smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

FRIDAY
12.04.20
Volume 20 Issue 19

State Stay-at-Home order
Could be coming soon.
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White Fragility discussion
Hosted by the Committee for Racial Justice.
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Santa Monica officials open to talk of local health department



Brennon Dixson

DINING: The recent closure of outdoor dining has spurred consideration of local health departments.

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Opposition to the recent closure of outdoor dining has driven several Los Angeles area cities to consider abandoning the County's Health Department in favor of a new agency and Santa Monica officials are open to discussing the idea.

Calls for Santa Monica to break off from the guidance of the Los Angeles County Health Department have increased in recent days as business owners and residents alike express their discontent with the new restrictions imposed by county and state leaders.

Pasadena and Long Beach already have their own departments. This week, Lancaster, Beverly Hills, West Covina, Whittier, and Hawaiian Gardens all discussed forming new departments or made an official statement opposing County operations.

Incoming City Councilmember Phil Brock, who will be sworn in Tuesday, said he has received frantic messages from restaurant owners and concerned residents about the outdoor closures that were instituted after Los Angeles County reported a record in the number of COVID-19 cases.

Despite the surge in case counts, Brock said he takes a stance similar to that of the Beverly Hills City Council and the California Restaurant Association, which is seeking a court order to halt the county's three-week dine-in ban.

"Their councilmembers' positions made a lot of sense," Brock said as he pondered if local control over the city's health guidelines would be better for residents.

"Whether there is a cost benefit to having our own health department —that can be considered. We could look at a multi-city 'Westside Health Department,'" Brock said. "As far as the current issue (of closures), I support the efforts of Beverly Hills and the California Restaurant Association to overturn the ruling of the L.A. County Supervisors. I want our residents to be safe, wear

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 11

Ralph Mechur looks back on 13 years of School Board service

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

After 13 years of service, Ralph Mechur is stepping down from School Board and looking forward to ushering in new leaders to continue pursuing excellent equitable education for all students.

Ralph was first appointed to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education in 2007 and has served through ups and downs, financial crises and victories, and even a pandemic. During this time the District has moved from state aid to basic aid funding, instituted 21st century learning techniques, redeveloped school facilities, and transitioned to distance learning.

Over the course of his tenure, Mechur is most proud of the Board for recognizing the achievement



RALPH MECHUR

gap for low-income and minority students and making a firm commitment to address it.

"The most important thing is to make equity and success of all

SEE **RALPH MECHUR** PAGE 7

Venice sign lighting will bring holiday cheer virtually this year

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday Dec. 5, the Venice Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Holiday Sign Lighting virtually, ensuring everyone can eat, drink, and be merry from the comfort of their homes.

The event will be livestreamed at Facebook.com/VeniceChamber and hosted by Emcee and long-time Venetian Mike Newhouse. Event highlights include sign lighting by a local celebrity resident, presentations to the winners of the 2020 My Venice holiday poster contest and an award honoring the 2020 Venice Local Hero.

"The Holiday Sign Lighting very simply brings people together. It has been and continues to be an incredible way for everyone to enjoy much needed holiday cheer, and to end the year with smiles and joy," said George Francisco, president of the Venice Chamber of Commerce, and event producer for the Holiday Sign Lighting.

This year actor Jon Huertas will do the honors of pulling the symbolic switch causing the iconic Venice sign to burst into festive green and red lights.

Huertas currently stars as Miguel

SEE **VENICE** PAGE 6


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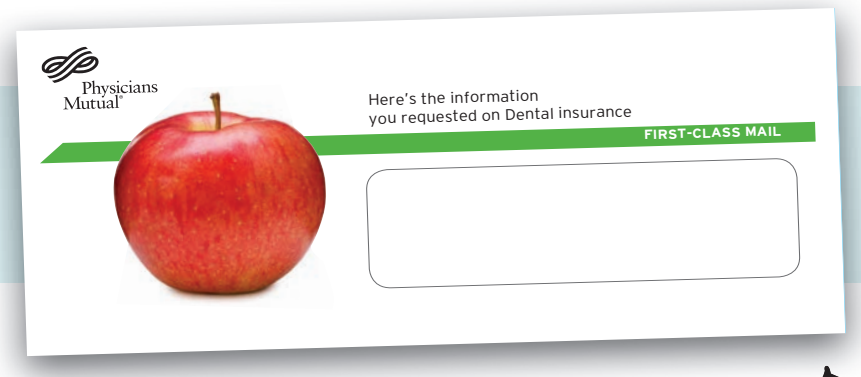
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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 227 CALLS ON NOVEMBER 2

