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Covid cases on the decline

■ Infection rates have dropped steadily over the past two months, data shows.

DOWNEY — The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health confirmed 31 new deaths and 1,148 new cases of confirmed COVID-19 on Wednesday, although overall infection rates appear to be on the decline.

To date, Public Health has identified 256,148 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County. The virus has killed 6,303 people in LA County.

The number of new cases has steadily decreased through August and September.

Last week, the average daily number of cases was 800, compared with over 2,000 just a month ago.

Health officials said they will continue to watch this indicator closely because it may be artificially low due to reduced testing numbers seen over the last two weeks.

The county's test positivity rate has averaged 3% for the past week. Just a month ago, in mid-August, this rate averaged 5%. A decreased test positivity rate is often a sign of reduced community transmission.

There are 804 people currently hospitalized with COVID-19 and 30% of these people are in the ICU. The number of daily hospitalizations has returned to levels seen early in pandemic, at around 800 daily hospitalizations.

"We are hoping that over the Labor Day Holiday everyone continued to do their best to reduce transmission so we don't experience another surge in hospitalizations a few weeks from now," health officials said.

L.A. County continues to be in the state's Tier 1, due to the current adjusted daily case rate of 8.1 cases per 100,000 residents.

To move to Tier 2, the county's case rate needs to be less than seven new cases a day per 100,000 residents for two consecutive weeks.

The county's test positivity rate is 3.2% which places the county in Tier 3 for this metric. However, the state places counties in the most restrictive Tier when the metrics fall in two different tiers, so the county remains in Tier 1 because of the daily case rate.

Of the 31 new deaths reported Wednesday, 17 people that passed away were over the age of 80 years old, four people who died were between the ages of 65 and 79 years old, and nine people who died were between the ages of 50 and 64 years old.

Twenty-three people who died had underlying health conditions including 13 people over the age of 80, three people between the ages of 65 and 79 years old, and seven people between the ages of 50 and 64 years old.

One death was reported by the City of Long Beach.

Ninety-two percent of the people who died from COVID-19 had underlying health conditions.

In Downey, COVID-19 has killed 83 residents, many of whom were elderly residents in nursing homes.

A total of 3,916 residents contracted the virus.

Downey man helps battle state wildfires

■ Jason Wilcox was dispatched in May to battle California's raging wildfires. He's currently battling the August Complex Fire.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY — The orange hue and smokey air last week served as another reminder that it's wildfire season in California.

But as ash rained down on Downey, one of its own was "fighting the dragon" and feeling the heat.

Resident Jason Wilcox spent time as a Los Angeles County Explorer while he was in high school. Shortly after graduation, he took up hiking.

Now working as a wildland firefighter for the United States Forest Service, you could say it's the best of those two worlds.

"We primarily work in the mountains. We hike," said Wilcox. "It's kind of the best combination of my enjoyment of hiking, and then me doing explorers firefighting; it's kind of putting those two combo'd together."

But it also means that come fire season, Wilcox is pulled from his Downey home and thrust into the fire.

Wilcox left Downey on May 9, a day after his father's birthday. He is currently helping battle the August Complex Fire — the largest fire in California history.

At the time of writing, online reports put the blaze at 817,952 acres and 30% containment.

Wilcox stays up near the fires for around six to seven months a year. He usually works 14-day assignments, however he recently did a near month shift with only two days off.

Last year — his first year — wasn't nearly this busy.

"It was really slow; I probably got four assignments total the whole year," said Wilcox. "Right now, I'm doing back-to-back three. It's incredible, with the whole climate change just to see that difference."

Fighting fires doesn't leave too much time for other homey amenities — like regular sleep, showers, and laundry — either. He contacts his family when he can.

"I think I only showered four times this last month, maybe five possibly," said Wilcox. "That's just because we're so busy...this job definitely makes you enjoy the little things, that's for sure."

Wilcox says that his crew helps keep morale up.

"I really think it has to do



Jason Wilcox, of Downey, is a firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service. He is pictured above at the August Complex Fire. (Courtesy photo)

with my engine, my crew," said Wilcox. "I think the guys have a lot to do with that...a joke can go a long way, for sure. And it's especially knowing your guys, your crew."

When actively working on a fire, Wilcox says that he and other fire fighters call it "fighting the dragon."

"Sometimes it's so hot you have to kind of tilt your helmet, so the helmet can take the heat from it when you're walking on a dozer line," said Wilcox. "It's interesting just watching the plumes of smoke build, and depending on the wind it can push them over and things like that."

"It's definitely intense; especially the noises I hear. You're pretty much listening to chainsaws all the time, so it does kind of get your adrenaline going, 'cause you're listening to chainsaws, you're watching the fire rip. It sounds kind of like a train rumbling towards you. The heat almost feels like it's going to melt your skin off sometimes."

Yet Wilcox says that the job requires him to be "calm and collected."

"I definitely don't actually freak out when we're in situations where you're toe-to-toe...I've been pretty close to some of them," said Wilcox. "You definitely have to be collected."

"I do work hand in hand with some 'hot shots' — those are the gentlemen that will hike for miles to deal with the fire with hand tools and no water — and watching them work, you



definitely have to be calm about certain situations; you can't freak out."

Wilcox also credits his cool head to his captain.

"He definitely has years of experience," said Wilcox. "I definitely trust him."

Wilcox likely won't be home for at least a few months, he expects.

"There's really no estimated

date; it's looking like this year it's going to be a longer [season]," said Wilcox. "Last year I came back late October, so I'm kind of thinking, I'm looking more towards late December."

Still, Wilcox says that he loves his job, and he wouldn't trade it for the world.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 91°

Saturday 86°

Sunday 81°

ON THIS DAY SEPTEMBER 17

1787: The U.S. Constitution was completed and signed by a majority of delegates attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

1862: Union forces hurled back a Confederate invasion of Maryland in the Civil War battle of Antietam. With 23,100 killed, wounded or captured, it remains the bloodiest day in U.S. military history.

1920: The American Professional Football Association — the precursor to the NFL, was formed in Canton, Ohio.

1939: The Soviet Union invaded Poland during World War II.

1972: "M.A.S.H." premiered on CBS.

1976: NASA unveiled the space shuttle Enterprise.

2001: Wall Street trading resumed for the first time since the Sept. 11 attacks, its longest shutdown since the Depression.

2001: Pro sports resumed after a six-day hiatus following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

2004: San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds hit his 700th career home run, joining Babe Ruth (714) and Hank Aaron (755) as the only players to reach the milestone.

- Notable Birthdays**
- Kansas City Chief quarterback **Patrick Mahomes** turns 25.
 - Singer and rapper **Flo Rida** turns 41.
 - Hockey player **Alexander Ovechkin** turns 35.
 - Interior designer and TV personality **Nate Berkus** turns 49.
 - Hip hop artist **Doug E. Fresh** turns 54.
 - Comedian and stage performer **Rita Rudner** turns 67.
 - Retired Lakers coach **Phil Jackson** turns 75.



Phil Jackson turns 75 today.

Downey hospital marks 100 years

DOWNEY — PIH Health Hospital Downey marked its 100th anniversary on Monday with time capsule burial and drive-thru parade featuring first-responders.

"PIH Health Downey Hospital is proud to celebrate this centennial anniversary milestone," said Richard Trogman, PIH Health Downey Hospital President. "We are grateful for our partnership with the City of Downey, its emergency responders, and our community. We look forward to another 100 years of caring."

Police officers, firefighters, EMTs and city officials participated in the drive-thru parade, saluting the hospital's doctors, nurses and medical staff.

The time capsule included various items pertinent to 2020, including an article about Downey's first coronavirus case published by the Downey Patriot.

Eric Pierce, editor



Notable Deaths

- Cokie Roberts**, the journalist and bestselling author, died on this date in 2019 of breast cancer. She was 75.
- Comedy entertainer **Red Skelton**, host of "The Red Skelton Show" for nearly 20 years, died in 1997 at age 84.
- Spiro Agnew**, the 39th vice president of the United States, serving under President Richard Nixon, died in 1996 of acute leukemia. He was 77.
- Dred Scott**, an enslaved African American man who sued unsuccessfully for his freedom in the landmark Dred Scott vs. Sanford case of 1857, died in 1858 of tuberculosis. He was 59.

Sean Ashton sworn-in as ICA president

DOWNEY — Downey Councilman Sean Ashton was sworn in as president of Independent Cities Association last Thursday.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn administered the oath of office in the Downey Council Chambers. Ashton's wife, Tammy, and their two sons, Dylan and Nolan, attended the ceremony. California State Senator Bob Archuleta also attended in person along with a few close friends. California State Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia also showed her support in virtual attendance.

Independent Cities Association (ICA) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1960 with over 40 member cities, representing more than 6.6 million residents. ICA is the premier educational association in Los Angeles County. ICA's focus is to provide up to date information on issues important to cities like public safety, education, infrastructure, legislative advocacy, intergovernmental relationships, and other major issues that transcend the boundaries of its member cities.

"I am honored and humbled to be chosen to serve as ICA's President by my colleagues," said Ashton who has served on the ICA Board of Directors for over 5 years. "I am looking forward to the challenge of leading this great organization during these uncertain times."

"We are very pleased to have Sean take the reins of the Independent Cities Association. He will be the third President from Downey, following in the footsteps of former Mayors Barbara J. Riley and Mario Guerra, continuing the longstanding support for ICA's service and representation to member cities," said Interim Executive Director Sam Olivito.

