

## Donations to Red Cross plummet

The American Red Cross ran a deficit of \$159 million last fiscal year, battered by a steep drop in fundraising and its struggling blood banking division, according to newly released financial statements.

Former AT&T executive Gail McGovern, who was hired as CEO in 2008 with a brief to stabilize the charity's finances, has spent the last eight years making deep cuts in the Red Cross' workforce and trying to bring in more donations with an increased focus on branding.

But the new financial statements show contributions to the Red Cross fell to \$604 million, about \$120 million less than the previous year. It is the worst fundraising result the Red Cross has had since at least 2000, the last year for which we could find financial records.

The Red Cross' fundraising can swing wildly, spiking when there's a major disaster and dropping in years with no big televised catastrophe. But there have been no signature disasters in either of the past two years, raising the question of why donations dropped so much.

A Red Cross spokesperson declined to comment in response to questions about its financial results.

In a letter to a congressman last month, McGovern says she presided over "Turnaround I" after inheriting financial problems at the charity in 2008 and that she is now in the midst of "Turnaround II" as a result of a drop in demand for blood.

The Red Cross' large blood banking division, which has been struggling amid industry-wide declines and other issues, lost \$71 million in 2015.

McGovern also wrote in the letter that fundraising is actually improving, but the charity has not provided data to substantiate the claim.

McGovern wrote that donations have increased "14 percent since 2008" if major disasters are excluded. It's not clear how the group is arriving at the figure. It declined our request for details on the calculation.

The group's revenue in 2015 was also hurt by a decline in contributions from the United Way and other federated sources, which fell from \$104 million to \$77 million. A United Way spokesperson told us it has cut contributions to the Red Cross in recent years because it has shifted to a "community impact funding model."

While the Red Cross' audited financial statements show a \$159 million deficit for last fiscal year, McGovern last month cited an "operating deficit" of just \$36 million for the year. The charity previously said that it created a concept of "operating" surpluses or deficits that "reflect Red Cross performance in managing our day-to-day revenues and expenses." But it's impossible to tell where that figure comes from because the group has declined to show its calculations.

–Justin Elliott, ProPublica

## City manager to deliver Norwalk’s State of the City

NORWALK – Norwalk city manager Michael Egan will deliver Norwalk's State of the City address Friday, March 4, at the DoubleTree Hotel.

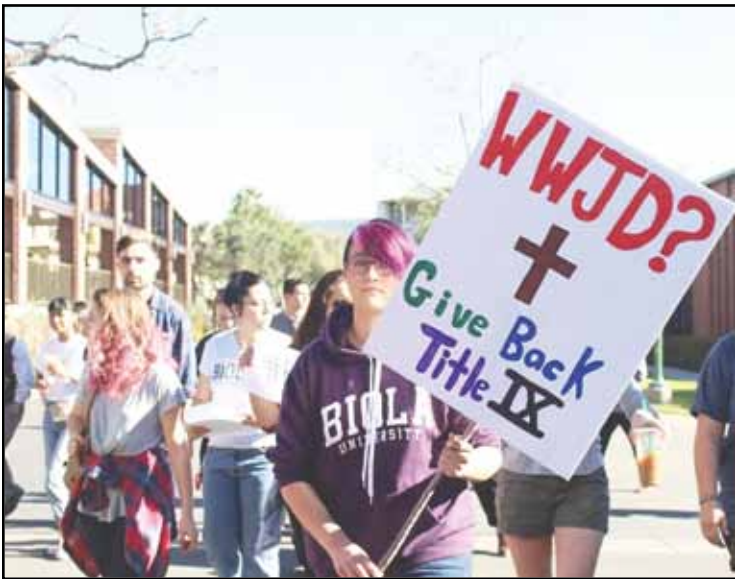
Tickets are \$45 and available through the Norwalk Community Coordinating Council online at [nccconline.us](http://nccconline.us).

Doors open at 11 a.m. There will a silent auction with proceeds supporting L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe's campaign against child sex trafficking.

Sponsorships are available ranging from \$250-\$1,000. Deadline to sign up as a sponsor is Feb. 18.

Contributions to the Norwalk Community Coordinating Council are tax-deductible.

## Protesters push back against Biola’s request to opt out of Title IX



By Christian Brown  
Staff Writer

LA MIRADA – Dozens of LGBT rights advocates marched through the campus of Biola University on Tuesday, protesting the school's recent request to opt out of federal mandates that protect LGBT students from facing discrimination.

Hoisting signs that demanded the university "Give Back Title IX," Biola alumni, current students, and local activists admonished school administrators for requesting an exemption from Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

The Department of Education mandate forbids sex discrimination in admissions, housing, financial aid, and athletics at any educational institution that receives federal funding. In 2014, the Obama administration extended Title IX protections to transgender students, meaning no federally-funded

school can discriminate against students based on gender identity.

