

The Norwalk Patriot

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Summer Olympics pushed to 2021

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach agreed Tuesday to postpone the Olympics by about one year.

Abe put the suggestion to Bach, who agreed that the latest date the Olympics will be held is summer 2021.

The IOC has been facing mounting pressure to delay the Games, which were originally scheduled to take place from July 24 to August 9, amid the novel coronavirus outbreak.

The Olympics have never been rescheduled in peacetime. In 1916, 1940 and 1944, the Games were canceled because of world wars.

On March 17, Japan's Olympic minister Seiko Hashimoto said the country was planning for a "complete" hosting of the Games, which she went on to explain meant an Olympics which "started on time and with spectators in attendance."

Then late last week, the IOC said that it was considering a number of different options including a postponement or modifying the Games so they could still take place as scheduled in July.

There had been growing opposition to hosting the Games as planned as countries attempt to spread the limit of the coronavirus, which has infected more than 381,000 people globally.

Australia and Canada both announced they would not be sending athletes to Tokyo this year, and — along with the likes of USA, Germany and Poland — called for the Games to be postponed until 2021.

Sporting bodies, including USA Track and Field and USA Swimming, also called for a postponement.

Meanwhile, athletes who have been unable to train due to closed facilities and restricted access to coaches and training partners have also voiced opposition to the Games proceeding as planned.

Sporting events across the globe have been suspended amid the virus, with Euro 2020 being moved to next year.

The financial implications of postponing the Olympics could be huge.

The cost of hosting, organizers said in December, was some 1.35 trillion yen (\$12.35 billion) but, according to Reuters, that figure did not include the cost of moving the marathon and walking events from Tokyo to Sapporo to avoid the summer heat.

Sponsors, insurers and broadcasters have also committed billions to the Games.

Some experts believe the truer sum is likely to be \$25 billion, a vast majority of which has already been spent on large-scale infrastructure projects such as transportation networks, hotels and new venues.

Although an exact one-year postponement to July 23-Aug. 8 is possible, the Tokyo Games don't have to open in July.

"All the options are on the table," Bach said, adding that a task force of IOC and Japanese officials named "Here We Go" is looking at new dates.

"This task force can consider the broader picture. This is not just restricted to the summer months," Bach said.

CNN

Residents urged to shelter as coronavirus spreads

Norwalk declares a state of emergency as the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases surges across L.A. County.

By Eric Pierce Editor

NORWALK - L.A. County public health officials on Tuesday confirmed the first positive case of COVID-19 in Norwalk as authorities continued to insist that residents shelter at home to stop the virus's spread.

As of Thursday morning, Norwalk had two confirmed coronavirus cases.

Most surrounding cities also received word of coronavirus cases in their cities, including Downey, La Mirada, Whittier, Pico Rivera and Cerritos.

The actual number of infected persons in Norwalk could be much higher as COVID-19 testing remains limited.

Health officials did not release details of the positive diagnosis, including the person's age, gender, or locations visited.

The person's close contacts are being monitored and they have been advised to self-quarantine for two weeks.

County health officials urged residents to continue to quarantine and to only go outside when absolutely necessary.

"While Public Health is doing everything possible to mitigate the impact of this disease in our community, we can only flatten the curve if everyone takes social distancing seriously and adheres to all isolation and quarantine orders issued by our health officer," said Barbara Ferrer, Los Angeles County Public Health Director.

Norwalk officials said they



Norwalk City Hall is closed to the public. Essential departments are open Tuesdays by appointment only. Photo by Alex Dominguez

are working with the county to monitor the COVID-19 case.

"It is critically important that everyone adheres to all the social distancing measures, avoid gatherings, and practice good public health hygiene, including washing hands as frequently as possible," the city said in a statement.

Norwalk declared a local state of emergency on March 19, which allows the city to define essential services and continue those operations.

The city also activated its Emergency Operations Center and launched a hotline to take COVID-19 information or questions. The phone number is (562) 929-5760.

The hotline is monitored Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Norwalk City Hall is open for essential services by appointment on Tuesdays. These departments include Building & Safety, Planning, Engineering and Transit.

As residents stay home quarantined, Norwalk has stopped giving parking citations, including for street sweeping, unless the vehicle poses a public hazard.

Norwalk is still providing seniors ages 60 and older with meal service. Interested seniors should call the Norwalk Senior Center at (562) 929-5580.

Last week's City Council meeting was closed to the public and held via teleconference. Comments at future meetings can be made by emailing publiccomments@norwalkca.gov.

"The city's measures are not intended to create fear but rather protect the safety and health of our community, employees and first responders," the city said in a statement.

"As information on coronavirus evolves, the City will continue sharing information and expanding preparedness measures to ensure the safety of its residents, employees and businesses."

Norwalk schools closed through May 5

There remains a possibility students won't return to campus until the next school year.

NORWALK - Norwalk public schools will be closed until at least May 5 as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to worsen across the country.

Dr. Hasmik Danielian, superintendent of the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, announced the closure extension in a letter to parents Tuesday.

Students will continue to work online except during spring break, scheduled for April 10-17.

"We live in unprecedented times as we face this pandemic caused by the spread of COVID-19," Danielian wrote in the letter.

Last Friday, the Los Angeles County Office of Education recommended that all school remain closed until at least May 5, a recommendation supported by the Norwalk-La Mirada board of education.

Other school districts followed suit, including Downey and Whittier.

Under current plans, students would return to campus May 5. That date could be further pushed back, however, and there remains a possibility students will not return until next school year.

"I will continue to communicate with you by providing updates during closure," Danielian said. "Thanks again for your patience. Working together, I am confident that we will overcome this pandemic safely."

Eight Norwalk schools are serving meals to students daily from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The schools are Chavez, Dolland, Glazier, Moffitt, Morrison, New River and Sanchez elementary schools, and Los Alisos Middle School.



Shoppers on WIC struggle to find groceries

Congresswoman wants assurances low-income grocery shoppers won't go home empty-handed.

NORWALK - Rep. Linda T. Sánchez, Norwalk's representative in Congress, led a bipartisan group of 45 members in urging Agriculture Secretary Sonny Purdue to ensure that WIC-eligible products remain accessible in supermarkets throughout the country during the coronavirus pandemic.