"Sean's administration will take on the important issues facing local government with leadership and passion for finding the appropriate resolution for our member cities in Los Angeles County"

Along with Ashton, the 2020-21 Independent Cities Association Board of Directors includes:

- President-Elect: Göran Eriksson, Mayor, Culver City
- Vice President: Nils Nehrenheim, Councilmember, Redondo



Beach

- Treasurer: Stacy Armato, Councilmember, Hermosa Beach
- Secretary: Jack Hadjinian, Councilmember, Montebello
- Past President: Richard Montgomery, Mayor, Manhattan Beach
- Director: Marco Barcena, Councilmember, Bell Gardens
- Director: Dr. Julian Gold, Councilmember, Beverly Hills
- Director: Tana McCoy, Councilmember, Compton
- Director: Mark Henderson, Councilmember, Gardena
- Director: David Fredendall, Councilmember, Glendora
- Director: Roberto Uranga, Councilmember, Long Beach
- Director: John Lee, Councilmember, Los Angeles
- Director: Yvonne Yiu, Mayor Pro Tem, Monterey Park
- Director: Robert Gonzales, Councilmember, San Fernando
- Director: Jason Pu, Councilmember, San Gabriel
- Director: Denise Diaz, Councilmember, South Gate

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2020 Downey City Council Candidates Forum

Presented by **The Downey Patriot & Downey Chamber of Commerce**

Thursday, October 1, 2020
6:00pm (via Zoom)

Host

Dave Lopez
Former KCBS/KCAL-TV reporter

District 1 Candidates

Alexandria Contreras

Blanca Pacheco

District 3 Candidates

Catherine Alvarez

Dalejuan Peevy

Eric Pierce

District 5 Candidates

Arturo Gonzalez

Juan Martinez Jr.

Mario Trujillo

Carmela "Carrie" Uva

Register online –
TheDowneyPatriot.com/forum

Only 17, this Downey teen is developing a video game

■ Lily Jane Nguyen is developing a video game “Trouble Hunter Chronicles: The Stolen Creed,” a point-and-click adventure game set in post-WWII France.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY — Downey High School senior Lily Nguyen does all the normal stuff you’d expect of a 17-year-old: she does her schoolwork, eats, sleeps, exercises, and manages a little bit of social time too.

She also just happens to be one of the artists behind an upcoming video game.

It all started when Nguyen—like most others—suddenly found herself with not much to do.

“Because of current circumstances, I’ve had a lot of time on my hands,” said Nguyen. “I decided to channel into something, a creative endeavor.”

She joined Iskonsko Studio, the team currently behind the creation of upcoming point-and-click-adventure game “Trouble Hunter Chronicles: The Stolen Creed.”

Nguyen says that the team is global, with members of different ages and backgrounds contributing from throughout the world.

“One of the artists is in Ukraine, one of the coders is in Croatia. Someone’s right in Nevada,” said Nguyen.

“It’s a really nice, diverse team.”

Nguyen is the youngest member in the group. While she says her teammates treat her just like a normal peer, there is a bit of added pressure being the youngest.

“I feel like I have to perform and prove myself,” said Nguyen. “Yeah, I’m 17, but that doesn’t matter. I’m still capable; I can still do this.”

Set in post-WWII France, players will—as the genre eludes—point-and-click their way through various character interactions and puzzles on their way to unveiling a scandalous plot.

“It’s an interactable game; think of it as a wallpaper essentially,” said Nguyen. “You can point and click to find out a little bit about their story. What’s common about point-and-click adventure games is they often blend into the puzzle genre. You can collect some items...and then you use it to interact with some characters that will trigger an event, and so on and so forth.”

“It’s really a game for all gamers; if you’re looking to relax, if someone is looking for crazy puzzles, this is a really universal game genre I think.”

Nguyen is responsible for many of the background settings of the game.

“I drew a little as a kid, but I never really took it that seriously,” said Nguyen. “It wasn’t until 7th or 8th

grade where I said, ‘Okay, art is kind of fun, and I kind of want to do this.’ It wasn’t until maybe within the past year or so that I really committed that I want to do this as a living.”

“This game, Trouble Hunter Chronicles, is kind of my debut.”

Nguyen says that the game is currently slated for PC and Mac, however a mobile version of the game could also be in the works.

The game recently finished closed-Alpha, and is now looking towards a demo to be released in October.

“That’ll be the first serious free look at the game,” said Nguyen. “The final product will hopefully be released sometime early next year; we’re thinking March, February, April, somewhere around that time.”

Nguyen is excited to see the entire game come together in its entirety.

“When we put together the assets, usually I just do the backgrounds and animate a few frames if needed, and I send it off. Our character artist does the same. Our musician does the same. We don’t really get to see it together; all our parts are floating,” said Nguyen. “When we saw our Alpha and parts of the demo for the first time, seeing scenes play out, it’s like magic... when you see it in the game, it’s like, ‘Wow, it’s a world...’”



“Creating that world is just so satisfying.”

Game progress and Iskonsko Studio can be followed on Instagram and Twitter. Game info can also be found on Steam.



In Memory of

Ronald Richard Roblez

March 9, 1972 - September 5, 2020



Ronald Richard Roblez, son of Josephine And Gilberto Roblez passed away Saturday, September 5, 2020 at 10:06 pm. He is survived by mother, Two sisters, two brothers in law, two nephews, four nieces, one great niece and nephew. He will be laid to his final resting place next week. The family has set up a Go fund me to help

with funeral expenses. Please contact Lisa (sister) or Gilbert either directly or through Facebook messenger for location for service.



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GRL Collective, a clothing brand that empowers women

■ Kristine Rodriguez started GRL Collective in 2017 to empower other women. The brand went viral in May and is taking off.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY — One Downey woman is using her clothing brand as a source of positivity and empowerment for women.

The road that inevitably led 31-year-old Kristine Rodriguez to the creation of her clothing brand, GRL Collective, does not necessarily begin on a positive note.

A victim of childhood sexual abuse at the hands of her stepfather, Rodriguez found herself seeking peace even after her abuser was convicted and put in prison.

“I was dealing with some personal things and trying to work out how to help my mental health,” said Rodriguez. “I thought, ‘I need to go and give back, and make some light out of this really terrible thing that has happened.’”

That journey led her on a 40-day volunteer trip to India, where she would volunteer with the Sambhali Trust on issues surrounding girls’ and women’s empowerment. It was an experience so fulfilling to Rodriguez, she describes it as “the best decision she ever made.”

But even at the end of her stay across the world, Rodriguez came to realize that her work was not done.

“I realized I couldn’t just leave these amazing girls and amazing women that I had met and come home and just pretend like it didn’t happen,” said Rodriguez. “So, I decided to start

GRL Collective because before the trip I was actually hand-making jewelry to raise money for the trip. I realized I could sell the jewelry and give back a portion of the proceeds for the girls and women that I had volunteered with.”

Rodriguez says that GRL Collective is a lifestyle brand “for girls that give a f---.”

“The long-term goals and the reason behind it is to basically give a f---,” said Rodriguez. “This started by caring about girl’s education and keeping girls in school because we really do believe that, and that’s what this is based around – how educating the girl really educates the family, educates the community, and can pull families out of poverty.”

Though the statement is definitely potent, Rodriguez says it comes from wanting to be as genuine as possible when using the platform.

“I’ve always thought it’s important to just be honest and truthful,” said Rodriguez. “I feel that there are a lot of girls like me who are very fiery and passionate. I do think in my head, ‘Why do people not care about this, people need to care about this,’ and I think that passion is where the ‘give a f---’ part comes from.”

GRL Collective has supported several other organizations and causes, including the Black Lives Matter movement.

“We are so passionate about these things; it’s not just like, ‘We care!’ and let’s move on with our lives. No, this is part of our lives; it’s part of the DNA of this brand. That’s what it was built on – caring so much that we can’t move on without trying to help.”

Though GRL Collective technically began in 2017, it only recently began reaching its full

stride after one of Rodriguez’s designs – “Tu lucha es mi lucha” / “Your struggle is my struggle” went viral in May. Since then, GRL Collective has been able to grow by an “exponential amount” seemingly overnight.

“It definitely went from zero to 100 within 24 hours, which was not something I expected or was mentally prepared for at the moment,” said Rodriguez. “We had celebrities sharing [the design] like Pitbull, AOC, Becky G, and it really just took the business to another level because all of the eyes then turned to us, then to our Instagram, and then into our store.”

GRL collective has launched four collections, led two GRL Trips back to India and done several photoshoots and campaigns to highlight and elevate women of color.

And the work isn’t done; Rodriguez hopes to inspire the next generation.

“Being a Latina woman, I was never really talked to about being an entrepreneur,” said Rodriguez. “Right now especially with everything going on – COVID, people being home and all these things – I think that it’s super important for parents to talk to their kids to be able to build something of their own.”

“I get a lot of messages from fellow Latinas asking for advice or talking about their own companies or asking questions, and I think that is so important. My goal with all of this, in addition to all of this, is to just let little Latina’s know that they can start their own businesses and build their own brands and their own lives and their own dreams.”

GRL Collective can be found on Facebook, Instagram, and at grlcollective.com.



Kristine Rodriguez launched GRL Collective, a collective brand with a purpose. Photo by Michelle McSwain



2020 Downey School Board Candidates Forum

Tuesday, September 29, 2020
6:00pm (via Zoom)

Presented by The Downey Patriot & Downey Chamber of Commerce

Hosted by Eric Pierce



Trustee Area 2 Candidates



Cathy Ballon-Godinez



Angelita "Angie" Rademaker



Jose Rodriguez

Trustee Area 4 Candidate



Linda Salomon

Trustee Area 3 Candidates



Carlos Avalos



Giggly Perez-Saab



Ethan Matthew Rodriguez

Trustee Area 6 Candidate



D. Mark Morris

The fires prove we're all in trouble

By Susan Estrich

The only reason I know where Arcadia or Sierra Madre — the communities closest to the Bobcat fire in Southern California — are is because I used to do traffic reports when I was a talk radio host.

For traffic, I talked to Captain Jorge up in his helicopter. For weather, I just read the report, which tended to be the same every day: high in the 70s, low in the 60s, a few degrees higher in summer, a few degrees colder in fall. Not so anymore. This summer, it was record-breaking heat and no rainfall. You don't need to know where Arcadia or Mt. Wilson are to know we are all in trouble.

