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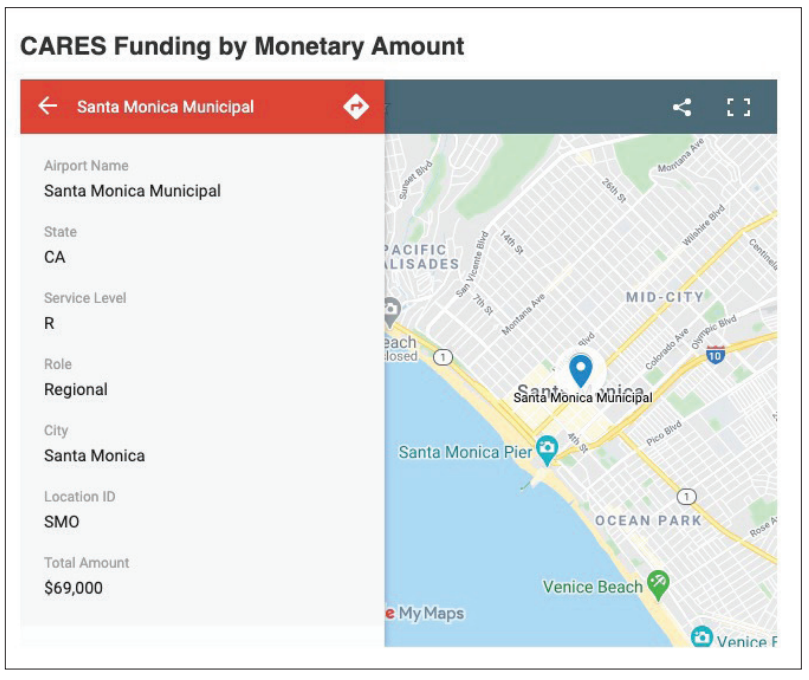
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Farmers Markets combine
There will be one market on weekends.
Page 4

Foreclosure prevention
The County has new services available.
Page 3

City might forgo airport grant to guarantee 2028 closure



Courtesy image

GRANT: SMO has a $69,000 grant available from the Federal government.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica Airport (SMO) has been assigned $69,000 from the federal government as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Airport Grant Program but plans to close the airport might prevent the city from accepting the grant.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will award $1,088,980,881 in airport aid to 188 airports in California to help respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency according to a statement issued by U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao

"This $10 billion in emergency resources will help fund the continued operations of our nation's airports during this crisis and save workers' jobs," she said.

The money can be used for capital expenditures, airport operating expenses including payroll and utilities, and airport debt payments. Officials said the payments will supplement airports who have lost revenue due to a decline in passenger traffic and other reductions in airport business.

"Thank you to the dedicated men

SEE **AIRPORT** PAGE 11



Matthew Hall

DEATHS: The Santa Monica Police Department responded to a pair of unrelated deaths on Tuesday afternoon. In the first call, a woman in her 70s died of natural causes in her apartment on 6th street. A few minutes later, a homeless man, age 69, died on the 1600 block of 5th Street. Neither call was initially connected to coronavirus and the county coroner's office is conducting further investigation into the second death.

Coronavirus cases in Santa Monica reach 96 as L.A. County cases top 10,000

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

Four new coronavirus cases were reported in Santa Monica Tuesday, bringing the total number of cases in the city to 96.

Coronavirus cases have increased 18% in Santa Monica over the last week after rising 45% the prior week, according to data from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. About 10 in 10,000 residents have the virus. In the first two weeks of the outbreak, cases rose exponentially as the city closed tourist attractions, nonessential businesses, public buildings and schools, beaches and playgrounds.

On Monday, Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer announced the smallest number of cases in a single day, including no new cases in Santa Monica.

But she warned the dip might be insignificant because testing capacity decreases over the weekend, and sure enough, L.A.

SEE **COVID-19** PAGE 6

Urth Caffé fundraising for 'Feed Our First Responders' program

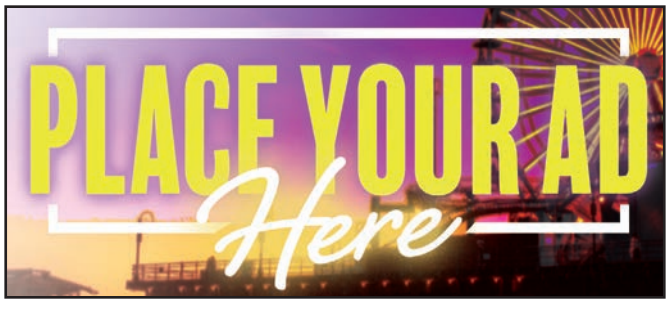
BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

While first responders continue to put their lives on the line during the recent pandemic, many will miss a meal during the day, but Urth Caffé is hoping to partner with local community members to ensure the emergency workers' bellies are as warm as their hearts.

It's been a few weeks since safer-at-home orders were instituted

SEE **URTH** PAGE 11


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More drought on tap for western US amid low river flows

SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN
Associated Press

The mighty Rio Grande is looking less mighty as U.S. forecasters predict spring flows will be less than half of average — or worse — and that signals potential trouble for the already stressed waterway.

One of the longest rivers in North America, the Rio Grande delivers drinking water and irrigation supplies to millions of people from southern Colorado into Texas and Mexico under a decades-old water-sharing agreement. With more dry years than wet ones over the last two decades, how much water ends up flowing downstream has been a point of contention among the states.

As New Mexico and Texas battle over their shares before the U.S. Supreme Court, forecasters with the federal government's Natural Resources Conservation Service say river and stream flows across New Mexico have dropped noticeably following a somewhat dry March.

The models show drought is expected to keep its hold over the mountains along the New Mexico-Colorado border that feed the Rio Grande, while California, Nevada and other southwestern states aren't likely to see a reprieve from dry conditions through June.

ALARM BELLS

In southern New Mexico, irrigation officials are expecting flows into the state's largest reservoir to top only 34% of the 30-year average. There's some water in storage from 2019, but officials say that will likely be used by summer and New Mexico will be prohibited from storing any additional water to keep from violating the water-sharing compacts.

Phil King, an engineering consultant with the Elephant Butte Irrigation District, describes the 2020 runoff forecast for northern New Mexico and southern Colorado as increasingly bleak.

"That basically means the water supply for the Rio Grande Project, including EBID, is in pretty bad shape," he said.

The irrigation district is home to some of the nation's top producing pecan orchards and many farmers in the region grow chile, New Mexico's signature crop.

Upstream, environmentalists are concerned about the river's overall health and the implications of another dry year for minnows and other imperiled species.

Galen Hecht with WildEarth Guardians visited the Rio Grande south of the Otowi Bridge gauge on Saturday. The water in some spots wasn't high enough to cover the boulders that make up the riverbed.

In a decade of forecasts, only twice did the Natural Resources Conservation Service estimate above average flows at Otowi. Hecht said the alarm bells are ringing again, as the latest outlook calls for flows that are about half of average.

"History shows that less than average water years and existing demands result in low flows, consolidated pollutants and river drying, which harms the environment and impacts the health of our communities," he said.

A large reach of the Rio Grande did dry up below Albuquerque in 2018, with the drying starting as early as April. Just a year earlier, biologists marked unprecedented numbers of adult Rio Grande silvery minnows in the river due to wet conditions, but the subsequent low flows ended up decimating the population.