"As Americans rush to grocery stores to stock up on important items, they may not realize a small symbol on the pricing label that shows an item is 'WIC' approved," said Sánchez.

Continued on page 2

Norwalk restaurant grades

Hola Pho
11575 Rosecrans Ave.
Inspected: 3/13/20
Grade: **A**

Taco Bell
12503 Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 3/13/20
Grade: **A**

Noemi's Mexican Restaurant
14350 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 3/13/20
Grade: **A**

Hibachi Grill Buffet
14021 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 3/12/20
Grade: **A**

The Poke Co.
12200 Civic Center Dr.
Date Inspected: 3/12/20
Grade: **B**

Ana's Bionicos
10977 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 3/12/20
Grade: **A**

RC Burgers
14041 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 3/12/20
Grade: **A**

Costco - Bakery
12324 Hoxie Ave.
Date Inspected: 3/12/20
Grade: **A**

Costco - Pizza
12324 Hoxie Ave.
Date Inspected: 3/12/20
Grade: **A**

El Eden
10628 E Imperial Hwy.
Date Inspected: 3/11/20
Grade: **A**

Casa Adelita
12842 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 3/11/20
Grade: **A**

Un Rinconcito Argentino
10633 Imperial Hwy.
Date Inspected: 3/11/20
Grade: **A**

El Pollo Loco
11473 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 3/10/20
Grade: **A**

Yoshinoya Beef Bowl
12555 Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 3/10/20
Grade: **A**

Angelina's Famous Pizza
12553 Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 3/10/20
Grade: **A**

Food 4 Less Bakery
10901 Imperial Hwy.
Date Inspected: 3/10/20
Grade: **A**

Kikka
11660 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 3/10/20
Grade: **A**

Santos Juice Bar
13324 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 3/9/20
Grade: **A**

IHOP
12623 Norwalk Blvd.
Date Inspected: 3/9/20
Grade: **A**

Chinatown Express
13935 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 3/9/20
Grade: **A**

California Bakery
11860 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 3/5/20
Grade: **A**

California Sushi and Teriyaki
12305 Norwalk Blvd.
Date Inspected: 3/5/20
Grade: **A**

Foodieum
12440 Imperial Hwy.
Date Inspected: 3/5/20
Grade: **A**

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 67° ☀

Saturday 67° ☁

Sunday 68° ☁

THINGS TO DO



The Masked Singer

All Weekend - Hulu

A singing competition in which celebrities face off against one another while shrouded from head to toe in an elaborate costume, concealing their identity.



Tiger King

All Weekend - Netflix

A zoo owner spirals out of control amid a cast of eccentric characters in this true murder-for-hire story from the underworld of big cat breeding.



Aladdin (2019)

All Weekend - Disney+

A kind-hearted street urchin and a power-hungry Grand Vizier vie for a magic lamp that has the power to make their deepest wishes come true.



Veep

All Weekend - Prime Video

Former Senator Selina Meyer finds that being Vice President of the United States is nothing like she hoped and everything that everyone ever warned her about.



Long Shot

All Weekend - HBO Now

A journalist (Seth Rogen) reunites with his former babysitter (Charlize Theron), now the United States Secretary of State.



Dickinson

All Weekend - Apple TV+

An inside look at the world of writer Emily Dickinson, starring Hailee Steinfeld.

Quote:

Whether it's serious illness, financial hardship, or the simple constraint of parents who speak limited English, difficulty can tap unexpected strengths.

Sonia Sotomayor

Hoarding leaves grocery shoppers with limited options

Continued from page 1

“If a store runs out of WIC-approved items like bread or cereal, the people that rely on those products go home empty-handed. People that use WIC to feed their kids can’t just get another brand or kind of food.”

“I’m asking Secretary Purdue to provide clear guidance to state agencies and work with them to broaden the brands or foods under the WIC-approved list. We need to ensure that families can get what they need to stay healthy.”

Full text of the letter:

Dear Secretary Purdue,

As we work together to help our nation through the COVID-19 pandemic, we write to urge you to protect our constituents that depend on the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Following conversations with WIC agencies in our districts as well as media reports of depleted supplies of WIC-eligible products in supermarkets and other vendors throughout our country, we are concerned that WIC recipients will be unable to access the nutritious food they need.

We urge you to exercise authority given to you under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, as well as any other existing and forthcoming emergency authorities under the Stafford Act, to ensure WIC families have access to nutritious food during this pandemic. As supermarkets and other approved vendors may be depleted of WIC-eligible foods and formula, it is critical that state agencies and vendors are empowered to meet the needs of WIC families. While we understand that states are responsible for eligible food lists based on federal standards within the seven WIC food packages, we hope USDA will deliver clear guidance to agencies to temporarily expand approved food lists to include suitable substitutions. Though many states are bound by rebate contracts for infant formula, we also urge USDA to work with states to ensure supply and, when possible, access to similar alternatives.

Approved food lists are an important means for agencies to control program costs, but during these extraordinary times may restrict WIC families from purchasing the only nutritious foods available simply because they lack a “WIC” label or other designation. It is critical that any changes in restrictions be clearly communicated to WIC families, vendors, and EBT processors who may be accustomed to a narrow list of brands and labels in their states and territories.

The lifesaving services and resources of WIC are more important than ever during this uncertain time. We are committed to working with you to ensure families continue to receive the assistance they need. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

ICE suspends enforcement at hospitals and doctors offices

LOS ANGELES - Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40) issued the following response to news that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will not carry out enforcement operations at or near health care facilities during the coronavirus crisis:

“Our government should never, ever force anyone, including immigrants, to put their lives, or the lives of their loved ones or neighbors, at risk by avoiding medical care. During the COVID-19 public health crisis, it is imperative for all Americans, regardless of immigration status, to be unafraid of seeking medical attention. In conversations with ICE officials today, I alerted them to the dangers of enforcement efforts at sensitive locations like health care facilities, and they have started to address these concerns by issuing the directive below.”

The full notification from ICE is below.

“To ensure the welfare and safety of the general public as well as officers and agents in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will temporarily adjust its enforcement posture beginning today, March 18, 2020. ICE’s highest priorities are to promote life-saving and public safety activities.

“ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) will focus

enforcement on public safety risks and individuals subject to mandatory detention based on criminal grounds. For those individuals who do not fall into those categories, ERO will exercise discretion to delay enforcement actions until after the crisis or utilize alternatives to detention, as appropriate.

“Homeland Security Investigations will continue to carry out mission critical criminal investigations and enforcement operations as determined necessary to maintain public safety and national security. Examples include child exploitation, gangs, narcotics trafficking, human trafficking, human smuggling, and participation on the Joint Terrorism Task Force. This work will be conducted based on ability to coordinate and work with prosecutors from the Department of Justice and intake at both the U.S. Marshals Service and Bureau of Prisons.

“During the COVID-19 crisis, ICE will not carry out enforcement operations at or near health care facilities, such as hospitals, doctors’ offices, accredited health clinics, and emergent or urgent care facilities, except in the most extraordinary of circumstances. Individuals should not avoid seeking medical care because they fear civil immigration enforcement.”

Coronavirus found on cruise ship 17 days after passengers disembarked

Researchers found traces of the new coronavirus on surfaces in cabins of the Diamond Princess 17 days after those who were quarantined on board disembarked, according to a new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report.

The novel virus’ RNA was found in the cabins of both asymptomatic and symptomatic passengers before the surfaces were disinfected. The report didn’t specify what surfaces it was found on. The researchers wrote that they couldn’t tell whether disease transmission actually occurred from the contaminated surfaces, and that more research is needed.

Tara C. Smith, an infectious disease epidemiologist at Kent State University, also pointed out that the researchers didn’t say how many rooms they found the RNA in or how common it was.

“Say it with me: *viral RNA doesn’t necessarily mean live virus was present,*” Smith said on Twitter. “Now you’re going to see ‘coronavirus can live on surfaces for 17 days!’ over and over, but we don’t know that based on this study and for those using live virus, it’s much shorter.”

Previous research has shown that how long the coronavirus

can live on an inanimate object depends on the type of surface and the temperature. A study in the New England Journal of Medicine published March 17 found the virus was able to live 3 hours in the air and up to 3 days on plastic and stainless steel.

On January 20, the Diamond Princess cruise ship departed Yokohama, Japan, carrying approximately 3,700 passengers and crew. On Jan. 25, a symptomatic passenger departed the ship in Hong Kong, where he was evaluated; testing confirmed COVID-19 infection.

On Feb. 3, the ship returned to Japan, after making six stops in three countries. Japanese authorities were notified of the COVID-19 diagnosis in the passenger who disembarked in Hong Kong, and the ship was quarantined.

After disembarkation of all passengers, crew members either completed a 14-day ship-based quarantine, were repatriated to and managed in their home country, or completed a 14-day land-based quarantine in Japan.

THE PET SPOT

March 30th: Take a Walk in the Park Day. Although not exclusively a pet holiday, this makes a great time to explore a new park that is currently open with your dog! Remember to always take the necessary precautions.

NATIONAL HEARTWORM AWARENESS MONTH

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease in pets in the United States and many other parts of the world. It is caused by foot-long worms (heartworms) that live in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels of affected pets, causing severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body. Heartworm disease affects dogs, cats and ferrets, but heartworms also live in other mammal species, including wolves, coyotes, foxes, sea lions and—in rare instances—humans. Because wild species such as foxes and coyotes live in proximity to many urban areas, they are considered important carriers of the disease.

Dogs. The dog is a natural host for heartworms, which means that heartworms that live inside the dog mature into adults, mate and produce offspring. If untreated, their numbers can increase, and dogs have been known to harbor several hundred worms in their bodies. Heartworm disease causes lasting damage to the heart, lungs and arteries, and can affect the dog’s health and quality of life long after the parasites are gone. For this reason, heartworm prevention for dogs is by far the best option, and treatment—when needed—should be administered as early in the course of the disease as possible. Learn more about heartworm medicine for dogs.

Cats. Heartworm disease in cats is very different from heartworm disease in dogs. The cat is an atypical host for heartworms, and most worms in cats do not survive to the adult stage. Cats with adult heartworms typically have just one to three worms, and many cats affected by heartworms have no adult worms. While this means heartworm disease often goes undiagnosed in cats, it’s important to understand that even immature worms cause real damage in the form of a condition known as heartworm associated respiratory disease (HARD). Moreover, the medication used to treat heartworm infections in dogs cannot be used in cats, so prevention is the only means of protecting cats from the effects of heartworm disease.

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Coronavirus proves we need Medicare for all

By Ashar Foley

For decades, critics of single-payer health care have raised the menace of rationed care, long waits, and “death panels.”

Now, in our collective national effort to “flatten the curve” — to slow the spread of coronavirus to prevent hospitals from being overwhelmed — we are seeing all three of these rumored pitfalls of “socialized medicine” in our for-profit system.

After all, the entire point of “social distancing” is to ration available care. Meanwhile hospitals are postponing elective surgeries, and hard-hit places like Washington State are discussing plans to determine who gets critical care at ICUs and who will be turned away.

At first the federal response to the pandemic was slow, as public officials spread false information, claimed they had contained the virus to a few individuals, and refused World Health Organization offers to help the U.S. develop its own COVID-19 test.

Since then it’s taken more aggressive steps. But in the long term, it would be better to put in place a system to prevent and address crises before they threaten to end life as we know it.

It is too early to say which countries will prove most successful in containing the virus, but there are indications that those with single-payer systems have the advantage.

As Helen Buckingham of the Nuffield Trust told the Washington Post, the U.K.’s National Health Service is well-positioned to cope. It has a clear and comprehensive emergency planning structure with the ability to optimize resource use, even after years of government budget cuts.

Federalized health care means centralized patient information. As Kelsey Piper reported for Vox, Taiwan’s ability to get information quickly from citizens’ medical files, combined with proactive containment, enabled testing for the virus as early as December. Despite high traffic with mainland China, Taiwan only had 45 confirmed cases of the disease and one death in early March.

Similarly, South Korea’s aggressive testing and universal coverage helped the country “flatten the curve” more effectively than any other so far.

