

LA County allows schools to begin applying for reopening waivers

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on Tuesday to give public school districts and private schools the ability to apply for waivers which would allow them to reopen campuses to students and resume in-person instruction.

Now, 30 schools per week can apply for a waiver for on-campus instruction for TK through second grade. Schools in low-income communities will receive priority.

The state created a waiver system months ago allowing schools in areas with low virus activity to seek permission to offer in-person instruction on some restricted level. But L.A.

County opted not to accept such requests.

These waiver applications will go to L.A. County Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer.

"I'm very pleased that the board decided to authorize the waiver process," said Tom Konjoyan, the head of Village Christian School in Sun Valley.

The K-12 private school serves about 950 students. Konjoyan is part of a coalition of private and faith-based school leaders that wrote a letter to the board on Monday, asking for a pathway to reopening.

"We felt like we needed to organize to make sure the

supervisors and the Department of Health knew that there are a lot of different schools in L.A. County, and private schools in general want to reopen [and] are ready to reopen," he said. "We've prepared to reopen."

Konjoyan said that Village Christian has spent over \$100,000 installing new health and safety measures such as sanitation stations, acrylic dividers in classrooms, outdoor tent classrooms, and more.

"We've been surveying our parents all summer all fall and the vast majority of them in our case wants to be back on campus," he said.

Chris Del Rey is one of those

parents. He has a sophomore and a senior that have gone to Village Christian their entire educational career.

"It's hard for them," Del Rey said. "Sure I have concerns about COVID, and we take the virus very serious but my gosh, what Village Christian has done to make absolutely sure the kids are safe and there is no transference of the virus is unbelievable."

On Monday, L.A. Unified School District Superintendent Austin Beutner acknowledged that while the challenges posed to students by virtual learning were significant, LAUSD schools were still not close to reopening campuses, and noted that

LAUSD would not resume in-person instruction until Nov. 1 at the very earliest.

"Schools cannot open until the overall level of the virus is much lower," Beutner said. "We're dependent upon state and local health authorities to put in place and maintain the appropriate guidelines to manage this."

The issue could become heightened if L.A. County is moved up on the state's four-tiered coronavirus recovery roadmap. Currently, L.A. County is in the highest-risk category, purple. There was the possibility that it would be moved up to red as early as Tuesday. However, the state updates the chart every

Tuesday, and the latest update continued to show L.A. County in the purple tier.

To be downgraded from the purple tier, a county must have less than 7 new daily coronavirus cases per 100,000 population, and have a positivity rate of less than 8%. It must maintain those levels for 14 straight days. As of Tuesday, L.A. County was recording 7.3 new cases per 100,000 and had a positivity rate of 2.3%.

In nearby Orange County, which moved from purple to red earlier this month, all school districts were given permission to reopen campuses last week.

2 men sentenced for murder of Downey officer

DOWNEY — Two Montebello men were sentenced today for killing Downey Police Officer Ricardo Galvez in the police station parking lot five years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

announced.

Steven Knott, 23, was sentenced to 50 years to life in state prison, while Jeremy Anthony Alvarez, 26, was sentenced to 30 years to life in

prison.

In March, Knott pleaded guilty to one count each of first-degree murder and attempted robbery with the personal use of a firearm for the killing of Galvez, 29. Alvarez pleaded guilty to one count each of second-degree murder and attempted robbery for the officer's murder.

The defendants also admitted an attempted murder in Montebello in October 2015, a take-over robbery of two victims at a Bellflower cell phone store and a street robbery in Paramount shortly before the murder of Galvez on Nov. 18, 2015.

Knott also was convicted of shooting at a dwelling in South Gate in September 2015.

The pair admitted multiple firearms enhancements and allegations that the crimes were committed in association with members of a criminal street gang.

Galvez, a former U.S. Marine who served two tours of duty in Iraq and a five-year veteran of the Downey Police Department, was dressed in plain clothes after working with the department's K-9 team when he was fatally shot as he sat in his personal car in the police station parking lot, prosecutors said.


