smdp
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New rules around public assemblies return to council

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Local residents have remained peaceful while the nation watches the ongoing trial of a former Minneapolis police officer accused of killing George Floyd, but City Council is expected to discuss an emergency ordinance next week that would restrict residents from carrying, using or possessing certain items during community events or public assemblies.

The ordinance, which was previously listed on the agenda in early March when Councilmember Phil Brock denounced the proposal, is part of a larger effort to promote public safety and welfare, according to a staff report listed on Tuesday's agenda.

"The City of Santa Monica supports peaceful protests, public assemblies, and community events, and the free speech and assembly rights of individuals to engage in expressive activities in public forums such as the City's sidewalks, streets, and public parks. The City also recognizes the need to promote the safety and welfare of those who engage in peaceful protests, public assemblies, and community events, as well as the safety and welfare of City residents, City businesses, and City visitors who encounter and are affected by such peaceful protests, public assemblies, and community events," the report states, detailing how there has been increasing concern of violence at public events where wooden sticks, metal pipes, and containers filled with flammable or noxious substances, such as gasoline or urine, are only a few of the improvised weapons that police have seen.

SEE **NEW RULES** PAGE 11

Word of vaccination availability at LA site draws response

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Word that COVID-19 vaccination slots were available for all adults at the huge California State University, Los Angeles, site drew a quick response Thursday.

KTLA-TV reported people were being turned away by late morning.

The Cal State LA site was established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and California's Office of Emergency Services but will be turned over to the city of Los Angeles next week.

"We're light on appointments for the next several days. We want to finish strong and use up every dose we have," Cal OES spokesman Greg Renick told the Los Angeles Daily News on Wednesday.

Cal OES spokesman Brian Ferguson said in an email to The Associated Press on Thursday that advance registration through the state's MyTurn system is the only way to guarantee a vaccination.

"To the extent to which those appointments go unfilled, there may be a limited number of appointments available as walk ups for individuals 18+ between tomorrow and continuing through Sunday when management of the site transfers to the city," he said.

The Cal State LA site and another in Oakland were announced as pilot projects by the Biden administration in February.

Cal OES said that as of Monday the sites had administered nearly 625,000 vaccines, including thousands delivered to communities by mobile clinics.

Will Rogers looks to take learning outside



Courtesy photo

FARM: The local school has plans to use an on site farm to help students learn.

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Last year, Will Rogers Community School came together to complete Mildred's Garden, a project that was so successful it sparked the thought: what if students had access to more?

After months of sitting in front of a computer monitor unable to play on the sunny school fields, children, school principal Ryan Bourke and local educators will soon have the answer thanks to the dozens of volunteers who have transformed a half-acre piece of property on the school's campus into the early stages of a regenerative food forest.

"I have a highly functioning team of parents who are all into volunteering, organic and regenerative agriculture, teaching kids about the importance of being good stewards of the land, environmentalism and all that kind of stuff. And, last year, pre-COVID, we all came together and I said to them, Wouldn't it be amazing if we could turn this land into something like a pumpkin patch? We could plant some pumpkin seeds, grow them and sell them and have a harvest festival around Halloween," Bourke said during a tour of the area. "We're like, 'Yeah, let's do it!' And then COVID struck, so it's only recently that we were able to break ground on it. But the whole year in between allowed one of our parents, who's an architect, to draw the plans up, figure out where the underground irrigation should go and improve the entire project."

In the time since, dozens of parents, students, and members of the leadership team at the Will Rogers Learning Community have labored alongside environmental experts like Matthew Van Diepen and Oliver English, who Bourke said have been the driving forces behind the entire project.

When it's completed, the farm will feature outdoor classrooms and hands-on learning opportunities for children to learn about biodiversity, healthy soils, growing food, composting, and how their actions impact the world around

SEE **OUTSIDE** PAGE 11


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BRIEFS

NEW YORK

Netflix scores streaming rights to new top Sony films

Netflix further beefed up its film catalog on Thursday in a multi-year deal that will make it the new streaming home to Sony Pictures' top releases in the U.S.

Beginning next year, Sony's new films will exclusively stream domestically on Netflix after their theatrical runs. That includes movies in popular franchises like "Spider-Man," "Venom" and "Jumanji," and 2022 releases including "Morbius," "Where the Crawdads Sing," "Uncharted" and "Bullet Train."

The agreement also gives Netflix a first-look option on any films the Culver City, California-based studio elects to send directly to streaming.

In a world of quickly proliferating streaming services, the deal – once the kind that would have typically gone to premium cable networks – is an anomaly. Sony is the only traditional Hollywood studios without a streaming service of its own. The Walt Disney Co. has Disney+, Warner Bros. has HBO Max, Universal Pictures has Peacock and Paramount Pictures has Paramount+.

Wednesday's deal replaces a long-running agreement between Sony and Starz. Financial terms weren't disclosed. During the pandemic, Sony previously sold to Netflix Kevin Hart's "Fatherhood," "The Mitchells Vs. The Machines" and "Wish Dragon." It also sent "Greyhound" to Apple TV+ and "American Pickle" to HBO Max.

"Sony Pictures is a great partner and we are thrilled to expand our relationship through this forward-thinking agreement," said Netflix global film head Scott Stuber. "This not only allows us to bring their impressive slate of beloved film franchises and new IP to Netflix in the U.S., but it also establishes a new source of first run films for Netflix movie lovers worldwide."

In the increasingly competitive streaming landscape, the deep-pocketed Netflix has been aggressively expanding its film library. The streaming service plans to release more than one film a week this year. It also recently acquired the rights to multiple "Knives Out" sequels in a deal that reportedly exceeds $450 million.

JAKE COYLE, AP FILM WRITER

LOS ANGELES

Space Force field command to be located at LA military base

Los Angeles Air Force Base will serve as a field command site for the U.S. Space Force, California Gov. Gavin Newsom said Thursday.

The military will establish the Space Systems Command at the base near Los Angeles International Airport, the governor said in a statement.

"This is a critical investment in California's vital aerospace and defense industries, and it represents a slew of new good-paying jobs as we continue to rebuild our economy better than before," the statement said.

No timetable was offered.

The field command will have "nationwide authority over launches and procurement" for the Space Force, the statement said.

The Space Force was launched in December 2019 under President Donald Trump as the first new military service since establishment of the Air Force as an independent entity in 1947. It operates as part of the Air Force, much like the Marine Corps is a separate service but is overseen by the Navy.

Space Force currently is far smaller than any other branch of the military, but is acquiring the standard trappings of a service, including an official flag, logo, seal and doctrine.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIG SUR

California Highway 1 to reopen by April 1, agency says

Highway 1 along Big Sur is expected to reopen by April 30 because work to repair a huge piece of roadway that crumbled during a storm is nearly two months ahead of schedule, the California Department of Transportation announced Thursday.