However, as a private Christian university controlled by a religious organization, Biola can apply for a waiver from that non-discrimination requirements if Title IX "conflicts with the religious tenets of its organization."

"Accordingly, the university felt it was prudent and appropriate to request an exemption on this basis," said the university in a statement on Wednesday. "Biola wants the ability to make decisions based on Biola's theological understanding of gender and on a case-by-case basis in regards to transgender students, rather than Title IX prescribing how the university should make decisions."

Demonstrators, nonetheless, say the university already made its decision when it agreed to take funding from the federal government, which now guarantees marriage equality and other LGBT rights.

Biola alumni Coley Baker believes this latest move by the administration will only devastate other transgender students like them.

"What I feared as a student was just put into writing," said Baker. "I knew five transgender people who all left Biola because of the cultural fear Biola created. This exemption only reinforces that dishonesty and fear."

Erin Green is the executive director of Biola's Equal Ground, a group of affirming LGBTQ students and allies at Biola University. With the help of LGBT faith and social justice group Soulforce, Green organized the demonstration, which ended in front of the school's administration building.

"We're asking Biola to give back Title IX. Apparently some sinners get protections and others do not," she said addressing the crowd. "These rights should be granted no matter your gender identity, race, or sexual orientation."

After nearly 90 minutes on campus, Biola officials asked protestors to leave and use the appropriate approval process to petition in the future.

Green said more demonstrations in conjunction with Soulforce are in the works to speak out against the Title IX exemption on the ninth day of every month.

"We have an audience of one. Just one person we're held accountable to," she said.

## 9 La Mirada student-athletes sign college letters of intent



LA MIRADA – Nine of La Mirada High School's top student-athletes signed letters of intent on Wednesday, Feb. 3, spreading Royal Blue and Gold spirit from the mesas of the Southwest to the Ivy League and capping an extraordinary year that saw the school win two state titles and come close to a third.

Scores of family members, La Mirada students, teammates, coaches and media converged on the campus quad as the signees, sitting at a long table decorated with university pennants, took pen to paper for their colleges of choice on what is known as National Signing Day for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

"I am extremely proud of our student-athletes," La Mirada High principal Darryl Brown said, noting that the signings had as much to do with success in the classroom as on the field of play. "La Mirada places a high priority on maintaining rigorous academic standards. Our kids are students first and athletes second."

Micah Croom (Dartmouth), Titus Dixon (Minot State), Jared Enrico (New Mexico), Ty Faatoalia (Western New Mexico), Keanu Saleapaga

(Brigham Young University), and Tevaka Tuioti (New Mexico) represented the Division III-AA State Championship football team, whose motto is Heart Pride Trust.

"Heart is the sacrifice and decisions you make, pride is wearing your school colors and trust is your coaches and teammates," Saleapaga, a 6-foot, 6-inch, 265-pound defensive end, said. Asked to rate his excitement level on a scale of one to 10, Saleapaga added, "It's 20! I'm ready!"

Vittorio Reynoso-Avila, star point guard for the Division 2 State Championship boys basketball team, committed to Princeton, in part because of his 4.6 grade point average.

"I chose Princeton because they have both a great academic and a great athletic program," said Reynoso-Avila, whose La Mirada spirit will follow him to the East Coast. "Once a Matadore, always a Matadore!"

Not to be outdone, the CIF Southern Section champion and state regional semi-finalist girls soccer team had much to celebrate, with two players continuing on to college level athletics. Maddie Bennett is on her way to the University of Arizona, while Amanda Duran will stay close to home and attend Cal Poly Pomona.

"This means a lot to me, playing for La Mirada and being with these special people," said Bennett, who in 2015 was named Suburban League MVP and Division 4 Player of the Year. "It's heartwarming. Everyone gives so much support."

"We couldn't be more proud of our student athletes," said NLMUSD Board of Education President Karen Morrison. "Their commitment to their passion and to their academic work is what we want to see in all of our students."

Though Feb. 3 is the NCAA's official day for announcing athletic recruits, several La Mirada football players are still undecided and plan to announce their intentions when they have made their decisions.

"We are delighted La Mirada has seen so much success in its athletic program," NLMUSD Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian said. "It's a tribute to the hard-working coaches and teachers, who have provided exceptional guidance and leadership. Good luck to all of our wonderful student-athletes. We will be watching."

## Cerritos College announces Hall of Fame inductees

NORWALK – Cerritos College will hold its fifth annual Hall of Fame dinner and induction ceremony on Thursday, March 3 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Norwalk.

