be able to grow support among those groups, if he were to become the eventual nominee.

"As this race settles down, it is my job personally and the job of members of the Congressional Black Caucus to be extremely clear with people in our districts what is at stake here, and what is at stake is their future," Bass said. "It's a job that we've all been doing over the last 3 1/2 years, but we have to step it up."

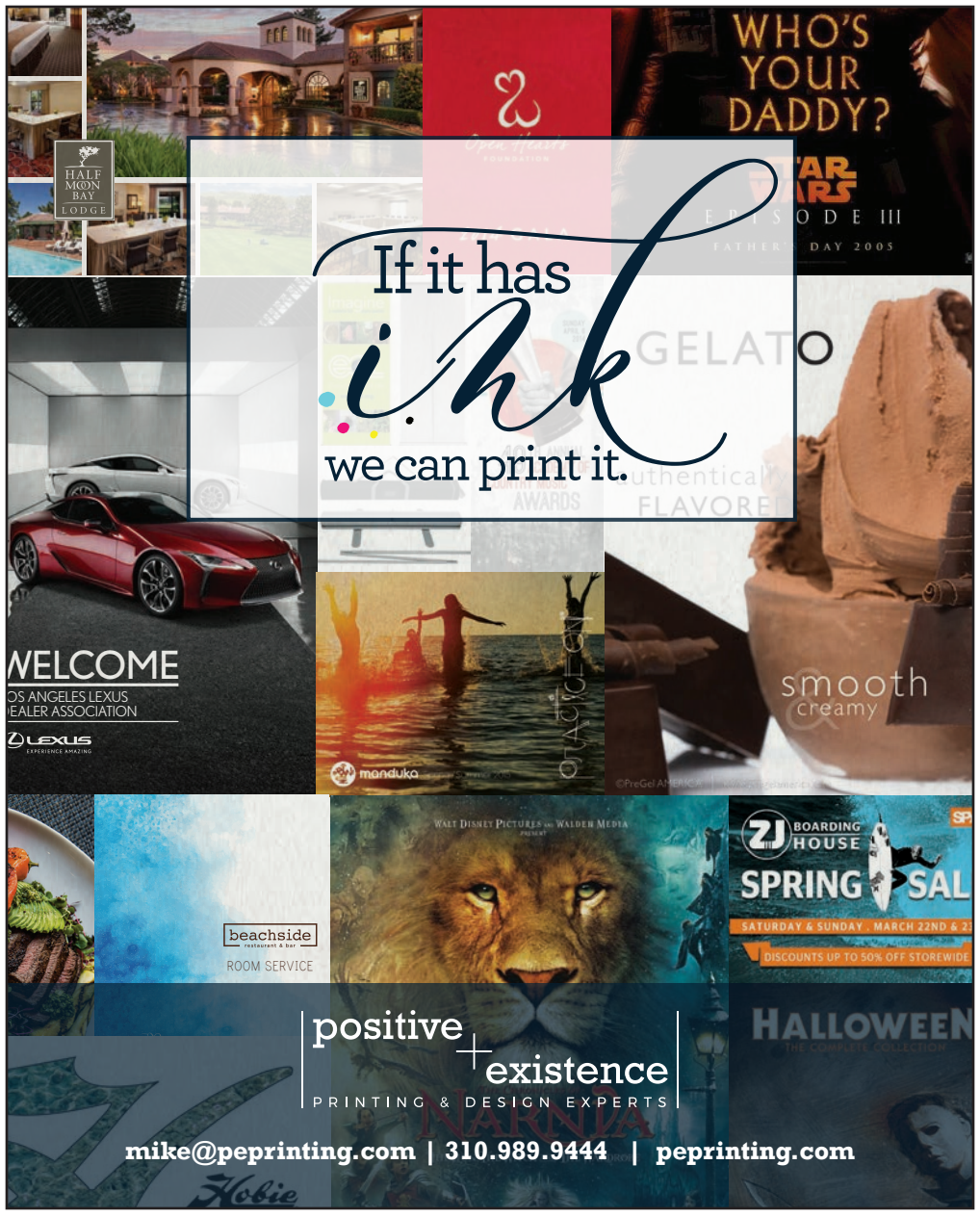
Asked whether Sanders and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii should drop out of the race to unite the party before the Democratic National Convention, Bass said she believes the primary process needs to run its course and allow every voter the chance to weigh in.

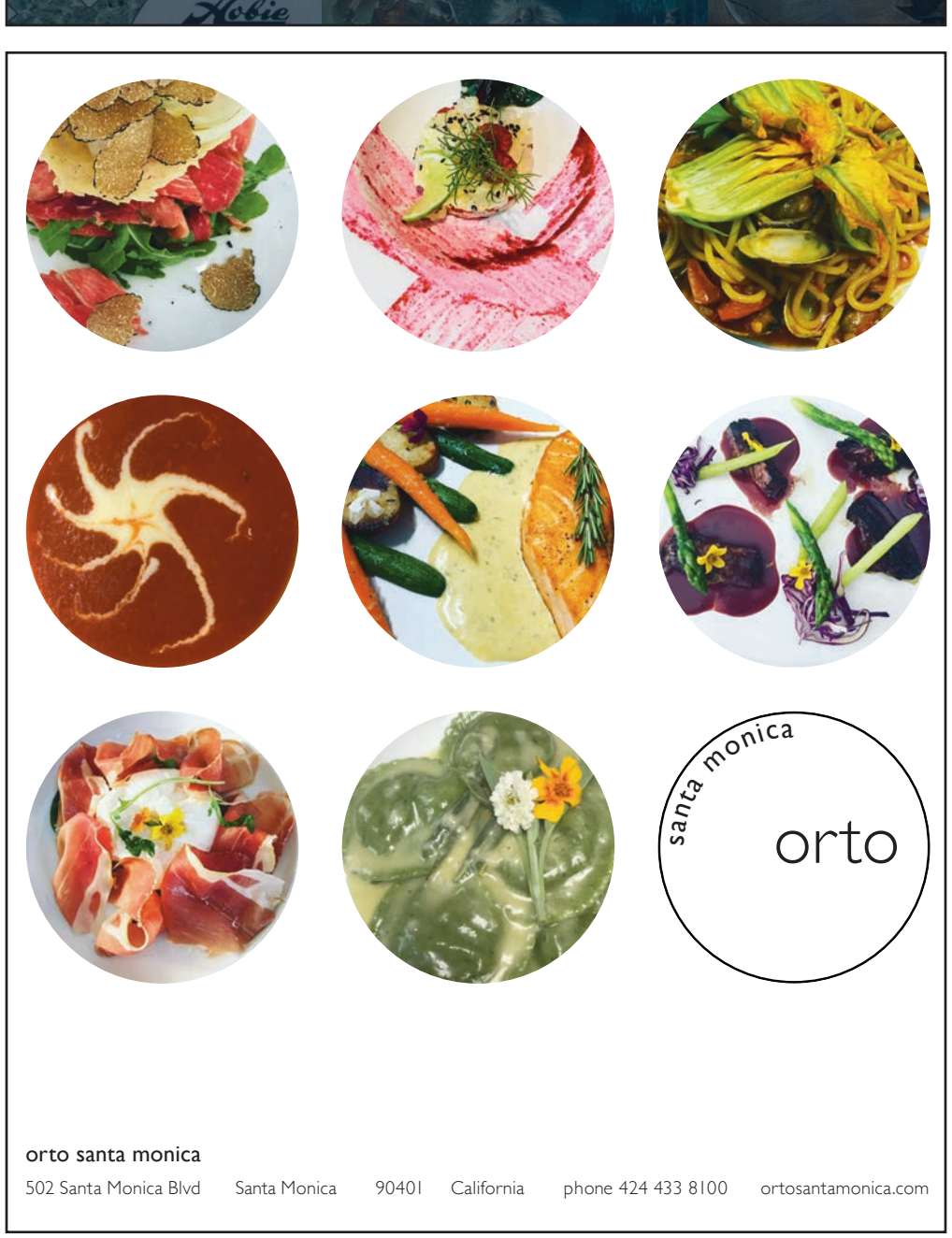
"I would never be in a position to say, 'You need to drop out,'" Bass said. "I do think, though, that math is math."