EVERY DROP

Federal officials said during a meeting Monday there wouldn't be any big releases this year to augment flows for the minnows since there's no extra water to go around.

All they can do is "jiggle" the flows in hopes of encouraging spawning so eggs can be collected for the captive breeding effort. That means the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, which serves farmers in central New Mexico, will hold back some water for a day and then release more a couple days later to mimic a pulse of spring runoff.

Biologists with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service say if the river dries during or right after the minnows spawn, that could be tough on the larvae. If flows improve, it could be an average season for the fish — but likely no better.

While neighbors in Nevada and Arizona were in shorts and T-shirts on Monday, New Mexico got a late dose of winter. Several inches of snow were reported in the higher elevations as rain fell elsewhere.

Officials say they'll take it as federal data indicates the snowpack's moisture content is down to about two-thirds of average and that drought is lingering in the Rio Grande Basin from the headwaters in southern Colorado south to around Albuquerque. A pocket of drought also has been centered over the Four Corners region since last year.

Colorado started diverting its share of the Rio Grande in early April, meaning little water has been coming across the state line, said David Gensler, the water operations manager for the conservancy district.

Irrigation demand often rises in April faster than the river does depending on snowpack and temperatures. He said 2020 is proving that, pointing to the low flows at the Otowi gauge.

As the nickel-sized snowflakes fell Monday, Gensler and others were thankful.

"I know we're going to need just about every drop we can get," he said.

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

Health care workers are 10%-20% of US coronavirus cases

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

Between 10% and 20% of U.S. coronavirus cases are health care workers, though they tended to be hospitalized at lower rates than other patients, officials reported Tuesday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported the first national data on how the pandemic is hitting doctors, nurses and other health care professionals.

The data is important new information but not necessarily surprising, said Dr. Anne Schuchat, who is running the federal agency's response to the outbreak. Medical staff have also been hit hard in other countries: Media reports said about 10% of cases in Italy and Spain were health care workers.

As of the middle of last week, the CDC had reports of more than 315,000 cases in the U.S. The new report focused on about 49,000 for which researchers had data on whether or not they worked in health care. About 9,300, or 19%, of them were medical professionals. That included 27 who died.

But the data varied in how complete it was, researchers said. In 12 states that did a better job reporting on whether patients worked in medicine, around 11% of cases were health care workers.

Compared with U.S. cases overall, larger proportions of diagnosed health care workers were women, were white, and were young or middle-aged adults. That's consistent with the demographics of who works in health care, researchers said.

About 10% of the health care workers were hospitalized with symptoms, compared with 21% to 31% of overall cases. That may reflect the younger age of the workers, as well as prioritization of testing for health care employees, the report said.

Slightly more than half of a group of infected health care workers studied said their only known exposure to the virus was at work, but researchers say it's hard to know for sure how different people caught the bug.

A second report released Tuesday looked at three health care workers who became infected after treating a patient in Solano County, California, in what was one of the first instances of disease spread to medical personnel in the U.S. Workers didn't initially know the patient was infected with the coronavirus. All three did not wear eye protection or some other forms of protective equipment at least part of the time they were caring for the person, researchers said.

California governor gives outline for lifting virus closures

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Tuesday unveiled an outline for what it will take to lift coronavirus restrictions in the nation's most populous state, asking more questions than answering them as he seeks to temper the expectations of a restless, isolating public.

Newsom said he won't loosen the state's mandatory, stay-at-home order until hospitalizations, particularly those in intensive care units, "flatten and start to decline." And he says the state will need more testing, treatments and the ability for businesses, schools and childcare facilities to continue the physical distancing that has come to dominate public life.

But he cautioned that when things reopen, they won't be the same. Restaurants will have fewer tables and waiters will wear gloves and masks. Thermometers will be common in public spaces, as will masks and other protective gear. Schools could stagger arrival times of students to enforce physical distancing.

And large gatherings — like sporting events, concerts and fairs — are "not in the cards," he said.

"This is not about going back to where we were before. It's about going forward in ways that are healthy for all of us. But it won't look the same," said Dr. Sonia Angell, director of the California Department of Public Health.

Newsom announced that ICU hospitalizations were mostly flat, declining 0.1% on Monday. But the state reported 71 deaths, the highest single day total since the outbreak began.

California has been under a mandatory, stay-at-home order since March 19. But the virus has been disrupting the state since January, when people from all over the world were first sent to quarantine at California military bases.

In February, California had the first confirmed case in the country of someone who had not traveled internationally or been in contact with someone who had, an unofficial announcement that the outbreak had reached U.S. soil.

For most people, the virus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

The Elk Grove School District in Northern California closed on March 7. Five days later, Gov. Gavin Newsom banned all gatherings of more than 250 people. The NBA canceled its season after a player tested positive. Disneyland closed its gates.

Since then, more than 2 million Californians have filed for unemployment insurance. State officials have delayed tax deadlines, mortgage payments and evictions as they try to slow the economic carnage wrought by unprecedented disruptions in modern life.

"This can't be a permanent state. It's not it will not be a permanent state," Newsom said.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 195 CALLS ON APR. 13

Loud Music 1100blk 10th St 12:59 a.m.
Loud Music 900blk 5th St 1:19 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 3100blk 2nd St 2:37 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 16th St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:43 a.m.
Fight 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:58 a.m.
Loud Music 1900blk 18th St 4:36 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 800blk Pacific St 6:56 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2200blk Lincoln Blvd 6:58 a.m.
Battery Report 300blk Olympic Dr 6:59 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2300blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:16 a.m.
Transport Prisoner 300blk Olympic Dr 7:27 a.m.
Battery Report 300blk Olympic Dr 7:35 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1100blk 10th St 7:44 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 700blk Broadway 7:58 a.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 800blk Montana Ave 8:08 a.m.
Encampment 2700blk Wilshire Blvd 8:41 a.m.
Pedestrian Stop 2400blk Ocean Front Walk 8:59 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 800blk 2nd St 9:08 a.m.
Pedestrian Stop 2nd St / Broadway 9:35 a.m.
Death Investigation 400blk San Vicente Blvd 10:04 a.m.
Pedestrian Stop 2000blk Expo Bike Path 10:20 a.m.
Burglary Report 400blk San Vicente Blvd 10:21 a.m.
Fraud Report 3000blk Highland Ave 10:24 a.m.
Panhandling 1600blk 7th St 10:26 a.m.
Person With A Gun 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 10:46 a.m.
Bike Theft Report 2400blk 34th St 10:50 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 1800blk 7th St 10:51 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 900blk 16th St 10:57 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 2000blk Ocean Ave 11:14 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Pacific Coast Hwy / Entrada 11:22 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 1500blk 4th St 11:50 a.m.
Pedestrian Stop 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 12:00 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2000blk 21st St 12:02 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1000blk Euclid St 12:14 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1200blk 9th St 12:18 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 400blk Hill St 12:23 p.m.
Drinking In Public 2000blk Pico Blvd 12:28 p.m.
Burglary Report 200blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:43 p.m.
Identity Theft 400blk California Ave 12:48 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1100blk 5th St 12:50 p.m.
Family Disturbance 2600blk Broadway 1:20 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1400blk 4th St 1:45 p.m.
Arson 2500blk Pico Blvd 1:51 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2200blk 21st St 1:59 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1400blk Wilshire Blvd 2:19 p.m.
Encampment Stanford St / Wilshire Blvd 2:39 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1000blk 12th St 2:43 p.m.
Identity Theft Unknown 3:16 p.m.
Lost Property 17th St / Delaware Ave 3:30 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 1000blk Euclid St 3:35 p.m.
Burglary Report 200blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:43 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2500blk Kansas Ave 4:04 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Lincoln Blvd / Bay St 4:04 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 300blk Montana Ave 4:11 p.m.
Encampment 7th St / Taft Way 4:15 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 23rd St / Wilshire Blvd 4:25 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 4:28 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1300blk 11th St 4:29 p.m.
Missing Person 1900blk Pico Blvd 4:40 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Just Occurred 1400blk 6th St 4:54 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 2nd St / Broadway 5:27 p.m.
Burglary Report 2200blk 4th St 5:49 p.m.
Lost Property 2300blk Kansas Ave 6:04 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1200blk 14th St 6:12 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1500blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:42 p.m.
Attempt Armed Robbery Just Occurred 600blk Marine St 6:44 p.m.
Armed Robbery Report 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 7:21 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2400blk Virginia Ave 8:08 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1000blk Wilshire Blvd 8:09 p.m.
Attempt Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred Ocean Ave / California Ave 8:10 p.m.
Encampment 2500blk Pico Blvd 8:20 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2000blk Lincoln Blvd 8:22 p.m.
Auto Burglary Just Occurred 1500blk Euclid St 8:43 p.m.
Loud Music 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 8:51 p.m.
Lost Property 2300blk Kansas Ave 9:08 p.m.
Fight 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:16 p.m.
Fight 4th St / Colorado Ave 9:23 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1600blk Ocean Ave 10:03 p.m.
Loud Music 900blk Pico Blvd 10:04 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:20 p.m.