The 2016 class of inductees:

- Distinguished Female Athlete - Teresa Velazquez-Ortega (Volleyball)
- Distinguished Male Athlete - Dr. Danny Garcia (Water Polo/Swimming)
- Distinguished Coach - Jack Bogdanovich (Basketball)
- Distinguished Alumnus - Tony Rodriguez Jr. (Class of 1969)
- Distinguished Classified - Debbie Thomas (Staff Development)
- Distinguished Faculty - Jon Fults (Business Computer Information Systems)
- Distinguished President's Award of Excellence - California Assemblymember Anthony Rendon
- Distinguished Corporate Partner - Union Bank

Tickets to the induction ceremony are \$65, or \$600 for a table of 10 if reserved by Feb. 17. Prices go up to \$75 per person and \$700 for tables after Feb. 18.

## Weekend at a Glance

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Saturday 82°

Sunday 90°

### THINGS TO DO



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**Sunday - Downey Theatre, 7 p.m.**

The classic love story is performed by the Russian National Ballet. Tickets \$35-\$45



#### Lisa Lampanelli

**Saturday, Grove of Anaheim, 8 p.m.**

The "Queen of Mean" comedian performs live on stage. \$46

### FROM OUR FACEBOOK

**Downey residents blast proposal to increase sales tax**

**Lisa Volkov:** I received the survey call and found the questions biased toward the tax. The questions were worded in a way that if you said no to the tax you would be saying yes to crime, moving to county fire & police and deteriorating parks. Either the city council is playing games or they hired a lousy research company.

**Bruce Fallon:** Read my lips NO MORE TAXES.

**Cathy Boggs:** We don't need a higher tax rate and we definitely don't need marijuana dispensaries either! Time to buckle down on spending and make things work with the money already there.

**Brian Chambers:** Tell them to go get their money from the scum Walmart store they allowed in or the massive condo development being built on Paramount.

**Jason Bohr:** Not a chance in hell I'd support this. There is more than enough businesses to generate this. No more subsidies to businesses to come to Downey.

**Mirna Ayala:** How about a big NO.

**Brianna Castillo:** No. No. And no.

**Mark Echmalian:** Dumbest. Idea. Ever.

Reach us on Facebook at: [Facebook.com/NorwalkPatriot](https://www.facebook.com/NorwalkPatriot)

### TWEET OF THE WEEK

@norwalk\_kc: VALENTINES DAY MOVIE NIGHT FEBRUARY 12TH STARTS AT 5 PM!! ((50 FIRST DATES)) FOOD WILL BE SOLD BY VARIOUS CLUBS please attend!!

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# Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

Welcome to the 21st Century, when one person's poop is another's medicine!

Yes, human feces are being implanted from one person into another. Fecal Microbiota Transplant (FMT) allows a broad spectrum of microorganisms to fight off disease and prevent future infections.



At first glance, someone else's stool would appear to be a source of infection, not a treatment. However, microorganisms living in the human gut play a critical role in the body's defenses against infection, and provide a solution to the rapidly worsening problem of antimicrobial resistance. Germs are getting smarter about how to beat antibacterial and antiviral medicines. Using bacteriotherapy, potentially helpful bacteria are transplanted into another person's infected bowel, with the goal of fighting off harmful germs. This not only treats the infection, but also avoids the elimination of beneficial natural bacteria. This is not the case with antibiotics.

The science is actually far from new. The first examples of FMT can be traced to 4th Century China, where documents make reference to the use of stool transplantation to treat food poisoning and diarrhea. In the 16th Century, Li Shizhen, an herbalist, treated abdominal diseases using remedies referred to as "yellow soup" and "golden syrup," that contained fresh, dried or fermented stool. Veterinary medicine utilized a treatment that transferred microorganisms from the stomach of healthy animal donors to sick animals. During World War II, German soldiers used a Bedouin remedy for bacterial dysentery: consuming fresh camel dung.

Today, FMT begins with the selection of a healthy donor who contributes a stool sample. Fresh stool is used within six hours, although frozen stool has also been used. The stool is then mixed with a solution and strained. It is placed into the patient's colon by using an enema, colonoscopy, or sigmoidoscopy.

The primary use for FMT, so far, is to treat a potentially fatal infection known as clostridium difficile (C. diff) colitis. C. diff occurs due to

a shortage of healthy intestinal bacteria in the body. This healthy flora normally triggers the immune system and helps with the digestion and absorption of food. C. diff attacks the lining of the intestine, causing diarrhea. It usually starts when antibiotics are taken to treat another infection. Antibiotics are lifesavers that kill off one pathogen, but often result in collateral damage by wiping out good bacteria as well. In this case, the antibiotic kills the pathogen, which is the intended goal, but also kills off other protective bacteria in the gut. This leads to the C diff infection. As a result of our common use of antibiotics, the incidence, severity, and mortality of C. diff is increasing. Using FMT along with antibiotics to restore balance in the gut is a clever and effective approach. Research shows that it is safe, inexpensive, and 90% effective with just one treatment.

