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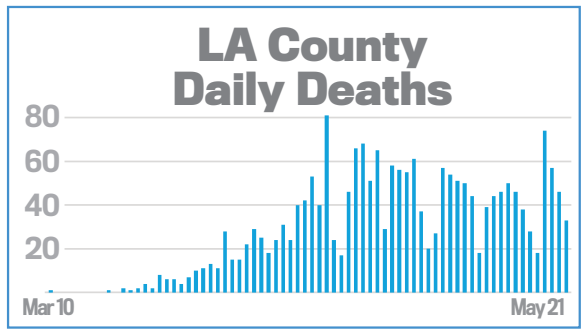
Superintendent's message
Advice to the class of 2020.
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Testing is available.
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CORONAVIRUS DEATHS per 100,000

SANTA MONICA	LA COUNTY	CALIFORNIA	USA	WORLDWIDE
16.4	20.3	9.2	28.9	4.4

SMDP Graphic - Data from Johns Hopkins, WHO, LA County Public Health



81 coronavirus cases confirmed in Santa Monica since May 1, with growth slowing each week

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

Eighty-one new COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Santa Monica since May 1, with 42 new cases confirmed in the first week of May, 29 in the second and 10 in the third.

The city now has 245 confirmed cases and 16 deaths. There have been 168 cases and 26 deaths among residents and staff of Santa Monica nursing homes.

Santa Monica's death rate adjusted for its age distribution is 12.4 per 100,000 people, the second-highest death rate among Westside cities, according to a

SEE **COVID-19 CASES** PAGE 11


RA Pickett

ELKS DONATION: Elks National President Robert Duitsman joined the Santa Monica Elks to deliver lunch for the Veterans at the WLA hospital building 209 which permanently houses formerly homeless veterans on the campus. Many thanks to Girl Scout Troop 16135 for their very generous donation of 54 boxes of cookies, Girl Scout Troop 415 donated homemade desserts, and Girl Scout Troop 95505 wrote individual notes of inspiration for each veteran during this epidemic. Every veteran received a meatloaf meal and their own box of cookies. Pictured is Santa Monica Elks Chairman of the Board of Trustees Frank Frazier (Navy Veteran), GER Robert Duitsman, and Rebecca Ricci (Director of VASH and representative of building 209 staff). Second photo includes San Gabriel Valley District Deputy Ben Ortega, Santa Monica Elks Chairman of the Board of Trustees Frank Frazier (Navy Veteran), GER Robert Duitsman, South Central Coast District. Deputy Kathy Grant, Santa Monica Elks Mitchell Fink, Sheryl Fink, Ron Fink (US Army Vet), Rebecca Ricci (Director of VASH and representative of building 209 staff), and Miguel Soltero (VASH Team Leader).



Santa Monica kids will be able to play at elementary schools on weekends and breaks

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

Six Santa Monica elementary schools will be open to families and youth sports groups as public health orders allow, the city of Santa Monica announced Friday.

The city of Santa Monica had considered eliminating its playground partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District as part of $82.6 million in ongoing spending cuts that will help bridge the city's $224 million budget deficit. But

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 11

Property owner shoots man in vacant house

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

A property owner shot a man who entered his vacant house Thursday night, according to the Santa Monica Police Department.

Two executors of an estate on the 400 block of 10th Street in the Noma neighborhood entered the home to prepare it for a sale when they encountered a man inside and shot him in the neck, said SMPD Lt. Joseph Cortez.

SMPD officers responded to the scene at 8:10 p.m. Thursday and transported the man to Ronald Reagan Medical Center in critical condition. Cortez said the man underwent surgery and is now in stable condition.

Details surrounding the shooting are still under investigation, Cortez said.

SMPD described the two executors of the estate as Asian men in their 60s and 70s and the trespasser as a white man in his 30s.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact SMPD detectives at (310) 458-8941.

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Your column here

By Seema Verma

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Medicare and COVID

If you have Medicare and want to be tested for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Trump Administration has good news.

Medicare covers tests with no out-of-pocket costs. You can get tested in your home, doctor's office, a local pharmacy or hospital, a nursing home, or a drive-through site. Medicare does not require a doctor's order for you to get tested.

Testing is particularly important for older people and nursing home residents, who are often among the most vulnerable to COVID-19. Widespread access to testing is a critical precursor to a safe, gradual reopening of America.

When a vaccine for COVID-19 is developed, Medicare will cover that, too.

For Medicare beneficiaries who are homebound and can't travel, Medicare will pay for a trained laboratory technician to come to your home or residential nursing home to collect a test sample. (This doesn't apply to people in a skilled nursing facility on a short-term stay under Medicare Part A, as the costs for this test, including sample collection, are already covered as part of the stay.)

If you receive Medicare home health services, your home health nurse can collect a sample during a visit. Nurses working for rural health clinics and federally qualified health clinics also can collect samples in beneficiaries' homes under certain conditions.

Or you can go to a "parking lot" test site set up by a pharmacy, hospital, or other entity in your community.

We're doing similar things in the Medicaid program, giving states flexibility to cover parking-lot tests as well as tests in beneficiaries' homes and other community settings.

We also implemented the Families First Medicaid eligibility option, which allows states to cover tests for uninsured people with no cost-sharing. Individuals should contact their state Medicaid agency to apply for this coverage.

Both Medicare and Medicaid cover serology or antibody tests for COVID-19. These tests can help identify who has been exposed to the virus.