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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 40 CALLS ON APR. 13

EMS 400blk Expo Line 6:11 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 800blk Ashland Ave 7:00 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 500blk Olympic Blvd W 8:06 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1100blk Arizona Ave 9:09 a.m.
Wires Down 500blk Lincoln Blvd 12:15 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Berkeley St 1:21 p.m.
EMS 400blk 26th St 1:38 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 2:00 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:16 p.m.
EMS 11th St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:09 p.m.
EMS 800blk 15th St 4:21 p.m.
EMS 11th St / Santa Monica Blvd 4:31 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 4th St 5:00 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2300blk 5th St 6:01 p.m.
EMS 2300blk Kansas Ave 7:40 p.m.
EMS 200blk Bicknell Ave 7:54 p.m.
EMS 2900blk Urban Ave 8:27 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:27 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Colorado Ave 9:28 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Countywide

Free Foreclosure Prevention Services Available for Property Owners Facing Financial Hardships Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

With the support of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) has announced the launch of enhanced foreclosure prevention services for property owners and landlords with 15 or fewer units in Los Angeles County as part of the Los Angeles County Disaster Help Center. Free one-on-one counseling and support is available for property owners who have been adversely affected by the ongoing Coronavirus/COVID-19 emergency.

Whether their loan is owned by the government, a national or state charter bank, or private institution, property owners facing COVID-19 hardships may be eligible for temporary relief. The Disaster Help Center has a dedicated team of multilingual foreclosure counselors available to assist L.A. County property owners from potentially losing their properties. Our counselors can help property owners work with their lenders, who might offer:

Forbearance plans to temporarily reduce or delay payments
Repayment plans for missed payments
Loan modifications to reduce payments, interest or extend the loan term
Short sales to sell the home for less than you owe
Programs unique to lenders

Some lenders may be limited in initiating foreclosures during the declared COVID-19 health emergency.

Counselors can also assist with filing complaints for violations of various city, state, county, and federal moratoriums.

"We recognize the COVID-19 health emergency has resulted in significant job loss and loss of income for thousands of L.A. County property owners," said Joseph M. Nicchitta, Director of DCBA. "As a result, the number of property owners seeking foreclosure avoidance will increase. Los Angeles County is rising to meet that challenge and provide property owners with some much-needed relief by offering expanded foreclosure prevention services. We applaud the Board of Supervisors for their leadership in protecting all property owners during this very difficult period."

For more information, contact the L.A. County Disaster Help Center by phone at (833) 238-4450, email disasterhelpcenter@lacounty.gov, or visit LACountyHelpCenter.org.

Since 1976, the County of Los Angeles Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) has served consumers, businesses, and communities through education, advocacy, and complaint resolution. We work every day to educate consumers and small business owners about their rights and responsibilities, mediate disputes, investigate consumer fraud complaints, and enforce Los Angeles County's minimum wage and rent stabilization ordinances. For more information, visit dcba.lacounty.gov.

SUBMITTED BY KEVEN CHAVEZ, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Countywide

LA County to Create Emergency Rent Assistance Program Amid COVID-19 Crisis

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a proposal by Supervisors Janice Hahn and Hilda Solis to create an Emergency Rent Assistance Program during the COVID-19 crisis. When it is created, the program could provide up to $1000 per month for three months to renters who have lost income due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"As we fight the spread of this virus and do everything we can to save lives, this crisis has devastated families who were already living on the brink of poverty," said Supervisor Janice Hahn. "The eviction moratorium we have in place has provided some relief, but many families are going to struggle to pay back the rent they owe after this crisis is over. Rent assistance will help keep people in their homes and lessen some of the long-term economic damage this pandemic will have on families."

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has implemented a rent freeze and eviction moratorium to prevent families from losing their homes during this epidemic. However, renters will still need to pay back rent owed in the months after the crisis. Rent assistance would not need to be paid back and could prevent families from falling into even worse economic hardship.

The number of families that will be helped by the program will depend on the level of funding. Funding for the program would come from the second round of funding Los Angeles County expects to receive from the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Additional funding could come from philanthropy and private sources.

"Housing stability is crucial for residents both during and after the COVID-19 crisis. We know the County's eviction moratorium helps protect renters against homelessness now, but it won't help them once past-due rent needs to be paid back," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, co-author of this motion. "This Emergency Rental Assistance Program can provide sorely needed support to cost burdened households while they are earning little or no income as a result of the pandemic."

The Los Angeles County Development Authority will report back to the Board of Supervisors with an implementation plan for the Emergency Rent Assistance Program in 30 days.

SUBMITTED BY LIZ ODENDAHL

SANTA MONICA

Single Weekend Farmers Market Begins Saturday, April 18

The Santa Monica Farmers Markets will temporarily shift all weekend markets (Saturday Pico Farmers Market at Virginia Avenue Park, Saturday Downtown Santa Monica Farmers Market and Sunday Main Street Farmers Market) into one larger, Saturday market at the current downtown farmers market location (Arizona Avenue between 4th Street and Ocean Avenue) for the duration of the County and State Stay at Home Orders.

The consolidated Farmers Market plans to be open on Saturday, April 18, to allow access to essential groceries like fresh produce and to continue offering CalFresh/EBT and Market Match for qualified shoppers. The market's continuation of service also minimizes economic impacts to participating farmers, so they remain able to serve the market community in the months and years to come.

