

COMMENTARY | KEVIN MULDOON

THE DISNEYLAND MONORAIL passes by the Disneyland entrance sign at the East Shuttle Area and South Harbor Boulevard in Anaheim in 2017.

Allen J. Schaben
Los Angeles Times



It's time reopen Orange County

Throughout our history as a nation, we have been confronted with a simple choice: Do we show courage as Americans or are we governed by fear?

The crisis caused by COVID-19 is seemingly unprecedented. Confronting an unknown and potentially very lethal virus presented our country with an exceptionally complex problem.

However, facing great unknown threats and difficulties is not new to Americans. Since our nation's birth, we confronted these times with unity and resolve. We have faced down fear with great courage and come out the other side a stronger people. The time has come for us to rise to the occasion yet again.

National jobless claims have reached 26 million. Orange County, one of the largest metro area economies in the country, needs a plan sooner than later to reopen businesses. We can't continue to shelter in place without causing even greater economic damage. It is time to talk about a plan to move forward.

We are all aware and share health concerns about the virus. According to experts at Hoag Hospital, we have flattened the curve in Orange County. The Board of Supervisors has led the charge and demonstrated true leadership. Our elected officials took responsible action based on the information presented to them, and those decisions proved successful.

Our healthcare professionals have worked tirelessly, with a level of proficiency and expertise that one would expect from world-class hospitals and well-trained physicians and staff.

Our first responders have gone above and beyond their job descriptions. Sadly, some of these public servants have passed away as a direct result of assisting others with COVID-19. These public

servants are heroes and our prayers are with their families.

Essential workers, like delivery drivers and grocery clerks, have kept supply chains open and our shelves stocked, but they are not able to keep the economy going on their own. The time has come for us to emerge from our homes and rejoin the workforce. Protocols can be followed to protect the most vulnerable among us, along with continued social distancing being practiced in public places. We are much wiser having endured this crisis and our citizens will rise to the occasion. There is always risk, but the risk of inaction is now greater.

Every day, I hear from business owners in our city increasingly concerned about their ability to reopen their doors. When they express their concerns, it's not only that they are losing their businesses — it's that they are having to lay off their employees, many of whom are lifelong friends.

They worry for their families. They worry for their own families. The jobs they have created might never come back if we don't work together to reopen our economy now.

If we do not get a workable plan in place to reopen, we will hit an economic point of no return. Our economy will fall into a deep recession. If our economy crashes, increased crime, depression, suicides, domestic violence and homelessness will be inevitable.

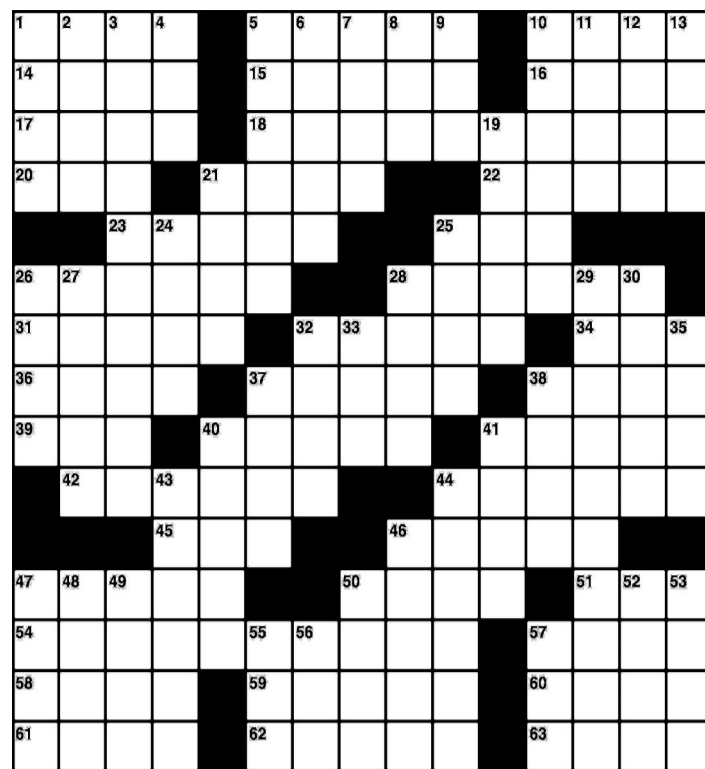
Each and every neighbor is reliant upon each other. We are all in this together. We will succeed together, or fail together. For the sake of our neighbors, we must succeed. Orange County must reopen.

KEVIN MULDOON is a Newport Beach councilman.

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

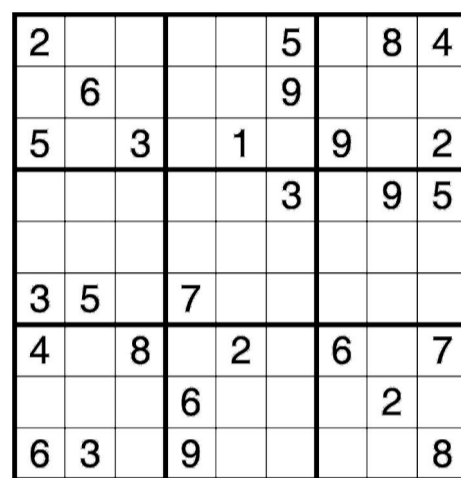
- ACROSS**
 1 Hand-_; laboriously stitched
 5 Ice cream concoctions
 10 Tomorrow's shout
 14 Laughing syllables
 15 TV's "The _ Is Right"
 16 Golfer's target
 17 Shallowest of five
 18 Like a team that wins every game
 20 Primitive transport
 21 Experts
 22 Off-kilter
 23 Begin one's garden
 25 Expected at a certain time
 26 Trusty mounts
 28 Past, present & future
 31 Is a breadwinner
 32 Magnificent
 34 " _ you later!"
 36 Letters from Greece
 37 Fleeting
 38 Lively
 39 2,000 pounds
 40 Rural streets
 41 Make angry
 42 Snob's problem
 44 Came in second
 45 Grunter's utterance
 46 Campbell or Watts
 47 One of seven deadly sins
 50 20th-century U.S. president
 51 Hardwood tree
 54 Entrepreneur
 57 Friendly nation
 58 _ mits; pot holders



SUDOKU

By The Mephram Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.

- stadium
 2 All _; listening to jack or doodle
 3 Speaking very softly
 4 Edinburgh refusal
 5 Ignores with contempt
 6 "Ripley's Believe It _!"
 7 Has _ on; claims in advance
 8 Part of a blackjack
 9 Yellow or Black
 10 Longest river entirely in England
 11 Mongolian desert
 12 Misfortunes

- 13 Agents' commissions
 19 Jeer at
 21 Launch sites
 24 Part of the eye
 25 Unable to hear
 26 End of summer: abbr.
 27 Chevy SUV
 28 Little wooden pegs
 29 In particular
 30 Do a waiter's job
 32 Tiny weight
 33 _ of; free from
 35 Gazed at
 37 "Nonsense!"
 38 Stitched joining
 40 Correct
 41 Walk with heavy steps
 43 Day trip
 44 Not completely
 46 Schnozzes
 47 Aberdeen native
 48 Volcano danger
 49 _-and-shut case
 50 Isn't truthful
 52 Swat
 53 Excessive publicity
 55 Location of the humerus
 56 Actor Marvin
 57 Toward a ship's rear

Tribune Media Services

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There's no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you.

Isaiah 41:10, The Message Bible

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