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Homelessness and COVID
The Governor warns 60,000 homeless people could get infected.
Page 2

Puzzles and Stuff
Entertainment for your social distancing.
Page 9

Crime falls as coronavirus rises

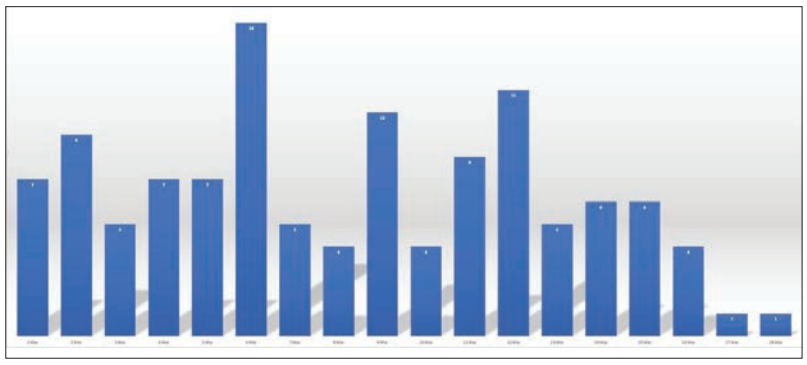
MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Crime is falling in Santa Monica on pace with efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus but local police officers remain on patrol throughout the city.

Calls for service into the Santa Monica Police Department have dropped by about 30 percent over the course of this month and the number of people arrested has dropped to a single arrest per day in the past two days.

According to SMPD crime stats, there was an average of 336 calls for service between March 1 and March 18 in 2019, that number has declined to 281 this year with a noticeable decline in call volume corresponding with the City

SEE **CRIME** PAGE 7



SMDP image

ARRESTS: Arrests have fallen in time with growing coronavirus restrictions.



Ross Furukawa

CRASH: A pair of SMPD vehicles collided at Lincoln and Pico on Thursday. The vehicles were responding to the scene of a different accident involving a motorcycle officer near Rose and Main when they crashed, sending one of the cars into a street light next to the Starbucks. One officer was transported to a local hospital for a cut to his head while the other two were transported for observation.

Local micromobility options uneven as riders self-isolate

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

Half of the micromobility companies allowed to operate in Santa Monica have pulled scooters off the streets as coronavirus continues to spread.

Lime and Lyft have paused service locally, but Santa Monica-based Bird and Jump, which is owned by Uber, still had devices available for rental as of Thursday. Two cases of coronavirus were confirmed in Santa Monica Thursday as the countywide total reached 230.

Though local officials have not ordered people to shelter-in-place, residents have been directed to stay

SEE **MICROMOBILITY** PAGE 6

Number of local coronavirus cases remains stable as county total blasts past 200

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

Public health officials said there were two cases of coronavirus in Santa Monica Thursday after confirming Wednesday that three individuals in the city had tested positive.

Officials announced 40 new cases across Los Angeles County Thursday for a total of 231. Two individuals with coronavirus live in Santa Monica, according to a county list of known cases, even though a list yesterday confirmed three individuals. Thursday's list also confirmed four cases in Venice and 13 in Brentwood.

L.A. County Department of Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said at a press conference Thursday that the true countywide total is likely much higher, so people

SEE **COVID-19 CASES** PAGE 6

Near-lockdown in LA County, residents urged to stay home

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles County, the nation's largest with 10 million residents, announced a near-lockdown Thursday in an effort to curb the spread of coronavirus, urging all residents to stay home except for essential needs.

The "Safer at Home" order takes effect Friday and calls for the closure of all non-essential businesses and prohibits gatherings of more than 10 people. Grocery stories and other essential businesses will remain open.

People may still leave their homes for walks and exercise and for essential needs such as food and medical care. Restaurant meals can still be delivered to homes.

"We're about to enter into a new way of living here in Los Angeles," Mayor Eric Garcetti said at a news conference. "What we do and how we do it and if we get this right will determine how long this crisis lasts."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger said it's unclear how long the restrictions will last.

"Our shared focus and resolve is what is going to get us through this," she said.

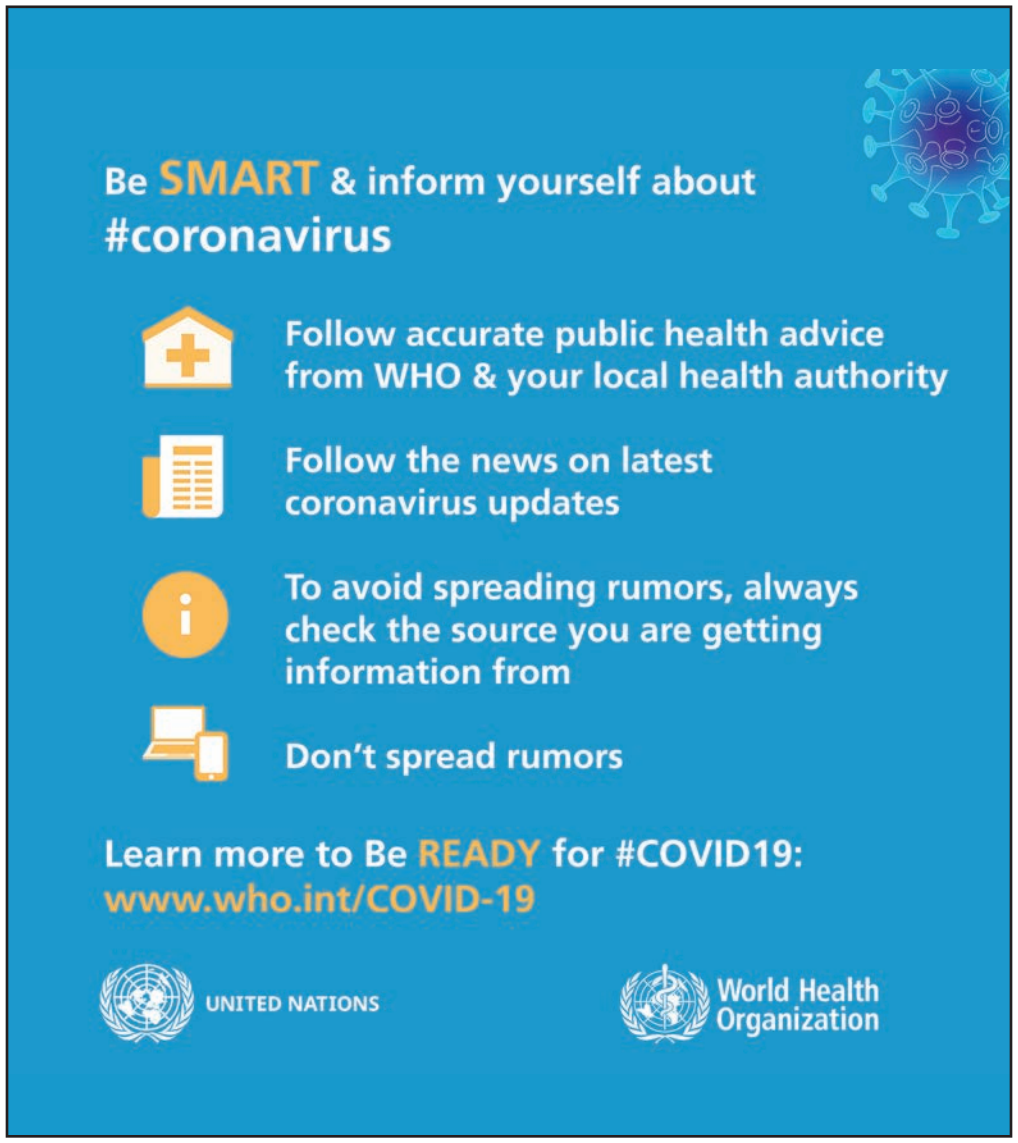
The rule applies to all cities in the county, including Santa Monica.