Party Complaint 200blk Palisades Ave 12:21 a.m.
Citizen Flag 4th St / Pico Blvd 12:42 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:44 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 1:20 a.m.
Stalking Report 300blk Olympic Dr 1:36 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 00blk Pico Blvd 3:15 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1400blk Ocean Ave 3:19 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1400blk 7th St 4:54 a.m.
Loud Music 1400blk Ocean Ave 4:59 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 400blk Expo Line 5:15 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 12th St / Arizona Ave 5:33 a.m.
Encampment 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 6:25 a.m.
Public Intoxication 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 7:41 a.m.
Construction Noise 1800blk 7th St 7:43 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 2400blk 14th St 7:58 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1300blk Stanford St 7:58 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2300blk Pearl St 8:01 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 2400blk Oak St 8:29 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 500blk Colorado Ave 8:37 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Just Occurred Ocean Ave / Arizona Ave 8:48 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300blk Stanford St 8:49 a.m.
Encampment 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 9:10 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1000blk Wilshire Blvd 9:17 a.m.
Burglary Report 600blk San Vicente Blvd 9:23 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100blk 2nd St 9:25 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1400blk Ocean Ave 9:39 a.m.
General Parking Problem 100blk California Ave 9:53 a.m.
Arson 2200blk Main St 9:54 a.m.
Citizen Flag 100blk Ocean Ave 10:02 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1200blk 15th St 10:17 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1300blk Marine St 10:19 a.m.
Encampment 400blk Bay St 10:27 a.m.
Civil Dispute 2500blk Lincoln Blvd 10:39 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 3000blk 2nd St 10:43 a.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 10:47 a.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order In Progress 1100blk 7th St 10:50 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500blk Lincoln Blvd 10:55 a.m.
Encampment 2000blk Ocean Ave 10:56 a.m.
General Parking Problem 4th St / Pacific St 11:26 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 19th St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:37 a.m.
Citizen Flag 3100blk Wilshire Blvd 11:51 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1400blk Arizona Ave 11:58 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 3100blk Arizona Ave 12:05 p.m.
Encampment 1200blk 5th St 12:19 p.m.
Loud Music 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 12:25 p.m.
Encampment Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 12:29 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:31 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 700blk Ozone St 1:19 p.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk Euclid St 1:28 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 600blk Wilshire Blvd 1:30 p.m.
Identity Theft 800blk 15th St 1:49 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:56 p.m.
Identity Theft 600blk San Vicente Blvd 2:06 p.m.
Person Down Stanford St / Wilshire Blvd 2:19 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1300blk 2nd St 2:47 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1600blk Hill St 2:50 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1400blk Stanford St 2:55 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1000blk 16th St 3:23 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2700blk Neilson Way 3:25 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1400blk Wilshire Blvd 3:26 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 00blk Arcadia Ter 3:31 p.m.
Forensics Request - Miscellaneous 400blk Broadway 3:38 p.m.
Battery Report 1900blk Pico Blvd 3:53 p.m.
Found Property 2700blk 3rd St 4:08 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 4:11 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Centinela Ave / Interstate 10 4:23 p.m.
Burglary Report 2500blk 4th St 4:28 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 2700blk Neilson Way 4:31 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk Lincoln Blvd 4:42 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1100blk 11th St 4:50 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2800blk 3rd St 5:01 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1800blk Navy St 5:19 p.m.
Found Property 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 5:53 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Civic Center Dr 6:30 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 800blk 7th St 6:34 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1000blk 14th St 7:13 p.m.
Found Property 600blk Wilshire Blvd 7:21 p.m.
Auto Burglary Now 4th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:46 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 200blk San Vicente Blvd 8:19 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 2200blk Wilshire Blvd 9:06 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 9:56 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2500blk Pico Blvd 10:24 p.m.
Panic Alarm 300blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:55 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 11:12 p.m.
Loud Music 1300blk California Ave 11:27 p.m.
Civil Dispute 1500blk 16th St 11:38 p.m.

SEND YOUR TIPS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Committee for Racial Justice Book Event this Sunday

A one-time Courageous Conversation about White Fragility, based on the book by Robin D'Angelo. Facilitated by Rev. Janet Gollery McKeithen (one of the co-founders of CRJ and a steering committee member from the beginning). All are welcome to this discussion, whether or not you've read the book. This discussion is open to all people, white and non-white alike. McKeithen is also the minister of Church in Ocean Park, a member of the Santa Monica Bay Human Relations Council, and the President of the Santa Monica Area Interfaith Council. Join organizers for an interesting and educational discussion. For more information, call Joanne at (310) 422-5431.

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE BERLIN

Citywide

Samohi Team Marine advocated for fossil fuel divestment

Team Marine, a student-run environmental research and advocacy organization at Santa Monica High School, proposed and presented a fossil fuel divestment resolution to their local teachers' association, Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teacher Association (SMMCTA), demanding the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) divests its six billion dollar holdings in fossil fuels.

SMMCTA passed the resolution with a unanimous vote. This presentation by Team Marine members Jackson Yassin, Catherine Todd, Daniel Thurmond, and Isabel Homberg focused on the ethical, political, and financial damage of CalSTRS's fossil fuel companies' funding.

The team took on the project after Fossil Free California reached out to initiate a divestment effort in the Santa Monica teachers association chapter that would add on to the other ten resolutions already adopted in other chapters throughout California. Fossil fuel divestment is in line with Team Marine's mission of advocating for sustainability and their previous environmental work.

The six billion dollars that CalSTRS has invested in the fossil fuel industry makes up 2% of its extensive portfolio.

SUBMITTED BY ISABEL HOMBERG REISSMEIER AND CATHERINE TODD

Pico Blvd.

Pico Wishing Tree at the Pico Pop Up

Pico merchants are celebrating the community this holiday season with festive lights and a sparkly Wishing Tree at the Pico Pop Up, 2802 Pico Blvd., through Dec. 23, open daily 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Visitors of all ages are encouraged to write a Pico Wish with a hope or dream and have it hung on the Wishing Tree. Find wish slips at the Pico Pop Up, the Virginia Ave Park Library, Mon-Fri from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. or the Pico Farmer's Market on Saturdays. The vibrant pop-up includes fantastic photography of Pico merchants, graffiti art by Pico artists, a Pico Mural Walking Tour Map and surprise free gifts. The experience features an Insta-worthy photo op at our giant polka dot flower pot, and sweet treats for kids and family.

More information on the Pico Wishing Tree at the Pico Pop Up is available on PicoPassport.com, where visitors can also sign up to receive updates on new Pico Blvd murals, events and sales, and easy to use directories to Pico Blvd's favorite restaurants, shops and services.

"As we celebrate our diverse merchants in our Pico District, from Centinela all the way to the beach, we are delighted to offer neighbors and visitors of all ages the opportunity to be cheered by the festive decorations in this wonderful space and offer a place to hang a hope or wish in this magical season. We also offer Pico mural maps and fun, free gifts. Don't miss the chance while here to support Pico businesses by purchasing family and co-workers holiday gift cards from our restaurants, shops and services." said Sharon Town Lee, Chair, Pico Improvement Org.

PICO Improvement Org is the non-profit team that works to collectively promote the merchants on Pico, and encourages and fosters close relationships between the merchants and local residents. Pico murals, street banners, landscaped medians and support for Shakespeare in the Park are some of their many projects. For more information or to get involved, visit https://picopassport.com/about.

