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Santa Monica Daily Press

MONDAY
05.11.20
Volume 19 Issue 145

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Santa Monica Star
The Santa Monica Star will be serialized over the next three weeks in the Daily Press.

SMMUSD schedules special meeting Tuesday to handle layoffs

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica teachers facing layoffs were given a temporary reprieve this week when the School Board ran out of time to finalize the layoff process.

The first meeting of the month was held during Teacher Appreciation Week and the irony was not lost on participants who spoke in the digital event about the District's plan to cut some staff.

"I can tell you right now — even though I don't know who's speaking tonight and I don't know who's going to be in public comment — I can tell you that 90% of what they're going to talk about is the importance of their relationship with the teacher and the importance of a relationship between a teacher and a parent," said Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association president Sarah Braff.

Braff said, said student success is often dictated by how closely they connect with their educators.

"So, how may we show our appreciation to our teachers? I don't think it needs to be with thank-yous and pats on the back and $5 cards to Starbucks. I think it needs to start with rescinding the layoffs of teachers," she said.

The District began the layoff process by issuing notices to 49 teachers. After 19 notices were rescinded, 30 teachers could still be on the chopping block.

Parent Laura Ford said potential

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 5



Photo by Todd Alter, Alternative Lighting

VENICE CHAMBER LIGHTS: The historic Venice Sign is lit blue for the month of May to honor the courage and sacrifices of essential front line workers. The current crisis is demonstrating the tireless, innovative and too-often undervalued role of these individuals. The Venice Sign, a federally registered trademark of the Venice Chamber of Commerce and Venice's most iconic symbol, attracts thousands of tourists to Venice. Those interested in adopting a bulb or donating can go to www.venicesign.org. The Venice Chamber of Commerce is an organization of business leaders who actively serve as advocates for the ever-growing Venice business community. To learn more about the Venice Chamber, visit www.venicechamber.net.

ARB cuts dismay preservation advocates

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

For decades, local officials have appointed architects and preservationists to watch over Santa Monica's changing cityscape.

That could change as the city of Santa Monica makes deep budget cuts amid the coronavirus recession.

The city is proposing suspending boards and commissions not required under the city charter to evaluate their purpose and value, said city spokesperson Constance Farrell. Board and commission members are urging the city to preserve the volunteer bodies and are proposing ways to reduce the costs associated with them, which include city staff time and printed materials.

The potential loss of the Architectural Review Board and Landmarks Commission could jeopardize Santa Monica's

SEE **ARB** PAGE 7

Santa Monica Public Library to lose dozens of employees under proposed budget cuts

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Public Library is facing a 40% reduction in funding as the city of Santa Monica makes deep cuts to avoid a budget deficit brought on by the coronavirus recession.

If City Council approves a $5.5 million reduction in its $13 million budget, the library will eliminate 26.5 full-time positions and lay off 80 as-needed pages, said Patty Wong, director of library services. Forty-seven remaining employees will circulate between three locations that will reopen, working to maintain safe access to books and computers and facilitating programs online and in-person.

"It's scary, intimating, difficult and sad, but at same time something we're committed to doing because we have this incredible economic stressor ahead of us," Wong said. "We have the responsibility to the public to provide the best service we can regardless of what the circumstances are."

The library closed its five locations in March to slow the spread of coronavirus. The Fairview and Ocean Park branches will remain closed for the foreseeable future, and the system's three most popular locations — the Main Library and the Montana and Pico branches — will reopen on limited schedules when stay-at-home orders are relaxed.

The Main Library will be open from noon to 8 p.m. during the

SEE **LIBRARY** PAGE 5


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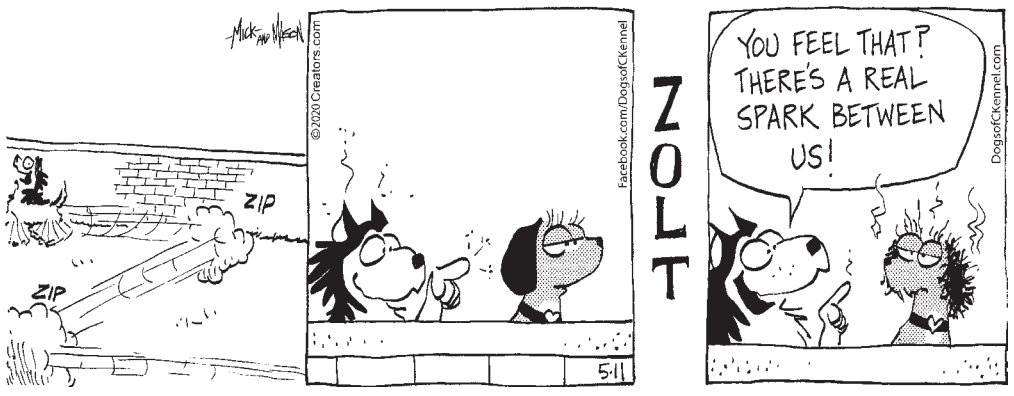
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



