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FRIDAY
08.07.20
Volume 19 Issue 222

Unemployment loss
Workers struggle without the additional payments.
Page 2

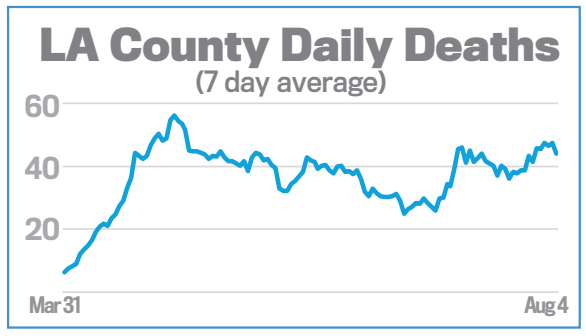
Marijuana Delivery
Cities and the state are in opposition.
Page 4

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CORONAVIRUS DEATHS per 100,000 in 5 Largest States

CALIFORNIA	TEXAS	FLORIDA	NEW YORK	PENNSYLVANIA
25.0	27.2	35.5	168.7	57.3

SMDP Graphic - Data from Johns Hopkins and SMDP





Clara Harter

MASKS: The Santa Monica Police Department has begun active enforcement of the city's mask ordinance. Officers were patrolling Montana Thursday and while they handed out masks, no tickets were issued.

Man arrested for Reed Park stabbing

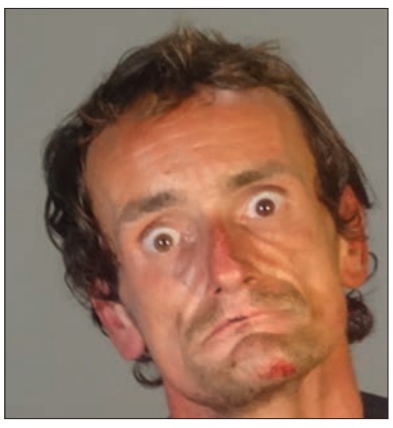
MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica Police Department has arrested a man for stabbing a homeless person in Reed Park.

Officers were called to the park at about 8:50 a.m. Thursday morning by a Downtown Ambassador who reported the suspect was waving a knife while walking through the park.

When officers arrived, they saw the man walk towards the center of

SEE **STABBING** PAGE 11



Courtesy photo

JOHN JAMES: SMPD arrested James for attempted murder.

County focuses on COVID disparities in affluent communities

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health officials noted the extreme disparities of COVID-19 cases and deaths within the county's affluent and impoverished areas Thursday, before urging members of the public to continue making efforts to ensure the safety of others.

The discussion, which featured remarks from Los Angeles County Health Officer Muntu Davis and Community Liaison Public Health Nurse Evelyn Gonzalez, occurred Thursday afternoon during a media briefing and covered a variety of statistics related to the pandemic, but Davis said DPH has focused its efforts on the contrasting numbers because it's important for the public to know different groups in the community are faring as it relates to Covid-19.

"As you've seen since early on in the pandemic, every area, every age group and every income level

SEE **COVID-19** PAGE 5

Running for change

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Daryl Murphy has run a 5K for 115 consecutive days and traveled a distance equivalent to driving from Palo Alto to Los Angeles, but the Westside resident doesn't intend to stop until he's raised $5,000 in the name of Breonna Taylor.

A 5K run is 3.1 miles. One can accomplish the feat by traveling from Veterans Park in Culver City down to the Santa Monica Pier or by leaving Palisades Park and heading towards Venice's famed Muscle Beach. But, most days, Murphy can be spotted simply jogging in local neighborhoods not too far from his home.

As an athlete who once competed in mid-distance races for the Ohio State University, Murphy once found himself running six to eight

SEE **5K** PAGE 11


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‘Worst nightmare’: Laid-off workers endure loss of $600 aid

SARAH SKIDMORE SELL AND PAUL WISEMAN
AP Business Writers

An unemployed makeup artist with two toddlers and a disabled husband needs help with food and rent. A hotel manager says his unemployment has deepened his anxiety and kept him awake at night. A dental hygienist, pregnant with her second child, is struggling to afford diapers and formula.

Around the country, across industries and occupations, millions of Americans thrown out of work because of the coronavirus are straining to afford the basics now that an extra $600 a week in federal unemployment benefits has expired.

“My worst nightmare is coming true,” said Liz Ness, a laid-off recruiter at a New Orleans staffing agency who fears she will be evicted next month without the added help from Washington. “Summer 2020 could be next year’s horror movie.”

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill are struggling to work out an agreement that would restore some federal jobless aid. Even if they do reach a deal, the amount is likely to be less than $600. And by the time the money starts flowing, it could be too late for many Americans who are already in dire straits

“Members of Congress may have the luxury to come to an agreement this week and vote next week and then roll it out over several weeks,” said Brian Gallagher, CEO of United Way Worldwide. “Families don’t have that luxury — they are out of money tomorrow.”

In the meantime, up to 30 million Americans, their jobs lost or income slashed by an outbreak that has paralyzed the economy and killed close to 160,000 people in the U.S., are trying to get by solely on state unemployment benefits, which on average are less than $400 a week.

On Thursday, the government said nearly 1.2 million laid-off Americans applied for unemployment last week. That is a decline from the previous week. Still, it was the 20th straight week that at least 1 million people sought jobless aid. Before the coronavirus, the number had never surpassed 700,000 in a single week.

The rescue package being worked out in Washington would contain more than $100 billion to help reopen schools, another round of $1,200 direct payments to most people, and hundreds of billions of dollars for state and local governments to help them avoid furloughing workers and cutting services as tax revenues shrivel.

Some Republicans in Congress argue that the extra $600 in unemployment benefits is so generous that it is discouraging people from going back to work. Several university studies have cast doubt on that. Economists and labor experts say that the benefits certain jobs carry, such as health care, can be enough for people to go back to work even if the pay is low.

Bethany Racobs-Ashford, the makeup artist with two small children, said the $600 had been a “lifeline.”

The 32-year-old Dallas resident was just entering the busy wedding season, when she typically earns the bulk of her income, when the outbreak struck, and she lost her job. Her state unemployment aid amounts to only about $828 a month.

“I don’t know what we’re going to do now,” she said.

Fearing eviction from their home, Racobs-Ashford and her family moved in with her 70-year-old mother. She worries about taking on a new job that could compromise her family’s health.

Jackilyn Lopez of Tucson, Arizona, said the $600 had been a “godsend” for her family since she lost her job as a hygienist in March, when most dental practices shut down. She and her husband have an 18-month old daughter, and Lopez is due to give birth in three weeks.

Her employer has reopened but has yet to recall Lopez. She feels fortunate that her husband has kept his job as an assembly worker at a laser manufacturer. But Lopez, 30, just received her first weekly unemployment check without the $600, and it was only $213.

“Our groceries are more than that each week, with the diapers and formula,” she said.

