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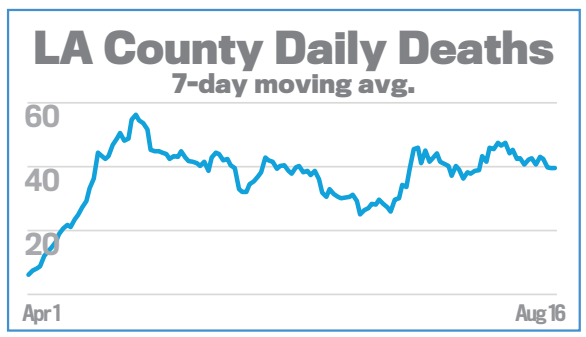
Alzheimer's Association Walk
The event will go remote this year.
Page 2

Mail-in Madness
Problems with the Post Office.
Page 4

CORONAVIRUS DEATH RATE

SANTA MONICA	LA COUNTY	CALIFORNIA	USA	WORLDWIDE
5.2%	2.4%	1.8%	3.1%	3.5%

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



County COVID data trends offer an optimistic outlook

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Los Angeles County reported 19 additional deaths from COVID-19 Monday, but county health department officials said they still believe the data is trending in the right direction.

Monday's announcement means the total number of deaths across the county is now 5,273. There were also 1,185 new cases reported, which include a small number from the state's backlog and brings the total number of COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County to 223,131.

But Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said, "We do continue to be cautiously optimistic that all of the sacrifices that we've seen across our country are working, and that we're in fact back to slowing the spread."

Ferrer added there are a number of data points from the last month that lead her to believe the curve is flattening.

From July 17 to Aug. 14, the number of daily hospitalizations has decreased steadily by 37 percent,

SEE **COVID** PAGE 11

School fundraisers prevail despite turbulent spring

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Despite the chaos and financial constraints brought by COVID-19 this spring, the Santa Monica Education Foundation and PTA fundraising efforts in Malibu raised $2,068,155 and $337,543 respectively for the upcoming school year. This funding is essential for many school programs and required a sharp shift in fundraising strategies after in-person events had to be cancelled.

The Santa Monica Education Foundation raised over two million dollars that will go towards K-12 comprehensive performing arts programs, instructional assistants, STEM programs, and wellness resources in Santa Monica's schools.

"It was certainly a roller coaster of a spring, but overall we had a decent year despite the obvious circumstances," said Linda Greenberg, Director of the Ed Foundation, during last Thursday's School Board meeting. "Parents who donated last year, gave more on average this year. Parents who were in a position to give really stepped it up and contributed more and we are very grateful to them."

The Ed Foundation saw a 9 percent decrease in parent participation and a 5 percent decrease in money raised from businesses, which can be attributed to the financial impact of the pandemic, according to Greenberg. Despite this, there was an increase in the size of donations from parents, as families with the ability to contribute were willing to give more. Additionally, there was a 19 percent increase in donations from grandparents.

The Ed Foundation adapted its fundraising strategies around COVID restrictions and moved its annual Wine Fundraiser to an online format. This livestream event took place on May 3rd and raised $148,000 for arts, STEM, and wellness programs across Santa Monica's public schools.

Over in Malibu fundraising groups faced a moment of crisis in June when the centralized fundraising entity was dissolved and there was a $275,000 gap in funding for instructional aides and art programs. A one time exception was granted for the Malibu PTAs to donate directly to the District and they organized an emergency fundraising campaign to attempt to

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 11

Venice Art Crawls into the home



Marta Evry

ART: Organizers hope the spirit of the annual Venice Art Crawl will translate to a virtual event.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

For decades Venice has been a mecca for artists seeking the raw, free, and unfiltered spirit that is plastered across its muraled walls and comes to life along its weird and wonderful boardwalk.

This Thursday night the Venice Chamber of Commerce will be bringing that experience live to your living room as the Venice Art Crawl streams its 10th anniversary event.

From 6 to 10 p.m. the Venice Art Crawl Instagram will go live with a series of workshops and performances as quirky and captivating as the very streets of Venice. Highlights from the schedule include an ice sculpture carved by chainsaw, surprise performance art, a vertical garden workshop, a speech by Councilman Bonin, and a meditation to put your children to sleep so that you can stay tuned for the DJ shows.

"Venice has historically been a bohemian artists conclave. It's where everybody comes to be free. It's not exclusive, it's inclusive." said Sunny Bak who is organizing the Art Crawl. "I think there are more and more people that have come to Venice that don't know

SEE **ART** PAGE 6

Coronavirus hasn't devastated the homeless as many feared

JANIE HAR
Associated Press

When the coronavirus emerged in the U.S. this year, public health officials and advocates for the homeless feared the virus would rip through shelters and tent encampments, ravaging vulnerable people who often have chronic health issues.

They scrambled to move people into hotel rooms, thinned out crowded shelters and moved tents into designated spots at sanctioned outdoor camps.

While shelters saw some large COVID-19 outbreaks, the virus so far doesn't appear to have brought devastation to the homeless population as many feared. However, researchers and advocates say much is unknown about how the pandemic is affecting the estimated half-million people without housing in the U.S.

In a country that's surpassed 5 million identified cases and 169,000 deaths, researchers don't know why there appear to be so few outbreaks among the homeless.

"I am shocked, I guess I can say, because it's a very vulnerable population. I don't know what we're going to see in an aftermath," said Dr. Deborah Borne, who oversees health policy for COVID-19 homeless response at San Francisco's public health department. "That's why it's called a novel virus, because we don't know."

More than 200 of an estimated 8,000 homeless people in San Francisco have tested positive for the virus, and half came from an outbreak at a homeless shelter in April. One homeless person is among the city's 69 deaths.

In other places with large homeless populations, the numbers are similarly low. In King County, which includes Seattle, more than 400 of an estimated 12,000 homeless residents have been diagnosed. In Los Angeles County, more than 1,200 of an estimated 66,000 homeless people have been diagnosed.

It's slightly higher in Maricopa County, which includes Phoenix, where nearly 500 of an estimated 7,400 homeless people have tested positive, including nine who died.

Health experts say the numbers don't indicate how widespread the disease is or how it might play out long term. It's unknown how many people have died of conditions indirectly related to the virus. While the coronavirus may dissipate more easily outdoors than indoors, living outside has its own risks.

With public libraries and other places closed, homeless people say they're short on food and water, restrooms and cash. In San Francisco, 50 homeless people died over an eight-week period in April and May — twice the usual rate, said Dr. Barry Zevin, medical director of the public health department's street medicine program.

The official causes are pending, but Zevin notes that fentanyl overdoses are rising and stay-at-home orders may prevent people from getting help quickly. He knew isolation could result in more overdoses.