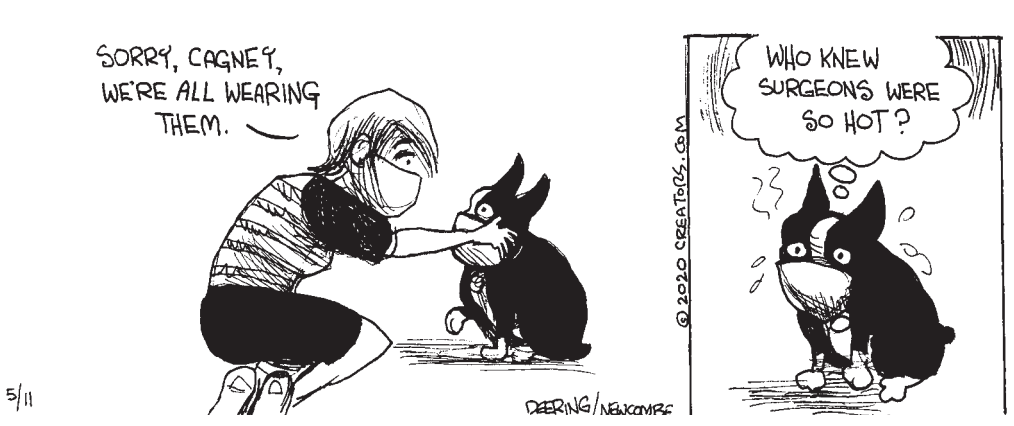
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



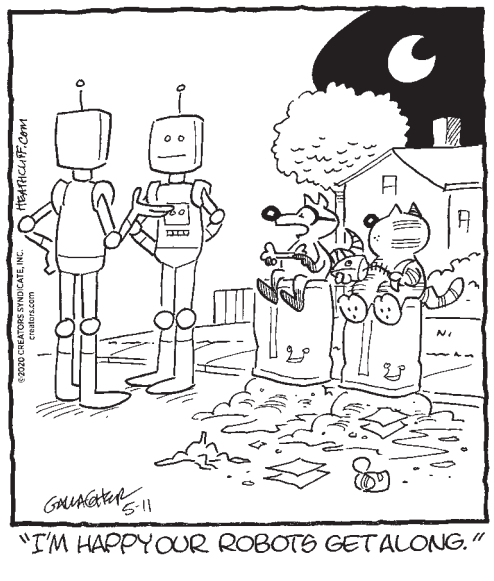
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

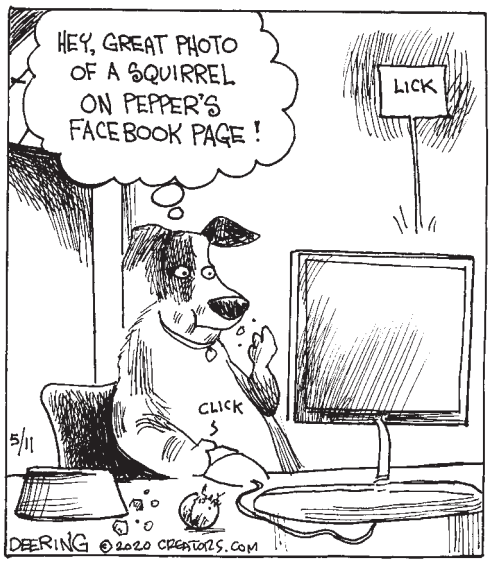
By PETER GALLAGHER



"I'M HAPPY OUR ROBOTS GET ALONG."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

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

WEATHER

Saturday: Patchy fog before noon. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 73.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 61.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 71.
Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.
Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 67.
Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.
Tuesday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 65.

Date	Day of the Week	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/05/09	Sat	05:45 AM	-1.34	L
2020/05/09	Sat	12:12 PM	3.76	H
2020/05/09	Sat	4:56 PM	1.82	L
2020/05/09	Sat	11:14 PM	6.08	H
2020/05/10	Sun	06:38 AM	-1.09	L
2020/05/10	Sun	1:19 PM	3.49	H
2020/05/10	Sun	5:40 PM	2.27	L
2020/05/10	Sun	11:59 PM	5.60	H
2020/05/11	Mon	07:35 AM	-0.72	L
2020/05/11	Mon	2:39 PM	3.35	H
2020/05/11	Mon	6:33 PM	2.68	L
2020/05/12	Tue	12:51 AM	5.04	H
2020/05/12	Tue	08:40 AM	-0.32	L
2020/05/12	Tue	4:13 PM	3.42	H
2020/05/12	Tue	7:53 PM	2.99	L
2020/05/13	Wed	01:57 AM	4.47	H
2020/05/13	Wed	09:54 AM	-0.00	L
2020/05/13	Wed	5:28 PM	3.66	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:05/06
7 8 35 50 65
Power#: 20
Jackpot:68 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 05/05
7 13 17 21 45
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 231 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 05/06
5 8 19 37 39
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 26 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 05/07
8 10 12 14 23

Daily 3
Draw Date: 05/07
Evening: 3 7 8
Draw Date: 05/07
Midday: 5 5 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 05/07
1st: 11 - MONEY BAGS
2nd: 04 - BIG BEN
3rd: 06 - WHIRL WIN
RACE TIME: 1:46.86

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 (MAY 09)

