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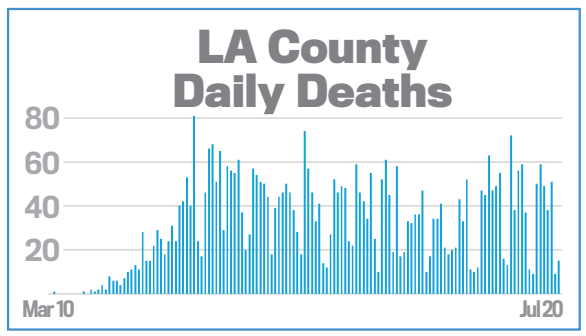
Coronavirus
8 California counties are latest coronavirus hotspots. Page 7

UCLA
Coach pleads guilty to accepting $200,000 in bribes. Page 2

CORONAVIRUS DEATHS per 100,000

SANTA MONICA	LA COUNTY	CALIFORNIA	USA	WORLDWIDE
40.0	43.3	21.4	45.3	8.4

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



SMMUSD distance-learning discussions continue

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District continued discussions on students' return to school this fall semester in an effort to clarify any questions parents may have in regards to the upcoming semester of distance learning.

Board members and dozens of residents gathered online via Zoom Tuesday for a special meeting of the board that lasted nearly 4 hours. The conversation was a continuation of the meeting held in the prior week, where the SMMUSD's board of education announced it intended to have students use a distance learning format when they "return" to class on Aug. 20.

During the meeting, district leaders and the board shared they hope students will be able to eventually make their way back to campus in some capacity prior to the end of the year, but, for now, a distance-learning format is the best option for all parties involved.

"This is a start — distance learning — but we plan to eventually, when the circumstances allow, be back because we all know that's probably the best situation for everyone," Superintendent Ben Drati said during the special meeting. "I want people to understand that we're going to talk in a macro-sense," because there is so much to do between now and the opening of school.

"I'm saying that because if people are going to ask questions about what is specifically taking place at Lincoln or Franklin — right now, we won't have that answer," Drati said. "But we will have an answer about what is happening in seventh- and eighth-grade. What's happening in high school. What's happening in elementary," but details about individual schools will come sometime in the near future.

Drati invited Jacqueline Mora, SMMUSD's assistant

SEE **DISTANCE-LEARNING** PAGE 11

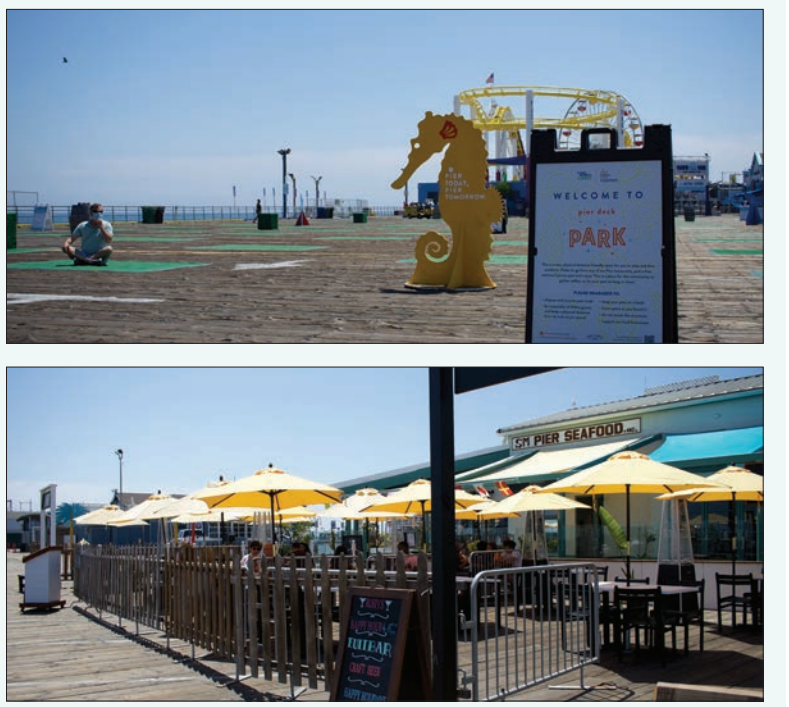
Public libraries look to continue services despite COVID

ASHLEY NAPIER
SMDP Intern

Santa Monica public libraries and recreation services remain closed as they uphold social distancing regulations, but a push for independent, online learning and emergency community support has residents hoping the departments will open soon.

In July, the Santa Monica Unified School District announced all classes starting in the Fall will be conducted online over Zoom to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As students and parents grapple with the fact that learning will be conducted out of the home, the Santa Monica Public

SEE **LIBRARIES** PAGE 11





Photos by Sammy Neustadt

WEEKEND FUN: Local residents took the opportunity this weekend to responsibly enjoy the outdoors at the pier, beach and various eating establishments, which are taking extra precautions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Ex-UCLA coach pleads guilty to accepting $200K in bribes

BY ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

A former University of California, Los Angeles men's soccer coach pleaded guilty Monday to accepting $200,000 in bribes to help two students get into the school as recruits.

Jorge Salcedo, 47, admitted to participating in the college admissions bribery scheme involving TV celebrities, other wealthy parents and elite universities across the country.

Salcedo was paid $100,000 to help California couple Bruce and Davina Isackson get their daughter into UCLA as a bogus soccer recruit, prosecutors said. The Isacksons have also pleaded guilty and have been cooperating with authorities in the hope of getting a lighter sentence.

Salcedo also took a $100,000 bribe from the admissions consultant at the center of the scheme, Rick Singer, to "recruit" the son of Xiaoning Sui, of Surrey, British Columbia, to his team, authorities said. Singer and Sui have also pleaded guilty.

Salcedo pleaded guilty to a racketeering conspiracy charge in a hearing held in front of a Boston federal court judge via videoconference because of the coronavirus pandemic.

U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani said she would decide whether to accept his plea deal at a later date after further review.

He's the sixth coach to plead guilty in the high-profile case. Three other coaches are fighting the charges.