The scenic highway snaking through California's rugged coastal cliffs has been closed since Jan. 28, when heavy rain triggered a landslide that carried a chunk of roadway into the sea. The washout left a 150-foot (46-meter) gap along the picturesque driving route.

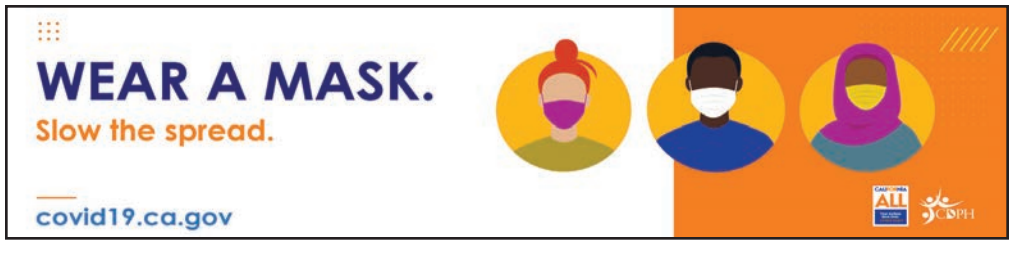
Crews began to fill the canyon below with compacted dirt in early March. They are expected to establish the base of a new road on top of the fill, then pave and stripe it by the end of the month thanks to favorable weather conditions, Caltrans said.

"Reopening Highway 1 at Rat Creek just three months after a washout of this magnitude is great news for residents, recreationalists, business owners, and those who move goods through this region," Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin said in a statement. "Caltrans has been focused on the emergency work needed to increase the resiliency of this highway section to extreme weather, and the fixes made will allow for safe travel."

After reopening, crews will replace the main drainage system above the fixed roadway to help withstand future debris flows, rising sea levels and coastal erosion, Caltrans said. They will also work on landscaping and installing guardrails throughout the early summer.

The work was estimated to cost $11.5 million, the agency said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Biden orders gun control actions – but they show his limits

ALEXANDRA JAFFE, AAMER MADHANI AND MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

President Joe Biden put on a modest White House ceremony Thursday to announce a half-dozen executive actions to combat what he called an "epidemic and an international embarrassment" of gun violence in America.

But he said much more is needed. And for Biden, who proposed the most ambitious gun-control agenda of any modern presidential candidate, his limited moves underscored his limited power to act alone on guns with difficult politics impeding legislative action on Capitol Hill.

Biden's new steps include a move to crack down on "ghost guns," homemade firearms that lack serial numbers used to trace them and are often purchased without a background check. He's also moving to tighten regulations on pistol-stabilizing braces like the one used in Boulder, Colorado, in a shooting last month that left 10 dead.

The president's actions delivered on a pledge he made last month to take what he termed immediate "common-sense steps" to address gun violence, after a series of mass shootings drew renewed attention to the issue. His announcement came the same day as yet another episode, this one in South Carolina, where five people were killed.

But his orders stop well short of some of his biggest campaign-trail proposals, including his promise to ban the importation of assault weapons, his embrace of a voluntary gun buyback program and a pledge to provide resources for the Justice Department and FBI to better enforce the nation's current gun laws and track firearms.

And while gun control advocates lauded Thursday's moves as a strong first step in combating gun violence, they, too, acknowledged that action from lawmakers on Capitol Hill is needed to make lasting change.

"Some of the other big-ticket items are legislative," said Josh Horowitz, executive director of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. "And that's going to be very difficult."

Biden mentioned a formidable list of priorities he'd like to see Congress tackle, including passing the Violence Against Women Act, eliminating lawsuit exemptions for gun manufacturers and banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines. He also called on the Senate to take up House-passed measures to close background check loopholes.

But with an evenly-divided Senate — and any gun control legislation requiring 60 votes to pass — Democrats would have to keep every member of their narrow majority on board while somehow adding 10 Republicans.

Horowitz said "it's hard to think" who those Republicans would be, and though that doesn't mean it's impossible to win gun control "we're going to have to change some of the people who are in the Senate."

Gun-control advocates say the National Rifle Association's legal and financial issues have greatly weakened the once-mighty pro-gun lobby and helped turn the public tide in favor of some restrictions on gun ownership. They say a shift in public perception will eventually trickle down to Republicans on Capitol Hill.

But so far that hasn't materialized in votes. The House passed two bills in March largely along party lines that would expand and strengthen background checks for gun sales and transfers, a move that has broad public support. But most Republicans argue that strengthened checks could take guns away from law-abiding gun owners.

A small bipartisan group of senators is trying to find compromise based on a 2013 deal that would have expanded background checks to gun shows and internet sales but was rejected then by five votes. Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut said at a rally in his state last week that he is talking to his colleagues every day to come a deal, and that he believes the public is more supportive than ever of changes.

Murphy acknowledged last weekend on NBC's "Meet the Press" that the background check bill that passed the House isn't likely to succeed in the Senate, But he suggested a more narrowly tailored bill might, and said he was working to build on that legislation to win over Republican support.

"You are going to have to make some reasonable accommodations if you want 10 Republican votes. And I am already talking to Republicans who are not unwilling to sit down at the table," he said.

Even some of the limited moves Biden took Thursday had already been making their way through the bureaucracy.

The federal government has been working on a proposed rule that would change the definition of a firearm to include lower receivers, the essential piece of a semiautomatic rifle, in an effort to combat the proliferation of "ghost guns" and stave off losing court battles on the issue.

The process started in the waning months of the Trump administration, according to four people familiar with the matter. Justice Department leaders and officials at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives had been working on language for a proposed rule since at least the summer of 2020, they said.

The proposal had gone through several layers of review by agency attorneys by last fall, and ATF officials have met with gun manufacturers and others to discuss the possibility of expanding the definition of a firearm, the people said.

They could not publicly discuss the details of the process and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

While Biden said the moves he took Thursday were just the beginning of his administration's actions on guns, it's not known what further steps he'll be willing — or able — to take.