People want to commit to you. They want to do what you're doing, know what you know and be near your warmth. This solar return starts a cycle in which you'll join and lead people. You'll embark on a treasure hunt of sorts, have early luck, and then there will be a decision to be made. Love is always worth it. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 3, 30, 49 and 27.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you were so strong in yourself that no one else's opinion could possibly deter you or rock your confidence, you would also be out of touch. So, right now, don't worry so much about being strong; just be you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your confidence comes from a wellspring of integrity. You know what you've done, what you have and who you are. You don't require constant reminders of your greatness or tons of reinforcement to feel good.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). "The voice of your eyes is deeper than all roses," said the poet E.E. Cummings. Your heart will interpret this voice when you look into the eyes of another and you will understand all its sad, sweet messages.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Love is complex and yet you can't sort it out with logical thought processes. Overthinking leads to error. Get your head out of it, and let your heart do the work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You appreciate when people are friendly and helpful, especially when you already know them. Otherwise, you wonder they're up to something. Your mood: quietly on guard.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You can safely assume that everyone and everything has something to teach you and go from there. By the end of the day, you'll be like a student coming out of a very long lecture, ready to blow off some steam.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be delighted by the success of unplanned events. Just don't let that deter you from making plans. Spontaneous twists usually work out best when there was a plan to veer from.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Pain is a signal. It is possible to feel pain and not be hurt by it. For example, endurance sports enthusiasts may experience this as they push through a workout. Pain is part of the process. Hurt is a judgment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You know your limits and your triggers, which makes you more powerful, not less. But take into account that things like that change. You get stronger and braver. Test and push yourself today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You will tend to your many responsibilities, pay what needs paying and fix what needs fixing. If it were also your job to have fun, what would you do then?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You think about things in a certain way that you may not even be aware of until you express what you're thinking to a friend. The act of articulating yourself brings about new insights.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's no easier way, no shortcut available, no hack or guide that will provide the answer. You just have to find it as you go along. Luckily, this hard way is also the fun way.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

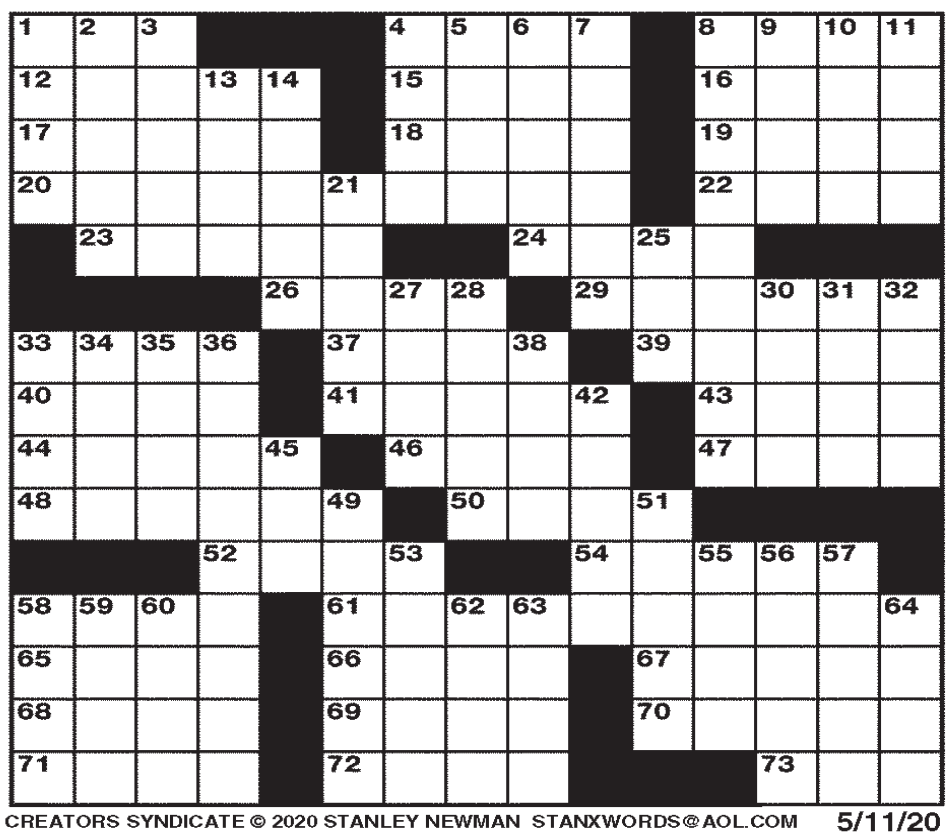
				8		4	6	2
	6		7		9		1	
3		4	5		6			9
	3			7		6		
5			9		8			1
		1		5			4	
4			6		2	3		5
	5		4		7		2	
7	2	6		3				

Newsday Crossword

SITTING OUTSIDE by Brad Wilber
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Belly muscles
4 Flower stalk
8 Holders of peas on a farm
12 Voice above baritone
15 Volcano outflow
16 Bell-ringing cosmetics company
17 Upper atmospheric layer
18 Massive plow-pulling animals
19 Nevada gambling city
20 Swaying seat near the front steps
22 Was familiar with
23 Take without permission
24 Big chunk of bacon
26 Dish for oatmeal
29 Votes into office
33 Window ledge
37 Hive insects
39 Spouse's brother or sister
40 Notion
41 Paid out
43 __-Cola (Pepsi competitor)
44 Imperfections
46 Three-person band
47 Initials heading a Web address
48 Bill worth two fives, informally
50 Potato, slangily
52 Corp. leaders
54 Hold tightly
58 Swearing-in ceremony
61 City structure for people awaiting public transportation
65 Diva's song
66 Capital of Norway
67 Amount wagered
68 Mata __ (infamous spy)
69 Begin to melt
70 Flies alone
71 Ridesharing rival of Lyft
72 Drinks daintily
73 Allow