"I think that's happened, and whether it's more or less than I would have expected, I don't know," he said. "It's frustrating to be able to forecast something as a problem, do everything you can to prevent it as a problem, but it's absolutely a case of competing priorities."

Good data is difficult to get on the homeless population because hospitals and death certificates don't track housing status, says Dr. Margot Kushel, director of the Center for Vulnerable Populations at the University of California, San Francisco.

She was hesitant to draw conclusions about how the pandemic has affected homeless people overall but said "this may be an example where being outside and unsheltered, just in terms of COVID, maybe let people be at lower risk. But again, part of that is that we just don't really know."

New York City has reported more than 1,400 infections and 104 deaths among homeless residents out of more than 226,000 positive cases and 19,000 deaths. Roughly 60,000 people live in shelters, unlike in West Coast cities where many more are unsheltered.

But because New York's shelters have more children than the general population, when deaths are adjusted for age, the mortality rate for homeless people is 67% higher than for the overall population, said Giselle Routhier, policy director for the Coalition for the Homeless.

"That's extraordinarily high, in our opinion," she said.

While advocates push for private hotel rooms for homeless people, a massive 1,200-person shelter at San Diego's convention center is showing it's possible to keep the case count low by strictly adhering to 6-foot (2-meter) spacing, frequent cleaning and mask-wearing.

"We have a team of firefighters that walk the floors to put the cots back where they're supposed to be," said fire Deputy Chief Chris Heiser, who is incident commander for the shelter.

He estimates about 3,000 people have come through. And of more than 6,000 COVID-19 tests administered, 18 so far have been positive. San Diego County has reported more than 200 positive cases and no deaths among its nearly 8,000 homeless people.

Richard Scott, who is in his mid-50s, moved to the convention center about three months ago after his roommate, who is medically fragile, told him that he could either stay home and not work or leave. Since then, Scott has slept on a cot alongside about 500 men in a cavernous room with high ceilings and a big floor.

Sometimes there's a theft or disruptive person, but overall Scott calls it a safe place to stay.

"We wash our hands 20 times a day — well some of us — and we get our temperatures checked every day, and they've been real strict about that, too," Scott said. "I'm so happy being here; it's a blessing."

Virginia McShane, 63, sleeps in a separate part of the center. She arrived in April after she could no longer afford a $25-a-night hostel.

"We've got a back entrance and a front entrance, and that keeps the air circulating pretty good, so I think that's why all of us haven't come down with the coronavirus," she said.

The rates at which homeless people have tested positive for COVID-19 are all over the place, says Barbara DiPietro, senior policy director for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, which is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study the issue.

Surveillance testing of more than 10,000 people at shelters and encampments nationwide has resulted in a rate just over 8%. But DiPietro says over 200 testing events of homeless residents in five cities showed rates ranging from 0 to 66%.

"So this is a wildly variant, moving target depending on who and how and when you test," she said.

Associated Press writer Anita Snow contributed to this story from Phoenix.

BRIEFS

Santa Monica

Alzheimer's Association walk

The Alzheimer's Association is inviting Santa Monica residents to join the fight to end Alzheimer's by participating in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's on Oct. 25.

The Santa Monica Walk to End Alzheimer's continues, but instead of hosting a large gathering, the Alzheimer's Association is encouraging participants to walk as individuals or in small groups on sidewalks, tracks and trails across Santa Monica.

"This year's Walk to End Alzheimer's will be everywhere," said Wendy Vizek, vice president, constituent events at the Alzheimer's Association. "The pandemic is changing how we walk, but it doesn't change the need to walk. This year, more than ever, we need to come together to support all those affected by Alzheimer's and other dementia. With the dollars raised, the Alzheimer's Association can continue to provide care and support to families during these difficult times while also advancing critical research toward methods of treatment and prevention."

Time-honored components of the Walk to End Alzheimer's are being replicated. On Walk day, an Opening Ceremony will feature local speakers and a presentation of Promise Flowers to honor the personal reasons participants join together to fight Alzheimer's and all other dementia, all delivered to participants' smartphones, tablets and computers. A small group of Alzheimer's Association staff and volunteers will create the iconic Promise Garden in a "view only" format on Walk day to honor all those impacted by Alzheimer's.

To enhance the participant experience leading up to the event and on Walk day, new features are being added to the Walk to End Alzheimer's mobile app to create an opportunity for the community to connect. Participants can use the app and new "Walk Mainstage" to track their steps and distance, follow a virtual Walk path, manage their Facebook fundraisers, and access information and resources from the Association and Walk sponsors to help individuals and families affected by the disease. A new audio track is available to encourage participants along the way and to congratulate them upon completion of their Walk.

"Alzheimer's is not taking a hiatus during COVID-19 and neither are we," said Alzheimer's Association California Southland Chapter Executive Director Meg Barron. "We must continue Walk to End Alzheimer's, and we are working with all participants to ensure they have a powerful and moving experience that is felt when we are together. Many of our constituents are at higher risk when it comes to COVID-19 and we know that our volunteers and participants appreciate our commitment to keeping all involved healthy and safe."

In California alone, there are more than 690,000 people living with the disease and 1.6 million caregivers.

To register and receive the latest updates on this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's, visit: alz.org/walk .

SUBMITTED ALLYSON LAUGHLIN

LOS ANGELES

LA schools announce testing, tracing for all students, staff

The Los Angeles Unified School District will launch an aggressive coronavirus testing and contact tracing program for all students, staff and their families as part of a broad plan to safely reopen campuses.

No date has been set for reopening schools in the nation's second-largest district. The academic year formally begins this week with distance learning.

The spread of COVID-19 in the Los Angeles area still exceeds state guidelines governing the possible return of students to campuses.

The testing and tracing plan announced Sunday will provide data that can be used as a guide for eventually renewing school operations, Superintendent Austin Beutner wrote in an opinion article for the Los Angeles Times.

Tests will first be given to staff currently working at schools as well as to any of their children participating in child care provided for Los Angeles Unified employees.

"Tests will then be provided for all staff and students over a period of weeks to establish a baseline. On an ongoing basis, sample testing based on epidemiological models will be done for each cohort of staff and students," Beutner wrote.

Testing will also be provided to family members of students and staff who test positive for the coronavirus and family members who show symptoms. In the event of a positive test, contact can be made with others in the school community to quickly isolate the virus, Beutner wrote.

The testing will be a partnership that includes the University of California, Los Angeles, Stanford University, Johns Hopkins University, Microsoft, Anthem Blue Cross and HealthNet, among others. It will cost roughly $300 per student over a year – about $150 million total.