Food banks, pantries and other safety net organizations report soaring demand from people in need. Charitable groups worry the problem will worsen with the end of the $600 and the expiration of coronavirus-era moratoriums on evictions.

Up to 23 million renters nationwide are at risk of being evicted by the end of September, according to COVID-19 Eviction Defense Project, a coalition of economic researchers and legal experts.

“We are going to have tens of millions of families not just in desperate need, but they are going to be out of their home, and it’s going to be catastrophic,” the United Way’s Gallagher said.

United Way, which runs the 211 network, a service that connects the needy with help, typically receives 11 million calls a year. This year, it foresees 20 million calls.

The Greater Boston Food Bank, one of the nation’s largest food banks and a supplier for hundreds of pantries, soup kitchens and senior centers, said it is seeing the highest demand in its 40-year history. Many people are seeking help for the first time.

So far, food banks and pantries that rely heavily on donations say giving has been strong since the outbreak hit.

In Florida, whose tourism industry has been pummeled, 38-year-old John Brenner of Plantation lost his position as a hotel manager and has been out of work for four months. Florida’s weekly unemployment aid is capped at $275 a week, so “I’m quite reliant on that extra $600,” he said.

“The anxiety the Senate is giving me isn’t helping much,’’ Brenner said.

AP writers Christopher Rugaber in Washington; Candice Choi in New York; Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and Suman Naishadham, Sophia Tulp and Sudhin Thanawala in Atlanta contributed to this report.

New York attorney general seeks to dissolve NRA

MICHAEL R. SISAK, LARRY NEUMEISTER AND LISA MARIE PANE
Associated Press

New York’s attorney general sued the National Rifle Association on Thursday, seeking to put the powerful gun advocacy organization out of business over claims that top executives illegally diverted tens of millions of dollars for lavish personal trips, no-show contracts for associates and other questionable expenditures.

Attorney General Letitia James’ lawsuit, filed in Manhattan state court, highlighted misspending and self-dealing claims that have roiled the NRA and its longtime leader, Wayne LaPierre, in recent years — from hair and makeup for his wife to a $17 million post-employment contract for himself.

“It’s clear that the NRA has been failing to carry out its stated mission for many, many years and instead has operated as a breeding ground for greed, abuse and brazen illegality,” she said at a news conference. “Enough was enough. We needed to step in and dissolve this corporation.”

Simultaneously, Washington D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine — like James, a Democrat — sued the NRA Foundation, a charitable arm of the organization designed to provide programs for firearm safety, marksmanship and hunting safety, accusing it of diverting funds to the NRA to help pay for lavish spending by its top executives.

In a statement, NRA President Carolyn Meadows labeled James a “political opportunist” who was pursuing a “rank vendetta” with an attack on its members’ Second Amendment rights.

“You could have set your watch by it: the investigation was going to reach its crescendo as we move into the 2020 election cycle,” said Meadows, who announced a countersuit by the NRA in federal court in Albany that could set the stage for a drawn-out legal battle lasting well past November’s election.

The New York lawsuit made only civil claims, but James said the investigation was ongoing and any criminal activity discovered would be referred to prosecutors and the Internal Revenue Service.

The NRA’s financial troubles, James said, were long cloaked by loyal lieutenants but became public as deficits piled up. The organization went from a nearly $28 million surplus in 2015 to a $36 million deficit in 2018.

James argued that the organization’s prominence and cozy political relationships enabled a culture where nonprofit rules were routinely flouted and state and federal laws were violated. Even the NRA’s own bylaws and employee handbook were ignored, she said.

Though it is headquartered in Virginia, the NRA was chartered as a nonprofit in New York in 1871 and continues to be incorporated in the state.

Republican Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson sent a tweet defending the NRA, saying if New York doesn’t want it, then the organization should “move south, where people respect and value the Second Amendment. Arkansas would be a natural home.”

The Washington, D.C., attorney general’s office has been investigating the NRA Foundation for more than a year. It said its investigation determined that low membership and lavish spending left the NRA with financial problems and so it exploited the foundation to remain afloat.

“Charitable organizations function as public trusts — and District law requires them to use their funds to benefit the public, not to support political campaigns, lobbying, or private interests,” Washington Attorney General Karl Racine said in a news release.

His lawsuit sought not to have the NRA destroyed, but to have a court-appointed monitor supervise financial transactions and a trust created to recover money diverted from the foundation.

The New York lawsuit also named LaPierre and three other current and former executives as defendants: corporate secretary and general counsel John Frazer, retired treasurer and chief financial officer Wilson Phillips, and LaPierre’s former chief of staff Joshua Powell. While the lawsuit accuses all four men of wrongdoing and seeks fines and remuneration, none of them have been charged with a crime.

LaPierre, who has been in charge of the NRA’s day-to-day operations since 1991, is accused of spending millions of dollars on private travel and personal security, accepting expensive gifts such as African safaris and use of a 107-foot (32-meter) yacht from vendors and setting himself up with a $17 million contract with the NRA, if he were to exit the organization, without board approval.

The lawsuit said LaPierre, 70, spent NRA money on travel consultants, including luxury black car services, and private jet flights for himself and his family, including more than $500,000 on eight trips to the Bahamas over a three-year span.

Some of the NRA’s excess spending was kept secret, the lawsuit said, under an arrangement with the organization’s former advertising agency, Ackerman McQueen.

The advertising firm would pick up the tab for various expenses for LaPierre and other NRA executives and then send a lump sum bill to the organization for “out-of-pocket expenses,” the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit comes at a time when the NRA is trying to remain relevant and a force in the 2020 presidential election as it seeks to help President Donald Trump secure a second term.

An ongoing factional war within the organization is pitting some of its most ardent gun-rights supporters and loyalists against one another.

The internal battles reached a fevered pitch at its 2019 annual meeting where its then-president, Oliver North, was denied a traditional second term amid a tussle with LaPierre as he sought to independently review the NRA’s expenses and operations. He accused LaPierre of exerting “dictatorial” control.

