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Santa Monica Daily Press

TUESDAY
06.16.20
Volume 19 Issue 177

@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

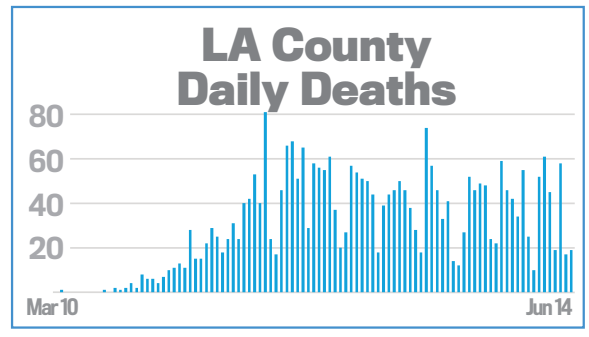
COVID deaths
19 new deaths have been reported in Los Angeles.
Page 2

Fireworks canceled
The show will not go on this year due to coronavirus.
Page 5

CORONAVIRUS DEATHS per 100,000

SANTA MONICA	LA COUNTY	CALIFORNIA	USA	WORLDWIDE
23.8	29.0	12.9	25.3	5.7

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



Red Cross offering COVID-19 antibody tests





Courtesy photo

DONATIONS: Blood donors will be given an antibody test as part of their regular screening process.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

All blood donations to the American Red Cross over the next four months will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies according to a statement from the organization.

The organization tests donations for infectious diseases as part of the standard donation process but the antibody testing will be a new addition to the screening process with donors receiving their results directly from the Red Cross.

"As an organization dedicated to helping others, the Red Cross is pleased to provide more information about COVID-19 to our valued donors," said Dr. Erin Goodhue, executive medical director of direct patient care with the Red Cross Biomedical Services. "If you are feeling healthy and well, please schedule an appointment to not only help saves lives but also learn about your potential exposure to COVID-19."

The testing isn't part of any government reporting system but officials said if a health agency makes a specific request for the data, the Red Cross will provide aggregated information

SEE **TESTS** PAGE 11

Budget, layoffs, Covid-19 to be discussed at school board

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Editor

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education will hold a public hearing on its 2020-2021 budget this Thursday beginning at 5:30 p.m. in a special board meeting that will be streamed via Zoom.

Staff and district leaders previously discussed the budget and the fiscal challenges currently facing districts across California during a meeting on June 5, but California Education Code requires all school districts to hold a public hearing so residents have an opportunity to discuss a proposed budget showing a district's expenditures, cash balances, and all revenues.

At previous board meetings, SMMUSD officials have detailed that the district is currently spending about $11 million more than the revenue it brings in and is projected to have an ending fund balance of negative $5.6 million dollars in the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

"We are actually entering a new reality because we don't know what will happen with our revenue,"

SEE **MEETING** PAGE 11

Tenants behind on rent in pandemic face harassment

REGINA GARCIA CANO AND MICHAEL CASEY
Associated Press

Jeremy Rooks works the evening shift at a Georgia fast-food restaurant these days to avoid being on the street past dusk. He needs somewhere to go at night: He and his wife are homeless after the extended-stay motel where they had lived since Thanksgiving evicted them in April when they couldn't pay their rent.

They should have been protected because the state's Supreme Court has effectively halted evictions due to the coronavirus pandemic. But Rooks said the owner still sent a man posing as a sheriff's deputy, armed with a gun, to throw the couple out a few days after rent was due.

The pandemic has shut housing

SEE **TENANTS** PAGE 11

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles County Announces 19 New Deaths Related to 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has confirmed 19 new deaths and 1,071 new cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Fourteen people who died were over the age of 65 years, four people who died were between the ages of 41 and 65 years old, and one person who died was between the ages of 18 and 40 years old. Eleven people had underlying health conditions including 10 people over the age of 65 years old and one person between the ages of 41 to 65 years old.

To date, Public Health has identified 73,791 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of LA County, and a total of 2,926 deaths. Ninety-three percent of people who died had underlying health conditions. Of those who died, information about race and ethnicity is available for 2,720 people (99 percent of the cases reported by Public Health); 41% of deaths occurred among Latino/Latinx residents, 29% among White residents, 17% among Asian residents, 11% among African American residents, less than 1% among Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander residents and 1% among residents identifying with other races. Upon further investigation, 298 cases reported earlier were not LA County residents. There are 1,285 people who are currently hospitalized, 31% of these people are in the ICU and 24% are on ventilators. Testing capacity continues to increase in LA County, with testing results available for over 825,000 individuals and 8% of people testing positive.

Case investigation and contact tracing is a containment strategy that has been used by public health departments for decades to slow the spread of infectious diseases and manage outbreaks. Currently, Public Health has over 1500 persons working as contact tracers for the COVID-19 response. Public Health interviews persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are residents of Los Angeles County, excluding Long Beach and Pasadena, to provide information about how to protect themselves and others, to find out where they may have been, and who they were in close contact with while infectious. This involves identifying and interviewing every person who has been in close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 in order to quarantine those exposed (contacts) and monitor them for signs and symptoms of the disease. This process is confidential and depends on the timeliness of the testing laboratory to report positive COVID-19 test results to Public Health, whether the report contains the individual's complete and correct contact information, as well as whether individuals respond timely to Public Health's case interview and contact tracer calls and emails. Please remember that if you think you could be positive and are awaiting testing results, to stay at home and act as if you are positive for COVID-19. This means self-isolating for 10 days and 72 hours after symptoms and fever subside, or until you receive a negative result. Please also note a contact tracer will never ask for a social security number, payment or documented status.

"There are many families across our County who are experiencing the sorrow of losing a loved one to COVID-19. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you every day," said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "Contact tracing is a confidential and simple process that has been used by public health departments for decades to slow the spread of infectious diseases and avoid outbreaks. When a person tests positive for COVID-19, it is important to find out where that person has been and who they were in close contact with while they could transmit the disease to others, so that anyone who may have been exposed knows that they may also be positive. If you are contacted by a contact tracer, you caller ID will identify them as 'LA Public Health,' and it important that you answer or return their call."

Public Health continues tracking the number of positive cases and deaths among healthcare workers related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Public Health has confirmed 44 people who died from COVID-19 worked in a healthcare setting; 32 people who died worked in skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, six people worked in hospitals, two people worked in home health, one person worked in a correctional facility, one person worked in a laboratory, and one person worked in an outpatient facility. For one health care worker who passed away, their workplace setting is not specified. Twenty of the health care workers who died identified as Asian, 18 of the people who died were Latino/Latinx, two of the people who died were African American, two of the people who died were White, one person identified with another race, and for one person who died, their race and ethnicity was not specified. A total of 6,561 confirmed cases of COVID-19 occurred among healthcare workers and first responders; this is an additional 530 new cases reported since the previous week. Six percent of healthcare workers with COVID-19 have been hospitalized. Forty-four percent of cases are among nurses, though cases have been identified among a range of occupational roles, including caregivers, people who work in administration, physicians and medical assistants. Sixty percent of these cases reported a known source of exposure, and 79% of healthcare workers with known exposure reported being exposed in a healthcare facility. Healthcare workers who are positive worked at 27 different occupational settings, with the vast majority of cases among healthcare workers from skilled nursing facilities and hospitals.