The superintendent did not immediately identify the source of the funding, but the district has received hundreds of millions of state and federal dollars for its coronavirus response efforts.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 289 CALLS ON AUGUST 16

Party Complaint 900blk Palisades Beach Rd 12:00 a.m.
Party Complaint 1800blk 11th St 12:06 a.m.
Party Complaint 1500blk 6th St 12:19 a.m.
Party Complaint 2300blk Virginia Ave 12:25 a.m.
Party Complaint 1400blk Euclid St 12:46 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Ocean Ave / Hollister Ave 1:26 a.m.
Petty Theft 1400blk Ocean Ave 2:25 a.m.
Person With A Gun 6th St / Wilshire Blvd 3:29 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:54 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 405 / Morago 5:48 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1900blk 12th St 6:36 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1400blk Ocean Park Blvd 6:56 a.m.
Battery 1600blk 11th St 8:31 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 300blk 9th St 8:38 a.m.
Trash Dumping 2300blk Oak St 8:40 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1300blk Ashland Ave 9:07 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1800blk Ocean Ave 9:28 a.m.
Petty Theft 1300blk 15th St 9:40 a.m.
Panic Alarm 200blk San Vicente Blvd 9:53 a.m.
Petty Theft 600blk Marine St 9:58 a.m.
Construction Noise 2600blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:01 a.m.
Construction Noise 1200blk 23rd St 10:33 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1500blk Ocean Ave 10:44 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 10:45 a.m.
Burglary 1100blk 9th St 10:51 a.m.
Fight 1600blk Ocean Ave 10:54 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2200blk Lincoln Blvd 11:27 a.m.
Construction Noise 2600blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:58 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 700blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:02 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2400blk 4th St 12:21 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 16th St / Colorado Ave 12:42 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1400blk 7th St 12:43 p.m.
Fight 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 1:00 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 1:01 p.m.
Petty Theft 1900blk Ocean Way 1:33 p.m.
Found Property 2000blk Arizona Ave 1:36 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now Main St / Hollister Ave 1:53 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1200blk 21st St 1:54 p.m.
Fight 1600blk Ocean Ave 2:10 p.m.
Found Property 2300blk 4th St 2:20 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1700blk 9th St 2:39 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 2000blk Cloverfield Blvd 3:05 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1100blk Bay St 3:32 p.m.
General Parking Problem 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:40 p.m.
Grand Theft 100blk Fraser Ave 3:45 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 4:05 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2500blk Barnard Way 4:24 p.m.
Person Down Ocean Ave / Olympic Dr 4:56 p.m.
Encampment 800blk Ocean Ave 5:05 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 5:25 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper In Progress 400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 5:31 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 5:37 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1700blk Main St 5:43 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 6:07 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 6:22 p.m.
Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred 1600blk Ocean Park Blvd 6:27 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 1300blk 15th St 6:33 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 6:43 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2600blk Ocean Front Walk 6:49 p.m.
Attempt Burglary 1000blk 2nd St 6:51 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:54 p.m.
Critical Missing Person Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 6:59 p.m.
Encampment 1900blk The Beach 6:59 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 7:14 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Now 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 7:15 p.m.
Person Down 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 7:47 p.m.
Of Shots Fired 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:14 p.m.
Of Shots Fired 1300blk 2nd St 8:16 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 8:21 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 8:42 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1700blk 17th St 8:56 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 700blk Grant St 8:57 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1300blk 2nd St 9:18 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1600blk Appian Way 9:19 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1300blk Palisades Beach Rd 10:07 p.m.
Found Senile Person 200blk Wilshire Blvd 10:20 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 10:38 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 10:39 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 700blk Pacific Coast Hwy 11:01 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1500blk Ocean Ave 11:10 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 20th St / Pico Blvd 11:48 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 900blk Ozone Ave 11:50 p.m.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 37 CALLS ON AUGUST 16

EMS 900blk 20th St 12:03 a.m.
EMS 900blk Pico Blvd 12:43 a.m.
Smoke Investigation 1000blk 3rd St 1:14 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 4:05 a.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 4:53 a.m.
Structure Fire 1500blk 9th St 6:47 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Arizona Ave 9:06 a.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 900blk 14th St 9:09 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300blk 20th St 9:12 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 9:19 a.m.
EMS 700blk Kensington Rd 11:09 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Stewart St 11:27 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 6th St 11:33 a.m.
EMS 1500blk Arizona Ave 11:42 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 4th St 12:24 p.m.
EMS 900blk Stanford St 3:52 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Olympic Dr 4:56 p.m.
EMS 800blk Broadway 4:59 p.m.
EMS 100blk Broadway 5:35 p.m.
EMS 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:43 p.m.
EMS 3100blk Lincoln Blvd 6:09 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 1300blk 15th St 6:33 p.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 7:20 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 7:47 p.m.
EMS 3rd Street Prom / Arizona Ave 7:58 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 8:20 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 8:32 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Colorado Ave 8:41 p.m.
EMS 700blk 25th St 9:00 p.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 200blk San Vicente Blvd 9:40 p.m.
EMS 800blk 19th St 10:07 p.m.
EMS 5th St / Colorado Ave 10:11 p.m.
EMS 900blk Stanford St 11:17 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 3rd St 11:18 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 600blk 11th St 11:43 p.m.
EMS 20th St / Pico Blvd 11:48 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 14th St 11:59 p.m.

BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

California firefighters battle wildfires in extreme heat

California firefighters battled destructive wildfires Monday as a lengthening heat wave roasted the state.

Thousands of homes were at risk and air quality deteriorated in areas affected by smoke.

The National Weather Service blanketed the state in warnings of excessive heat and high fire danger, including the threat from lightning strikes.

"We are all experiencing rather extraordinary conditions," said Gov. Gavin Newsom, estimating there were about 15 fires statewide.

Newsom expressed optimism that most of the smaller ones would be suppressed quickly.

Near California's northern border with Nevada, a nearly 57-square-mile fire ignited by lightning near the community of Loyalton was 5% contained after destroying five homes and a half-dozen other structures, the Tahoe National Forest said.

School officials in Reno postponed Monday's scheduled reopening of classrooms.

"As a result of the Loyalton Fire and the deteriorating air quality, we have made the decision that we cannot safely reopen our school district for our students and staff," Washoe County School District Superintendent Kristen McNeill said in a message to families and staff.

In the mountains and desert of northern Los Angeles County, the 6-day-old Lake Fire was 31% contained after scorching nearly 29 square miles, said county Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

The blaze, which consumed thousands of acres of brush in its first few hours, had more moderate behavior by Sunday but about 4,500 homes remained at risk, Barger said.

A dozen structures, including homes, have been destroyed there.