Medicare generally covers the entire cost of COVID-19 testing for beneficiaries with Original Medicare. If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage health plan, your plan generally can't charge you cost-sharing (including deductibles, co-payments, and coinsurance) for COVID-19 tests and the administration of such tests.

In addition, Medicare Advantage plans may not impose prior authorization or other utilization management requirements on the COVID-19 test or specified COVID-19 testing-related services for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

We have also required that private health issuers and employer group health plans cover COVID-19 testing, and certain related items and services, with no cost-sharing during the pandemic. This includes items and services that result in an order for, or administration of, a COVID-19 diagnostic test in a variety of medical settings, including urgent care visits, emergency room visits, and in-person or telehealth visits to the doctor's office.

From day one, Medicare has worked to ensure that cost is no barrier to being tested for COVID-19, and to make testing as widely and easily available as possible. As a result, we've seen a surge in testing among Medicare beneficiaries. Robust and widespread testing is of paramount importance as we begin easing back into normal life.

You can always get answers to your Medicare questions by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

Seema Verma is an Administrator with the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 232 CALLS ON MAY 21

Drunk Driving Investigation 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:07 a.m.
Auto Burglary Now 800blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:21 a.m.
Loud Music 00blk Seaview Ter 3:43 a.m.
Fight 17th St / Colorado Ave 5:08 a.m.
Loud Music 1400blk 17th St 6:16 a.m.
Encampment 500blk Palisades Beach Rd 6:18 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 300blk Santa Monica Pl 7:10 a.m.
Identity Theft 500blk Alta Ave 8:40 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred 2900blk Main St 8:54 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 800blk 2nd St 9:05 a.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:07 a.m.
Panhandling 1100blk Wilshire Blvd 9:18 a.m.
Burglary Report 1500blk 6th St 9:40 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1700blk Maple St 9:43 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 600blk Wilshire Blvd 9:45 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 800blk 19th St 10:09 a.m.
Fraud Report 1200blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:13 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 2100blk Pier Ave 10:13 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 800blk 11th St 10:45 a.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 1200blk 10th St 11:22 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1200blk 20th St 11:33 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 800blk 2nd St 11:52 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1700blk Oak St 12:06 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1100blk 15th St 12:18 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1400blk Franklin St 12:37 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:43 p.m.
Smoking Violation 800blk Broadway 1:05 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 1:06 p.m.
Fight 500blk Olympic Blvd W 1:08 p.m.
Fight Ocean Ave / Broadway 1:53 p.m.
Elder Abuse 1200blk 6th St 2:00 p.m.
Burglary Report 1900blk Olympic Blvd 2:05 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1200blk Wilshire Blvd 2:19 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 1400blk 4th St 2:21 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2200blk 21st St 3:00 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400blk Franklin St 3:04 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2300blk 5th St 3:22 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 700blk Ozone St 3:30 p.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1200blk 16th St 3:31 p.m.
Fraud Report 2200blk Colorado Ave 3:43 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:43 p.m.
Smoking Violation 800blk Broadway 3:51 p.m.
Elder Abuse 1200blk 16th St 3:56 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:20 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 4:26 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 4:40 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1600blk Oak St 4:44 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 2100blk Cloverfield Blvd 4:46 p.m.
Loud Music 1700blk Michigan Ave 5:13 p.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 1300blk Euclid St 5:32 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 700blk Broadway 5:35 p.m.
Fraud Report 1400blk 7th St 6:14 p.m.
Burglary Report 1500blk 6th St 6:51 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 2600blk Arizona Ave 6:59 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 26th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:13 p.m.
Found Property Ocean Ave / Georgina Ave 7:14 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1700blk Maple St 7:17 p.m.
Drinking In Public 11th St / Oak St 7:22 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 3300blk Barnard Way 7:24 p.m.
Lewd Activity 2300blk Arizona Ave 7:55 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold Ocean Ave / Bay St 8:02 p.m.
Family Disturbance 200blk 18th St 8:12 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 8:16 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Broadway 8:17 p.m.
Encampment 1200blk 14th St 8:30 p.m.
Drinking In Public 700blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:41 p.m.
Public Intoxication 200blk Santa Monica Pier 8:48 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1400blk 6th St 9:12 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 00blk Vicente Ter 9:12 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 10:02 p.m.
Counterfeit Money Investigation 400blk Wilshire Blvd 10:13 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 3000blk 3rd St 10:18 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations Centinela Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 10:18 p.m.
Loud Music 500blk Raymond Ave 11:06 p.m.
Construction Noise 300blk San Vicente Blvd 11:08 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 2600blk Arizona Ave 11:12 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle 800blk 2nd St 11:38 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Ave 11:57 p.m.

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San Francisco sanctions once-shunned homeless encampments

JANIE HAR AND TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press

San Francisco is joining other U.S. cities in authorizing homeless tent encampments in response to the coronavirus pandemic, a move officials have long resisted but are now reluctantly embracing to safeguard homeless people.

About 80 tents are now neatly spaced out on a wide street near San Francisco City Hall as part of a "safe sleeping village" opened last week. The area between the city's central library and its Asian Art Museum is fenced off to outsiders, monitored around the clock and provides meals, showers, clean water and trash pickup.

In announcing the encampment, and a second one to open in the famed Haight-Ashbury neighborhood, San Francisco's mayor acknowledged that she didn't want to approve tents, but having unregulated tents mushroom on sidewalks was neither safe nor fair.

"So while in normal times I would say that we should focus on bringing people inside and not sanctioning tent encampments, we frankly do not have many other options right now," she said in a tweet last week.