Public Health issued a modified Health Officer Order designed to help move the county of Los Angeles into stage 3 of California's Pandemic Resilience Roadmap. The modified Health Officer Order allows for the following sectors to reopen once they implement the required protocols for infection control and distancing:

Gyms and fitness facilities
Pro-league arenas without live audiences
Day camps
Museums, galleries, zoos and aquariums
Campgrounds, RV parks and outdoor recreation
Music, film and television production
Hotels for leisure travel

As with all businesses that are permitted to reopen, the Health Officer Order contains protocols for reopening to ensure it is done as safely as possible for employees, customers and residents. Employees and visitors to these businesses will need to wear a cloth face covering when around other people and practice physical distancing of at least 6 feet at all times. Some employees may also be required to wear face shields. The directives are contained in sector-specific protocols that guide re-opening and are available online. It is important for everyone to follow the directives and to do their part every day to keep everyone as safe as possible.

The Reopening Protocols, COVID-19 Surveillance Interactive Dashboard, Roadmap to Recovery, Recovery Dashboard, and additional things you can do to protect yourself, your family and your community are on the Public Health website, www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

The best protection against COVID-19 continues to be to wash your hands frequently, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, self-isolate if you are sick, practice physical distancing, and wear a clean face covering when in contact with others from outside your household. People who have underlying health conditions remain at much greater risk for serious illness from COVID-19, so it will continue to be very important for the County's vulnerable residents to stay at home as much as possible, to have groceries and medicine delivered, and to call their providers immediately if they have even mild symptoms.

Santa Monica has 363 confirmed cases.

SUBMITTED BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 18 CALLS ON JUNE 14

EMS 2900blk Main St 12:12 a.m.
EMS 500blk Ashland Ave 12:29 a.m.
EMS 23rd St / Ocean Park Blvd 6:34 a.m.
EMS 3100blk 3rd St 9:17 a.m.
EMS 500blk Hollister Ave 9:23 a.m.
EMS 500blk Olympic Blvd W 10:54 a.m.
EMS 17th St / Broadway 11:18 a.m.
EMS 00blk Village Pkwy 1:34 p.m.
EMS 2900blk 3rd St 2:49 p.m.
EMS 1200blk Euclid St 5:21 p.m.
EMS 400blk Palisades Ave 5:52 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Physical Rescue 800blk 4th St 5:56 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 20th St 6:09 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 5th St 6:32 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Alta Ave 7:02 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 2nd St 7:05 p.m.
EMS 2900blk 11th St 7:08 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 12th St 7:14 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 8:03 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

WASHINGTON

Justices reject Trump bid to void California sanctuary law

The Supreme Court on Monday rejected the Trump administration's bid to throw out a California immigrant-sanctuary law that limits local police cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

The justices' order leaves in place lower court rulings that upheld the law. Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas voted to hear the administration's appeal.

The administration said the 2017 state immigrant-sanctuary measure conflicts with federal immigration law and makes it harder to deport people who are in the country illegally.

California argued that encouraging local police to participate in federal immigration enforcement is counterproductive because it makes people less likely to report crimes if they believe they'll be deported for doing so.

The case is at the heart of long-running tensions between the state and the Trump administration over immigration enforcement. California adopted the measure – which bars local law enforcement from collaborating with immigration enforcement agents except in cases involving more serious crimes – shortly after President Donald Trump took office and stepped up efforts to deport immigrants in the country without legal permission.

Local law enforcement was split on the law. Some felt it tied their hands and allowed criminals to re-offend who previously might have been deported, while others welcomed being able to sever themselves from the administration's immigration crackdown to preserve the trust of immigrant communities.

On Monday, California's Attorney General Xavier Becerra said decisions concerning public safety are best made in California, not by the administration, and ensuring residents can trust police is critical.

"The last thing we need to do is to erode that trust," Becerra said in a statement. "Today, America is experiencing the pain and protest that occurs when trust is broken."

A message seeking comment was left for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO

University of California endorses affirmative action measure

The University of California's governing board voted Monday to unanimously support a measure to restore affirmative action programs and repeal a controversial statewide ban that has been blamed for a decline in diversity in the prestigious university system.

The vote in a special meeting of the Board of Regents means UC endorses a proposal that would ask voters in November to repeal Proposition 209, a 1996 voter-approved law that banned "preferential treatment" for minority groups applying to state colleges and government jobs.

The proposed amendment to the state's Constitution, which was backed last week by the state Assembly, must still pass the state Senate before it can go on the Nov. 3 statewide ballot.

"The original sin of this country has to be addressed," said regent Eloy Ortiz Oakley, who along with the other regents spoke passionately about the need to send a powerful message amid nationwide protests about racial injustice and inequality. "This is our opportunity to right a historical wrong."

UC President Janet Napolitano, all 10 campus chancellors and the governing bodies for faculty, undergraduate and graduate students have expressed support for the measure.

In the meeting held by teleconference, Napolitano said that since the passage of Proposition 209, "many of us have watched with dismay and largely tied hands as the numbers of students of underrepresented groups at UC declined and plateaued."

"The face of the university became one that does not fully represent the rich diversity of our state. That is detrimental to UC and it's detrimental to California," Napolitano said. "Now our state has a chance to take a different path."

At the University of California system, where 285,200 students are enrolled across 10 campuses, Asians account for 33% of the undergraduate and graduate student population, followed by whites at 21%, Latinos at 22% and blacks at 4%.

The UC student body does not reflect California's population and shows that the UC needs to do more to ensure equal opportunity and campus diversity, several regents said. In California, Latinos account for 39% of state residents, 15% are Asian American, 37% are white and 6% are African American. Latinos surpassed whites in 2015 as California's single largest ethnic group.

By contrast, the California State University, the nation's largest four-year public university with 23 campuses and nearly 482,000 students, has a student body that is nearly 75% people of color.

The meeting did not address details of how affirmative action policies might be introduced if the measure is passed.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 231 CALLS ON JUNE 14