"We know so many of our community relies on our outdoor markets for their groceries," said City Manager and Emergency Operations Director Rick Cole. "Consolidating our weekend markets into one weekend market, we are able to focus our resources to best serve customers, our local farmers, while operating our Farmers Market under similar conditions to indoor food markets, requiring all customers to wear a face covering to enter the market and following appropriate physical distancing guidelines."

If attending the Downtown Farmers Market, all customers, vendors and staff are required to wear protective face covering in accordance with LA County Department of Public Health guidelines. To access the Downtown Farmers Market, please enter on 2nd Street or Arizona Avenue at 3rd Court. Below are additional safety guidelines to follow if attending the market:

- Customers are requested to shop at the market only for essential food needs.
- Do not come to the market if ill.
- Consider coordinating with neighbors to send one person to purchase items for multiple individuals or families, especially those who are over the age of 65, have underlying health conditions, or are pregnant.
- Limit your time in the market to under 30 minutes, essential shopping only. Do not linger or socialize in the market. Please shop and exit.
- Practice safe physical distancing - stay six feet apart.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often.
- Please allow only the vendors to handle produce.
- To limit exposure, the Farmers Market strongly recommends exploring alternative ways farmers are selling their food (pre-order options, CSA boxes, shipping, and more). Visit https://bit.ly/2RhF09h for more information.

The Downtown Farmers Market on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. continues operation as planned with no schedule changes due to the County and State Stay at Home Orders.

For information on COVID-19 in Santa Monica, visit santamonica.gov/coronavirus or call the City of Santa Monica's coronavirus hotline: (310) 458-8400. Get Santa Monica emergency alerts by texting SMCOVID to 888-777 and sign up for daily COVID-19 updates at santamonica.gov/newsletter.

SUBMITTED BY MIRANDA IGLESIAS, PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Rose Mann
rose@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Madeleine Pauker
madeleine@smdp.com
Brennon Dixson
brennon@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Cynthia Citron,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra,
Sarah A. Spitz

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Achling Holliday
ross@smdp.com
Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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AWARD WINNER

WINNER

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Obama endorses Biden as the best leader for 'darkest times'

ALEXANDRA JAFFE, JULIE PACE AND BILL BARROW
Associated Press

Former President Barack Obama endorsed Joe Biden on Tuesday, giving the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee a boost from the party's biggest fundraiser and one of its most popular figures.

"Joe has the character and the experience to guide us through one of our darkest times and heal us through a long recovery," Obama said in a 12-minute video in which he argued the coronavirus pandemic reinforced the need for better leadership.

The endorsement marked Obama's return to presidential politics more than three years after leaving the White House. He didn't mention his successor, President Donald Trump, by name and instead sought to bridge the ideological divide among Democrats.

Obama commended Bernie Sanders, who was the leading progressive foil to Biden during the Democratic primary. The Vermont senator ended his campaign last week and threw his support behind Biden on Monday.

The former president called Sanders an "American original" and backed his frequent call for "structural change." But he also said that while Democrats "may not always agree on every detail," they must unify to defeat Republicans.

"The Republicans occupying the White House and running the U.S. Senate are not interested in progress," he said. "They're interested in power."

Biden now has the support of all of his former Democratic primary rivals except for Elizabeth Warren. The Massachusetts senator is expected to formally endorse Biden soon, according to a person familiar with her plans who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss her thinking.

Two other prominent Democrats who have yet to publicly back Biden are former President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton, the party's 2016 nominee. Hillary Clinton has been in regular touch with Biden, including several times since Sanders dropped out of the race, according to an aide.

Obama avoided intervening in the Democratic primary, but followed the race closely from the sidelines and is eager to take a more active public role. He's expected to headline fundraisers for Biden and public events in key swing states, if such gatherings can still be held given social distancing guidelines during the coronavirus pandemic.

After his endorsement was released, Obama sent a fundraising appeal to Biden supporters, asking for donations ranging from $5 to $100.

The endorsement will test whether Obama can transfer his personal popularity to Biden. While the former president is seen favorably by a wide swath of Democratic voters, he was also a deeply polarizing figure during his two terms in office. During his presidency, Democrats lost about 1,000 legislative seats around the country, starting with disastrous 2010 midterms that also cost the party control of the House and many statehouses.

In 2018, he campaigned for some winning Senate and gubernatorial candidates, like Sen. Jacky Rosen in Nevada and Gov. Tony Evers in Wisconsin. But his influence seemed less powerful in other places such as Florida.

The Trump campaign noted that Obama tacitly discouraged Biden from running for president in 2016 and said the former president is only backing him now because everyone else has dropped out of the primary.

"Now that Biden is the only candidate left in the Democrat field, Obama has no other choice but to support him," Brad Parscale, Trump's campaign manager, said in a statement.

Though Obama stayed out of the primary, Biden frequently pointed to their time together in the White House. Biden often spoke of the "Obama-Biden" administration when talking about various accomplishments and referred to himself as an "Obama-Biden Democrat."

But he also insisted he was running as his own man, telling anyone who asked that he urged Obama not to endorse him out of the gate or even in the thick of the primary.

Obama's tenure became a sort of punching bag for some presidential hopefuls in a primary fight that early on was defined by a debate over the need for generational and systemic change versus a return to normalcy after the Trump era.

Julián Castro pushed Biden repeatedly on whether he argued with Obama privately over deportations overseen by that administration. Pete Buttigieg and Beto O'Rourke jabbed Biden – and by extension, Obama — by suggesting the party shouldn't "return to the past." Sanders and Warren said the 2010 Affordable Care Act hadn't gone far enough.

But Biden was a staunch defender of that legislation and called it "bizarre" for Democrats, even faintly, to attack Obama's record.

The conversation around Obama's presidency shifted as the primary wore on. By the time voting began, Buttigieg was almost explicitly comparing his youthful bid to Obama's 2008 campaign, and the progressives were framing their health care proposals as a way to build on Obama's legacy. Billionaire candidate Mike Bloomberg, meanwhile, featured Obama in his ubiquitous advertising effort, much to Biden's chagrin.

"You'd think Mike was Barack's vice president," Biden once quipped to donors.

For his part, Biden leaned even more heavily into Obama as primary voting began. Aiming at Sanders, the self-described democratic socialist, and Bloomberg, who'd been elected New York City mayor as a Republican, Biden said in a Feb. 21 interview with The Associated Press that "they're not bad folks. They're just not Democrats."

Campaigning before increasingly diverse audiences in Nevada and South Carolina, Biden ramped up his recollections of when Obama tapped him for the ticket in 2008. Biden recalled Inauguration Day 2009, waiting for the train in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, "for a black man to pick me up ... for the two of us to be sworn in as president and vice president of the United States."

Often drawing nods and vocal affirmation from his audiences, Biden said he had thought of that day as a national victory over institutional racism. Now, in the Trump era, Biden calls that conclusion a mistake.

"I thought we could defeat hate," he said, but "it never goes away."

Barrow reported from Atlanta.

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COVID-19

FROM PAGE 1

County recorded 670 new cases Tuesday, bringing the total to 10,047 cases. More than 63,000 people have been tested and 11% have tested positive, Ferrer said.

"While we are effectively working together to reduce the spread of COVID-19, we must keep at it to avoid a surge in cases and deaths that could overwhelm our county – we do not want to lose ground," Ferrer said in a statement. "That means we must keep doing what we're doing for now – staying home, physical distancing and using cloth face coverings – while we implement strategies to support our recovery."