Nicholas Woodward, 37, is camping at the safe sleeping site, but he said he preferred sleeping in his tent before the city stepped in; he finds the fencing belittling and the rules too controlling. His friend, Nathan Rice, 32, said he'd much rather have a hotel room than a tent on a sidewalk, even if the city is providing clean water and food.

"I hear it on the news, hear it from people here that they're going to be getting us hotel rooms," he said. "That's what we want, you know, to be safe inside."

San Francisco has moved 1,300 homeless people into hotel rooms and RVs as part of a statewide program to shelter vulnerable people but the mayor has been criticized for moving too slowly. She has said she is not inclined to move all the city's estimated 8,000 homeless into hotels, despite complaints from advocates who say overcrowded tents are a public health disaster.

San Francisco is just the latest city to authorize encampments as shelters across the country move to thin bed counts so homeless people, who are particularly susceptible to the virus due to poor health, have more room to keep apart.

Santa Rosa in Sonoma County welcomed people this week to its first managed encampment with roughly 70 blue tents. Portland, Oregon, has three homeless camps with city-provided sleeping bags and tents, and Maricopa County opened two parking lots to homeless campers in Phoenix.

San Francisco officials have historically frowned upon mini tent cities and routinely rounded up tents on city streets. But with an estimated 150,000 homeless people in California, most of them living out in the open, it's impossible to stamp out the highly visible tents along highways and on crowded urban sidewalks.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that officials not disturb tent encampments during the coronavirus pandemic unless people are given individual hotel rooms, as homeless advocates want to see. Those advocates say providing a safe space where people can get meals, use a toilet and avoid harassing passers-by is a reasonable option given the times.

"The best, best option would be housing. The second-best option would be hotel rooms, but if you can't do that and we're going to have so many people outside then I think it makes sense ... to make those outside as safe as can be," said Dr. Margot Kushel, director of the Center for Vulnerable Populations at the University of California, San Francisco.

But Nan Roman, president and CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, said the federal government is providing an astonishing amount of money to battle the pandemic and she hopes cities and counties use it to put people into empty hotels, motels and other unused places.

"It's almost like we're giving ourselves permission that it's OK that people will sleep outside, and once we've given ourselves that permission, it's very difficult to get the initiative together to do otherwise," she said.

Still, government-sanctioned tent camps may be here to stay, at least until a coronavirus vaccine is distributed.

At the urging of San Francisco Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer, the city's parks and real estate departments are compiling an inventory of open spaces that might be suitable for tent camps. She said sidewalk space is a coveted commodity for retailers, given coronavirus restrictions, and the city's strategy of adding more shelter beds doesn't make sense with a contagious virus.

"It is just a new world that we're living in," she said, "and it's going to have to be our new normal."

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 28 CALLS ON MAY 21

Automatic Alarm 1800blk Ocean Ave 5:44 a.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 5:47 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 6:04 a.m.
EMS 900blk Euclid St 9:21 a.m.
EMS 400blk 11th St 9:31 a.m.
EMS 2100blk 7th St 10:31 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 400blk 19th St 12:04 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 6th St 12:30 p.m.
EMS 1600blk 7th St 12:36 p.m.
EMS 1600blk 5th St 12:45 p.m.
EMS 2500blk Pico Blvd 12:49 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:00 p.m.
EMS 300blk Adelaide Dr 2:07 p.m.
EMS 1000blk San Vicente Blvd 2:33 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 18th St 4:26 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 4:55 p.m.
EMS 700blk Ashland Ave 5:47 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Euclid St 5:49 p.m.
EMS 2700blk 4th St 6:52 p.m.
EMS 1200blk Ozone Ave 7:13 p.m.
EMS 1100blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:54 p.m.
EMS 400blk 10th St 8:10 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 8:16 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Neilson Way 8:40 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 11th St 9:38 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Colorado Ave 10:31 p.m.

Letter to the Editor

By Tamara Tarsitano
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

We're all in this together? Ha!

Sunday (5/17/2020) was a beautiful day. Sunshine. The beach was open. Pacific Palisades Park was open. People were smiling, friendly, good vibes everywhere. I was on my way to pick up a little boy I have babysat for seven years. We would get to hang out at last. He came with me while his mom did work on her laptop while sitting in the park. Two hours flew by with this delightful sprite and I handed him back to his mom. They began the walk back to their nearby apartment. The little guy was actually joyfully riding his bike for the very first time.

I had barely arrived home when I received this text from his mom: "_____ just had his first encounter with blatant racism. A young white man around 25 just followed us down the street screaming "f*** you n***** boy." Nobody watching said anything. I looked the guy the in the eye to assess the threat level because he was punching stuff and I wasn't sure if we should try to pass him. Turned down a different street and would have confronted him if he kept following us but he lost interest. This was on 4th and Montana."

As I called her in response to the text, I was crushed. Crushed and angry that this sort of thing is still happening. She was more matter of fact. After all, as a biracial single mom, this was not her first experience with racism. But to have it directed at her beautiful son - ah, that is the kind of pain that is indescribable.

I brought up he was probably mentally ill, possibly homeless and we could pray for these lost souls roaming our streets. "No," she said. "He did not appear homeless or mentally ill." Just your average, garden variety racist. She explained there were so many people around her, watching and listening to the whole ugly encounter. Not one person - not one - stepped forward to help. He was outnumbered by so many men and women who could have let him know he needed to slink back to the rock he crawled out of. He should have been told that this precious child and his mother were ours. Part of our community, part of who we are here in Santa Monica.

But you didn't. You people on 4th and Montana and I sure hope you are reading this.