Loud Music 1000blk 6th St 12:32 a.m.
Party Complaint 1000blk 6th St 12:57 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:05 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Donald Douglas Loop / Airport Ave 1:09 a.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 300blk California Ave 1:30 a.m.
Loud Music 1300blk 14th St 2:15 a.m.
Encampment 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:52 a.m.
Encampment 1300blk Lincoln Blvd 6:06 a.m.
Found Property 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:07 a.m.
Burglary Report 1100blk 25th St 6:43 a.m.
Encampment 200blk Norman Pl 6:43 a.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1700blk Ocean Ave 7:42 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 4th St / Washington Ave 7:45 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 700blk Broadway 9:04 a.m.
Lost Property 2nd St / Colorado Ave 9:08 a.m.
Fight 5th St / Arizona Ave 9:11 a.m.
Found Senile Person 1800blk 20th St 9:19 a.m.
Silent Burglar Alarm 800blk Wilshire Blvd 9:43 a.m.
Domestic Violence Report 2200blk Colorado Ave 9:45 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1000blk 14th St 9:56 a.m.
Sexual Assault 2800blk Pico Blvd 9:58 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 10:36 a.m.
Attempt Burglary Report 1000blk Lincoln Blvd 10:36 a.m.
Burglary Report 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 10:39 a.m.
Critical Missing Person 2200blk Delaware Ave 10:49 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Moomat Ahiko Way / Ocean Ave 11:27 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 200blk Bay St 11:33 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 7th St / Pico Blvd 11:43 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 2600blk Main St 12:31 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 12:51 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 1400blk 5th St 1:22 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now Barnard Way / Hart Ave 1:27 p.m.
Lewd Activity 3200blk Arizona Ave 1:32 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:37 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 900blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:46 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 2:09 p.m.
Found Property 2600blk 28th St 2:36 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 2100blk Delaware Ave 2:39 p.m.
Party Complaint 2100blk Stewart St 2:43 p.m.
Found Property 2600blk 28th St 2:43 p.m.
Public Intoxication 2900blk 3rd St 2:47 p.m.
Lost Property 700blk Broadway 2:47 p.m.
Found Property 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:59 p.m.
Found Property 2000blk Delaware Ave 3:30 p.m.
Burglary Report 1100blk 5th St 3:31 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2000blk Ocean Ave 3:44 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 9th St / Pico Blvd 3:47 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 3:55 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 800blk 7th St 4:13 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1300blk Franklin St 4:37 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Moomat Ahiko Way / Ocean Ave 5:04 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 3000blk Ocean Front Walk 5:09 p.m.
Burglary Report 1100blk 5th St 5:33 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 6th St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:34 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 5:35 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 4th St / Montana Ave 5:56 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Neilson Way / Pacific St 6:08 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1700blk Ocean Front Walk 6:20 p.m.
Found Property 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:44 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1300blk Harvard St 6:56 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 4th St / Broadway 7:27 p.m.
Found Property 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:31 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1100blk Montana Ave 8:08 p.m.
Found Property 1300blk 7th St 8:27 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1600blk Appian Way 8:44 p.m.
Attempt Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred 1800blk 11th St 8:53 p.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 1300blk 9th St 8:59 p.m.
Party Complaint 2000blk Montana Ave 9:25 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 4th St / Interstate 10 9:36 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 9:37 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold Main St / Ashland Ave 10:30 p.m.
Party Complaint 1300blk 14th St 10:34 p.m.
Loud Music 200blk Bay St 10:49 p.m.
Party Complaint 2900blk 4th St 10:55 p.m.

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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AWARD WINNER

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

To Win, The Left Needs To Toughen Up

We're two weeks out from the chaotic night of looting and protests. Two weeks ago the city was stunned with looters and overcome with protestors. Two weeks ago people gathered and violated the directives on groups. Some wore masks, some didn't. We're on the edge of finding out if that was a public health disaster in the making, or not.

This summer is shaping up to be a crazy environment. There is a lot of mobilization on the racial equality front, but it's hard to tell what the differences will be. How will corporations change their practices, how will society become more open and willing to address tough topics.

Frankly the Left needs to lighten the heck up in order to be able to have tough conversations and not be so damn sensitive to every little "micro-aggression" and focus on the big issues. I say this having been engaged in a Facebook "conversation" with a pair of social justice advocates who are taking offense at my asking for clarification of a statement.

The back story is this, one SJA posted a list of proposed societal changes, and the other SJA wrote, " Yeah and how bout Wyoming doesn't get the same number of senators as California". Now, having read the Constitution, and being a lawyer, and passing high school government class I know that every state gets two Senators. I was perplexed by the comment and wrote, "Uh, Why do you say that Wyoming doesn't get the same number of senators as California? [First SJA] what am I missing?"

Here's the response I received: "I'm saying a small - less densely populated state should NOT get the same representation in the senate (as it currently does). Ps - what's with the snarky 'uh'...?....especially given you misinterpreted my post."

This gets dicey and turns on the meaning and intent of the errant "Uh". I didn't think I was being snarky, but evidently SJA 1 and 2, feel that I was. In my experience, I CAN BE Snarky, Mean, Nasty, Cutting, Quick Witted, heck I get paid to do all that in a courtroom. I'm a paid wordsmith, and I keep in mind that the measure of a message is how clearly it is understood by the recipient. So a little "uh" doesn't even make a ripple in my world. But in theirs it did. Which I find deeply ironic.

See the far left is all about how things are felt and perceived by the recipient. Trauma has no objective standards - it's based on the targeted person's perception (formerly called a victim but we can't use that word anymore) and how they "feel" about something. Well applying this logic, I didn't feel the statement about Wyoming's Senator count was clear, so I asked for clarification, and was then labeled as 'snarky'. That seems like victim blaming to me, and I feel that I was being treated contemptuously and dismissed. They didn't support and believe my lack of understanding. How wrong is that?

This is the type of over the top, super sensitive BS that will destroy the left and keep the current occupant of the 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in office. The left has got to learn to have a decent, uncomfortable conversation without immediately jumping to, dare I say it? Victimhood.

The protests of two weeks ago are important. They are needed to raise awareness of the overtraining of the police and their militarization. The hard numbers of abuses by law enforcement officers need to be brought to light and the abuses need to be stopped and better community policing is needed. However, if we cannot have the difficult conversations without dropping into victimhood and ad hominems, we're never going to get anywhere.

I know I'm specially trained in this area. I spent four years at St. John's College where we studied great books and learned how to be inquisitive and hold difficult conversations. I spent three years on law school learning how to fashion questions. Today I still take courses on discourse, advertising, marketing, mediation and work on my communication skills. The first thing we learn is to not attack the person, but the problem.

The left better develop a thick skin quickly, or all these protests, all the publicity, will be for naught.

David Pisarra is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @ davidpisarra



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SAN FRANCISCO

California has recorded more than 5,000 COVID-19 deaths

California has recorded more than 5,000 COVID-19 deaths as cases continue to climb in several parts of the state.

On Sunday, the state Department of Public Health reported 148,855 confirmed cases of the coronavirus and 5,063 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic.

Last week, nine counties reported a spike in new cases or hospitalizations, some from Memorial Day holiday gatherings and others from prisons and nursing homes.

The state is gradually reopening after Gov. Gavin Newsom issued a statewide stay-at-home order on March 19. Retail stores and restaurants, then churches and hair salons were allowed to reopen with restrictions.

On Friday, hotels, zoos, museums and movie theaters were among the businesses cleared to reopen.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Protests held across California for third straight weekend

For the third weekend in a row, protesters took to the streets of Los Angeles, San Francisco and other communities across California to demand racial justice in the wake of George Floyd's killing by police in Minneapolis.

Sunday's demonstrations were promoted as non-violent calls for change in law enforcement.

In the Bay Area, protesters shut down the upper deck of the Bay Bridge in the late afternoon, causing San Francisco-bound traffic to backup for miles. At Civic Center, a Buddhist sit-in called for complete silence.

In Hollywood, thousands of peaceful protesters marched under blazing sunshine along a stretch of Hollywood Boulevard where the words "All Black Lives Matter" were painted on the pavement in rainbow colors. Demonstrators listened to speeches by activists in support of gay and transgender people of color.