SUBMITTED BY DANA MOOREHEAD

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 22 CALLS ON NOVEMBER 2

EMS 400blk Expo Line 5:14 a.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 6:37 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Hill St 8:13 a.m.
EMS 1400blk Franklin St 8:33 a.m.
EMS 500blk Colorado Ave 8:46 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Colorado Ave 9:40 a.m.
Wires Down 100blk Broadway 10:01 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Lincoln Blvd 10:46 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 11th St 1:12 p.m.
EMS 900blk Yale St 1:22 p.m.
EMS Stanford St / Wilshire Blvd 2:18 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1900blk 27th 3:04 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 21st St 3:05 p.m.
EMS 900blk Wilshire Blvd 3:11 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Cloverfield Blvd / Interstate 10 5:09 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Neilson Way 6:14 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 7:01 p.m.
EMS 2900blk 4th St 7:03 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 7:04 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 200blk San Vicente Blvd 7:22 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 800blk Broadway 8:03 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 9:32 p.m.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Mad King, Diaper Don, Georgia on His Mind

As Covid deaths in America near 280,000, "insane duck" President Trump is forsaking golf to go to Georgia tomorrow to promote the two Republican U.S. Senate incumbents in the all-important January 5th run-offs. If the Democrats win both seats they'll control the Senate. If the "Retrumplicans" win just one, "Moscow Mitch" McConnell will likely do to Biden what he did to Obama and block everything. (Apparently what he lives for.)

Oddly enough, Trump has viciously attacked the Georgia Governor and Secretary of State who voted for him. Their "sin" is that both insist the election was completely fair. Trump still whines about massive voter fraud but his lawyers haven't provided any genuine evidence.

Seemingly every day another court, even when presided over by Trump-appointed judges, tosses Trump's case into the toilet. But at a Wednesday press conference in Atlanta "Stop the Steal" lawyer Lin Wood said "Trump actually won 410 'electrical college' votes." ("Electrical"?) Recently pardoned Michael Flynn tweeted that Trump should impose martial law and have the military oversee "a revote of the election."

But if, as Trumpists allege, the 2020 election was rigged by the Democrats with the help of Hugo Chavez who's been dead for seven years and George Soros (seemingly they always have to include a Jew in their conspiracy) why did Republicans do so well? The GOP gained so many seats in the House that the Democrats will have the smallest majority in two decades.

As crowds of Georgia Republicans chanted "lock him up" referring to Governor Kemp, Trump declared "I'm ashamed I ever supported him." But if we've learned anything about Trump is he's shameless. Examine his unforgivable mishandling of the Covid pandemic.

On a February 7 phone call, Trump somberly told reporter Bob Woodward that Covid is "the plague, five times worse than the flu and is airborne transmitted far more dangerous than by contact." And yet weeks later Trump mocked people wearing masks.

Consider the following. S. Korea and the U.S. discovered their first Covid case on the same day but the Koreans made mask-wearing mandatory. That might explain that, after adjusting for the population differences, the U.S. has 79 times more deaths. (Staggering!)

Before I go further, let me explain the unusual title I chose for this week. The "Mad King" refers to George III who apparently went insane after England lost the Revolutionary War, insisting the colonies would come crawling back.

Similarly, Trump claims hourly he won the 2020 election and is suggesting he will run again in 2024. (Assuming he's not "living" at Leavenworth by then.) As for the Revolutionary War, on July 4th, 2019, Trump, a self-proclaimed student of American history, praised the Continental Army which "Took over the airports from the British." (Airports in 1776?) Trump has also complimented Frederick Douglas whom he clearly thought was still living and said Andrew Jackson "was outraged over the Civil War," even though Jackson died 16 years before the war began.

Using complex vocabulary, King George's insanity included incoherent speeches (sound familiar?) and, on occasion, would foam at the mouth. Trump has an extremely limited vocabulary but he has yet to foam at the mouth. (However he often sniffs incessantly and, like a 4-year old, needs two hands to drink from a glass of water.)

With apologies to the late Ray Charles, Trump doesn't have Georgia on his mind. The only thing ever on his mind is himself. Unable to bear being labeled a "loser," Trump has called the Georgia election "rigged" so often, many Republicans are saying "Why should I bother voting." (If only.)

This brings me to "Diaper Don" which has trended on the Internet. It originated with stand-up comedian Noel Casler, a former staffer on The Apprentice who saw Trump frequently snort Adderall on the set. Providing details, Casler insists Trump wears a girdle, lifts in his shoes and, having abused drugs so badly he became incontinent and uses Depends. (No wonder at the White House Melania not only sleeps in her own bedroom but also on a different floor than Diaper Don.)

In challenging Biden's undeniable victory, Trump has successfully kept his rabid base ginned up. Just since the election, he's raised $170 million for a "Vote Defense Fund" the majority of which will eventually line Trump's pockets. (Jim Jones directed his cult followers to poison themselves whereas Trump goes after their last dollar.)

That brings me to the Pardon Palooza where there's an DOJ investigation into whether they are being sold. Trump is reportedly considering preemptive pardons starting with himself, (duh) Ivanka, Don Jr., Eric, Jared and even crazy uncle Rudy.

"Lowlighted" by 280,000 Covid deaths, the Trump presidency is an epic failure. No border wall, no infrastructure, and no health care. As for his biggest promise of "draining the swamp," instead he's pardoning it.

Go to YouTube and type "Noel Casler DiaperDon."
Jack is at: jackdailypress@aol.com.

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

States plan for vaccines as daily US virus deaths top 3,100

SAM METZ AND RYAN J. FOLEY
Associated Press

States drafted plans Thursday for who will go to the front of the line when the first doses of COVID-19 vaccine become available later this month, as U.S. deaths from the outbreak eclipsed 3,100 in a single day, obliterating the record set last spring.

With initial supplies of the vaccine certain to be limited, governors and other state officials are weighing both health and economic concerns in deciding the order in which the shots will be dispensed.