It's possible that FMT may be effective for other conditions as well. It has been used to treat ulcerative colitis, as well as non-gastrointestinal conditions including various autoimmune disorders, obesity, metabolic syndrome and diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and Parkinson's disease. Research is being conducted.

Note that the FDA has not yet fully approved Fecal Microbiota Transplant. In 2013 the FDA allowed its use for patients with C diff infections who were not responding to standard therapies. In 2014, the FDA issued an update allowing doctors to use this treatment at their own discretion. Still, many questions remain unanswered. Precisely how does bacteria from transplanted stool alter the recipient's gut microbiota? Out of trillions of bacteria contained in stool, which particular ones are beneficial, which are dangerous, and which have no real effect? Who is the ideal donor, what is the optimum method of stool preparation, and what is the best route of administration?

Stay tuned. Details of Fecal Microbiota Transplant are being worked out, and who knows who among us will be among the fortunate ones to benefit from this surprising, but cutting-edge, treatment!

*Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff and former chief of medicine at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240.*

# CDC: Sexually active women off birth control should stop drinking alcohol

An estimated 3.3 million women between the ages of 15 and 44 years are at risk of exposing their developing baby to alcohol because they are drinking, sexually active, and not using birth control to prevent pregnancy, according to the latest CDC Vital Signs report released today. The report also found that 3 in 4 women who want to get pregnant as soon as possible do not stop drinking alcohol when they stop using birth control.

Alcohol use during pregnancy, even within the first few weeks and before a woman knows she is pregnant, can cause lasting physical, behavioral, and intellectual disabilities that can last for a child's lifetime. These disabilities are known as fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs). There is no known safe amount of alcohol – even beer or wine – that is safe for a woman to drink at any stage of pregnancy.

"Alcohol can permanently harm a developing baby before a woman knows she is pregnant," said CDC Principal Deputy Director Anne Schuchat, M.D. "About half of all pregnancies in the United States are unplanned, and even if planned, most women won't know they are pregnant for the first month or so, when they might still be drinking. The risk is real. Why take the chance?"

Healthcare providers should advise women who want to become pregnant to stop drinking alcohol as soon as they stop using birth control. Most women don't know they are pregnant until they are four to six weeks into the pregnancy and could unknowingly be exposing their developing baby to alcohol. FASDs are completely preventable if a woman does not drink alcohol during pregnancy.

For this Vital Signs report,

scientists from CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities analyzed data from the 2011–2013 National Survey of Family Growth, which gathers information on family life, marriage, divorce, pregnancy, infertility, use of birth control, and men's and women's health. National estimates of alcohol-exposed pregnancy were calculated among 4,303 non-pregnant, non-sterile women ages 15–44 years. A woman was considered to be at risk for an alcohol-exposed pregnancy if in the past month she was not sterile, her partner was not known to be sterile, she had vaginal sex with a male, drank any alcohol, and did not use birth control. A woman was considered to be trying to get pregnant if a desired pregnancy was the reason she and her partner stopped using contraception.

Overall, 3.3 million US women (7.3 percent of women ages 15–44

who were having sex, who were non-pregnant and non-sterile) were at risk of exposing their developing baby to alcohol if they were to become pregnant.

"Every woman who is pregnant or trying to get pregnant – and her partner – want a healthy baby. But they may not be aware that drinking any alcohol at any stage of pregnancy can cause a range of disabilities for their child," said Coleen Boyle, Ph.D., director of CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. "It is critical for healthcare providers to assess a woman's drinking habits during routine medical visits; advise her not to drink at all if she is pregnant, trying to get pregnant or sexually active and not using birth control; and recommend services if she needs help to stop drinking."

# Scientists discover new form of Lyme Disease-causing bacteria

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in collaboration with Mayo Clinic and health officials from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota, report the discovery of a new species of bacteria (Borrelia mayonii) that causes Lyme disease in people. Until now, Borrelia burgdorferi was the only species believed to cause Lyme disease in North America.

Scientists at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, first suspected the possibility of new bacteria after lab tests from six people with suspected Lyme disease produced unusual results, according to the findings published today in Lancet Infectious Diseases. Additional genetic testing at the Mayo Clinic and CDC found that the bacteria, provisionally named Borrelia mayonii, is closely related to B. burgdorferi.