With Biden already focused on passing his $2.3 trillion infrastructure package, after delivering a massive COVID-19 relief bill, it's unclear how much political capital he has to spend to get any gun-control bills across the finish line. Asked last month if he felt he had the political sway to pass new gun laws, Biden told reporters, "I don't know. I haven't done

SEE **BIDEN** PAGE 11

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 230 CALLS ON APRIL 7

Burglary Just Occurred 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 3:14 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2000blk Pico Blvd 3:15 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 100blk Arizona Ave 6:05 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2500blk 3rd St 6:24 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2300blk California Ave 6:38 a.m.
Encampment 1700blk 19th St 6:45 a.m.
Encampment 900blk Interstate 10 7:08 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Now 1900blk Pico Blvd 7:55 a.m.
Fight 16th St / Olympic Blvd 7:57 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 400blk Hill St 8:21 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1600blk 17th St 8:35 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 26th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:59 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300blk Olympic Dr 9:00 a.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 17th St / Pico Blvd 9:04 a.m.
Found Property 500blk Arizona Ave 9:10 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 1600blk 11th St 9:12 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1400blk Arizona Ave 9:16 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1300blk 17th St 9:43 a.m.
Encampment 2200blk The Beach 9:56 a.m.
General Parking Problem 3200blk Donald Douglas Loop S 10:02 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1300blk 15th St 10:11 a.m.
Found Property 700blk Bay St 10:32 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 700blk Washington Ave 10:32 a.m.
Bike Theft Report 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 10:45 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Ocean Ave / California Ave 10:47 a.m.
Encampment 2100blk 20th St 11:07 a.m.
Attempt Burglary Report 100blk Hollister Ave 11:08 a.m.
General Parking Problem Ocean Ave / Broadway 11:10 a.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 900blk 5th St 11:13 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1900blk Idaho Ave 11:13 a.m.
Battery Report 900blk Pico Blvd 11:21 a.m.
Fraud Report 900blk 5th St 11:27 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1200blk 9th St 11:31 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1200blk 9th St 11:53 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 12:07 p.m.
Fight 300blk Santa Monica Pl 12:12 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 6th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:23 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1500blk 2nd St 12:51 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 12:52 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900blk Ocean Ave 12:58 p.m.
Loud Music 1200blk Georgina Ave 1:02 p.m.
Loud Music 1400blk 7th St 1:26 p.m.
Panic Alarm 2200blk 24th St 1:32 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1700blk Ocean Ave 1:36 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 600blk Montana Ave 1:41 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 800blk Ocean Ave 1:59 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1700blk 21st St 2:02 p.m.
Loud Music 1100blk 7th St 2:10 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 2400blk 4th St 2:15 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2600blk Montana Ave 2:16 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 900blk Pico Blvd 2:32 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 2900blk Main St 2:52 p.m.
Child Endangerment 6th St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:11 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1300blk 2nd St 3:18 p.m.
Lost Property 300blk Santa Monica Pl 3:20 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1300blk 2nd St 3:25 p.m.
Rape Report 100blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:31 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 3:32 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 3:42 p.m.
Burglary Report 600blk Bay St 3:43 p.m.
Prowler Just Left 1800blk 9th St 3:46 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1500blk Montana Ave 3:51 p.m.
Public Intoxication 200blk Ocean Ave 4:00 p.m.
Found Property 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:10 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1300blk 14th St 4:13 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 400blk Broadway 4:35 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1700blk Ocean Ave 4:39 p.m.
Burglary Report 1300blk 17th St 4:48 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 5:51 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred Lincoln Blvd / Michigan Ave 5:54 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1400blk 5th St 6:09 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 6:31 p.m.
General Parking Problem Ocean Ave / Arizona Ave 6:44 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 6:52 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1100blk Ocean Front Walk 7:09 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper In Progress 300blk Santa Monica Pier 7:20 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1500blk Ocean Front Walk 7:24 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 500blk Lincoln Blvd 7:40 p.m.
Overdose 1800blk Michigan Ave 7:50 p.m.
Fraud Suspect Just Left 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 7:52 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400blk Wilshire Blvd 8:02 p.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order In Progress 900blk 5th St 8:34 p.m.
Public Intoxication Yale St / Arizona Ave 8:35 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 2800blk Lincoln Blvd 8:58 p.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order Just Occurred 900blk 5th St 9:09 p.m.
Loud Music 1000blk 12th St 9:13 p.m.
Loud Music 2900blk Arizona Ave 9:16 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2700blk Main St 10:00 p.m.
Fraud Report 1900blk 6th St 10:02 p.m.
Rape Report 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:07 p.m.
Loud Music 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:25 p.m.
Loitering 600blk California Ave 10:33 p.m.
Fraud Report 1900blk 17th St 10:52 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 500blk Ashland Ave 11:56 p.m.

Governments give varying advice on AstraZeneca vaccine

MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

In Spain, residents now have to be over 60 to get an AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine. In Belgium, over 55. In the United Kingdom, authorities recommend the shot not be given to adults under 30 where possible, and Australia's government announced similar limits Thursday to AstraZeneca shots for those under 50.

A patchwork of advice was emerging from governments across Europe and farther afield, a day after the European Union's drug regulator said there was a "possible link" between the AstraZeneca vaccine and a rare clotting disorder while reiterating the vaccine is safe and effective.

Regulators in the United Kingdom and the EU both stressed that the benefits of receiving the vaccine continue to outweigh the risks for most people, and the EU agency maintained its guidance that the vaccine can be used in all adults. But experts fear the confusing messages about the vaccine could still dampen enthusiasm for it at a time when Europe and many other parts of the world are facing surging cases.

Experts hammered home the rarity of the clots Thursday.

"The risks appear to be extremely low from this very rare side effect," Anthony R. Cox, of the University of Birmingham's School of Pharmacy, told the BBC. "I mean it's the equivalent of the risk of dying in the bath, drowning in the bath, for example, it's that rare, or a plane landing on your house."

Dr. Sabine Straus, chair of the EU regulator's Safety Committee, said the best data was from Germany, where there was one report of the clots for every 100,000 doses given, although she noted far fewer reports in the U.K. Still, that's less than the clot risk that healthy women face from birth control pills, noted another expert, Dr. Peter Arlett. The agency said most of the cases reported were in women under 60 within two weeks of vaccination, though it was unable to identify specific risk factors based on current information.

The EU is trying, but so far failing, to avoid different policies among its 27 nations, which all look to the European Medicines Agency for guidance. Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides called Wednesday evening for a coherent approach to ensure that "on the basis of the same set of evidence, similar decisions are taken in different member states."

News of the tiny risk already is already having an effect. In Croatia, the government said that one in four people due to get an AstraZeneca shot Thursday didn't show up. Poland, too, has also seen people cancel or not appear for appointments to get the vaccine.

French general practitioner Dr. Joel Valendoff said many of his patients were still coming to get their shot, but many others were canceling.

When vaccines first became available, "I was refusing people because I had a lot of demand and not enough vaccines. Today I am facing the opposite. I have vaccines but not enough volunteers."

Mbaye Thiam, a 59-year-old Parisian, was among those who got vaccinated.

"I am closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation throughout the world. I am not worried. In an exceptional situation we need exceptional measures," he said. "It is true that the vaccine was created in a record time, but the world has stopped and we need solutions to make it start again, and the vaccine is one of the solutions."

European Commission spokesman Stefan De Keersmaecker said the EMA's findings were based on its stringent monitoring system and that should promote trust among the bloc's 27 member states.

"We want to avoid, of course, a vaccination hesitancy," he said.

Any such reluctance is worrying since experts say the shots are key to stamping out the coronavirus pandemic, but AstraZeneca's role is especially vital. The vaccine, which is cheaper and easier to store than many others, is critical to immunization campaigns in Europe and the U.K. and is also a pillar of the U.N.-backed program known as COVAX that aims to get vaccines to some of the world's poorest countries.