States face a Friday deadline to submit requests for doses of the Pfizer vaccine and specify where they should be shipped, and many appear to be heeding nonbinding guidelines adopted this week by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to put health care workers and nursing home patients first.

But they're also facing a multitude of decisions about other categories of residents, some of them specific to their states, some of them vital to their economies.

Colorado's draft plan, which is being revised, puts ski resort workers who share close quarters in the second phase of vaccine distribution, in recognition of the $6 billion industry's linchpin role in the state's economy.

In Nevada, where officials have stressed the importance of bringing tourists back to the Las Vegas Strip, authorities initially put nursing home patients in the third phase, behind police officers, teachers, airport operators and retail workers. But they said Wednesday that they would revise that plan to conform to the CDC guidance.

Plans for the vaccine are being rolled out as the surging pandemic swamps U.S. hospitals and leaves nurses and other medical workers shorthanded and burned out. Nationwide the coronavirus is blamed for over 275,000 deaths and 14 million confirmed infections.

The U.S. recorded a record 3,157 deaths on Wednesday alone, according to the tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. That's more than the number of people killed on 9/11, and shattered the old mark of 2,603, set on April 15, when the New York metropolitan area was the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak.

The number of Americans in the hospital with the coronavirus likewise hit an all-time high Wednesday at more than 100,000, according to the COVID Tracking Project. The figure has more than doubled over the past month. And new cases per day have begun topping 200,000, by Johns Hopkins' count.

The three main benchmarks showed a country slipping deeper into crisis, with perhaps the worst yet to come — in part because of the delayed effects from Thanksgiving, when millions of Americans disregarded warnings to stay home and celebrate only with members of their household.

Health authorities had warned that the numbers could fluctuate strongly before and after Thanksgiving, as they often do around holidays and weekends. Because of reporting delays, the figures often drop, then rise sharply days later as state and local health agencies catch up with the backlog.

Still, deaths, hospitalizations and cases in the U.S. have been on a fairly steady rise for weeks, sometimes breaking records for days on end.

Keeping health care workers on their feet is considered vital to dealing with the crisis. And nursing home patients have proven highly vulnerable to the virus. Patients and staff members at nursing homes and other long-term care centers account for 39% of the nation's COVID-19 deaths.

As authorities draw up their priority lists for the vaccine, firefighter groups asked the Minnesota governor to placed in the first group. The Illinois plan gives highest priority to health care workers but also calls for first responders to be in the first batch to get the shot. Other states are struggling with where to put prisoners in the pecking order.

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said he wants teachers to get priority so that schools can stay open. Two California lawmakers asked for that, too, saying distance learning is harming students' education.

"Our state's children cannot afford to wait," wrote Republican Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham and Democratic Assemblyman Patrick O'Donnell. "This is too important to overlook or sweep aside."

Texas is putting hospital staff, nursing home workers and paramedics at the top of the list, followed by outpatient medical employees, pharmacists, funeral home workers and school nurses. Nursing home patients did not make the cut for the very first phase.

Advocates strongly expressed frustration over the way some states are putting medical workers ahead of nursing home residents.

"It would be unconscionable not to give top priority to protect the population that is more susceptible or vulnerable to the virus," said John Sauer, head of LeadingAge in Wisconsin, a group representing nonprofit long-term care facilities.

He added: "I can't think of a more raw form of ageism than that. The population that is most vulnerable to succumbing to this virus is not going to be given priority? I mean, that just says we don't value the lives of people in long-term care."

Iowa, which expects to get 172,000 doses over the next month, will make them available first to health care workers and nursing home residents and staff, while an advisory council will recommend who comes next to "minimize health inequities based on poverty, geography" and other factors, state Human Services Director Kelly Garcia said.

For example, prison inmates and residents of state institutions for the disabled aren't in the first round but will be put ahead of others, she said.

Foley reported from Des Moines, Iowa. Associated Press writers Geoff Mulvihill in Davenport, Iowa; Jim Anderson in Denver; Bob Christie in Phoenix; Steve Karnowski in Minneapolis; and Tammy Webber in Fenton, Michigan, contributed to this story.

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LA officials stream annual ceremony honoring unknown dead

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

During their lives they somehow slipped out of sight to the rest of us, and when death came to these 1,547 residents of Los Angeles County, they had become anonymous to the world.

Rather than simply place their remains in an unmarked grave after three years of fruitless searching for family, local religious leaders and Los Angeles County officials honored them Thursday with music and prayer — but with a different approach during this year's annual Ceremony of the Unclaimed Dead.

As solemn music was played, prayers said and incense burned over the graves of the deceased, only a handful of people, all wearing masks, were present in a small, nearly deserted Los Angeles cemetery.

Instead of inviting the public as in years past, officials streamed the 30-minute ceremony live on Facebook to keep people safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Our memorial this year is very different," Father Chris Ponnet said toward the ceremony's conclusion. But the director of the department of spiritual care for Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center, made it clear he considered it no less important.

"About two days ago I got a call in the office, and it was from a person looking for their loved one, and it was very specific when they saw the person for the last time several years ago," he said before opening the ceremony with a prayer.

"It reminded me why we are here," he continued, "and why these 1,547 remains are buried and we honor today individual lives, family and friends disconnected for various reasons."

The grave will eventually have a marker noting all those placed there died in 2017.

Ponnet was followed to a gravesite podium by Cantor Richard Schwartz, who offered a brief prayer and song as burning incense was wafted over the grave.

Still others came forward to recite the Lord's Prayer in English, Spanish and Japanese, as the podium and its microphone were wiped down with disinfectant before each speaker approached.

Amy Fogerson of the group Street Symphony performed a somber yet soaring version of "Amazing Grace," accompanied by violinist Vijay Gupta while a gentle breeze sent a few autumn-colored leaves falling to the earth.