"This discovery adds another important piece of information to the complex picture of tickborne diseases in the United States," said Dr. Jeannine Petersen, microbiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Limited information from the first six patients suggests that illness caused by B. mayonii is similar to that caused by B. burgdorferi, but with a few possible differences. Like B. burgdorferi, B. mayonii causes fever,

headache, rash, and neck pain in the early stages of infection (days after exposure) and arthritis in later stages of infection (weeks after exposure).

Unlike B. burgdorferi, however, B. mayonii is associated with nausea and vomiting, diffuse rashes (rather than a single so-called "bull's-eye" rash), and a higher concentration of bacteria in the blood.

The researchers believe that, like B. burgdorferi, B. mayonii is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected blacklegged (or "deer") tick. B. mayonii has been identified in blacklegged ticks collected in at least two counties in northwestern Wisconsin.

The likely exposure sites for the patients described in Lancet Infectious Diseases are in north central Minnesota and western Wisconsin. It is highly likely, however, that infected ticks are found throughout both states.

The newly recognized species was discovered when six of approximately 9,000 samples drawn from residents of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota with suspected Lyme disease between 2012 and 2014 were found to contain bacteria that were genetically distinct from B. burgdorferi. Scientists analyzed the DNA sequences of these bacteria and found that they belonged to a previously unrecognized Borrelia

species. Blood from two of the patients was also tested by culture at CDC, whereby the organism is grown in the laboratory.

To date, the evidence suggests that the distribution of B. mayonii is limited to the upper midwestern United States. The new species was not identified in any of the approximately 25,000 blood samples from residents of 43 other states with suspected tickborne disease taken during the same period, including states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region where Lyme disease is common.

Results from the cases described in this report suggest that patients infected with B. mayonii will test positive for Lyme disease with currently available Food and Drug Administration-cleared Lyme disease tests. Specific identification of the organism can be made by using polymerase chain reaction assays (PCR), which detects the DNA of the Lyme disease bacteria. In some instances, B. mayonii bacteria may also be seen on a blood smear.

The patients described in this report were treated successfully with antibiotics commonly used to treat Lyme disease caused by B. burgdorferi. CDC recommends that health care providers who treat people infected with B. mayonii follow the antibiotic

regimen described by the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

CDC is working closely with state health departments in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin to better understand B. mayonii and to plan future investigations, including better descriptions about the clinical aspects of the illness and the geographic extent of the infected ticks.

To further support advances in the detection and discovery of tickborne diseases, CDC in 2015 funded a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health, Mayo Clinic, Tennessee Department of Health, and Vanderbilt University to collect over a 3-year period up to 30,000 clinical specimens from patients with suspected tickborne illness. CDC will use advanced molecular detection methods, including metagenomics screening and whole genome sequencing, to test the specimens for other bacteria that cause tickborne illness.

"CDC is investing in advanced technology to bring study of tickborne infections into a new era," said Ben Beard, Ph.D., chief of CDC's Bacterial Diseases Branch. "Coupling technology with teamwork between federal, state, and private entities will help improve early and accurate diagnosis of tickborne diseases."

To reduce the risk of tick bites and tickborne diseases, CDC recommends that people:

- Avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter;
- Use insect repellent when outdoors;
- Use products that contain permethrin on clothing;
- Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors to wash off and more easily find ticks;
- Conduct a full-body tick check after spending time outdoors; and
- Examine gear and pets, as ticks can come into the home on these and later attach to people.



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# Best-selling author Lisa See to discuss latest book



Plourde will succeed Superintendent Sandra Thorstenson, who will retire in June after 39 years

"The quality and dedicated staff across Whittier Union embraces and values our healthy organizational culture and has clearly expressed that they yearn to continue cultivating this precious culture," Thorstenson said. "Martin Plourde, whom I have worked with side by side for 15

Plourde has a master's degree in counseling and guidance from Loyola Marymount University and Professional Administrative Services Credential from University of California, Riverside. He is a member of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) and the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO).

Tickets are slightly higher if purchased at the door.

See's other acclaimed books include "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan," which garnered international and national awards and was made



Cerritos Library is located at 18025 Bloomfield Avenue. For more information, call (562) 916-1342.

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# The Norwalk Patriot

Friday, Sept. 20, 2013

Vol. 7 No. 33

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HARDER STORIES: THE TIES THAT BIND

## An Inflatable Idea

*Harder Stories is a weekly column featuring articles from a writing class at the Norwalk Senior Center. Yolanda is a life-long Norwalk resident who likes to see everyone with a smile on their face. In this piece she explores what a Fredericks of Hollywood catalogue. The names have been changed to protect the innocent. Courtesy by Carol Kram.*

By Yolanda Adde

NORWALK — While walking home from my junior high school one day I saw a Fredericks of Hollywood catalogue lying on the sidewalk. I was excited to find it, but there were several pedestrians on the street and I felt embarrassed to have them see me look at this sexy publication. Luckily there was no one I knew, but I still slowed to a pace until they passed before I turned back to pick up the forbidden catalogue.