John Nkengasong, the top official with the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said his group is not issuing new recommendations and that the overarching message from the U.K. and EU regulators was clear.

"The benefits outweigh the risks because these are very rare occurrences that they are picking up due to very strong surveillance systems that they have put in place," Nkengasong told a briefing. "So, I think these vaccines continue to be safe."

Africa's target is to vaccinate 60% of its 1.3 billion people by the end of 2022 — a goal that could prove extremely hard to achieve without widespread use of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, whose country's vaccination program leans heavily on AstraZeneca's shot, announced that the Pfizer vaccine should be adopted as the preferred vaccine for people under 50.

SEE **VACCINE** PAGE 7





When Bad Things Happen to Good People Because of the Carelessness or Negligence of Others.



Robert Lemle

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US suicides dropped last year, defying pandemic expectations

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

The number of U.S. suicides fell nearly 6% last year amid the coronavirus pandemic — the largest annual decline in at least four decades, according to preliminary government data.

Death certificates are still coming in and the count could rise. But officials expect a substantial decline will endure, despite worries that COVID-19 could lead to more suicides.

It is hard to say exactly why suicide deaths dropped so much, but one factor may be a phenomenon seen in the early stages of wars and national disasters, some experts suggested.

"There's a heroism phase in every disaster period, where we're banding together and expressing lots of messages of support that we're in this together," said Dr. Christine Moutier, chief medical officer of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. "You saw that, at least in the early months of the pandemic."

An increase in the availability of telehealth services and other efforts to turn around the nation's suicide problem may have also contributed, she said.

U.S. suicides steadily rose from the early 2000s until 2018, when the national suicide rate hit its highest level since 1941. The rate finally fell slightly in 2019. Experts credited increased mental health screenings and other suicide prevention efforts.

The number fell further last year, to below 45,000, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a recent report. It was the lowest number of U.S. suicide deaths since 2015.

Many worried that such progress might end when COVID-19 arrived.

The pandemic sparked a wave of business closures. Millions of people were forced to stay at home, many of them alone. In surveys, more Americans reported depression, anxiety and drug and alcohol use. Adding to that dangerous mix, firearm purchases rose 85% in March 2020.

But the spring of last year actually saw the year's most dramatic decline in suicide numbers, said the CDC's Farida Ahmad, the lead author of a recent report in the Journal of the American Medical Association that detailed the decline.

Suicide had been the nation's 10th leading cause of death, but dropped to 11th in 2020. That was mainly due to the arrival of COVID-19, which killed at least 345,000 Americans and became the nation's No. 3 killer. But the decline in suicide deaths also contributed to the ranking fall.

The CDC has not yet reported national suicide rates for 2020, nor has it provided a breakdown of suicides by state, age or race and ethnicity.

Moutier is anxious to see more data. For example, while overall suicides decreased last year, it's possible that suicides by youths and young adults did not, she said.

She's optimistic the recent declines will mark the beginning of a lasting trend. But she also worries there may be a delayed effect on the mental health of many people, as they get past the pandemic's initial threats but sink into grieving the people and things they lost.

"There's sort of an evolution of mental health distress," she said. "It's possible we will see the whole mental health ramifications of this pandemic" later.

Letter to the Editor

By Peter Borresen — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Editor:

The city should just pay the penalties…

Regarding state imposed housing mandates (cobbled together in a backroom by unelected officials and completely unenforceable)…

How much are the potential penalties? Certainly a lot less than the cost of avoiding them. The city should halt all plans at increased housing and instead just pay the penalties. Of course, in reality, the penalties will never be paid - most of the cities in the state will refuse to either build more housing or pay the fees, and the whole mandate will be abandoned and reworked by the state after the next election cycle. In the meantime Santa Monica will have crammed its single family neighborhoods with four story affordable apartment buildings because that is where the cheapest land is.

Peter Borresen, Santa Monica

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 23 CALLS ON APRIL 7

EMS 1400blk 4th St 4:13 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1600blk 11th St 6:02 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 8:10 a.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 8:47 a.m.
EMS 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:23 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 6th St 11:29 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Lincoln Blvd 11:35 a.m.
EMS 1400blk Palisades Park 11:58 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:59 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 12:32 p.m.
EMS 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:16 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 2:19 p.m.
Smoke Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 3:38 p.m.
EMS 3300blk Donald Douglas Loop N 4:14 p.m.
EMS 800blk Michigan Ave 4:31 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:40 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 400blk 19th St 5:08 p.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 5:18 p.m.
EMS 800blk Grant St 6:05 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 15th St 6:24 p.m.
EMS 5th St / Colorado Ave 10:40 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1100blk 3rd St 11:36 p.m.

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WINNER

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Committee for Racial Justice presents: Eviction Tsunami Part 2

The April 11 meeting of the Committee For Racial Justice (CRJ) will be focused on housing issues. Members of our panel include Santa Monica's mayor, Sue Himmelrich, an attorney who serves as Special Counsel litigating cases at Western Center on Law and Poverty. Her involvement in Santa Monica politics began in 2012, working with the Legal Aid Foundation of LA to protect long-time residents in Santa Monica's Village Tailer Park who were threatened with evictions to make way for a massive development project. She helped residents fight the evictions and enhance relocation benefits for 30 tenants, some of whom had lived there for more than a quarter century. That work eventually led to her becoming part of the Santa Monica Planning Commission. Mayor Himmelrich attended Harvard University and received her juris doctorate from Columbia Law School. As a lifelong democrat, she has traveled across the country doing voter protection for President Barack Obama, Senators John Kerry, Harry Reid, and many others.

Another panel member is Michael Soloff, the current Chair of the Santa Monica Housing Commission, who has served as a member for the past six years. Soloff also is a Co-Chair of Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, and the Vice President for Membership of the Santa Monica Democratic Club. He is a business litigation partner in the law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP, and for the past 15 years has devoted about 20% of his time to providing free legal representation to low income tenants and tenants' rights organizations. Soloff has received awards for his tenants' rights work from the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, the Legal Services Corporation, the California State Bar, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Public Counsel and the Daily Journal Corporation. While serving on the Housing Commission, Soloff has advocated for increased funding for affordable housing programs, increased affordable housing requirements in new developments, dedication of City-owned land to affordable housing, creation and expansion of the Preserve Our Diversity rent subsidy program, greater transparency in the expenditure of affordable housing funds, a public planning process for the expenditure of affordable housing funds, greater emphasis on cost-effectiveness in the expenditure of affordable housing funds, and full implementation of the City's affordable housing preferences for those who live or work in Santa Monica. He also played a leading role in the successful campaign to pass Measures GS and GSH, which increased the local sales tax to fund both affordable housing and the public schools.