DOWN
1 On the summit of
2 Jeff who heads Amazon
3 Sound of scorn
4 Very gradual
5 Vehicle hailed at curbs
6 Makes level
7 Make a mess of
8 Seat for feeding pigeons
9 Appliance for baking a cake
10 Over and __ with (completed)
11 Skiing surface
13 On a single occasion
14 Back-to-health program, for short
21 Untidy ones
25 "__ Baba and the Forty Thieves"
27 Sobbed
28 Impolite glances
30 Form a clump
31 Diplomatic discretion
32 Exchange
33 Put through a strainer, as flour
34 Loafing around
35 Low in fat
36 Outdoor seat that's foldable
38 Sound of scissors
42 Difficult, as a puzzle
45 Observe
49 Workers made of metal
51 Get into clothes
53 Japanese "bar" food
55 Voice below soprano
56 Procrastinate
57 "Orange" type of tea
58 Honolulu's island
59 Typical Syrian
60 Become fatigued
62 Open-handed smack
63 Female pigs
64 Take a breather



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 5/11/20

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	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I
I	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O
O	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I
I	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I
O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O
I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O
O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I
I	O	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O
O	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	I	O
O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I
I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O
O	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I

	I										I
		I									
O	I				I		O		I		
			O				O				I
O	I									O	
					O						
			I	I				I		O	O
				I							
							I		O	O	
	O										
	O		O		I		I		I		I
O			O	O			I		I		



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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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4745

Popular girls' names

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

Aaliyah	Eileen	Julia	Nova
Abigail	Elise	June	Paige
Alayna	Ellie	Leanne	Peyton
Alexandra	Elsa	Lila	Piper
Alma	Emily	Lucy	Presley
Aria	Emma	Luna	Reese
Autumn	Fiona	Lyla	Rose
Avery	Greta	Mary	Rowan
Christine	Hazel	Maya	Ruby
Clara	Irene	Naomi	Taylor
Coral	Isabel	Nicole	Tessa
Daisy	Isla	Nina	Zoey
Eden	Jade	Norma	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Lush green hinterland

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LIBRARY

FROM PAGE 1

week and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Library staff will deliver books to patrons at the curb and some computers will be available on the first floor. Boks may need to be quarantined for up to three days after they are returned, Wong said.

Residents will be able to access the Pico Branch from noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. The branch will prioritize youth, family and language programs in partnership with Virginia Avenue Park.

The Montana Branch will be open on Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 8 p.m., offering workforce development programs, literacy classes and online high school for adults.

Wong said the library chose 8 p.m. as a closing time to give people the ability to access the library after work.

"If those hours don't work, we'll shift them," she said. "The goal for us is to be more flexible and see what the community needs."

When the libraries reopen, full-time staff that were previously dedicated to one location will rotate between the branches, Wong said. And because the city has laid off as-needed shelvers, librarians will have to pick up the slack.

"Staff are going to have to take on multiple roles," she said. "Our full-time staff will have to shelve, which is not best use of their time. Unless we had volunteers, we would like to bring back a small crew of as-needed staff to help us shelve — otherwise, it will take much longer to get things back in order."

Wong said even with a smaller budget and staff, the library sees itself as a key part of the local recovery effort.

With a rising number of adults out of work, Wong said the library will double down on workforce development programs, including skill building, reading and digital literacy, and jobs matching programs.

She said maintaining services to youth and families will be difficult with more than 80% of youth-serving librarians laid off, but added that the library has a large catalogue of virtual children's books, has been experimenting with online children's programs and plans to continue free youth tutoring programs when branches reopen.

"Even when we are going to focus on youth services and families, we won't have the expertise to be able to do that well," she said.

But online reading and programs won't be accessible to all library patrons, Wong said. She said she is hoping to tap internet service providers to sponsor internet access for low-income individuals and families, and continue one-one-one tutoring for youth and adults by putting up clear barriers between instructors and patrons.

"We want to meet people where their needs are, including technology and internet access, but also a human connection in a safe and productive way," she said.

Wong said the library has been calling senior members to perform wellness checks and will continue to provide senior programs, especially classes that help older adults understand how to make use of online resources.

'They're the most vulnerable in terms of exposure, so we may go to where they are instead of expecting them to come in, maybe by bringing out loaning libraries," she said.

The library could eventually scale staffing and programming back up if more funding becomes available, Wong said.

She said the library is exploring working with "partner agencies" to provide services at the shuttered Fairview and Ocean Park branches, which she worries could attract vandalism and other types of crime if they remain closed.

But if the city restored $2 million in funding, the library could reopen all five branches five days a week, Wong said.

"We would love to build up again," she said. "This next year is going to be about experimentation."

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SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

staff reductions are the biggest topic of conversation for many parents in the district right now, and that it is a complex issue.