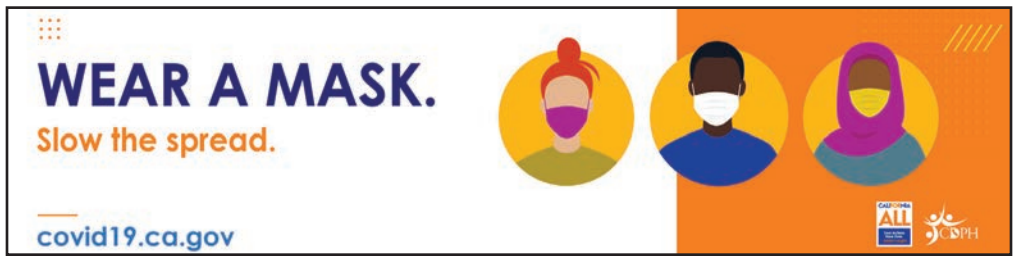
Smoke from the Lake Fire and a smaller fire in mountains east of Los Angeles led regulators to declare unhealthy air quality for a wide area of suburbs.

Elsewhere, the 4-square-mile River Fire south of Salinas in Monterey County was 10% surrounded after damaging five structures.

Authorities reported four people injured since it was ignited by lightning on Sunday.

JOHN ANTCZAK, ASSOCIATED PRESS

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Mail-in Madness

The Distractor in Chief has a new ploy this week – Mail in voting will be "the greatest fraud ever." Well, as a man who loves superlatives, and has a passing knowledge of fraud, he should know. Here's the short version of what he's peddling. Absentee ballots are trustworthy because the voter requested the ballot, and thus we can trust that they would be the one completing it and signing it as true. Mass mailed ballots, sent to all voters, who didn't request them, would be open to completion by people who want to vote two or more times, for fraudulent purposes.

Here's how that would work: start by presuming that there will be a small percentage of cases where people have moved and not updated their voter registration, conceivably some people would be receiving ballots for former residents and could conceivably vote twice. It's a weak point in my opinion because if you think about it, basically it's a tiny percentage of people who would have the opportunity, and in a country where only about 40% of the population even bothers to vote in the first place – how likely is it that the stars are going to align so that two ballots would be sent to one address, and the current occupant would be so motivated to vote twice that they would commit a federal crime? I believe this would fall into the statistically insignificant category.

Of course in the Trumpster Fire that is the current administration, one distraction is never enough. The other great lie that is being put forth as a way to stoke the fears and rally the population is that the U.S. Postal Service can't be trusted to handle ballots in November. Each year the USPS handles over 140 Billion pieces of mail. That's a daily amount of 383 million pieces of mail that are transported, sorted and delivered. It's just over one piece of mail per American citizen per day. That sounds like a single ballot…

Now the USPS has its problems, no doubt. There is a budget shortfall, and that has been going on for, well it seems like my entire life. They have huge resources that have to be maintained, updated, recycled, repaired and replaced. Currently there is a huge uproar over sorting machines being decommissioned. The conspiracy theorists are in full throated scare mode, saying this is the dismantling of the USPS so that Trump can steal the election.

I have no doubt that the President will gladly steal the election if he can, I'm just not sure that equipment changes and budget cuts are part of that plan. Sunday night I was having dinner with friends as we watched CNN and the President's Chief of Staff was on talking about the USPS and the way in which they have changed over the years. The nature of mail has changed, and if you think about it for a second you'll see that he has a point. How many pieces of mail do you receive that are the traditional envelope format versus what you received 10 or 15 years ago? It's significantly down, and the number of packages are up over all.

As a kid I would go hang out in the malls like the Santa Monica Place and Promenade. In high school my pals and I would roam Century City as if it was a second home. Everyone had to go to the stores to buy supplies. Going 'window shopping' was an activity for a date, or a way to spend an afternoon. Today, the malls are ghost towns, and have been trending that way for the past few years. It's the Amazon effect.

Most of the people I know are buying more and more items online, which are shipped by FedEx, UPS and USPS. Most of the marketers I know avoid direct mail due to its high costs and low return on investment value compared with the effectiveness of Google Ads and Facebook marketing.

The current pandemic is accelerating the transition from a strong retail market segment to an entirely online shopping experience. The landlords of Santa Monica Place and the Promenade are certainly seeing that and feeling the losses, which are probably offsetting their tremendous profits in some other segment which is why we have so many vacancies that go for months and/or years – it's a tax thing.

Society is changing and the institutions that have served us for centuries need to keep up, part of that is equipment changes, budget realignments and personnel changes. I'm not in on the high level plans of the USPS, but it wouldn't surprise me to find that some of the current events are a result of trying to adapt to a changing world.

All of that is to say, yes the President is doing everything he can to kneecap the system, win re-election and I wouldn't put anything beyond him or his minions in that effort, but the truth about the USPS is that they can handle this election. Telling everyone to mail early is good planning on their part, and hopefully will result in a much larger turnout of voters than the traditional 40ish percent.

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

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Universities scramble to deal with virus outbreaks

SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN
Associated Press

North Carolina's flagship university canceled in-person classes for undergraduates just a week into the fall semester Monday as the school and other campuses around the U.S. scrambled to deal with coronavirus clusters linked in some cases to student housing, off-campus parties and packed bars.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill said it will switch to remote learning on Wednesday and make arrangements for students who want to leave campus housing.

"We have emphasized that if we were faced with the need to change plans — take an off-ramp — we would not hesitate to do so, but we have not taken this decision lightly," it said in a statement after reporting 130 confirmed infections among students and five among employees over the past week.

UNC said the clusters were discovered in dorms, a fraternity house and other student housing.

Before the decision came down, the student newspaper, The Daily Tar Heel, ran an editorial headlined, "UNC has a clusterf—k on its hands," though without the dashes.

The paper said that the parties that took place over the weekend were no surprise and that administrators should have begun the semester with online-only instruction at the university, which has 19,000 undergraduates.

"We all saw this coming," the editorial said.

Outbreaks earlier this summer at fraternities in Washington state, California and Mississippi provided a glimpse of the challenges school officials face in keeping the virus from spreading on campuses where young people eat, live, study — and party — in close quarters.

The virus has been blamed for over 170,000 deaths and 5.4 million confirmed infections in the U.S.

At Oklahoma State in Stillwater, where a widely circulated video over the weekend showed maskless students packed into a nightclub, officials confirmed 23 coronavirus cases at an off-campus sorority house. The university placed the students living there in isolation and prohibited them from leaving.

"As a student, I'm frustrated as hell," said Ryan Novozinsky, a junior from Allentown, New Jersey, and editor of the student newspaper. "These are people I have to interact with." And, he added, "there will be professors they interact with, starting today, that won't be able to fight this off."

OSU has a combination of in-person and online courses. Students, staff and faculty are required to wear masks indoors and outdoors where social distancing isn't possible.

The University of Notre Dame reported 58 confirmed cases since students returned to the South Bend, Indiana, campus in early August. At least two off-campus parties over a week ago have been identified as sources, school officials said.