She continued: "I think they have to do the soul searching and say, 'Why am I still doing this?' But I think that's an individual decision or a campaign decision."

Bass said she hopes, though, that the eventual nominee considers a person of color as his running mate.

"I think that a presidential candidate has got to choose somebody that they feel that they can trust, that they can work with," Bass said. "Now, having said that, I certainly hope it's a woman. I certainly hope it's a woman of color."





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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

Virus darkens stages, silences orchestras across the US

MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer

The stage at the 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle is quiet. There is no music coming from the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the members of Pearl Jam won't tour. There is no one to admire the treasures at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

The ongoing fears surrounding the coronavirus have shuttered places where Americans — and foreign visitors — have long gathered to escape the world and also to engage with it. Almost everything that draws crowds has now sent them all away.

Wisconsin resident Ellen Moodie, 58, found herself in New York, twice rejected. She came for the Big East tournament at Madison Square Garden, but that was canceled. So she tried to catch a Broadway show, but those too were canceled. She admitted to being a little disappointed.

"We would love to see a show but understand the situation," she said.

The list of venues where Americans can no longer find entertainment or diversion continues to climb — so far scrapped or shuttered are everything from Coachella to Carnegie Hall, Major League Soccer, Disneyland and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Bob and Diane Erickson, of Cambridge, Minnesota, were taking no chances Thursday, hitting all of Nashville's major tourist destinations that were unaffected thus far, including The Grand Ole Opry and the Ryman Auditorium.

"We're just kind of watching it," said Bob Erickson. "And frankly, it's going to get bigger."

The closures of museums and theaters and concerts come even as families find their kids locked out of school with nothing to do and arts institutions worry about keeping the lights on without ticket sales.

"It's the people that are down here, trying to earn that dollar that it's going to affect the most," said Mike Beliles, of Wilmington, North Carolina, who was visiting Nashville. "It's the people who are trying to make ends meet and they aren't able to work."

For most people, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.

Apprehension of the virus has claimed an astonishingly varied list of events stretching beyond the traditional arts, from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo to the New York International Auto Show. Big events in big venues like the NBA season and NCAA basketball tournaments were felled by coronavirus, but smaller and less raucous get-togethers were also abandoned, too.

Around the country, bookstore appearances by James McBride, Louise Erdrich and many others were postponed or canceled during what is usually one of publishing's busiest seasons. The prize-winning author and illustrator Gene Luen Yang called off the tour for his graphic novel "Dragon Hoops."

The Brooklyn Public Library in New York suspended or postponed all public programs until at least the end of the month. Jakab Orsós, the vice president of arts and culture, called the move "only responsible action we could take." He said the virus is making those in the world of culture humble.

"Its a bitter lesson, that we are not the rulers of the universe. We got very comfortable thinking we could overcome everything. Sometimes we have to learn that there are stronger powers. It's larger than culture, it's universal," he said. "We have to change course. Whatever that is — we have to learn this message. This is a huge and important lesson, especially in the Western world."

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Thursday banned gatherings of 500 or more in the city, effectively forcing the hand of Broadway producers who had previously said that Broadway would be "open for business" unless advised not to by the government. Shows are now slated to resume the week of April 13.

Would-be theater attendees were turned away in the theater district, some shaking their heads in disbelief.

"I had been hoping to catch one but it's all canceled," said Quinn Heath, 24, who was visiting from Boston.

Closing all Broadway theaters for a month is unprecedented, said Laurence Maslon, an arts professor at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. "Nothing comes close to this amount of time ever."

Other theaters far from Broadway have closed their doors, including the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Southern California, which canceled or postponed all productions and programs through March 31. Coronavirus has altered the run of "Guys and Dolls" at the Ford's Theatre in the nation's capital.

The 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle closed the doors on "Sister Act," citing the state's mandated cancellation of public gatherings, and is now asking for donations to recover $1 million in losses. The 1,600-seat Curran Theater in San Francisco decided to scrap performances of "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child."

Actors' Equity Association, which represents more than 51,000 actors and stage managers nationwide, called the decision to shutter Broadway "important" and urged lawmakers to come to the aid of workers in the arts.

"Today's decision means tremendous uncertainty for thousands who work in the arts, including the prospect of lost income, health insurance and retirement savings," the group said. "For every middle-class actor you see onstage, there are dozens of other workers behind the scenes and in an administrative capacity."

The virus' arrival came just as Americans shake off the winter blues and plan spring events — concerts, games and shows. But no more.

"This is one of the hearts of the season where we have really a lot going on," said New York Philharmonic president Deborah Borda. "It is going to be an enormous financial challenge involving millions of dollars for all of these institutions."

Associated Press reporters Kristin M. Hall in Nashville, Tennessee, and Jocelyn Noveck, Jim Mustian, David Martin and Hillel Italie in New York contributed to this report.

City of Santa Monica

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SP2611

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LA and San Diego join list of California school closings

STEFANIE DAZIO AND JOHN ANTCZAK
Associated Press

California's two largest school districts, Los Angeles and San Diego, will close starting March 16 because of the coronavirus threat, officials announced Friday.

The decision was announced by superintendents of both districts, which together serve more than 750,000 students.

They are the latest in a growing number of districts to close.

"California has now entered a critical new phase in the fight to stop the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic," Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Austin Beutner and San Diego Superintendent Cindy Marten said in a joint statement. They did not disclose an end date for the closure

"There is evidence the virus is already present in the communities we serve, and our efforts now must be aimed at preventing its spread. We believe closing the state's two largest school districts will make an important contribution to this effort," they said.

The superintendents said they would provide information to students, parents and staff later in the day. They noted that both districts would continue to provide meals and other support through family resource facilities.

Los Angeles Unified serves more than 1 million meals each day. As many as 17,000 students are homeless.

On Thursday, Beutner had outlined plans for a potential closure that included teaching through Public Broadcasting Service channels.

At the time, Beutner said schools would stay open because none of the 32 confirmed cases of the virus in Los Angeles County were connected to the district, which serves kindergarten through 12th grade students in Los Angeles, all or parts of 31 smaller cities and several unincorporated areas.

A wave of closures and postponements spanning everything from government offices to cultural events and sports followed Gov. Gavin Newsom's call this week for cancellation of all non-essential gatherings of 250 people or more.

A half-dozen school districts in Ventura County announced temporary closures following similar decisions by several Northern California districts, including the San Francisco public school system.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District canceled classes Friday and Monday for a thorough cleaning of campuses after learning someone with children in its schools was exposed to the virus.

Disneyland and its California Adventure park planned to close from Saturday through the end of the month and Knott's Berry Farm followed suit. Universal Studios Hollywood said it would close Saturday and reopen March 28.

Eric Pucan Hester, 44, headed to Disneyland under rainy skies Friday for a hurried visit to beat the closure.

He came from Hawaii with plans to go with his nephew and other family to the parks for three days but instead hoped to cram in all the could in a day.