Before I moved to Los Angeles, I thought that cities were a place you could get your arms around, that it was possible to know where every neighborhood was, along with close-in suburbs. I thought I could get in a rental car and learn my way around Los Angeles. That's how it is in many cities. That's not how it is here.

Los Angeles County is like another country, certainly another state. I don't know anyone but traffic reporters who can begin to pass a test that would require them to place all the cities in the county on the map. States I can do; countries I'm all right; cities and towns in LA, no can do. Before we had phones, people here had Thomas Guide maps in their cars, page after page of street maps, and we would give direction by saying what page of the guide we were on.

After my first quake here, my mother — may she rest in peace — called in a panic. "Nordstrom's just collapsed," she said in horror.

"I recognize it." I had taken her to a Nordstrom near me. I had never taken her anywhere near Northridge. I told her the equivalent distances in Massachusetts (she was in Boston), which, in her case, put her in New Hampshire.

That satisfied her, which was all I hoped to do. What I didn't tell her was that we felt huge shaking, that I did not put on the sneakers under the bed, which you are supposed to do, and instead ran down the hall in bare feet to check the baby, amidst the broken glass everywhere. My feet were bleeding; the fireplace had cracked; and pipes were bursting in the basement. And, honestly, we weren't particularly close to the epicenter.

Smoke and ash don't stay in place. The cloud from the Bobcat fire has moved all the way to D.C. But it seems most of it is right here in the West. The fire may be far away, but the smoke and ash are everywhere. If you park your car outside, you know what I'm talking about. It did not get covered with dust overnight. That's ash.

The sky looks different, the sun surrounded by smog, and what look like pretty colors are signs of our planet's slow demise.

Good news, I told my daughter, who can't go running: The air is only unhealthy, when it could be very unhealthy or hazardous! We're two whole categories away from destruction. Air quality is now part of traffic and weather together. Weather is more important than the traffic on the 405, and in Los Angeles, that is saying something.

Advice to everybody: Stay indoors if you can. For all the essential

workers who work outside, outside was just the right place to be, except it isn't now. So, considering the air, stay inside; considering the pandemic, stay outside.

President Donald Trump refuses to acknowledge that our planet is warming. Instead, he offered the west an answer that rings horribly familiar. Having unceremoniously dumped the carefully negotiated Paris climate accord because he could, and having undone practically every effort the Obama administration made to address global warming, Trump told us not to be too concerned about the unprecedented heat this summer and the unprecedented fires this fall because it will soon get "cooler."

Remember how COVID-19 was supposed to disappear when things got warmer?

The president as weatherman doesn't work, not because he can't tell the temperature but because only science will explain its highs and lows and what they mean. And without science, the president can hope to do no better than the meteorologists I grew up with on Boston TV, who were wrong too often to be relied on but often very good for a laugh. Which is OK if you're a weatherman in Boston but not if you're president of the United States.

The song "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" was about romance. The smoke in my eyes is painful and itchy, a reminder of things so much worse.

Stop giving airlines taxpayer money

By Veronique de Rugy

As the saying goes, "When you find yourself in a hole, stop digging." This advice applies to the hole Congress leapt into by bailing out the airline industry back in March through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. Now these companies want even more taxpayer money. The federal government should refuse another bailout.

Like many industries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, airlines have lost a lot of revenue. But unlike other industries, the coronavirus relief bill authorized up to \$32 billion for payroll support through Sept. 30, for roughly six months. Basically, the way it worked is that every airline that got a loan could furlough its employees, but those that took both a grant and a loan couldn't. Of course, it's difficult to tell if the Treasury Department was ever serious about enforcing these requirements.

Traditional objections to the first bailout were ignored in the name of saving airline workers' jobs. Unfortunately, that reasoning was mistaken. Many airline employees still lost their jobs, while others suffered severe reductions in employment. For instance, part-time workers only had to be paid for minimum hours. As a result, many airline employees still had to apply for unemployment insurance to cover their lost hours.

Unless the worries around the COVID-19 virus quickly disappear and consumers are willing to soar in droves through the friendly skies once again, that bailout would have merely postponed layoffs through September. Sure enough, here comes the airline industry

again, with its captain's hat in hand, asking for another \$25 billion bailout.

Several members of Congress have already signed a letter urging their colleagues to extend the bailout, and President Donald Trump is even considering an executive order to accomplish that goal, echoing the airline unions' claim that 75,000 employees would be furloughed without it. If you do the math, that's \$333,333 per job "saved" until the money runs out.

Let's remind everyone why we shouldn't bail out airlines. Yes, the coronavirus crisis is both a public-health and an economic tragedy. But this doesn't justify the government granting special privileges to private firms, at least not without those firms first taking other available steps to potentially avoid the need for a bailout.

Here are a few steps they could pursue:

First, the airlines still have plenty of access to private capital markets. They own significant amounts of durable assets that they can sell or use as collateral to get additional financing. Indeed, they've been able to secure substantial private capital since the beginning of the pandemic.

Second, if private financing fails, some airlines can and should do what they've done in the past when in such a predicament: declare bankruptcy. Past bankruptcies tell us that airlines can continue flying safely even during a bankruptcy, so there's no systemic risk posed to the economy at large.

To be sure, bankruptcy would mean that, for the time being, airlines may fly on more limited routes. But that shouldn't be a

problem in light of a collapse in demand, which won't be resolved as long as Americans remain wary of flying.

There's no easy solution during this pandemic. Many people and businesses have no options at all. But an airline bailout would bring about more negative consequences. The first is that it's a huge expense for taxpayers to shoulder with no promise for a solid return. We've already bailed out the airlines, and all this past coddling has done is to postpone the inevitable layoffs of its excess employees.

Analysts don't think air travel will return to prepandemic levels for several years — some say up to seven. Let's assume that it takes five years for air travel to return to its previous level. That would require taxpayers to extend up to \$320 billion in bailout funds to the airlines.

Not surprisingly, bailouts beget more bailouts. My colleagues at the Mercatus Center, Matthew Mitchell and Tad DeHaven, write, "We know from the history of bailouts that the true cost of a bailout is not the taxpayer expense (which is often recouped) but the expectation it sets for future bailouts, an expectation that invites future disaster."

Bailing out airlines the first time around was a bad idea; doing it again would be even more counterproductive. It only delays the inevitable.

Veronique de Rugy is a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

Voting rights for the formerly incarcerated

With the November 3rd election quickly approaching, ensuring the right to vote for Americans is of utmost concern. Recognizing the burden felony disenfranchisement places on communities, particularly on African Americans and communities of color, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas authored a motion with Supervisor Janice Hahn to take an official position in support of Proposition 17, the "Voting Rights Restoration for Persons on Parole Amendment."

This motion, approved in a 4-1 vote, calls for granting voting rights to parolees in California who are United States citizens and calls for recognizing September 22, 2020 as National Voter Registration Day throughout Los Angeles County. This will enable the Free the Vote Task Force initiative to encourage the County's residents to register to vote and promote civic engagement widely across the County. Under Proposition 17, the voting rights to upwards of 50,000 California parolees who are working, paying taxes, and earnestly contributing to the overall welfare of their communities will be restored.

The introduction of this motion follows efforts led by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas over the past few years to expand voter and civic engagement as well as establish a voter engagement task force, oriented toward justice-involved populations. Research has shown that increasing civic empowerment among justice-involved populations reduces recidivism, in turn further empowering these individuals, their families, and their communities.

"Mass incarceration has devastated many communities, in particular communities of color. Taking away the fundamental right to vote is one example of how mass incarceration is designed to perpetuate racial inequities. Restoring parolees voting rights will give them not only a chance at redemption but also add their valued voice back to our communities," said Los Angeles County Public Defender Ricardo Garcia.

In 2018, a motion authored by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas and co-authored Supervisor Sheila Kuehl established the LA Free the Vote Task Force and a civic engagement plan for justice-involved voters.

As a result, the LA Free the Vote Task Force launched a campaign to register 1,000 justice-involved individuals by this upcoming November election.

In 2019, the Board of Supervisors also approved a motion by Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Kuehl that supported the ACA 6 "Free the Vote Act" legislation, which initially placed Proposition 17 on the ballot. A New Way of Life Reentry Project's Founder and President Susan Burton has since been a leading advocate for the amendment.

"A New Way of Life has housed thousands of women recently released from California prisons over the last two decades. They obey all laws, work, and pay taxes—but cannot vote," said Burton. "We applaud Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and the motion to support Proposition 17. Voting demonstrates positive citizenship. We want

Open the library

Dear Editor:

I am much appreciative of Anita Rivero's remarks in The Downey Patriot -- glad to see that someone else considers the closed library a serious issue.

We know that most libraries nationwide are currently closed but the internet informs me that officials in charge of such things are making plans to reopen their facilities soon, as the COVID-19 effects are lessening, more or less.

Will our library be ready? Not even close. You can tell by all the building materials that remain stacked up in front of the building and construction workers nowhere in sight.

Yes, the library has been closed since about March, when the orders to close went out. And yes, those in charge didn't count on the virus happening. But they had at least a year to get the library finished and available to use, whatever they were doing new or improving upon to an already very adequate facility. One that had already seen many improvements already.

It makes me wonder, why was the bond issue or additional tax levy even proposed when the public seemed to be so much in the dark about what was going on with their library and the resulting consequences to the citizenry?

This brings to mind the plan for improvement that was settled on. Was it brought to the City Council and thoroughly publicized and debated, pros and cons? I tend to donut it because the results the city saw were a very unpleasant surprise.

I come from a city about twice the size of Downey, with a library also about twice the size of Downey's. When they had a large improvement to tackle, they did it in sections and closed off only the part they were working on. Also, couldn't painters, plasterers and the like, with masks and social distancing in place, be working right now -- toward a reopening? In my library comparison, there was no COVID-19 at the time but no employees lost their livelihoods during new construction and no people were disappointed with the coldness of a closed building.