Before Gupta concluded the ceremony with a sonata by Johann Sebastian Bach, Presbyterian Rev. Elizabeth Biggs Zehnder, who had recited the Lord's Prayer in Spanish, spoke. So did Episcopalian Chaplain Brian Tucker, who read a blessing titled "On Passing a Graveyard."

The blessing read in part: "May perpetual light shine upon the faces of all who rest here. May the lives they lived unfold further in spirit. May all their past travail find ease in the kindness of clay."

VENICE
FROM PAGE 1

on NBC's critically acclaimed series "This Is Us" and is also known for playing as Detective Javier Esposito on ABC's dramedy "Castle" and Sergeant Espera in HBO's mini series "Generation Kill." He has lived in Venice for over twenty years and is a co-owner of Clutch restaurant on Lincoln Blvd.

Though the event will look a little different this year, organizers feel it's more important than ever to get in the holiday spirit and celebrate the creativity and resilience of local businesses.

"The Venice Chamber is a community of small businesses; nearly 3/4 of our Chamber membership are local, single-person operators or have less than 10 employees and the boost a big event like this generates in revenue for them is vital for their business to flourish," said Francisco.

In the spirit of the season, the Chamber will also take a moment to recognize Jesse Martinez as the 2020 Local Hero for his longtime contribution to the welfare and culture of Venice.

Martinez was born and raised in Venice and has dedicated his life to maintaining and improving the Venice Skatepark. Martinez has spent years steering kids away from gangs and offering them skateboarding as an outlet and community. He is known as an icon and innovator in the art and culture of skateboarding and stands alongside the giants in the sport.

The Chamber will thank Martinez and other locals who have put in work to strengthen and improve the community year after year. Coming at the close of a turbulent year, the event will be a time for joy and celebration of the people and businesses that make Venice a wonderful place to live.

"In years past when we could all join together in one place, the sign lighting block party celebration was a cost-free opportunity to experience the communal energy while enjoying live, world-class entertainment, honoring our unsung heroes, recognizing the artwork of public school kids, and celebrating the tradition of lighting the Venice sign" said Francisco. "This year, everything in the world is obviously different, but we hope that by continuing this tradition in the virtual world, that it still brings joy to all who participate."

Clara@smdp.com



Courtesy image

VENICE: The Venice Chamber of Commerce is hosting a virtual sign lighting this week.

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California governor: Most of state nears stay-home order

ADAM BEAM AND KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

California will likely order most of its businesses to close or limit capacity in the coming days, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Thursday, part of new rules triggered when fewer than 15% of beds are available in intensive care units for regional hospital networks.

Newsom said four of the state's five regions -- excluding the San Francisco Bay Area -- will meet that threshold within a day or two.

When they do, the state will order the closure of all hair salons and barbershops, bars, breweries and distilleries, casinos and indoor and outdoor playgrounds.,

Restaurants would be limited to take-out and delivery only, while retailers must limit customers inside their stories to 20% capacity during the busy holiday shopping season.

Once triggered, regions would have 48 hours to implement the rules, which must stay in effect at least three weeks.

"The bottom line is if we don't act now our hospital system will be overwhelmed," Newsom said.

California on Wednesday reported more than 20,000 new coronavirus cases, the most ever in one day. A record 8,500 people are in hospitals, including more than 2,000 in intensive care units, leaving the state with fewer than 2,000 available intensive care beds.

Newsom — who is staying at home after three of his children were exposed to the virus — already has imposed restrictions, including a nighttime curfew in 51 of the state's 58 counties, an area with nearly the entire state population.

Los Angeles County, the nation's most populous with 10 million residents, also has imposed tighter stay-at-home restrictions and a three-week ban on in-person restaurant dining because of what county health director Barbara Ferrer called "terrifying increases in numbers."

On Wednesday night, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti issued a city order in apocalyptic tones telling people to remain in their homes.

LA "is now close to a devastating tipping point" that could overwhelm the hospital system, "in turn risking needless suffering and death," the order said.

The order also bars gatherings of people outside of immediate households with some exceptions and requires travelers arriving from outside the state to fill out an online form. It allows retail businesses to remain open for in-person shopping subject to a county curfew already in place.

Garcetti also urged police and the city attorney to enforce the order, which carries misdemeanor penalties.

In Santa Ana, a city of more than 300,000 people in Orange County, the City Council authorized a mandatory face mask rule and called for police to enforce it.

Overall, California has reported more than 1.2 million COVID-19 cases and more than 19,300 deaths. The state reported 20,759 new cases on Wednesday, surpassing the previous high of 18,350 set just last week.

Public health officials have said the current figures don't include the COVID-19 infections likely to arise from Thanksgiving holiday travel and gatherings that ignored social distancing precautions.

Those cases probably will start showing up in hospitals around Christmas, said Brad Pollock, associate dean for public health sciences at the University of California, Davis School of Medicine.

Associated Press reporters Brian Melley in Los Angeles and Amy Taxin in Orange County contributed to this story.

RALPH MECHUR

FROM PAGE 1

students our main focus," said Mechur. "There is no panacea or silver bullet, it's unfortunately not something that's going to happen overnight, but adopting social justice standards, infusing its tenants throughout our curriculum, increasing the parent engagement and making students really feel that we are there to help them are meaningful steps forwards."

Despite the heavy workload of the board position, Mechur said he had immense fun being a board member and creating opportunities for the future of Santa Monica and Malibu's students. One of his favorite parts of the job was interacting with students, staff, and families through campus events.

"The beginning of school each year is always exciting. We hit the ground running; there is a lot of learning going on right away and students, parents and teachers all feel really ready to dive into the new year," said Mechur. "Then during the school year there are sports events, arts events, and music events. It's so enjoyable to see the great work the students have put out and to celebrate all their successes."

Mechur is stepping down from the School Board to focus more time on his architecture firm and family.

Having spent over a decade of his life dedicated to school issues he feels it is time for new leaders to take the reins. Prior to serving on School Board, Mechur was on the board of the Santa Monica Education Foundation and was involved in bond measures and parcel tax campaigns to better fund the District.