A lesbian couple organized a similar march on San Francisco's coastal Great Highway in solidarity with the racial justice movement. Protesters observed nine minutes of silence to honor Floyd and recognize the length of time a white police officer knelt on his neck before he died.

Greg Austin, 31, said huge marches like the one in Hollywood are evidence of a growing desire for police reform.

"We're not saying that every cop is bad. We just wish they would follow a different method," Austin told the Los Angeles Times. "This is an eye-opener for everyone. I'm hoping that this will show that the police need better training for their officers."

Most protesters wore face coverings because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Police said there were no arrests or reports of problems.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Supreme Court rejects several gun rights cases for next term

The Supreme Court on Monday passed up several challenges to federal and state gun control laws, over the dissent of two conservative justices.

Gun rights advocates had hoped the court would expand the constitutional right to "keep and bear arms" beyond the home.

Instead, the justices left in place restrictions on the right to carry weapons in public in Maryland, Massachusetts and New Jersey. They also declined to review Massachusetts' ban on some semi-automatic firearms and large-capacity ammunition magazines, a California handgun control law and a half-century-old federal law banning interstate handgun sales.

Justice Clarence Thomas, joined by Justice Brett Kavanaugh, wrote a dissent in the court's denial of a New Jersey resident's appeal seeking the right to carry a gun in public for self-defense. Rather than take on the constitutional issue, Thomas wrote, "the Court simply looks the other way."

Citywide

Santa Monica College cancels fireworks show due to COVID-19 concerns

Santa Monica College (SMC) has officially canceled "Celebrate America," due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions of large-scale, in-person events. This would have been the 38th year for the popular community picnic and fireworks spectacular, originally scheduled for Saturday, June 27.

"It is particularly disappointing that Celebrate America had to be cancelled this year, at a time when we at Santa Monica College would love to gather with our community," said Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery, SMC Superintendent/President. "We look forward to future occasions, when we may celebrate with confidence, to host events safely. Please take care of yourself. Stay well. Stay strong! Stay connected."

"I can't predict when events like Celebrate America will be allowed to resume, or when folks will begin to feel comfortable in crowds again," said Linda Sullivan, SMC Event Producer and Associate Dean of Facilities Programming. "But when they do, they will be greeted with the greatest enthusiasm."

With campuses expected to stay closed for the remainder of the year, SMC will continue to deliver classes and student support services online. Several events that can be presented in virtual formats are also being planned, including free, live Drescher Planetarium shows on Friday nights starting in mid June (see smc.edu/planetarium), a live Virtual Launch Event for the SMC Emeritus Student Art Exhibition 2020 Online at 5 p.m. June 25 (see smc.edu/emeritusgallery), and SMC's 90th Commencement Ceremony at 5 p.m. June 26 (see smc.edu/graduation).

Additional upcoming events will be posted at smc.edu.

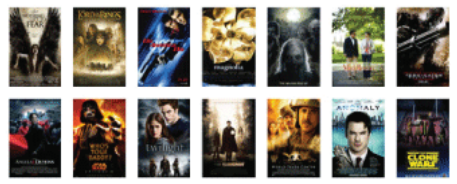
SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH, SMC PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SAN FRANCISCO

University of California endorses affirmative action measure

The University of California's governing board voted Monday to unanimously support a measure to restore affirmative action programs and repeal a controversial statewide ban that has been blamed for a decline in diversity in the prestigious university system.

The vote in a special meeting of the Board of Regents means UC endorses a proposal that would ask voters in November to repeal Proposition 209, a 1996 voter-approved law that banned "preferential treatment" for minority groups applying to state colleges and government jobs.

The proposed amendment to the state's Constitution, which was backed last week by the state Assembly, must still pass the state Senate before it can go on the Nov. 3 statewide ballot.

"The original sin of this country has to be addressed," said regent Eloy Ortiz Oakley, who along with the other regents spoke passionately about the need to send a powerful message amid nationwide protests about racial injustice and inequality. "This is our opportunity to right a historical wrong."

UC President Janet Napolitano, all 10 campus chancellors and the governing bodies for faculty, undergraduate and graduate students have expressed support for the measure.

In the meeting held by teleconference, Napolitano said that since the passage of Proposition 209, "many of us have watched with dismay and largely tied hands as the numbers of students of underrepresented groups at UC declined and plateaued."

"The face of the university became one that does not fully represent the rich diversity of our state. That is detrimental to UC and it's detrimental to California," Napolitano said. "Now our state has a chance to take a different path."

At the University of California system, where 285,200 students are enrolled across 10 campuses, Asians account for 33% of the undergraduate and graduate student population, followed by whites at 21%, Latinos at 22% and blacks at 4%.

The UC student body does not reflect California's population and shows that the UC needs to do more to ensure equal opportunity and campus diversity, several regents said. In California, Latinos account for 39% of state residents, 15% are Asian American, 37% are white and 6% are African American. Latinos surpassed whites in 2015 as California's single largest ethnic group.

By contrast, the California State University, the nation's largest four-year public university with 23 campuses and nearly 482,000 students, has a student body that is nearly 75% people of color.

The meeting did not address details of how affirmative action policies might be introduced if the measure is passed.

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PROFILES IN COURAGE:

Richard Vogel/Associated Press





ETIENNE LAURENT/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock

Santa Monica residents and friends demanded justice on May 31 for George Floyd and the countless racist murders and harassments of Black people by law enforcement. They were met with an unconstitutional attack by Santa Monica Police, who fired tear gas and rubber bullets without warning and prior to curfew.

COWARDICE IN PROFILE:





Meaningless photo op. L to R: Chief Cynthia Renaud, Interim City Manager Lane Dilg, Councilmember Greg Morena, and Ceremonial Mayor Kevin McKeown pose for cameras on June 4. The day before, in her first media interview after the mayhem, **Dilg said SMPD deserves "an A" for its response on May 31** -- which included unprovoked violence toward demonstrators while our business district was overrun by criminal looters.

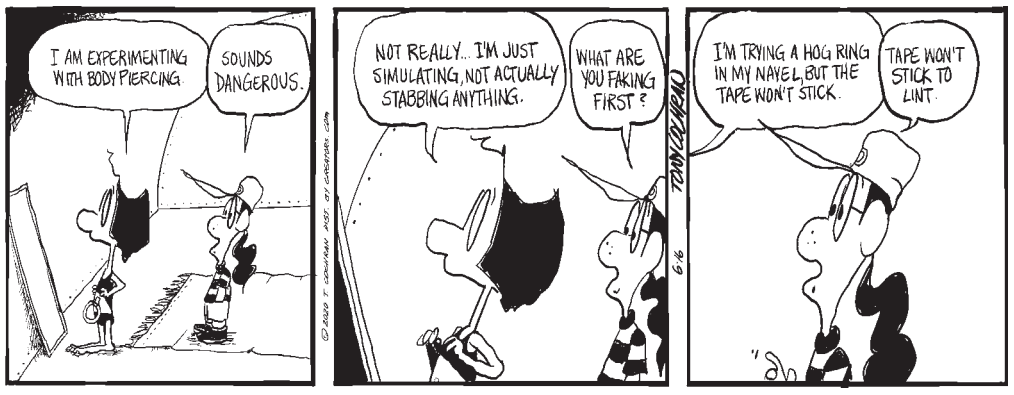
Kevin McKeown, Greg Morena, Gleam Davis:
Who governs this City? Your silence on police misconduct is complicity.