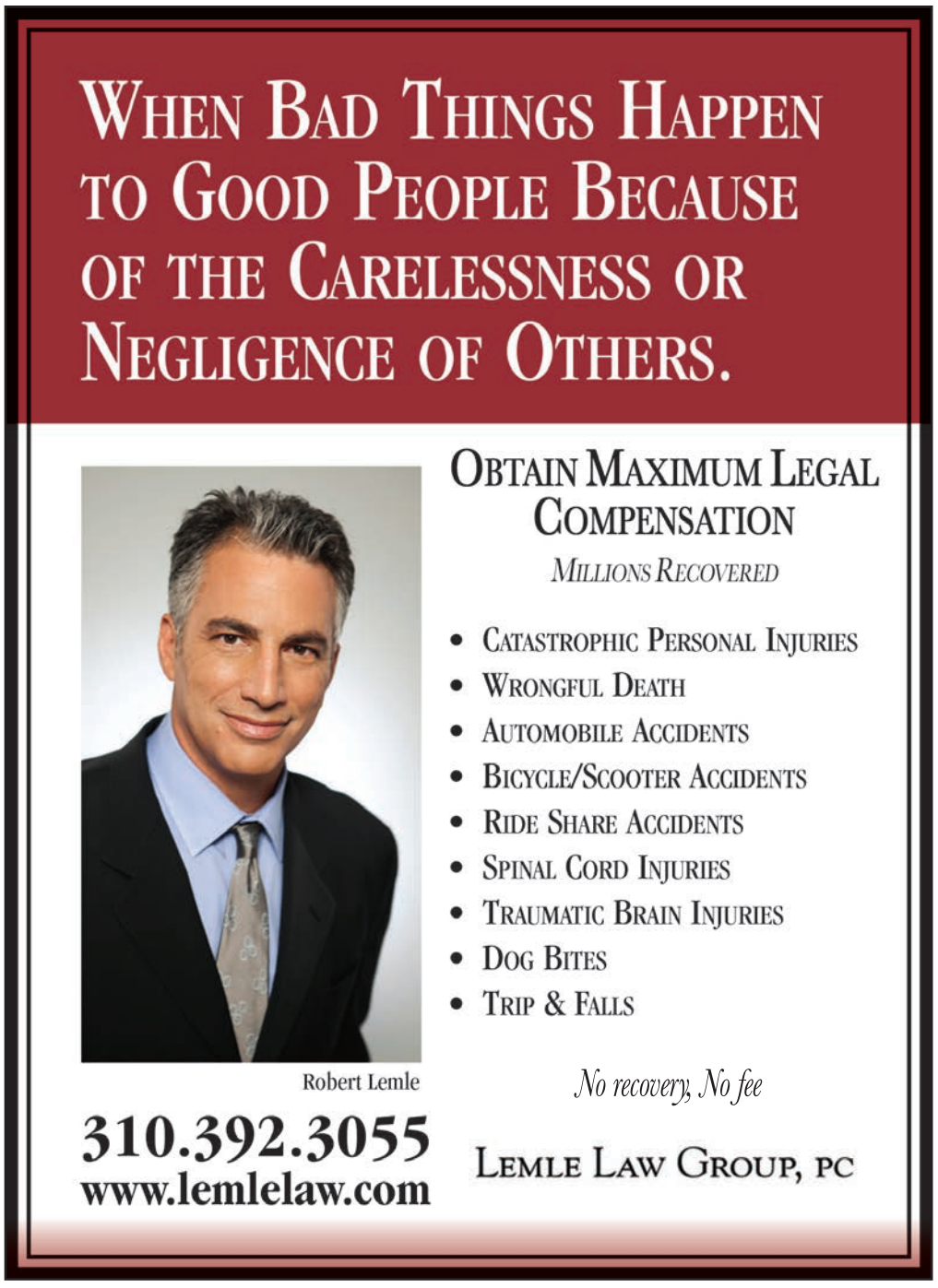
"We were supposed to come on Sunday and we heard about the closure, and we were like let's go now," he said. "Now, we enjoy one cold, rainy day."

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. More than 80,000 people in China have been diagnosed with the coronavirus. More than 61,000 have recovered.

Amy Taxin contributed to this report from Anaheim, California.





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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 46 CALLS ON MAR. 12

EMS 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:21 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:51 a.m.
EMS 1900blk 6th St 5:08 a.m.
Flooded Condition 200blk San Vicente Blvd 5:18 a.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 1400blk Ocean Ave 7:23 a.m.
EMS 800blk Palisades Beach Rd 7:53 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 8:50 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 20th St 8:56 a.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 1100blk 9th St 9:14 a.m.
EMS 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 9:49 a.m.
EMS 500blk Wilshire Blvd 10:05 a.m.
EMS 200blk Bay St 10:11 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 11th St 10:48 a.m.
EMS 800blk 18th St 11:54 a.m.
EMS Main St / Ashland Ave 12:26 p.m.
EMS 2400blk Montana Ave 12:27 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2800blk Arizona Ave 12:31 p.m.
Transformer Fire 1100blk Berkeley St 12:31 p.m.
Transformer Fire 1100blk Stanford St 12:47 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Pico Blvd 12:53 p.m.
EMS 2600blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:05 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 600blk Pico Blvd 1:08 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 3200blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:11 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1000blk Pico Blvd 1:13 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 700blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:21 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 1500blk 14th St 1:43 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:58 p.m.
EMS 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:59 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk Broadway 4:05 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200blk Broadway 4:09 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:23 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 16th St / Ocean Park Blvd 4:28 p.m.
EMS 3100blk Lincoln Blvd 6:22 p.m.
EMS 400blk Ocean Ave 6:25 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Pico Blvd 7:34 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 6th St 7:41 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Stewart St 8:23 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 10th St 8:42 p.m.
Fire Out Investigation 2600blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:01 p.m.
EMS 300blk Santa Monica Pier 9:36 p.m.
EMS 1000blk Grant St 9:43 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:25 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 10:50 p.m.
EMS 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:56 p.m.
EMS 600blk Broadway 11:28 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 11:40 p.m.

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AW19-1032

Trump declares virus pandemic a national emergency

ANDREW TAYLOR, ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN AND LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

President Donald Trump on Friday declared the coronavirus pandemic a national emergency, as Washington struggles with providing Americans with relief and officials race to slow the spread of the outbreak.

Speaking from the Rose Garden, Trump said, "I am officially declaring a national emergency." He said it would free up as much as $50 billion for state and local governments to respond to the outbreak. Trump also waived interest on federally held student loans and moved to prop up energy markets, by directing the Department of Energy to buy oil to fill the strategic petroleum reserve "'right up to the top."

Trump said he was giving Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar emergency authorities to waive federal regulations and laws to give doctors and hospitals "flexibility" in treating patients.

"Through a very collective action and shared sacrifice, national determination, we will overcome the threat of the virus," Trump said.

He also announced a new public-private partnership to expand coronavirus testing capabilities, as his administration has come under fire for being too slow in making the test available. Trump said, "I don't take responsibility at all" for the slow roll-out of testing.

The partnership will include drive-thru testing in some locations and an online portal to screen those seeking to get tested.

Still, Trump said that officials don't want people taking the test unless they have certain symptoms. "We don't want people without symptoms to go and do that test," Trump said, adding, "It's totally unnecessary."

Trump said the White House and Congress have yet to agree on a broader aid package, claiming that he doesn't believe House Democrats are "giving enough." Lawmakers are preparing to vote on their own measure Friday.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Friday the House would approve its coronavirus aid package, imploring the Trump administration and congressional Republicans to "put families first" by backing the effort to provide Americans with relief.

The House Democratic leader spoke from the speaker's balcony at the Capitol ahead of Trump's news conference at the White House, as the power centers of Washington were shuttered to visitors.

"Our nation, our great nation has faced crisis before," Pelosi said. "And every time, thanks to the courage and optimism of the American people, we have prevailed. Now, working together, we will once again prevail."