We will all welcome back our library when renovations are completed -- it has been taken away for too long a time. We don't know -- after the Covid restrictions are relaxed -- when that happy day will come. But a lesson we surely have learned is that a library is a critical piece of a city's infrastructure and who knows what future variety of riches will be obtainable by any and all of its patrons, once they are able to enjoy an open library again.

John DeLaney
Downey

all residents of California to vote in this important election and elections to come."

"As we prepare to celebrate September 22nd as National Voter Registration Day, it is my hope that in the near future who we define as a voter will include the 50,000 parolees who are legally barred from voting," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas.

This recent motion is another effort to ensure voter rights and engagement as time until the election is quickly running out.

Contributed by the office of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Love for Trump

Dear Editor:

I totally agree that "to utter words such as 'loser' or 'sucker' in the same breath as 'fallen soldiers' is nothing short of repulsive" but to accuse President Trump of saying these words in reference to a visit for a wartime celebration in Europe in 2018 by an anonymous writer who doesn't have the guts to reveal his/her name is evil.

Because of inclement weather, President Trump was unable to attend the ceremony at the cemetery. All those in attendance with the President denied hearing President Trump utter those disgusting words. Even John Bolton, a war hawk who thought he knew best by keeping America in the endless wars in the Mid-east, having been in the presence of President Trump at the time, said he never heard President Trump utter these despicable words.

Regarding "Our current President has failed to protect the U.S. from the coronavirus. He failed to mount a national response in a timely manner, instead first calling it a hoax, and then claiming it would go away like magic, wasting weeks of valuable time." After the first recognized incidence of COVID-19 on January 21, President Trump, realizing the seriousness of this virus, on January 31 closed our borders from people coming from China and Europe. He then listened to the experts Doctors Fauchi and Bix and gave daily briefings on the status of the virus.

When making his announcement to America, he felt he should give the facts in a calm manner instead of shouting and screaming and instilling hopeless fear in everyone. As President Trump was closing our borders, Nancy Pelosi was telling everyone this virus is nothing to be concerned about, and presidential candidate Joe Biden called our president a xenophobic and racist. Even Dr. Fauchi said that our president could not have handled the situation any better.

President Trump provided a mercy ship on the East and West coasts to help accommodate infected persons, and expedited the manufacture of ventilators and protective equipment.

Just recently a member of the Norwegian Parliament nominated President Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize.

I suggest that all forever-Trump-haters take the words of the Norwegian and judge our President for all that he has done and is doing and not because he might be lacking in a prince charming personality.

President Trump passed a historic tax reform, eliminated the mandate for requiring health insurance or pay a steep fine, presided over a roaring economy before the virus hit us, is securing our border, reformed the VA and is giving them better care, is bringing home large numbers of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, has eliminated a large area of the ISIS caliphate in Syria, introduced legislature to correct the inequities in the prison system, and has kept promises made in 2016 and then some.

Martha Morrissy
Downey

The Downey Patriot STAFF

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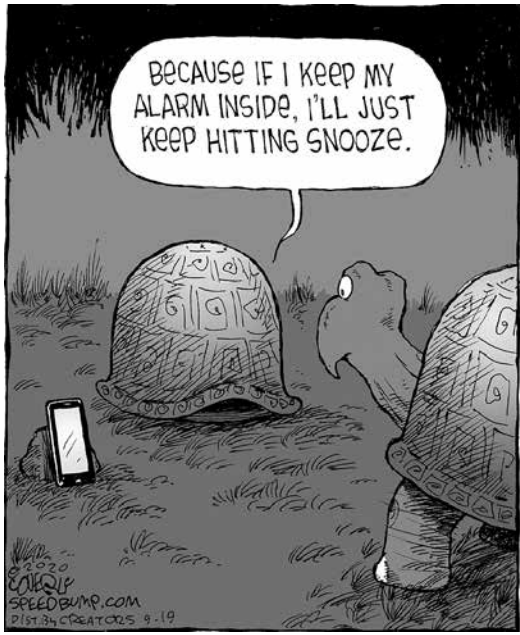
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

CITY MEETINGS

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm: Planning Commission, Council Chamber at City Hall.
 1st Tue., 4:00pm.: Recreation and Community Services Commission, Council Chamber, City Hall.
 2nd & 4th Tue., 6:30pm: City Council, Council Chamber.
 3rd Tue., 6:30pm: Library Advisory Board, at Downey City Library.
 3rd Thurs., 6:30pm: CERT, at Downey City Council Chamber at City Hall, for more info call 299-5462.
 4th Mon., 5 pm: Green Task Force, at City Hall.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

MONDAYS

7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 2, at Downey United Methodist Church, call 869-6478.
 4:30 pm: Courage Forward Meeting, at 10829 New St, 2nd Floor, call 213-545-6810.
 2nd Mon., 11 am: American Legion Auxiliary #270, at United Methodist Church, call 310-386-8112.
 3rd Mon., 11:30 am: Downey Newcomers Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.
 4th Mon., 7:30 pm: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

TUESDAYS

9 am: Quilters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.
 9:30 am: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, call Irene Vallini at 328-7039.
 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza at 652-4399.
 12 pm: Rotary Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Nate Mahoney 416-1826.
 6 pm: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Church, contact Salvador Cervantes: tmsalcpuede@gmail.com.
 7 pm: Downey Knights of Columbus Bingo, at 11231 Rives Ave., call 923-1932.
 7 pm: Healing Room and Prayer, at Desert Reign Church 11610 Lakewood Blvd, call 861-6011.
 7:30 pm: Downey Master Chorale, at Cornerstone Church, contact info@downeymasterchorale.org.
 1st Tues., 7:30 am: Gangs Out of Downey, at City Hall training room.
 2nd Tues., 6 pm: Downey Fly Fishers, at Apollo Park, call 425-7936.
 3rd Tues., 6:30 pm: Community Emergency Response Team meeting, Fire station 1, 12222 Paramount.
 3rd Tues., 6 pm: American Legion #270, at Sizzler Restaurant, call 544-0372.
 Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 am: Downey Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call John Fiorenza 652-4399

WEDNESDAYS

7 am: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
 1 pm: Women's Bocce Club, at 7850 Quill Drive, call Marie Puch at 869-4366.
 7 pm: Out Post 132 Royal Rangers, at Desert Reign Church, call 928-8000.
 1st Wed., 11 am: Woman's Club of Downey, call Cheryl Olson 833-8954.
 1st Wed., 11:30 am: Downey Coordinating Council, Community Center, call Bobbi Bruce 440-5416.
 1st Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Stamp Club, at Maude Price School cafeteria, call 928-3028.
 2nd Wed., 11:30 am: Christian Women's Club, call Marilyn 928-2623.
 2nd Wed., 3:30 pm: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, call 904-7102.
 2nd Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Model A Club, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, call 928-4132.
 3rd Wed.: Downey Dog Obedience Club, for information please call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
 3rd Wed., 10 am: Los Angeles County Quilters Guild, at Women's Club, call 860-8821 or 927-3635.
 3rd Wed., 10 am: OLPH Women's Guild, at OLPH School Auditorium, contact Melodie Santana, (562) 806-3102.
 3rd Wed., 6:00 pm: Sister Cities of Downey, at Barbara Riley Senior Center, call Gloria Nezahualcoyotl (562) 776-6136.
 4th Wed., 7:30 pm: US Coast Guard Aux. Flotilla 5-10, First Presbyterian Church, call Brian 419-5420.
 Wed. & Fri., 10:15 am: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, call 904-7223

THURSDAYS

7:30 am: Connections Networking, at Bob's Big Boy, for info., call Nick Smith, 861-5222.
 7:30 am.: Soroptimist Int'l of Downey, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 806-3217.
 9 am: Crafters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 803-4459.
 9:30 am: Take off Pounds Sensibly, at Barbara Riley Senior Center, call (800) 932-8677.
 12 pm: Kiwanis Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
 12 pm: Optimist Club of Downey, at Rio Hondo Events Center.
 6:30 pm: Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220, 8244 3rd St., call 862-4176.
 7 pm: Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America, at First Baptist Church, call 776-3388.
 7:30 pm: Downey Elks Lodge #2020, call 803-3557.
 1st Thurs., 12 Noon.: People of Faith Ministries, Schroder Piano, call John Veiga 412-7192.
 1st Thurs., 7:30 pm: The Downey Amateur Radio Club, at First Baptist Church room 120.
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm: Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club, call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.
 2nd & 4th Thurs., 6:30 pm: Downey Lions Club, at Mimi's, call Lenora (310) 283-9825.
 3rd Thurs., 4 pm: Public Works Committee, at City Hall Training Room.
 3rd Thurs., 6 pm: Downey CIPAC, at Sizzler's Restaurant, call Rich Tuttle 413-6045.
 4th Thurs., 10 am: Assistance League, at Casa De Parley Johnson, call 869-0232.
 4th Thurs., 7:30 pm: Downey Historical Society programs, at Community Center, call 862-2777.

FRIDAYS

7:30 am: Pro Networkers, at Mimi's Cafe, call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618.
 3rd Fri., 8:30 am: Women's "In His Glory" Ministry at Los Amigos C. C. 622-3785.

SATURDAYS

9 am: Farmers Market, Downey Avenue at 3rd Street, call 904-7246.