The San Francisco Bay Area and much of the rest of Northern California already has imposed similar restrictions.


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California governor: 60,000 homeless could get virus

DON THOMPSON AND JOHN ANTCZAK
Associated Press

As worries about the spread of the coronavirus confine millions of Californians to their homes, concern is growing about those who have no homes in which to shelter. Gov. Gavin Newsom estimates up to 60,000 homeless could end up infected.

California has more than 150,000 homeless people, the most in the nation, and as the rest of the state's residents are being told to stay apart and to frequently wash their hands, the homeless are living just as they did before the outbreak.

The virus is spread by coughing and sneezing and could easily sweep through homeless encampments where people live close together and hygiene is poor or nonexistent.

There is one confirmed death of a homeless person in California so far. Newsom said the person died in Santa Clara County, just south of San Francisco. Newsom and the county health department provided no details about the person

Newsom on Wednesday said it's possible 60,000 homeless people could contract the virus and overwhelm the state's health care systems and announced spending of $150 million on efforts to shield that population from the virus.

"I hope you get a sense of the seriousness we're taking the issue of homelessness," Newsom said.

Two-thirds of the money will go directly to local governments for spending on homeless services and $50 million will be used by the state to buy 1,300 travel trailers and lease hotel rooms for emergency housing.

The trailers will be used for homeless people requiring isolation after testing positive for the virus or who are showing symptoms. California also has identified 950 hotels that could lease rooms to local governments for the homeless.

In Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced that the city, through the Red Cross, will provide 6,000 emergency beds at recreation centers, including 1,600 by week's end.

Los Angeles has about 27,000 of the county's 60,000 homeless people. Garcetti said the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority will be asked to identify 4,000 people most at risk from the virus.

People in shelters who have virus symptoms will be taken to receive medical care, Garcetti said.

The city hasn't confirmed any virus cases among homeless people, who are difficult to test and treat because they may move frequently or refuse medical care.

The city has set up hundreds of hand-washing stations and mobile toilets at homeless encampments and the City Council voted Tuesday to suspend an ordinance requiring homeless people to take down their tents during the day so that transients can at least shelter there.

California has at least 870 confirmed cases and 16 deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. More than 11,900 people in California are self-monitoring after returning from overseas.

Meanwhile, the pandemic continued to affect virtually every facet of Californians' lives as businesses shut down, either because they weren't considered "essential" under shelter-in-place health orders or for lack of customers as streets turned into ghost towns.

Newsom said that the state had received 80,000 claims for unemployment on Tuesday, compared to the usual rate of about 2,000 per day.

Newsom last week urged people over 65 and those with underlying health conditions to stay inside, limited gatherings to 250 people and called for the shutdown of bars, movie theaters, fitness centers and other gathering places, and for restaurants to only serve to-go orders.

With virtually all children out of school because of closures, Newsom suspended standardized testing this spring. And with the economy shedding jobs he waived certain reporting requirements for businesses making mass layoffs.

Newsom said he will not issue a statewide lockdown on people's movements, preferring to allow local governments to make those decisions. Many have enacted tighter restrictions.

Residents of the county of Sacramento and city of Fresno began living under a shelter-in-place order Thursday similar to actions taken by at least 15 northern counties. The entire San Francisco Bay is part of the area covered by the restrictions affecting more than 10 million people.

Residents have been told to stay home except for essential shopping trips and to jobs in health care and other industries deemed critical.

Palm Springs enacted similar restrictions. Los Angeles, San Diego and other major population centers in Southern California have urged people to remain at home as much as possible.

Newsom said nearly 99% of the state's K-12 schools are shuttered and could remain so for the rest of the school year.

Associated Press journalists Amy Taxin in Santa Ana and Julie Watson in San Diego and John Rogers in Los Angeles contributed to this story. Antczak reported from Los Angeles.

Vital but vulnerable, cleaners hold the line against a virus

MAE ANDERSON, ALEXANDRA OLSON AND KELVIN CHAN
AP Business Writers

When hospitals need to prep a room for the next coronavirus test, when jetliners discharge their passengers at the gate, when suburbanites start to take sanitary precautions more seriously, the call goes out:

Send in the cleaners.

These largely unsung workers are often the first line of defense against the global COVID-19 pandemic, cleaning and disinfecting homes, offices, medical facilities and public spaces where the novel coronavirus could spread. But the people doing all this cleaning earn low wages, frequently lack sick leave and paid days off, and can be fired with no warning.

Amid all that is the constant fear that they could encounter the virus themselves, despite what many say are diligent precautions.

Shasmin Lewis, who spends her mornings doing office work for MaidPro in Philadelphia and her afternoons cleaning homes, says her hours have jumped almost 80% to 40 hours a week. She brings her own mask to work even though MaidPro provides both masks and gloves, washes her hands frequently and wears gloves even when dusting.

"I'm very worried, but I plan on staying around until we can't," she said. Not only do her elderly customers need her help, she says, but like countless workers, she has enough savings to support her and two kids for about a month — even though she's moving into management.

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 who contract the virus recover.

Overall demand for cleaning has been heavy. Airlines, including Delta and Southwest, added disinfecting measures on flights. Amtrak increased the frequency of cleaning services at trains and stations, in some cases on an hourly basis, and is using more disinfectant to wipe down handrails, door knobs and handles.

During the first two weeks of March, ads for cleaners were up 75% in the U.S. and 20% in the U.K. compared to a year ago, according to Ziprecruiter, an online job posting site.

But that's starting to change as cities across the U.S. and Europe enter lockdown and schools, hotels, restaurants and other businesses shut down.

Last week, Zoraida Rodriguez was working overtime to keep the Bernard B. Jacobs theater clean for well-heeled Broadway enthusiasts. She and other custodial workers were called in early and stayed late to help with deep cleaning, disinfecting door knobs, stair rails and anything else theatergoers might touch.

This week, Rodriguez is out of a job. Broadway theaters abruptly closed until at least April 12 and possibly beyond. At least 204 theaters and stadium service workers lost their jobs, according to the Service Employees International Union that represents them. There is no clear answer about whether they would get severance pay or any type of relief. Rodriguez was told to pick up her last paycheck this week.

Rodriguez, 53, has worked cleaning Broadway theaters for nearly 16 years, making $20 an hour. She had health insurance, paid sick leave and vacation. Those benefits are gone, although SEIU is negotiating for some relief. For the moment, she says she'll rely on unemployment benefits and her daughter's salary from a New Jersey beauty salon — although salon hours are also falling as customer traffic plummets.

"We really live paycheck to paycheck, and it is difficult for us to last a month without working," Rodriguez says.

According to a study by the National Domestic Workers Alliance, 82 % of domestic workers don't get paid sick days. Many are afraid if they do stay out sick they'll get fired: about 25% of domestic workers fired from their jobs say it was due to their request to take time off, 22% were fired for actually taking time off, and 20% were discharged for missing work to take care of themselves or a family members.

The mean annual wage for maids and housekeepers was $25,570 in 2018, according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For janitors and building cleaners it is $26,100 per year. That's close to the poverty line for a family of four.

Technology is also encroaching on their jobs. Hong Kong's subway operator is deploying 20 robots developed with a local biotech startup that spray vaporized hydrogen peroxide to "penetrate in the small gaps that are difficult to reach during normal cleaning work" on train cars or station facilities. The Westin Houston Medical Center is rolling out two ultraviolet "germ-zapping robots" to disinfect rooms, saying it's the first and only U.S. hotel to do so.