Central to the package is free testing for the virus and guaranteed sick pay for workers who are taking time away from jobs, along with an infusion of dollars to handle unemployment benefits and boost food programs for children, families and seniors.

Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, whom Trump tapped to negotiate for the administration, have engaged in around-the-clock negotiations that continued even as Trump was speaking.

But Republican leaders in Congress slowed the deal, wanting assurances that Trump would publicly support the agreement before signing off on it ahead of any vote, according to a top congressional aide unauthorized to discuss the private talks and speaking on condition of anonymity.

GOP leader Kevin McCarthy of California, the House minority leader, huddled with Mnuchin and Trump at the White House earlier Friday.

"We can only defeat this outbreak if we have an accurate determination of its scale and scope, so that we can pursue the precise science-based response that is necessary to put families first," Pelosi said.

The White House is under enormous pressure, dealing with the crisis on multiple fronts as it encroached ever closer on the president.

The virus has swept in alarming ways across American life, sending the financial markets into a dangerous slide and shuttering schools and sporting events and limiting everyday interactions in communities across the country.

And a personal health scare intensified as White House officials worked to determine the level of exposure by the president and senior aides to several foreign officials who have since tested positive for the virus.

Trump said he was gratified that Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro tested negative for the virus, after the pair sat next to each other for an extended period of time last weekend. A senior aide to Bolsonaro tested positive. "We have no symptoms whatsoever," said Trump, who has not gotten tested for the virus or taken steps to self-isolate.

Hospitals welcomed Trump's emergency declaration, which they and lawmakers in Congress had been requesting. It allows the Health and Human Services Department to temporarily waive certain federal rules that can make it harder for hospitals and other health care facilities to respond to an emergency.

Such rules include a Medicare requirement that a patient spend three days in the hospital before the program will pay for care in a nursing facility. Waiving the rule would make more inpatient beds available. Another rule requires doctors and other clinicians to be licensed in the state in which they are providing services. It can be waived if the physician is licensed in another state.

The American Medical Association said the emergency declaration would help ensure America's health care system has sufficient resources to properly respond to the ongoing outbreak.

Trump's actions were also viewed favorably on Wall Street, sending the Dow Jones Industrial Average up 1,985 points, or 9.4%, its best gain since October 2008. Stocks doubled their gains in the last half-hour of trading as Trump made his remarks.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness,

SEE **EMERGENCY** PAGE 11

RESTAURANTS

FROM PAGE 1

including the eponymous Rustic Canyon, Huckleberry Bakery & Café, Milo & Olive and Cassia, are sanitizing bathrooms and shared surfaces in dining areas and kitchens, installing sanitation stations at entrances and bathrooms, spacing tables farther apart and removing self-serve areas.

The restaurants are continuing to seal all takeout and delivery orders and are exploring more extensive direct-delivery options, said Erin Eastland, executive chef at Huckleberry Bakery & Café, Milo & Olive and Milo SRO.

"If you're not comfortable eating out or having someone else prepare your food, it's not something we can necessarily change," she said. "But we ask if people are comfortable that they support their local businesses, because they are really in need of it right now. We do offer great comfort food — it's something that can provide a bit of happiness in this crazy, uncertain time."

Other restaurants are also adjusting to the new reality by ramping up delivery options. Downtown restaurant Tar & Roses said in an email to customers Thursday night that it will offer its full menu for takeout with curbside pickup, and Michael's is launching a takeout and delivery menu next week.

Still, Eastland said she foresees restaurants suffering both depressed sales and disrupted supply chains because of the coronavirus pandemic. She said she might have to cut down on non-essential supplies and adjust operations to get through the next several weeks.

"There are things we can do to tweak the numbers a little bit to get through stuff like this without it affecting food quality or the lives of the employees who are relying on us," she said.

Eastland said residents can also support local businesses by purchasing gift cards to use after the coronavirus pandemic, which will allow them to continue paying employees during the slowdown.

"Ultimately, I'm sure we'll see a lot of fallout from this, so it's important that the community supports small businesses during this time if we want to see these places continue to operate once we get through this," she said.

Peters said although Dagwoods has not yet seen a dip in delivery orders, he is terrified of what will happen if a mandated quarantine similar to the lockdown in Italy is put in place.

"For a small business, even shutting down for a couple of days is really difficult," he said.

But if the government enforces more stringent social distancing measures or one of the restaurant's employees contracted coronavirus, Dagwoods would close immediately to prevent the virus from spreading, Peters said.

"If any of our employees did actually get sick, it would be hard to pinpoint where or when they contracted the virus and whether other staff had been exposed to it," he said. "The responsible thing to do would be to shut down."

madeleine@smdp.com

VIRTUAL CARE

FROM PAGE 1

diagnosed with tuberous sclerosis when he was a couple of months old. The rare genetic disorder can cause tumors to grow in various organs such as the heart, eyes, brain, kidney and skin. Children with this disorder are also at a high risk of developing autism.

He said he wanted to participate in UCLA's earlier intervention studies, and had even flown to California for a couple of assessments, but couldn't afford to travel for weekly appointments.

When UCLA doctors told him about the new virtual program, he immediately agreed. Within 6 months of rolling out this program the clinical trial had 30 patients and a growing waitlist.

Families from states across the country will participate in the federally-funded study for about 21 months and will only have to visit the hospital six times. The study will conclude in 2022.

Jeste said she hopes to make the treatment process even easier for patients by developing an app to use on their own devices, instead of lending patients tablets.

Crawford said he has already started seeing improvements in his son's development.

"We got information which is hard to find with a rare diagnosis," he said. "We got access to brilliant people who care about the disease and care about helping people who have it."

He said there may have been some psychologists at a nearby hospital in Arkansas who could have helped his son, but early intervention specialists are hard to come by.

"I don't want to disrespect Arkansas but I don't think we would have had access to the caliber of people we were dealing with at UCLA," he said.

editor@smdp.com

DAILY PRESS EDITORIAL

Don't Panic, Stay Calm

America is in the grips of a coronavirus fueled crisis and while residents should be taking reasonable precautions, the reactions by many people to this situation is extreme, panicked and possibly just as dangerous as the disease itself.

To be clear, coronavirus and the disease it causes (COVID-19) is a real problem. It is highly infectious, new to humans and potentially deadly. How infectious and deadly is still a matter of debate. It's certainly worse than the regular flu but probably not as bad as the Spanish flu. Regardless, it has the capacity to overwhelm health care services if left unchecked so authorities are taking steps to slow its spread.

The public has been asked to limit travel, avoid large gatherings and maintain good hygiene practices but somehow some people have translated these entirely reasonable instructions into a reason to become racist, doomsday preppers.

People are justifiably scared and confused but that doesn't mean we should accept some of the monumentally bad behavior that's emerged in the past week.

Hoarding is truly idiotic. We can't overstate the massive stupidity on display in grocery stores across the country. Certainly, a temporary run on hand sanitizer and related products is to be expected but to buy out toilet paper, condoms, batteries or quite frankly any other item is just detestable behavior.

It's not just that buying out items you don't actually need is massively selfish, the act of hoarding actually increases community unrest because unfortunately, panic begets panic.

You can watch people devolve into two-legged locusts when they enter the store and don't immediately see it full to the seams with 20 kinds of English muffin and 10 different potato options.

There's no food shortage expected in the coming weeks but we can expect fewer people to eat in restaurants. As we reported in today's paper, that could be a burden on many of the local eateries that are vital to our local community. Instead of hoarding supplies we should use this opportunity to get take-out, and take-out specifically, from our local businesses. If you really have to have delivery, order directly from the restaurants and try to find those businesses with their own delivery services. The very popular delivery services can take as much as 30 percent from the business owner so you do a lot more good by placing an order and picking it up yourself.