The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorneys Michael Blake and Mary Murray of the Crimes Against Peace Officers Division.

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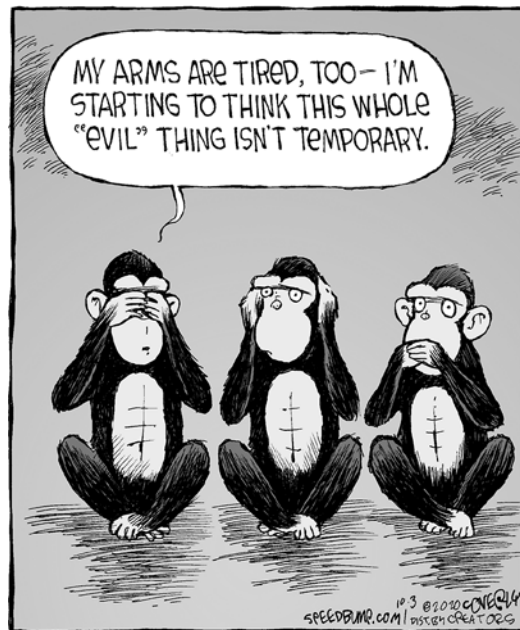
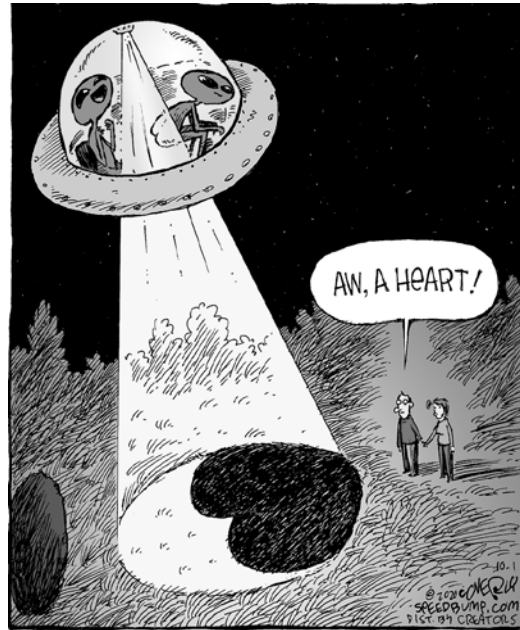
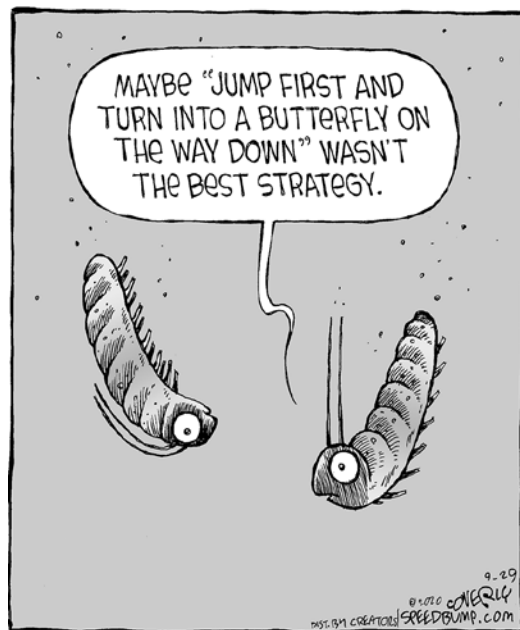
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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
12:00 p.m. - Rotary - Doubletree Hotel
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, 7:30 p.m. - Golden Trowel -Norwalk Masonic Lodge
3rd, 8:00 p.m. - American Legion Post No. 359 - 11986 Front St.