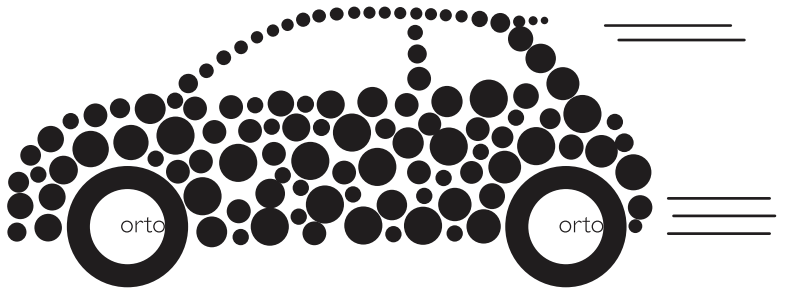
Ingrid Vaca, who works cleaning homes in the Washington, D.C. area, has lost four of her eight clients over the past two weeks as the coronavirus crisis deepened. One by one, they have called to tell her not to come, trying to keep their homes closed off to the outside world. Only one offered to pay her for the month of March.

This crisis has magnified the dangers of Vaca's precarious work life, which has long been at the mercy of employers who can fire her at any moment, for any reason, with no obligation to give her notice or severance pay.

One client, an elderly man whose house she has cleaned for 15 years, abruptly laid her off on Friday after his family decided he could no longer afford her services. No one asked how she was faring in the midst of the pandemic that had cost her three other jobs

SEE **CLEANERS** PAGE 11

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santa monica orto

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Insalata di carciofi e pecorino Calistoga organic artichokes, sliced Sardinian pecorino and wild rucola **13**

PASTA

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Spaghetti alla carbonara organic egg, crispy pancetta and Sardinian pecorino **25**

Cavatelli tartufati alla Norcina Umbrian black truffles, seasonal mushrooms, sausage and red cow parmigiano **40**

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Fusilli alla Norma San Marzano tomato purée, eggplant dry ricotta cheese **25**

Orecchiette dell'orto San Marzano tomato purée, Farmers Market organic vegetables **24**

Ravioli ai quattro formaggi nel bosco four cheeses ravioli, seasonal mushrooms sauce **28**

Ravioli di gamberi allo zafferano Shrimp ravioli, cream of Italian saffron **28**

Linguine di mare con mandorle Mediterranean mussels, Manila clams, calamari, shrimp, almonds, organic tomatoes **29**

Spaghetti alla Bottarga bottarga from Cabras, garlic, Sicilian olive oil, parsley **28**

Linguini alle vongole con zafferano e zucchini Manila clams, organic tomatoes Italian saffron and zucchini julienne **28**

MAIN

Filetto ai funghi Wisconsin Black Angus filet mignon with seasonal mushrooms, Farmers Market organic vegetables **48**

Filetto al pepe verde Wisconsin Black Angus filet mignon with green peppercorn sauce, Farmers Market organic vegetables **46**

Entrecôte alle erbe Wisconsin Black Angus New York steak, with herbs, Farmers Market organic vegetables **49**

Costolette d'agnello al balsamico Australian lamb chops, balsamic vinegar reduction, Farmers Market organic vegetables **48**

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Celebrities get virus tests, raising concerns of inequality

MICHAEL BIESECKER, MICHELLE R. SMITH AND TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

Celebrities, politicians and professional athletes faced a backlash this week as many revealed that they had been tested for the coronavirus, even when they didn't have a fever or other tell-tale symptoms.

That's fueling a perception that the wealthy and famous have been able to jump to the head of the line to get tested while others have been turned away or met with long delays.

The concerns over preferential treatment underscore a fundamental truth about inequalities baked into the American health care system — those with the financial means can often receive a different level of service.

Asked about the issue Wednesday, President Donald Trump said the well-to-do and well-connected shouldn't get priority for coronavirus tests. But the wealthy former reality star conceded that the rich and famous sometimes get perks.

"Perhaps that's been the story of life," Trump said during a briefing at the White House. "That does happen on occasion. And I've noticed where some people have been tested fairly quickly."

On Wednesday, the Brooklyn Nets professional basketball team announced the entire team was tested last week upon returning from San Francisco after a game against the Golden State Warriors. The team found a private lab to do the work, and on Tuesday announced that four of its players were positive for the virus, including perennial All-Star Kevin Durant.

Even though public health resources were not used, it raised the ire of many, including New York Mayor Bill de Blasio.

"We wish them a speedy recovery," the mayor wrote on Twitter. "But, with all due respect, an entire NBA team should NOT get tested for COVID-19 while there are critically ill patients waiting to be tested. Tests should not be for the wealthy, but for the sick."

Like Robin Fraser.

The 30-year-old has fibromyalgia and an autoimmune disorder that put her at high risk for complications if she contracts the virus. She's been running a fever and coughing since last week. Her doctor recommended she get tested at the emergency room, but there she was told there weren't enough tests, so she can't get one.

"That's just not fair," said Fraser, who lives in Victor, New York, near Rochester.

Fraser has seen celebrities and politicians getting tests, and that upsets her.

"Why are they getting in front of the line? People like me, average Joes, we get pushed to the back of the line. Why can Congress get it and we can't?" she asked.

Among the powerful people who have gotten tests in recent weeks were South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham and Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz. Both Republican lawmakers were exposed to someone who tested positive, but their tests came back negative.

Public frustrations over the difficulties getting tested for the new virus have been building since the first U.S. case was confirmed Jan. 20. Early missteps with test kits developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, coupled with strict government criteria about who qualified for screening, have led to widespread reports of people struggling to get tested. Even those who manage to get successfully swabbed often report long delays in getting the results back due to lengthy backlogs at government-run labs.

Seeking to break the logjam, the federal Food and Drug Administration announced earlier this month it would allow major private diagnostic lab companies to begin rolling out new COVID-19 tests and relaxed regulations typically required before new tests can be brought to market.

Over the last two weeks, that has led to a surge in testing available from private doctors and labs not bound by CDC's criteria for which patients should be prioritized for testing, such as those with fever and difficulty breathing who have recently traveled to affected countries overseas, or those who have had close contact with someone confirmed to have had the virus.

LabCorp, a major lab testing company, began providing COVID-19 test on March 5. Quest Diagnostics, another major national provider, followed suit on March 9.

In a statement, LabCorp said its COVID-19 test is available on the order of any physician or other authorized healthcare provider anywhere in the United States. The company said it expects to be performing more than 10,000 tests per day by the end of this week, ramping up to 20,000 tests per day by the end of this month.

By comparison, the CDC and other public health labs conducted about 30,000 tests in the eight weeks since the pandemic arrived in the U.S., according to data compiled by researchers at Johns Hopkins University.

The NBA suspended its season on March 11 after a Utah Jazz player tested positive for the coronavirus just before a game — eventually canceled — with the Oklahoma City Thunder. Oklahoma's state epidemiologist confirmed last week that the Jazz, their traveling party and a number of Utah beat writers — 58 people in all — were tested after the cancellation of the game in Oklahoma City once it became known that All-Star center Rudy Gobert tested positive for the virus.

League officials have said that since its players have direct contact with each other and often interact very closely with fans, both physicians who work for teams and

SEE **VIRUS TESTS** PAGE 11

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Letter To The Editor

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Supporting housing

EDITOR:

The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica supports and commends the City Council's passage of the Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance to allow for streamlined approval of 100% affordable housing projects and Tier 2 housing projects compliant with the City's existing Zoning Code and California's Housing Accountability Act.

In the midst of an unprecedented housing crisis in California, Santa Monica continues to take a forward-looking, proactive approach to support the production of new housing in our city. We appreciate the leading role that the City has taken in addressing barriers to the creation of new housing, particularly affordable housing. While other cities are fighting against the proposed RHNA numbers, Santa Monica understands that a solution to the housing crisis is multifaceted, and must begin at the local level.

The League does not support or oppose any candidates or parties, but we do advocate for best practices on issues where we have established public policy positions.