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and its unconstitutional May 31 attack on demonstrators.
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5 p.m. until dark
santamonicansfordemocracy.org

Santa Monicans for Democracy Steering Committee Chair: Craig R. Miller, Resident of Ocean Park since 1983

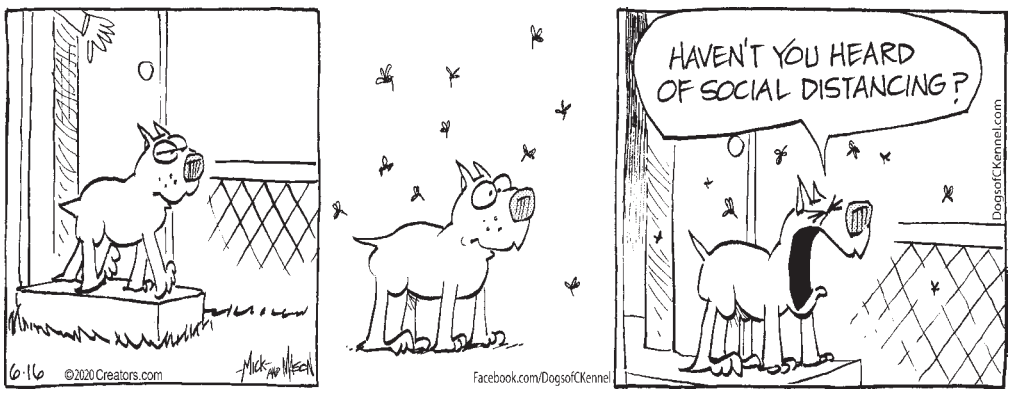
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



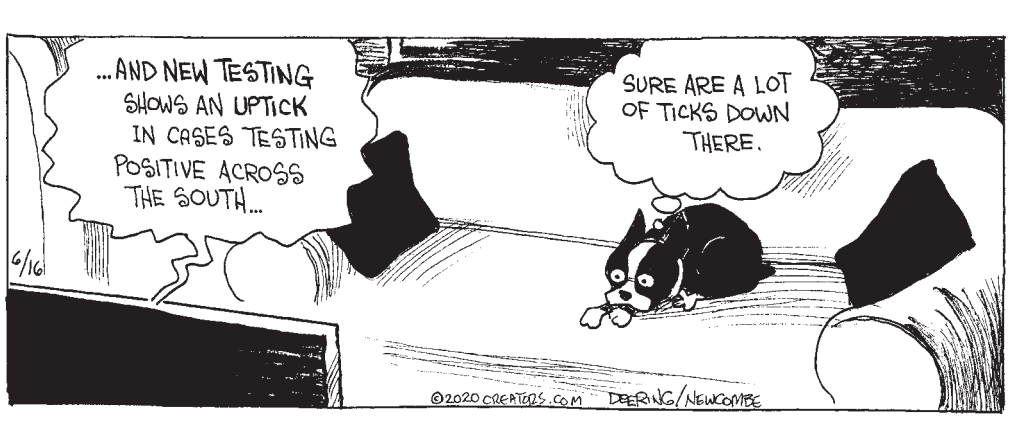
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



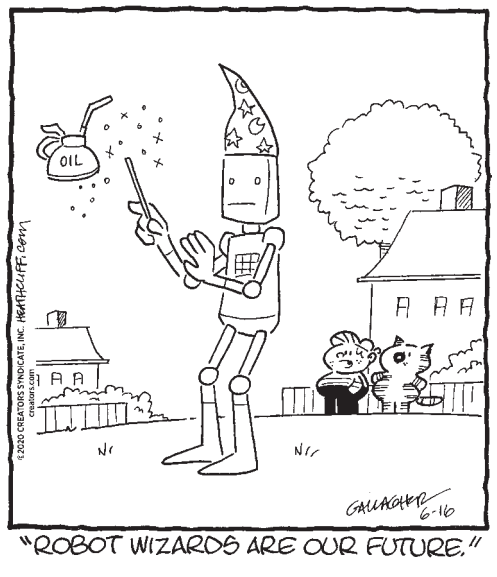
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



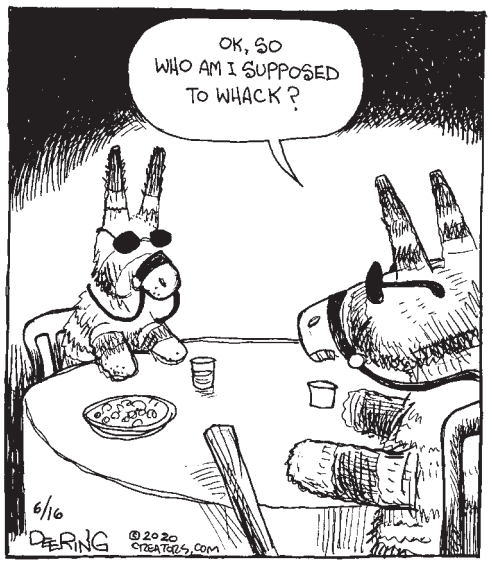
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 66.7°

TUESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
S swell holds. Small NW swell.

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
S swell eases. Small SSW swell shows. NW swell fades.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 72.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after midnight. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.
Wednesday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 72.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 60.
Thursday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 71.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 61. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast after midnight.

Date	Day of the Week	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/06/16	Tue	01:43 AM	1.07	L
2020/06/16	Tue	07:33 AM	3.30	H
2020/06/16	Tue	12:40 PM	1.68	L
2020/06/16	Tue	7:15 PM	5.25	H
2020/06/17	Wed	02:19 AM	0.55	L
2020/06/17	Wed	08:25 AM	3.37	H
2020/06/17	Wed	1:13 PM	1.87	L
2020/06/17	Wed	7:42 PM	5.55	H
2020/06/18	Thu	02:52 AM	0.10	L
2020/06/18	Thu	09:08 AM	3.45	H
2020/06/18	Thu	1:45 PM	2.02	L
2020/06/18	Thu	8:11 PM	5.82	H
2020/06/19	Fri	03:26 AM	-0.29	L
2020/06/19	Fri	09:48 AM	3.52	H
2020/06/19	Fri	2:18 PM	2.15	L
2020/06/19	Fri	8:41 PM	6.04	H
2020/06/20	Sat	04:00 AM	-0.59	L
2020/06/20	Sat	10:28 AM	3.56	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date:06/13
2 12 32 50 65
Power#: 5
Jackpot:22 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 06/12
9 14 57 67 70
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 22 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 06/13
21 25 30 34 42
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 15 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 06/14
4 9 16 29 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 06/15
Midday Evening: 7 3 4
Draw Date: 06/14
Evening: 7 4 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 06/14
1st: 03 - HOT SHOT
2nd: 09 - WINNING SPIRIT
3rd: 06 - WHIRL WIN
RACE TIME: 1:44.67