They will be joined on the panel by Elena Popp, an attorney and the Executive Director of the Eviction Defense Network, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization at the forefront of the fight against gentrification in Los Angeles County. The Eviction Defense Network (EDN) is part of the LA County Right to Counsel Coalition and its StayHousedLA.org program. EDN is also part of the Healthy LA Coalition, fighting for strong policy solutions in the City and County of Los Angeles during the pandemic. EDN is also proud to be a member of the Housing Now! Coalition, fighting for laws that protect tenants at the State level. Elena has nearly 40-years' experience in legal services focused primarily in the areas of Housing and Community Economic Development.

Among other issues, CRJ will also look to explore the following:

How the city is addressing the needs of its most vulnerable residents, especially those who hold Section 8 vouchers, but are unable to find housing?

What is the city doing to give incentives to landlords to encourage accepting Section 8 vouchers?

What is the city doing to work with Community Corp and other property owners to assist low-income residents to find housing?

How is the LA area dealing with federal monies to aid people who are in need of help with back rent coming due? What is the outreach into communities of color?

How can tenants access the services of the StayHoused LA agencies and the Eviction Defense Network?

There will be time for Q & A. Come join this important discussion.

Sunday, April 11, 2021 from 6:30 -8 p.m. zoom meeting

Register first at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkceyoqzkrGdfq3u0JIZfxfhNk-F01pjg8v and then you will be sent a link for entry to the 4/11 meeting.

For more information, call Joanne at 310-422-5431.

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE BERLIN

Downtown

Live Play

A LIVE Play called "I Can Hear Everything" at Promenade Playhouse (on Third Street Promenade) April 17 and 18; Two shows 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. each day Saturday and Sunday. Poster attached. This play is about two families – one Asian American and the other African American and some issues that ensue when their adult children fall in love. It is both funny and moving.

Precautions include: Temperature check, masks and 50% capacity or less. I am sure Santa Monicans are eager to experience live theater again at this convenient and stately venue. Tickets are $25 each. Link below.

They are also doing a virtual version. More info on that is on the website.

https://www.promenadeplayhouse.com/online-store

SUBMITTED BY THE PROMENADE PLAYHOUSE

Malibu

City Mourns the Loss of Retired LA County Sheriff's Deputy Mike Treinen

The City of Malibu joins the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in mourning the passing of retired Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Mike Treinen.

"Deputy Treinen was an important member of the Malibu community for many years," stated

SEE **BRIEFS** PAGE 5

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Your column here

By Karen Farrer

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Malibu children and families deserve an independent Unified School District

The hyphen in the title of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District says it all. That punctuation mark symbolizes the uneasy tension of trying to connect two distinctly different, non-contiguous communities into a single school system. It also reminds us in Malibu that we are often an afterthought for Santa-Monica-centric school district decision-makers when it comes to educating our community's children. We are out of sight, and frequently out of mind.

It is time we let each community govern its own schools and focus on its own needs and aspirations. On Saturday, April 17 we are presenting to the Los Angeles County Office of Education Committee on District Reorganization our petition to split from SM-MUSD and form our own school district. Our feasibility study shows convincingly that both Santa Monica and Malibu will benefit by being separate.

Ironically, SM-MUSD could never have been joined under current state law in the first place. The law now says, "No school district may be newly formed or reorganized so that any portion of it is completely separated by territory of another school district." Santa Monica and Malibu are geographically separated by 22 miles along Pacific Coast Highway. You have to leapfrog parts of Los Angeles Unified School District to get from Malibu schools to the district headquarters in Santa Monica. It makes no sense. It would be like Santa Monica annexing Downey with only the 25 miles on several freeways to connect them.

So, why are Santa Monica leaders allowing this archaic system to disadvantage yet another generation of Malibu students? The answer is simple . . . money.

The SM-MUSD Board of Education and administration have gone on record saying they agree that it is time for separation to occur. The only hitch is that they want to hold the property tax base of Malibu hostage for fifty years in exchange for acceding to our demand for local control. They know that Malibu home values will keep going up and they want to capture the growing property tax revenue in our community to prop up their school district budget. Keep in mind, Malibu only has 14% of the students in SM-MUSD, but we contribute one-third of the $90 million in property tax revenue in the district budget.

SM-MUSD receives approximately $50 million in Other Local Funding (grants, sales taxes, rental income, redevelopment funds, and parent/business donations, etc.) each year beyond state education funding and property tax sources. That makes up almost 35% of their General Fund Budget. Santa Monica will be able to retain these funds in separation.

Sadly, SM-MUSD advocates are trying to change the narrative to vilify Malibu as an elitist White enclave ready to abandon children of color and socio-economic disadvantage. This is a well-worn scare tactic designed to disregard the facts. The SM-MUSD administration has been feeding the community a steady diet of misinformation and faulty projections about school funding to fuel emotional push-back to our petition.

They and others are presuming that if Malibu splits from Santa Monica it would automatically decrease per pupil funding causing a negative impact on efforts to bring equity and equality to their community's diverse student population. That is simply not true. Separation would increase per pupil funding for BOTH districts.

SM-MUSD also falsely claims that we walked away from negotiating a separation agreement. That also is not true. Rather than engaging in good faith negotiations, SM-MUSD made a preposterous demand suggesting the transfer of billions of dollars of Malibu tax base into Santa Monica schools in perpetuity. Even now, they have refused to publicly announce or consider our best & final offer, which was transmitted to them in early March and ensures a tax-sharing formula if Santa Monica USD per pupil funding dropped below current levels.

Frankly, it is insulting to imply that Malibu does not care about the impact of separation on all students in both communities. We do. Contrary to the rhetoric of the SM-MUSD advocates, the demographics of each set of schools will stay the same. The percentage of

SEE **YOUR COLUMN HERE** PAGE 7



YOUR COLUMN HERE

FROM PAGE 6

low socio-economic, English language learners, foster, and homeless students in each community would not change under separation. Malibu students will continue to attend Malibu schools and Santa Monica students will continue to attend Santa Monica schools.

If you do the math correctly, the facts speak for themselves. I recommend that you visit our City of Malibu website (www.malibucity.org/musd) for more details before making a snap judgement about separation.

Malibu was added to Santa Monica USD over 150 years ago as a convenience for a single large rural landowner. That antiquated unification is clearly an inconvenience today. Malibu needs and deserves its own unified school district. It's time.

Karen Farrer has been a school district and community volunteer for over 27 years, past executive board member of the SM-M PTA Council, and former member of the SM-MUSD Facilities District Advisory Committee. She is deeply involved in many Malibu community organizations. She was elected to the Malibu City Council in 2018.

VACCINE

FROM PAGE 3

"We've been taking the necessary precautions based on the best possible medical advice," Morrison said. "It has not been our practice to jump at shadows."

Some EU nations were at pains to stress the safety and did not change their advice.

The Polish state TV broadcaster used a headline declaring, "AstraZeneca is safe."