You know, when I was a kid, my dad used to grouse about the lack of shame in this country (and this was back in the 50's and 60's). He thought they should bring back the practice of putting folks in stockades in the middle of the town square. They would have placards around their necks saying things like "I'm a liar," "I'm a thief," etc. I would like to see that happen to you - I really would. Yours would read: "coward." YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED.

You can see I'm not yet in the mood for forgiveness but you on the other hand, should feel that shame, then guess what? Go ahead and forgive yourselves because guilt will keep you paralyzed. But vow to do better next time. Give yourself another chance to be braver. To do the right thing.

Because, listen people. If you don't - if you don't do better - then this pandemic that destroys your lungs - ain't nothing.

Silence will eat your soul.

Tamara Tarsitano, Santa Monica

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Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

Your column here

By Dr. Ben Drati

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Superintendent's Message to the Class of 2020

Dear Samohi, Malibu High School and Olympic High School Class of 2020,

The year 2020 will go down in history as an unprecedented global pandemic that has upended life for millions of people in the world, including the Class of 2020. We had envisioned seniors going to prom, looking forward to Grad Nites, attending awards banquets, playing spring sports and sending out graduation invitations to friends and family.

Instead, you are stuck at home finishing off your senior year with distance learning and its challenges, the events you were looking forward to cancelled, postponed or re-envisioned. You may be filled with an uneasiness and uncertainty about what the next weeks, months and even years, may hold.

Class of 2020, my heart aches for you. I am so sorry that the final, joyous moments of your preschool-12 experience have been cut short by a worldwide pandemic. When you started your senior year back in August, none of us had any way of knowing that it would end so differently than years past, without the same traditions that all of us have experienced and celebrated. Coronavirus would completely change life as we know it.

Even though the future is still undetermined, it still does not feel real that March 12 could have been your last day of high school, ever. We've heard the #OneMoreDay, and understand the desire to be together one more time. Some of you are mourning the loss of your senior year. Many of you feel frustrated and upset and question why this is happening to you. Some of you are just eager to move on and begin the next chapter of your lives.

One thing I know for certain, is that during this difficult time, you have learned lessons that you will carry with you for the rest of your life. In speaking with many of you, you have shared some of the ways these lessons and life skills will serve you well in college, career and beyond.

Adapting to unexpected changes — Your life changed overnight. You had to adapt in so many ways: from the way you do school, to the way you interact with your friends, to the way you maintain your social, physical and emotional health. Since we know the only constant in life is change, the more you are equipped to deal with it, the better.

Working and learning remotely — Just as you are distance learning from home, many of your parents are working remotely from home as well. Working and learning remotely will increasingly become the norm in a post-coronavirus world. The independence and ownership that you are displaying will serve you well.

Managing your time — In college and adult life, there are many distractions, just as there are at home currently. How do you decide when to study versus going surfing or shopping with your friends? Sleep in or work out? Do your job and fit in homework, too? Time management is one of the most important life skills you can master as a young adult, and many of you are receiving a crash course in it right now.

Cherishing moments with your family — This unexpected time at home, for better or for worse, has increased the quality time you are spending with your family and loved ones. Make the most of it. Cherish every moment, as these moments will pass quickly as you grow older.

Learning new life skills — Some of you are taking the opportunity to learn new life skills during your extended time at home: cooking, cleaning, laundry, budgeting, home improvement work, home repairs, etc. As I like to say, some of the best learning can occur outside of the classroom.

Becoming more resilient — Michelle Obama once said, "You should never view your challenges as a disadvantage. Instead, it's important for you to understand that your experience facing and overcoming adversity is actually one of your biggest advantages." You are developing grit, resilience and determination as you struggle. Never forget that you are stronger for having experienced this moment in history together.

Learning the importance of community and giving back — I have heard many uplifting stories about our SMMUSD students making a difference in our communities. Students have been making masks and other protective gear, helping needy families with food and necessities, providing words of encouragement and goodie bags to medical workers and more. All around us, young people are taking the lead in giving back to those in need. We appreciate your leadership, compassion and generous hearts.

As your superintendent, know that I am incredibly proud of you. We know there's no substitute for the traditional year-end ceremonies, but we have had discussions with students, staff and parents who are all working hard to plan alternatives that honor you and all that you've accomplished.

Class of 2020, this pandemic has given all of us more of an appreciation for life and the simple things we once took for granted. Many of us are longing for that opportunity just to see our friends face-to-face one more time. This experience has bonded all of us together as a stronger school community. While coronavirus may have taken away several months of your senior year, it can never take away the laughter, friendship and memories that you've made with your classmates, teachers and families over the past 13 years in SMMUSD.

Please connect with your school administration to learn how we are honoring and celebrating your graduation success.

Stay strong and know that your time at SMMUSD has prepared you for a brighter future. We wish you all the best in health and success in your future.

Your superintendent, Dr. Ben Drati. SMMUSD

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.

University of California to drop SAT, ACT test requirements

Associated Press

The University of California will drop the SAT and ACT tests as admission requirements through 2024 and eliminate them for California residents after that, a landmark decision by the prestigious university system.

The UC's governing body, the Board of Regents, voted 23-0 Thursday to approve a proposal by UC President Janet Napolitano that phases the tests out over five years, at which point the UC aims to have developed its own test.

The regents met in a teleconference that lasted several hours Thursday, with expert presentations and lengthy debates that echoed a national conversation about whether the tests discriminate against disadvantaged students or help admissions offices find the most qualified applicants.

"I think this is an incredible step in the right direction," Regents Chairman John Perez said.