The coaches were paid in exchange for labeling students as recruits for sports they didn't play to help them get into the schools, authorities said. Other parents paid bribes to have someone cheat on their kids entrance exams.

Nearly 30 prominent parents have pleaded guilty in the case dubbed "Operation Varsity Blues."

They include "Desperate Housewives" star Felicity Huffman, who admitted to paying $15,000 to have someone rig her daughter's SAT score.

"Full House" actor Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, have pleaded guilty to paying half a million dollars to get their daughters into the University of Southern California.

The famous couple is scheduled to be sentenced in August. If the judge accepts their plea deals, Loughlin will be sentenced to two months behind bars and Giannulli will get five months.

Whitey Bulger's girlfriend completes prison sentence

BOSTON (AP)

The longtime girlfriend of late Boston gangster James "Whitey" Bulger has completed her federal prison sentence and moved in with her twin sister.

Federal agents removed Catherine Greig's electronic monitoring bracelet Thursday, WBZ-TV reported.

Greig, 69, spent the last year of her sentence living under home confinement with Bulger's relatives in the affluent Boston suburb of Hingham. She's moving back to her hometown of South Boston.

Her sister, Margaret McCusker, said she is "thrilled" that her sister's sentence is over.

Kevin Reddington, Greig's attorney, told The Boston Globe that his client is "an incredible woman" and he was happy that she is now free. "I'm very happy things have gone full circle for her."

Greig joined Bulger on the run in 1995 shortly after he fled Boston to evade a federal racketeering indictment. The couple was captured in 2011 in Santa Monica.

She was sentenced to eight years in prison for helping Bulger evade capture, and an additional 21 months for refusing to testify before grand juries.

Bulger was serving a life sentence for 11 murders when he was beaten to death by fellow inmates at a West Virginia prison in October 2018. He was 89.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 251 CALLS ON JULY 26

Petty Theft Just Occurred 1600Blk Cloverfield Blvd 12:00 AM
Trespassing 900Blk 6Th St 12:02 AM
Trespassing 500Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:23 AM
Injured Person Main St / Hill St 12:39 AM
Report of Shots Fired 1800Blk 17Th St 12:44 AM
Report of Shots Fired 1400Blk Pico Blvd 12:45 AM
Party Complaint 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 12:46 AM
Disturbance at a Business 2500Blk Main St 12:50 AM
Party Complaint 3000Blk 3Rd St 1:28 AM
ENCAMPMENT 400Blk Palisades Park 1:40 AM
Disturbance at a Business 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:03 AM
Party Complaint 200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:21 AM
Party Complaint 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:56 AM
Burglary Just Occurred 3100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:46 AM
Armed Robbery Just Occurred 2500Blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:51 AM
Family Disturbance 2200Blk Colorado Ave 3:52 AM
Party Complaint 300Blk California Ave 4:36 AM
Domestic Violence Report 300Blk Civic Center Dr 5:43 AM
Petty Theft Now 500Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:45 AM
Indecent Exposure Now 500Blk Colorado Ave 7:55 AM
Disturbance at a Business 1600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:17 AM
Disturbance at a Business 700Blk Montana Ave 8:39 AM
Indecent Exposure Now 2500Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:52 AM
Pedestrian Stop 7Th St / Taft Way 8:58 AM
Pedestrian Stop Main St / Bay St 9:00 AM
Indecent Exposure Now 500Blk Colorado Ave 9:00 AM
Traffic Collision with Injuries City Prop Involved Barnard Way / Wadsworth Ave 9:08 AM
Trespassing 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 9:11 AM
Grand Theft Auto Report 2900Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:25 AM
Auto Burglary Report 1700Blk Bryn Mawr Ave 10:30 AM
Burglary Report 1800Blk 10Th St 11:12 AM
Disturbance at a Business 2000Blk Lincoln Blvd 11:26 AM
Disturbance at a Business 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 11:29 AM
Battery Just Occurred 2300Blk 26Th St 11:38 AM
Petty Theft Report 1200Blk 3Rd Street Prom 11:46 AM
Malicious Mischief Report 1600Blk San Vicente Blvd 12:13 PM
Trespassing 1300Blk 14Th St 12:31 PM
Disturbance at a Business 1500Blk 2Nd St 12:31 PM
Trespassing 300Blk San Vicente Blvd 1:00 PM
Disturbance at a Business 300Blk Pico Blvd 1:07 PM
Petty Theft Report 1200Blk 3Rd Street Prom 1:09 PM
Petty Theft Report 1200Blk 3Rd Street Prom 1:09 PM
Petty Theft Report 1300Blk 20Th St 1:38 PM
Grand Theft Report 800Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:52 PM
Disturbance at a Business 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:15 PM
Auto Burglary Report 1100Blk 7Th St 2:17 PM
Rape Report 1800Blk Euclid St 2:21 PM
Petty Theft Report 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 2:22 PM
Malicious Mischief Report 900Blk 3Rd St 2:37 PM
Pedestrian Stop 1900Blk The Beach 2:52 PM
Petty Theft Report 1800Blk 10Th St 2:54 PM
Person with a Gun 500Blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:13 PM
ENCAMPMENT 4Th St / Ocean Park Blvd 3:28 PM
Disturbance at a Business 600Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:38 PM
Bike Theft Report 100Blk California Ave 3:43 PM
Fight 4Th St / Broadway 3:59 PM
Pedestrian Stop 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 4:34 PM
Periodic Check 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 4:36 PM
Periodic Check 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:03 PM
Pedestrian Stop 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:15 PM
Disturbance at a Business 2400Blk Main St 5:15 PM
Trespassing 1600Blk San Vicente Blvd 5:26 PM
Drunk Driving Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 5:29 PM
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2600Blk Lincoln Blvd 5:43 PM
Disturbance at a Business 3200Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:47 PM
Petty Theft Report 500Blk California Ave 5:49 PM
Disturbance at a Business 1500Blk Ocean Ave 5:53 PM
Trespassing 400Blk Broadway 6:08 PM
Burglary Report 1500Blk 6Th St 6:12 PM
Illegal Weapon 2Nd St / Colorado Ave 6:19 PM
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:22 PM
Periodic Check 300Blk Civic Center Dr 7:26 PM
Petty Theft Report 1300Blk 20Th St 7:31 PM
Burglary Report 1300Blk Ocean Ave 7:32 PM
Fraud Report 2000Blk Ocean Front Walk 7:40 PM
Periodic Check 700Blk 21St Pl 7:50 PM
Petty Theft Report 1500Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:51 PM
Pedestrian Stop 1300Blk 2Nd St 8:27 PM
Drunk Driving Investigation 100Blk Hart Ave 8:50 PM
Disturbance at a Business 600Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:50 PM
ENCAMPMENT 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 8:55 PM
Report of Shots Fired 400Blk Hollister Ave 8:57 PM
ENCAMPMENT 1200Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:27 PM
Disturbance at a Business 1500Blk 2Nd St 9:38 PM
Indecent Exposure Now 1500Blk Ocean Ave 9:47 PM
Fight 2Nd St / Broadway 10:02 PM
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1600Blk Ocean Ave 10:13 PM
Stalking Report 1900Blk Warwick Ave 10:17 PM
Disturbance at a Business 2600Blk Lincoln Blvd 10:26 PM