Children my age were "too old for boys and too young for boys." It was the era of liberated women burning bras; I didn't think "training bras" counted. Still, Fredericks' merchandise defined sexy; just what a prepubescent catalogue.

I did what came naturally. I ran to my best friend's house to share my miraculous find. Had I been in a luck meet I had come in first place. It seemed that I reached Carla's front door in a few minutes. I tucked the catalogue into my skirts waistband and stood with my arms across my waist.

It was difficult to contain my excitement. I was relieved when Carla opened the door instead of her mother.

"I had a puzzled look on her face when she asked,

"Jane are you alright? You look kinda weird."

"Carla you won't believe what I just found on the street!"

"You found money?"

"No. Something even better. Let's hurry up to your room. Just then her mother called out from the kitchen, asking who is at the door?"

"It's just Jane, Mom. We are going to do our homework. Please tell Jimmy to leave us alone."

The kitchen phone rang and her mother picked it up. Carla and I ran up the stairs as if we were being chased by wild dogs.

Carla quickly locked her bedroom door behind us. Her eyes were wide like Betty Boop; she demanded to see what I had found. "Not so fast," I said. "First check your eves." I pulled the shiny catalogue from my skirt and hid the front cover that had a picture of a Marilyn Monroe look-a-like model wearing a pink and black sequined outfit.

When Carla opened her eyes, her jaw dropped. She let out a loud "WOW!" We both jumped up and down laughing because we fell on our beds.

"Carla, Carla, abhhhhhhh, haaa!" I whispered. "The best part is that there's an order form attached inside the pages where we can send a way for a very... something."

After the twelfth or thirteenth time pouring over the pages we decided to pull our babysitting money and expand the fund. The ad said that this bra was revolutionary. It came with a magical screw which allowed a woman to inflate her screen sex goddess.

"We will look like movie stars!" I promised.

"Yes, yes!" Carla yelled. I smiled as I noticed that she was even more flat chested than I was. We were exhilarated at the potential promises this bra would fulfill for us.

We stood up on the bed bouncing and laughing, throwing pillows in to the air. After a few minutes we fell onto, exhausted with joy, talking quietly.

"I just thought of a plan, Carla. We will flip a coin to see who'd get to wear it to the Sock Hop next month. I can bet one of us is not going to be a wallflower. I will not be a plain Jane. Can you imagine the look on Mr. Frank when she sees the new glamorous Me wearing my secret weapon?"

"Marilyn is such a stick-up-your-nose with a capital 'B' since she got all the boys' attention after padding her string ties."

"Carla! If we want to look more grown up we will have to practice walking differently."

"Like how?" she asked me.

I got up from the bed. "With shoulders swaying, like this," I said as I demonstrated my best Marilyn Monroe walk. "Oh Jane, you can already walk like Marilyn, but I bet that you will do it even better when you are wearing the Shell!"

"I really have to go home now. I finally said, 'The catalogue will be off here. You don't have a rug-rat sister to share your room with. Do you want to put the catalogue under your mattress?'"

"Had No, that's where I have my 'G' rated diary for my mom to snooze through. I will put it in the big elementary on top of the bookcase. Not even my brother will know there."

"By the way, where is that cute brother of yours?"

"Cute Oh yes! You have got to be kidding me, Jane."

"But he's not bad. He is tall and a bit mature."

"That's good. My little brother has peach fuzz on his face."

Rachel Tagawa and Nathaniel Yu use an iPad inside the Cerritos Library's new teen technology center. The facility officially opens Saturday.

## CERRITOS LIBRARY INVESTS IN TECH FOR TEENS

• Cerritos prep for opening of new 2,500-sq.-ft. teen tech studio at city library.

By Christian Brown  
Staff Writer

CERRITOS — In an effort to expand educational and creative resources for teenage patrons, the Cerritos Library on Saturday will unveil a new, 2,500-sq.-ft. teen studio, featuring 18 Apple Mac workstations, three 65-inch interactive touch screens, and more than 7,000 books and documents.

City council members on Monday lauded the new state-of-the-art facility as the next generation of technology for the next generation of learners.

"This is not just a library for books, but for learning," said Councilwoman Gail Chen, who initially proposed the concept of a teen studio. "It's not just for reading; it's a whole learning experience with the newest and latest technology — we want to nurture that in our kids." Filled with everything from classic literature and graphic novels to popular books and non-fiction, the teen studio is just as much a classroom with space for group work and individual study.

In addition to new iMac computers, the studio center also boasts a 40-inch computer touch screen that allows up to four people

Raima Anjial practices on one of Cerritos Library's three new 65-inch touch-screen monitors.