Importantly, single-payer health systems are far less costly. At over \$10,000 per person each year, Americans spend far more on health care than any other wealthy country, yet our life expectancy is lower. Because of these out of control costs, many of us avoid going to the doctor altogether — another form of rationing.

For example, my last trip to the gynecologist was so expensive, due to both improper coding and an in-network test sent to an out-of-network lab, that I have yet to go back. A year and a half later, I

continue to receive bills for a 50-minute preventative care check-up.

Avoiding the doctor for fear of the cost is bad in the best of times, disastrous in a crisis like COVID-19, and unheard of in places with single-payer care.

Certainly, single-payer is not a magical solution: Italy has a federalized national health insurance system similar to Canada’s, and its northern regions are overwhelmed by the outbreak. But Italy’s leadership was slow to recognize the pandemic and communicate that reality to its citizens.

Yet the rapid response in other European and Asian countries shows that, though single-payer systems are not a cure-all, they are able to better prepare these countries with clear emergency protocols, efficient information collection, and free access to care.

Rationing care, long wait lines, and “death panels” aren’t what awaits us in a socialized system. They’re hallmarks of our failed for-profit system, which is simply not up to the task of providing for our public health.

If we continue to put our political and economic ideologies ahead of our health, we stand to lose everything.

Ashar Foley is currently a (remote) lecturer of Cinema and Media at Fordham University in New York City.

What 9/11 can teach us about today’s crisis

By Ray Brescia

On the morning of September 11, 2001, my colleagues and I handed out water on Lower Broadway. We were lawyers who served some of the poorest communities in New York, but quenching the thirst of stunned victims proved to be the best thing we could do at the time.

In the ensuing months, we learned a lot about emergency response and the ways a city’s civic infrastructure should respond to a crisis. We used our legal expertise to assist thousands of New Yorkers get back on their feet.

In the process, we learned lessons about what the community’s needs were and how to pull different sectors together to meet them. These lessons could not be more important as the Covid-19 pandemic spreads.

First, a lot of people will need help — a lot of it.

Aside from a looming public health crisis, the toll on the economy will be devastating. People will lose their jobs, get their hours slashed, and businesses will close their doors forever. This will have ripple effects throughout the economy.

People who never imagined they would file for unemployment or other benefits will find themselves forced to navigate an alien bureaucracy. Existing systems will be pushed to the breaking point, and will not be adequate to address the need. We will need to find

new resources and new means and avenues of support.x

Second, we must be generous. Benefits and assistance must be easy to access and navigate, and existing programs — not just unemployment — will need to be expanded.

In the wake of 9/11, millions of generous Americans supported the September 11th Fund, which was administered by the New York Community Trust and the United Way of New York City. Not only did that fund assist families who had lost loved ones, but also individuals who were left in economic ruin that day.

A similar philanthropic effort, coordinated by charities across the country, will be needed in the current pandemic, and we should get a fundraising initiative underway immediately. Prominent philanthropies like the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations could provide critical infrastructure support to local foundations that are closer to the need.

Third, nonprofits are going to get hammered, twice. They are going to face increased need for their services, while losing support from donors precisely when those services are needed most. Across the country, nonprofits are already having to cancel and postpone fundraising events.

Emergency relief for frontline non-profit organizations responding to community needs must begin to flow immediately,

before it is too late. Anyone making regular gifts to nonprofits should continue for as long as possible. And any philanthropic effort to support the direct victims of the virus should also provide financial support to the non-profits that will serve them.

Finally, we need to cooperate across sectors. One of the most important successes of the 9/11 response was that the government, non-profit, philanthropic, and private sectors all worked together.

Survivors were able to go to centers to meet with a wide range of service providers from public and nonprofit entities. Volunteers from private sector businesses provided critical assistance as well, and foundations supported such efforts. This kind of cooperation will again be critical, though such “centers” will have to be virtual.

The full impacts of the pandemic can’t be known yet — but we’ve been here before in some ways.

How Americans came together after 9/11, with the generous support of each other and concerned citizens around the world, can help chart a course forward through these unsteady and terrifying times.

Ray Brescia is a professor of law at Albany Law School who worked at the Urban Justice Center in New York City on September 11, 2001.

Ending water shutoffs is the least cities can do

By Negin Owliaei

Wash your hands.

That’s life-saving advice right now. But what does it mean for people without access to water?

A pandemic exposes all of our broken structures, from lack of health care to a government that responds more to Wall Street than the common good. Fortunately, organizers the world over have been highlighting these systemic failures, paving a path through the crisis that’s rooted in justice.

Organizers in Detroit are offering one such path.

In 2014, the Detroit Water and Sewage Department began what the ACLU called “the largest residential water shutoff in U.S. history,” cutting off more than 20,000 residents it claimed hadn’t paid their bills — although many of them had, according to the ACLU.

Payment or not, there’s no excuse for shutting off the water. The United Nations declared that Detroit was violating human rights by turning the water off without a care for health needs.

Now, six years later, Detroiters may finally be getting some relief. Local organizers have been fighting the city’s aggressive shutoff program this entire time, but their demands became even more urgent in the face of coronavirus.

The People’s Water Board, a coalition of groups in Detroit advocating for the protection, access, and conservation of water, petitioned Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer to declare a moratorium on shutoffs, pointing out that the state had particular reason to fear the pandemic thanks to lack of water access.

“It should not take an outbreak to realize that lack of water and sanitation poses a danger to the public health of those impacted by shutoffs, and everyone in our state,” they wrote.

After these appeals, Detroit announced the Coronavirus Water Restart Plan to reconnect thousands of Detroit households without water, or facing a potential shutoff, for \$25 a month for the duration of the crisis.

While the plan is an improvement, the People’s Water Board has

already highlighted a number of potential frailties.

There are plenty of logistical issues, including burst pipes and lead contamination, that come from years without water service, the group says. And the city has been slow to move, leaving thousands of homes in Detroit without water. That’s why the coalition is also demanding emergency water and cleaning stations.

There’s also the fact that water is necessary at all times, not just during a pandemic.