SATURDAYS

2nd, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast - First Christian Church of Norwalk
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THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD
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YOU DESERVE A MEDAL: Or a trophy, or a prize, etc.
by Fred Piscop

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83 Shrek princess
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88 Summer footwear
89 Something to stream
91 Petty
93 Worthy of worship
95 Literary twist
97 Key card issuer
98 Battery terminal

99 Marathon results
100 Ancient Central Americans
101 In a foul mood
102 "Super cool!"
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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

Two organizations award an Ansel Adams Award (23 Across); the Sierra Club (for conservation), and the Wild-Photography, and the Wilderness Society (for conservation advocacy). The annual Mark Twain Prize (63 Across) was created as a fundraiser for the Kennedy Center. The Gershwin Prize (108 Across) is awarded annually by the Library of Congress.

State increases funding to house homeless

NORWALK - Governor Gavin Newsom on Monday announced the third round of awards for Homekey, California's \$600 million program to purchase and rehabilitate housing - including hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings and other properties - and convert them into permanent, long-term housing for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

The latest round of funding includes \$7.4 million for Los Angeles County to purchase a Motel 6 in Norwalk that will be used to house up to 56 homeless people.

The governor also announced he has asked the state's budget committee to approve his request for an additional \$200 million in coronavirus relief funding for Homekey. If approved, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) will provide funding for approximately 20 more Homekey projects now on a waitlist pending additional funds.

If approved, the Newsom administration will have provided local governments with a total of \$800 million for acquisition, rehabilitation and operating support under Homekey.

HCD, which administers Homekey, on Monday awarded more than \$137 million for 19 projects in 15 California communities, totaling 938 units. These awards bring the total awarded under Homekey to \$449.9 million for 33 successful applicants and 49 awards totaling 3,351 units. The statewide average cost to Homekey thus far is approximately \$134,000 per unit.

"Not only is Homekey unprecedented in providing capital to house people experiencing homeless, but we are moving with unprecedented speed," said Newsom. "Most of these projects will be ready to house people very soon after the acquisitions are complete, providing immediate help to our most vulnerable residents."

"Local communities continue to demonstrate imagination and innovation for using Homekey dollars," said Business,

Consumer Services and Housing Agency Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramirez. "From a project in Santa Barbara that includes a comprehensive equity strategy to reach underserved populations, to a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, to providing units for post-hospitalization care for homeless persons, local communities are taking full advantage of Homekey's flexibility."

The third round of awards includes projects in the following communities:

- Lake County has been awarded \$3.38 million, for Hope Center to serve up to 20 homeless individuals at one time as they prepare for permanent housing placement. Construction of the project will be completed by October 1, 2020 with participants being served no later than November 1, 2020.

- The Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency has been awarded \$5.2 million to acquire a 45-room motel in Visalia which will begin operating the majority of units as non-congregate shelter for individuals at risk from COVID-19 while remaining units are rehabilitated into permanent supportive housing.

- Tehama County has been awarded \$2.34 million to acquire a property that will prevent the loss of 10 existing units and increase the number of available interim housing in the county with an additional six manufactured units. The property is on an operating farm that will provide job training, and the community has been very supporting, making in-kind contributions like repairs and real estate fees to support the application.

- The Mariposa Health and Human Services Agency has been awarded \$4.14 million to purchase a 27-room hotel that the county has been operating for five months, focusing on serving seniors and persons under 65 with a disability. The county's existing COVID sheltered homeless population is disproportionately comprised of these two groups.

- Del Norte County has been awarded \$2.8 million to

convert an existing 30-unit motel into interim housing by the end of the year and convert it into permanent housing by July 2021 in partnership with Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation.

- Nearly \$12.5 million has been awarded to the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency to convert a hotel to interim housing that will immediately serve 106 households that are either homeless or at risk of homelessness and impacted by COVID-19. Their partner is Jamboree Housing Corporation, which will help convert the site into permanent supportive housing by 2023.

- The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles has been awarded nearly \$48.5 million for five projects totaling 269 units, including:

- o \$8.96 million for acquisition of a residential building with 40 studio and one-bedroom units to provide permanent housing to individuals experiencing homelessness in the Hollywood community.

- o \$2.2 million to purchase an 11-unit property in the Hollywood area that will immediately increase the supply of larger housing units (two- and three-bedroom units).