"PTA Council feels that it is ultimately worth it for the district to ensure that all parents understand the nuances of these reductions to our teaching staff," she said.

Superintendent Ben Drati said the district was already deficit spending by $11 million prior to the pandemic and he doesn't know of a district in the state that's not having layoff conversations.

The Board is required to take final action on the item before May 15 but their agendized vote was delayed this week.

Mark Kelly, SMMUSD's director of student services, said one of the final steps in the layoff process will have to wait to be completed because there was not enough time to consider an important decision prior to the meeting.

Teachers have the right to appeal their layoff notices to a judge if they feel someone will fewer qualifications was retained.

"However, it is likely that we are going to recommend that the board adopt (the resolution) so we're going to ask that you schedule a special meeting next week so that you can consider the resolution and adopt the administrative law judges decision," Kelly said.

Braff added on Friday that teachers recognize the need to adjust teacher-student ratios to appropriate levels. "And yet, we are also hopeful that we will be able to retain most, if not all teachers, that were given RIF notices at the start of the process."

A number of items pertaining to district construction projects and a new grading policy were also on the agenda this week.

SMMUSD's special meeting of the board is scheduled to occur Tuesday, May 12.

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ARB

FROM PAGE 1

architectural character, board and commission members said.

ARB chair Therese Kelly said the board, which is made up of working architects with various areas of expertise, often makes design decisions about large projects that will define Santa Monica's look for decades to come.

Frequent recommendations the board makes to architects include using higher-quality materials for a building's facade, making design adjustments that help a building fit into a neighborhood or changing a building's lower floors or landscaping to create a better pedestrian experience.

Kelly said the city can't let design review fall by the wayside as it approves hundreds of new projects over the next decade to meet a state mandate to accommodate nearly 9,000 housing units by 2029.

"We are currently in an emergency situation, but our cityscape will endure far beyond this crisis," she said. "A lot of new buildings need to be built to house everyone who needs to be housed, so we really can't risk the city fabric being compromised by rushed or capricious design decisions."

The board also provides an avenue for residents to provide input on the design of new development in their neighborhoods. Without a public design review process, residents may resort to appealing projects, Kelly said.

"Less transparency can lead to more public opposition," she said. "When people feel left out of the process, they're more likely to appeal projects to the Planning Commission or City Council, and projects can't move forward when there's an appeal pending."

Kelly said the board is willing to cut costs by allowing smaller projects to go through administrative review, reviewing design materials digitally and simplifying staff reports to require less staff time.

"We are eager to find a balance that ensures economic recovery while also preserving the multivoiced public design review process that the city deserves," she said.

The Landmarks Commission also plays an important role in shaping Santa Monica's cityscape.

The commission decides which buildings or districts should be given historic designation, which protects them from significant alteration or demolition.

Under the proposed budget cuts, the commission would be suspended and city staff would review applications to designate historic resources on a delayed timeline. Applicants would have to pay for an assessment from a preservation expert to support their application and would also be billed for a report from the city's consultant.

Preservation advocates say the budget cuts would make it harder to prevent historic buildings from being demolished.

Buildings could already be torn down or radically changed by the time staff reviews landmarking applications, said Nina Fresco, a board member of the Santa Monica Conservancy and a member of the Planning Commission. The Conservancy is a historic preservation nonprofit unaffiliated with the city, although some of its board members sit on the planning and landmarks commissions.

"(The city) is basically not going to do any historic preservation under this plan," Fresco said. "We have to keep preservation at least on life support … if we ignore a potential landmark or historic resource and let it go, it's gone forever."

Fresco said landmarking applicants have never had to pay for an expert report, let alone two. The application is supposed to be accessible to anyone regardless of their background in preservation, she said.

She said the Conservancy has proposed creating a volunteer team of researchers to write assessments for landmarking applications, which would also reduce the workload the city's consultant would have to take on and therefore reduce costs.

Conservancy vice president Carol Lemlein said the preservation community hopes the city can limit the cost of the landmarking process to both the city budget and applicants without doing away with the Landmarks Commission.

"We understand that to a certain extent has to be cost recovery, and we're looking at ways to reduce costs," Lemlein said. "But we have to have some vehicle for expressing our opinions (about demolition and landmarking) so these decisions are not being made behind closed doors."

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How Friends and Family Around the World Are Staying Safer at Home

We asked readers how they were coping with staying at home for an extended period of time. Their responses are throughout the pages of the paper.



Our columnist, Qin Stubis, is geared up to keep her home safe from the Covid-19 virus. Photo by Mark Stubis

By Qin Stubis

1. Describe your living situation? My husband, Mark, and I live in an overpriced, overtaxed house in Bethesda, Maryland.

2. Do you have pets? Children? We have two grown children: Keaton, a doctoral student in mathematics at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, and Halley, a senior at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts in Boston. Our puppy, Banjo, whom we adopted more than seven years ago, is our forever child at home, and has no interest in math or oil painting.

3. How are you coping with the lockdown/social distancing? The kids came back for spring break and soon it became apparent that, because of the pandemic, they would not be heading back to school anymore but would finish the rest of the semester at home. Mark started to work from home as well. Suddenly, our house has become a 24/7 hive of activity. Our living room, dining room and family room have turned into offices, classrooms, and backdrops for Skype and Zoom broadcasts. Once we designated a separate working area for each member of the family, we have been doing well together and dramatically reduced our homicidal urges.