Even more repulsive has been the racism accompanying the crisis. There's never an excuse for bigotry but that doesn't stop people from engaging in this kind of behavior. It's always our responsibility to push back when this raises its ugly head and this is no different.

Following shortly behind the first two instances is a third scorn-worthy group: naked opportunists and this goes beyond the simple money-grubbing scammers. Price gouging accompanies almost all disasters and this is no different. Charging $20 for a can of Lysol is literally criminal and those individuals should be publicly shamed for this kind of scam. Just as problematic are those seeking to exploit the situation for political gain and we should all be skeptical of those trying to take advantage of the crisis.

There are obvious steps we should all take. Handwashing, avoiding handshakes, sneezing into your elbow and other basic sanitary measures are just common sense. Keeping out of the crowd is a good idea right now both physically and digitally. There's no reason to attend a conference and social media is far more likely to cause confusion and fear.

This is going to be a rough couple of weeks but it's not an apocalypse. Stay calm, don't panic and we'll all be fine.

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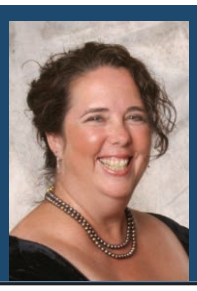


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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 267 CALLS ON MAR. 12

Vehicle Blocking Driveway 600blk 21st Pl 12:35 a.m.
Lewd Activity Princeton St / Wilshire Blvd 1:08 a.m.
Missing Person 300blk Olympic Dr 2:35 a.m.
Grand Theft Just Occurred 2700blk 21st St 2:37 a.m.
Battery Report 1500blk 2nd St 5:53 a.m.
Found Property 900blk Palisades Park 7:48 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 14th St / Wilshire Blvd 8:06 a.m.
Illegal Weapon 7th St / Kensington Rd 8:21 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 8:30 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 1800blk Olympic Blvd 8:48 a.m.
Scar Investigation 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 9:15 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 1800blk 14th St 9:19 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1700blk Olympic Blvd 9:36 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1700blk Ashland Ave 9:47 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred 1100blk 7th St 9:49 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1200blk 4th St 9:53 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400blk 4th St 10:08 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 14th St / Pico Blvd 10:25 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk 2nd St 10:37 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1600blk 9th St 10:39 a.m.
Battery Report 1500blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:51 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1700blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:53 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 3100blk Broadway 10:58 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 20th St / Washington Ave 11:01 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 2500blk 25th St 11:05 a.m.
Death Investigation 800blk 18th St 11:53 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 700blk Pacific St 11:58 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1000blk Ocean Ave 12:01 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2400blk Montana Ave 12:26 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 12:48 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Ocean Ave / Broadway 1:01 p.m.
Child Abuse 2000blk 20th St 1:12 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals 26th St / Olympic Blvd 1:33 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Ocean Ave / Broadway 1:34 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1300blk Euclid St 1:46 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1500blk Ocean Ave 2:04 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 900blk 2nd St 2:27 p.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 1300blk Pearl St 2:33 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2400blk 6th St 2:45 p.m.
Lost Property 300blk Olympic Dr 3:01 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 800blk 19th St 3:15 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Stewart St / Colorado Ave 3:29 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400blk 4th St 3:44 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1200blk 23rd St 3:51 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 3rd St / Marine St 3:54 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 1800blk Stewart St 4:02 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 4:16 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 900blk 15th St 4:22 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 16th St / Ocean Park Blvd 4:28 p.m.
Lost Property 300blk Olympic Dr 4:47 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 20th St / California Ave 5:22 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 2nd St / Colorado Ave 5:46 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1700blk Wilshire Blvd 6:02 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1100blk 10th St 6:17 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2800blk Olympic Blvd 6:27 p.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 800blk 15th St 6:28 p.m.
Grand Theft Now 2100blk Cloverfield Blvd 7:49 p.m.
Grand Theft Just Occurred 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 8:54 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper In Progress 300blk Santa Monica Pier 9:20 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 200blk Pacific St 9:23 p.m.
Armed Robbery Just Occurred 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:08 p.m.
Burglary Just Occurred 200blk Bicknell Ave 10:40 p.m.
Panic Alarm 1400blk 2nd St 10:52 p.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order Report 800blk 19th St 11:34 p.m.

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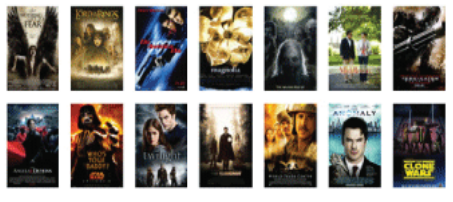


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CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON FEBRUARY 25, AT APPROXIMATELY 11:10 A.M.

Officers working our Homeless Liaison Team contacted an individual, later identified as Lucas Hagerman, in the 800 block of Westbound Olympic Boulevard. The officers observed Hagerman panhandling to vehicles on the off ramp of the freeway, which is a violation of Santa Monica Municipal Code. Officers contacted Hagerman and explained to him the legal and safety issues associated with the panhandling. The officers obtained his information and conducted a records check. This check revealed Hagerman had three outstanding warrants for his arrest, including a No-Bail felony warrant. Lucas Hagerman, 36, homeless was arrested for the outstanding warrants and for the Santa Monica Municipal Code.



File photo

LUCAS HAGERMAN

WEEKLY ARRESTS

THERE WERE 51 ARRESTS THE WEEK OF MARCH 4 THRU MARCH 10.

Date	Sex	Age	Charged With
3/4/20	F	29	Drunk in Public
3/4/20	M	51	Probation Violation
3/4/20	M	47	Drunk in Public
3/4/20	M	29	Carrying A Concealed Dirk Or Dagger
3/4/20	M	39	Possession of a Controlled Substance
3/4/20	M	37	Kidnapping
3/4/20	M	61	Drunk in Public
3/5/20	M	52	Possession of Methamphetamines for Sale
3/5/20	M	40	Possession of Methamphetamines
3/5/20	M	44	Criminal Threat
3/5/20	M	50	Receiving Stolen Property
3/5/20	M	56	Violation of post-conviction supervision
3/5/20	M	67	Domestic Battery
3/5/20	F	63	Drunk in Public
3/6/20	M	48	Assault with a Deadly Weapon
3/6/20	M	37	Warrant
3/6/20	M	37	Warrant
3/6/20	M	37	Drunk in Public
3/6/20	F	42	Drunk in Public
3/6/20	M	26	Trespassing
3/6/20	F	16	Runaway
3/6/20	M	19	Receiving Stolen Property
3/6/20	M	34	Warrant
3/6/20	F	50	Parole Violation
3/6/20	M	47	Drunk in Public
3/6/20	F	43	Drunk in Public
3/6/20	M	25	Drunk in Public
3/6/20	F	38	Unknown
3/7/20	M	26	Contempt of Court
3/7/20	M	27	Loitering to Commit a Crime
3/7/20	M	45	Criminal Threat
3/7/20	M	29	Burglary
3/7/20	F	35	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
3/8/20	M	43	Criminal Threat
3/8/20	M	17	Stolen Vehicle
3/8/20	M	41	False Impersonation
3/8/20	M	26	Battery on a Peace Officer
3/9/20	F	49	Possession of Methamphetamines
3/9/20	M	29	Appropriation of Lost Property
3/9/20	M	26	Warrant
3/9/20	M	50	Aggravated Assault
3/9/20	M	25	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
3/9/20	M	26	Driving Under The Combined Influence Of Alcohol And Drugs
3/9/20	M	21	Possession of open container in vehicle
3/9/20	F	19	Unknown
3/9/20	M	30	Resisting Arrest
3/9/20	M	39	Possession of Methamphetamines
3/10/20	M	46	Possession of Methamphetamines
3/10/20	M	28	Warrant
3/10/20	M	27	Trespassing
3/10/20	F	19	Domestic Battery

BRIEFS

Malibu

Malibu City Hall Open to Public By Appointment Only as a Precaution Against Coronavirus Spread

Malibu City Hall will be opened to the public by appointment only effective Monday, March 16 in an abundance of caution to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus and to protect the health and safety of the community, especially seniors and other high-risk groups. There are no confirmed cases of Coronavirus in Malibu.