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 32 CALLS ON JULY 27

Water Heater Rupture 900Blk 21St St 12:24 AM
E.M.S. 1300Blk 15Th St 10:14 PM
Flooded Condition 2300Blk Schader Dr 10:04 PM
E.M.S. 1500Blk Ocean Ave 7:44 PM
E.M.S. 1200Blk Ocean Ave 7:44 PM
Automatic Alarm 2900Blk 31St St 7:07 PM
Traffic Collision with Injury Centinela Ave / Interstate 10 5:58 PM
Automatic Alarm 800Blk 4Th St 5:50 PM
E.M.S. 1400Blk Centinela Ave 5:31 PM
E.M.S. 1000Blk 11Th St 4:52 PM
E.M.S. 26Th St / Marguerita Ave 4:27 PM
E.M.S. 4Th St / Broadway 4:02 PM
E.M.S. 300Blk 16Th St 3:42 PM
E.M.S. 2900Blk Main St 3:12 PM
Public Assist 600Blk Kensington Rd 2:40 PM
E.M.S. 19Th St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:36 PM
E.M.S. 200Blk Arizona Ave 2:11 PM
Automatic Alarm 2400Blk Montana Ave 10:55 AM
E.M.S. 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 10:37 AM
E.M.S. 400Blk 21St Pl 10:05 AM
E.M.S. Barnard Way / Wadsworth Ave 9:09 AM
Wires Down 7Th St / Ashland Ave 8:39 AM
E.M.S. 800Blk 2Nd St 8:28 AM
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 6Th St / Hollister Ave 6:08 AM
E.M.S. 900Blk 3Rd St 5:54 AM
E.M.S. 300Blk San Vicente Blvd 4:21 AM
Commericial Structure Fire 25Th St / Wilshire Blvd 2:06 AM
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:04 AM
Automatic Alarm 1200Blk 15Th St 1:20 AM
E.M.S. 1000Blk 2Nd St 12:45 AM
E.M.S. Main St / Hill St 12:39 AM
E.M.S. 10Th St / Arizona Ave 12:28 AM



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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

HOMELESS TSUNAMI IS COMING

As 'professor' Howard Hill would say, "Well, ya got trouble, my friend, right here, I say, trouble right here in River City," and that trouble is a looming crisis of epic proportions. Anyone who has been paying attention to what is happening in this world is aware of the current unemployment rates, the ending of the "bonus" of $600 a week from the government and the fear that is brewing across the country. The trouble that we've got brewing in our happy little burg is a potential onslaught of homelessness, the likes of which has not been seen since the Great Depression, if even then.

Here's what is happening and what I think we need to do about it.

Approximately 28 million Americans are unemployed right now and falling behind in their payments on rent and mortgages. In the month of June approximately 32% of homeowners didn't make their full mortgage payment. That's bad — really, really bad. Now some of them are actually taking advantage of a perceived ability to be in forbearance and hoard their cash so that they can do other things with it. These people are in a financial position that allows them to make the 'catch up' payments that are going to come due when the forbearance ends. Most are not that lucky, and are just playing with fire.

For the tenants who are thinking that they can avoid paying their rent during this forbearance period, they have a rude awakening coming. While the eviction process is on hold in Santa Monica (we have a moratorium until Sept. 30, on evictions) this is not a period of "Free Rent" or "Cancelled Rent." The protesters who want to "Cancel Rent" are living in a dream world of some Utopian fantasy that completely ignores any semblance of reality and basic social economies. It may look and sound like a happy little way to make life okay for those tenants to just "cancel rent" but someone else is left holding the debt that monthly rents pay.

I realize that many social activists have an innate hatred of landlords and property owners, just on principle. But that's an inane position to take and it has no grounding in practicality. Landlords and property owners provide needed services that allow our society to function, and the rent that they collect is the lifeblood of keeping everything flowing. Contrary to the social justice warriors who think owners are just social vampires, the truth is property owners are like the Red Cross — they gather the much-needed blood from those who can afford to give and move it to places where it's needed like banks and vendors, who in turn use it to keep companies and services engaged.

Here's how it goes: I pay my rent. My landlord then pays the building's gardener, the plumber, the HVAC guy, the utilities. He has some of the rent money to feed his kids by shopping at the grocery store, which employs clerks and stockers, who then pay their rent, and their landlords pay their gardeners, plumbers and utilities, and the ripple effect of my rent keeps hundreds of people financially alive.

What we have brewing is this: if renters don't pay their rent, then landlords can't pay their service providers and their mortgages. So, the flow of money gets interrupted, then the banks start to get nervous and pull back their credit for the landlords, who then have to start eviction proceedings.

The tenants who thought they could get 'caught up' are now months behind and realize they can't make rent, because the jobs aren't there, and now they're faced with losing their homes. This means that two things are going to happen: 1) people are going to consolidate and start sharing housing on an even greater scale, which will actually increase the rate of infections of COVID19 and that creates its own set of problems, or 2) they will become homeless.