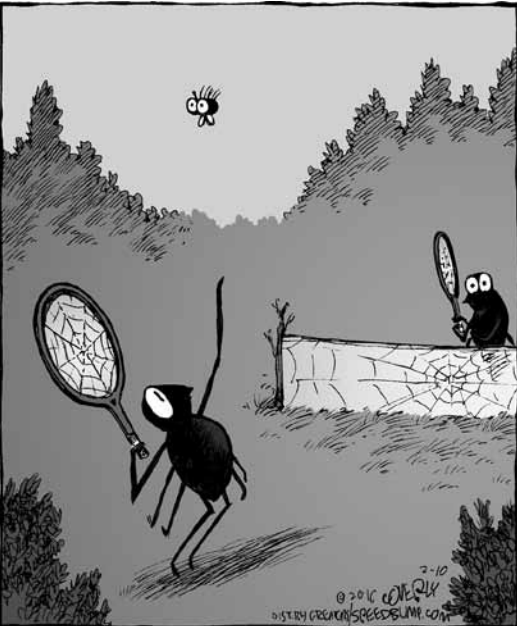
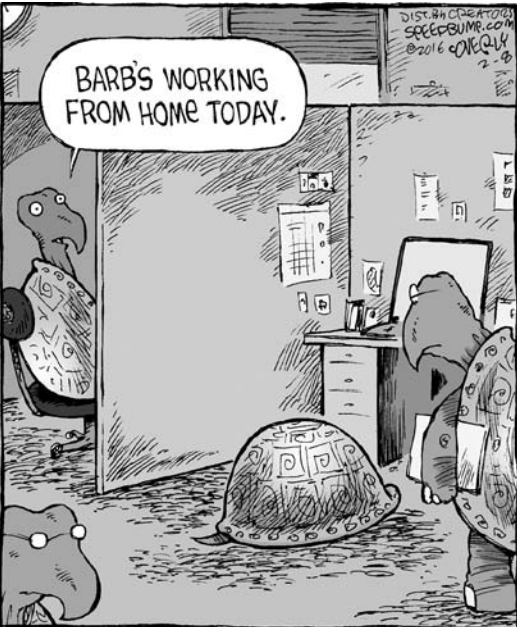
with the modern devices," said Cerritos High senior Alexa Flores, the teen studio, which is calming and relaxing. "It's a better, more open place to do research."

Similarly, junior

At a cost of more than \$290,000, the new studio, which is approximately 700 square feet, will house teenage library cardholders between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays after school. The facility is located at 12040 Foster Road, Norwalk, California 90650.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

11 a.m. - Chinese New Year - Cerritos College

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  
2nd & 4th, - Toastmasters Meetings - Norwalk Library  
1st & 3rd, 6:00 p.m. - City Council - Council Chambers  
3rd, 5:45 p.m. - Housing Authority - Council Chambers

WEDNESDAYS

10:30 a.m. - Woman's Club - Masonic Lodge  
12:00 p.m. - Rotary - Doubletree Hotel  
1st, 12:30 p.m. - Soroptimist International - Soroptimist Village  
1st & 3rd, 7:00 p.m. - Lions Club - Bruce's Restaurant  
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  
Have an event you want listed? E-mail news@thedowneypatriot.com

On This Day...

Feb. 12, 1999: The Senate acquitted President Bill Clinton on two articles of impeachment, falling short of a majority vote on either of the charges against him: perjury and obstruction of justice.  
2000: Charles M. Schulz, creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip, died at age 77.  
2004: Defying a California law, San Francisco officials began performing weddings for same-sex couples.  
Birthdays: Hall of fame basketball player Bill Russell (82), children's author Judy Blume (78), TV show host Arsenio Hall (60), actor Josh Brolin (48), actress Christina Ricci (36) and quarterback Robert Griffin III (26).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