Ferrer reported 40 deaths Tuesday, the highest number in a single day. L.A. County's death toll stands at 360 and its mortality rate increased slightly to 3.6%.

Twenty-five people who died were older than 65 and nine were between 41 and 65. Twenty-two people had underlying health conditions. Eight people older than 65 and four people between 41 and 65 had no underlying health conditions.

Eighty-five percent of people who died had underlying health conditions. Of those who died, information about race and ethnicity is available for 292 people. Thirty-four percent of deaths occurred among Latinx residents, 32% among white residents, 17% among Asian residents, 16% among African American residents and 2% among residents identifying with other races.

L.A. County's stay at home order is in place until May 15. Beaches, trails and non-essential businesses remain closed, and all public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit remain prohibited.

Since Friday, people in Santa Monica have been required to wear face coverings while visiting or working at essential businesses.

The L.A. County Board of Supervisors approved Tuesday a $12 million relief fund for small businesses impacted by coronavirus, which will also be supported by $15 million from Goldman Sachs and $1 million from Wells Fargo.

The county is already offering small businesses up to $10,000 in grants from a $500,000 fund, and recovery loans of up to $20,000.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said Tuesday that stay at home restrictions will not be lifted until California's healthcare system is prepared for a potential increase in cases, testing is universally available and vulnerable populations are adequately protected.

People will need to continue wearing face coverings and physically distancing themselves from others in public. Businesses that reopen will need to separate customers and take additional health precautions, he said.

For example, restaurants will have to cut capacity, use disposable menus, outfit staff with gloves and masks and check customers' temperatures before they enter, Newsom said.

madeleine@smdp.com

Daily Delivery:
Takuma



Courtesy image

TAKUMA: The traditional Izakaya is offering delivery and takeout options.

Editor's Note: The Daily Press will be highlighting the delivery and take-out options of one local restaurant per day during the lock-down.

Takuma, 2627 Wilshire Blvd, 310-586-7469, www.santamonicatakuma.com

Takuma is open daily from 11 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. for delivery and take-out orders. In addition to offering their regular menu, the restaurant offers delivery of Bento Boxes within a three mile radius for orders of over $100 (please provide one day advance notice for Bento orders). For more information visit https://www.santamonicatakuma.com/ or call 310-586-7469.





Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Open up soon? Too much to lose

I'M TRYING

To do that "nice" and "kind" thing, in this column, to offer some light for locals as we all struggle through this difficult but opportune time. I want to mention some of the positive things that our City government is doing for us during this crisis, especially the things that may not get so much attention.

I'm sure there are many. I reached out last week to those who would know, all our City Council members and our City Manager, but so far, no response. They are swamped, I know. Like so many, they didn't sign up for this. They are behind the scenes, but heroes nonetheless.

So I will get around to that. This ain't going away any time soon. But as so often happens, something I want to write about gets bumped back for something I feel I have to write about.

A BRAND NEW WORLD

A Utopian cliche, right? Songs are written about it. Plays and musicals. Poems and books. Since ancient times. Oh, that impossible dream. Of course, there are probably as many versions of "ideal" as there are people on the planet, hard to get wide agreement on details but, how about, a world that works for everyone? That's quantifiable, measurable.

Sure, you can get into a political tar pit but really, aren't there some things that are beyond argument by rational, decent people? Here's the yardstick: if you applied this to yourself and your family and friends, would you fight it?

Let's start with no one going hungry. No one without shelter. Everyone safe from preventable harm, like war.

Whew. Deep breath. Just those three does give us a brand new world, I'd say. They encompass things like safe drinking water and food, and healthcare. So yes, let's talk about that big ugly hole in the richest, most powerful nation on earth.

FOR YOU AMERICANS:

— health care for everyone. Now see, there's my signature example.

Think about it. What we're going through has shown us what is possible, that the voices of power were telling us just two months ago was not possible. (Just like sheltering the unsheltered, but that's going a whole lot better now.) Remember, just a little bitty time ago, when SOME PEOPLE were saying we need healthcare for everyone in this country? That it's not only a moral obligation, a human right, but that it makes economic sense too, in a country where our health care costs are multiples higher than in all other industrialized nations.

Why, asking for that will keep any candidate from being elected president, others said with certainty, because too many millions love the healthcare plan they have through their company.

Bingo. Now everyone needs it, and many of those millions have lost their jobs and the insurance that went with them. Which brings up something we all know but now it's in our face: how many people slowly suffocate their souls for way too many years at a job they hate, just for the health insurance? Is that any way to live?

ALL OF A SUDDEN

Our government is declaring, everyone sick gets treated, no matter what. Because to do otherwise would leave bodies piling up on the streets, as they did in the ferocious flu epidemic of 1918 that infected one out of four people on earth and killed 50,000,000. (Did you know that in all likelihood we Americans started the "Spanish flu"? On a Kansas military base. Then carried it to the rest of the planet via World War I.)

Even though Trump has utterly fallen short in his handling of this pandemic, and tried to tell us it's up to the states — "no, I don't take any responsibility at all," and "we're not a shipping clerk" — the truth everyone sees is that horrible boogeyman, the federal government that Reagan began demonizing, is in fact what we need to survive.

But right now I'm more worried about the near future. I'm worried about Trump's drumbeat to "open up the country," ending the stay safe at home measures that are starting to get this under control, against common sense and the advice of all the medical experts. There's an election coming up and he knows, "it's the economy, stupid."

Of course the economic damage from stay at home is massive, but it's recoverable and it's a choice: the economy better before November, or perhaps millions of American lives lost.

BUT LET'S LOOK AT IT

More long term and big picture. We've gotten a glimpse of that more ideal world we were always told was unobtainable, and seen that it isn't. Do we want to go back?

You can now see the Himalayas from India again. Can you imagine, the biggest, tallest thing on earth had disappeared under polluted skies. The critters are returning. Someone posted video of a park with hundreds of squirrels cavorting, hundreds. After being shut barely three weeks, Yosemite is seeing the wildlife come out of hiding; the bear population has quadrupled. We need to rethink how we coexist with wildlife. Streets are empty, crime has plummeted (can't burgle when everyone is home). We're having to be much more thoughtful about what we eat, and getting our exercise.

Most importantly, more than 90 percent of people are voluntarily staying at home, for the general good. That's an amazing act of agreement, and of love. So more won't die. People are connecting with others through social media in ways they never have before.