"For any organization it's good to have new people brought in to bring new and creative ideas. If you are all similar in your views, it's healthy for there to be some change," said Mechur. "I feel good about opening the door for somebody else to step in."

His advice for new board members is to ask a lot of questions and learn as much as possible about all the different facets of the District. Mechur said the District is an incredibly complex organization and the hardest part of the job is staying abreast of everything that goes on.

"I will miss interactions with the superintendent and his staff, teachers, parents, other board members, and students," said Mechur. "Going forward, I think the board should continue to focus on equity issues and delve deeper into policies, behaviors, and curriculum that will move towards having every student feel welcome and have successful outcomes."

Clara@smdp.com





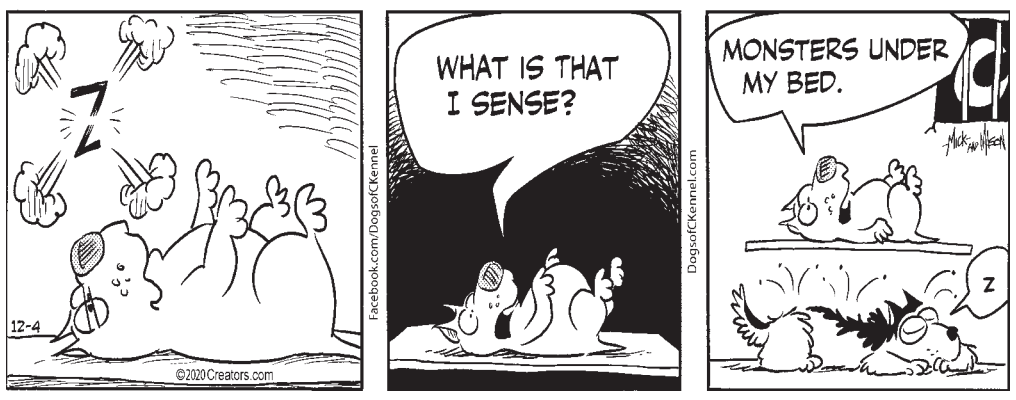
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



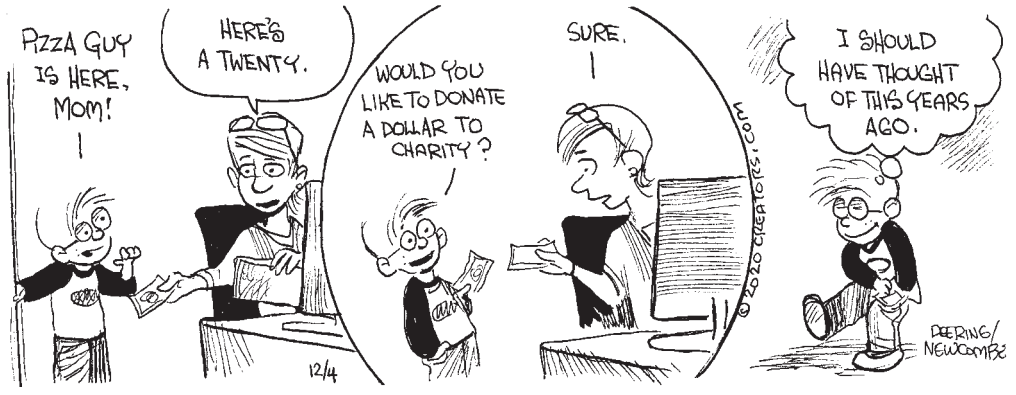
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



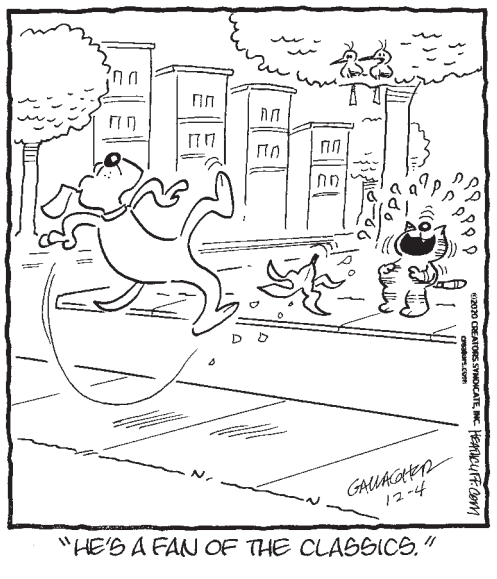
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.7°

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
WNW swell tops out in the morning and holds through the day.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to chest high
WNW swell eases through the day. Winds looking favorable at this point for the morning tide push.

WEATHER

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 68. North northeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west northwest in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51. North northeast wind around 5 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 66.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/12/04	Fri	12:35 AM	3.36	H
2020/12/04	Fri	04:08 AM	2.87	L
2020/12/04	Fri	10:32 AM	5.46	H
2020/12/04	Fri	6:20 PM	-0.13	L
2020/12/05	Sat	01:44 AM	3.41	H
2020/12/05	Sat	05:05 AM	3.07	L
2020/12/05	Sat	11:21 AM	5.09	H
2020/12/05	Sat	7:14 PM	0.06	L
2020/12/06	Sun	02:52 AM	3.63	H
2020/12/06	Sun	06:33 AM	3.19	L
2020/12/06	Sun	12:26 PM	4.66	H
2020/12/06	Sun	8:13 PM	0.24	L
2020/12/07	Mon	03:43 AM	3.98	H
2020/12/07	Mon	08:38 AM	2.99	L
2020/12/07	Mon	1:52 PM	4.23	H
2020/12/07	Mon	9:13 PM	0.42	L
2020/12/08	Tue	04:23 AM	4.44	H
2020/12/08	Tue	10:15 AM	2.35	L
2020/12/08	Tue	3:29 PM	3.97	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date:12/05
28 31 40 41 46
Power#: 4
Jackpot:243 M

MEGA MILLIONS calottery
Draw Date: 12/04
7 33 53 61 65
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 244 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 12/05
6 8 13 31 38
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 12 M