The head of Italy's drug regulator, Nicola Magrini, appealed for calm even as he said late Wednesday that Italy will pivot from primarily using the AstraZeneca vaccine for people under 65 to using it on those over 60.

Underscoring how such changing rules were causing confusion and anxiety, the governor of the Veneto region said operators had fielded 8,000 calls about AstraZeneca in recent days. "Obviously there is some uneasiness spreading," Luca Zaia told reporters.

Hungarian government minister Gergely Gulyas called the EMA announcement "a clear decision which is in line with the point of view of Hungarian authorities: AstraZeneca is reliable and provides protection."

German officials made clear that they will stick to their current recommendation — issued March 30 when concerns about the rare clots were already circulating — to restrict the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine to people over 60 in most cases, in line with larger European nations including Spain and Italy.

In the Croatian capital, Zagreb, Josip Pavlic was among a large group of masked people who lined up for an AstraZeneca vaccination. He said he would take any shot, as infections rise sharply in the country.

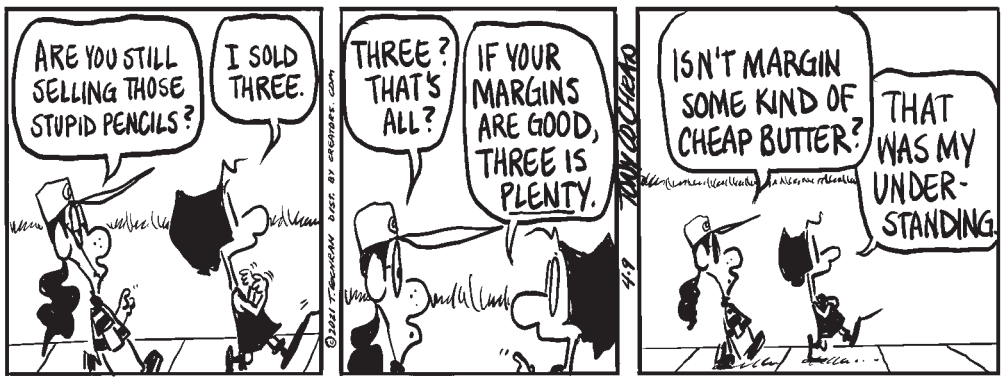
"They are all the same to me. The most important is the we have vaccine, and that we can have some protection with vaccine," he said.





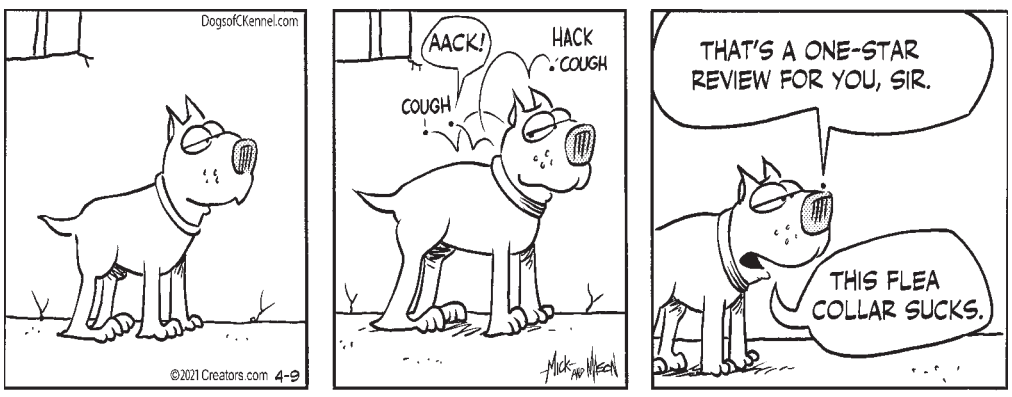
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



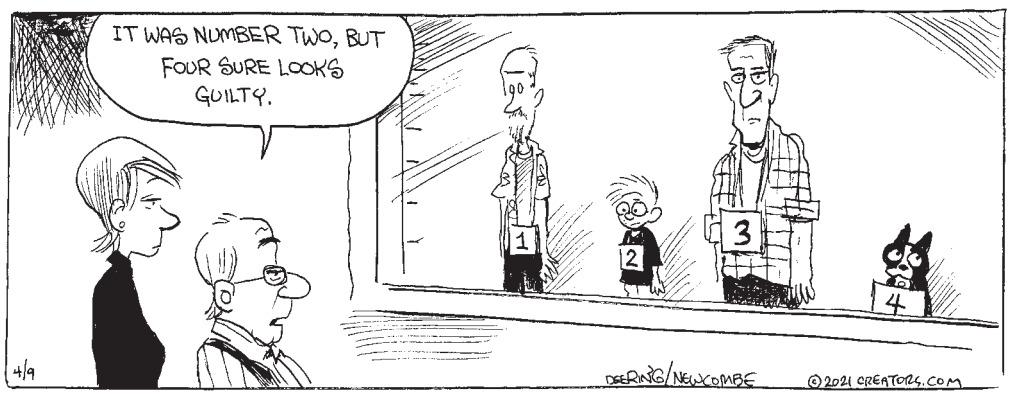
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



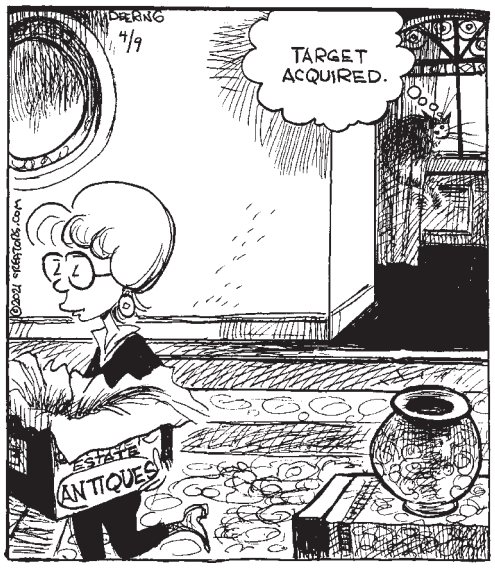
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.7°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Few peaks out west. SSW swell tops out and NW windswell picks up a notch through the day. Spots with SE wind blockage cleanest in AM. Worth watching the midday wind (lightens as it trends W).

SATURDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Few peaks. SSW swell lingers and NW windswell tops out. Shape is peaky and spots with SE wind blockage cleanest in the AM. Worth watching the midday wind (lightens as it trends W).