“What happens after we get through this outbreak?” Nicole Hill, a volunteer with Michigan Welfare Rights asked in a People’s Water Board statement. “Are you going to go back out and shut these people off? Are you going to give them an incredible hike to their bill?”

Ensuring access to water as a human right is crucial, especially during a public health emergency. The Guardian reports that 90 U.S. cities and states have suspended shutoffs, protecting an estimated 57 million Americans from turning on an empty tap.

We’re all in this together

By Jill Richardson

Western medicine is predicated on the “germ theory of disease.” That’s what it sounds like: the theory that germs like bacteria and viruses cause disease.

If you want to prevent disease, our standard theory goes, you prevent exposure to germs, or you vaccinate. If you want to cure disease, you kill the pathogens with a drug or keep the patient well enough that their immune system can fight it off.

All of that is, of course, correct. However, there’s another way to look at disease.

By the mid-1800s, John H. Griscom, an educator who was also an anti-poverty activist, noticed something. Griscom noticed that diseases that were caused by germs had a disproportionate impact on the poor. So he advocated policies to promote social welfare, like reducing rent or improving working conditions, in order to advance public health.

In this view, people can’t keep away from germs on their own — not if they also need to work for a living. And when different people catch the same germs, the outcomes can vary wildly depending on their economic fortunes in life.

America should have listened.

Instead, we ended up with public health policies that placed responsibility on individuals, keeping the focus solely on killing germs or preventing their spread. We didn’t do nearly enough about the other cause, poverty.

So, now, here we are. This disease is going to hit the rich and the poor differently.

Among the top 25 percent of earners, most have paid sick leave, nearly two-thirds have paid vacation, and over six in ten can work from home. Among the bottom 25 percent, less than half get sick leave, less than a quarter get paid vacation, and less than one in ten can work from home.

Schools have closed. Consider who has childcare and who can’t afford it? Who has health insurance and who doesn’t? With

But just one in five of those water departments, the paper notes, have explicitly said they would turn on water for households that don’t currently have it.

A first-of-its-kind study from Food and Water Watch estimated that 15 million people in the United States experienced a water shutoff in 2016. The highest shutoff rates were in lower-income cities with higher poverty and unemployment rates.

As the economic crisis stemming from the pandemic spreads, organizers have been calling for practical measures from cash payments to rent and mortgage suspensions to paid leave for everyone. Turning the water back on — permanently — is the absolute least cities can do.

Water is a human right, not a commodity.

Negin Owliaei is a researcher at the Institute for Policy Studies and co-editor of *Inequality.org*.

many workplaces shutting down altogether, who can afford to stay home without pay — and who can’t?

Or, how can someone whose water was shut off because they couldn’t afford their water bill wash their hands as recommended? Then consider people who are even more marginalized: the homeless, people in jails and prisons, and people in immigrant detention centers.

We’re all in this together, but we aren’t all going to be harmed equally by it.

Maybe that’s fine for some people. Maybe some people don’t mind if other people suffer so long as they and their loved ones are okay. But we’re all interconnected. Some people are disproportionately harmed, it’s true, but we’re going to rise and fall together.

If millions of people less fortunate than you get sick, their germs will spread, making the pandemic worse in a way that affects everyone.

They will overwhelm the healthcare system as has happened in Italy, and doctors will need to make choices about who lives and who dies. People who are sick from other causes will be impacted too, because they’ll be competing for the same scarce resources.

The economic fallout from this will harm all of us, too. The people who lose paychecks or jobs in this pandemic will be unable to buy what they need. That obviously hurts them, but it also hurts the entire economy.

We need to stop telling one another to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps, or blaming the unfortunate for their own plight. We need to start governing like we’re all in this together — because we are.

Jill Richardson is a nationally syndicated columnist pursuing a PhD in sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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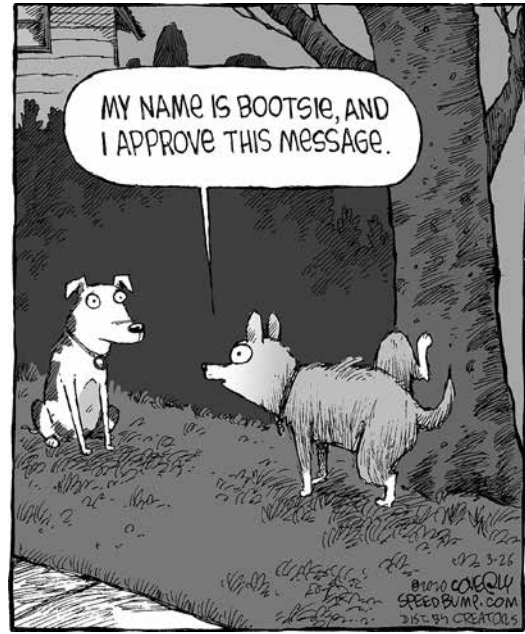
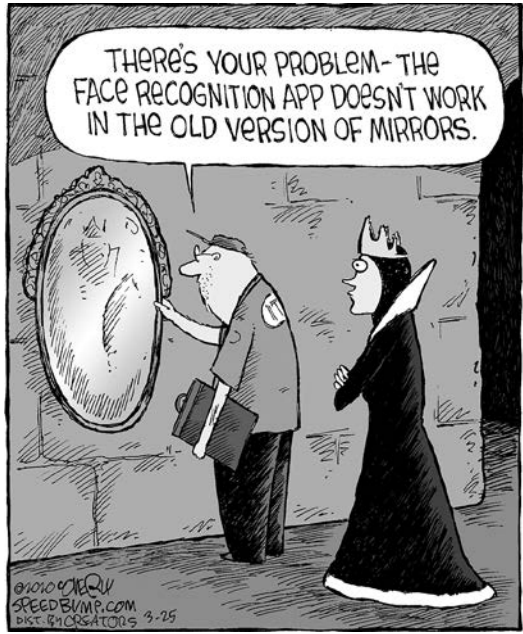
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAYS

1st, 6:00 p.m. - Public Safety meetings - Council Chambers

TUESDAYS

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Farmers Market - Excelsior High School
1st & 3rd 6:00 p.m. - Toastmasters Meetings - Registrar Recorder/County Clerks Office
1st & 3rd, 6:00 p.m. - City Council - Council Chambers
3rd, 5:45 p.m. - Housing Authority - Council Chambers