This is bad news for Santa Monica. We can expect to see our population of homeless increase by an unknown factor, but if it doubles, I will not be surprised. We need to be planning for this as a probability today because it will be here before we know it. We have to remember that the moratoriums will not last forever, and in some states, they are already expiring, which means those people will be looking at a winter of homelessness. Our capacity to handle the problems associated with this coming tsunami will not be enough, so we have to work in partnership with our neighboring cities.

We will need to provide additional street cleaning, bathroom facilities and emergency housing in order to avoid outbreaks of other diseases that are associated with an increased homeless population. We know what we are facing, a very tragic winter, and now is when we have to prepare for it.

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Your column here

By Mary Marlow

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

THE "PLAZA" - A VERY BAD DEAL FOR THE CITY AND ITS RESIDENTS

A CAUTIONARY TALE: VILLAGE TRAILER PARK AND PROFIT-MAKING FOR DEVELOPERS AT RESIDENTS' EXPENSE

In 2013, the City Council approved construction of a large market rate residential project on property that housed a thriving mobile home park community known as Village Trailer Park (VTP). The developer who got the approval had bought VTP a few years earlier and had the property rezoned for its new project . After City approval, the residents, many of whom had lived in affordable trailers they owned for decades, were forced to move.

Significantly, under its development agreement with the City, the VTP developer could sell its valuable economic rights to build and profit from the project to someone else. And that's exactly what it did. The developer purchased the property for $4.5 million and within a year of receiving the lucrative entitlements to build the units from the City, it sold the property to a major investment firm for $60 million. https://www.smdp.com/travesty-planning-proportions/148938

Now, we have another potential developer profit-making deal in the works – this time involving the biggest parcel of land in our downtown - on OUR public land; our 2.5 acres at 4th/5th and Arizona.

The developers are two real estate investment firms skilled in finding undervalued properties, getting approvals to develop them, and then selling their interests, profiting and moving on. DLJ Real Estate Capital Partners is based in New York and manages billions of dollars in real estate private equity funds. http://www2.dljrecp.com/

It's other partner, Clarett West Development was formed in 2011 after its parent equity firm (Clarett Group) failed in a global market downturn. https://la.curbed.com/2011/3/14/10478058/whats-going-on-with-clarett-group https://www.latimes.com/business/la-xpm-2011-jun-10-la-fi-hollywood-project-20110610-story.html

As private equity investment firms, their loyalties are to their investors, not to our city or its residents. This means that the future of the Plaza project could be transferred to new, unknown buyers like VTP once the entitlements to build vest.

In this case, the property isn't theirs – it's ours but under the agreement with the City it would be controlled by them (or their successors). Under their proposed agreement, these developers want the right to develop and use our public land for a luxury hotel, office and retail project for up to 99 years under a ground lease. Yes, up to 99 years!

Moreover, our City is actually a partner in this arrangement because we, the public own the land. Likewise, we residents are a third partner because it is public land, so whether it remains a public asset, usable by the public, or privatized land, is a big deal.

If the City grants these developers the same rights it granted the developer of Village Trailer Park, they will have the right to not build anything for up to 10 years and also have the right to sell or assign their entire interest to some other entity – a new unknown partner with the City and us. And yes, those entitlements, as with Village Trailer Park, are worth a lot of money once the development agreement is signed.

Should our City be undertaking this level of risk with potentially short-term equity partners to develop our public land for up to 100 years? What if whoever ends up as the developer here can't (or claims it can't) build a revenue-generating project as the result of a changing economic reality? What if it's simply no longer sufficiently profitable for them to build a luxury office/hotel project in Santa Monica? What happens then?

By that time it's quite possible that these developers will be long gone, leaving our City on precarious footing with little or no control over our land and a new partner who wants something entirely different to make its project "pencil out."

Village Trailer Park was an eye-opening experience for this City in how little the City got for the community in exchange for enriching a private developer under the deal it negotiated.

It would be unacceptable for it to happen again – on our public land. Residents will be watching this Tuesday night to see if the City Council votes to go forward despite the clear risks in partnering with these developers or whether it votes to end this project and retain the public land. Residents will hold the City accountable. Count on it.

Mary Marlow, Santa Monica resident

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Inside/Outside

By Michael Feinstein
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Opportunities and Choices at 5th & Arizona

Tonight, the City Council will take next steps in the redevelopment of a 2.57-acre site at the corner of 5th/Arizona in downtown Santa Monica. Purchased with public funds, the site combines nine contiguous parcels, including several surface parking lots and two one-story banks - low-scale commercial uses no longer appropriate for a modern urban core.

Envisioning what should occur there goes back a long time. How have such visions evolved? What do they tell us about our choices today?

MOVI(E)NG TARGETS

Discussion of purchasing and redeveloping the 5th/Arizona site was already underway in the late 1990s/early 2000 when I was on the City Council. One objective was to expand downtown movie theater uses, but with more modern multi-screen theaters, and anchored by a well-known movie theater company.

During the 1980s and 1990s, the Third Street Promenade theaters were a big draw. People who came for movies stayed and spent money at our shops and restaurants, generating enormous economic benefit for the City. 'If we expanded theatre uses to 5th/Arizona', the thinking went, 'this would expand that successful formula and our commercial district' to a sleepy part of our downtown.

But since then, cable television and digital technologies have substantially altered movie-viewing and disrupted the theater industry; and Arc Light Cinemas developed a theater on top of Santa Monica Place instead. Today no one is proposing new movie theaters for 5th/Arizona.

PARK ONCE

A second objective related to parking. Since 1986, Santa Monica's approach to downtown parking has been to generally waive on-site parking requirements for new development. In exchange, a fee is paid into an assessment district to secure bond financing to build multiple public parking structures, mostly along 2nd and 4th street. Then came the 1994 Northridge Earthquake - the 2nd/Colorado parking structure suffered damage, and new seismic safety standards were enacted statewide. This meant the City would need to retrofit and/or rebuild its existing parking structures downtown.

Enter the Downtown Uses Task Force in 2001/2002, which I chaired as Mayor. We adopted a "Park Once" approach, which included re-distributing some parking to other parts of downtown, both to lessen traffic congestion on 4th St. (from people getting off the I-10 freeway to get to the existing structures), and to increase pedestrian flow in more of the downtown. The underground parking at the new downtown Main Public Library, which opened in 2006, is part of that approach. So would be new underground parking at 5th/Arizona.