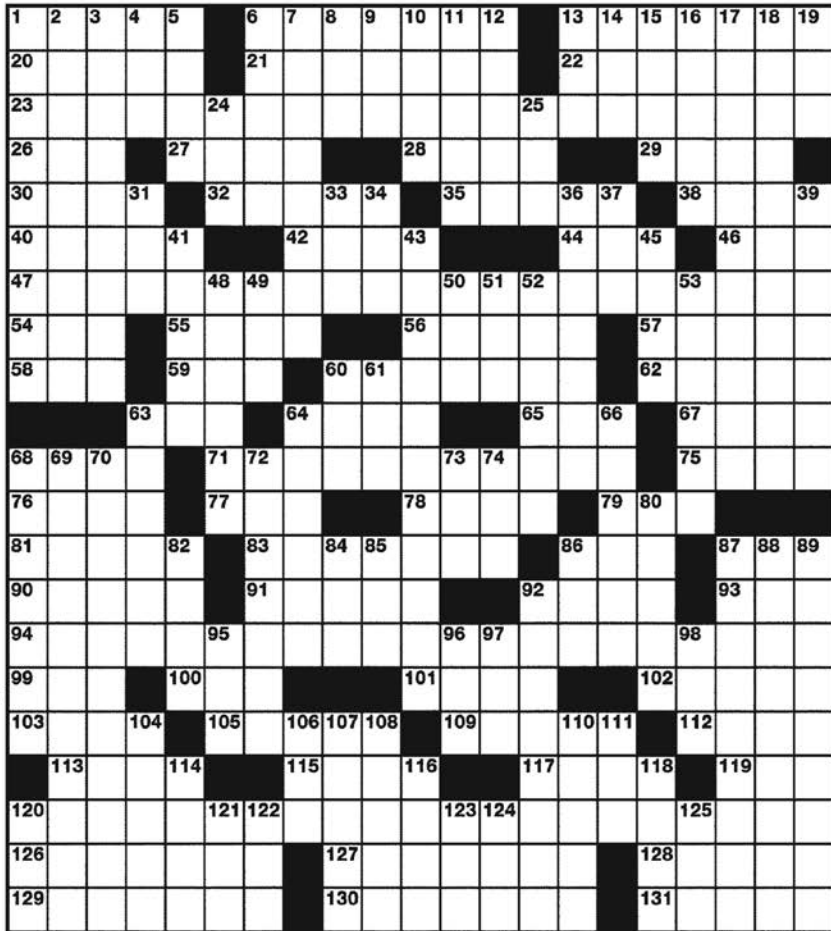
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THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
AMERICAN "ONLIES": They're one of a kind
 by S.N.

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Awaken harshly
 6 Goggles, gloves, etc.
 13 Served, as butter pecan
 20 Listless feeling
 21 Food-and-drink giant
 22 OK
 23 ALASKA: ___
 26 Rage
 27 Mideast money
 28 German Baltic port
 29 Pub crawlers
 30 Path to the altar
 32 Hidden supply
 35 Shore excursions, e.g.
 38 Table salt's formula
 40 Tolerate
 42 Prefix meaning "flow"
 44 Chihuahua cheer
 46 Word of wonder
 47 HAWAII: With ___
 54 Signal to begin
 55 Snowballs and paintballs
 56 Telejournalist Sawyer
 57 Cantina munchies
 58 SFO announcement
 59 Fluid from trees
 60 National partner of Nevis
 62 Thrill
 63 Strong desire
 64 Polynesian figurine
 65 NASA affirmative
 67 Legal claim
 68 Grp. in charge
 71 ARKANSAS: With a ___
 75 Throws in
 76 Ending meaning "ruler"
 77 Colony crawler
 78 World Cup score
 79 Apt. ad letters
 81 Madison veep Elbridge</p> | <p>83 Ambassador's subordinate
 86 FBI lab identifier
 87 Canadian, in sports headlines
 90 Adjust, as one's laces
 91 Strictly obey
 92 Change course suddenly
 93 Shoebox notation
 94 NEBRASKA: With a ___
 99 Ft. Lauderdale locale
 100 Halibut habitat
 101 Besides that
 102 Seer's deck
 103 Nike competitor
 105 On the double
 109 Once-a-year aviator
 112 Be nostalgic for
 113 What you wear
 115 Potpie morsels
 117 Verne submariner
 119 Spot to soak yourself
 120 UTAH: With a ___
 126 "Good going, guy!"
 127 Narrow-margin metaphor
 128 Novelist Jong
 129 JP Morgan creation
 130 Impairs
 131 Went on the double</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Lower one's interest rate
 2 Approximately, before a date
 3 Needing editing
 4 Do some math
 5 Hierarchy level
 6 Dull impact sound
 7 Bogart/Bacall film
 8 NASDAQ debut
 9 GPS reading
 10 Kindles' text technology</p> | <p>11 Crush a test
 12 Western show of a sort
 13 For example
 14 EMT expertise
 15 "Magnum" creation
 16 Welles of the cinema
 17 Shipped free
 18 Deprived of essential parts
 19 Narc's org.
 24 Grafton's ___ for Ricochet
 25 ___ray disc
 31 DC setting in Aug.
 33 "Silence!"
 34 All ___ up (agitated)
 36 Paul who sang "O! Man River"
 37 Sluggish, for short
 39 Mitigates
 41 Blank out
 43 Caller of kid's rhymes
 45 Art Deco artist
 48 Actress Seyfried
 49 Little pest
 50 XXV% of XII
 51 No relation to 43 Down
 52 Necessarily require
 53 Texas State Fair locale
 60 Computer trial, for short
 61 Certain conclusion on canvas
 63 Of element #39
 64 Reduce to rags
 66 Gist
 68 Crime Dog of commercials
 69 OKs
 70 Combat that may be "mixed"
 72 Piled up
 73 Homer's lament</p> | <p>74 Novelist Rita ___ Brown
 80 French Revolution figure
 82 Affirmative votes
 84 Erstwhile global carrier
 85 NL East team
 86 Moines
 87 Of experimentation
 88 Astronaut's interest
 89 Mediterranean Diet fare
 92 Marie Antoinette, by birth
 95 ___ culpa
 96 Pro golfer Ernie
 97 Govt. purchasing org.
 98 Flat hat
 104 "We ___ an impasse"
 106 Showery mo.
 107 Relinquished rights to
 108 Course to coast through
 110 Computer support team
 111 GPs' org.
 114 Actress Neuwirth
 116 Flower's spine
 118 Letters on older phones
 120 Sorority letter
 121 Inner turmoil
 122 Popeye's girlfriend
 123 Emulating
 124 Baggage attachment
 125 Savings plan designation</p> |
|--|---|--|--|

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Breweries could benefit from relief bill

LOS ANGELES — Breweries and other small businesses that have remained closed or restricted by L.A. County health orders could receive financial aid via a new \$10 million grant program adopted by county leaders this week.

"I have heard from so many local breweries that are struggling to stay in business while following the County's health order," said Supervisor Janice Hahn, who requested the grant program.

"With our case numbers on the decline, I am hopeful it will be safe for them to fully reopen soon. But in the meantime, I want to get them the lifeline they need to make it through this crisis."

Although breweries in Tier 1 counties have been allowed to open under the State's health order if they can partner with a food service, Los Angeles County's health officer order has kept many local breweries that do not qualify as restaurants closed for on-site service to slow the spread of the virus.

The new grant program requested by Supervisor Hahn is included in a supplemental coronavirus relief fund spending plan being considered by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday.

The funding comes from Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding allocated to Los Angeles County by the federal government.

Small businesses that have remained closed or faced substantial operating restrictions



due to health officer orders will be eligible for the grant.

Priority will be given to those small businesses subject to LA County health officer order restrictions that are more stringent than those required by state health officer order, such as breweries.

These small businesses also include: wineries, family entertainment centers, and card rooms.

The Downey Dolphins swim team proudly supported the Long Beach COVID-19 Virtual Swim, Paddle or Row to Hawaii this past August.

With the outdoor pool at Downey High still closed, this challenge was swam in the Los Alamitos Bay and Seal Beach.

The distance between Long Beach and Honolulu is 2,558 miles. Together as a group with master swim teams across the nation, the Downey Dolphins completed this three times.

Proceeds will pay for swim lessons for children, assist local aquatic organizations, and college scholarships for achieving high school swimmers.

The Downey Dolphins normally swim weeknights at Downey High's pool; all levels are accepted. Reach out to dwnydolphinsmastersswim@gmail.com for more details.



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Downey school board member Giggy Perez-Saab presents a certificate to Richard Trogman, president of PIH Health Hospital Downey, in honor of the hospital's 100th anniversary on Monday.

The hospital has been a longtime supporter of Downey Unified School District as well as a community partner.

The Downey hospital celebrated its 100th anniversary Monday with a celebration that included a drive-thru parade of first responders.

Photo by Eric Pierce

Preparations begin for potential COVID-19 vaccine

■ 37 vaccines are currently in development and three are in advanced stages of patient trials.

Officials are trying to figure out how 10 million LA County residents would get vaccinated.

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion by Supervisor Janice Hahn on Tuesday to instruct Los Angeles County Departments to act now to prepare for the distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine to residents when one becomes available.

"We are the largest County in the nation, and when the time comes, we will need to fairly and equitably get a vaccine to over 10 million people," said Hahn. "We need to start preparing now to receive, store, distribute, and administer a vaccine so we don't waste any time."

In recent weeks, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued guidance to state public health officials, prompting them to prepare for COVID-19 vaccination distribution. There are currently 37 vaccines in clinical trials and three vaccines are in the third phase of trials.

Some reports indicate that

limited COVID-19 vaccine doses in phase 3 may be available by early November 2020, with substantial increases in vaccine supply slated for 2021.

The CDC provided guidance on what is required for the preparation and distribution of a vaccine. The guidance includes ordering, data reporting, and tailoring of CDC-developed public-facing communications; preparing for the delivery, storage, and handling of the vaccine vials; identifying high risk priority groups that need the vaccine first like healthcare professionals and those living in long term care facilities; and setting up mass vaccination clinics for the general population when more doses of vaccine are available, supply permitting.

With well over 10 million residents, Los Angeles County must prepare a vaccination plan that ensures intentional and systematic allocation, with priority given to those in targeted groups and underserved populations who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, officials said.