The League supports action at all levels of government for the provision of affordable housing for all Californians and removal of barriers that inhibit the construction of low and moderate income housing. We support measures to provide affordable housing to the community which assist with meeting and maintaining all state requirements and which also address local needs . Additionally, we support the adoption of policies incentivizing the increased building of housing, including working towards amending regulations to streamline approval processes for multiple types of housing, including both deed-restricted low income housing and all income levels of housing.

The city's action is in alignment with our adopted positions supporting the creation of new housing by eliminating barriers, incentivizing increased production, and streamlining approval processes, as well as alignment with our adopted position that the City of Santa Monica should take a leading role in solving homelessness at the local and regional level. In taking a proactive response to increase the production of housing, particularly affordable housing, the City is setting an example and taking a leading role in addressing the housing crisis affecting every part of California.

The housing and homelessness crises in our state, region, and city are inextricably linked. We support the Council's March 10th decision and encourage the City to continue its efforts to address these crises.

Natalya Zernitskaya. President, League of Women Voters of Santa Monica

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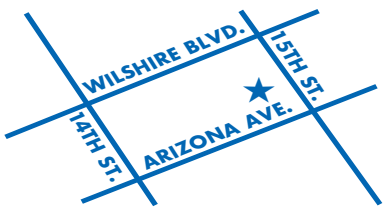


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MICROMOBILITY

FROM PAGE 1

home as much as possible and venture into public only to pick up food and medications, delivering an obvious blow to the micromobility customer base. Santa Monica counted 2.67 scooter and bike rides within city limits last year.

Lime said in a press release that it had pulled scooters from two dozen countries, including the United States.

"In the following markets, we will begin winding down and pausing our service to reflect public health guidance," the press release said.

Although Lyft created a webpage detailing its efforts to keep rideshare drivers and riders safe from coronavirus, the company did not specify its policy for scooters. The Lyft app showed no scooters deployed in Santa Monica as of Thursday.

A Bird spokesperson said the company had temporarily pulled devices in some cities.

"Our decision to temporarily pause our service in some cities is very fluid as the response to and recommendations regarding COVID-19 evolve, and is in line with voluntary, as well as mandatory measures set by local governments for businesses," Bird said in a statement.

A spokesperson for Uber, which offers scooters, bikes and ridesharing, declined to comment on the record but said the company has no plans to cease operations.

Breeze Bike Share, the city-owned bike share system that has lost ridership and revenue to micromobility companies over the past two years, is still operational. Riders can unlock bikes in person or through the Breeze app.

COVID-19 will complicate the city of Santa Monica's plan to get a new scooter regulation program up and running by July.

In January, City Council approved a second Shared Mobility Pilot Program that will reduce the number of companies authorized to operate in Santa Monica from four to two or three. The program will last from July to December of next year.

Because the application for the second program will be open to all scooter and bike companies and not just the companies authorized under the current program, the micromobility landscape in Santa Monica could undergo a significant shift come July.

madeleine@smdp.com

COVID-19 CASES

FROM PAGE 1

should assume they may be infected and that people around them may be infected.

"If we all take this mindset and act accordingly, it will slow the spread of COVID-19," Ferrer said. "Everyone should remain at home as much as possible."

Ferrer said at a Wednesday press conference that a shelter-in-place order, which six Bay Area counties have been under since Tuesday, is not imminent in L.A. County. She said the county's guidance for people to work from home if possible and forgo non-essential trips out of the house is similar to a shelter-in-place order.

On Thursday, Ferrer said a man between the ages of 30 and 50 with an underlying health condition died of the virus, bringing the county death toll to two and demonstrating that seniors are not the only demographic at risk of death or serious symptoms.

"I urge young people to take hold of this opportunity you have in front of you to do what's right not just for you, but everyone around you," she said.

Still, Ferrer asked young and healthy residents to check in with their elderly neighbors and offer to drop off their groceries and medications. Despite the early morning senior hours many grocery stores are offering, the safest option for older adults is to get groceries delivered, she said.

Locally, nonprofits and charities are stepping up to ensure that people older than 65 can get food and necessary supplies without leaving their homes.

Meals on Wheels is transitioning from delivering hot meals five days a week to delivering a hot meal and frozen meals on Monday and Friday. Clients will also receive meal replacement shakes from Kate Farms and a senior nutrition box in collaboration with Westside Food Bank.

The organization has a sufficient number of volunteers for the next two weeks but is now accepting enrollment for backup volunteers and seeking donations on its website, www.mealsonwheelswest.org, or through its Facebook page to accommodate increased demand.

WISE & Healthy Aging, the primary nonprofit serving seniors in Santa Monica, is offering boxed meals with a few days worth of food for pick-up on Mondays and Thursdays at the Ken Edwards Center.

President and CEO Grace Cheng Braun said almost 250 seniors are enrolled in the meal program WISE & Healthy Aging's social workers are monitoring more than 300 seniors on the Westside.

She added the nonprofit is working to move its recreational programs to Zoom and counseling programs are taking place via conference call.

"The most vulnerable in our community are the seniors, who mostly are alone at this point, so we are on deck and doing whatever we can to make sure that they are not abandoned," Cheng Braun said.

Ferrer said Thursday that almost 1,700 people in L.A. County have been tested and about 13% of the tests have come back positive. Nearly 600 more people have been tested since Tuesday and the county is still planning to increase testing capacity, although Ferrer said people with no symptoms of respiratory illness will not be tested.

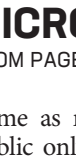
L.A. County Department of Health Services Director Christina Ghaly said Thursday that hospitals in L.A. County have 22,000 beds, 2,200 of which are ICU beds. 870 non-ICU beds and 185 ICU beds are open, she said.

The county health system has 1,500 beds, 184 of which are ICU beds. 460 non-ICU beds and 52 ICU beds are available.

Ghaly said the county and private hospitals are preparing to modify care units to meet anticipated increases in demand.

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SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com



Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

He Who Has Toilet Paper is King



Photo courtesy Matthew Hynes

PANIC BUY: I left a toilet paper 4-pack in the vein "it's we, not me."

Harry Truman succeeded to the presidency upon the death of FDR in 1945 and won again in 1948 in a huge upset over New York Governor, Thomas (Tom) Dewey. Dewey was a short, tidy-looking man with black center-parted hair and a mustache. He was so fastidious one woman at the '48 GOP Convention said, "He looked like the groom on a wedding cake."

That description caught on and might have cost Dewey the election. (With all due respect to trans people, it could have been worse for Dewey, at least the woman didn't say he looked like the bride on the wedding cake.)

"Give 'em hell Harry" was a straight shooter who didn't suffer fools gladly. Summing up D.C., he said, "If you want a friend in this town, get a dog." He also had a plaque on his desk which read, "The Buck Stops Here."

Fittingly, when Truman and his wife Bess left the White House in January 1953, the legend was there was absolutely no 21 gun salute or fanfare of any kind. Harry and Bess merely packed their bags, loaded up the car and, without Secret Service , drove home to Independence, Missouri.

Truman has some bearing to Donald Trump in a cartoon that's going viral. It shows Trump at his desk hoarding bags filled with bucks near Truman's "The Buck Stops Here" plaque. An aide, gently tells the admittedly greedy Donald, "Sir, I don't think that's what the sign means. (Apparently it does to Trump.)

In case you've been in outer space, the world finds itself in a serious global Coronavirus pandemic which has our country in a panic. And with good reason. As I write this every one of our 50 states has Americans infected with the Coronavirus The number of cases sprinted past 8,977 and the death toll has reached 179. (Hopefully not, but the numbers could double every two days.)

Last in the world in testing, and as we increase tests the numbers will skyrocket. As the esteemed Dr. Anthony Fauci, for six presidents since 1984, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (my old job) says "It'll get worse before it gets better." (Thank God we have other experts like Mike Pence and Jared Kushner on the case, though it's unclear what they're expert at except possibly kissing Trump's massive derriere.)