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 (JUNE 16)

Your year swings between dealings in matters of depth and importance to adventures in the lighter side of life. The months to come bring events, relationships and environments that allow you to cut loose of your cares in levity and laughter. Changes in work will inspire your stellar performance. You'll earn trust and position. Leo and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 35, 25, 18 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A friendship commitment seems lighter than, say, owning a pet, choosing a partner or becoming a parent, but it is still a commitment that changes your story. You'll choose your friends very carefully.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Anyone can be impressed by museum curations and the efforts of great artists. But what you do is more rare. You see uncommon beauty in common things — a gift that keeps giving.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's very hard to teach people who think they already know. This requires disruption and unlearning before the most elemental bedrock can be laid. Only try and teach the willing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Would you rather be idolized and emulated, or ignored and left to your own devices? There is a great benefit and freedom to invisibility, but it's best achieved by those who don't want or need the attention.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It seems like a strange time to raise your price, up the stakes or ask for a promotion, and yet you're due. Remind yourself of how you provide value to your team, and think about how you'd like to be compensated.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Just as planets orbit the sun and moths fly at the lightbulb, it is in the nature of humans to gather around a fire. Today that "fire" will come in the form of some incendiary topic.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Often work does not come together in a straightforward way, so you appreciate days like today when the small picture reflects the big picture. The mountain is climbed one upward step at a time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Be like the great entertainers. Meld your sense of what the audience wants with your own appetites and gifts. If you only give what they want, you're pandering. If you only give what you want, there won't be a deal.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Nothing provides an energy rush like adrenaline, and nothing brings out your adrenaline like other people's expectations. You'll be able to accomplish much more when there's social pressure involved.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Ennui is like a solicitor ignoring all the neighborhood signs. When he comes knocking at your door, don't let him in. Don't even go to the door. Find something creative to do and he'll go away.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). In the mood for a risk, you'll be testing your own limits. As your attitude tilts toward daredevil-ish, will you be enchanted or alarmed? Maybe a little of both, and that's the point.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There are people who seem to make you feel bold and playful, although those qualities are always inside you, just waiting for permission to emerge, when actually, they don't really need it.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

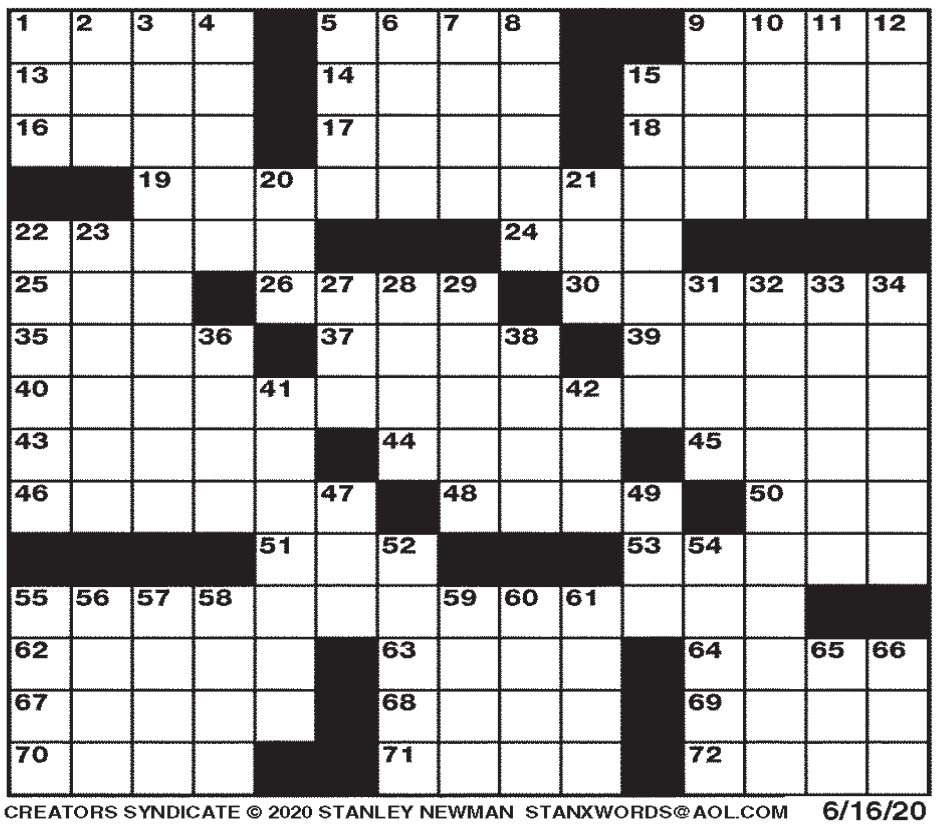
2				3		9		
	8				9		5	
4			8			1		3
			4	6			7	
5		6		2		8		4
	1			9	8			
6		8			3			2
	3		6				8	
		7		8				5

Newsday Crossword

FIERY DESSERTS by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Hawaiian garlands
5 See 60 Down
9 Smartphone downloads
13 Stare at
14 6 Down guy
15 Parade vehicle that people stand on
16 Top Olympic prize
17 Flat-topped hill
18 Musical work with sopranos
19 Crescent-shaped fruit + ice cream, set ablaze
22 Segment of a play
24 Beret or derby
25 Portion of butter
26 "Bye-bye!"
30 Serious plays
35 Muscle discomfort
37 *Mona* __
39 General custom
40 Red fruit + ice cream, set ablaze
43 Spooky
44 College official
45 Red street-corner sign
46 War horses
48 Helen of __ (mythical abductee)
50 Compass point opposite WSW
51 Female deer
53 Made less complicated
55 French pancakes + liqueur, set ablaze
62 Place of refuge
63 Trash-hauling boat
64 Con game
67 Solos in an 18 Across
68 Natural skin balm
69 Wyatt of the Old West
70 Blab a secret
71 Yellow Thanksgiving veggies
72 24-hr. bank conveniences

DOWN
1 Ship captain's diary
2 Swelled head
3 Verbal positive RSVP
4 Four-door car
5 The Dalai __
6 Garden in Genesis
7 Astronauts' org.
8 Break into bits
9 Swiss peaks
10 Person who writes verses
11 Remove the rind from
12 Top-billed performer
15 Treat for tired toes
20 After-tax
21 Temporary craze
22 Spots in parking lots
23 Prestigious seal of approval
27 __ Baba
28 With the same score
29 Desirable feature
31 Without a warranty
32 Blue or gray feline
33 When a tot gets her first birthday party
34 Flowed through slowly
36 Shallowest Great Lake
38 Slightly open, as a door
41 Begins to blush
42 Important "numero"
47 Ship's distress signal
49 So far
52 Short opinion piece
54 On a cruise
55 Casual conversation
56 Extremely scarce
57 Wicked
58 Ring loud and clear
59 West Coast campus: Abbr.
60 With 5 Across, camera's closeup attachment
61 Lambs' mothers
65 Parka sleeve
66 Army cops: Abbr.