Paul J. Browne, vice president for public affairs at Notre Dame, said the university is prepared to suspend or otherwise discipline the hosts of such parties.

"We believe we have a very strong chain of health protection, but these parties represent the weak link in that chain, and they can be responsible for a disproportionate spread," he said.

University officials in Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama were likewise frustrated by scenes of crowded bars and other nightspot areas on the first weekend many students returned to school.

In Tuscaloosa, the home of the football-mad University of Alabama, Mayor Walt Maddox appealed to students' love of the game in urging them to take precautions.

"If you don't want to protect yourself and you don't want to protect your family and you don't want to protect your friends and thousands of jobs, maybe, just maybe, you would want to protect football season so we can have it this fall," Maddox said.

Some universities are moving ahead with fall classes as planned even as cases pop up. At Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, where a dozen students tested positive last month after an off-campus gathering, classes start Aug. 26, and students are moving into dorms this weekend.

"We have tweaked the move in process this year and are requiring students to sign up for a time slot so we can keep things spaced out and distanced," university spokeswoman Renee Charles said.

Balancing the health risks with educating students has been keeping university presidents up at night, said Mildred García, head of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. She said many are having to reconsider their plans as things change rapidly.

"They are doing the best they can with their staff and trying to educate the students about masks and social distancing and the effects of this virus," she said.

"They're doing all they can — and yet these are young people. When we think back about when we were young, sometimes you think you're invincible."

Associated Press writers Sean Murphy in Oklahoma City; Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama; Katie Foody in Chicago; Collin Binkley in Boston; Dave Kolpack in Fargo, North Dakota; and Jonathan Drew in Durham, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

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ART

FROM PAGE 1

the history of Venice and those are the people I hope we can engage through the Art Crawl."

The Venice Art Crawl is a non-profit group run by volunteers through a committee of the Venice Chamber of Commerce. Its mission is "to preserve the arts in Venice, a place that has historically been known as a vibrant and dynamic art community, and to share, inspire and promote collaboration within the Venice community through mixers and art events."

The crawl began in 2010 as the brainchild of Daniel Samako, the owner of James Beach, and Edizen Stowell, the Co-Founder of Venice Paparazzi. For the first three years it took place on the third Thursday of every month. Artists would bring their work out to the boardwalk and locals would gather to socialize, admire the art, purchase pieces and speak with the creators.

"The founders talked about trying to make the boardwalk safer at night and trying to have more activity on Thursday nights," said Bak. "It really was this amazing community event where everybody would go out and see their friends and neighbors."

As the Art Crawl grew and became harder to coordinate, the organizers decided to run it on four Thursdays during the summer, and despite the pandemic, organizers have decreed this summer will be no exception.

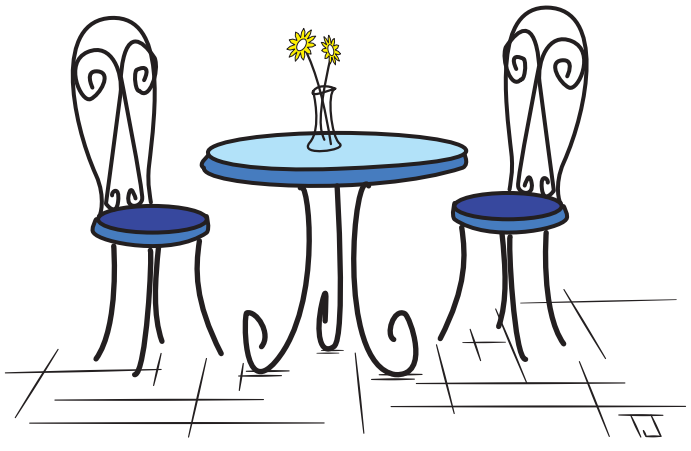
On June 6, the Art Crawl partnered with the Mar Vista Arts Coalition to host an 8-hour livestream festival featuring artist talks, workshops, and musical performances. As this month marks the 10th anniversary of the Art Crawl, organizers have put together a packed lineup for Thursday's event.

"It's going to be a special art crawl where we have an eclectic variety of artists from all over the world with some kind of a Venice connection. There will be a lot of Venice locals and a lot of former Venice locals," said Bak. A benefit of the virtual format is that it allows anyone who has enjoyed the Art Crawls over the years to tune in from wherever they live.

The event will go live at 6 p.m. on Thursday on Instagram at @veniceartcrawl.

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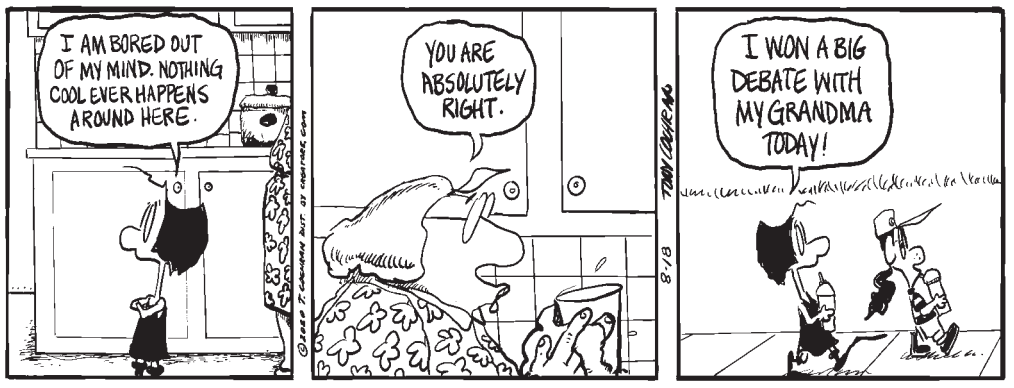
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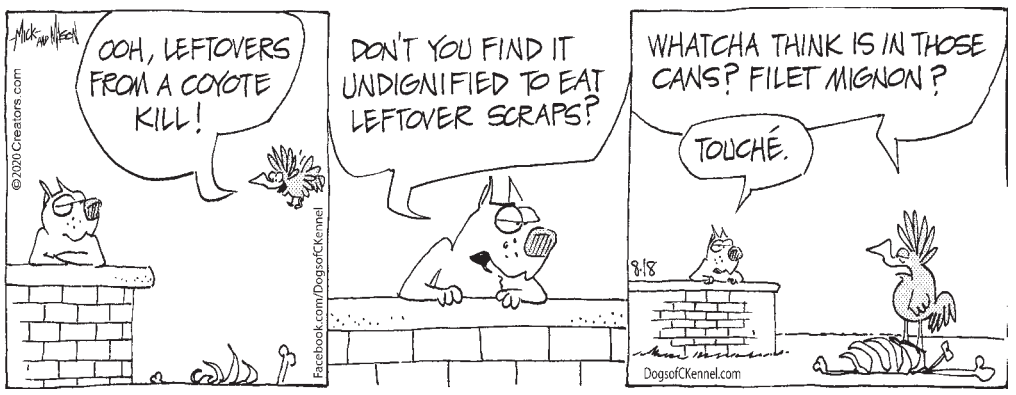
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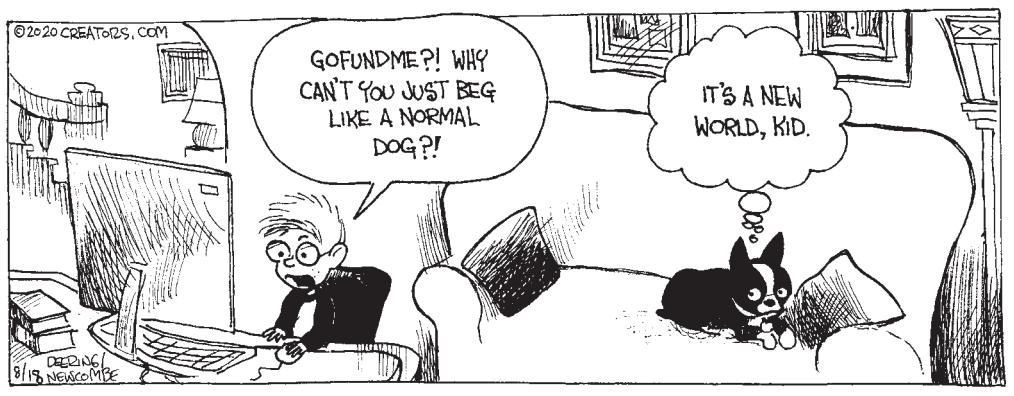
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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 67.1°

TUESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Modest SSE swell continues as new SW swell mixes in. Small NW windswell in the mix. Winds looking light for the morning tide push.

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Minor SW swell for exposures west of Pt Dume. Easing SSE swell. Wind looks manageable for the morning, likely best to wait for the tide to push in a bit.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 81.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 69.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 77.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 71.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 82.

2020/08/18	Tue	03:52 AM	-0.82	L
2020/08/18	Tue	10:12 AM	4.45	H
2020/08/18	Tue	3:16 PM	1.82	L
2020/08/18	Tue	9:27 PM	6.78	H
2020/08/19	Wed	04:26 AM	-0.85	L
2020/08/19	Wed	10:09 PM	6.67	H
2020/08/20	Thu	05:02 AM	-0.68	L
2020/08/20	Thu	11:20 AM	4.92	H
2020/08/20	Thu	4:50 PM	1.36	L
2020/08/20	Thu	10:55 PM	6.29	H
2020/08/21	Fri	05:38 AM	-0.32	L
2020/08/21	Fri	11:58 AM	5.13	H
2020/08/21	Fri	5:43 PM	1.25	L
2020/08/21	Fri	11:44 PM	5.68	H
2020/08/22	Sat	06:14 AM	0.20	L
2020/08/22	Sat	12:39 PM	5.29	H
2020/08/22	Sat	6:43 PM	1.22	L
2020/08/23	Sun	12:40 AM	4.91	H
2020/08/23	Sun	06:52 AM	0.84	L
2020/08/23	Sun	1:25 PM	5.39	H
2020/08/23	Sun	7:53 PM	1.22	L

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Draw Date:08/15
5 12 34 45 56
Power#: 3
Jackpot:22 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 08/14
3 24 29 42 47
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 40 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 08/15
14 18 21 42 45
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 15 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 08/16
14 18 33 36 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 08/16
Evening: 4 6 4
Draw Date: 08/16
Midday: 4 1 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 08/16
1st: 11 - MONEY BAGS
2nd: 07 - EUREKA
3rd: 06 - WHIRL WIN
RACE TIME: 1:45.12

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (AUGUST 18)

You're not one to take a risk just for the thrill of it, but you'll risk quite a lot for the results and people you deem worthy, and that's precisely what makes this year stellar. You'll go all in, and not only will it be enormously satisfying in the moment; you'll look back in pride and astonishment at who you are and all that unfolds. Virgo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 10, 4, 18 and 12.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Do not doubt that you can go beyond your previous limits. "Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." -- St. Francis of Assisi

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's easier to forgive an enemy than it is to let someone close to you off the hook. Do both. No one is ever so free as they are when they are free of resentment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Inside every long-term, mutually caring relationship, a little impatience must fall. How these less-than-ideal moments get handled can be defining in the relationship. It's an opportunity for grace and resilience.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Questions will lead you down a path. Don't be overly eager to get to the answer. Answers may be briefly satisfying, but once they come, the journey is over.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are needed, and it's wonderful to feel like your help makes a difference. Accept help when it is offered and you'll allow someone else to feel this wonderful feeling.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If today were an orchestration, your contribution would be along the lines of a bassoon part, which is to say essential although low-key and not in the least bit self-serious.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Those who care to show you part of the world you wouldn't otherwise know are giving you love in a very useful form. You'll soon enjoy paying this forward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You rely on those you love, and you like that they rely on you, but if you didn't have one another, you'd each stand up just fine on your own. The leaning you do is a dance, more artful than it is necessary.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People have different capacities for understanding and processing one another. Be patient with this. Communication is trickier and more nuanced than usual today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Cause and effect isn't always obvious or timely. Some of what you are experiencing today is part of a cycle that began at least a decade ago. It makes you think about what you're starting right now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's the simple decisions -- the yes/no/stay/go variety -- that will make the biggest difference in how things develop from here. Don't know what you're doing? Just say yes, then. You'll learn as you go.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you give of yourself without pretense or agenda, your honest and pure attention is a precious gift. Pay attention to who appreciates that.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