Speaking of derriere there's a video also going viral featuring what looks like a tough drug dealer furtively looking around for cops as he negotiates with his buyer. "Show me the cash." As the desperate buyer flashes a thick wad of bills, the dealer unzips his leather jacket and hands over six rolls of toilet paper.

Fortunately, due to a tip from my photographer friend Matt, I was able to procure some TP legally at Smart and Final. I hurriedly grabbed two of the three remaining 4-packs. (I left one 4-pack in the spirit of "it's not me, it's we.")

Meanwhile, as I write this Trump is declaring himself a war president. Two things come to mind, he's been a war president (Afghanistan) since he took office and it sounds like he may postpone the election or declare martial law.

Of late Trump refers to the virus as the "Chinese Virus" and one of his staff called it the "Kung Flu" to an Asian-American reporter. (Except to idiots, there's nothing less funny than racist humor.)

Out of the blue, Trump now says he knew all along the virus was a pandemic. Really? They why did he call it a "hoax?" And why did he brag that we only had 15 Americans infected, all getting better and soon the number would be zero? So, was Trump lying then or now, or both?

And why, on February 24, did Medal of Freedom Award recipient Rush Limbaugh compare the Coronavirus to the common cold? (At Fox, Geraldo "the clown," insists if you can hold your breath 10 seconds, you don't have the Coronavirus)

And why, in 2018, did Trump dismantle a National Security Council team preparing for when another pandemic? And why did Trump cut funding to CDC by 19% while giving billionaires and corporations tax breaks? And in early February, why did he turn down the World Health Organization

SEE LAUGHING MATTERS PAGE 11

CRIME

FROM PAGE 1

declaring a local emergency. From March 1 – 12, the average number of calls for service per day was 310. Since the emergency declaration on March 13, the average call volume has fallen to 224 per day. In addition, the trend last year at this time was an increasing number of calls while this year, the number plummets.

In the days leading up to the emergency declaration (March 1 – 12) the city averaged eight arrests per day. That number has fallen to four since March 13. Only one person was arrested on March 17 and a single individual was arrested on March 18.

SMPD Lt. Joseph Cortez said the department has opened its operations center to act as an information hub during the coronavirus incident and that officers are being deployed to increase foot patrols around businesses and schools.

"Other than that, we are operating as normally as we can," he said. "We have had a reduction in calls for service and that's most likely due to a reduction in the number of people in our community," he said.

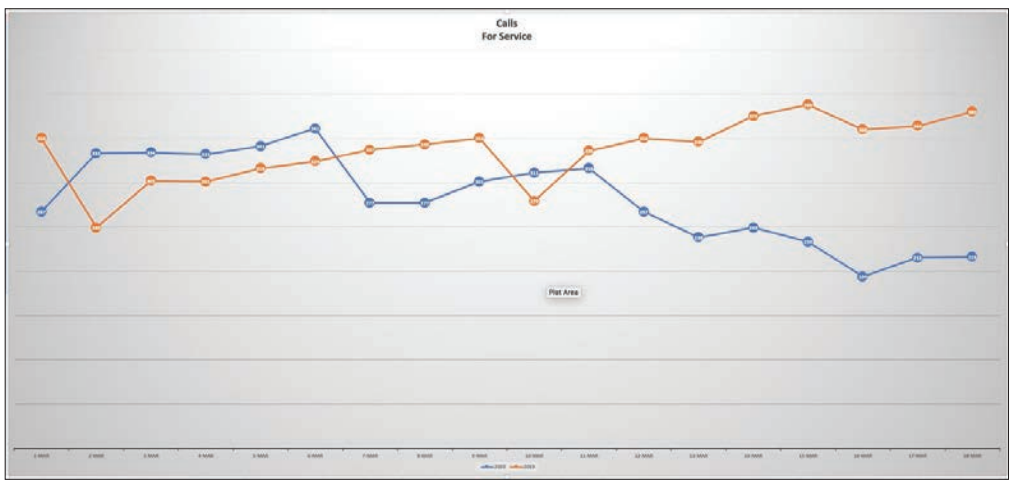
He said local officers are heeding the advice of the DMV to give leeway in ticketing vehicles with expired registration and officers have relaxed enforcement on some parking restrictions but he said the department and its individual officers are maintaining a strong commitment to the safety of community members while protecting their property.

"We still have police officers out in the field contacting homeless individuals, they are keeping social distance, but they are checking on them to make sure they are not displaying any symptoms and providing information if they are," he said.

"Santa Monica Police Department is committed to placing the highest priority on public safety and we want to ensure that the public knows we are out here, ready and waiting for anything they need and we're ready to protect their property and their lives."

Calls into the Santa Monica Fire Department are essentially unchanged averaging 40 calls per day in the first 12 days of this month and 38 calls per day since the emergency order. Calls for an ambulance accounted for 74 percent of all SMFD calls between March 1 and 12. Those calls were about 76 percent of total since March 13.

editor@smdp.com



SMDP Image

CALLS: While calls for service into the Santa Monica Police Department were rising at this time last year, calls have fallen dramatically starting with the City's emergency declaration.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

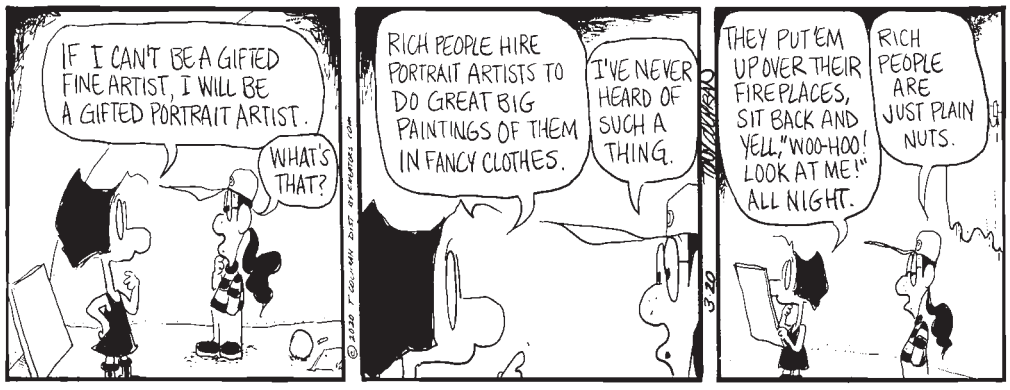
SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 216 CALLS ON MAR. 18