Chris Cox, the NRA’s longtime lobbyist and widely viewed as a likely successor to LaPierre, left after being accused of working

SEE **NRA** PAGE 5

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 291 CALLS ON AUGUST 05

Person Down Main St / Hollister Ave 12:22 a.m.
Transport Prisoner 300blk Olympic Dr 12:36 a.m.
Burglary Report 100blk Adelaide Dr 1:16 a.m.
Burglary Just Occurred 1700blk Ocean Ave 1:54 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 1600blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:38 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 200blk California Ave 6:14 a.m.
Encampment 2200blk Virginia Ave 6:16 a.m.
Trespassing 1000blk 23rd St 6:22 a.m.
Burglary Report 600blk Palisades Beach Rd 6:36 a.m.
Encampment 3000blk Ocean Front Walk 7:17 a.m.
Transport Prisoner 300blk Olympic Dr 7:21 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 600blk Palisades Beach Rd 7:21 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk The Beach 7:31 a.m.
Trespassing 100blk Bay St 8:10 a.m.
Trespassing 1600blk Appian Way 8:33 a.m.
Identity Theft 900blk Marguerita Ave 8:36 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2700blk Neilson Way 8:38 a.m.
Transport Prisoner 300blk Olympic Dr 8:50 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1400blk 5th St 9:04 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 1400blk 14th St 9:05 a.m.
Trespassing 500blk California Ave 9:07 a.m.
Burglary Report 1200blk Georgina Ave 9:10 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2900blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:10 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2900blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:11 a.m.
Encampment 1700blk The Beach 9:17 a.m.
Trespassing 2100blk 4th St 9:30 a.m.
Encampment 2000blk The Beach 9:41 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk The Beach 9:57 a.m.
Trespassing 800blk Bay St 10:06 a.m.
Person With A Gun 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:39 a.m.
Trespassing 2600blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:07 a.m.
Identity Theft 2000blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:24 a.m.
Burglary Report 1000blk 5th St 11:24 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 11:34 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1300blk 10th St 1:03 p.m.
Burglary Report 800blk 2nd St 1:34 p.m.
Identity Theft 100blk Hollister Ave 1:56 p.m.
Trespassing 1100blk 5th St 2:21 p.m.
Burglary Report 3000blk Wilshire Blvd 2:27 p.m.
Encampment 2300blk Pico Blvd 2:47 p.m.
Assault Just Occurred 7th St / Marguerita Ave 2:56 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 1300blk 4th St 2:57 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle 200blk Pacific St 2:58 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1400blk Ocean Ave 3:18 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1300blk 4th St 3:50 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2300blk 6th St 3:59 p.m.
Domestic Violence Now 2200blk Colorado Ave 4:46 p.m.
Grand Theft Just Occurred 1100blk Ocean Front Walk 5:40 p.m.
Encampment 2100blk Ocean Park Blvd 6:09 p.m.
Encampment 600blk California Ave 6:18 p.m.
Encampment 1100blk 6th St 6:47 p.m.
Person Down 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 6:50 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 800blk 4th St 7:09 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 3200blk Pico Blvd 7:56 p.m.
Battery Report 9th St / Wilshire Blvd 8:09 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1600blk Ocean Ave 8:24 p.m.
Fight Ocean Ave / Bicknell Ave 8:29 p.m.
Transport Prisoner 300blk Olympic Dr 8:48 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 700blk Broadway 8:54 p.m.
Fight 1500blk Ocean Ave 9:05 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred 400blk Idaho Ave 9:40 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 1000blk Chelsea Ave 11:42 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 31 CALLS ON AUGUST 05

E.M.S. 2600blk 34th St 3:19 a.m.
E.M.S. 1200blk Ocean Ave 5:06 a.m.
E.M.S. 1500blk 5th St 5:35 a.m.
E.M.S. 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:54 a.m.
E.M.S. 700blk Wilshire Blvd 7:43 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 3100blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:26 a.m.
E.M.S. 1400blk 2nd St 9:48 a.m.
Structure Fire 20th St / Colorado Ave 9:49 a.m.
E.M.S. 100blk Bay St 9:59 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:59 a.m.
E.M.S. 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 11:56 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300blk Pico Blvd 12:13 p.m.
E.M.S. 1200blk 22nd St 1:40 p.m.
E.M.S. 1300blk 20th St 2:00 p.m.
E.M.S. 500blk Colorado Ave 2:11 p.m.
E.M.S. 1200blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:30 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300blk 4th St 2:30 p.m.
E.M.S. 1300blk 7th St 2:42 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300blk 4th St 2:48 p.m.
E.M.S. 1100blk Yale St 3:29 p.m.
E.M.S. 400blk Ocean Ave 3:32 p.m.
E.M.S. 2000blk 14th St 5:29 p.m.
E.M.S. 2400blk Pico Blvd 6:02 p.m.
E.M.S. 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 6:50 p.m.
E.M.S. 2100blk Delaware Ave 7:09 p.m.
E.M.S. 2200blk Wilshire Blvd 7:38 p.m.
E.M.S. 1300blk Euclid St 9:21 p.m.
E.M.S. 2500blk Pico Blvd 9:50 p.m.
E.M.S. 1300blk Franklin St 11:20 p.m.
E.M.S. 200blk Ocean Ave 11:24 p.m.
E.M.S. 1100blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:44 p.m.

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

Uber lost $1.8B in 2Q as riders stayed home and ordered in

CATHY BUSSEWITZ
AP Business Writer

Uber lost $1.78 billion in the second quarter as the pandemic carved a gaping hole in its ride-hailing business, with millions of people staying home to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

Its food delivery business grew as more people ordered in, but that growing part of its business didn't turn a profit.

The San Francisco-based ride-hailing giant brought in $2.24 billion in revenue during the second quarter, down 27% from the same time last year, on a constant currency basis, the company said Thursday.

Uber's mobility business, which includes ride-hailing and micro-mobility options such as scooters and bikes, saw its revenue shrink to $790 million, down 67% from $2.38 billion a year ago.

Its Eats delivery business — once just a fraction of the company — brought in $1.21 billion in revenue during the quarter. That was up 103% from $595 million in last year's second quarter.

"We are fortunate to have both a global footprint and such a natural hedge across our two core segments: As some people stay closer to home, more people are ordering from Uber Eats than ever before," said CEO Dara Khosrowshahi.

Gross bookings for Uber's mobility business plummeted 73% from the same quarter last year. Its delivery business grew 113% on a constant currency basis, but did not turn a profit, instead losing about $232 million during the quarter.

Uber's quarterly losses included $382 million in restructuring and related charges as the company laid off 6,700 people — a quarter of its workforce — in May. Uber said at the time that it would be closing or consolidating 45 offices worldwide.

Its revenue fell in the U.S. and in across the world except in the Asia-Pacific region.

In addition to struggling with reduced demand for rides during the pandemic, Uber has been hit with lawsuits challenging the way it treats its drivers. California's Labor Commissioner Lilia Garcia-Brower filed complaints against Uber and Lyft Wednesday saying the companies committed wage theft by misclassifying employees as independent contractors. The suit seeks to recover civil penalties and unpaid overtime and minimum wage.

"This was important not only for the workers, but also for responsible employers who are undercut when companies do not pay their fair share on taxes, worker's comp, and wages," Garcia-Brower said in an interview. "During this time of the pandemic, it has highlighted the damage that misclassification does to our safety net."