Critics of the tests have long argued they put minority and low-income students at a disadvantage because the test questions often contain inherent bias that more privileged children are better equipped to answer. Wealthier students also tend to take expensive prep courses that help boost their scores, which many students can't afford, critics say.

With California high school campuses closed because of the coronavirus pandemic, the UC had already made the tests optional for students who want to attend the fall 2021 sessions.

Under the plan approved Thursday, SAT and ACT tests will be optional for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years for all applicants.

Starting in 2023 and continuing the following year, the admissions process will be "test blind" for California residents, meaning SAT and ACT scores won't be used in admissions decisions but could still be considered for purposes such as course placement and scholarships. Napolitano asked the school's academic senate to work with the administration on a plan for out-of-state and international students applying as of fall 2023.

In 2025, the 290,000-student UC system will either replace the SAT and ACT with its own admissions test, or if it's unable to create its own exam, will eliminate its standardized testing requirement altogether.

Napolitano's office said in a statement that assessing nonresident students "presents challenges in terms of fairness and practicality," but the options include extending the new tests for California students to out-of-state applicants or using some other standardized tests.

The decision by the massive UC system could be influential as other colleges nationwide eye similar decisions. UC officials said they would begin working on the new test this summer.

California to spend $1.8 billion more on virus response

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

California Gov. Gavin Newsom took an extra $1.8 billion from the state's dwindling coffers to pay for more protective gear and extra hospital beds to aid the state's response to the coronavirus.

Newsom said Thursday he expects the federal government will reimburse the state for 75% of that spending, which comes as state lawmakers are debating what government services will be cut to cover an estimated $54.3 billion budget deficit caused by the virus-induced economic downturn.

The Newsom administration says it has authority to spend the money because he has declared an emergency under the state's Emergency Services Act.

The new spending will bring the state's total to $5.7 billion since March, when Newsom issued the nation's first statewide stay-at-home order to slow the spread of the disease.

In a letter to state lawmakers, Department of Finance Director Keely Martin Bosler said most of the new spending — $1.3 billion — will pay for personal protective equipment including masks, gloves and gowns.

More than $445 million of that amount will go to Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer BYD, which last month secured a $1 billion contract with the state to deliver 200 million masks a month.

But BYD has had trouble fulfilling that contract. Earlier this month, it refunded the state $247 million after it missed a deadline to certify that the masks it delivered comply with federal standards.

The rest of the new state spending will pay for a call center and the state's efforts to test people for the virus and track down people who have been exposed to it. It will also buy an extra 3,000 hospital beds and pay for hotel rooms for healthcare workers who treat COVID-19 patients.

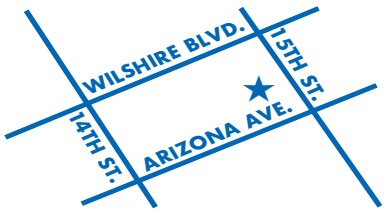
The governor has asked lawmakers for an additional $2.9 billion in the upcoming budget for him to spend as he sees fit on coronavirus-related expenses. He says he needs the money in case an anticipated "second wave" of virus cases hit the state this fall when the Legislature is not in session.

State lawmakers have balked at Newsom's proposal, saying they don't want to give up their authority to approve state spending. Assembly Budget chair Phil Ting, a Democrat from San Francisco, is scheduled to hold a public hearing Friday on Newsom's request.

"Now that we've entered this period of the pandemic, how is this different than obesity or traffic fatalities," Ting said. "We don't"have a state of emergency for traffic fatalities."

Other Republican lawmakers have questioned the governor's continued use of his emergency powers.

"It's time to end the state of emergency and strip the governor of the power he promised not to abuse," Republican Sen. Melissa Melendez posted to her Twitter account Thursday.

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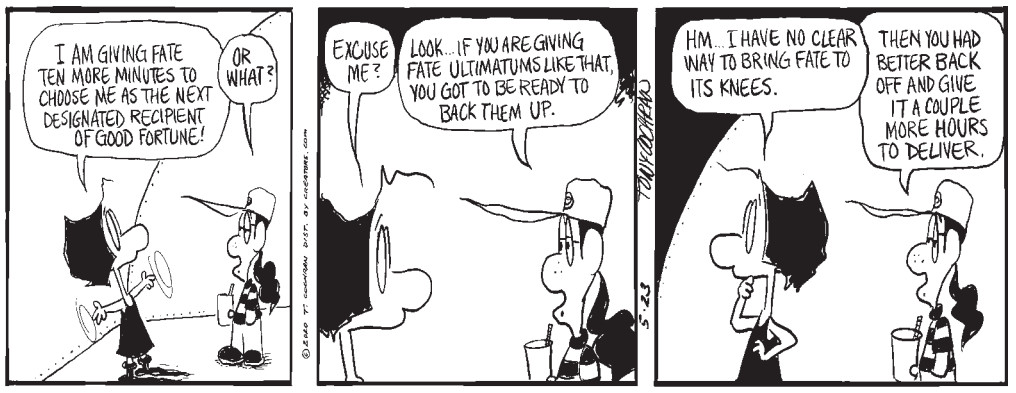
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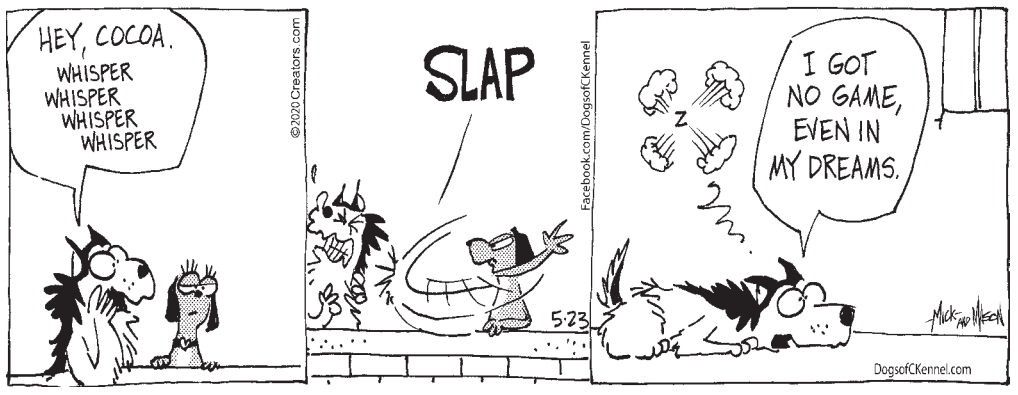
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