URBAN FABRIC

Between 2007 and 2010, the City (and its former Redevelopment Agency) purchased the parcels to assemble the 5th/Arizona site. Then in 2010, public meetings began for its potential use, which I attended. Most comments centered around creating a different kind of urban fabric than the super-blocks that make up the rest of downtown, including different kinds of open space than we had elsewhere in the city.

Based upon this, what I anticipated was something along the lines of an old European city center, with pedestrian-only walkways and plazas interspersed within the site. For the buildings, I imagined something like the famous St. Lawrence Market in Toronto, that contains over 120 specialty food vendors, along with cultural, retail and office uses. Because this is Santa Monica, there would also be a strong housing component.

But instead of granular 'old Europe', the proposed design unveiled in 2013 was 'The Plaza at Santa Monica' - a 148 foot high, super-modern stack of rectangular modules containing mostly office space, housing and a hotel — with ground floor and second level open space dedicated to the public.

In 2015 the City Council voted to reduce the project's proposed floor area and office space; while the major public benefit objectives were prioritized as (1) open space, (2) affordable housing, (3) cultural space, (4) parking, and (5) ground rent. Then in 2017, the Council adopted the Downtown Community Plan (DCP), which established maximum heights of 130 feet for the DCP's newly created Established Large Site Overlay zone, in which the project lay, and at least 50% open space of the total parcel area, with a minimum of 25% at ground floor and 25% 'without a regulated location.'

OPEN SPACE

Today's Plaza proposal surpasses that 50% minimum, with a Main Plaza open space on the ground and second levels of the project. There would be green space in both levels; but also programmed lunchtime concerts, kiosks, a free lending library, classes, events, and large-scale gatherings like the annual downtown winter ice-skating rink.

But as is, it's not enough. For this to really work as a great urban open space, the City also needs to commit to expand it by making Arizona Ave. pedestrian-only between 4th and 5th. The City Council should give direction to City Staff tonight to begin that planning process, so that it is ready to go when the Plaza is finally built (if ultimately approved) - and perhaps as importantly - to encourage compatible development nearby.

In that vein, the Council should direct Staff to work with the new property owner who purchased the rights to the former US Post Office building across Arizona at 5th. The previous owner had acquired the rights to

SEE **INSIDE/OUTSIDE** PAGE 11

8 California counties are latest coronavirus hotspots

BY KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — As coronavirus cases spike in California's vast Central Valley, the state will send strike teams and tens of millions of dollars to eight counties to speed up testing, help infected people quarantine and assist overwhelmed health care workers, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday.

The state is aiming for every infected person to transmit the virus to fewer than one other person, but in several Central Valley counties the spread is happening more often, said Dr. Mark Ghaly, head of the California Health and Human Services Agency.

"We have a great deal of work to do to get transmission rates down here in the Central Valley," Ghaly said.

Ghaly and the governor spoke at an almond company in Stockton, a city that's driving the increase in cases in San Joaquin County. The eight counties targeted by state officials are Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Tulare and Stanislaus counties. All have test positivity rates between roughly 11% and 18%, which is above the state's goal of 8%.

In Kern County, cases increased by more than 161% over a two-week period, the highest of any of the eight counties, according to state data.

The focus on the Central Valley comes after months of attention largely on Los Angeles, home to a quarter of the state's population and a coronavirus hot spot, and the San Francisco Bay Area, which implemented some of the nation's strictest shut down measures. In the early weeks of the pandemic, rural California wasn't hit as hard as more urban areas.

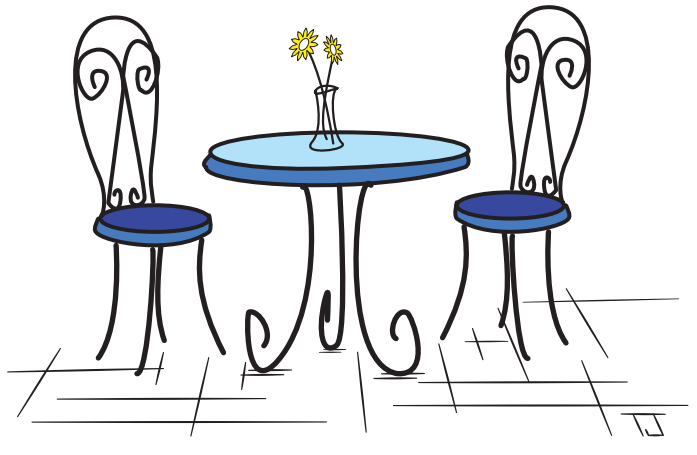
The Monday announcement came days after Newsom pledged to do more to help California's Latinos, who are the majority of workers in many essential jobs in the heavily agricultural Central Valley.

Newsom said the state will send three regional "strike teams" into the Central Valley, modeled after an approach to rising infections in Imperial County earlier this year. The teams of state workers will assist local public health, community and medical organizations to improve testing, contact tracing, public education and hospital surge planning.

Specifically, the teams will assess outbreaks in factories, nursing homes, high-density housing and agricultural settings.

The $52 million is part of a half-billion dollar federal investment to help the state tackle the virus. A total of about $286 million will go to local governments.