WEDNESDAYS

1st, 12:30 p.m. - Soroptimist International - Soroptimist Village
1st & 3rd, 7:00 p.m. - Lions Club - Bruce's Restaurant
2nd, 10:30 a.m. - Norwalk Woman's Club - Masonic Lodge
2nd & 4th, 1:30 p.m. - Alondra Senior Citizens - Social Services Center
2nd & 4th, 7:30 p.m. - Planning Commission - Council Chambers
4th, 11:30 a.m. - Coordinating Council - Arts & Sports Complex

THURSDAYS

7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts Troop 924 - Norwalk United Methodist Church
2nd, 7:00 p.m. - American Legion Post No. 359 - 11986 Front St.
2nd, 7:30 p.m. - Golden Trowel -Norwalk Masonic Lodge

SATURDAYS

2nd, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast - First Christian Church of Norwalk
Have an event you want listed? E-mail news@thedowneypatriot.com

On This Day...

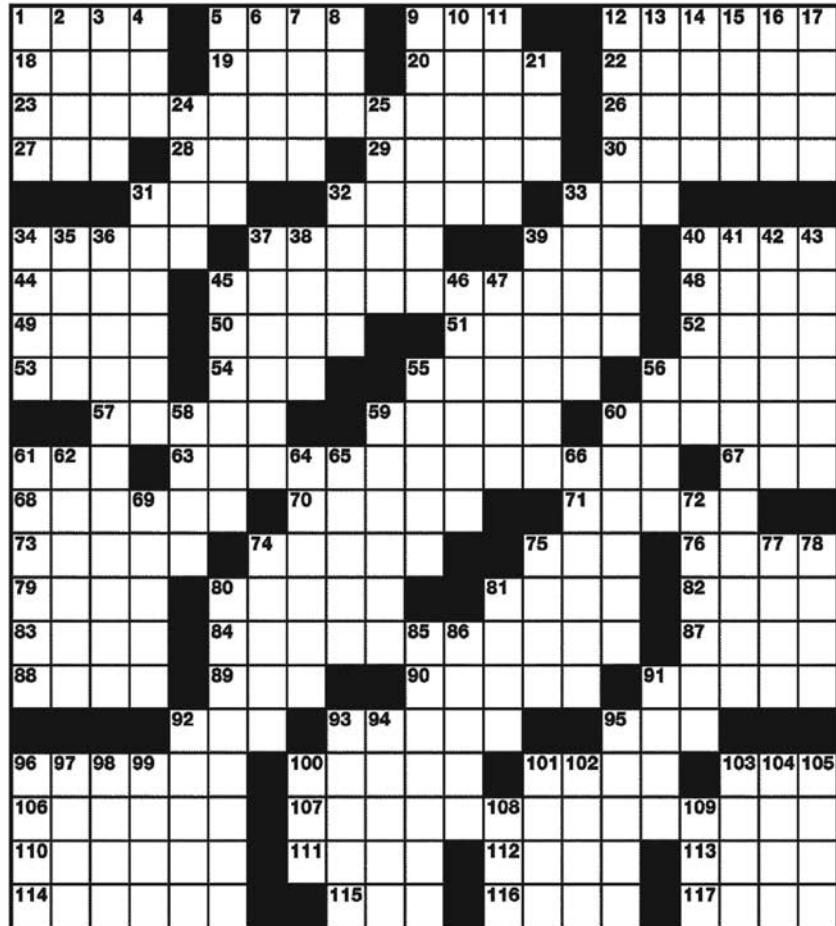
- March 27, 1794: The U.S. Congress authorized the creation of the U.S. Navy.
- 1836: The first Mormon temple was dedicated in Kirtland, OH.
- 1841: The first steam fire engine was tested in New York City.
- 1958: The U.S. announced a plan to explore space near the moon.
- 1976: Washington, DC, opened its subway system.
- 2004: NASA successfully launched an unpowered X-43A jet that hit Mach 7 (about 5,000 mph).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
A NEW SEASON: Opening Day words from other sports
by Mark McClain

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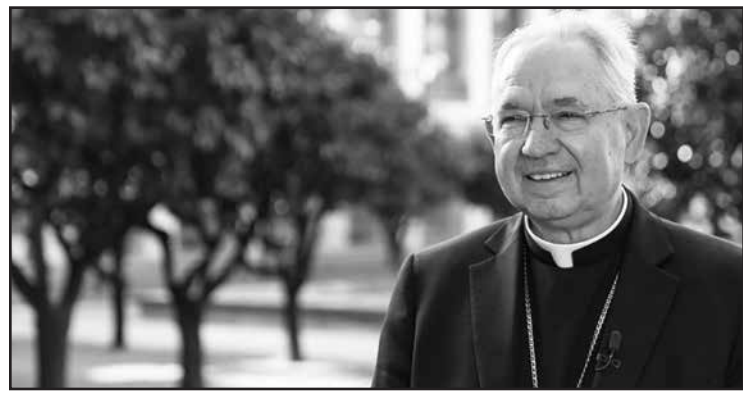
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Archbishop Jose Gomez

PIH Health donates \$10K to help Cerritos College students

NORWALK - The Cerritos College Foundation this week announced a gift of \$10,000 from PIH Health toward the Foundation's Falcons Care campaign to raise at least \$100,000 for a Student Emergency Fund.

Contributions will be used to help Cerritos College students facing urgent needs such as food insecurity, housing insecurity, job loss, or lack of educational resources in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Cerritos College is transitioning to an online environment for instruction and student services to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. According to the 2019 Cerritos College #RealCollege Survey Report, 65% of students at Cerritos College experienced at least one form of basic needs insecurity in the past year.

With the shift to online learning, many students struggle to secure additional educational materials such as a laptop, reliable internet, supplies, and software to complete coursework online. The fund aims to help students continue progressing toward graduation in this uncertain time by reducing urgent basic needs insecurity or unexpected expenses.

"At PIH Health, we know that good health begins where we live, learn, work and play. That is why we focus on the most pressing

health needs of our communities, responding with the very best in healthcare and innovative partnerships with valued community partners, such as Cerritos College, to help our communities meet their most basic needs," said James R. West, President and Chief Executive Officer, PIH Health. "Together, we can make a difference in the lives of many."