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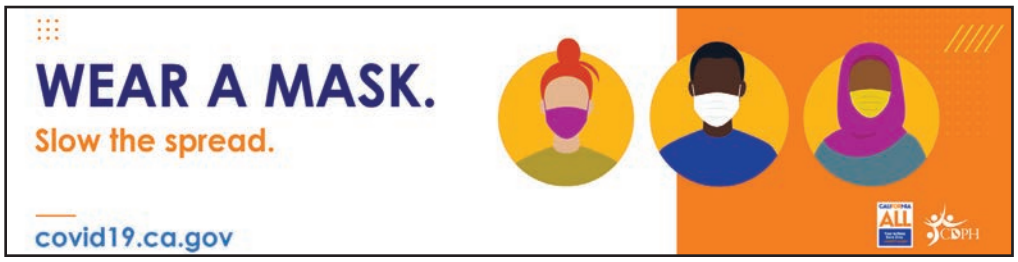
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4399 Annenberg Community Beach House Security Guard Services.

Submission Deadline is August 24, 2020 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **City's Online Vendor Portal.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is:
Planet Bids (http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm)
or ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca).
There is no charge for bid package and specifications.



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California, cities battle over marijuana home-delivery rule

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

California faced off in court Thursday against some of its own cities that want to overturn a government rule allowing home marijuana deliveries statewide, even into communities that banned commercial pot sales.

In a potential setback for at least some of the cities, the judge tentatively sided with the state in questioning whether some of the communities have standing to bring legal action, because they do not have local ordinances in place that conflict with the state regulation.

Without that, "there is no dispute," Fresno Superior Court Judge Rosemary McGuire wrote in a tentative ruling.

The dispute between the state and 25 of its local governments raises a foundational question in the legal marijuana economy: Who is in charge, the state bureaucracy that oversees the marketplace, or local governments where pot is grown and sold?

The local governments — Beverly Hills, Riverside, Santa Cruz County and 22 other cities — filed the lawsuit in April 2019, asking the court to invalidate the home-delivery rule that "permits commercial cannabis deliveries to any physical address in the state."

The League of California Cities and police chiefs had complained that unrestricted home deliveries would create a chaotic market of largely hidden pot transactions, while undercutting local control guaranteed in the 2016 law that broadly legalized marijuana sales in the state.

Marijuana companies and consumers had pushed for home deliveries because vast stretches of the state have banned commercial pot activity or not set up rules to allow legal sales, creating what's been called cannabis "deserts." Residents in those areas are effectively cut off from legal marijuana purchases.

Nothing will be decided soon. The next hearing in the case was scheduled for mid-November.

In court papers, state attorneys had argued the case was hypothetical, and thus not appropriate for resolution by the court. They pointed out some cities either do not have a local ordinance regarding deliveries, or do not ban deliveries.

"This Court would be required to make substantial assumptions about events which may, or may not, occur at some future point," the state argued.

That argument was largely echoed in the judge's tentative order. She wrote that cities "must submit evidence to show that they have an ordinance in place which is contrary to" the state regulation. Those that cannot will be dismissed from the case, she said.

Arthur J. Wylene, general counsel for Rural County Representatives of California, an association of state counties, said the judge "wants to be convinced that there is a real, live dispute between all of the parties with regard to this (state) regulation."

"Courts don't decide hypothetical questions," Wylene said.

The state Bureau of Cannabis Control declined comment.

Elizabeth Ashford, a spokeswoman for the online delivery marketplace Eaze, said in a statement that Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration is "standing up for cannabis access, jobs and tax revenues, which is exactly what voters wanted when they passed Proposition 64," the state law that authorized broad legal sales.

Because pot remains illegal on the federal level, it cannot be sent through the U.S. Postal Service. But people can get it delivered to their door in California. Under state rules, all cannabis deliveries must be performed by employees of a licensed company.

There are about 400 active licenses to deliver pot.

The delivery rule sought to clarify what had been apparently conflicting regulations about where marijuana can be delivered in California.

The 2016 law said local governments had the authority to ban non-medical pot businesses. But state regulators pointed to the business and professions code, which said local governments "shall not prevent delivery of cannabis or cannabis products on public roads" by a licensed operator.

In addition to Beverly Hills, Riverside and Santa Cruz County, plaintiffs include the cities of Agoura Hills, Angels Camp, Arcadia, Atwater, Ceres, Clovis, Covina, Dixon and Downey. Also participating are McFarland, Newman, Oakdale, Palmdale, Patterson, Riverbank, San Pablo, Sonora, Tehachapi, Temecula, Tracy, Turlock and Vacaville.

Blood reported from Los Angeles

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COVID-19

FROM PAGE 1

has had COVID-19 infections," but Black and Brown people, as well as others in low-income communities, are bearing the brunt of the virus in terms of infections and deaths, Davis said.

"In order to effectively slow the spread as a society... we collectively need to take action to prevent and bring down the rates of illness and death among residents of our county who are at higher risk of getting Covid-19 and who are experiencing poorer outcomes. That includes residents who are working low wage jobs and who have limited control over their work conditions. It also means focusing in on those who face housing or food insecurity and unemployment as a result of the pandemic," Davis added as he started rattling off statistics depicting the plight of Los Angeles County's poorer communities.

"Latinx residents, unfortunately, saw a sharp increase in the daily case rate of Covid-19 in their community beginning in early July," and by mid-July, the case rate of Latinx residents was more than 4 times the rate of White and Asian people, according to Davis. "Unfortunately, they're also seeing higher death rates," he said, mentioning those who reside in the county's poorer areas have a COVID death rate that is at least four times that of those who are in wealthier locations.

This is largely due to a gap in resources though, Davis added, stating governments should focus on instituting universal sick-leave benefits and protections for workers who are forced out of work due to the pandemic or sickness from COVID.

"One of the reasons we're seeing health disparities is simply due to the makeup of our essential workers," Davis said. "Office workers are more likely to be able to work from home," while essential food, manufacturing, retail and delivery workers must report to the worksite to ensure everybody else can continue receiving the food and health care supplies that are necessary to live.

That's why it's critical that businesses follow the health office's orders and protocols in place, Davis said. "It helps protects the workers, business and clients they serve."

brennon@smdp.com

NRA

FROM PAGE 2

behind the scenes with North to undermine LaPierre.

James' lawsuit portrayed the NRA as the victim of its own leaders, and she was asked during a news conference why she would seek to shut the organization down entirely, rather than take less drastic actions like removing or fining the officers responsible for misconduct.

James said the "breadth and the depth of the corruption and the illegality" justified seeking a the organization's closure.

She took a similar action to force the closure of Trump's charitable foundation after allegations that he had used it to advance personal and business interests.

The appearance of an elected Democrat like James trying to bring down the NRA for good could create "a sense of 'Is this politics or is this real?'" said Philip Hackney, a University of Pittsburgh law professor and former Internal Revenue Service attorney.

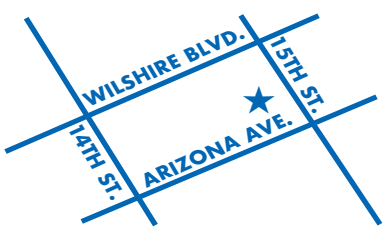
But Hackney added: "I think it's more real and I think she was right to bring this complaint. ... In a strange way, the NRA's behavior almost forces her hand. There's essentially a fraud on all its members."