4. What's changed the most for you since the crisis began? We haven't had our entire family living under the same roof for so long, and never without being able to go anywhere. Our kitchen is now our coffee shop, dining hall, restaurant and game room. We go out to our yard to get a breath of fresh air and a change of scenery. Before, when we took Banjo out for his daily walk, we used to meet friends and neighbors, and stop and chat for a while before we moved on. Now, hiding behind our masks, we wave from a distance at those we know and keep on walking. Which, with some neighbors, is a blessing.

5. What's stayed the same? What's stayed the same and kept us going is our love for each other. We're determined to keep all of us safe.

6. How have your food habits changed? Grocery delivery, take-out, cooking? As the supplies in our fridge have dwindled, we're discovering foods that haven't seen the light of day since the Renaissance. A cake that may have been baked for Marie Antoinette actually said on the box: "Best used before 1789." I used to shop at least once or twice a week. Sometimes I would shop simply because I had an urge to try a new recipe. Now, I have groceries delivered once or twice a month by masked workers who drop them on my front steps, where, like radioactive waste, they wait to be wiped down and safely decontaminated. I have not been physically in a market for weeks.

We used to explore Japanese, American, Korean, Thai and Portuguese restaurants about once a week in Bethesda, Washington D.C. or Baltimore. Now, we have to

(Continued on Page 2)

Do You Recognize This Neighborhood Celebrity?

(Answer on Page 4)





Jake and Alexa served their mom, Enjoli, breakfast in bed for Mother's Day. Now they have to plan how to celebrate Father's Day. Photo by Michael Margolin

Getting Home From Antartica

A Veterinarian's Voyage Traveling the World During Covid-19

By Miceala Shocklee

People often ask me why I chose to go to veterinary school in the United Kingdom (UK) instead of the United States. Along with a host of other reasons was the opportunity that veterinary school and licensing structure in the UK provided to travel. Dual veterinary accreditation via the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) in the U.S. and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) meant that my professional degree could transfer pretty much anywhere. Needing to do 26 weeks of clinical placements in addition to my final year clinical rotations also meant that I had a lot of time built into my curriculum to go experience how veterinary medicine is practiced around the world.

Between clinical placements, research, and educational travel, I've now treated and learned about animals on all seven continents. In addition to the time I've spent in U.S. veterinary clinics, I've done veterinary placements in every country within the UK, spent two weeks learning how veterinary medicine is practiced in the jungle in the Philippines, traveled around Zanzibar treating every species on the island, worked at a volunteer-run veterinary clinic in the Galapagos for a month, visited the Te Anau Bird Sanctuary in New Zealand and learned about the conservation efforts around rebuilding the takahe population, and even snapped photos of whales for citizen science while on an expedition in Antarctica.

Antarctica, as big of an undertaking as it was planned to be, turned

(Continued on Page 2)





Gentoo penguins spend most of their life at sea, coming to land mainly for breeding and moulting.

Above right, a kea, the world's only alpine parrot on the Kepler Track in New Zealand. Photos by Miceala

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Meditation Helps Student to Adapt

By Anne Wallentine

As a sixth-year graduate student, PhD candidate Alex Hofmann says that his "day-to-day schedule has not changed much at all" in his one-bedroom apartment in Hyde Park, Chicago. "I sit, I read, I write. And yet, the entire context of that has shifted," he adds.



Alex Hoffmann lives in Chicago.

Alex used to work from coffee shops to both explore the city and provide variety from the isolating experience of grad school which is "obviously, no longer an option." To cope, he has revived his practice of meditation. A structured schedule and daily, early-morning runs also help him to "maintain my sanity and regulate my emotions.

"The pandemic has completely recalibrated the scale of human emotion and wellbeing," Alex says. "We should all acknowledge that nobody is doing 'well' in the normal sense, so I say I'm doing as well as one can hope within that context,

(Continued on Page 3)

How Friends and Family

(Continued from Page 1)

make any culinary trips around the world in our own kitchen, using whatever for home cooking.

7. Have you turned to new hobbies or activities? I've been kept surprisingly busy these days as the primary volunteer helper for my hard-working family. With limited quantities and varieties of food available in our home pantry, it is often a challenge to provide three exciting meals a day to a family that loves food. I've rediscovered my passion for foraging and been collecting wild chives from the front lawn of Eleanor Roosevelt's granddaughter, and spring bamboo shoots from the yard of Franz Kafka's cousin to add something new to my cooking. This not only makes for good recipes, but good stories.

8. How has your work been affected? I've been a writer for many years now. I've written a dozen or so short stories, a number of original Chinese Tall Tales for young people inspired by Asian themes, poems, and a full-length historical memoir that I'm currently shopping around to publishers. It's the story of four generations of Chinese women from Imperial Times through the Cultural Revolution and includes true tales of pirates, kidnappings, children bought in opium dens, and eerie ancient prophecies that come true and change the paths of people's lives.

And, of course, I love writing my monthly column for *The Santa Monica Star*. I've always been motivated in times of hardship, so I always find time to write.



Gentoo and chinstrap penguins were two of the most commonly spotted penguins around the Antarctic islands and peninsula.