Hahn's motion, which passed unanimously, instructs the LA County Department of Public Health to work with relevant departments, local cities, and community agencies to develop a vaccination plan and report back to the Board in 45 days.

getting vaccinated against the coronavirus won't be enough, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases said.

"It's a combination of how effective a vaccine is and how many people use it," Fauci said. "If you have a vaccine that is highly effective and not enough people get vaccinated, you're not going to realize the full, important effect of having a vaccine."

The less protective a vaccine is, the more people need to get it to provide population-wide immunity, Fauci said. The fundamental goal is to get the level of infection so low that when there are little outbreaks, they're easy to control, he said.

A recent poll from the Kaiser Family Foundation found that 54% of respondents said they would not get the vaccine if it was available for free before the November 3 presidential election -- a time frame suggested by President Donald Trump but one health officials say is unlikely.

The hesitancy of many people to get a Covid-19 vaccine when it becomes available is an issue that needs to be urgently addressed, said Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health.

"Those who are vaccine hesitant have had their hesitancy enhanced by a variety of things that are happening right now, particularly the unfortunate mix of science and politics," Collins said at an event hosted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. "I don't want to have us, a year from now, having a conversation about how we have in our hands the solution to the worst pandemic of more than 100 years, but we haven't been able to actually convince people to take charge of it," Collins said.

Fauci said he still thinks it will be the final months of the year before a vaccine is proven to be safe and effective. "I would still put my money on November/December," Fauci said during a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute panel on global pandemics.

Vaccine Supply

Rich nations such as the US, Britain and Japan have bought up more than half the expected supply of coronavirus vaccine, the international anti-poverty nonprofit Oxfam said Wednesday.

These countries represent 13% of the world's population, but have bought up future supplies of 51% of coronavirus vaccines, Oxfam said.

Oxfam calculated five organizations -- AstraZeneca, Russia's Gamaleya, Moderna, Pfizer and China's Sinovac -- have the combined production capacity to make 5.94 billion doses. That's enough to cover 2.97 billion people -- less than half the world's population, if everyone needs two doses, as seems likely.

"Supply deals have already been agreed for 5.303 billion doses, of which 2.728 billion (51%) have been bought by developed countries including the UK, US, Australia, Hong Kong & Macau, Japan, Switzerland and Israel, as well as the European Union," Oxfam said in a statement.

The rest have been bought by or promised to developing countries including India, Bangladesh, China, Brazil, Indonesia and Mexico among others, it added.

"Access to a life-saving vaccine shouldn't depend on where you live or how much money you have," said Oxfam's Robert Silverman.

Mass Vaccinations

If too few Americans get a Covid-19 vaccine when it becomes available, it won't help reduce the spread of the deadly virus, the nation's top infectious disease official said.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Dr. Anthony Fauci addressed the risks of if not enough people take the vaccine.

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Obituaries



Ken Robinson

Sir Ken Robinson, an educator whose 2006 TED Talk on encouraging creativity in students was viewed more times than any other TED Talk in history, died Aug. 21 of cancer at age 70.

An educator in his native England and later in the U.S., Robinson believed in the importance of including the arts in schools.

He was director of the U.K.'s Arts in Schools Project, advocating for arts education, and later led a U.K. commission on creativity in schools.

In 2006, Robinson distilled his thoughts on the topic into a TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Talk that he delivered at that year's TED conference in Long Beach, California. His talk, "Do schools kill creativity?", engaged listeners with funny asides even as it convinced them that schools should give arts education equal time with math and science.

By the time of his death, Robinson's TED Talk had become the most viewed of all TED Talks, with more than 66 million views on the TED website and nearly 20 million more on YouTube.

Ronald Bell

Ronald "Khalis" Bell, the Kool & the Gang co-founder who co-wrote and produced many of the R&B/soul/funk/disco/jazz group's hits — including "Celebration," "Cherish," "Jungle Boogie," "Hollywood Swinging," "Summer Madness," "Open Sesame," "Ladies' Night," "Joanna," and "Fresh" — has died, according to a statement issued by his publicist, Sujata Murthy.

Bell passed away last week at his home in the U.S. Virgin Islands, at the age of 68.

The self-taught musician, who also went by the name Khalis Bayyan, was born Nov. 1, 1951, in Youngstown, Ohio. His father, professional boxer Robert "Bobby" Bell, was friends with Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk and exposed Ronald and his brother, Robert "Kool" Bell, to jazz music at an early age.

In 1964, after a move to Jersey City, N.J., the Bell brothers and five of their Lincoln High School friends formed a band called the Jazziacs, which by 1969, after several name changes including the

Soul Town Band, the New Dimensions, and Kool & the Flames, evolved into Kool & the Gang.

That year, the group signed to De-Lite Records, and in 1970 they released their self-titled, entirely instrumental debut album. Two live albums and two studio albums followed before they had their commercial breakthrough in 1973 with their fourth studio LP, Wild and Peaceful, which yielded the hits "Funky Stuff," "Jungle Boogie," and "Hollywood Swinging," the latter two cracking Billboard's top 10 singles chart.

In addition to his work with Kool & the Gang, Ronald Bell also served as a producer and/or arranger for artists like the Fugees, Jimmy Cliff, House of Pain, Phillip Glass, and Rachid.

He is survived by his 10 children, his four siblings, and his wife, Tia Sinclair Bell.

Joan Feynman

Joan Feynman, a pioneering astrophysicist who discovered the science behind the aurora borealis and aurora australis, died July 22 at age 93.

Feynman was the younger sister of Nobel Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman. As her brother's love for science developed, Feynman caught the bug as well, though her mother discouraged her by telling her, "Women's brains can't do science."

Feynman persevered, encouraged by her brother, who taught her science and paid her to be his lab assistant when he was 14 and she was just 5 years old.

Feynman's determination continued as she attended college and received her doctorate in physics from Syracuse University despite meeting sexism from her professors.

Feynman struggled to find work as a scientist after her 1958 graduation, but after several years as a homemaker, she was hired at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University.

She later worked at other scientific facilities including NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. There, she studied the effects of the Earth's magnetosphere, which led to her discovery of the cause of the aurora borealis in the northern hemisphere and aurora australis in the southern hemisphere.

Feynman also developed a method to predict sunspot cycles, and her research into high-energy particles in space allowed the space industry to develop hardier satellites.

Diana Riggs

Diana Rigg, an actress best known for playing the tough, smart, and stylish spy Emma Peel in TV's "The Avengers" from 1965 to 1968, died Sept. 10 of cancer. She was 82.

Rigg also portrayed the Queen of Thorns, Olena Tyrell, in "Game of Thrones."

Rigg is most closely identified with Emma Peel, though she played the role decades ago for just a handful of years. The effortlessly cool spy became an international sex symbol and fashion icon, helped along by the wardrobe Rigg was dressed in — short skirts, mod prints, and an iconic leather catsuit.

Peel was calm under pressure, always prepared, and impressively well rounded, balancing her fighting skills with scientific genius and artistic talent.

Rigg left "The Avengers" in part to take a role in a James Bond film — "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" (1969), in which she played Bond's wife, Tracy Bond, opposite George Lazenby. Her other movies include "Julius Caesar" (1970), "The Great Muppet Caper" (1981), and "Breathe" (2017).

In 1973, Rigg starred in the one-season U.S. sitcom "Diana," playing a British fashion designer living in America. Rigg won a Primetime Emmy Award for her 1997 role as Mrs. Danvers in the TV miniseries "Rebecca," and she was nominated again for her roles in "Victoria & Albert" and "Game of Thrones."

She was also a seasoned stage actress, with notable productions including "Mother Courage and Her Children" at London's National Theatre and "My Fair Lady" in the 2018 Broadway revival. Rigg won a Tony Award for her performance as the title character in "Medea."

Seymour Schwartz

Seymour Schwartz, the founding editor of an influential and essential medical textbook, "Schwartz's Principles of Surgery," died Aug. 28 at age 92.

Schwartz was affiliated with the University of Rochester for decades, having completed his internship there in 1950 and gone on to practice at the university's Strong Memorial Hospital.

In 1969, he was one of six editors of the new textbook "Principles of Surgery," and his fellow editors named him editor in chief. He went on to helm the textbook's next seven editions, and it was later named "Schwartz's Principles of Surgery" in his honor.

The text remains an essential part of surgical students' education. Schwartz was also the longtime editor of the journal "Contemporary Surgery" and the "Yearbook of Surgery." He was a mentor to generations of medical students, and he patented an electrical nerve stimulator to treat high blood pressure.

In 2017, Schwartz was named an Icon of Surgery by the American College of Surgeons.

Stevie Lee

Stevie Lee, a wrestler and actor who starred in the movie "Jackass 3D" and on TV in "American Horror Story: Freak Show," died Sept. 9. He was 54.

Lee (born Stevie Lee Richardson) was an Achondroplasia Dwarf who began his pro wrestling career in 2002 going by the name "Puppet the Psycho Dwarf."

He created the Half-Pint Brawlers organization, a wrestling group which would have a reality show on Spike TV.

As an actor, he appeared in "Jackass 3D," "American Horror Story: Freak Show," and played a munchkin in the 2003 movie "Oz the Great and Powerful" which starred James Franco.

He was also a motivational speaker who lived in the Chicago area with his wife and two children.

"I'm the only person living with dwarfism in my family, where I always had loving, supportive parents and spouse throughout my childhood and adult life," Lee wrote on his website. "With that support and backbone, I was constantly involved in a lot of activities as a child (sports, theater, and hobbies) and therefore with these experiences I found myself not afraid to start relationships, projects, and self employment."

"Even early on in life my mother would tell the story on how I would see people stare at me, and my first reaction was to walk up to them to introduce myself with a hug. I guess at the time I didn't realize that I was physically different or maybe awkward looking toward individuals in society."

"In life as a young child I had to learn early on how to deal with being physically different from everyone else I was around."