WEATHER

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 69.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 54.
Saturday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 68.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/04/09	Fri	02:43 AM	0.91	L
2021/04/09	Fri	08:39 AM	4.88	H
2021/04/09	Fri	3:00 PM	-0.18	L
2021/04/09	Fri	9:15 PM	4.83	H
2021/04/10	Sat	03:17 AM	0.56	L
2021/04/10	Sat	09:15 AM	4.74	H
2021/04/10	Sat	3:24 PM	0.12	L
2021/04/10	Sat	9:36 PM	4.99	H
2021/04/11	Sun	03:48 AM	0.29	L
2021/04/11	Sun	09:49 AM	4.50	H
2021/04/11	Sun	3:46 PM	0.47	L
2021/04/11	Sun	9:56 PM	5.11	H
2021/04/12	Mon	04:20 AM	0.10	L
2021/04/12	Mon	10:24 AM	4.21	H
2021/04/12	Mon	4:07 PM	0.83	L
2021/04/12	Mon	10:16 PM	5.16	H
2021/04/13	Tue	04:53 AM	-0.01	L
2021/04/13	Tue	11:00 AM	3.87	H
2021/04/13	Tue	4:27 PM	1.22	L
2021/04/13	Tue	10:38 PM	5.15	H
2021/04/14	Wed	05:27 AM	-0.02	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 4/7
27 35 39 51 66
Power#: 16
Jackpot: 55 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/6
1 19 20 32 42
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 201 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 4/7
2 7 16 40 42
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 36 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/7
19 21 26 30 33

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/7
EVENING: 0 4 4
Draw Date: 4/7
MIDDAY: 5 4 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/7
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:42.34

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 (APRIL 9)

As for the long-term goal you're devoted to, you'll reach seven important milestones within the year. You will thrive in a community that assembles around you as you share what you love. There's a method you'll follow to money in the summer. Perfect the system and make it your own. Sagittarius and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 40, 1, 33 and 19.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll hit it off with new people. Don't be afraid to be the first to call and establish a relationship beyond the original circumstance that brought you together.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Treat your mind by feeding it the stories and equations, art and movement that gets the mental wheels whirring. Your receptive synapses will spark with brilliant ideas.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll likely bear witness to graciousness and good manners, but if you don't see such behavior, it's a signal to start the cycle. One good-hearted action will ripple out to the whole world.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). How you get things done will be more important than what you get done. Approaching mundane tasks with great and fanciful gusto is so you -- shine on!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Everyone wants to feel better and there won't be a lot of consensus as to how it's best accomplished. Today will bring new things to try and you'll have fun experimenting to find out what's best for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The moment is with you everywhere. It's a portable power source. By trying to run on your own power, you run your battery down needlessly. But when you plug into the moment, you are supercharged.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Everything you do bears your signature, so there is no such thing as an anonymous act. Even when you go undetected by others, the witness inside you keeps very thorough notes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Because of your excellent relationship with yourself, you're able to have satisfying friendships with others. Whatever you do that brings you enjoyment is for them, too, even if they aren't there with you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've a gift for seeing the potential in things and getting excited about their development. It's not that you want them to be otherwise though. Every stage has beauty in it. Don't push or rush to results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You don't have to go anywhere exotic to find beauty and, in fact, you don't have to go anywhere at all. Because you've learned to see that beauty is everywhere.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Giving advice is a kind of pleasure. So, to ask for advice is to give a gift. Older family members will be especially deserving of this kindness from you today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You become quite aware of the energy flow -- who adds to it, who sucks from it, and how things tend to unfold depending on who gets involved. Think of this as good data. Collect it and refrain from judgment.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

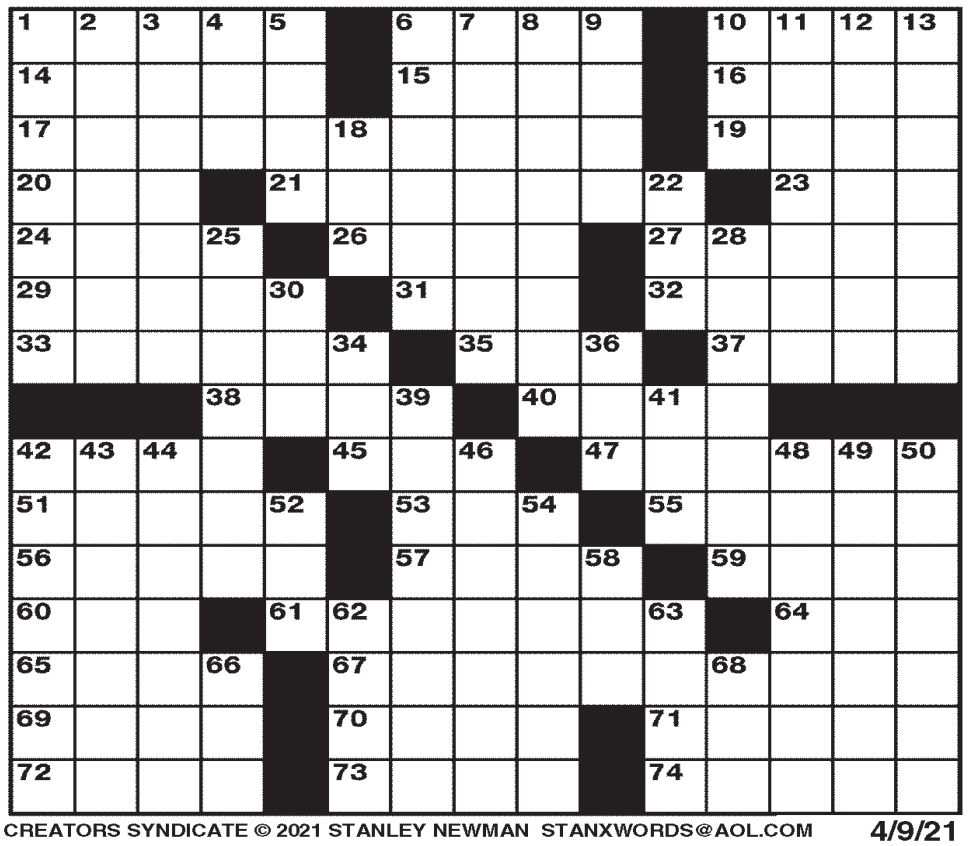
	4				7		8	
9							3	4
	1	7		3	8			
		3					4	2
5			2		9			3
1	2					6		
			9	2		4	6	
4	6							1
	8		3				5	

Newsday Crossword

ARGON by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACOSS
1 Dynamite guy
6 Nailed down, as a win
10 Diamond destination
14 Blown away
15 Boy sleuth of kid lit
16 "Buy It Now" site
17 Hint to what's absent [beginning]
19 Dish (out)
20 Weight stat.
21 Distance between typed lines
23 Small, slangily
24 Talk like Daffy Duck
26 Apple desktop
27 *Common Sense* essayist
29 "Candle in the Wind" name
31 Yale Bowl athlete
32 Holding of value
33 Osmose, e.g.
35 Pelican State sch.
37 Banjo cousins
38 Hint to what's absent [middle]
40 Hint to what's absent [end]
42 Yelp link
45 Unseld of NBA fame
47 Spoken with ease
51 Be of value to
53 Mimicking
55 "Long"-sounding nickname
56 Shade of yellow
57 Beautify
59 Women's links gp.
60 Antony's 1105
61 Not on the up-and-up
64 Sounds contented
65 Ice Age novelist
67 Alphabetic position of what's missing (solution and clues)
69 Apollo's mom
70 Peeved mood
71 Digital piano company
72 Finds logical
73 What some count by
74 Highly inclined