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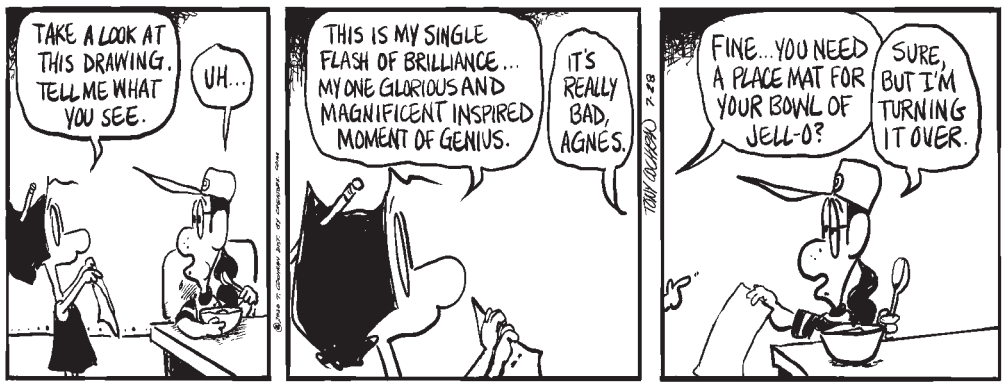
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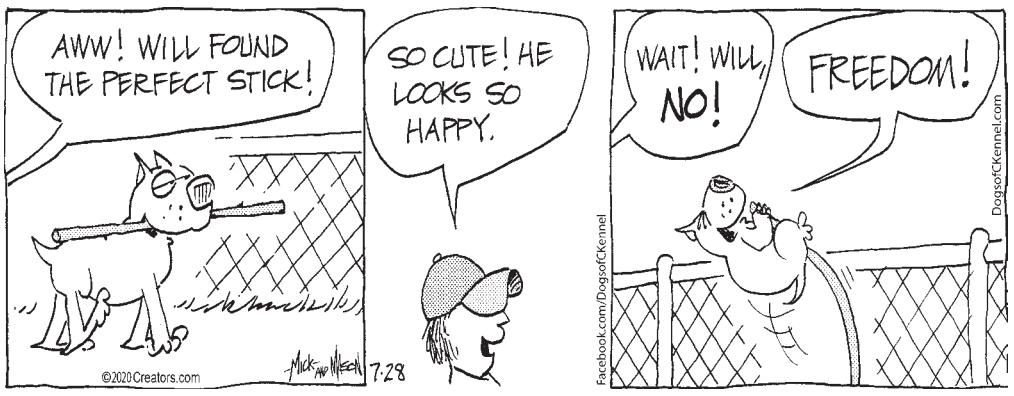
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

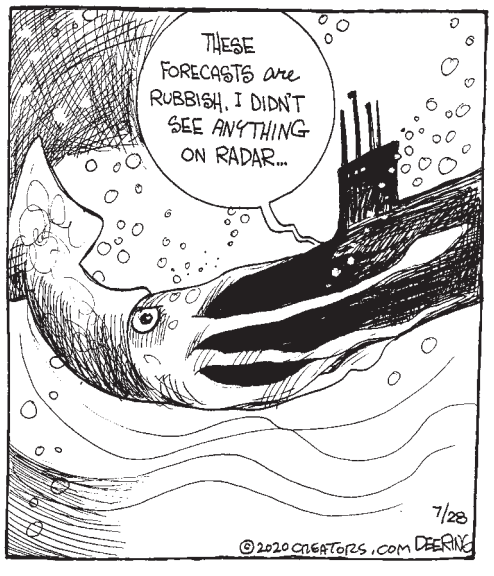
By PETER GALLAGHER



"I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD A GROOVY VAN."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 62.4°

TUESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to
Small mix of SSW and SSE swells continue. Minor NW energy.

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Small mix of SSW and SSE swells lingers. Minor NW energy.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 71.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 62.
Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 71.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 62.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 73.

Date	Day of the Week	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/07/28	Tue	05:01 AM	3.35	H
2020/07/28	Tue	10:11 AM	1.90	L
2020/07/28	Tue	5:07 PM	5.67	H
2020/07/29	Wed	12:32 AM	0.57	L
2020/07/29	Wed	06:44 AM	3.35	H
2020/07/29	Wed	11:20 AM	2.25	L
2020/07/29	Wed	6:03 PM	5.99	H
2020/07/30	Thu	01:32 AM	-0.05	L
2020/07/30	Thu	08:01 AM	3.59	H
2020/07/30	Thu	12:24 PM	2.41	L
2020/07/31	Fri	7:45 PM	6.47	H
2020/08/01	Sat	03:05 AM	-0.79	L
2020/08/01	Sat	09:35 AM	4.04	H
2020/08/01	Sat	2:13 PM	2.34	L
2020/08/01	Sat	8:30 PM	6.58	H
2020/08/02	Sun	03:45 AM	-0.89	L
2020/08/02	Sun	10:11 AM	4.17	H
2020/08/02	Sun	2:57 PM	2.24	L
2020/08/02	Sun	9:10 PM	6.56	H
2020/08/03	Mon	04:21 AM	-0.83	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:07/25
5 21 36 61 62
Power#: 18
Jackpot:126 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 07/24
8 33 39 54 58
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 20 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 07/25
8 10 12 35 39
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 9 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 07/26
9 10 17 30 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 07/26
Evening: 8 1 0
Draw Date: 07/26
Midday: 4 6 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 07/26
1st: 7 - EUREKA
2nd: 8-GORGEOUS GEORGE
3rd: 5 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
RACE TIME: 1:42.63

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 (JULY 28)

You're highly adaptable, and you'll seize the chance to get out of your usual routine and try on a different lifestyle for a time. You'll experience who you are differently. New relationships sparkle up your world. A family influence can assist you in a goal that affects your whole crew. You only have to get the ball rolling. Libra and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 40, 2, 17 and 14.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There are certain things you feel you know about your future self, as you've had glimpses of the person you're growing into. To fuel the vision is in no way a rejection of who you are now. Your vision guides with a loving push.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You like some of what's going on now, but you also know that it doesn't take too long for "more of the same" to feel like a trap. You'll resist complacency and order something different off of the menu of life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Relationships are more important than whatever it is that's being exchanged inside them. You don't think of people in terms of what they can do for you, but some people do. Avoid those who are gunning for short-term gains.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). To have a place for everything and everything in that place is an achievable ideal. Maybe things will not stay that way for long, but once established, it's a state that can be returned to with minimal effort.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Most of the wins come from being in the right headspace to cross the goal line. The actual movement matters less than the mindset that's making you move.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The status quo has impressive muscles and will flex them to intimidate change. If you let them, things will go back to the way they were. What are you willing to do to stop it?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You receive the gift of cosmic clarity and will be motivated by what you learn. You'll identify a specific area you could improve on, and you'll see an easy, workable way to this end.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're committed to being helpful, and it has only led to better things. People value you and will ask appropriately. Nothing you give diminishes you. All that you give makes you bigger.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Everyone stumbles, but not everyone gets back up. Build a fail-safe into your plan so that when you fall down, it will be very obvious what you need to do next to spring back.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're ready to try a new approach. You just need a good subject. Pick either someone who already seems up for it or someone who so sorely needs help that any involvement is a step up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Doing too many things at once can be a method of self-sabotage. Decide where to focus, and then be strict with yourself. Master one skill. Get that in your bones before you do anything else.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Have a conversation about what the issue is. You don't want to waste your time digging down into the wrong place. Listen to your emotions and they will show you just the spot to work on.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