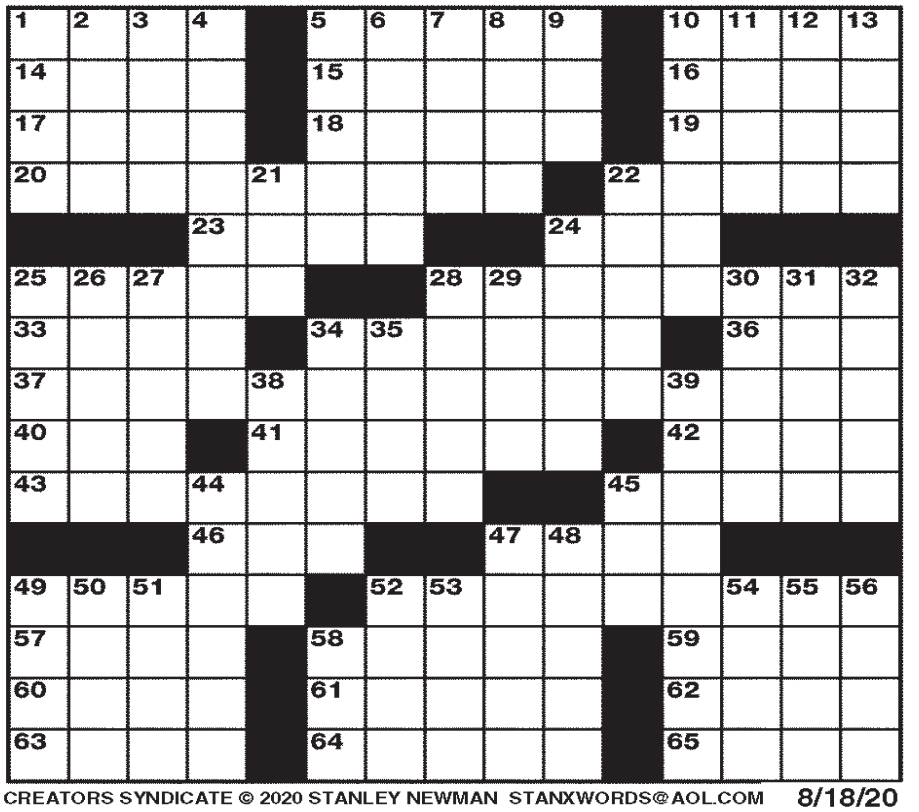
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1		8		9				
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2			9	7				8
	1		2		5		9	
7				3	8			2
	4	5			1			
				8		3		5
	8		4			1		

Newsday Crossword

THINK PINK by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Paper towel package
5 Have an urge for
10 Foolish person
14 One of the Great Lakes
15 Change, as a price label
16 Brit's "Dear me!"
17 Right, on a map
18 "We __ please"
19 Food for pigs
20 Pink long-legged birds
22 Not tight enough
23 Tied, as a score
24 Caught a glimpse of
25 Filled with dryer fuzz
28 Hill built by an insect colony
33 __ about (approximately)
34 Paved backyard areas
36 Not scheduled yet: Abbr.
37 Pink traditional infant wear
40 Ram's mate
41 Quick on the __ (smart)
42 "If it __ broke . . ."
43 Thinking only of others
45 Alphabet intro
46 Ancient
47 Of great height
49 Try for a job
52 Pink chew for kids
57 Cause of a dripping pipe
58 Lake boat
59 Hawaiian restaurant figurine
60 Touches on the shoulder
61 Make a hard copy of
62 Baker's appliance
63 Give approval for
64 Poker pot pay-ins
65 Bothersome person

DOWN
1 Lagoon's coral formation
2 Taken by mouth, as medicine
3 *Mona* __
4 "I'd like to take a shot"
5 Construction site lifter
6 Rule the kingdom
7 Weather prefix for sphere
8 Brewery tubs
9 Swelled head
10 Renounce, as a family member
11 Capital of Norway
12 Neighbor of Vietnam
13 Work at a keyboard
21 "Poison" climbing vine
22 Rodeo rope
24 Pilfered
25 Tips of ears
26 Very impressed
27 __ Peace Prize
28 Book of world maps
29 Slight cut from shaving
30 Standard of conduct
31 Double curve on a road
32 Sample of food
34 Spoke (up)
35 Master of __ (graduate degree)
38 Small ravine
39 Ping-Pong surface
44 Informal and friendly
45 Every single one
47 Steakhouse order
48 Aids and __ (helps in a crime)
49 Woman in a choir
50 Alpine apex
51 Bear with too-hot porridge
52 Building for livestock
53 __ of measure (quart or mile)
54 Donate
55 Luau instruments
56 Mouthwash flavoring
58 Tax pro: Abbr.



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 8/18/20

Binary Puzzle

Each cell should contain a zero or a one. No more than two similar numbers below or next to each other are allowed. Each row and each column is unique and contains as many zeros as ones.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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				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 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4844

Emergency ward

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

Acid	Drug	Meals	Surgeon
Acute	Duty	Mend	Tests
Aides	Elective	Need	Tissue
Ankle	Error	Nurse	Toes
Arms	Fever	Pale	Treat
Back	Form	Pans	Tube
Beds	Heart	Plaster	Ulna
Bite	Idle	Room	Unconscious
Blood	Illness	Sick	Wait
Care	Inpatient	Sleep	Ward
Cooks	Isolate	Sponge	X-ray
Cost	Legs	Staff	
Drip	Matron	Strain	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Understanding our universe

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Trump motivates Democrats to rally behind Biden, Harris

BILL BARROW
Associated Press

For the second time in four years, the Democratic presidential primary pitted the expanding progressive movement against an eventually victorious establishment. But as the party gathers virtually this week to nominate Joe Biden for the presidency, the possibility of President Donald Trump's reelection has become Democrats' unifying and energizing force.

"Nobody fits neatly and tightly into any one bucket," said Georgia Democratic Chairwoman Nikema Williams. "What we all fit into is knowing that right now we don't have leadership in our country, and it's hurting all of us."

That's an important shift from 2016, when Hillary Clinton struggled to build a coalition between her supporters and those who backed Sen. Bernie Sanders, who again finished as runner-up this year. It reflects both the work Biden has done to court the left and the urgency among Democrats to defeat Trump, which has only intensified amid the coronavirus pandemic, economic turmoil and a national reckoning on racism.

Still, the party's ideological splits haven't vanished. There are disagreements over how to achieve universal health care, make higher education affordable, overhaul law enforcement practices and reengage with countries that are questioning America's role in the world.

Leaders on the left warn that Biden must still keep their interests in mind, offering a reminder that even a November victory won't guarantee a united front during a Biden presidency.

"Progressives are going to vote against Trump," said Stephanie Taylor, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, but she called it "demoralizing and wrong" for Biden and the Democratic National Committee to give convention airtime to figures like billionaire Mike Bloomberg, the former New York City mayor who spent more than $500 million of his own money running for the nomination.

Taylor nodded at Biden's pick of Kamala Harris as his running mate, the first Black woman on a major party's ticket. But she cast the California senator, who is also of Asian descent, as an establishment politician alongside Biden, a former vice president first elected to the Senate in 1972.

"If Biden and Harris want to energize progressives to donate and volunteer," Taylor said, "they need to elevate leaders like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Julián Castro, and policies like canceling student debt and Medicare for All. Progressive energy matters, and voter energy matters. We're fighting Trump as hard as we can right now — just don't take that for granted."

In fact, Ocasio-Cortez, the New York congresswoman and a face of young progressives, and Castro, who set the 2020 presidential field's left flank on immigration, will be featured during the four-night convention. But Taylor's sentiment underscores the complexity in Biden's effort to corral the spectrum of voters dissatisfied with Trump.