Exhibition Of Speed Centinela Ave / Airport Ave 12:43 a.m.
Drinking In Public 1600blk Ocean Ave 12:53 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1000blk 3rd St 1:03 a.m.
Found Property 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 5:08 a.m.
Loud Music 700blk Montana Ave 6:21 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1300blk 2nd St 6:47 a.m.
Encampment 1100blk 4th St 7:12 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk The Beach 7:20 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300blk Olympic Dr 7:36 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300blk 11th St 7:55 a.m.
Smoking Violation 1200blk 7th St 8:19 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Euclid St 8:34 a.m.
Petty Theft Now 1700blk Lincoln Blvd 8:37 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 900blk 10th St 8:54 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 900blk 9th St 8:54 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 400blk 7th St 9:00 a.m.
Keep The Peace 18th St / Washington Ave 9:04 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 2300blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:08 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 2600blk Centinela Ave 9:09 a.m.
Found Property 2300blk 4th St 9:13 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2900blk 4th St 9:15 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 900blk 7th St 9:18 a.m.
Encampment 2000blk Ocean Ave 9:21 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1100blk 16th St 9:27 a.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 1500blk Harvard St 9:35 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 700blk Georgina Ave 9:42 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1100blk 12th St 9:44 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk 20th St 10:34 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 700blk Broadway 10:55 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 2200blk Wilshire Blvd 11:03 a.m.
Lost Property 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 11:30 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 1000blk California Ave 12:01 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 12:19 p.m.
Encampment 2200blk The Beach 12:20 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:28 p.m.
General Parking Problem 700blk Hill St 12:51 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1500blk 4th St 12:59 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2400blk Ocean Front Walk 1:01 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 4th St / Colorado Ave 1:02 p.m.
Encampment 1400blk Broadway 1:37 p.m.
Fight 2nd St / Arizona Ave 2:01 p.m.
Fraud Report 2900blk Arizona Ave 2:20 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1200blk Wilshire Blvd 2:48 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 15th St / Arizona Ave 2:54 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1000blk Yale St 2:56 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 22nd St / Wilshire Blvd 2:59 p.m.
Identity Theft 1700blk Ocean Ave 3:19 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Ocean Ave / Wilshire Blvd 3:21 p.m.
Family Disturbance 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 3:22 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Ocean Ave / California Ave 3:23 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 400blk Broadway 3:28 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1000blk 6th St 3:29 p.m.
Petty Theft Report Ocean Ave / Broadway 3:41 p.m.
Drinking In Public 2000blk Pico Blvd 4:05 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 4:28 p.m.
Attempt Burglary Report 2700blk Main St 4:37 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 4:52 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 5th St / Santa Monica Blvd 4:52 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 4:58 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 5:02 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 1600blk Georgina Ave 5:20 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 2200blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:32 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 1600blk Ocean Ave 5:33 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 600blk Raymond Ave 5:34 p.m.
Fraud Report 300blk Olympic Dr 5:58 p.m.
Found Property 1100blk 17th St 6:19 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 15th St / Idaho Ave 7:18 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1200blk Hill St 7:53 p.m.
Family Disturbance 600blk San Vicente Blvd 9:18 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals 26th St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:29 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1500blk 10th St 9:30 p.m.
General Parking Problem 600blk Pico Pl 9:34 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle 500blk Pacific St 9:40 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 500blk Ocean Ave 10:02 p.m.
Loud Music 2100blk Stewart St 10:18 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Ocean Ave / Broadway 11:09 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 2200blk 23rd St 11:28 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 800blk Pacific Coast Hwy 11:51 p.m.

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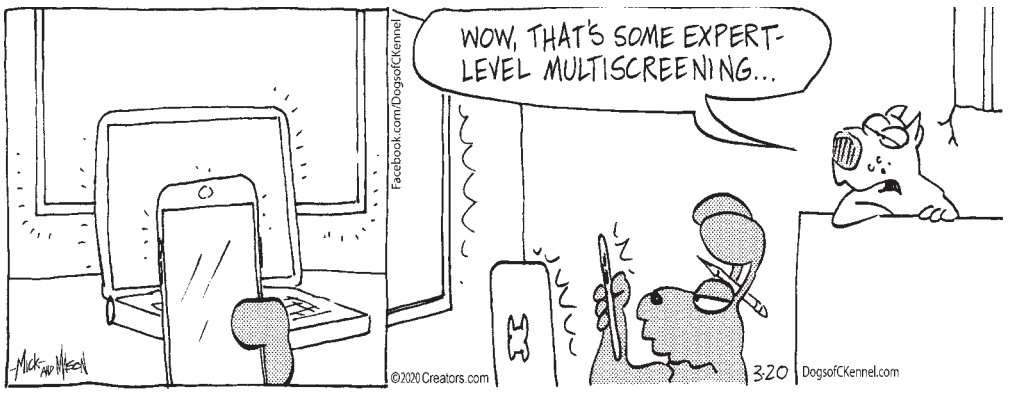
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



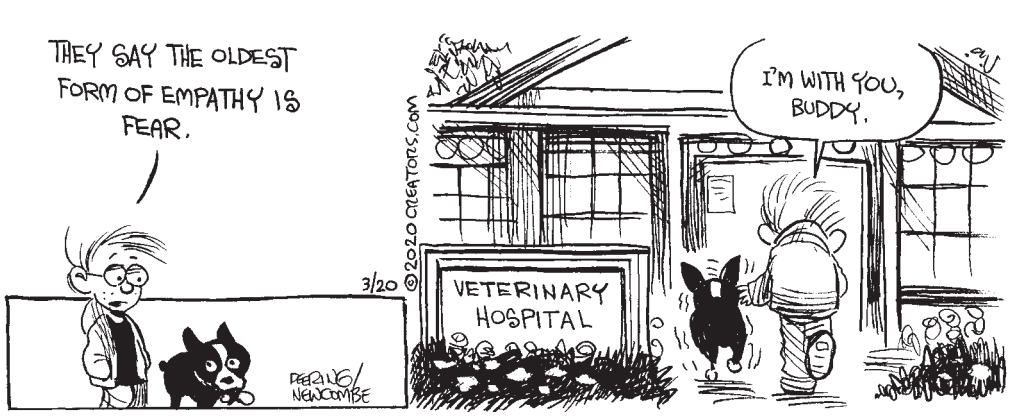
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 60.4°

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
S swell eases.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft+ Ankle to knee high occ. 3 ft
New, long-period S swell creeps in.

WEATHER

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60.
Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.
Sunday: A slight chance of rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 65.
Sunday Night: A slight chance of rain after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.
Monday: A chance of rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 63.

Date	Day of the Week	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/03/20	Fri	02:02 AM	1.80	L
2020/03/20	Fri	07:54 AM	5.05	H
2020/03/20	Fri	2:45 PM	-0.54	L
2020/03/20	Fri	9:10 PM	4.17	H
2020/03/21	Sat	02:35 AM	1.45	L
2020/03/21	Sat	08:32 AM	5.13	H
2020/03/21	Sat	3:13 PM	-0.45	L
2020/03/21	Sat	9:30 PM	4.32	H
2020/03/22	Sun	03:05 AM	1.14	L
2020/03/22	Sun	09:05 AM	5.11	H
2020/03/22	Sun	3:37 PM	-0.29	L
2020/03/22	Sun	9:49 PM	4.46	H
2020/03/23	Mon	03:34 AM	0.88	L
2020/03/23	Mon	09:35 AM	4.99	H
2020/03/23	Mon	3:59 PM	-0.07	L
2020/03/23	Mon	10:09 PM	4.59	H
2020/03/24	Tue	04:04 AM	0.67	L
2020/03/24	Tue	10:06 AM	4.78	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:03/18
15 27 44 59 63
Power#: 8
Jackpot:140 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 03/17
20 27 28 58 59
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 96 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 03/18
2 14 17 32 47
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 12 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 03/18
1 5 10 32 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 03/18
Evening: 4 3 6
Draw Date: 03/18
Midday: 7 5 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 03/18
1st: 12 - LUCKY CHARMS
2nd: 03 - HOT SHOT
3rd: 10 - SOLID GOLD
RACE TIME: 1:43.24

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 20)