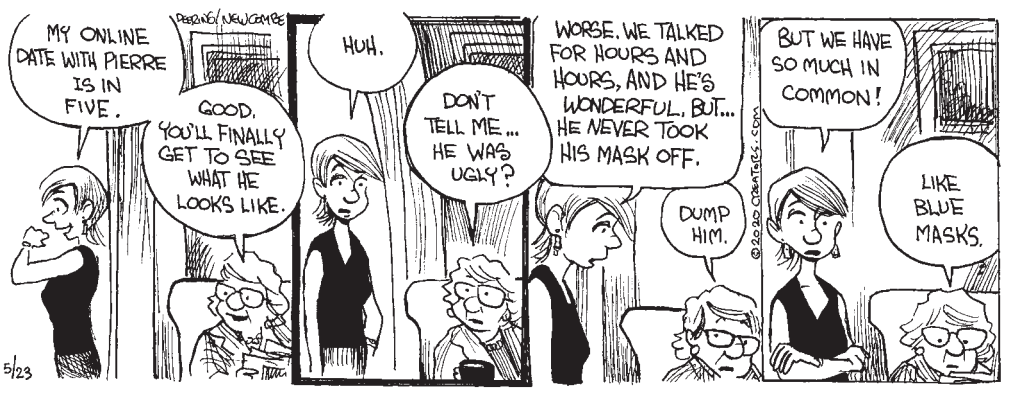
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



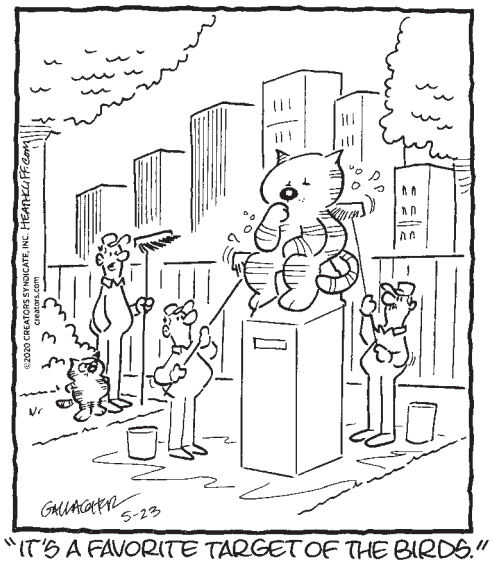
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



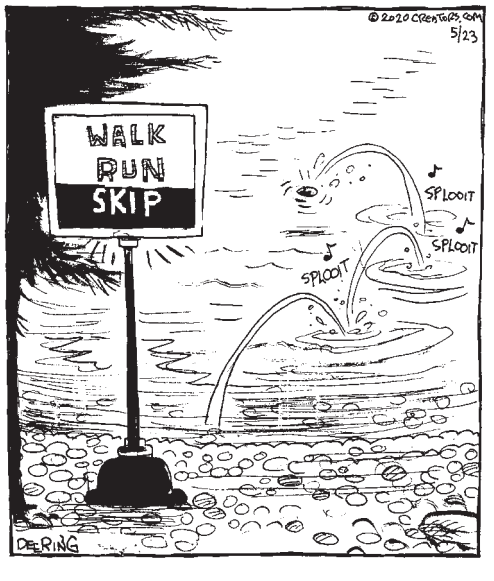
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 66.5°

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft Waist to chest high
New SSW swell expected to fill in. Light AM wind.

SUNDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft Waist to chest high
SSW swell should continue. Watching AM winds for south facing spots.

WEATHER

Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 70.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.
Sunday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 73.
Sunday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.
Memorial Day: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 75.
Monday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.
Tuesday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 74.

Date	Day of the Week	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/05/23	Sat	04:47 AM	-0.57	L
2020/05/23	Sat	11:12 AM	3.47	H
2020/05/23	Sat	3:46 PM	2.03	L
2020/05/23	Sat	10:04 PM	5.80	H
2020/05/24	Sun	05:26 AM	-0.64	L
2020/05/24	Sun	12:01 PM	3.34	H
2020/05/24	Sun	4:16 PM	2.26	L
2020/05/24	Sun	10:37 PM	5.74	H
2020/05/25	Mon	06:09 AM	-0.61	L
2020/05/25	Mon	12:57 PM	3.24	H
2020/05/25	Mon	4:50 PM	2.50	L
2020/05/25	Mon	11:14 PM	5.58	H
2020/05/26	Tue	06:56 AM	-0.51	L
2020/05/26	Tue	2:02 PM	3.20	H
2020/05/26	Tue	5:34 PM	2.73	L
2020/05/26	Tue	11:59 PM	5.32	H
2020/05/27	Wed	07:49 AM	-0.36	L
2020/05/27	Wed	3:16 PM	3.31	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:05/20
18 34 40 42 50
Power#: 9
Jackpot:104 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 05/19
8 19 25 36 66
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 298 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 05/20
2 24 29 30 37
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 8 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 05/20
14 19 24 27 28