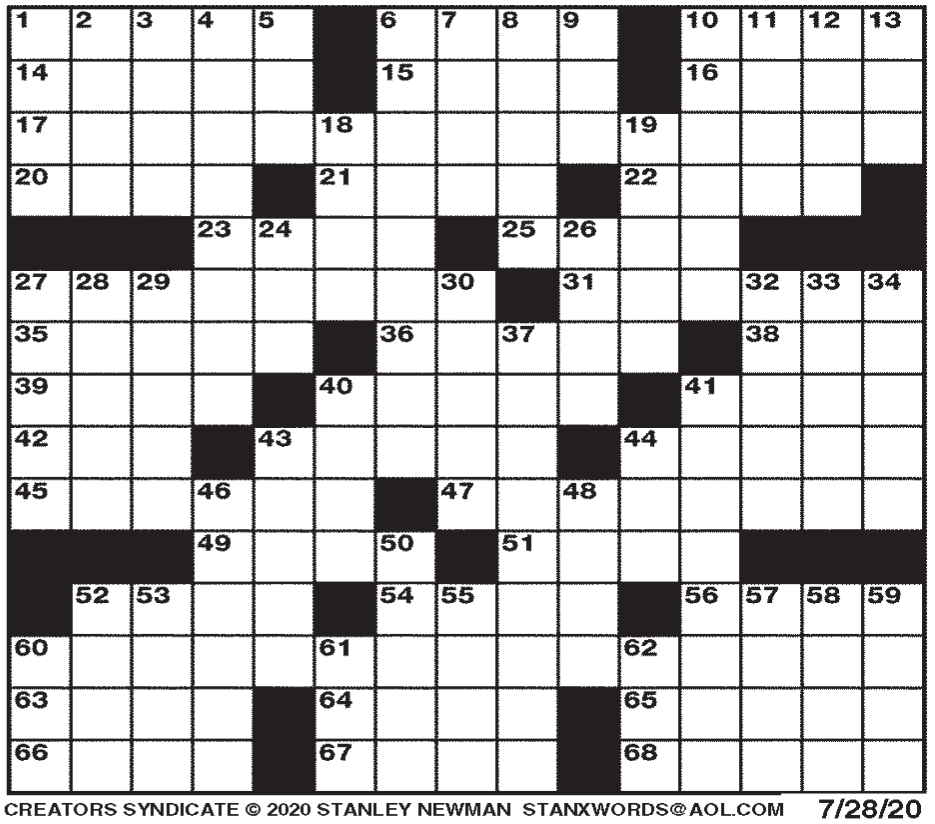
3		5	8	1		4		
	4			9		8		
6						9		
	5				8		6	
8		6		3		1		2
	3		6				9	
		4						9
		1		8			5	
		3		5	2	6		7

Newsday Crossword

IT'S A DATE by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Any carbonated drinks
6 Make preparations
10 Measure of carbs on nutrition labels
14 Readily apparent
15 __ cost (free)
16 Wyatt of the Old West
17 Lincoln's Birthday
20 Prefix for freeze
21 Very hard to find
22 Large winery containers
23 Cutlet meat
25 "Three-piece" business attire
27 With 47 Across, Veterans Day
31 Advertising catchphrase
35 WWII submarine
36 Entryways of fences
38 Be regretful about
39 Lopsided win
40 Duos
41 Musical postscript
42 Fraction of a minute: Abbr.
43 Heart's beat
44 Characteristic
45 Alias for the note F
47 See 27 Across
49 Compact-__ player (audio device)
51 Scottish girl
52 Scottish boys
54 Slugger's stats, for short
56 Group in a movie
60 Pearl Harbor Day
63 More than
64 Fencing sword
65 Concave navel, informally
66 Sound of a snake
67 The latest current events
68 Rear part of a ship

DOWN
1 Couch in a den
2 Appliance for baking
3 Amount owed
4 Get to, as a destination
5 Trio after R
6 Law firm aide
7 Long distance in astronomy: Abbr.
8 Initial poker payments
9 Right this second
10 Italian ice cream
11 Castaway's escape platform
12 __ and crafts
13 Speedometer display: Abbr.
18 Typical Saudi citizen
19 Lesser of two __
24 CPR expert
26 Presses into service
27 Health care professional
28 Woodwind instruments
29 __ for (verify)
30 Uplift
32 Moan and __
33 Financial inspection
34 Poetic opposite of o'er
37 Garden lattices
40 Young pooches
41 Pointy lunar phase
43 Spectrum-showing crystal
44 Sports bar screens, for short
46 People finding sums
48 Make less complicated
50 Fancy pancake
52 Strauss of jeans
53 Scores 100% on
55 Prepare, as hot tea
57 Oscar actress Hathaway
58 Mix with a spoon
59 At that time
60 Homer Simpson shout
61 Founding Father Franklin's nickname
62 __ *for Vengeance* (Grafton book)



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 7/28/20

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

		0					1				
			0								
	1		0				0			1	
							0				
						1					
		0			0			1			0
										1	
1	0		1		0	0					0
								0			
			0								1
				1	1			0		0	1
0	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 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 4823

Weekend sport

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

Achieve	Fish	Javelin	Skip
Arena	Flag	Join	Squash
Avid	Fly	Judo	Strive
Catch	Gala	Kick	Surf
Champion	Games	League	Swim
Club	Goal	Loser	Team
Crew	Golf	Oval	Trot
Cups	Grit	Races	Vault
Discus	Gymnasium	Rink	Volleyball
Fast	Heats	Rugby	Yoga
Field	Hike	Sailboard	
Fights	Hunt	Score	
Final	Hurdle	Side	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Exploring the city of churches

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DISTANCE-LEARNING

FROM PAGE 1

superintendent of Educational Services, to speak about the expectations that have been set forth by school administrators, counselors, nurses, and teachers who participated in the various reopening plan discussions, which originally began back in May.