Pane reported from Boise, Idaho. AP journalist Tom Hays contributed to this report from New York.

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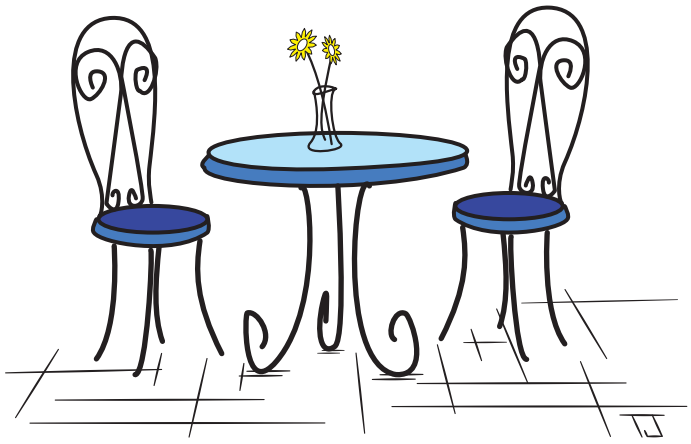
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*Offer to non insured patients


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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fan Mail and Hate Mail

While I generally prefer email from readers who enjoy my columns, I also encourage readers who don't. Writing is such a solitary endeavor, if I don't hear from readers once in a while, it feels like I'm just talking to myself. (Which I do enough of as it is.)

Readers upset with me have frequently emailed and we usually respectfully agree to disagree. Angrier ones, however, often tip their hand in the e-mail subject line. For example, if I see "You're an idiot!!" I have a sense reading this won't be the highlight of my day. (If it is, I've had a really bad day.)

On May 15, I wrote "Ocean Park Loses a Legend," about the tragic Covid-19 death of Russell Braunstein, a friend of mine for thirty years. Lovable though often a curmudgeon, Russ was a handy man and city employee at the Ocean View Tennis Courts. (If you needed help with your backhand or a leaky faucet, Russ was your guy.)

Following Russ' passing, the emails I received were universally sympathetic, often sharing funny stories about Russ. (Including, though possibly apocryphal, that one summer Russ brought his pet monkey to camp.) Seemingly out of nowhere, and 2 ½ months after the column was published, I received a "hater email." But more on that later.

Russ' favorite childhood memories were from the summers in the 1950's when he attended Camp Roosevelt in mile-high Idyllwild, located in the mountains above Palm Springs. Russ was very young and it was so meaningful in his life, he maintained friendships with many campers right up until he passed away. (Of considerable comfort, his older brothers, Richard and Robert spread Russ' ashes on the grounds of what used to be Camp Roosevelt.)

A good number of Russ' friends sent me touching emails thanking me for the column. The fact is it was my honor and, given with Covid, he wasn't allowed visitors, it was my only way of saying goodbye.

But on 7/26 I received a rather unpleasant email from Bryan. (Not his real name nor will I reveal his email address.) It had "Russ" in the subject line so, assuming it was one his camp friends, I opened it eagerly. It was definitely not "touching." (Unless you include fingers squeezing your throat as touching.)

Yes, I invite emails from my critics, but I never imagined that I'd ever receive such a vile one, especially on the tragic death of a long term friend. Bryan must have an agenda (as in being very partial to "orange," if you get my drift) or is missing a heart.

He began by referring to Russ as my "buddy," I suppose to cast doubt on our friendship. Bryan says he read the column in the Next Door app because he's been on Main Street since 2003 as the owner of a "brick and mortar store." (As opposed to a "mud and thatched roof" store?)

Bryan claims he read my column because he was curious to see if he knew Russ. And yet didn't mention his store's name or even his last name. And, so far, no merchant on Main



Courtesy photo

FRIEND: The late Russ Braunstein in 1995.

I've asked knows who he is. (Undeterred, I might keep asking.)

Did Bryan really wait 2 ½ months to express his outrage? If so, talk about a slow burn. If not, who reads ten-week old Next Door posts? Talk about having too much free time.

His major complaint is he didn't learn anything about Russ and that I only wrote it to promote myself. (In response, I sent Bryan six other columns about Russ written in the past fourteen years but haven't heard a peep since.)

Many of Russ' friends and family enjoyed the humor I included in describing Russ' and my friendship, whereas Bryan diagnosed me as "painfully depressive." Rather bossy, he insists I give up writing and, what sounds like classic projection, says, "You're sad, lonely, angry and can no longer feel the joy of anything you do."

Imagine, all that after reading just one 800 word column? Maybe Bryan's mortar and brick store specializes in psychic readings?

I can only suspect Bryan's despises my political views. But to attack me on a column written from grief, seems borderline sadistic. (Forget "borderline.")

Bryan could have scrolled any of my over 500 columns on the Daily Press website and thrown a dart to find one with less emotional meaning for me. (Which perhaps is why he chose this one.)

To be fair, or he's really weird, after all the hateful, evil insults, he signed his email, "Yours truly, Bryan." Was he being sarcastic, twisting the knife or finally displaying manners?

I don't dare speculate. If I do, in 2 ½ months, I might get another hate-filled email. In all honesty, one like that was more than enough.

Jack is at: facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth and jackdailypress@aol.com

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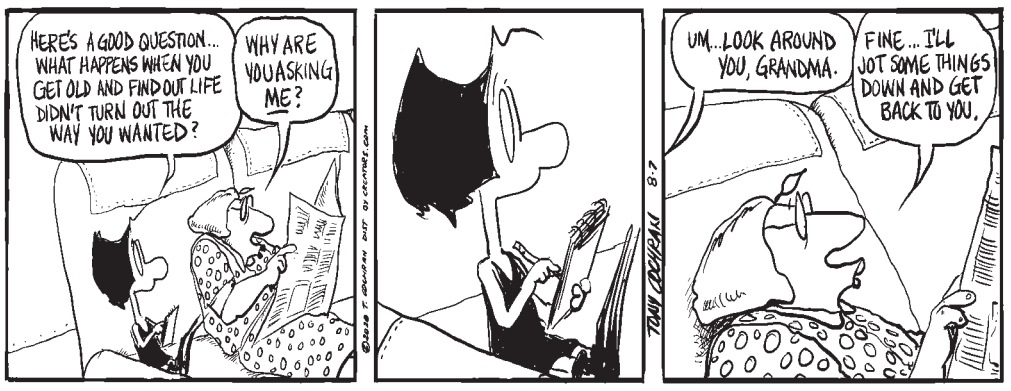
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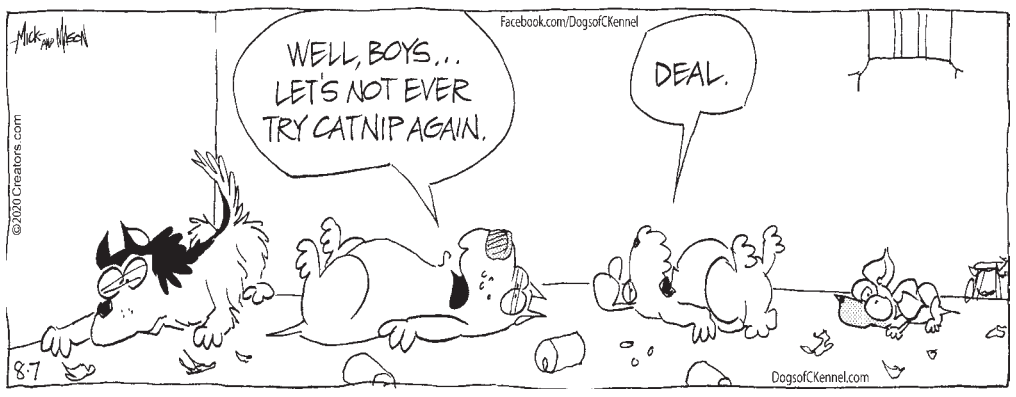
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