Daily 3
Draw Date: 05/20
Evening: 7 1 3
Draw Date: 05/20
Midday: 8 5 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 05/20
1st: 12 - LUCKY CHARMS
2nd: 11 - MONEY BAGS
3rd: 06 - WHIRL WIN
RACE TIME: 1:40.22

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 23)

The cosmic birthday boon is an influx of dollars. You'll meet many who connect to your emotional tone. They'll come from different places with a variety of interests, but they'll share your high intelligence and many of the same values. Amazingly supportive relationships free you to express yourself. Your talents thrive. Scorpio and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 30, 33, 21 and 50.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're different from the others, so it naturally follows that you'll ask different questions and have novel interactions. You're memorable and will be adored for this.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you had to choose between being in an endless state of self-satisfaction or continual self-improvement that never quite arrives, you'd take the latter. A pinch of discontent keeps life interesting.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The more people you can align with, the bigger your team grows. You'll build that group through the weekend, finding kindred spirits or being in the places where they'll find you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Pay attention to power dynamics because they will teach you a lot about who people really are. The true test of a person's character is how they handle themselves when they clearly have the upper hand.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're looking for an answer that feels right and actionable to you. You've followed lines of logic, but none of them satisfied. So try switching off your head and letting your inner guidance system have a go at this.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's said that every big problem was once a minor disturbance. That's why you like to handle things when they are small, and you're very sensitive to all red flags, even the itty-bitty ones!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It shouldn't be too hard to be good. And if it feels that way, maybe it's the rules or environment that needs changing, not you. The river needs no special devotion, goodness or willpower to flow effortlessly home to the sea.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your best idea will come as a joke. So you have nothing to lose from thinking in funny terms and letting humor, playfulness and creativity run rampant in your mind.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Though you can't change the past, you can always change the way you see it. Perhaps you've been harsh, not assessing the bigger picture. How else could you frame the story?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll feel something akin to this Shakespearean sentiment today, "But the strong base and building of my love is as the very centre of the earth, drawing all things to it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you feel your mind taking things in too serious a direction, you can lighten up the whole mental screen with some bodywork -- a walk, a stretch. It won't take much!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Being stuck is a function of having too much, not too little. Let go of an idea or item and then see if you don't have a little more wiggle room. Jettison enough baggage and you can walk right out.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

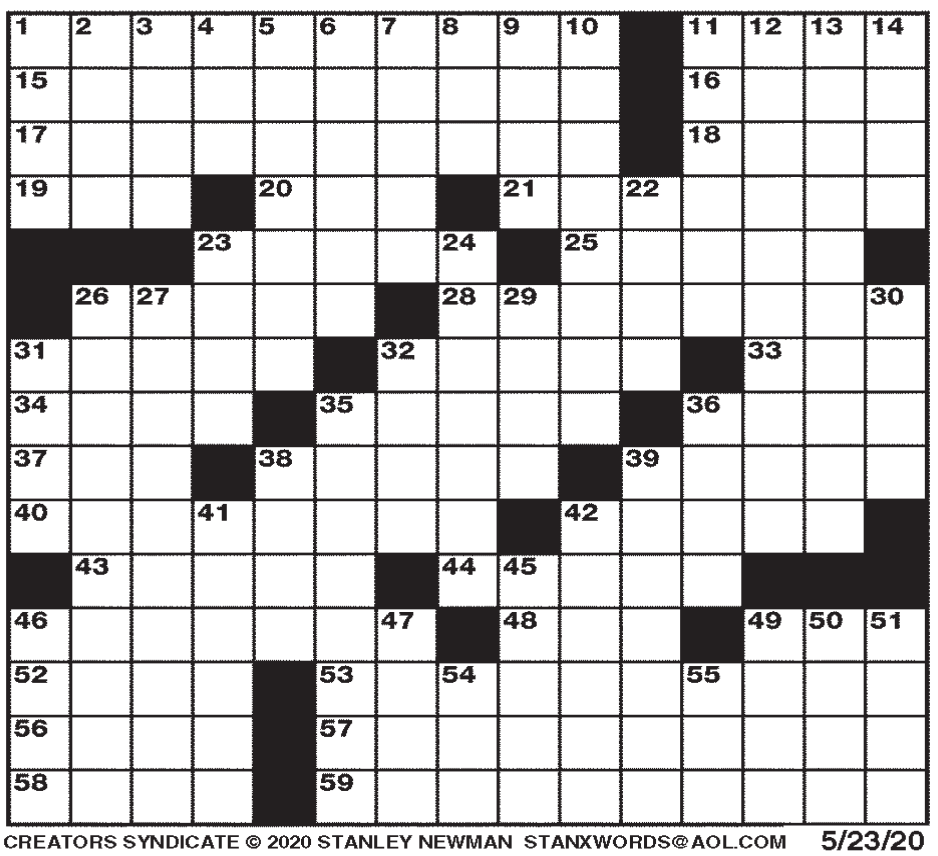
SATURDAY STUMPER by Matthew Sewell
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Expression of ancestor worship worldwide
11 Structure starter
15 Track team's activity
16 Quick takeaway
17 Frequent *TV Guide* advertiser of old
18 Corny creation
19 Bits in some pits
20 Busyness
21 Made to order?
23 "Rubbish!"
25 Full series
26 Take a course
28 Meals-on-wheels service
31 Got engaged
32 Bud
33 Outdoor elevator
34 Feet or hands
35 Appropriate for oneself
36 Place to land
37 Chinese dumpling
38 Petulant people
39 Heliophilic jazz alias
40 Work under
42 Goes around
43 Brown
44 Specialty grill
46 Tuna kin
48 Grab a lot
49 "Passing through" prefix
52 Geffen School at UCLA study
53 Curtain raiser
56 Just for you, in brand names
57 Mixed up
58 Male guinea pig
59 Be prepared