"We have been engaging in this process around highlighting best practices and learning from our success in order to best address the areas of growth that were identified not only by our families and students but by our teachers as practitioners who are continuously seeking to grow and learn and expand their practice," Mora said, detailing how the district's teaching groups have been partly responsible for delineating expectations across grade levels that correspond to the state's standards.

"We continue to engage, and refine and clarify what the expectations are," but working group participants have attempted to provide schools with a common weekly schedule so sites can then formulate exactly what their day-to-day schedules will look like as long as they meet certain criteria and expectations, Mora said, detailing how live instruction is now something that will occur daily.

She also shared during her presentation that the district hopes students and teachers will incorporate independent learning projects, performance tasks and common assessments that will monitor student learning and progress throughout the Fall.

"As we think about the information these assessments give to us, we also have to begin to plan and coordinate how we will be addressing the learning loss and providing extra supports for our special populations," Mora said, before Drati later described parents as equal partners in the venture to support students.

"Everyone is struggling with the pandemic — the staff, the parents, the whole community — and this is a nightmare but we are resilient people," Drati said, but many hands make light work.

"That is how we do this," the superintendent said, "as a team. If we do that, then we will be successful." Brennon@smdp.com

LIBRARIES

FROM PAGE 1

Library administration has sought to ease the burden by offering free curbside pickup and multiple online programs for children, teens and adults.

SMPL's Youth and Family Services Coordinator Lenore St. John understands the community is experiencing unprecedented times, but she belives the library has diligently worked to overcome the burden and provide great service to their Santa Monica patrons. In fact, according to St. John, the Main branch library, which is located on Santa Monica Blvd. has already begun a contactless pickup service, and community members can virtually look through the library's catalog at smpl.org or call the Santa Monica Public Library at 310-458-8600 to schedule an appointment to pick up books.

"We will be extending those services to (the) Montana and Pico (locations) in the near future," St. John said as she explained how the library's mission is to make reading fun and exciting this summer. "Even though it's been a bit different than what it's been in the past."

SMPL has also extended its Grab and Go Programs to the Virginia Avenue Park location where they have partnered with The Free Summer Meal Program, which provides one pre-packaged bag of food for low-income Santa Monica residents and those with children enrolled at SMMUSD by appointment. The park also hosts a summer lunch program for children who are 18-years-old or younger. Children who show up for the meal program are also invited to pick up an activity kit, "and book packs aimed at inspiring active learning at home," according to St. John. The kits are made accessible through a grant provided by The California State Library and families participating in the free summer lunch program at the local park are invited to pick up grab-and go-library kits on Aug. 5 and Aug. 12 between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The library has begun utilizing progressive methods to reach patrons through their new online platforms. Patrons of the library can access current summer programs through smpl.org/onlinePrograms as well as through the Library's social media accounts.

QUICK NOTES:

The Summer Reading Program is now available through a new virtual reading assistance platform called Beanstack. Patrons can create a profile through infidel.beanstack.org, where they are able to track their summer reading, participate in fun reading challenges, and earn points to be entered into a prize drawing where the winner receives a book bundle.

Although the future is uncertain, the SMPL and Santa Monica Community and Cultural Services Department expects to continue to provide these essential programs to community members in need.

Editor@smdp.com

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

FROM PAGE 6

build a divisive fence around that historic site. The new owners appear more community-minded, and should be encouraged to plan for an open use that is synergistic with a pedestrian-only Arizona Ave. and Main Plaza. Similar discussions should occur with the owners of the unremarkable adjacent big box at 4th/Arizona, for when it is time to redevelop that site.

The Council also needs to focus on making the top level hotel bar/restaurant space accessible to the public. Views from there will be spectacular. To help justify the still extraordinary 129 feet height now proposed for the project, these views must not be restricted to only the most well-healed. This is a critical public access and economic class issue, especially because this hotel would be built upon public land.

Similarly, will public access to the ground and second-floor open spaces differ from the use of a public park, or from the Promenade? These spaces appears to be 'private space operated for the public', similar to the park at Broadway/26th in Colorado Place - but different because this is public land. If there were a free speech demonstration downtown, for example, would there be a difference between peoples' right to march on a pedestrian-only Arizona Ave. and to enter the ground level public space in the Plaza?

HOUSING AND PARKING

One approach that hasn't changed is concentrating new housing in the downtown and along commercial corridors. This is to minimize automobile dependency, by locating new housing near public transit lines; and to preserve existing residential neighborhood character and residents, by minimizing the pressure to tear down and redevelop our existing neighborhoods.

The City is already planning on taking down parking structure #3 (across street from the Plaza on 4th St. next to Wells Fargo) and putting housing there. Public parking from structure #3 would then be moved underground parking at the Plaza, and could be accessed via 5th St.

Above ground at the Plaza, the debate is whether to build new housing on-site, or take fees from the project and build off-site. Because California state building code mandates expensive metal construction for buildings of the Plaza's height, any new housing there would be more expensive than if built off-site. The developers are proposing this off-site approach, and offering the savings of $7.5 million back to the City. Together with standard off-site in-lieu housing fees, that would add up to $24 million to build more housing elsewhere downtown.

If the Council goes this route, they should formally dedicate these funds for this purpose, rather than just putting them into the City's General Fund — especially since redevelopment funds were used to purchase two of the site's parcels, and according to state law, a minimum of 20% of any redevelopment funds are supposed to go towards building low-income housing.

Michael Feinstein is a former Santa Monica Mayor (2000-2002) and City Councilmember (1996-2004) who voted for Santa Monica's first Living Wage ordinance in 2001. He can be reached via Twitter @mikefeinstein

'Inside/Outside' is a periodic column about civic affairs Feinstein writes for the Daily Press, that takes advantage of his experience inside and outside of government.*



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