"I understand that this is inconvenient, and I want to assure the community that the City Council and staff are doing everything possible to continue City services and protect public health and safety," said Mayor Karen Farrer. "We must come together as a community, be prepared, and follow public health officials' recommended precautions to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, and protect our vulnerable populations."

The City remains committed to serving the community, and City business will continue to operate. Although City Hall and all public counters will be closed to the public, staff will be available to assist anyone with City business including plan review, permit issuance and building inspection. The public is encouraged to call or email City staff to make appointments.

To make appointments, please call or email:

Building Safety Department (including Environmental Health, Coastal Engineering and Geotechnical Engineering): Call 310-456-2489, ext. 390 or Email mbuilding@malibucity.org.

Planning Department (including Biology): Call 310-456-2489, ext. 485 or Email mplanning@malibucity.org.

Public Works Department: Call 310-456-2489, ext. 391 or Email mpublicworks@malibucity.org.

All other City business: 310-456-2489, ext. 392 or Email info@malibucity.org.

The City of Malibu continues to implement measures to protect the public health and safety and prevent the possible spread of the Coronavirus. Following the recommendations of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH), California Office of Emergency Management (CALOES) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the City is taking steps to limit public gatherings and reduce the likelihood of community spread.

OTHER ACTIONS THE CITY HAS TAKEN

All City Commission meetings cancelled until further notice (3/13/2020)

All non-essential City programs and services postponed or cancelled through April 30 (3/12/2020)

Long range Pandemic planning in development (3/12/2020, ongoing)

Emergency Operations Center activated at lowest level (3/12/2020)

Senior programs, classes, and events cancelled (3/11/2020)

Dedicated Coronavirus webpage www.MalibuCity.org/Coronavirus created (3/11/2020)

Emergency and remote staffing plans being prepared (3/10/2020, ongoing)

Created a Pandemic Response Plan (3/9/2020) https://www.malibucity.org/DocumentCenter/View/26113/Pandemic-Response-Plan-2020

City Hall public spaces regularly cleaned and sanitized (3/3/2020, ongoing)

Daily conference calls with State, County and regional public health agencies (3/2/2020)

Regular Emergency public messaging distributed daily

The March 23, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting will be held as scheduled. All other City Commission meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

The Senior Center is closed, but Senior Center staff will still be available to assist any seniors in the community that need assistance. For assistance, call the Senior Center at 310-456-2489 ext. 357. The Dial-A-Ride program will continue to operate, and Dial-A-Ride vehicles are regularly disinfected.

For a complete list of programs, meetings and events that are cancelled or postponed, visit https://www.malibucity.org/DocumentCenter/View/26106/03_12_2020_Malibu_EmergencyCancellations_ProgramsMeetingsEvents.

The City, in standard preparation for any emergency or disaster, has plans in place for continuity of government services and business operations. In addition, the City has created a Pandemic Response Plan to address continuity of operations for businesses, and City government services in case a serious outbreak of the Coronavirus (or other communicable disease) occurs locally.

The public is urged to follow these hygiene and containment measures:

- Avoid / stay away from sick people;
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or alcohol-based hand cleaner;
- Keep hands away from eyes, nose and mouth;
- Disinfect public counters, desks, common areas, phones, keyboards and other high-touch surfaces;
- Use disinfectant wipes identified for use against Influenza A&B and Coronaviruses;
- If you have symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) stay home and call a doctor;
- Remain home until you have spoken with your doctor or health provider and are cleared to return to work; and
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw away the tissue.

For updates and information about the Coronavirus situation in the United States and in Los Angeles County, severity, treatments, precautions, and other important public health information in multiple languages, please visit LADPH at http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus and the CDC at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF, MEDIA INFORMATION OFFICER

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EMERGENCY

FROM PAGE 6

including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to be over it.

Pelosi and Mnuchin continued their constant cross-town phone calls throughout a tense day of negotiations to firm up and salvage the emerging deal that has widespread support from Democrats and some in the business community seeking certainty.

Providing sick pay for workers is a crucial element of federal efforts to stop the rapid spread of the infection. Officials warn that the nation's healthcare system could quickly become overwhelmed with gravely sick patients, as suddenly happened in Italy, one of the countries hardest hit by the virus.

The ability to ensure paychecks will keep flowing — for people who stay home as a preventative measure or because they're feeling ill or caring for others — can help assure Americans they will not fall into financial hardship.

The potential deal between Congress and the White House would cap a tumultuous week in which Washington strained for a comprehensive response to an outbreak that is testing the nation's political, financial and health care systems.

Trump has struggled to show he's on top of the crisis, after giving conflicting descriptions of what the U.S. is doing to combat the virus.

The House aid package builds on an emergency $8.3 billion measure approved last week.

Pelosi promised a third coronavirus package will follow soon, though the House is leaving Washington on Friday for a previously scheduled recess. That measure will include more aggressive steps to boost the U.S. economy, which economists fear has already slipped into recession.

But there's little appetite within either party for Trump's proposal to suspend collection of the 6.2% Social Security payroll tax. States are already clamoring for fiscal relief from Washington as the virus threatens their budgets.

The coronavirus crisis also got personal for Trump and some members of Congress.

The president, his daughter Ivanka, Attorney General WIlliam Barr and lawmakers are among those who have been in contact with others who have now tested positive for the coronavirus.

Australian Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton, now in isolation at a hospital after testing positive for the coronavirus, had returned to Sydney from Washington, where he met Barr and Ivanka Trump last week.

White House officials have not responded to questions about whether the administration officials intend to be tested or self-quarantine.

Barr, meanwhile, was staying home Friday, though he "felt great and wasn't showing any symptoms," according to his spokeswoman Kerri Kupec. She said the CDC did not recommend testing at this point.

In addition, just days after meeting Trump and Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., at the president's Mar-a-Lago resort, the communications chief for Brazil's president, Fábio Wajngarten, tested positive for coronavirus. Scott said he was isolating himself. Trump, 73, said he was not concerned.

GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham, who was also at Trump's club on the weekend, joined a growing list of lawmakers who have chosen to isolate themselves as a precaution. He announced Friday that he also met with the Australian official who has now tested positive. And GOP Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, who had previously isolated himself after a potential exposure at a conservative conference in Washington, said Friday he met with a Spanish official and is now self-quarantining.

Lawmakers from both parties expressed alarm at the U.S. response, and especially over how few patients have been tested.

"We're basically, in my opinion, flying blind," said Rep. Susie Lee, D-Nev.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, infectious disease chief at the National Institutes of Health, in several television interviews Friday, said more tests would be available over the next week, but that officials should not wait before trying to mitigate the virus' effects.

"We will have considerably more testing in the future, but you don't wait for testing," Fauci said on "CBS This Morning." He said school closings and similar measures are "generally an appropriate approach."