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 11

William G. Wells

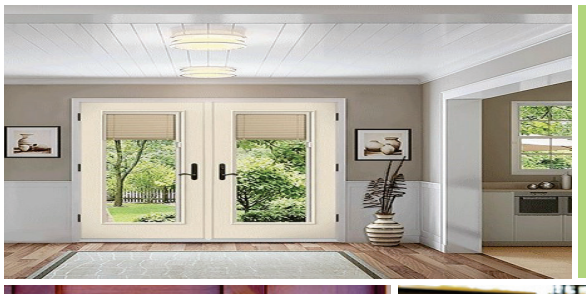


William G. "Bill" Wells, 88, passed away on Monday March 30,2020 in Los Angeles. He was born in Libertyville, Illinois and was a graduate of Libertyville H.S. He Received his juris Dr. at the University of Illinois. He completed the U.S. Marine Corp. Officer training program at Quantico, W. Virginia and coached the U.S. Marine Corp. basketball team at Camp Pendleton. He married his college sweetheart Sheila nee Bittman, Wells and they settled in Santa Monica where Bill worked for McDonnell Douglas. He opened his own law practice in Santa Monica and was a member of the California, Illinois and Wisconsin Bar. Mr. Wells was the former President of Fujita USA and the Miramar Sheraton hotel in Santa Monica. He was a fearless leader and genuinely cared about each and every employee. He is survived by his wife Sheila nee Bittman,Wells, 2 daughters; Pamela Wells (Dr. Scott Worman) San Diego, Catherine Wells, Simi Valley, one grandchild Caroline Worman, his sister Nancy nee Wells,Ypma and his dear friend Eisuke Kutsuan, Santa Monica. He was preceded in death by his parents Aubrey and Mary Wells. A funeral for Bill is pending at; Burnett-Dane Funeral home, 120 W Park Ave, Libertyville, Illinois with interment following at Lakeside Cemetary. Info. 847-362-3009 or please share a memory at; www.burnettdane.com

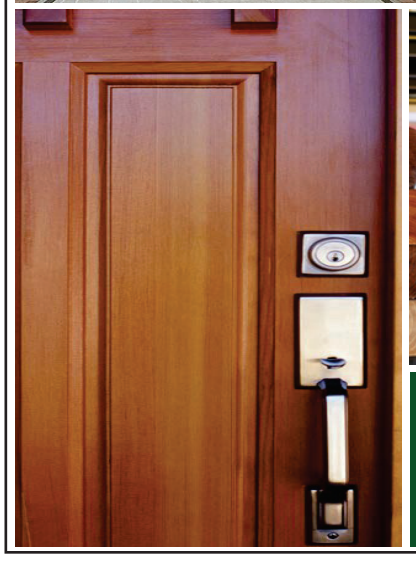
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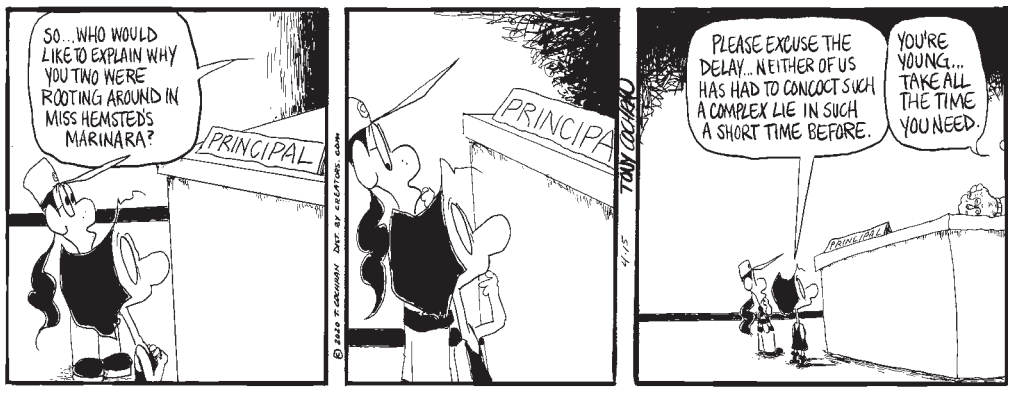




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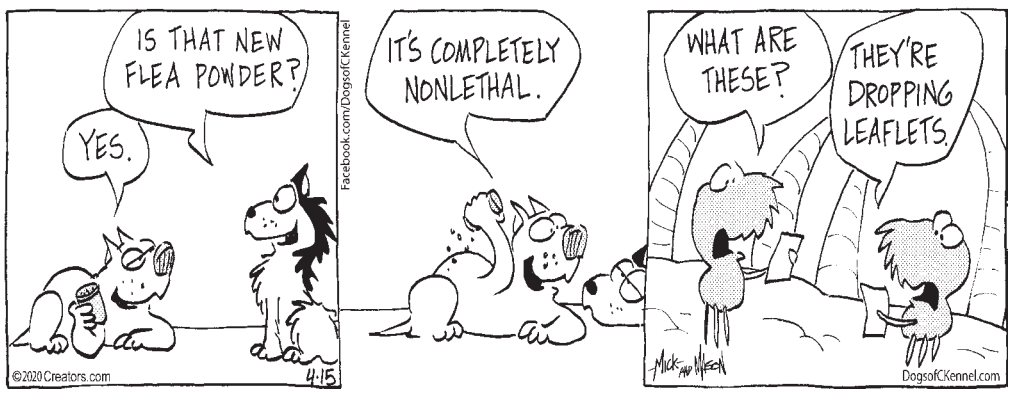
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THAT ROLLER PUTS CAT HAIR ON."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

BEACHES are closed because of Covid-19. Please stay Home.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 72.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 57.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 68.
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 54.
Friday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 62.
Friday Night: A slight chance of showers before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Date	Day of the Week	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/04/15	Wed	04:15 AM	4.21	H
2020/04/15	Wed	11:56 AM	-0.05	L
2020/04/15	Wed	7:11 PM	3.73	H
2020/04/16	Thu	12:15 AM	2.52	L
2020/04/16	Thu	05:40 AM	4.20	H
2020/04/16	Thu	12:50 PM	-0.09	L
2020/04/16	Thu	7:43 PM	4.02	H
2020/04/17	Fri	01:10 AM	2.04	L
2020/04/17	Fri	06:44 AM	4.30	H
2020/04/17	Fri	1:31 PM	-0.06	L
2020/04/17	Fri	8:08 PM	4.25	H
2020/04/18	Sat	01:50 AM	1.58	L
2020/04/18	Sat	07:34 AM	4.40	H
2020/04/18	Sat	2:03 PM	0.03	L
2020/04/18	Sat	8:29 PM	4.47	H
2020/04/19	Sun	02:22 AM	1.15	L
2020/04/19	Sun	08:14 AM	4.45	H
2020/04/19	Sun	2:30 PM	0.19	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:04/11
22 29 30 42 47
Power#: 17
Jackpot:22 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 04/10
2 11 21 57 60
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 145 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 04/11
1 4 8 27 29
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 19 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 04/13
3 8 27 33 34

Daily 3
Draw Date: 04/13
Evening: 3 2 8
Draw Date: 04/13
Midday: 8 8 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 04/13
1st: 01 - GOLD RUSH
2nd: 12 - LUCKY CHARMS
3rd: 10 - SOLID GOLD
RACE TIME: 1:42.09

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 15)