A Veterinarian's Voyage

(Continued from Page 1)

out to be even bigger an adventure than anticipated. My plan was to fly into Argentina via Buenos Aires, route from there to the disembarkation point in Ushuaia, attend a 12-day expedition to Antarctica, and route back from Argentina to the UK, where I was meant to finish out the rest of my final year of veterinary school.

All went according to plan – until it came to returning from Antarctica. Our expedition set sail on the ninth of March. About a week later, the world around us proceeded to close up borders and go into lockdown. Flights that were meant to carry people out of South America and onwards to wherever our respective homes waited were cancelled.

Ushuaia, where we were meant to return to port, informed us that while no one onboard showed signs of Covid-19, our boat was no longer allowed to return to port. The expedition company made the decision to spend an extra few days heading north to Buenos Aires, where the international airport and location of several countries' embassies boded better. However, as we neared, the Argentinian government sent word that despite having passed 14 days with everyone aboard being free of Covid-19 symptoms and Argentina having been our original port of call, our ship would still be denied entry.

So, we needed a third backup plan. Uruguay's borders were less closed off, and Montevideo was closest. The expedition staff and passengers spent a few frenetic days trying to get through unreliable communication capacity and limited internet to contact embassies, ambassadors, local representatives, friends, family – anyone who could help.

The Uruguayan government agreed that as long as anyone planning to disembark remained free of symptoms, wore masks and gloves while disembarking, and had a confirmed flight out on the day of disembarkation, we would be allowed two, possibly three, days in port to get everyone off the boat.

However, all those onboard were told that they would not be let off the ship unless their safe passage onwards were guaranteed – but that if we could not secure a flight onwards within the port's time constraints, then we would be required to leave Montevideo with the ship – and spend another three weeks traveling to its home port in the Netherlands.

Thankfully, everyone who needed to leave the ship was able to work together to obtain passage onwards. After three rounds of securing what then turned into non-viable flights, I was able to get tickets that routed me out of Montevideo to Santiago, Chile, from there to Miami, and finally from Miami to Los Angeles.

Whether I will be able to return to the UK before needing to settle more permanently in L.A. for a job after graduation is not clear, but for now, I'm grateful to be somewhere vaguely familiar, and safe. I attend vet school tutorials virtually, contribute to online boards discussing cases, and participate in conferences and projects that have been moved to video chat and social media. I have been around the world with my veterinary degree, but what my field will look like in the future is not clear yet – though I'm eager to find out.

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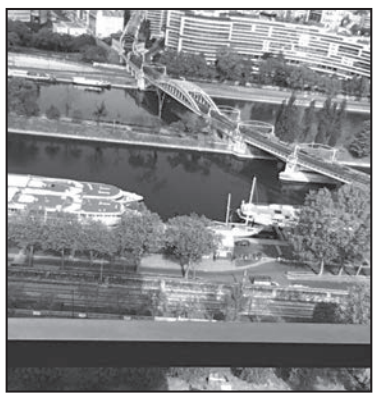
Isabelle Viguier, a former Santa Monica resident, has lived in Paris for several years. She describes her residence as a “condo in a multi-storey building facing the river La Seine in Paris, France,” with her husband and 24-year-old daughter. They have two small dogs, Lucky, 16, and Pumpkin, 17 years old.

Isabelle recalls that “coping with the lockdown was an adaption, obviously especially at the beginning, when you have to reorganise your way of life from A to Z.

“I must admit that it was a bit scary and stressful because I had never experienced something like that. At the beginning, I had trouble getting to sleep at night. I am doing much better now. Social distancing was not a problem for me. The problem came from people who were not able to respect the social distancing. Especially at the market!”

The biggest change for Isabelle was to realize that she couldn’t leave her home whenever she wanted to. Cooking for her family is the same, but she does do delivery and go to the market once a week to complete the delivery. She does not order takeout.

“I am lucky enough to be able to work from home,” Isabelle notes. “Everything I need is on my computer. We are using emails a lot to communicate with clients. We are using a CRM (a computer software) to help businesses manage many processes: customer’s data, business information, etc., as folders and to communicate with my coworkers. I either call them or communicate online.”



Here’s the view Isabelle and her family see from their windows.



It took a while, but Isabelle has adjusted to coping with the lockdown in Paris.

Still Exercising and Baking Bread During This Time of Lockdown

By Anne Wallentine

The coronavirus pandemic has changed aspects of everyone’s lives, and will continue to do so over the next months and years to come.

Medical librarian Stacy Brody lives in an apartment in Bethesda, MD with her partner Anthony and their orange cat. She is coping with the lockdown restrictions by "exercising, working, and baking bread" – all activities that were a part of their pre-COVID life as well.

The biggest change for Stacy has been working from home, but she has kept to her work schedule – for the most part. "I find myself working more after normal business hours," she says. "As a medical librarian, I find my work has picked up. There is sooooo much information coming out around this virus, and our clinicians and researchers need our assistance sorting through all the hay to find the few needles."

Stacy has also been "using technology to connect with family and friends." She recently turned to coloring as a stress-relieving activity. "I probably speak to my sister and niece more now than before, and we have started using video chat," she adds. "It has been great to connect." Another change has been turning to grocery delivery, "which I have never done before. For this, we are relying on local vendors, trying to support them as best we can," she concludes.