"We're at a critical point now as we seek to blunt the rise in cases to make sure it's a hill, not a mountain," Fauci said on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Associated Press writers Aamer Madhani, Alan Fram, Lauran Neergaard, Martin Crutsinger, Laurie Kellman, Michael Balsamo and Kevin Freking in Washington and Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

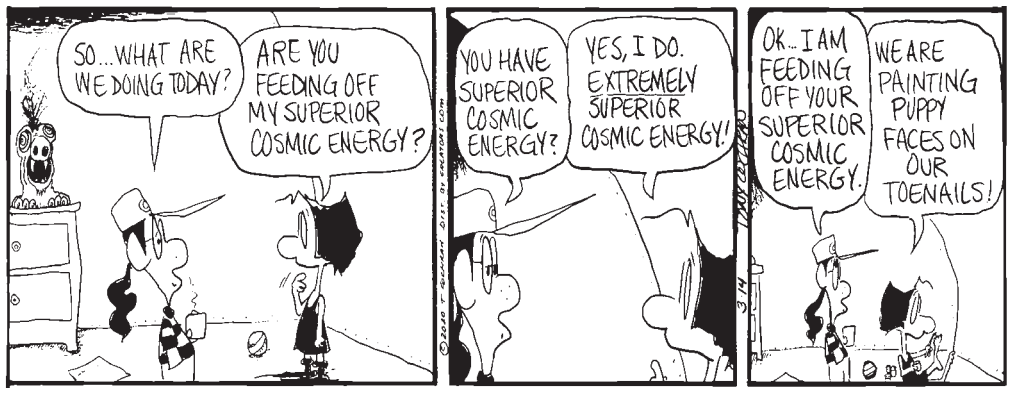






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By TONY COCHRAN



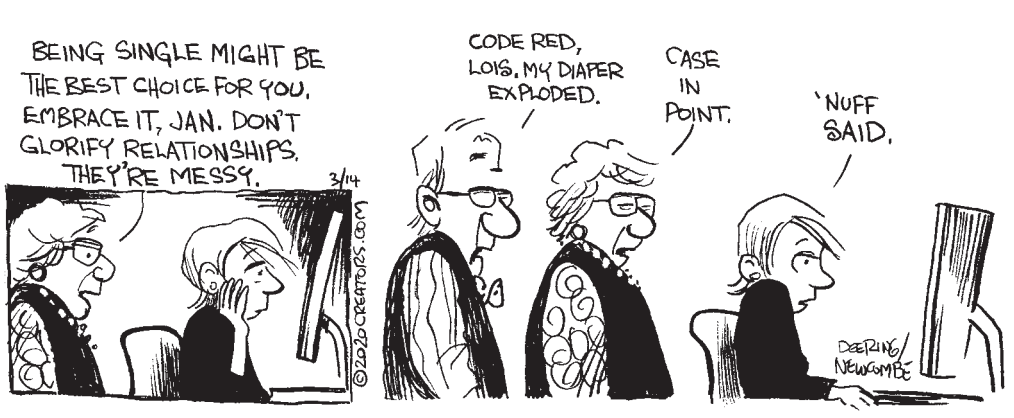
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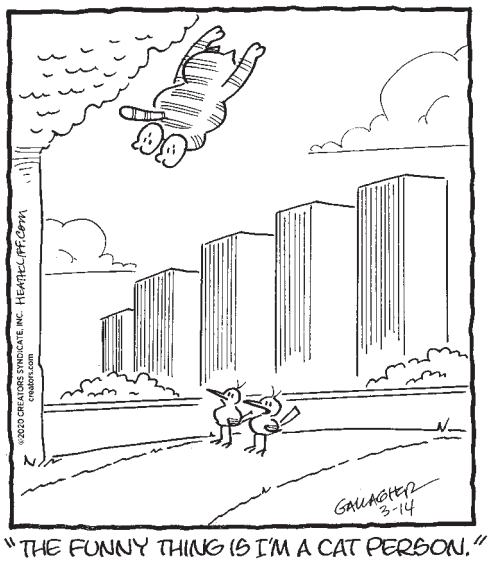
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"THE FUNNY THING IS I'M A CAT PERSON."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 60.6°

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
S swell continues to ease, mixing with modest WNW swell. Light onshore flow most of the day.

SUNDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Knee to waist high
Modest WNW reinforcements. Old S swell eases further as new long-period S swell starts to pick up. Morning wind looks favorable.

WEATHER

Saturday: A 30 percent chance of rain before 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 62.
Saturday Night: A slight chance of rain after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53.
Sunday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 60.
Sunday Night: A chance of rain, mainly after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53.
Monday: A 40 percent chance of rain, mainly after 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59.
Monday Night: Rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50.
Tuesday: Rain likely. Partly sunny, with a high near 56.

Date	Day of the Week	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/03/14	Sat	01:10 AM	5.23	H
2020/03/14	Sat	08:12 AM	0.20	L
2020/03/14	Sat	2:28 PM	3.14	H
2020/03/14	Sat	7:19 PM	1.79	L
2020/03/15	Sun	02:06 AM	4.96	H
2020/03/15	Sun	09:46 AM	0.28	L
2020/03/15	Sun	4:35 PM	2.83	H
2020/03/15	Sun	8:17 PM	2.41	L
2020/03/16	Mon	03:21 AM	4.69	H
2020/03/16	Mon	11:24 AM	0.11	L
2020/03/16	Mon	6:45 PM	3.09	H
2020/03/16	Mon	10:35 PM	2.73	L
2020/03/17	Tue	04:50 AM	4.60	H
2020/03/17	Tue	12:37 PM	-0.17	L
2020/03/17	Tue	7:47 PM	3.48	H
2020/03/18	Wed	12:18 AM	2.54	L
2020/03/18	Wed	06:08 AM	4.70	H
2020/03/18	Wed	1:31 PM	-0.41	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date:03/11
4 29 49 50 67
Power#: 2
Jackpot:120 M

MEGA MILLIONS calottery
Draw Date: 03/10
6 17 48 54 69
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 80 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 03/11
5 10 20 43 44
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 10 M

Fantasy 5 calottery
Draw Date: 03/12
10 22 33 34 35

Daily 3 calottery
Draw Date: 03/12
Evening: 8 5 6
Draw Date: 03/12
Midday: 5 6 9

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 03/12
1st: 04 - BIG BEN
2nd: 02 - LUCKY STAR
3rd: 09 - WINNING SPIRIT
RACE TIME: 1:45.94

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

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MARCH 14)

Where others see closed doors, you'll see opportunities to push and find out what opens. Much will. You'll meet with people, explore new environments, change your mind about a few things and change other people's minds, too. You'll grow toward a center of being that's comfortable and peaceful to you. Capricorn and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 12, 22 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Someone with a new perspective will catch you off-guard. It doesn't have to be particularly sound or true to be interesting and spark your next surge of creativity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can't know what you're going to feel before you begin. It just doesn't work that way. Feel first. Then know what you're feeling later, if you're lucky. The story that comes after that makes all the difference.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You know when people aren't saying what they mean, i.e. all of the time. What you don't know is why some don't pick up on the cues. You'll hear them loud and clear, and you'll investigate.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Do you need guidance? Yes. Can you give guidance? Yes. Whatever you don't know, there will be people around you to show you. There will also be people who need what you know.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). They used to say "time is money," but that was before they knew the value of time, which blindingly outshines the value of money. Money can be made and traded, not so much with time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's absolutely no good that can come of disapproving yourself. Go with you. Get on your side. You're the one you're most in charge of. Champion this cause.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). One question that has come up lately is, "Who do you think you are?" Other variations on the theme are: "Who are you?" and "Who am I?" and "Who am I now?" Rest assured, these identities will resolve themselves beautifully in action.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). "The benefit of the doubt" is an expression that applies to today's dealings, in that it's what generous people give -- also hopeful people and lazy people. In all regards, it will be for the best.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Complex thought is the thought that can hold two opposing ideas in the same little pocket. Such thinking isn't about being wrong or right, it's about being captivatingly curious.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). To give your attention to a work of entertainment can be a defining act, depending on the level of attention. What attracts people is meaningful, and you'll gain insight on this subject.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Troubles are always relative. Each person deals with life on a certain scale, which can be similar or vastly different from your own. A storm in a teacup can be disastrous for a gnat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Whether you give money or just props, you're a patron of the arts. Though it might not be enough for you just to support. To fully appreciate talent in others, further explore your own talents.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