Good enough isn't good enough for you this year. You're going for greatness on all levels, starting with improving a relationship or striking up a new one that makes your personal life sing. Your work dynamic will change, allowing you to develop talents and devote more of your time to what matters to you. Gemini and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 33, 2, 22 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Make it a point to get more support. Know who has your back, is on your side and will promote and help you. Rule out those who have had the opportunity to help before but didn't.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your daily life doesn't automatically include telling people how much they are loved. That's something you have to add. You'll go out of your way to show people you value them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your best friends are sometimes also the ones who give you the most grief, extra work and drama. Be open to breaking old habits and finding new ways of interacting that serve everyone better.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The norms go out the window when originators are in the room. You're such a person. Your fresh ideas are just part of the package that comes with you. You won't even realize how creative you're being.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've extended yourself. You've worked hard to learn, get hands-on experience and see what others needed you to see. Now it's your turn to be understood and to let people in on what you're dealing with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You were eager for good to triumph over evil. Now you realize it's not so much about good and evil as it is about power and how a game is played. Rules will get broken by all sides.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've tuned into the whispers of trends and dramas. These are soft words that are not to be taken too seriously as they can so easily drift when the wind blows a different direction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can't help but notice that everyone has a void. As much as you'd like to fill in the blanks and supply what's needed, don't rush to do so. More listening and understanding must happen first.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If it doesn't bring you challenge, money or joy, then what does it bring you? Your answer to this question may have you cutting something out of your life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sometimes you think if ideas were dollars, you'd be much richer. And what if they are? Apply your sign's famous follow-through now. Brainstorm... you're on to something!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Interruptions are costly. Even once an hour is too much. Precautions taken to make yourself difficult to interrupt will ultimately save you from wasting your hours.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can always make your natural impressionability work for you. For instance, fill your eyes, mind and experiences with beauty and you become even more beautiful.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

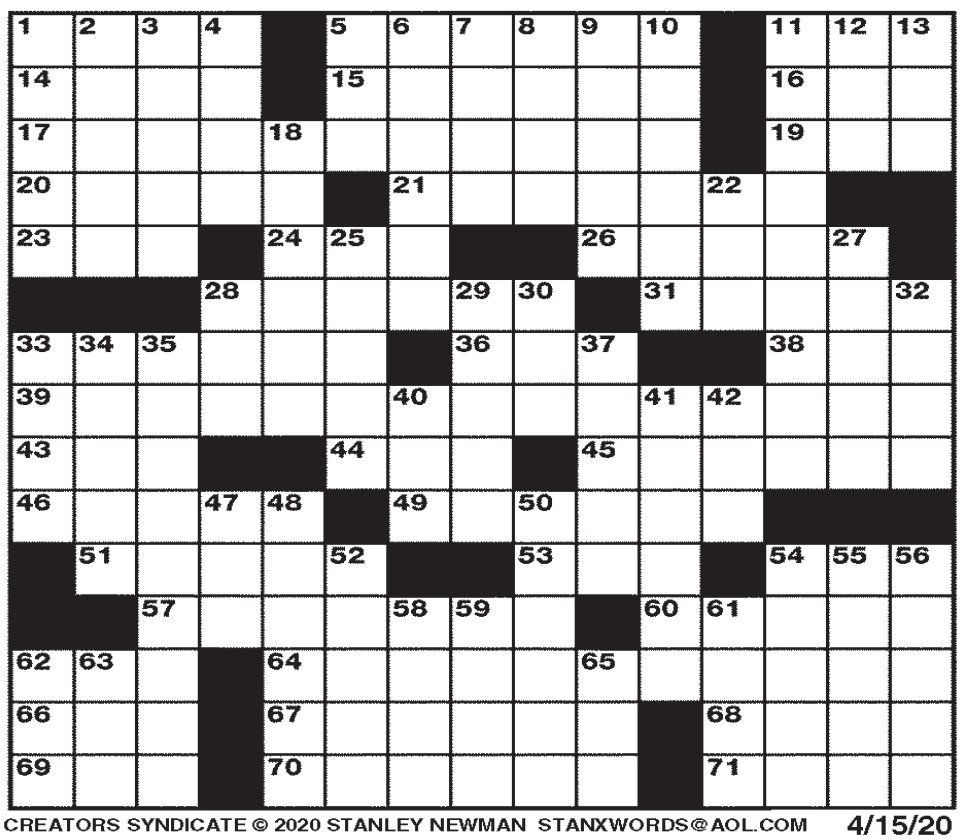
6	3		2	1				9
				7	4		3	
		2						
7		5					8	
		3	4	6	8	5		
	4					3		6
						4		
	1		8	4				
5				9	2		1	7

Newsday Crossword

KIOSK KIN by David Van Houten
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Exerciser's excess weight
5 Dress like a judge
11 IRS form expert
14 Singer Del Rey or actress Turner
15 Low naval rank
16 Is in possession of
17 Auto trip annoyance
19 Annoy
20 Fry lightly
21 Mental strain
23 __ Majesty (kingly address)
24 Chum
26 "That's easy!"
28 Ultimatum
31 Electric car company
33 More flamboyant
36 __ TURN (road sign)
38 Ad-__ committee
39 Lincoln's assassin
43 State west of Ga.
44 State east of Md.
45 Go by, as time
46 Payments from tenants
49 Colorful aquarium swimmers
51 "Oh beautiful for spacious __"
53 Suffix meaning "ideology"
54 Life-saving technique: Abbr.
57 What alphabets consist of
60 Spooky
62 *"__ pasa?"*
64 Voices one's opinion
66 S&L officers
67 Make level
68 Prefix for virus
69 Duplicate emails, for short
70 More rare, as a steak
71 Be in first place

DOWN
1 __ and blood (relatives)
2 Hawaiian porch
3 Black __ beef
4 Worm for an angler
5 Language suffix
6 Get snug
7 Evaluate
8 Muscat's Mideast nation
9 Lightweight wood used for models
10 Get to volunteer
11 Where a bull shouldn't wander
12 Standard score in golf
13 Inquire
18 Brother's son
22 Early afternoon
25 Right Guard rival
27 Storylines
28 Metal in pewter
29 Joint near a heel
30 Digit near a 29 Down
32 Yearn (for)
33 Slightly open
34 Parts in plays
35 Unappreciated
37 Help-line callers
40 Allow
41 Holds responsible
42 W. Hemisphere alliance
47 Put a knot in
48 "Irish" dog
50 Paper in a gift box
52 Prevent, with "off"
54 Construction site machine
55 Ship of 1492
56 Made over
58 __ out a living (barely got by)
59 Tear apart
61 List-ending abbr.
62 HSN competitor
63 ID scanned by a cashier
65 Showery mo.