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 6/16/20

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

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



"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 21 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4781

Seafood galore

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

Amberjack	Eels	On ice	Skill
Anchor	Flies	Opah	Snake
Bite	Float	Perch	Sold
Bonefish	Gaff	Pike	Spin
Brown	Gear	Pipi	Squid
Cast	Hussar	Plug	Stream
Cod	Jew	Radio	Submarine
Crab	Kelp	Rigs	Tides
Creek	Lead	Rivers	Tuna
Dams	Ling	Rod	Upkeep
Dart	Lure	Runner	Weed
Depth	Mako	Salty	Yacht
Drag	Maori	Shad	
Dried	Nets	Shrimps	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Take a dip in the gorge

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TESTS

FROM PAGE 1

that provides summaries without exposing individual health data.

Medical professions are currently researching the use of blood products containing antibodies for treating COVID-19.

Thousands of coronavirus patients in hospitals around the world have been treated with so-called convalescent plasma — including more than 20,000 in the U.S. — with little solid evidence so far that it makes a difference. One recent study from China was unclear while another from New York offered a hint of benefit.

When the body encounters a new germ, it makes proteins called antibodies that are specially targeted to fight the infection. The antibodies float in plasma — the yellowish, liquid part of blood.

Because it takes a few weeks for antibodies to form, the hope is that transfusing someone else's antibodies could help patients fight the virus before their own immune system kicks in. One donation is typically divided into two or three treatments. Donations also can be combined into a high-dose product; manufacturer Grifols is producing doses of that "hyperimmune globulin" for a study expected to start next month.

And as more people survive COVID-19, there are increasing calls for them to donate plasma so there's enough of a stockpile if it pans out. On Friday, U.S. health officials notified doctors that it doesn't violate health privacy rules to track down prior COVID-19 patients and tell them about donation options.

Red Cross spokeswoman Christine Welch said the organization has been collecting plasma for the past few weeks from individuals who already knew they had the antibody. She said donors who discover they have the antibody through the program have the option to schedule the specialized plasma donation.

"This was done because we were receiving inquiries from the public," she said. "This is designed to provide value to our donors and we're always trying to raise awareness of donation."

COVID-19 antibody test results will be available within 7-10 days in the Red Cross Blood Donor App or donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org. The test has been authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The test is not diagnostic and the Red Cross said a positive antibody test result does not confirm infection or immunity.

Donation appointments can be made by downloading the free Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device. Thanks to Amazon, all those who come to give June 1-30 will receive a $5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email.

Upcoming blood drives in Santa Monica

6/19/2020: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., CrossFit Santa Monica, 2433 Main St

6/20/2020: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Red Cross Santa Monica Chapter, 1450 11th St

6/22/2020: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., American Red Cross Santa Monica Chapter, 1450 11th St

6/24/2020: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., American Red Cross Santa Monica Chapter, 1450 11th St

6/25/2020: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., American Red Cross Santa Monica Chapter, 1450 11th St

6/25/2020: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., YMCA, 1332 6th Street

6/27/2020: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Red Cross Santa Monica Chapter, 1450 11th St

6/29/2020: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., American Red Cross Santa Monica Chapter, 1450 11th St

AP Medical Writer Lauran Neergaard contributed to this report

MEETING

FROM PAGE 1

Superintendent Ben Drati previously said, before sharing the fact that SMMUSD's board of education approved a resolution stating it would make millions of dollars worth of cuts to its budget in 2020-2021 — however, that was prior to the Covid-19 so officials are still unsure how the pandemic will fiscally affect districts across California.

The board will adopt its budget for the 2020-2021 school year at a school board meeting planned for next week on Thursday, June 25, according to Thursday's agenda, which lists a number of other Major Action Items that are set to be discussed by the board this week.

Shortly after a ten minute presentation related to the district's Covid-19 Operations Written Report, the board of education is expected to undertake a discussion on a resolution proposing the reduction or elimination of positions in the SMMUSD's Child Development program.

"Education Code Section 8366 provides that it is appropriate for a district to lay-off employees who hold child development permits at any time during the school year for lack of work and/or lack of funds," the resolution states, before adding the Board of Education believes its best action is to reduce the number and types of positions in the district's child development preschool and school-age programs.

The resolution states the equivalent of approximately 34 full-time employees will be laid off effective June 30, and Board President Jon Kean said Monday the action is a last resort.

"In California where per pupil funding is mired in the bottom 20% nationally, the scenario for early education is much worse," Kean said. "Even with the generous support from our community through Measure GSH, these CDS jobs are at risk solely because kids cannot be enrolled right now so tuition isn't coming in to run the programs. We are hopeful that students will be back in classrooms this fall and that our staff will be back teaching, but if they cannot, these layoffs are necessary."

"The only positive that I can add is that all staff has received salaries since March 13th when schools closed due to Covid-19 and all health benefits will be in place through September 1st," Kean said. "But this is devastating to our students, our staff and our district… At a time like this, we need more support, not less. We must find solutions and we must find them now."

The board is expected to adopt a separate resolution Thursday night in an effort to clarify the criteria that will be used to determine seniority for the proposed layoffs, and then General public comments will then be allowed, according to the agenda. The board is expected to announce the rescission of four pink slips, which brings the total number of outstanding RIF notices to two.

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TENANTS

FROM PAGE 1

courts and prompted most states and federal authorities to initiate policies protecting renters from eviction. But not everyone is covered and a number of landlords — some desperate to pay their mortgages themselves — are turning to threats and harassment to force tenants out.

"Every day, they tried to basically get us out of there. It was basically like a game to them," said Rooks, who wasn't able to make his rent at the Marietta, Georgia, motel after his employer paid him late and his wife was laid off in the pandemic. "One of us had to stay in a room at all times because they wouldn't redo the keys for us."

The evictions threaten to exacerbate a problem that has plagued people of color like Rooks long before the pandemic, when landlords across the U.S. were filing about 300,000 eviction requests every month.

The data and analytics real estate firm Amherst projects that 28 million renters, or about 22.5% of all households, are at risk of eviction. Tenant advocates expect that number to increase significantly unless protections are put in place, and project that many of those affected will be African Americans and households led by women, both of which historically are more likely to be evicted.

In a sign of what could happen nationally, Virginia has seen a crush of proceedings since eviction hearings resumed May 18. About 700 cases already have been heard statewide, according to Christie Marra, director of housing advocacy for the Virginia Poverty Law Center. On top of that, 2,200 cases are on the docket for the end of June and early July in Richmond, which has one of the country's highest eviction rates.

Rachel Garland, an attorney at Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, said her group has experienced a spike in calls from tenants who lost their jobs due to the lockdown and fear being evicted. Philadelphia had the fourth-highest eviction rate in the country.

"Even if they can't be evicted right now, if the courts are closed, the landlords are sending threatening emails, text messages, asking for rent, threatening to lock tenants out," Garland said.

Alieza Durana of Princeton University's Eviction Lab said affected tenants face high rates of depression and suicide from the stress, along with mounting debt and homelessness. Additionally, court judgments and debt collection actions against renters are reported to credit bureaus, affecting their ability to access housing for years.