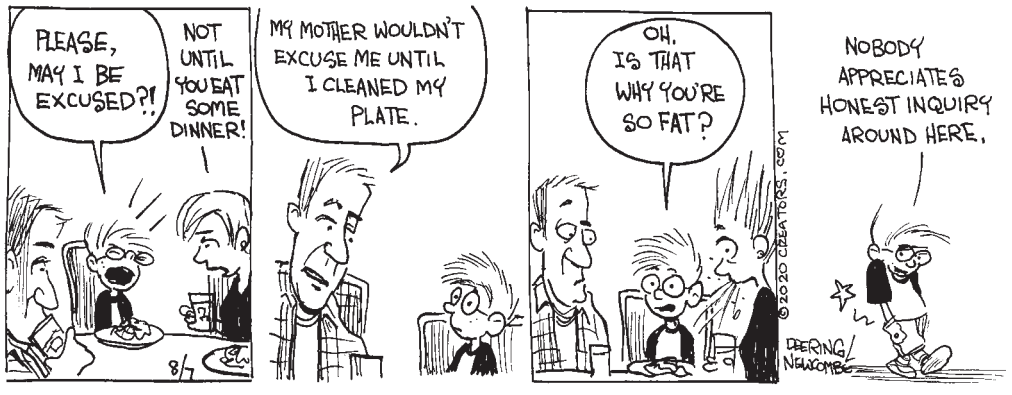
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

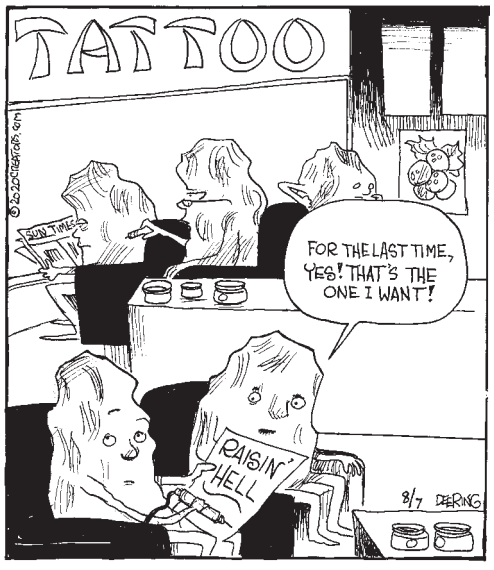
By PETER GALLAGHER



"WAS THE AIRDROP REALLY NECESSARY?"

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 63.1°

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 0.5-1ft Shin to knee high
Minor blend of SSW swell and NW windswell. Small new SW swell creeping in late.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Small pulse of SW swell up a bit further, blending with lingering NW windswell.

WEATHER

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 67.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 69.
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68.

Date	Day of the Week	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/08/07	Fri	06:27 AM	0.44	L
2020/08/07	Fri	12:56 PM	4.37	H
2020/08/07	Fri	6:22 PM	2.20	L
2020/08/08	Sat	12:13 AM	4.71	H
2020/08/08	Sat	06:55 AM	0.93	L
2020/08/08	Sat	1:31 PM	4.39	H
2020/08/08	Sat	7:13 PM	2.27	L
2020/08/09	Sun	12:56 AM	4.10	H
2020/08/09	Sun	8:21 PM	2.31	L
2020/08/10	Mon	01:53 AM	3.49	H
2020/08/10	Mon	07:50 AM	1.93	L
2020/08/10	Mon	2:54 PM	4.47	H
2020/08/10	Mon	10:04 PM	2.17	L
2020/08/11	Tue	03:35 AM	3.01	H
2020/08/11	Tue	08:24 AM	2.38	L
2020/08/11	Tue	3:51 PM	4.58	H
2020/08/11	Tue	11:43 PM	1.75	L
2020/08/12	Wed	06:04 AM	2.94	H
2020/08/12	Wed	09:32 AM	2.74	L
2020/08/12	Wed	4:51 PM	4.80	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:08/05
7 14 17 57 65
Power#: 24
Jackpot:158 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 08/04
2 22 30 42 62
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 22 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 08/05
2 4 5 40 47 16
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 11 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 08/05
22 26 27 32 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 08/05
Evening: 3 2 9
Draw Date: 08/05
Midday: 5 5 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 08/05
1st: 04 - BIG BEN
2nd: 03 - HOT SHOT
3rd: 06 - WHIRL WIN
RACE TIME: 1:41.84

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (AUGUST 07)

You will express your heart, hold nothing back and be guided to where your love will splash back to you like sunlight from the ocean. Three key decisions will elevate your environment and work. By designing systems and creating paths you can stick to, you will transform your world in tiny daily increments. Virgo and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 30, 1, 10 and 33.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There have been times when you didn't know what you were feeling until long after the fact. Now, there's very little lag time, and this greater self-awareness allows for today's excellent decision.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A stoic approach to the day will serve you well. Your calm resolve is extremely attractive and becomes even more so in situations where people might typically lose their cool.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you really think about it, you have some beliefs that the people around you might be surprised by. It's those rarified ideas that will open new thought processes to you and move you in a fulfilling direction.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Those who think they know are at a disadvantage, as their assumptions put up a barrier between themselves and the truth. It's the ones who understand their own ignorance who will learn the most.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you're doing something in the world, you're also making fans and foes. Effective action gets attention and will have a cheering and booing section. All of those strong opinions count as a win.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Working harder doesn't necessarily mean putting in more time. You will apply yourself with great intention and laser focus making quick work of the tasks you most need to accomplish to move forward.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your inner dialogue seems to be making a case for your behavior. Let this put you on alert. Why do you think you need to justify this to yourself? Either this is strange and new or you have a feeling you're in the wrong.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll amuse yourself like it was your job, and though it's not, your professional life will benefit anyhow, as it spurs the relaxed frame of mind you need to come up with brilliant ideas that can be widely applied.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). For a relationship to be tight, you have to know who the other person is. This is, of course, ever-changing, so there's always more to learn. One definition of a good relationship is: two people staying aware of one another.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You radiate an obvious delight in what you're doing, who you're with and what you're talking about. This is so attractive to the people around you, and you shouldn't be too surprised by what develops here.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It is said that there is nothing new under the sun, and yet it can't be true. New things happen every minute. Sure, it's a remix, but what isn't? You get the most out of endeavors by assuming their uniqueness.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Those who have had happy hearts feel capable of achieving that state again and will take every opportunity to recreate the status. Those who don't know what's possible will take longer to come around if they ever do.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