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 4/15/20

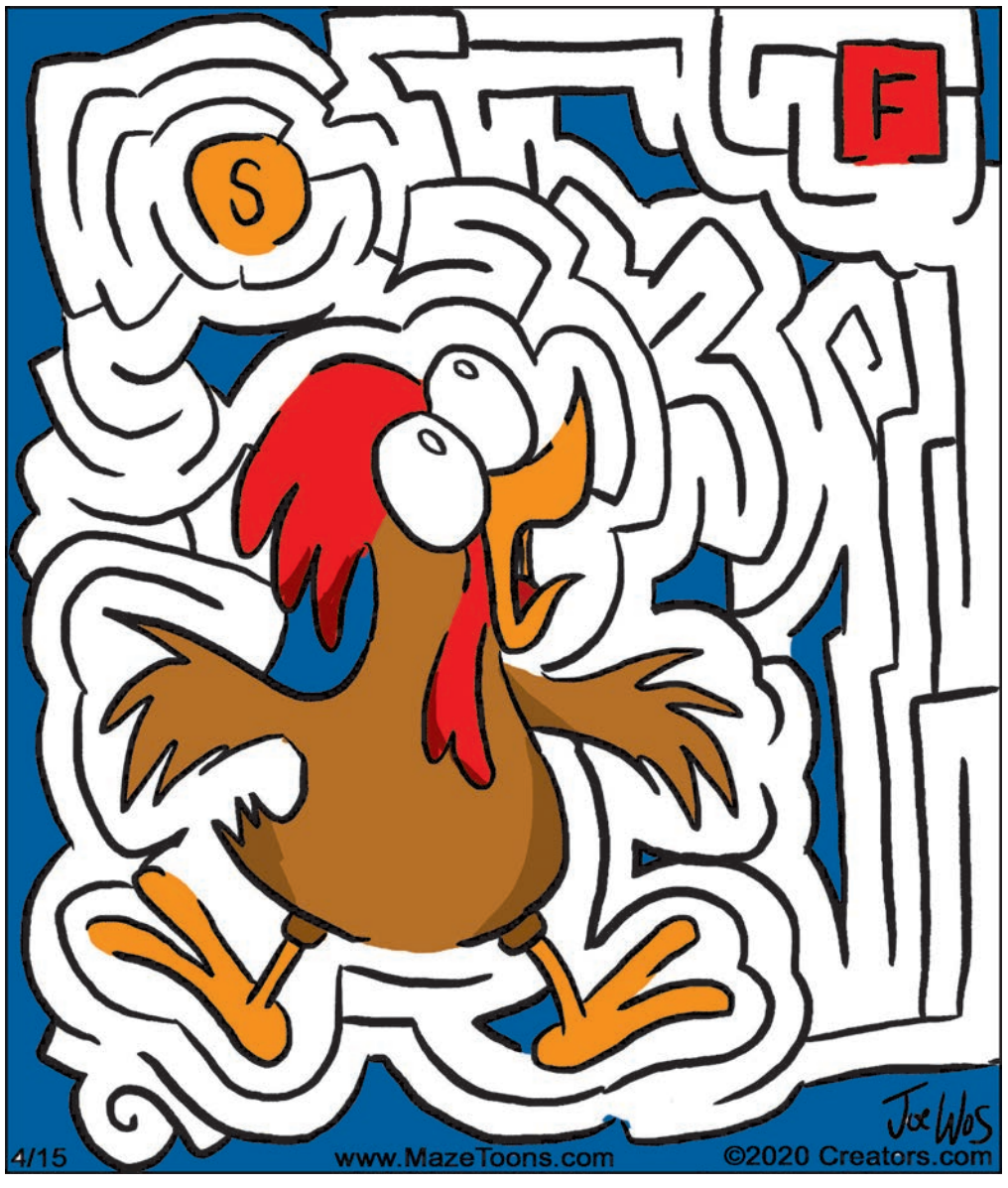
Binary Puzzle

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

I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O
I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I
O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I
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"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 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4720

Going bush

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

Acacia	Edge	Look	Sleet
Ants	Endemic	Lush	Slip
Areas	Fauna	Mist	Soil
Arid	Ferns	Oak	Spur
Basic	Fish	Orchids	Tent
Bees	Forest	Owls	Trail
Bites	Free	Park	Turkey
Bleak	Galah	Path	Umbrella
Bottle	Gums	Plain	Walk
Cairn	Hat	Quiet	Wrens
Calm	Hike	Rivers	Yams
Camping	Idle	Sand	
Canyon	Lilly pilly	Scrub	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Still working for the weekend

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CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 7

Creativity stifled from public exhibition is bursting forth online from individuals like never before.

Sure, our world has changed forever and it won't be easy to mold the new one to our liking. But now, maybe for the first time in history, we see it is possible. Don't lose the vision. Don't "open up" to the deadly old ways. Sure, I love my car, but I think I like clear skies more.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

URTH

FROM PAGE 1

by state officials, but Santa Monica police officers, firefighters and paramedics can still be heard on local streets rushing to answer the calls of the community.

In an effort to help those who help others, Urth Caffé Santa Monica began raising funds this week for its Feed Our First Responders Program, which seeks to supply individual Urth Caffé Lunch Box meals that will be delivered to the Santa Monica Police and Fire Departments from Monday, April 20 to Friday, April 24.

"We got this idea to feed first responders a couple of weeks ago when this first started. One of my friends said she knew someone working really hard in Cedars-Sinai's emergency room and they have all of the masks and personal protective equipment that they need, but what they really want more than anything is good food," Urth Caffé co-founder Shallom Berkman said Tuesday. "They wanted to be fed food that will lift their spirits."

So Berkman and the staff at Urth Caffé headed down to the hospital last Saturday to serve up 200 meal boxes that included cookies, sandwiches and the establishment's signature organic heirloom coffee.

"It's what we're known for, but we do a lot more than just coffee," Berkman said. "We have a full café menu of sandwiches and soups and we bake everything ourselves, (including) our great pastries, desserts and bread. But our specialty is that we're dedicated to developing relationships — direct relationships with many family farmers — so a lot of what everybody is eating is fresh and local, sustainable and organic whenever possible."

The Urth Caffé team was so charged up from the Cedars-Sinai event that it made a goal to try and serve 1,000 first responders, "so our workers from each surrounding local branch are matching every dollar donated by customers and the community," Berkman said. "They cost about $15 per meal but people can donate any amount and we'll match it.

In only the second day of the promotion, Berkman said Tuesday, "We're 30% of the way to our goal and we're getting tremendous feedback, so people are so pumped up about it and they thank us for giving them an opportunity to thank the first responders. It's a pretty amazing response."

Berkman added, "I really admire all of the first responders because they're out on the street every day watching and protecting our communities. And it really is a risk with the Covid-19 situation so it feels so good to be able to give them something delicious, nutritious and show them that we love them. We're grateful for that."

Guests can donate to "Feed Our First Responders" from now until April 19 online at www.urthcaffe.com or by calling the café at (310) 314-7040.

brennon@smdp.com

AIRPORT

FROM PAGE 1

and women from the FAA's Office of Airports for creating an entirely new program in record time to assist airport sponsors in desperate need of these funds," said FAA Administrator Steve Dickson.

However, Santa Monica Airport is governed under an agreement with authorities that allows City Hall to close the airport in 2028 and part of that deal puts restrictions on funds that can be accepted.

"In accordance with the Consent Decree, which authorizes the City to close the airport after December 31, 2028, the City has not been accepting grants relating to airport operations," said Airport Director Stelios Makrides. "We are looking into whether the City can accept this grant without jeopardizing the Consent Decree and the City's continued ability to vote to close the Airport after December 31, 2028. As a result, we believe it is premature for the City to speculate how it might spend a $69,000 grant."

In announcing the money, the FAA encouraged airports to spend the grant funds immediately to help minimize any adverse impact from the current public health emergency.

The FAA will use a streamlined application and grant-agreement process to make this funding immediately available for critical airport needs. The funds will be available as soon as the airport sponsor executes a grant agreement and airport operators have been told to work with their local FAA offices to facilitate the process.

The CARES Act funds are available to airports that are part of the national airport system and the money will be distributed using varied formulas covering commercial service airports, all reliever airports and some public-owned general aviation airports.

In addition, the CARES Act will increase the Federal share to 100 percent for grants awarded under the fiscal year 2020 appropriations for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and Supplemental Discretionary grants.

Officials said AIP grants recipients usually contribute a matching percentage towards project costs and eliminating the local share will allow critical safety and capacity projects to continue as planned regardless of airport's current financial circumstances.

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