DOWN
1 Takes a small taste
2 5,000+ feet
3 Fine lightweight cloth
4 "Yuck!"
5 Wine sediment
6 By title only
7 Heckling sound
8 High-minded individual
9 TV chef of Savannah
10 Delay deciding
11 Pointy monument
12 Daytime show
13 Holes in shoes
18 Seismology lead-in
22 Soph's stat
25 Unexpected challenge
28 "Just like always"
30 Nickname like Toni
34 Wind hdg.
36 Old TV band
39 When it must be in by
41 Hockey stick wood
42 Bats and cats
43 She's getting away
44 Innocence
46 "Fizz" potable
48 Vast sweep
49 Teddy's cousin
50 Place to buy bags
52 Sweet-scented necklace
54 Plenty of nothing
58 Avocado seed
62 Just in case
63 Shamuses
66 __ Alamos, NM
68 Gulp down



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Binary Puzzle

Each cell should contain a zero or a one. No more than two similar numbers below or next to each other are allowed. Each row and each column is unique and contains as many zeros as ones.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0

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						0	0			1	0
0											
		1		1			0			1	1
			0							0	0
					1			0		0	
						0					1
	1		1			0		0			1
		0	0					0	0		



"The City of Bell spectacle is what happens to communities without their own old-fashioned, diligent news coverage." - Terry Francke, Journalist

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 14 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5078

Fun in the water

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

Abate	Drop in	Laps	Shelter
Birds	Dude	Lennox	Skeg
Bondi	Dump	Mistake	Slash
Boogie	Exhilarating	Overarm	Snack
Breaststroke	Fads	Peak	Spray
Chop	Foam	Rail	Squad
Coach	Gnarly	Reentry	Steps
Collision	Grass	Rescue	Surf
Contest	Grit	Rips	Swell
Curl	Heat	Sand	Swim
Dive	Inside	Sets	Tube
Drink	Kahuna	Shark	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Many important buildings

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OUTSIDE

FROM PAGE 1

them.

"We will utilize regenerative agriculture principles to sequester carbon, promote biodiversity, improve resilience and local healthy food access," English said, which will give students first-hand knowledge of principles like cover cropping and compost application.

"It's a very large project. The actual crop area and the area where the fruit orchard is going to be is around 10 or 11,000 square feet. And at the very back we'll have a learning garden and meditation zone," Bourke said, excitedly detailing the various fruits, veggies and interpretive signage planned for the site.

The farm will also be integrated into elements of the school's esteemed STEM curriculum, so it seems like a perfect fit, Bourke said.

"We are a school of science, technology, engineering and math, so we've heavily for years focused on very forward-thinking, progressive ideas when it comes to 21st century and even 22nd century skills and what humanity has to do to develop in order to advance itself in a sustainable manner. But I think a lot of schools when they focus heavily on technology, what they neglect is some of the very fundamentals, which is... our food comes from the soil; most of the clothing that we wear are products of plants that come from soil. So, kids need to know the importance of soil. They need to know the importance of respecting their environment, and the importance of sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere into the ground. So, the farm is touching on the fundamentals of our curriculum while also applying the concepts to real-life."

And it's not just students who will benefit. Residents of the nearby neighborhood will be able to drop off their compostable items that will go back into the earth.

"I think it'd be a huge opportunity for the kids to be able to see what composting does and how organic matter from your kitchen breaks down and eventually turns into food for plants," Bourke said. "And how fun will it be post-COVID when we can have kids outside, learning safely. It's just a very timely endeavor, and I think students will now have a profound appreciation for nature, socializing outside and getting their hands dirty in a farm setting after they've been sitting in front of the Zoom screen for a year."

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NEW RULES

FROM PAGE 1

In light of these circumstances, to protect public safety and welfare, a number of California cities, including Laguna Beach, Los Angeles and Oakland, have adopted ordinances prohibiting the carrying of specific items that can readily be used as weapons at protests, public assemblies, and community events. And, now, it's been recommended that Council adopt an emergency ordinance, to take effect immediately, because of the uncertainty and unpredictability of when one or more individuals may choose to seize the opportunity of an otherwise peaceful protest or public assembly to engage in violent conduct.

"Adopting such an ordinance will further the goal of ensuring that community members may continue to exercise their constitutional rights to engage in expressive activities without fear of violence or injury," staff said, adding Council could leave current municipal codes in place or adjust the scope of staff's recommendation, which is exactly what a group of concerned citizens, including former City Councilmembers Ted Winterer and Nathaniel Trives, asked in a letter that was recently sent to Council.

"The recitals to the draft ordinance conflate peaceful protestors with criminal behavior and bad actors. It suggests that some individuals have used protests as cover to engage in violence, arson and looting, and that the ordinance is needed to respond to that threat," the letter reads. "But it has been widely reported that the looting that occurred in Santa Monica last May 31 was the result of a systematic criminal enterprise, whether or not the result of people using the cover of the peaceful protests in Santa Monica to loot."

The letter adds the proposed ordinance seeks to ban certain conduct that is likely already unlawful while ignoring the tactical and safety problems reflected in how the police handled past protests, and the current proposal is silent on changes that should be made to protect Santa Monica residents and peaceful protestors.

"We believe that banning conduct that is already unlawful is unlikely to stop those bent on violence from committing such acts," signees said. "The SMPD should be required to develop tactical responses that will allow them to address and de-escalate potential criminal behavior while concurrently respecting the right of people to peacefully assemble and express their views."

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BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 5

Mayor Mike Pierson. "In addition to being universally loved and respected by our residents, his personal connection to many homeless individuals in Malibu was a critical factor in so many of them getting the services they needed and eventually finding permanent housing. Our hearts go out to his wife and children, as well as his brothers and sisters in the Sheriff's Department." For more information, visit www.MalibuCity.org.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF

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BIDEN

FROM PAGE 2

any counting yet."

Some activists, while they praised Biden for his executive actions on Thursday, said they wanted to see him more actively involved in the fight on Capitol Hill.

"I think he needs to engage directly and I think he needs to be counting the votes. I'm not sure what he's waiting for," said Igor Volsky, executive director of Guns Down America.

Volsky said his group would like to see Biden lay out a comprehensive package of reforms focused on gun violence, similar to what the administration has done on immigration. And he said Biden "could do more in using the presidential bully pulpit" to communicate with the public about the need for gun control measures and to pressure Congress to act.

"As he pointed out on the campaign trail, repeatedly, there's no time to wait to act on this issue. So my view is that this should be a priority for him," Volsky said.

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