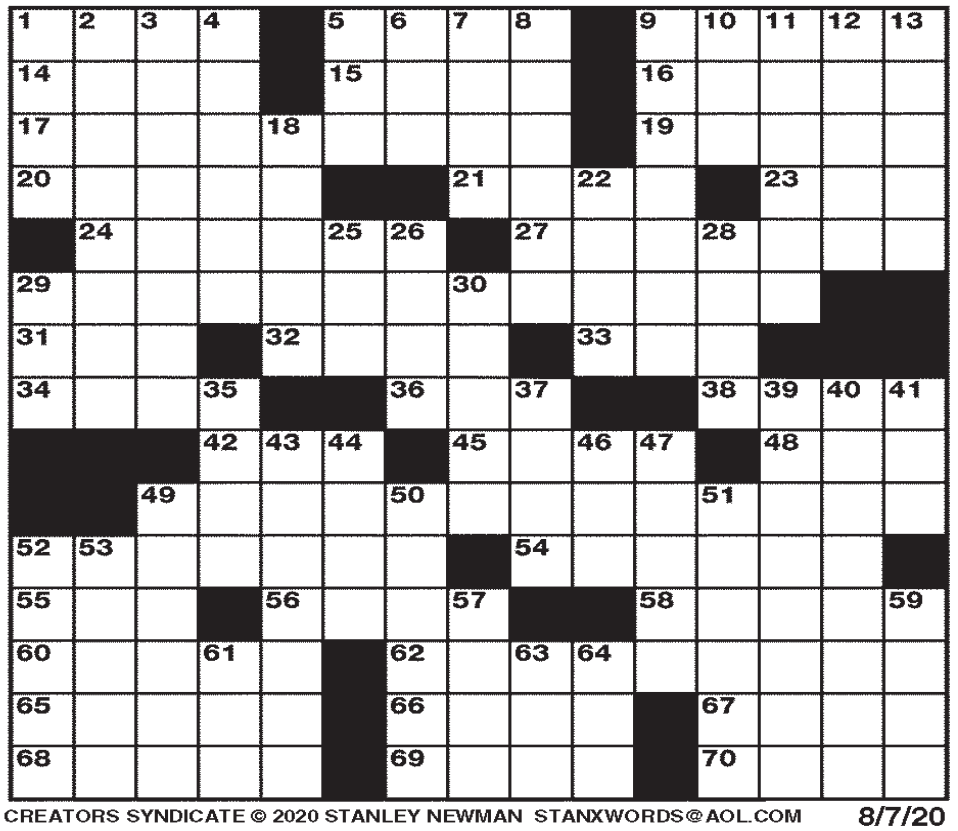
	1		6	7	4			3
9	8				1			2
	7					6		1
		3	5				8	
	5				6	3		
2		1					6	
4			8				1	9
8			1	9	7		3	

Newsday Crossword

ON ARRIVAL by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Family room fixture of yore
5 MIT marchers
9 Language that gave us "corgi"
14 Ring-exchange accompaniments
15 "Nope"
16 Big commotion
17 Start of a quote
19 Sadat of Mideast history
20 Middle name of macabredom
21 Blood donation
23 Shivery sound
24 Puts up with
27 Tendency toward disorder
29 Part 2 of quote
31 Some letterhead letters
32 Prune, polish, etc.
33 It added "e-waste" in 2020
34 Marine in a '60s sitcom
36 Part 3 of quote
38 Make eyes at
42 __ Lanka
45 Oscar actor Jared
48 Sugarloaf city
49 Part 4 of quote
52 Ironman Triathlon essential
54 Arizona "Red Rocks" city
55 What copper comes from
56 Doesn't share
58 Be a benefactor for
60 8 Down's Tokyo locale
62 End of quote
65 Espionage objective
66 Before long
67 Stock market rise
68 Stand for a presentation
69 Ninny
70 School with a varied sports programme

DOWN
1 "Hey there"
2 Excessive adoration
3 Lucky spectator's souvenir
4 El Al rival
5 Word before "riot" and "ragged"
6 DIckensian shout of surprise
7 Echoic outfit
8 Big name in high fashion
9 Shout of surprise
10 A real long time
11 Type of dressing table
12 Nobody's fool
13 Beleaguer
18 Assume, as a role
22 Come-play connector
25 Wrap up
26 Bic clickless pick
28 Second try
29 Close kin to 1 Down
30 *Romeo and Juliet* setting
35 Perceive in the distance
37 "New" word in a noble gas etymology
39 Your son's Siamese, say
40 It's north of Dayton
41 Fair hiring letters
43 Place to play foosball
44 Photo in a mag
46 Common DVD release day
47 Antonym of "choice words"?
49 What testers hold
50 Civil law expert
51 Youthful years
52 Nickname of the film-legend source of the quote
53 Chekhov play sister
57 February downfall
59 *Because of* __*-Dixie* (Jeff Daniels film)
61 Small character in Oz
63 Carp in a garden pond
64 Crumb carrier