You're in sync with the cosmic timetable and will love the rhythm of the year. Busy times will be punctuated by loving lulls; comfortable, lazy relationships rev up just in time to rock major events. It's as though what's ticking inside you is meeting up with destiny's watch. You'll bank money in May and spend it in October. Leo and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 2, 11, 24 and 17.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Doing nothing is one of the hardest things for your active sign, especially this time of year. But if you can manage it, 20 minutes of nothingness will set you up for hours of productivity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll learn what you want to know and you then, because you're responsible and smart, you'll also learn what you didn't want to know. This is the knowledge you'll need to delegate like a boss.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). "Forgive many things in others, nothing in yourself," suggested the poet Ausonius. The ancient world was harsh! These days, you'll do better to extend the same kindness inward and outward.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Confidence is gained by taking risks. It's the only route really. Pretending to be confident will usually lead to taking the actual risk necessary to achieve confidence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be a thought leader today, whether you want to be or not. The responsibility is something to consider before you make a move. "What if everybody did the same thing?" is a relevant question.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It doesn't matter if it takes a week or a year to read a book, involving yourself in the world between book covers is one of the best things you could possibly do for your inner experience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What if you believed that the well was never dry? In some ways, this is true. There's a time to budget and a time not to worry so much about it. A scarcity mentality won't serve you today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). New ventures, new chaos. Excitement and disorder are inextricably linked. And if you want another way to think about it, maybe it's not "disorder" so much as an "extra order" we just don't understand yet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The endeavor that appeals to you will be the one in which you are able to radiate your personal style. If you cannot add who you are to what you do, it will not seem worth doing at all.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your experience will be ever-enhanced by sharing. It's a way to live in the past and the present simultaneously. You'll forward what you love and enjoy the enthusiasm that ripples back to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). As for those negative thoughts that serve no one, the first step is to be aware you're having them. Many people tune out the din as one would tune out the traffic noises from a freeway next to home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The way a dog sees it, your hands are absolutely magical. They can open doors and manage packaging and are basically the conduits to another world. To feel wonder, take another point of view.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

O	V	E	R	■	A	C	R	E	■	S	A	F	E	S
W	I	R	E	■	C	H	E	X	■	N	I	O	B	E
E	N	I	D	■	C	A	F	E	■	A	R	U	B	A
S	E	E	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	F	I	R	S	T
■	■	■	L	E	S	S	■	■	R	U	E	■	■	■
R	U	P	E	E	S	■	T	E	E	■	R	O	M	P
I	N	E	R	T	■	S	U	M	A	C	■	D	U	O
V	I	R	T	U	A	L	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S
E	T	S	■	P	L	E	A	S	■	C	I	T	E	S
R	Y	E	S	■	I	D	S	■	D	E	C	O	D	E
■	■	■	W	E	B	■	■	J	E	R	K	■	■	■
T	H	R	I	V	I	N	G	E	C	O	N	O	M	Y
W	A	I	V	E	■	E	L	L	A	■	A	R	I	A
A	S	P	E	N	■	M	I	L	D	■	M	E	E	K
S	H	A	L	T	■	O	B	O	E	■	E	O	N	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	2	4	5	9	7	1	3	8
3	7	9	4	1	8	6	2	5
1	8	5	6	3	2	4	7	9
4	9	3	2	8	5	7	1	6
8	1	6	9	7	4	3	5	2
2	5	7	3	6	1	9	8	4
7	4	8	1	5	6	2	9	3
5	3	2	7	4	9	8	6	1
9	6	1	8	2	3	5	4	7

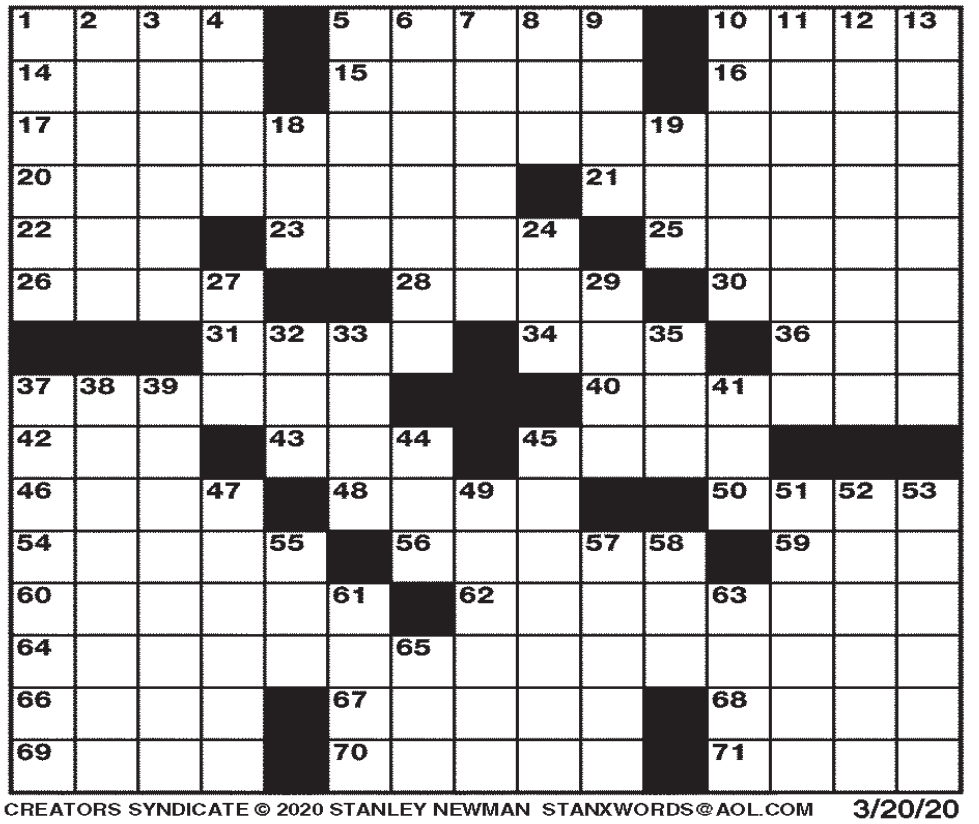
				4		7		5
4			8		1		2	
1		3		7				8
		5	7				3	
9				8				7
	4				3	1		
2				1		3		9
	8		6		9			4
3		4		5				

Newsday Crossword

HEARTWARMING HANKS by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Study with equations, for short
5 Flies the coop
10 Read in haste
14 Blowout of a bout
15 "Rubber Duckie" singer
16 Sci-fi submariner
17 With 64 Across, 2019 Hanks film
20 Capital of Aragon
21 Historic events
22 Fraction of a foot-pound
23 Pointy-hatted figurine
25 Imply
26 Procedure part
28 Force seen in Spider-Man films
30 Lavish affection
31 Inspector "for wholesomeness"
34 2015 Verizon buy
36 Exclusionary connector
37 With 40 Across, Hanks' role in 17/64 Across
40 See 37 Across
42 Cloud computing giant
43 Big stack of bills
45 Person famed for wisdom
46 "High" water
48 Marco Polo traversed it
50 Mouse hunters
54 Wares, informally
56 Center of the Incan Empire
59 Response to bewilderment
60 Dealer's order
62 New York battleground of 1777
64 See 17 Across
66 Piece of baggage
67 Certain spa treatments
68 High altar neighbor
69 LG appliance
70 Tennis great from Serbia
71 Goddess seen on pyramid walls

DOWN
1 Fast-fading hot stuff
2 Capital of Tasmania
3 Become famous
4 Film reviewing org.
5 Back at a track
6 48th state
7 Honor's opposite
8 Viper voice in *Kung Fu Panda*
9 Ego
10 Caught in a con
11 Linchpin
12 Parrot, for instance
13 Centaurs, dragons, etc.
18 Fleecy boot
19 Mocking remark
24 Publisher of recycling guides
27 Mock, with "down"
29 Nickelodeon toon quester
32 Be in a bee
33 It's no fun
35 Keep a record of
37 Unsuitable pairing
38 Dupe's lament
39 Tops in style
41 Graphical prefix
44 Exam conductor's nickname
45 Rather large
47 *Hamlet's* Act I ender
49 Rather large quantity
51 Elation exclamations
52 Landau's Oscar role
53 Choice of lipstick
55 Choice of lipstick
57 Irascible
58 Viking ship's propeller
61 Wonderful things
63 Cuisine with green curry
65 Wonder-full comment