"During this incredibly challenging time, emergency aid can make all the difference in the world to our students," says Dr. Jose Fierro, President/Superintendent, Cerritos College. "We are incredibly grateful to PIH Health for stepping forward so quickly to support this urgent effort."

Students in need of emergency assistance for one-time expenses or help with necessities such as food and housing can complete the application for aid. College faculty and staff will refer students who need assistance. An urgent response team will review applications as they come in. Student Services staff will reach out to students to help assess their needs and connect them with all available resources and support.

The Falcons Care Campaign will also provide ongoing support once normal campus operations resume. To learn more or to make a gift, visit <http://bit.ly/FalconsCare> or text FalconsCare to 44321.

Archdiocese closes churches for next 3 weeks

LOS ANGELES - The Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles Tuesday announced that all churches will be closed to the public until at least April 19 due to the coronavirus outbreak.

"Our community of faith is fully committed to doing all we can to limit the spread of this global public health threat," Archbishop Jose H. Gomez said, according to The Los Angeles Daily News. "We are taking these extraordinary steps to ensure the safety and well-being of the faithful and the public, as well as all who continue to serve in our parishes and ministries."

Chapels, centers, missions and church offices will also be closed to the public and pastors will only be allowed a limited number of staff members to continue their work at the office.

The archdiocese earlier this month lifted parishioners' obligation to attend Sunday mass through the end of March and encouraged those who couldn't attend "to stay home and read the gospels, pray with your families and to join yourself to the sacrifice of the Mass by making an act of spiritual communion."

Thousands attended virtual masses last Sunday via TV broadcasts and internet

livestreams, the Daily News reported.

Many churches in the area either livecast mass or post it on their website or social media.

Priests may use a cotton swab or other instrument instead of their hand to anoint the sick under the archdiocese's guidelines and must cancel all Lenten penance services and regularly scheduled confession times.

Parishes are also encouraged to ring the bells at noon and 6 p.m. "as a sign of solidarity and hope."

"The current public health pandemic continues to bring about fears and anxiety in the hearts and minds of many people. However, it has also unified us as a people seeking the good for the other," the archdiocese said.

"Now more than ever, we must continue to anchor our hearts and minds in the abiding truth of God's love for us, His sons and daughters," the archdiocese said. "We remain strong in faith knowing that God will be with us always and to ensure the people of God that we, as a Church, still are very much present, even if we have adapted the way our parishes operate in these times."

Roybal-Allard comments on travel restrictions

NORWALK - Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, chairwoman of the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, issued the following statement about President Trump's announcements restricting travel with Mexico and Canada:

"I have spoken with Acting Homeland Security Secretary Wolf and have shared my concerns about how to best balance our responsibilities to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus with the responsibilities we have to protect those who are seeking protection from oppressive governments, including those whom DHS has returned to Mexico.

"Defeating COVID-19 will require a comprehensive

approach, including taking extraordinary public health measures within the interior of the U.S. and at our ports of entry. I remain committed to protecting the health and safety of everyone in our country, including frontline DHS personnel and the migrants in U.S. custody."



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Cerritos proclaims state of emergency

CERRITOS - Cerritos has proclaimed a local emergency in response to COVID-19.

The order states that a local emergency exists throughout the City of Cerritos and that the city manager, acting as the city's director of emergency services and the emergency organization of the city, is authorized and directed to take any necessary steps for the protection of life, health and safety in the city.

The order also states that Cerritos shall coordinate citywide planning, preparedness and response efforts regarding COVID-19

with the California and Los Angeles County Offices of Emergency Services (OES), the local Operational Area (OA) and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

In addition, all city departments and services will begin tracking costs for staffing, supplies and equipment related to COVID-19 preparation and prevention. That information will be forwarded to the California and Los Angeles County Offices of Emergency Services.

Red Cross still operational but in need of blood donations

Following LA Mayor Eric Garcetti's "Safer at Home" emergency order, the American Red Cross Los Angeles Region announced it will continue to provide services and distribute meals in collaboration with Los Angeles Unified School District. The Red Cross service and its volunteers are considered "essential activities," alongside city/county government services, gas stations, grocery stores and health care providers among others.

The Red Cross in partnership with the LA County Office of Emergency Management is supporting Los Angeles Unified at their meal distribution centers, which opened on Wednesday, March 18, following school closure because of concerns regarding the rapid spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Though the concern of the coronavirus is still growing, so is the need for food and meals for children and families in need. Service will continue from 7-10 a.m. at the 60 Los Angeles Unified sites, and volunteers are asked to continue to support the service.

The health and well-being of all parties involved is of the utmost concern, and the Red Cross and Los Angeles Unified will be taking many precautions to make sure their safety has been taken into consideration. Los Angeles Unified will have thermometers to monitor student and employee health, and everyone will be asked

to wash their hands upon arrival.

Red Cross volunteers will also practice social distancing, wear gloves and maintain a 6-foot distance at the meal distribution sites. We are using the same guidance required by the Department of Public Health and the CDC.

Red Cross now faces a severe blood shortage due to an unprecedented number of blood drive cancellations in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Healthy individuals are needed now to donate to help patients counting on lifesaving blood.

Individuals can schedule an appointment to give blood with the American Red Cross by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or activating the Blood Scheduling Skill for Amazon Alexa.

As the coronavirus pandemic has grown here in the U.S., blood drive cancellations have grown at an alarming rate. To date, nearly 260 Red Cross blood drives have been canceled in Los Angeles due to concerns about the coronavirus outbreak, resulting in 9,000 uncollected blood donations.

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Kenny Rogers, country singing legend

Kenny Rogers, who has died aged 81, was a prolific hit-maker from the late 1960s into the 80s, and with songs such as Lucille, The Gambler and Coward of the County helped to create a bestselling crossover of pop and country material. "I did songs that were not country but were more pop," he said in 2016. "If the country audience doesn't buy it, they'll kick it out. And if they do, then it becomes country music."