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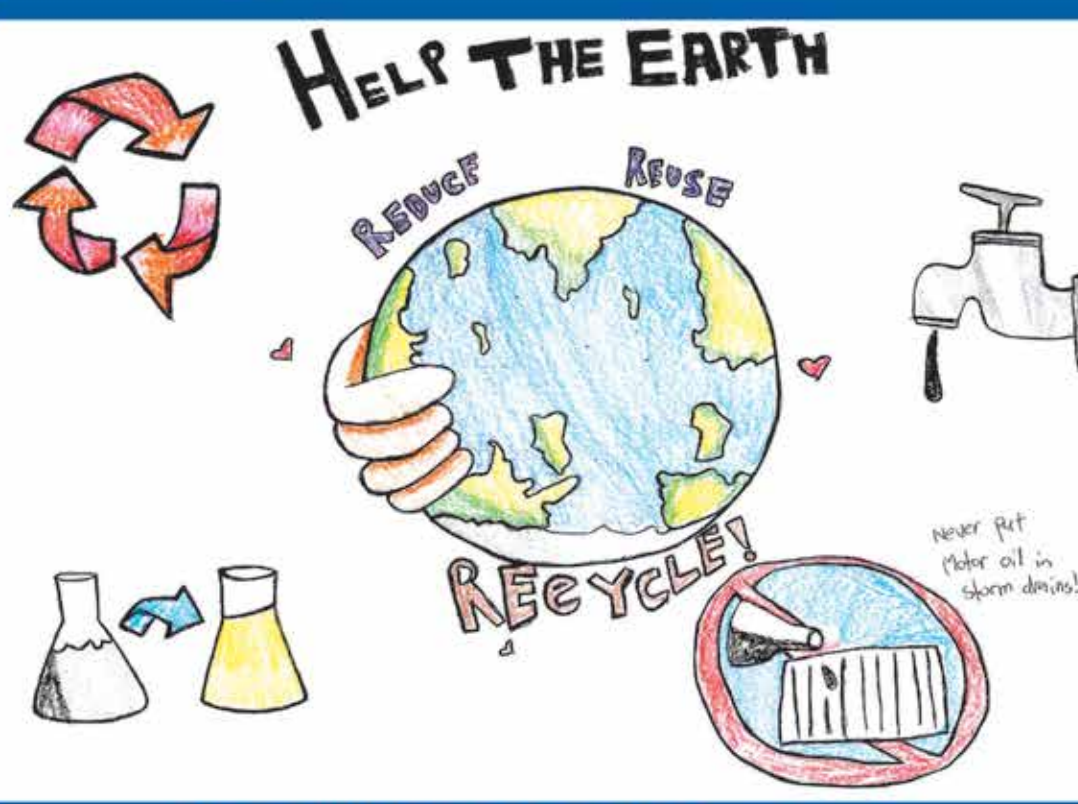
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Nearly 70,000 voters request election materials in alternate language

Nearly 70,000 voters responded to a recent countywide mailing and submitted requests to receive election materials - including their vote by mail ballots for the Nov. 3 presidential election - in a language other than English.

"Sending a vote by mail ballot to every voter is a critical step for voter access in 2020, but it means that millions of California voters will lose that moment when a poll worker asks them what language they would like their ballot in.

Mailers like LA County's help ensure language stands as a barrier to the ballot for as few voters as possible," said Jonathan Mehta Stein, executive director of California Common Cause.

"Every county in the state should use their remaining mailings, before Vote by Mail ballots go out, to share language access information."

In late-July, the RR/CC mailed a notice to all registered voters with new information that all registered voters will be mailed a vote by mail ballot to ensure a safe and accessible voting option during COVID-19.

Included in the notice was a postage-paid language request form with simple return instructions for any voter who would prefer to receive their

materials and ballot in a language other than English.

"In a jurisdiction with an electorate as richly diverse as Los Angeles County, it is essential that voters are aware they have options to receive election materials and their vote by mail ballot in their preferred language," said Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) Dean C. Logan Logan.

"It's critical for civic participation and the response to this mailer by close to 70,000 voters is a strong response to our voter outreach and education efforts."

In 2006, federal legislation passed, extending the minority language provisions of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965. Any county with more than 10,000 residents whose native language is not English and who indicated on their U.S. Census form a lack of proficiency in English, is required to provide election materials in the identified languages.

A language is covered by



the VRA as mandatory for the county's translated election materials if (1) more than 5% of the citizens of voting age are members of a single language minority and are limited English proficient or (2) more than 10,000 of the citizens of voting age are members of a single language minority and are limited English proficient.

Los Angeles County provides fully translated voting materials in Armenian, Chinese, Cambodian/Khmer,

Farsi, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog/Filipino, Vietnamese, Hindi, Japanese, Thai and Russian.

Additionally, facsimile ballots are available upon request in Burmese, Telugu, Gujarati, Indonesian, Mongolian and Bengali.

Registered voters can still request to receive their election materials in one of 18 different languages by calling 800-815-2666, option 3.

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Freelancers can help revive the post-pandemic economy

By Brent Messenger

More than 50 million Americans have filed unemployment claims since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. And business bankruptcies are expected to rise nearly 50 percent this year.

This economic turmoil is pushing both businesses and workers towards a greater reliance on freelancing. Americans are increasingly turning to these flexible jobs and choosing to become their own bosses, rather than search for a traditional 9 to 5 in a soft labor market. And one in every three companies plans to utilize more independent contractors to meet their changing needs, according to research firm Gartner.

Freelancers are helping

drive the economy's recovery -- and they'll continue to boost the economy long after the pandemic ends. It's time for lawmakers to support this growing share of the workforce by providing freelancers with the same protections that salaried employees have long enjoyed.

Freelancers are already an indispensable and growing part of our labor force. Before the coronavirus outbreak, the 5.8 million freelancers in the top 30 U.S. markets contributed roughly \$150 billion to the economy. In those regions, the number of freelancers grew by 15 percent between 2012 and 2017.

COVID-19 has accelerated this shift towards a freelance-centric economy.

Forty percent of freelancers said their workloads have either remained consistent or increased. Over half predicted that demand will increase following COVID-19.

And given the uncertainties about the future, many companies need cost-effective ways to fulfill their business needs. Freelancers' flexibility and skillsets make them well-equipped to meet that demand.

Consider a small business trying to expand their online presence. It doesn't make sense for a bookstore or restaurant to pay someone full-time to put together a single website. Most small firms don't need a full-fledged marketing department either -- but they do need help regaining customers after months of closures and

lockdowns. Freelancers can step in and provide those services.

Our country's economic revival is linked to the success of these workers. It's time for lawmakers to acknowledge freelancers' value by including them in safety net programs.

They can start by making unemployment benefits for freelance workers permanent. Congress temporarily extended these benefits to freelancers through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, which will expire at the end of the year. Ensuring access to these benefits long after COVID-19 abates would make the new freelance economy less precarious.

An economy supported by independent workers also

requires reforms to the nation's healthcare system.

One way to provide more -- and better -- insurance options for independent workers is by shoring up the Affordable Care Act, which made it easier for freelancers to get coverage through online insurance exchanges. The law isn't perfect. But there's no reason that Republicans and Democrats shouldn't be able to work together to make the exchanges work better.

Expanding access to affordable continuing education is also a necessity. Although acquiring new skills and knowledge in one's field is essential to competing as an independent professional, only a quarter of today's freelancers have used existing educational

resources. Student loan forgiveness programs would make using these resources much more affordable.

Finally, since freelancers work remotely, an internet connection is invaluable. Yet, over 20 million Americans still lack access to reliable internet. Lawmakers can close that gap by funding the expansion of our country's broadband infrastructure.

Policymakers can ensure the rise in freelancing leads to a vibrant economic recovery -- by giving freelancers the basic security they deserve.

Brent Messenger is vice president of public policy & community engagement at Fiverr. This piece originally ran in Fox Business.

Short Story: The Killer Kern

By Sharon Benson Smith

I wasn't aware of my daughter's adventure until a good two years after it occurred. I just happened to overhear her and her girlfriends talking about the experience, and my mind became an emotional pool of "what if's", even those few years after the fact.

It was going to be great to spend quality time with dear friends and to work as a team to overcome all the challenges that come with river rafting on the Kern River. And what could be more serene than being surrounded by the natural beauty of the Sequoia National Forest.

It was an outing they enjoyed in 1996, and looked forward to returning in August the following year. The girls chose this particular river, which had become a prime destination for rafting.

It so happened that August of 1997 was an "El Nino" year and extra precautions were to be taken as the river would be moving faster, there would be more water, and trees that were not tall enough to stick out of the water would become "strainers." As they sat in the "ready room," they were shown video of the rapids and told how to proceed in certain situations, i.e. if you got caught under the raft, if the raft gets caught on a rock, and above all it was stressed to listen to the guide.

They suited up in vests and helmets and were assigned to a guide who came highly recommended. There were five boats, six people per boat, and theirs was considered a very strong boat. As they set out on the water, their boat ended up being the last one in the group.

As they came upon the first rapid, they watched other boats navigate it, but their boat kept floating to the left. The guide

would have them back paddle to keep in line with the rest of the boats, but the water was strong and kept pushing them to the left. The guide again yelled to them to back paddle, but now they kept moving forward. As they approached the left side of the rapid, they could tell there was no clear path. They needed to be farther to the right in order to pass the rapid as all the other boats in the group had done.

In front of them loomed a large tree with a branch that spanned from the tree to the water's edge on the left, and there was another large branch coming out of the water just to the right. As the raft came into the large tree, Tracy popped up from the front right spot and the raft turned sideways. This action pinned four of the others in the boat under the large branch.

A friend, Debbie, was sitting front left in the raft on the other side of the branch, and was literally pulling on the branch trying to release the four that were pinned under it. As Debbie was fighting to unpin the others, Tracy was pulling herself out of the water. She said she could literally feel her legs being sucked into the tree below her... the "strainer."