Jose Ortiz, deputy director of Essex/Newark Legal Services, which includes New Jersey's largest city, said he's heard complaints from tenants who have been asked to exchange sex for rent and instances where landlords have threatened to alert immigration authorities about tenants living in the country without legal permission if they don't pay their rent.

"They are not working. They don't have the income to pay their bills and they are afraid about what will happen once the eviction ban is lifted," Ortiz said. "Are they going to be displaced? Is there going to be a mad rush to the courthouse to get these tenants evicted?"

Tenants also are complaining about landlords locking them out and shutting off utilities.

Unable to pay her April rent in full on her townhouse in Millersville, Maryland, Dawn McBride said she began getting texts from her landlord suggesting she find work at Walmart or Costco. She said the landlord then tried to get her to sign a rent-deferral agreement, but wouldn't let her fully read it. She ultimately was handed a 30-day notice to vacate because her lease was month-to-month, a strategy landlords increasingly are using.

"Honestly, it stresses me out a lot because it's me and my children," said McBride, who lost her pet-sitting job. "And, you know, I'm just like, `Where are we going to go?'"

Some tenants facing eviction have turned the table on landlords and are organizing rent strikes. From New York to Chicago to San Francisco, tenants are banding together and demanding landlords negotiate with an eye toward forgiving their rent entirely until the pandemic ends.

Many like Diana Hou, who lost her job with a political campaign and has helped organized a rent strike in her Brooklyn building with her half-dozen roommates. are pushing for legislation at the state and federal level to provide rent and mortgage relief.

"Many of us are worried about our prospects of securing housing without income and with a looming debt of unpaid rent. For the majority of the house, not being able to secure housing would mean homelessness in the middle of a pandemic," Hou said.

Jay Martin, executive director of the Community Housing Improvement Program, which represents 4,000 building owners in New York, said he doesn't condone rent strikes but sympathizes with tenants' plight.

"Renters need a bailout," Martin said, adding that landlords are supporting federal proposals that would cover back rent and future payments. Without those measures, he predicted a drop in property and real estate taxes that would sap state and city budgets.

The federal government's $2.2 trillion coronavirus rescue package includes eviction moratoriums for most people living in federally subsidized apartments, as well as homes covered by federally backed mortgages. A second $3 trillion coronavirus relief bill passed in May by the U.S. House would provide about $175 billion to pay rents and mortgages, but has almost no chance of passing in the Republican-controlled U.S. Senate.

State and local lawmakers across the country also are stepping in with assistance and proposals aimed at averting a wave of evictions.

New Jersey lawmakers passed a $100 million rent relief bill, while in Pennsylvania, Gov. Tom Wolf signed legislation directing $175 million of the federal coronavirus rescue package to rent and mortgage relief. Boston is providing $8 million for rental assistance, Baltimore has designated $13 million in federal coronavirus relief funding to start a rental assistance program, and Philadelphia provided $10 million to help about 13,000 people with their rent.

Other proposals would offer long-term payment plans for those unable to afford rent and programs like mediation before cases head to housing court.

"We have to do something," said Philadelphia Council member Helen Gym, whose bill would prevent evictions until two months after the state's emergency order was lifted.

"We can't go back to business as usual in a city that evicts 18,000 people a year," she said. "That is just not sustainable."

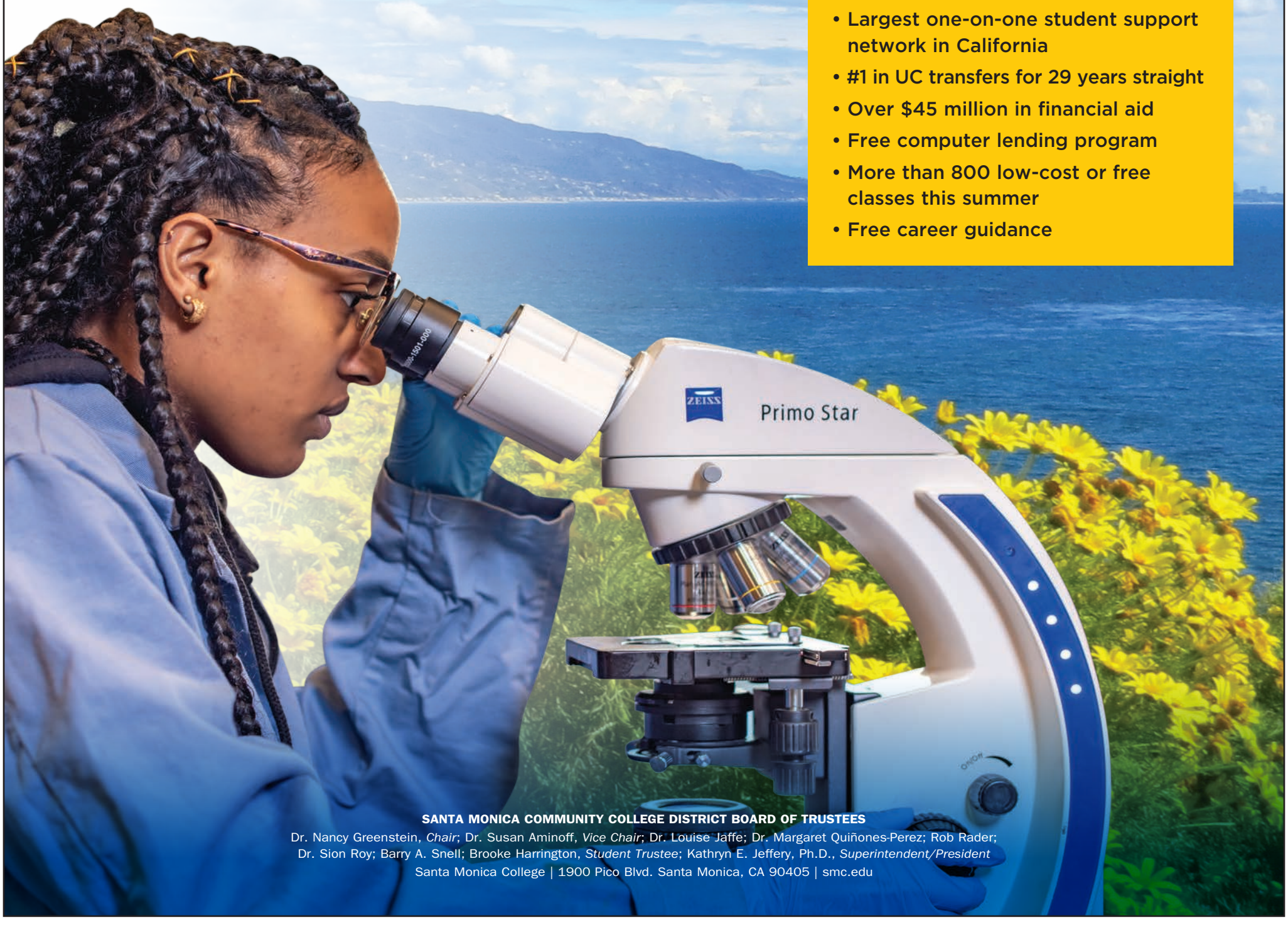
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