Meditation Helps Student to Adapt

(Continued from Page 2)

for which I’m grateful.” Like many others, Alex has been getting “more creative with cooking” by learning how to bake bread, given the difficulties of acquiring certain groceries. He is “very concerned about the ethical implications of using grocery delivery services during this pandemic,” and tries to keep his impact minimal by going two weeks between deliveries. Alex is also reading more fiction than he used to. “Fiction has been a great way to transcend everything,” Alex adds.

“I have found my productivity and motivation plummeting. It is hard to find the will to work when you don’t know if you, your friends, or your family will still be here when that work is finished,” Alex says. “I suppose the only thing that has remained constant – grown stronger, ever – would be my connections to my friends and loved ones.”

Looking for Seniors Who Need Help With Shopping or Daily Errands

George Heller, a wonderful former neighbor of mine, is looking for people who may not be able to grocery shop, pick up medications, or do any daily errands on their own.

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Brain Matters

One Easy Way for Older Adults to Boost Brain Health



By Jennifer Bramen, PhD

The World Health Organization says we all need to boost mental health during these stressful times. Mental health has a critcal effect on immune functioning. But, in a world where routines are limited, and fear and uncertainty abound, how do we cope?

Luckily, there is one easy-to-follow brain health tip that can help older adults boost mental and physical wellness in one shot – more sunlight.

Sunlight improves your sleep, immune function, and inflammatory response, all critical during the CODIV-19 crisis.

Aim to be in the sun without sunglasses for at least 30 minutes or more every single day. How is it possible that sunlight can do so much? Sunlight passes through your eye to your hypothalamus where it signals your entire brain that it is time to be awake and alert. Sunlight also stimulates the production of serotonin– a neurotransmitter that is famous for combatting depression and which also plays an important role in your overall physical health. "Safer at Home" could get in the way of getting enough sunlight, but it doesn't have to (and here's why).

If you can't walk outside, you can still get lots of sunlight. Do more of your daily activities like drinking coffee, eating, or enjoying your favorite hobby while in the sun. Well-lit spaces might include a yard, balcony, porch or seat near the window. Open your blinds and curtains to let in more light during the day. Indirect sunlight also provides a beneficial brain boost.

If you do not have a safe outdoor space, buy a sunlamp. Sunlamps should be at least 12 x 18 inches, an intensity of 10,000 lux and be labeled UV-free. Aim to use a sunlamp in the morning for 20-30 minutes each day.

Getting more sun should boost your mood, making your other important self-care practices like eating a healthy diet and exercising easier to achieve. Try to make your time basking in the sun fun by playing a game, talking to a loved one over the phone, or reading a good book.

Jennifer Bramen, PhD, is a neuroscientist, researcher, and brain-based coach. As the Senior Program Manager of Clinical Research at the Pacific Brain Health Center at Pacific Neuroscience Institute, she co-creates innovative interventions for cognitive decline. She is passionate about translating innovative lifestyle interventions into real clinical practice. PacificBrain Health.org/310-582-7641.

Planning Ahead

Advance Health Care Directives



By Lisa C. Alexander, Esq.

We are all doing our part – wearing our masks, keeping a safe distance and staying home. We also need to be prepared for serious illness which may still occur. Now is the time to make your Advance Health Care Directive (AHCD). An AHCD puts in writing your wishes for health care treatment and names one or more people as your "agent" to make decisions and direct your health care if you are not able to speak for yourself. COVID-19 comes to mind but it could be an accident or other serious illness that renders us unable to direct medical care for ourselves.

We are uncomfortable thinking about our own mortality. And yet, by having the conversation, talking to our family and most importantly the person we want to serve as our health care agent, it can reduce anxiety for ourselves and reduce stress for our family should they ever have to make medical care decisions for us. Topics for discussion could include whether and under what circumstances you would want to refuse aggressive treatment such as intubation and life support, and whether you would want to be resuscitated in the event of a medical emergency. If there are treatment options, what are the factors, such as quality of life issues, you would want your agent to consider? How do you feel about organ donation?

Then, most importantly, put your wishes in writing. You don't need an attorney to do this. There are many AHCD forms easy to find on the internet. You can look at the website of your local hospital, your health care insurer, or your medical group. Some forms are very simple and general. Other forms allow you to express your wishes in great detail. You can have your signature notarized or ask two people to be your witnesses. Make multiple copies of the signed AHCD to give to your doctor, your agent and your lawyer if you have one. Keep a copy at home where it can be easily found.

Making your AHCD is the ultimate in self-care and an invaluable gift to our families, doctors, and medical team. And, in this time of anxiety, planning for the worst case puts you back in control.

You can reach Lisa C. Alexander, Esq. at Jakle & Alexander, LLP, 1250 Sixth Street, Suite 300 Santa Monica, CA 90401 Main Line: 310-395-6555 alexander@jaklelaw.com

Answer to Neighborhood Celebrity

(Continued from Page 1)



Posie Carpenter has been chair of the Western L.A (formerly Santa Monica) Chapter Board of the American Red Cross for years. As a registered nurse, she is a medical screener at their blood drives and she has partnered with the LAUSD to provide meals for school kids and their families.

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