Despite Biden's five decades at the core of the Democratic Party, he's not a natural fit for every faction in 2020.

As younger activists gain clout in shaping the party's priorities, Biden will be 78 on Inauguration Day, making him the oldest person to assume the presidency if he's elected. As a white man, his core constituencies are white moderates and Black women, who revived his campaign in part because of their appreciation of Biden's service as vice president to Barack Obama, the first Black president. And his reverence for institutions such as Congress is at odds with the most intense voices of both political parties, where activists often put a premium on outsiders and aren't eager to compromise.

To a large degree, Biden is comfortable with the challenges. From its start, his campaign has been as much a moral argument against Trump as about settling an absolute identity for his party. He's said plainly he wouldn't have run if Trump weren't president. Two of his three campaign themes are aimed squarely at the incumbent: "restore the soul of the nation" and "unite the country."

On policy, Biden did take a side in Democrats' identity battle, running as a pragmatic alternative to Sanders and Elizabeth Warren in the primary. He wants a "public option" government health insurance plan, not their preferred single-payer insurance system that would scrap private insurance altogether. He wants to offer considerable aid for college tuition and to ease student debt, even widening his proposals since capturing the nomination. Yet he still doesn't go as far as Sanders.

He's pitched trillions in spending to combat the climate crisis but doesn't fully embrace progressives "Green New Deal." Biden wants a range of tax hikes on corporations and the wealthy, and since the pandemic has ratcheted up his rhetoric on the deep-seated inequalities in U.S. society. He's adopted Warren's proposed overhaul of U.S. bankruptcy laws to make them more consumer friendly, but he also goes out of his way not to vilify business and wealth.

A deal-maker from his 36 years in the Senate, Biden spent his months as presumptive nominee working with progressives on various proposals. He calls himself the "most progressive" nominee in the modern era and says his agenda, if enacted, would rank alongside seminal Democratic Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson. But he's never expressly retreated from a core message he wielded against Sanders: "People are looking for results, not a revolution."

All that leaves Biden and the party wide latitude to solicit voters — but also to leave some disillusioned.

"We are a big party," said Democratic National Chairman Tom Perez, arguing that a convention lineup that ranges from Sanders, a democratic socialist, to a conservative Republican like former Ohio Gov. John Kasich, still speaks to "common values."

When talking more broadly, Democratic leaders and activists interviewed ahead of the convention most often mentioned three qualities: the party's diversity, support of workers and Biden's reputation for empathy.

"The Democratic Party is a microcosm of the United States of America," said House Minority Whip Jim Clyburn, a South Carolina Democrat whose endorsement of Biden was a turning point in the nominating fight.

Williams, the Georgian who is also the Democratic nominee to succeed the late Rep. John Lewis, celebrated Harris' nomination, regardless of any hand-wringing over the senator's record as a prosecutor or how she treated big banks as California attorney general. "That motivates me to get out there and work my butt off," she said.

Perez called Biden an ideal figure to tie disparate factions together with Trump as the opponent. "Joe Biden is a fundamentally honest and decent person," he said.

Among many progressives who didn't want him as nominee, those personal characteristics and the presumption they attract independents and Republicans in the voting booth is enough to warrant support.

Larry Cohen, a prominent Democratic national committeeman, Sanders confidant and labor leader, pointed to Democrats on Capitol Hill as the guide for the party. Democrats won the House majority in 2018 largely on the strength of more moderate nominees running in suburban and exurban swing districts. But several young progressives, including Ocasio-Cortez, won seats, as well, across battlegrounds and safe Democratic districts.

Democrats' hopes to retake the Senate and, in turn, move any significant agenda depends first on a similarly varied slate winning enough seats. Even then, Cohen said, Democrats will have to navigate internal party fights, almost certainly including whether to abolish the filibuster, so that major legislation doesn't require 60 votes.

"When I look at the ticket, I see two experts on the Senate, on getting things done," he said, invoking a personal motto: "Forward ever." "The rest of that line that I don't always use," Cohen said, is "'backward never.'"

Associated Press writer Meg Kinnard in Columbia, South Carolina, contributed to this report.

SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

close the gap.

"Our goal was to raise $275,000 in seven weeks during the pandemic in a community that was still recovering from the Woolsey fire," said Karin Al-Hardan, the Vice President of the Webster Elementary School PTA, during last Thursday's School Board Meeting. As part of the fundraising campaign the Webster Elementary and Malibu Elementary PTAs organized an online action from July 24 to 30 which included a wide range of physical goods, workshops, and trips donated by the local community.

The campaign raised $198,105 in this short time window, thanks to a $160,000 grant from the Malibu Foundation alongside $38,105 from parents. As a result, fundraising efforts in Malibu will contribute $337,543 to the District for the upcoming school year.

Programs at Malibu High School are fully funded for this year and Webster and Malibu elementary schools have fully funded their instructional aides and STEM programs. Unfortunately, the P.S. Arts program at the elementary schools is not funded, but the PTAs will be continuing their fundraising efforts this fall.

"I'd say that if ever there was a PSA for the PTA, This would be it," said Al-Hardan. "We had a stellar group of parents who stepped forward, and in seven weeks were able to really turn this situation around."

Both the Santa Monica Education Foundation and Malibu PTAs' efforts are essential for funding educational programs across the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. These enriching arts, STEM, and learning support programs are especially valuable this fall as students' activities will be limited by the restrictions of distance learning.

clara@smdp.com

COVID

FROM PAGE 1

according to Ferrer, who said they went down from 2,219 occasions per day in mid-July to 1,388 in mid-August.

"The decreasing number of daily hospitalizations is one of our best indicators that our efforts over the last few weeks are actually working as it's an accurate representation of how many people are currently seriously ill from the virus," Ferrer said, mentioning the county also hasn't had any data problems so she knows the information is accurate.

"In late July, our average daily reported deaths was 43," and in mid-August, the county saw an average of around 30 reported deaths per day, Ferrer said, adding: "These are all promising developments that represent the hard work and the difficult choices that are being made by residents and businesses, every single day. We know from the past that when we work together, we slow the spread, and it seems that we've done just that, again.

"I wanted to say how grateful I am for everyone who is doing their part to make sure that we slow the spread of COVID-19," but there is still a ways to go until county and state leaders are confident enough to allow residents an opportunity to return to schools and get back to work, Ferrer said. "We don't want infections from the community coming back into our schools and creating an increase of outbreaks that then increases the amount of community transmission we (could) see."

And since the county does have the capacity to test more people for COVID-19, Ferrer said prior to the conclusion of the conference that she encourages residents who are experiencing symptoms to go out and get tested for free at a Los Angeles County testing site, which can be found online at covid19.lacounty.gov/testing.

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