- o \$15.4 million for acquisition of a 91-room facility to provide interim housing for 137 individuals and families experiencing homelessness with coordinated entry into permanent housing.

- o \$13.3 million to purchase a 75-unit facility that will provide interim housing for 113 individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

- o \$8.6 million for the purchase of a motel that will provide 52 units of interim and permanent housing.

- Nearly \$16.7 million has been awarded to the City of Long Beach to convert an existing hotel into 100 units of interim housing. Current interim housing options in Long Beach are limited with interim housing options often available only to veterans,

families and those experiencing domestic violence. This project will fill a crucial gap by ensuring more effective transitions into permanent housing.

- The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara has been awarded \$3.12 million to acquire an office building to convert into permanent housing with wraparound services. The Housing Authority has developed a comprehensive equity strategy to reach underserved populations, which includes outreach in Spanish and English as well as Spanish and Mixteco speaking staff.

- The Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians (SVBPI) has been awarded \$1.24 million to rehabilitate a 10-unit multifamily residential property just north of Lakeport, in Lake County, to convert into permanent housing. The property includes one-, two-, and three-bedroom units. SVBPI is a landless tribe - one of only three of California's 109 recognized tribes - which has further exacerbated the community's housing challenges.

- Nearly \$4.3 million has been awarded to the City of Stockton which, in partnership with the Central Valley Low Income Housing Corporation and Stocktonians Taking Action to Neutralize Drugs (STAND), will acquire and renovate an existing 39-unit motel into permanent housing.

- Alameda County has been awarded nearly \$14.5 million to purchase an existing hotel and operate it as permanent supportive housing for extremely low-income individuals who have been homeless and who need support. Once purchased, repairs to common areas and vacant rooms will be completed before the end of the year.

- Nearly \$6.8 million has been awarded to Sutter County, which is partnering with Habitat for Humanity Yuba/Sutter to acquire a hotel to provide 62 one-bedroom units for permanent housing with on- and off-site supportive services, serving up to 124 people. No rehabilitation is required.

- Humboldt County has been



CA Governor Gavin Newsom

awarded \$4.3 million to convert a motel into 48 permanent supportive housing units. Six of the units will provide recuperative care services to homeless individuals exiting hospitalization still needing medical care.

"The City of Los Angeles has housed thousands of our homeless neighbors at an unprecedented rate since the COVID-19 crisis began, and this moment demands that we all step up together to create even more housing in the coming months," said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. "I am grateful to Governor Newsom for his work to deliver this additional funding, which will help us expand our shelter capacity, and bring housing and services to the people in our communities who need it the most."

"Through our partnership with Homekey, we will be able to provide 40 individuals in the City of Stockton with the dignity that comes with shelter, with the dignity of permanent supportive housing - with the dignity that all human beings deserve, by virtue of being human," said Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs. "Thank you to the Governor, thank you to the State of California. We're looking forward to making Stockton an example of how to use data and how to use resources in a way that doesn't just hide the issues surrounding homelessness, doesn't just talk about the issues surrounding homelessness, but actually addresses them with what is needed - housing."

"Our Homekey award will provide the funding necessary to increase the supply of affordable housing for people experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County. Homekey will be a big help in our efforts to move people experiencing homelessness into permanent supportive housing and begin changing their lives for the better," said Executive Director of the Santa Barbara County Housing Authority Bob Havlicek.

Building on the success of Project Roomkey, Governor Newsom in July announced the availability of \$600 million in funding for Homekey, the next phase in the state's response protecting Californians experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, following approval by the Legislature as part of the 2020-21 state budget. Of that, \$550 million will be provided to cities and counties by California's direct allocation of the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund, with an additional \$50 million provided by the state to supplement acquisition and provide initial operating funds. The Homekey funds are being expended in compliance with federal regulations in response to COVID-19.

HCD began accepting applications for Homekey on July 22, 2020. Additional awards are expected weekly until all \$600 million has been awarded.

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