Fantasy 5 calottery
Draw Date: 12/03
22 23 24 30 39

Daily 3 calottery
Draw Date: 12/03
Evening: 1 4 2
Draw Date: 12/02
Midday: 7 6 6

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 12/02
1st: 04 - BIG BEN
2nd: 09 - WINNING SPIRIT
3rd: 05 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
RACE TIME: 1:45.02

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 04)

If in a year's time you had to give a Yelp review of experiences in 2021, it would be full of rich details of excellent highlights that add up to a resounding five stars. Your optimism and openness will pave the way. In one instance, you'll turn a small opportunity into a big deal and include loved ones in your good fortune. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 39, 22, 9 and 13.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your values are such that you can watch the same television show as the person next to you and see something completely different. If you're also able to discuss that civilly, then you're with the right person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Be there a while without trying to make sense of it. Life resists being forced to conform with one theory or another. When it does, something tangible will be lost, which does not even compare to the intangible loss sustained.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you're in the mood and you put your mind to it, the energy you create around yourself is magical. Now, you'll do this when you're not in the mood and create the same effect.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Should you let the other person go on in a wrong belief unchallenged? Maybe not much would happen in the short term, but what will happen if you continue to do so over time?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Without good leadership, it is possible that everyone does a small piece of a job and the end result is hundreds of small pieces instead of one finished job. This is why you want to know both the leader and the plan.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have your ways of making order out of disorder, but it's fun to try new ones, too. You may find that you can have and notice more of what you like just by organizing it a little differently.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The journey gets more pleasurable when you focus not only on the end result but also, and often, on the little milestones you hit and benefits you pick up along the way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Not everything that's on the surface is superficial. In this material world, certain objects resonate deep within you as though they fit into some sort of inner form. This magnetism will be a source of good fortune.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You get the sense that you are armoring up for all of the battles, not just one. True, you are in it for the long haul and committed to doing what it takes today, tomorrow, next year and beyond.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In the way that Gothic architecture was built ever-taller as though to reach the heavens, you are building something impressively up and up, aspiring to sail it right over the rainbow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It may feel as though you're dealing in two different worlds. However, everything you're dealing with in one world is linked to the other, and by more than just your presence in both worlds. Look for correspondences.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you have to think about something or make a decision about it, then you are using willpower. How can you extract the extraneous thought processes out of the task, thereby more easily turning it into a habit?

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

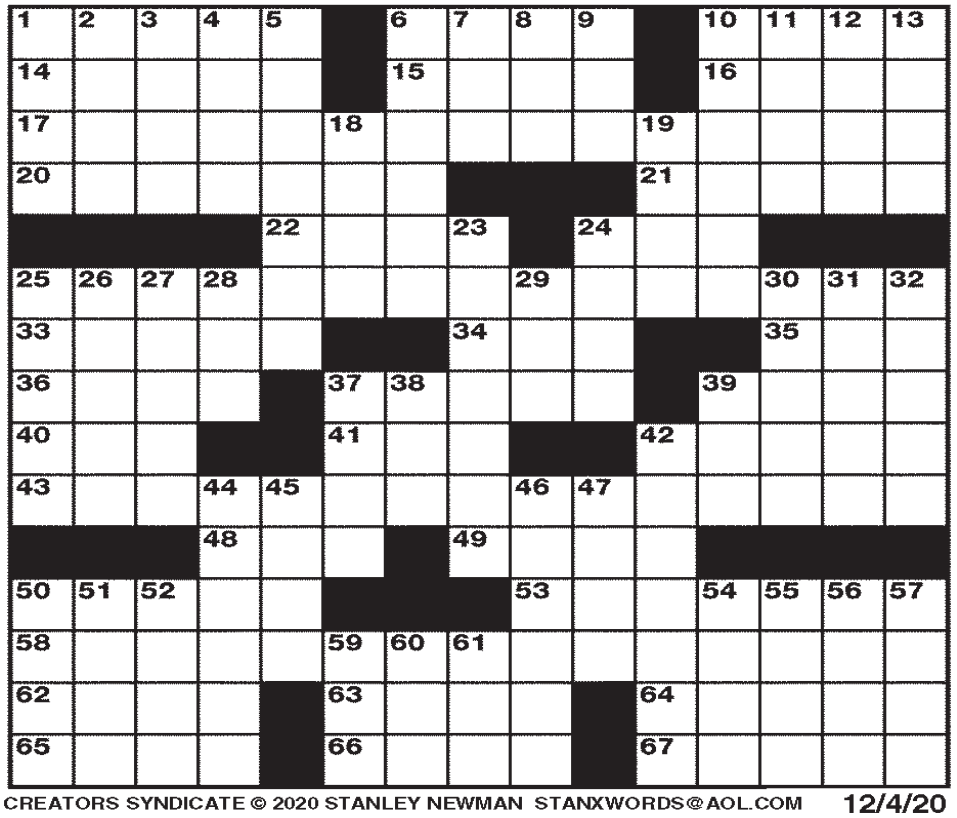
				7				
6			8			3		4
	3			1		8	7	
	7		9		1			5
1		5				2		9
4			5		2		6	
	1	8		9			5	
5		6			3			1
				5				

Newsday Crossword

SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSIVE by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Ophthalmological acronym
6 Updike's short-story alter ego
10 Ersatz haircut shaper
14 Way weird
15 Bear in the air
16 Natural healer
17 Surface-to-air, part 1
20 Assents
21 Fathomless depth
22 What the tired often take
24 Fearful feeling
25 Surface-to-air, part 2
33 *Portrait of a Lady* author
34 Parlor's production
35 Stem of the sea
36 Put a name to
37 Surface-to-air, part 3
39 Signore's sweetheart
40 Harangue someone
41 Family name in Nottingham
42 Multi-Oscar lyricist Cahn
43 Surface-to-air, part 4
48 Brief confirmation
49 "Bye"
50 Note beside G
53 Highly significant
58 Surface-to-air conclusion
62 Heckle
63 Frequent pro tennis airer
64 Utah's __ Range
65 Irishwoman who's sung in 10 languages
66 Shark sound in *Jaws*
67 Searched, with "around"