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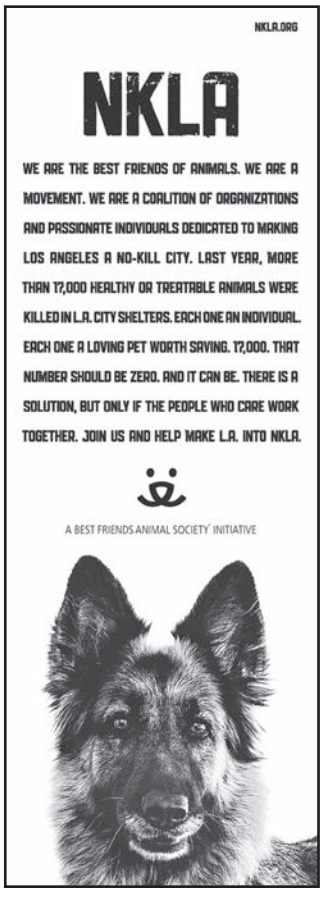
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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 38 CALLS ON MAR. 18

EMS 2800blk Neilson Way 12:02 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 12th St 1:06 a.m.
EMS 700blk Cedar St 2:28 a.m.
EMS 800blk 7th St 6:49 a.m.
Smoke Investigation 300blk 22nd St 8:02 a.m.
EMS 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 8:27 a.m.
EMS 600blk Broadway 9:03 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:27 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Pico Blvd 9:55 a.m.
EMS 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:12 a.m.
Wires Down 200blk Bay St 10:39 a.m.
EMS 4th St / Broadway 11:08 a.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 11:55 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 20th St / Interstate 10 12:19 p.m.
EMS 6th St / Broadway 12:28 p.m.
EMS 1200blk Franklin St 12:47 p.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 1800blk Michigan Ave 12:48 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 2nd St 12:53 p.m.
EMS 5th St / Colorado Ave 1:03 p.m.
EMS 2200blk 24th St 1:15 p.m.
EMS 5th St / Arizona Ave 1:23 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 300blk Civic Center Dr 1:52 p.m.
EMS 3200blk Broadway 2:37 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 23rd St 2:50 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 3:21 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 4:19 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 5th St / Santa Monica Blvd 4:52 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 23rd St 5:38 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 5:45 p.m.
Flooded Condition 26th St / Pennsylvania Ave 6:04 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 6:48 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 1400blk Centinela Ave 7:01 p.m.
EMS 800blk Pico Blvd 7:42 p.m.
EMS 1800blk 16th St 7:45 p.m.
EMS 2000blk 19th St 8:06 p.m.
EMS 3200blk Donald Douglas Loop S 9:09 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 11:26 p.m.
EMS 400blk 14th St 11:28 p.m.

CLEANERS

FROM PAGE 3

the same week.

"They throw us out like a dirty towel when they don't need us anymore," said Vaca, 57, sobbing as she recalled her years of service to the client, whose son lives in another state. "We are people too with families with needs."

Demand still remains strong in one area of the economy: healthcare.

Alex Lawrence, co-owner of a British cleaning company, said requests have soared since the outbreak began. His company, Lawrence Cleaning, has contracts with 21 clinics in central England, which under new U.K. regulations will need daily cleaning of certain "red zones."

Lawrence, who works alongside his staff on medical cleaning jobs, said they clean anything that gets touched — doors, desks, handrails, armrests. They wear full "personal protection equipment" — respirators, suits, gloves and foot covers.

"It can look quite daunting if people are in full suits and masks and (patients) think they could be in danger," said Lawrence. "But it does look less daunting if we're around when people aren't in."

Chan reported from London.

LAUGHING MATTERS

FROM PAGE 6

test kits causing at least a one-month delay and killing who knows how many?

A few days ago a reporter shouted, "Mr. President, does the buck stop with you?" Trump hesitated a moment and then shamelessly, replied, "Normally." So Truman said "The buck stops here," whereas Trump, who blames everyone but himself, says, "It stops anywhere but here."

With Trump's lies, arrogance and incompetence, I'd pull out my hair but I don't have that much left. I suppose it's fortunate what I do have left is … toilet paper.

Jack is at: facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth and jackdailypress@aol.com

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VIRUS TESTS

FROM PAGE 4

public health officials were concerned that they could accelerate the spread of the virus. NBA spokesman Mike Bass said that players getting tested — and in some cases, revealing their positive status — may have ultimately "drawn attention to the critical need for young people to follow CDC recommendations."

Hollywood actor Idris Elba said he didn't have any symptoms when he announced his positive test on Monday, prompting questions and criticism on social media about why he got a test when he was not symptomatic.

Elba later explained that he was on location, about to start a film, and got tested after a person he was in contact with had tested positive. He said he would have put a lot of people at risk if he had continued working.

"Quite honestly, my job made me test immediately," said Elba, an Englishman best known for his roles on the HBO series "The Wire" and as a detective on the BBC One series "Luther."

Elba's work situation isn't unusual. Businesses across the country are shutting down to prevent employees from exposing themselves to the virus at work. Several cities, including New York, San Francisco and Washington, have ordered bars, restaurants, gyms, movie theaters and other businesses to close to slow the virus' spread.

Elba told The Associated Press in an email sent through his representative Thursday that he took the test in the United States and was tested by a private doctor through his employer, whom he did not name.

"Everyone should be able to be tested. Period," he wrote to the AP.

Elba said people not knowing if they are infected is a problem because they spread the virus further. He encouraged people to stay home until more tests become available.

Ali Fedotowsky-Manno, former star of ABC's "The Bachelorette," found herself on the defensive after announcing in a post on Instagram on Sunday that she had been tested at a clinic in Los Angeles after she said she had shortness of breath and an X-ray that showed white spots on her lungs, and what she said were "all the symptoms of the virus, except for a fever."

She said she went to a clinic called Mend, which she said was "one of the only places that will do the test if you don't have a fever."

Fedotowsky-Manno said Wednesday in an interview with The Associated Press that she had seen commentary accusing her of special treatment. She denied the accusation, saying she chose the clinic closest to her house, She checked in under her married name and only heard the clinic would give tests to people without a fever from someone else in the waiting room, after she was already there.

"Nobody knew who I was at that urgent care. I went to urgent care like anybody could," she said.

The CEO of Mend did not return emails seeking comment, but the clinic's website says it charges $195 for a home visit to collect swabs for COVID-19 tests, with Quest then billing a patient's insurance to process the samples.

"We would expect physicians to follow CDC clinical criteria," said Wendy Bost, a spokeswoman for Quest. "Our materials about the test are clear on this point."

The company declined to provide a figure for what it charges for its COVID-19 test.

Fedotowsky-Manno on Wednesday was still waiting for her results, five days after getting tested. She said she understands why people are upset over testing.

"I think it's crazy that everybody can't get tested," she said. "It's absolutely absurd."

Smith reported from Providence, Rhode Island, and Reynolds from Miami.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Rotary Club of Santa Monica Offers Grants to Local Non-Profits to Mitigate COVID - 19 Impact

The Rotary Club of Santa Monica is currently accepting expedited grant applications for its Community & Youth Grants program from local non-profit organizations to help fund up to $3,500 for additional needs they might have with the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak. Grant applications are being accepted now through June 15. We will do our best to fund as quickly as possible. Please note that we will not fund costs to keep the doors open or for staff. We request that a full detail of the use of funds be provided by July 2020 when we close out our fiscal year accounts.

The current round of Community and Youth applications that are not targeted to Coronavirus needs will be postponed.

Applications and instructions can be obtained by contacting the Rotary Club of Santa Monica at RotaryClubofSantaMonica@Verizon.net or from the Rotary Club website at www.rotaryclubofsantamonica.org/grants. Organizations must provide proof of non-profit 501(c)(3) status, requested supporting materials, and be able to verify that the funds align with Rotary's service mission and benefit Santa Monica residents or the community.

SUSAN ANNETT, COMMUNITY & YOUTH GRANTS COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

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