Rogers's knack for finding a popular song - he was modest about his own writing skills and preferred to pick songs from other writers - was unerring, bringing him huge hits with Don Schlitz's The Gambler (1978), Lionel Richie's Lady (1980), and, with Dolly Parton, the Bee Gees' Islands in the Stream (1983) among many others. Though his record sales

waned in the late 80s, he bounced back in his last years with three successful albums, The Love of God (2011), You Can't Make Old Friends (2013) and Once Again It's Christmas (2015). Altogether he recorded 65 albums and sold more than 165m records.

Born in Houston, Texas, Kenny was the fourth of eight children of Lucille (nee Hester), a nursing assistant, and Edward Rogers, a carpenter, and grew up in the San Felipe Courts housing project. He attended Jefferson Davis high school, where he formed his first band, a doo-wop group called the Scholars, in which he sang and played guitar.

In 1956 he left school and within two years had scored a solo hit with That Crazy Feeling, which earned him an appearance on the TV show American Band-

stand. He then played bass in the jazz trio the Bobby Doyle Three before moving to Los Angeles and joining the folk group the New Christy Minstrels.

In 1967 Rogers formed the First Edition (which also included New Christy Minstrels songwriter Mike Settle), and they proceeded to notch up seven Top 40 pop hits, including Mickey Newbury's Just Dropped in to See What Condition My Condition Was In (1967, and later used for a memorable dream sequence in the 1998 film The Big Lebowski). Their most prominent hit was their version of Mel Tillis's Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town, written from the viewpoint of a paralysed Vietnam veteran. Featuring the pained, sandpaper vocal delivery that would become Rogers's trademark, in 1969 it reached No 2 in the UK and 6 on the Billboard pop chart.

The First Edition also made a couple of movie appearances, and in 1971 began hosting their own TV show, Rollin' on the River. But by 1975 the group were in commercial decline, prompting Rogers to start a solo career with the United Artists label.

In 1977 he topped the US country chart for the first time with Lucille (also a No 1 hit in the UK and several other countries), another storytelling song, which sold 5m copies worldwide. It paved the way for further Rogers classics including The Gambler (1978, another Country No 1 and a US Top 20 pop hit) and Coward of the County (1979, a UK and Country No 1, and a No 3 on the US pop chart).

His collaboration with Sheena Easton on We've Got Tonight (1983) was a Country No 1 and reached No 6 on the pop chart. In the same year he achieved one of his best-loved career highlights by duetting with Parton on Islands in the Stream, an international smash. "Everybody always thought we were having an affair," Rogers said of his great friend Parton. "We didn't. We just teased each other and flirted with each other for 30 years."

In 1985 he was one of the fea-



Gertrud Stein, Holocaust hero

Gertrud Stein, the last surviving German honored for saving Jews during the Holocaust, has died.

German news agency dpa on Sunday quoted the head of Nuremberg's Jewish community, Andre Freud, saying Stein died Monday, on the eve of her 98th birthday.

Stein, a Sudeten German, was recognized in 1979 as Righteous Among the Nations, Israel's highest honor to those non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.

According to an entry on the Yad Vashem website, Stein was an overseer in the Polish town of Stry during World War II when a worker confided in her that she was Jewish.

Stein sent the woman, Sarah Shlomi (née Froehlich), to live with her parents - likely ensuring she wasn't deported to a Nazi concentration camp.

Manu Dibango, jazz artist

Jazz great Manu Dibango, best known for his 1972 hit "Soul Makoosa," has died from complications of the coronavirus, according to a statement on his official Facebook page.

"It is with deep sadness that we announce the loss of Manu Dibango, our Papy Groove, who passed away on 24th of March 2020, at 86 years old, further to covid 19," it said.

"His funeral service will be held in strict privacy, and a tribute to his memory will be organized when possible," the message added.

The Cameroon-born singer and saxophonist died in a hospital near Paris, according to his music publisher Thierry Durepaire, Agence France-Presse reported.

The artist, who inspired "world music" in the 1970s, was one of the pioneers of Afro jazz and also fused funk with traditional music from Cameroon.

His biggest hit was the B-side of a song to support the Cameroon soccer team in the African Cup of Nations but was picked up by New York DJs.

ured superstars on USA for Africa's We Are the World. His album The Heart of the Matter of the same year, produced by George Martin, was his last to top the US Country chart, and the following year he was voted favourite singer of all time by USA Today and People magazine. He won a Grammy award for Make No Mistake, She's Mine (1987), a duet with Ronnie Milsap that was his penultimate Country No 1 single.

But Rogers had several strings to his bow. His hit The Gambler had spawned a string of TV films in which he played the title role of Brady Hawkes. In 1991, with former Kentucky Fried Chicken chief executive John Y Brown Jr, he launched a string of chicken restaurants called Kenny Rogers Roasters. Having starred as a racing car driver in the movie Six Pack (1982), Rogers collaborated with Sprint car driver CK Spurlock to create the car manufacturer Gambler Chassis.

A keen amateur photographer, Rogers was spurred to develop his skills further when he married his fourth wife, Marianne Gordon, a model. As well as taking portraits of her, Rogers studied with the photographers John Sexton and Yousuf Karsh. In 1986 he published Kenny Rog-

ers' America, featuring images taken while on tour, while Your Friends and Mine (1987) comprised portraits of superstars including Elizabeth Taylor and Michael Jackson. Country music stars including Willie Nelson, Tammy Wynette and Parton were the subjects of This Is My Country (2005).

Having delivered a rousing performance in the Sunday afternoon "Legends" slot at the Glastonbury festival in 2013, Rogers embarked on his farewell tour, The Gambler's Last Deal, in 2016. On 25 October 2017, he was given an all-star send-off at Nashville's Bridgestone arena by guests including Richie, Parton, Don Henley, Kris Kristofferson and Reba McEntire.

Kenny was wed five times. The first four marriages, to Janice (nee Gordon), Jean Rogers, Margo (nee Anderson), and Marianne, ended in divorce. He is survived by his fifth wife, Wanda (nee Miller), their twin sons, Justin and Jordan, a daughter, Carole, from his marriage to Janice, a son, Kenny Jr, from his marriage to Margo, and another son, Christopher, from his marriage to Marianne.

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