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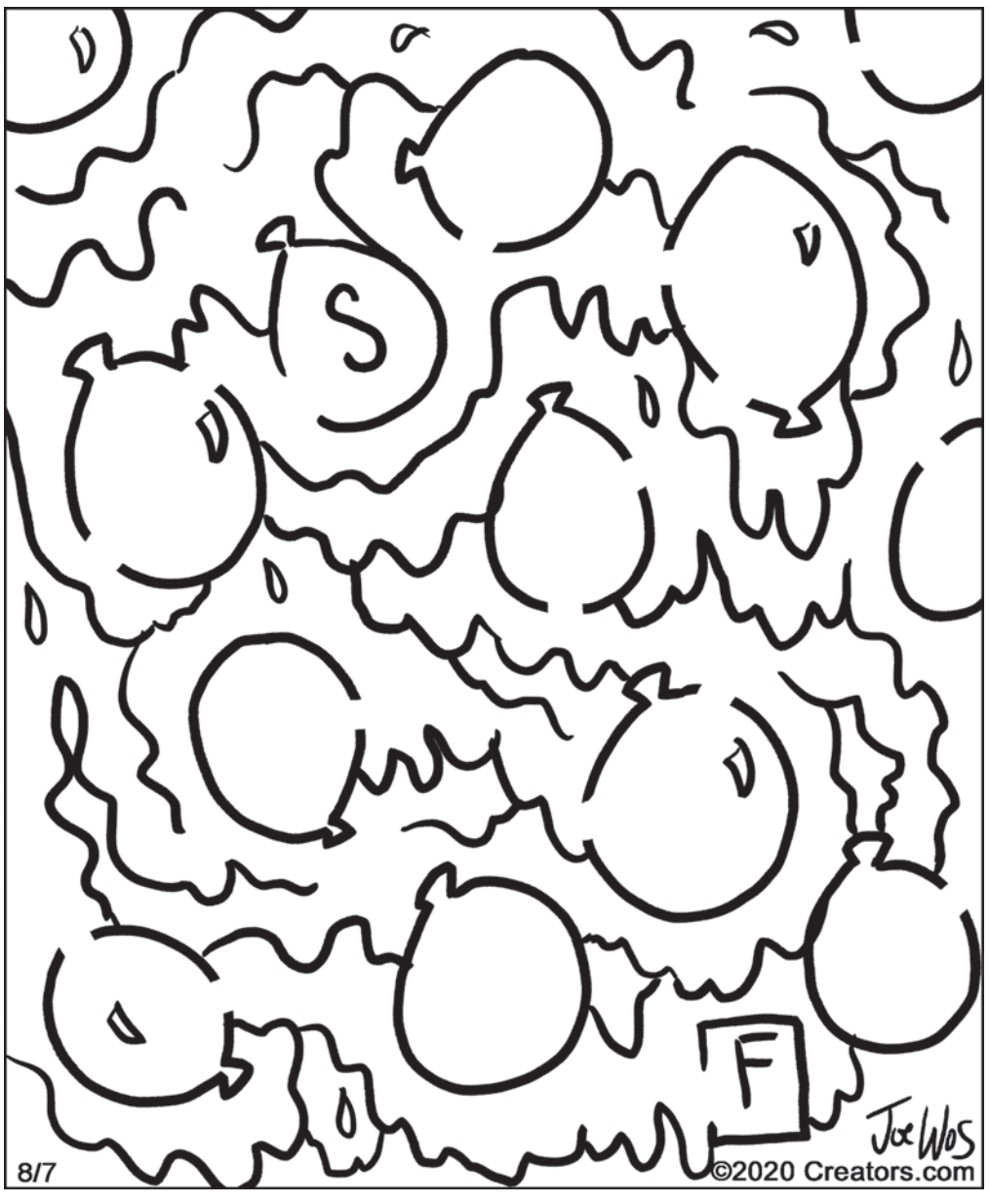
Binary Puzzle

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

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

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



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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4833

Chess match

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

FROM PAGE 1

the park and stab the victim who was lying on the ground. The officers ran towards the suspect who fled along 7th Street. SMPD Lt. Joseph Cortez said officers surrounded the suspect on the 1000 block of 7th Street. The suspect refused several commands to drop the knife and officers used a taser to subdue him before making the arrest.

John James has been arrested for attempted murder. He was transported to a local hospital for evaluation following the use of the taser. The victim was also transported to a local hospital to undergo surgery. Cortez said he is expected to survive.

"Our officers showed incredible restraint," he said of the arrest. "They used the least amount of force as possible trying to get this guy in custody."

The incident follows a similar situation in Culver City on Monday that resulted in the suspect's death and an injury to an officer.

In that case, a man with a knife was threatening maintenance workers in a parking garage. When confronted in a stairwell, that man charged at two Culver City police officers and was shot in the chest. One officer was also injured by friendly fire during the altercation.

editor@smdp.com

5K

FROM PAGE 1

miles a day back in college, so the Miles for Justice campaign isn't too exhaustive for the 28-year-old.

"But I've been out of school for about five-six years now and once I got out of school, I said, 'I'm done with running. I'm never running again,' because running is punishment for every sport, but for my sport, it was just what we did. And I was just tired of it," Murphy said in an interview Wednesday.

Earlier this year though, a coworker who knew he was a former collegiate runner asked if he had some tips to get into shape, which prompted Murphy to agree to a 5K run to help his friend stay accountable.

"That was back towards the end of February, right before COVID hit, and that was the first 5K I had done in like five years," Murphy said, detailing how he never intended to begin a streak until another friend contacted him about a 30-day 5K challenge a little while later. "I told him he's crazy because there's no way you're going to run every single day," but around the time of George Floyd's untimely death in May, Murphy said he was about 45 days into his current streak.

"So in June, I had a campaign for a just Black Lives Matter in general and Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd were the main inspirations for that," Murphy said. "I ran 30 days in a row in June… a whole month and I was able to raise $5,000," which went to The Action PAC's Grassroots Law Project.

In July, Murphy found himself again hitting the pavement. This time to pay tribute to Breonna Taylor.

"Because arrests have happened in (the Floyd and Arbery) murders but no arrests have happened in her case and it's kind of not trending or being talked about as much anymore," Murphy said. "So now, I'm doing a 5K a day to raise $5,000 for Breonna Taylor, and all that money is going to an organization called Until Freedom," which describes itself as an intersectional social justice organization that seeks to address systemic and racial injustice.

"I've never raised any money before in my life," Murphy said, so it's taken quite a bit of research to find credible organizations that are directly able to assist others who are assisting with the cause. But the former Buckeye is undeterred and considers himself lucky to be in a position to assist.

In June, during his first Miles for Justice campaign, Murphy said he was running when he happened across a rally at City Hall. He would speak about his campaign, which really helped bring some notoriety to the cause. He's also been hustling back and forth between social media apps in an attempt to direct message random people to see if they'd be interested in donating anything to his Pledge It campaign.

"Breonna Taylor's case is just so unique, you know? It's in Kentucky, which is a state in the South where they're really big proponents of the Second Amendment. And just the raid on her house — there were so many things that were wrong about it," Murphy said, describing how he's read reports of officers shooting from outside the house and Taylor's boyfriend being a licensed firearm carrier who thought somebody was trying to rob his house in the wee hours of the night. "And I think because a big reason why she hasn't got justice yet is that it's not on video. We don't have any bodycam footage. We don't have any cell phone footage. And in 2020, seeing is believing — so if we don't see something on video, then people kind of don't care as much or they question if it really did happen. But her life still matters and she should still get justice. And the men that murdered her should still be arrested even though it wasn't on video."

In the meantime, Murphy said he will continue to run for the cause and invited the community, which has been really supportive, to a community Run for Justice event that he will host at 8 a.m. next Saturday, Aug. 15, at Rose Market, located at 3300 Overland Avenue.

"Everybody is invited and we're only asking people to give a donation to the campaign at pledgeit.org/sayhername," Murphy said. "It could be whatever you can give — $1, $5, $20 — anything will help."

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