She finally pulled herself out, and looked to her right just as the raft popped out from under the large branch and started down the rapid backwards. Before the raft slipped out of sight, Debbie and Tracy made eye contact just as she yelled, "Debi!" and they were gone.

Tracy pulled herself out of the water using a smaller branch that was exposed. There was a little calm pool of water that she sat in for a minute to gather her thoughts. Looking to the right where the rapids were, she wondered if she should just jump in and ride it down...but quickly decided...NOT!

As she looked to the left

towards the river bank, the water was rushing fast. There really was no way for Tracy to cross safely without getting swept under a "strainer." There was the large branch that spanned from the tree to the river bank. She thought perhaps if she could climb up and scoot along the branch then she could reach the other side. It was difficult to climb with her life vest on, so she was back in that little calm pool of water.

In the meantime, down the rapid, the rafts gathered all together to assess the situation and to make sure everyone was accounted for. Apparently, the guide in her raft was tossed prior to getting stuck under the large branch and had no clue as to what had happened.

Debbie asked, "Where's Tracy?" The guide thought Tracy was in another boat.

After it was determined that Tracy was missing, they set out to find her.

As she sat in the calm little pool of water, she could hear a whistle. It got louder so she looked to the river bank where it was coming from. It was one of the guides from their group with a rope. She happened to be the guide they had the previous year and she had been awesome. She threw the rope to Tracy who held on for dear life as the guide dragged her safely back to shore. Together they walked back to where the rafts had gathered and rejoined the group.

They continued down the river. As they navigated through the next set of rapids, they were being pushed left towards a very large rock. All they could hear was, "Paddle, paddle."

They were swept up onto the large rock and the guide began yelling, "High side, high side." Everyone scrambled to the top portion of the raft on the "high side" of the rock.

As the water pushed them higher, they were literally vertical on the rock, and all toppled out into the river. It was like being tossed around in a washing machine.

Finally, Tracy started to ascend upward from the water and her head hit something...the raft. All she could think of was to pick a side and go with it. So, she grabbed the ridges under the raft and scrambled towards the side and started scooting around it. When she came up from under the raft, she was behind it and moving rapidly down river. She looked around to see the rest of the group to the left near the river bank. They yelled, "Swim" and she let go of the raft and swam towards the shore where they reached out and grabbed her.

They rested for a bit and then continued down river to where they would spend the night. Of course, they couldn't wait to be on solid ground! They got up in the morning, were fed by the guides, and then were loaded back into the rafts and floated down river where they reached the end of the trip with no further incidents.

They gladly climbed onto the bus to take them back to their parked vehicles. As you drive back, it is customary to yell something to the next group of brave souls that will be taking the trip down the Killer Kern. We yelled, "Climb a tree!"

They had many dear friends on that trip who will be forever bonded by their "Killer Kern" experience, although it took some time before they could talk about the trip without shaking. Perhaps that is why I only learned of it several years afterward. I do know first hand that even today the experience was so traumatic that it remains a white knuckle situation with my Tracy.

Being her mom, I still send

POETRY MATTERS

Talking Dust Bowl Blues

Back in Nineteen Twenty-Seven,
I had a little farm and I called that heaven.
Well, the prices up and the rain come down,
And I hauled my crops all into town --
I got the money, bought clothes and groceries,
Fed the kids, and raised a family.

Rain quit and the wind got high,
And the black ol' dust storm filled the sky.
And I swapped my farm for a Ford machine,
And I poured it full of this gas-i-line --
And I started, rockin' an' a-rollin',
Over the mountains, out towards the old Peach Bowl...

We got out to the West Coast broke,
So dad-gum hungry I thought I'd croak,
An' I bummed up a spud or two,
An' my wife fixed up a tater stew --
We poured the kids full of it,
Mighty thin stew, though,
You could read a magazine right through it.

Always have figured that if it'd been just a little bit thinner,
Some of these here politicians coulda seen through it.

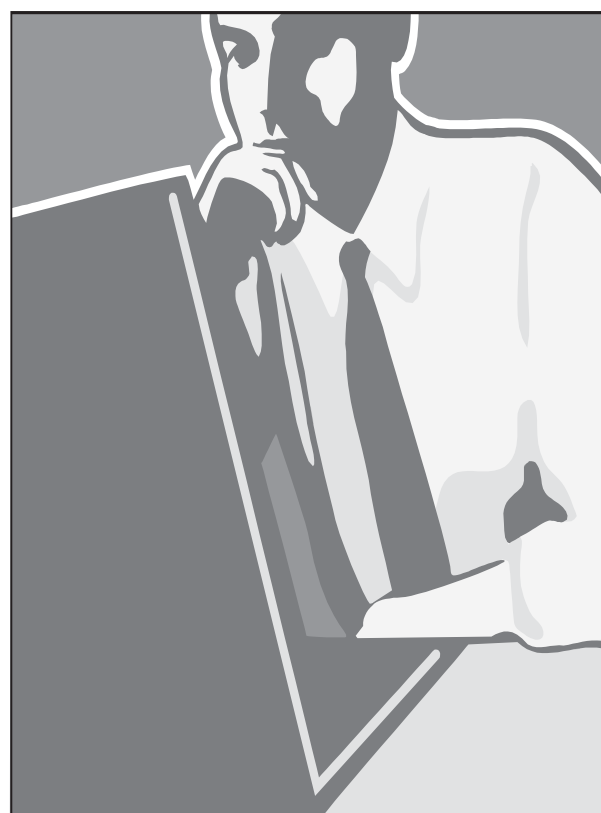
Woody Guthrie, Dust Bowl Ballads, Victor Records

Like Will Rogers, Guthrie could serve up timeless and funny remarks no matter what the natural calamity. Because of drought and the Depression, California seemed like the land of milk and honey to desperate farmers, where they became poor migrant workers under often harsh conditions. "Ballads" is one of the first narrative or concept albums. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks.

up a silent prayer of gratitude thanking Him that He brought all the girls home safely. Special thanks, Lord, for the "strainers" you positioned so perfectly, and thanks for that calm little pool of water that allowed my Tracy to collect her thoughts and strength. Even more thanks

from the heart of this mother that "The Killer Kern" was not a river of no return.

Sharon Benson Smith is a member of the memoirs writing class at Norwalk Senior Center.



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Man who tried to buy ricin sentenced to 3 1/2 years in prison

LOS ANGELES — A La Crescenta man was sentenced Monday to 42 months in federal prison for attempting to obtain ricin from an online source that he admitted was intended to be used as a weapon.

Steve S. Kim, 41, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Terry J. Hatter Jr. Kim pleaded guilty in September 2019 to one count of violating a criminal statute called prohibition with respect to biological weapons.

During Monday's hearing, prosecutors argued that, according to Kim's own statements, he intended to use the deadly biological toxin to murder an individual who weighed 110 pounds, likely his wife.

Over a two-month period in late 2018, Kim attempted to obtain ricin from an online vendor that, unbeknownst to Kim, was an FBI undercover operative. During online sale negotiations, Kim stated that he wished to procure the ricin to use on an individual he described as weighing 110 pounds and who would consume the deadly toxin in a drink, according to court documents.

The investigation revealed that Kim's wife weighed approximately 110 pounds, Kim and his wife were experiencing marital difficulties, and a computer seized from Kim showed internet searches for


strategies to manage anger issues.

Kim purchased the ricin using Bitcoin for the approximate value of \$350. Kim directed the ricin to be delivered to his office via the United States Postal Service and, on November 29, 2018, the FBI delivered an inert powder concealed in package. That evening, Kim took the parcel home, accessed the inert powder, and was immediately arrested.

While the parties dispute Kim's intended use of the ricin, the act of attempting to obtain the deadly toxin constituted "incredibly dangerous conduct without regard to the safety of others," according to sentencing papers filed by prosecutors.

One sentencing memo quotes a pre-sentence report by the United States Probation Office: "Defendant's conduct had the potential of endangering the community. Kim caused what he believed to be a lethal biological toxin to be shipped through the United States Postal Service where it was delivered at his place of employment. Had Kim been successful in obtaining ricin, he could have seriously harmed many people who unknowingly came into contact with the hazardous package."

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Man sentenced to 17 1/2 years in prison for coercing girls to send him nudes

LOS ANGELES — A Koreatown man was sentenced Monday to 210 months in federal prison for posing online as a teenager and targeting girls for sexual exploitation.

Francisco Sanchez, 31, was sentenced by United States District Judge Dolly M. Gee. Sanchez pleaded guilty on May 20 to two counts of production of child pornography.

Sanchez used websites and computer applications to "meet" minor girls. From 2014 to September 2016, Sanchez used the pseudonym "Eddie Nash" to pose as a teenage boy and develop online romantic relationships with his victims so that he could obtain sexually explicit images and videos from them.

In some cases, Sanchez convinced his victims to engage in sexually explicit conduct during video chats, which allowed him to take pornographic screen shots of the minors. In other cases, Sanchez threatened to commit suicide to coerce the victims into sending him pictures or videos.

threatened to publish or otherwise expose the victims if they did not send additional images or videos.

While Sanchez pleaded guilty to two counts - related to victims who were 13 and 14 - he admitted in his plea agreement that he victimized another five teenage girls.

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After obtaining sexually explicit images from the girls, Sanchez

Wife charged with attempted murder after finding husband at hotel

MANHATTAN BEACH — A 33-year-old woman has been charged with shooting at her husband and a woman he was with in a Manhattan Beach hotel parking lot.

Sharday Ebony Tinker, of Culver City, faces two felony counts of attempted murder and one felony count of shooting at an occupied motor vehicle.


On Sept. 8, Tinker allegedly found her

husband and the woman inside a parked vehicle at the hotel. She shot her husband and the woman, who survived the shooting.


Tinker pleaded not guilty to the charges and is scheduled to return to court on Oct. 23 for a preliminary hearing.

If convicted, Tinker faces a possible maximum sentence of 54 years to life in state prison. Bail is set at \$2.2 million.

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