DOWN
1 Very much
2 Paranormal light
3 Legal stoppage
4 Sword-shaped bloom
5 Nairobi natives
6 Tuition recipient
7 Time to remember
8 Long-term success for CBS
9 '70s sci-fi guy
10 Main Street merchant
11 Pond's competitor
12 Bedazzles
13 See-through glass
18 Mao successor
19 Rapper's pal
23 Part of West Virginia's border
24 Underground diggers
25 Record-setting activity
26 Extrasensory awareness
27 What Plato spelled his name with
28 United
29 Had the role of
30 Former USO Honorary Chairman
31 Underground diggers
32 Convinces to decide
37 Some made-in-Mexico SUVs
38 Play that introduced "robot"
39 Southern __ (Selleck's school)
42 Take quickly and eagerly
44 Anthem excerpt
45 See 59 Down
46 Reddish brown
47 Drains
50 Subdivision section
51 Crème brûlée cousin
52 Averse to activity
54 Muse of history
55 Large portion of yarn
56 Hold 'em ritual
57 Principal part
59 With 45 Down, watches Spot, say
60 Pelican State sch.
61 PD transmission



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/4/20

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

				1					1		
				0		1		0		1	1
					0		1	1		1	1
					0						
	1									0	
	1		0				0		1		
1											1
			0	0				0		1	
1						0					0
		0					1			0	0
		0		1						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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4952

Keep mobile

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

Arena	Flag	Kick	Ski
Avid	Gala	Oval	Squat
Canoe	Goal	Park	Surf
Catch	Golf	Play	Swim
Court	Grit	Polo	Tai chi
Crew	Group	Presentation	Team mate
Cups	Heats	Push up	Title
Daily	Horses	Races	Trot
Fall	Hunt	Rink	Vault
Fast	Injury	Rock	Walk
Field	Join	climbing	Workout
Fish	Judo	Score	Yacht
Fitness	Kart	Side	Yoga

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
The green behind gold

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In seismic shift, Warner Bros. to stream all 2021 films

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

In the most seismic shift by a Hollywood studio yet during the pandemic, Warner Bros. Pictures on Thursday announced that all of its 2021 film slate — including a new "Matrix" movie, "Godzilla vs. Kong" and the Lin-Manuel Miranda adaptation "In the Heights" — will stream on HBO Max at the same time they play in theaters.

Among the myriad release plan changes wrought by the pandemic, no studio has so fully embraced streaming as a lifeline. But after disappointing domestic ticket sales for "Tenet," and with the majority of U.S. theaters currently closed, Warner Bros. will turn to a hybrid distribution model. Films will debut simultaneously in theaters and on HBO Max in the U.S. After one month, they will stop streaming and continue to play only in theaters.

The move follows Warner Bros.' decision to put "Wonder Woman 1984" on HBO Max next December, in addition to in theaters. If that pivot sent shockwaves through the industry, Thursday's announcement was likely to rattle Hollywood to the core. It amounts to an acknowledgment that any full rebound for theaters is still a year or more away.

"No one wants films back on the big screen more than we do," said Ann Sarnoff, chief executive of WarnerMedia Studios in a statement. "We know new content is the lifeblood of theatrical exhibition, but we have to balance this with the reality that most theaters in the U.S. will likely operate at reduced capacity throughout 2021."

Warner Bros. called it a "unique one-year plan." The studio has generally ranked among the top two studios in market share over the past decade — most recently dwarfed only by Walt Disney. Warner's films typically account for $1.5-2 billion annual in ticket sales in North America — a lot of money to compensate for in HBO Max subscribers. A spokesperson for Warner Bros. confirmed the films will be available to subscribers with no further charge.

Warner Bros.' 2021 slate includes many of the expected top movies of the year, including "Dune," "The Suicide Squad," "Tom & Jerry," "The Conjuring: The Devil Make Me Do It," "King Richard" and "Judas and the Black Messiah."

HBO Max is only available in the United States. Internationally, the studio's 17 films planned for 2021 release will rollout in theaters.

The move by Warner Bros. only makes the pain being felt by exhibitors all the more acute. Having been shuttered for much of the year, cinemas reopened nationwide in late summer except in some key locations, including Los Angeles and New York. But with most major releases postponed and surging virus cases, about 60% of theaters have since closed again. Regal Cinemas, the country's second largest chain, has shut all its doors. The National Association of Theater Owners didn't immediately comment Thursday.

Under chief executive Jason Kilar, the former Hulu chief, the AT&T-owned WarnerMedia recently reorganized to further prioritize its streaming service. He has moved aggressively to boost HBO Max, even if it comes at the expense of the theatrical marketplace.

"Our content is extremely valuable, unless it's sitting on a shelf not being seen by anyone," said Kilar in a statement. "We believe this approach serves our fans, supports exhibitors and filmmakers, and enhances the HBO Max experience, creating value for all."

COUNCIL

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a mask, and only stay with family members. I'm just not sure the statistics support this particular closure."

Oscar de la Torre said he has not heard of any talk about the City of Santa Monica implementing a different plan or strategy than what the county has recommended for the city. "But I hope officials are also weighing the impact of closures on local businesses, workers, students and the mental, emotional and financial stress on their lives."

Councilmember Kevin McKeown shared Thursday he recognizes the fact that people are a facing a deadly worldwide pandemic that doesn't respect city borders, which is why Santa Monica's approach has been to work regionally with neighboring jurisdictions whose residents are in and out of each other's cities every day.

"We have tremendous concern for the hardships some health safety restrictions impose, but protecting health and lives is an immediate and urgent priority. The numbers are not good," McKeown said Thursday, adding: "If a proposal to go our own way comes to Council, it will receive respectful discussion, but at this point our policy has been that all us in the County must work together for the common good."

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