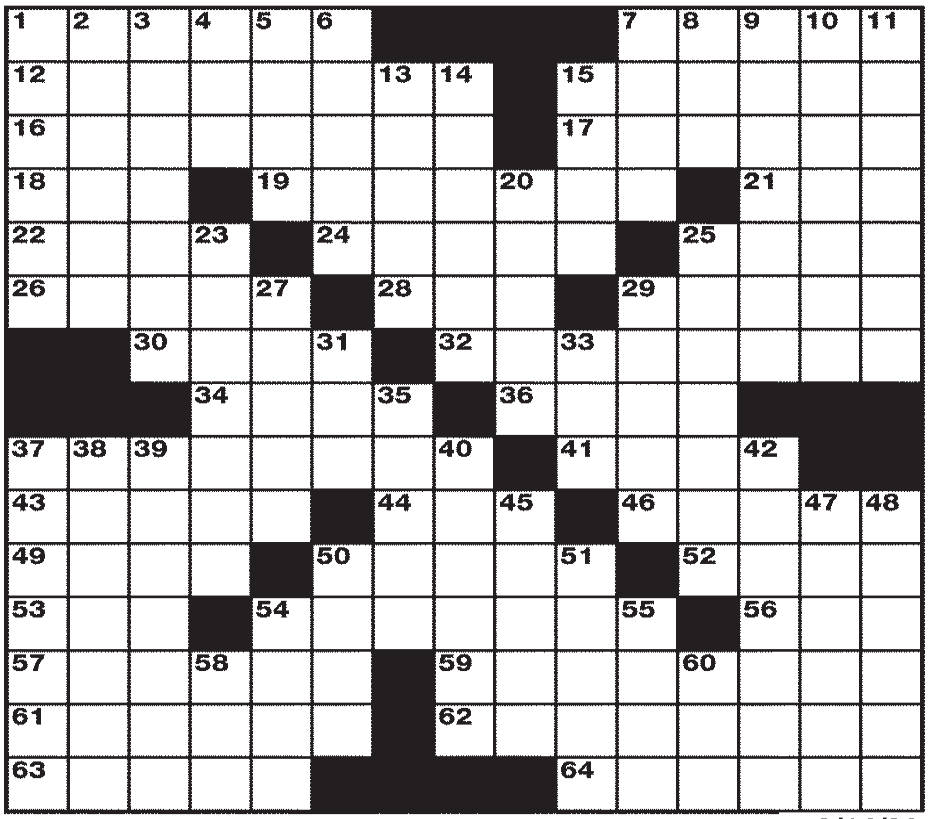
	7	2	9			8		4
								2
6			2		5		1	
		1				4	7	
2				6				3
	5	6				1		
	2		7		9			5
3								
4		7			1	2	9	

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Brad Wilber
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Brains and brawn
7 With 4 Down, transparent swimmer
12 Pathway on old sailing ships
15 Smith booster
16 Fashion effect aka "manscara"
17 Cofounding Jesuit
18 Lay an egg
19 No longer in force
21 Video gamer's frustration
22 DoD enforcement group
24 Bad marriage prospects in Austen novels
25 Potent *nihonshu*
26 Che in *Evita*
28 Nautical shelter
29 World leader with a judo DVD
30 Add flamboyance to, with "up"
32 Boon of consumption
34 Many an outboard
36 "A nightingale who sits in darkness," per Shelley
37 Credit card reader display
41 Really fly
43 Antonym of "earnestness"
44 Mailed regrets
46 Many a paperweight
49 Extended broadside
50 Word from Middle French for "wave"
52 Turn that sounds like a lot
53 First airer of *The Office*
54 "Don't argue!"
56 Means to exoneration, maybe
57 Uncombined
59 Verdict of disapproval
61 "Hold your horses!"
62 Cutlery carrier
63 Collectible vessel
64 Creatively turbulent

DOWN
1 French euros
2 Font
3 It's busted in Hitchcock's *Topaz*
4 See 7 Across
5 Apollo, for instance
6 Less harried
7 Extra content
8 Candy heart sentiment
9 Question asked breathlessly, perhaps
10 Crash, in a way
11 Boston Public Library muralist
13 Sanctioned
14 Sea terror of Norse legend
15 Dumps
20 Begin a course
23 Financially OK
25 108 *Odyssey* fellows
27 Far from honeyed
29 Med-tech specialty
31 School with a sci-fi society
33 A ___
35 Element in strobe lights
37 Olds was the first to offer them to the public (1972)
38 Chesapeake bait
39 Tight
40 Loafs
42 Discolors, as fabrics
45 What a prelude often precedes
47 Address for L.A.'s Laugh Factory
48 Trifling
50 It may be commanding
51 Take a stab at
54 Wastebasket, for instance
55 Sugar baron/ art collector/ philanthropist
58 Fellow from Wheeling
60 Onetime North Island herbivore



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California's January jobs report reflects rosy past

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

Facing major disruptions across nearly all economic sectors because of the coronavirus, California officials on Friday sent the public a postcard from the state's rosier past: The January jobs report.

The report shows a roaring California economy that added 21,400 new jobs, building on the state's remarkable 10-year run of continuous economic expansion.

But context from the past two days — including Gov. Gavin Newsom's executive order that has closed schools, conferences and Disney Land — demands a different interpretation.

"California's monthly job numbers this morning are from a California economy that now seems like the distant past — January 2020," wrote Michael Bernick, a former director of the California Employment Development Department who is now special counsel with the Philadelphia-based law firm Duane Morris.

The report showed that California maintained its record-low unemployment rate of 3.9%, continuing an employment surge that began in February 2010. Since then, California has gained more than 3.3 million jobs, accounting for 15% of the nation's job gains over that period, according to the California Employment Development Department.

The biggest gains came in the education and health services and leisure and hospitality sectors. But the widespread recent closures because of the coronavirus, plus directives from the big tech companies for employees to work from home, are already taking a toll on the state's hospitality industry.

"This week, really for the first time, we're beginning to see significant layoffs," Bernick said. "Previous public health emergencies in California have brought shifts, but nothing at all like what we're seeing just in the past two weeks."

California's economy was already slowing in recent months. The state was still adding new jobs each month, but the total number of new jobs was shrinking because of labor shortages, said Sung Won Sohn, professor of economics at Loyola Marymount University.

Just five months ago, Sohn and other economists were marveling at how California's unemployment rate dipped below 2% in San Francisco and some of its neighboring counties, a feat many did not think was possible.

And now?

"We are either in a recession now or will be in one shortly," Sohn said.

California's January job numbers are usually not announced until March because that's when state officials start using a larger sample of employers to test the accuracy of the numbers. The February numbers should be released later this month.

Bernick says he doesn't expect the coronavirus impact to show up in the monthly job reports until at least April.

Not all sectors will be hurt. Some, including health care, might need more workers.

Larry Mendonca, Newsom's chief economic and business adviser, and California Labor Secretary Julie A. Su said in a joint statement they are monitoring the economic impacts of the coronavirus very closely, "as are all Californians, the nation, and the world."

Newsom, a Democrat, on Thursday said the state was prepared for an economic slowdown, noting officials collected more taxes in December and January than they had expected.

"That said, the economic disruption is profound and it is real and clearly it is going to have an impact on our state treasury," Newsom said.



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