DOWN

1 Image on the cover of 1936's best-selling novel
2 Certainly won't repeat
3 What aloe might soothe
4 Jump start?
5 Set out
6 It's drawn to scale
7 Expert in 23rd century space psychology
8 Be down
9 Homey
10 Red state operative
11 Narcissist's fixation
12 Putting on a scale
13 Files offered by the Census Bureau
14 Carded one?
22 Yo-yo
23 Place for a vault
24 Italo-disco cousin
26 SAT, on baggage tags
27 Three-movement work for three instruments
29 Dances to classic jazz
30 *La fine del giorno*
31 What McKinley tried to buy for $300 million
32 Fetch
35 Characters lacking depth
36 "The highest form of literature," per Hitchcock
38 Once-common stage direction
39 Cantina confirmation
41 One taking gut courses?
42 What two triangles can symbolize
45 Visited casually
46 Fence-sitter's deterrent
47 __ check
49 Pop precursor
50 No longer competitive
51 Worth __
54 Stop posting
55 Option for would-be B-schoolers



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 5/23/20

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

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

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



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

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4757

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

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Beaches
Bull
Bush
Cattle
Clark
Copper
Corn
Drill
Floods
Gold
Industry
Islands
Koalas
Lakes
Lead
Lithium
Manganese ore
Marsupials
Meat
Nickel
Oceans
Outback
Rural
Rutile
Silver
Splayd
Sport
Surf
Tank
Urban
Vast
Water
Wealthy
Wine cask
Wool
Zinc
Zircon

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
From the top to the bottom

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COVID-19 CASES

FROM PAGE 1

county data dashboard.

Culver City has a death rate of 23 per 100,000 people, Beverly Hill's rate is 7.8, West Hollywood's is 7.3 and Malibu's is 4.5.

Across Los Angeles County, the number of confirmed cases has surpassed 43,000 and more than 2,000 people have died from COVID-19, Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said Friday.

The number of people hospitalized has dropped slightly each day over the last two weeks to roughly 1,500, she said. More than 412,000 people have been tested and 9% have tested positive.

More than 9 in 10 people who have died from COVID-19 had underlying health conditions, and more than 5 in 10 resided in nursing homes.

Ferrer said 1 in 3 county residents have conditions that would put them at greater risk of dying from COVID-19 and those residents should continue to stay at home as much as possible even as the county reopens.

People living in poor communities are four times more likely to die from COVID-19 compared to people living in affluent communities, Ferrer said.

Poor areas have a death rate of 41 per 100,000 people and wealthy areas have a death rate of 11 per 100,000 people.

She said although the number of Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders who have died from COVID-19 is small, they have by far the highest death rate of any ethnic group at 100 per 100,000 people.

African Americans and Latinos have death rates of 26 and 22, while the death rate is 16 for Asians and 13 for whites.

"The data remains deeply disturbing and it will require a lot of collaboration and work with our partners to address these inequities," Ferrer said.

She asked county residents to wear face coverings at all times and maintain at least six feet of space from others if they choose to visit outdoor spaces this holiday weekend.

Whether people continue to take precautions against infection will determine how many new cases, hospitalizations and deaths the county sees in a few weeks from now, Ferrer said. She said the county has been able to trace some new outbreaks to parties and gatherings held over the last couple of weeks.

"Gatherings and events of any kind are still not permitted," she said. "The virus has not changed and it is still relatively easy to become infected."

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BUDGET

FROM PAGE 1

City Council voted to maintain the program earlier this month and the city will continue to pay SMMUSD $95,000 annually to provide maintenance and oversight of the playgrounds.

Playgrounds at Franklin, Roosevelt, McKinley, Rogers, Grant and Edison elementary schools will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

During the summer, campuses without summer school will stay open from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Summer school sites will open at 2 p.m.

"We know how important outdoor space and staying active is to Santa Monica families," said Interim City Manager Lane Dilg. "We're pleased to continue our strong partnership with SMMUSD to continue to offer our youth access to field and playground space."

On Tuesday, City Council will vote to restore funding to several other youth and recreation programs.

The CREST after school program would be maintained at its current capacity of 420 participants. Santa Monica Police Activities League Youth Center hours would be increased with access to the center's dance and art rooms as well as the gymnasium.

The Santa Monica Swim Center will reopen under reduced hours based on guidelines from public health officials.

Memorial Park's gym and skate park drop-in programs, which serve about 1,000 visitors per day, would continue. Basketball courts and tennis courts, turf fields and the community gardens program will be maintained.

City spokesperson Constance Farrell said the city and SMMUSD are awaiting guidance from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Los Angeles County Office of Education as to when after-school sports will return.

She said the city and district will work cooperatively to determine how sports programs can best be provided for children under 14 in the post-coronavirus environment.

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