HEARING THINGS: Requiring sound thinking

by Gail Grabowski

ACROSS

1 Stock up on

6 Karenina or Christie

10 Price for a ride

14 Walk with attitude

19 Scoundrel

20 Cooperative group

21 Quite a while

22 Nonsense

23 Pressure-packed period

25 Mouth-shaped flower

27 Baloney

28 Did a critic's job

30 Take back, as a statement

31 Busy mo. for UPS

32 Traditional observances

33 Pugilist's weapon

34 Office-chair wheels

38 Supply-and-demand sci.

39 Turns bronze

40 Keyboardist's stat.

43 Wrestling maneuvers

44 Silent-film genre

46 Offhand greeting

47 Timeline sections

48 Palm tree fruit

50 Average mark

51 Small musical groups

52 24-hr. bank device

53 Katy Perry performance

57 Swiftiness

58 Cry of triumph

60 Party DJ's inventories

61 Does business

62 Contributing element

63 Cattle breed

65 Courteous

66 Bit of decoration

67 City near Nice

69 UCLA athlete

70 Anger

71 Elongated swimmers

74 Crop up

75 Attachments for closeups

77 Briny expanse

78 As long as

79 Narcissistic preoccupation

80 Inauguration feature

81 Mail-routing abbr.

82 Very long time

83 Underling's assignment

87 Weeper of myth

88 Pursue closely

89 New Mexico art center

90 Deeply engaged

91 Go quickly

93 Tach readings

94 You are here

95 Some remote batteries

96 Alpine climber's tool

99 "Lemon Tree" singer

100 Lopez

100 Fall slightly short

105 Apollo 11 astronaut

107 Start studying, say

109 the side of caution (play safe)

110 Go quickly

111 High point

112 Yellowish red

113 Goes quickly

114 Trade jabs

115 Young lady

116 Emerson work

7 Playwright Simon

8 '60s war zone

9 Grade school anthem

10 Attaches securely

11 Choreographer de Mille

12 Enjoy King or Queen

13 Mentalist's claim

14 Accentuate

15 Land parcel

16 Latvia's capital

17 Conversant with

18 Something pitched outdoors

24 Gardener, at times

26 Sangria or sarsaparilla

29 Straddling

32 Piece of antiquity

33 Diamond surface

34 Flout the rules

35 Arterial trunk

36 Punk-rock club activity

37 NFL scores

39 Sections of seats

40 Small town on a campaign trail

41 ID card feature

42 Tight-fisted one

44 Drains of energy

45 Immune system agent

46 Prophet

48 Mark of excellence

49 Squad-car drivers

51 Asian cuisine

54 Deep dislike

55 Novelist Shute

56 Portrayer of Austin Powers' father

59 Invalidates

62 Right off the vine

64 Chicago star

65 Sing soothingly

66 Be anxious

67 Intimidated

68 Allergy season sound

69 Counterfeit

70 Author Dinesen

72 Don't disturb

73 More reasonable

75 Goose eggs

76 Toward the Arctic

81 Ultimate goal

83 Auctioneer's accessory

84 Gym employee

85 Put on alert

86 Of vision

87 Romanian tennis great

89 People from Plano

91 Pasta toppings

92 Wine barrel

93 Chin smoother

94 Author Jong

96 Skeptical comment

97 Medical breakthrough

98 Poet Pound

99 Ensnare

100 Printer problems

101 Some CEOs' credentials

102 Atomic particles

103 Bar mixer

104 Grey Goose competitor

106 AMA members

108 HDTV alternative to JVC

Reach Stan Newman at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, or at www.StanXwords.com

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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.

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WRITE TO US  
The Norwalk Patriot accepts and encourages letters to the editor. Letters must include a full name, address and telephone number, although only the author's name and hometown will be published. Letters may be edited for length, style and/or content.

Letters can be mailed to The Norwalk Patriot, 12040 Foster Rd., Norwalk CA 90650 or via e-mail at news@thedownypatriot.com.

Cracking down on abusive debt collectors

By LeAnn Hall

Have you ever picked up your phone to find an aggressive voice on the other end demanding payments on a debt you know nothing about? You're far from alone.

Once you're in the sights of a debt collector, the impact on your life can be devastating: Your wages can be garnished and your credit ruined. You might lose your driver's license, or even your job.

And it could happen over a debt you don't even owe.

In a recent analysis of 75,000 complaints about debt collection practices submitted to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau — just a sample of the total number — this was the most common complaint by far. Over 40 percent of people being harassed by collectors said they didn't owe the debt in the first place.

Other complaints charged that the collectors made false statements or threats to coerce people to pay.

The government created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau — or CFPB — to address abusive financial practices after the 2008 financial crash. This year, the bureau is considering strengthening rules to protect consumers from deceptive and aggressive collection practices.

Abusive collection tactics impact people with all kinds of debt — including credit card debt, medical debt, payday loans, student loans, mortgages, and automobile loans. Collectors often strike when people are most vulnerable, such as when they're recovering from illness or desperately seeking work. They aggressively target the poor, immigrants, and people of color.

About 77 million people — or 35 percent of adults in the United States with a credit file — have a report of debt in collections. That alone makes a compelling case for the bureau to crack down on abusive tactics.

When my organization, the Alliance for a Just Society, analyzed the complaints for our new report — Unfair, Deceptive, & Abusive: Debt Collectors Profit from Aggressive Tactics —

Natural gas becomes a fracking mess

By Emily Schwartz Greco

Until late last year, Laura Gideon's family lived in Porter Ranch on the outskirts of Los Angeles. "We didn't ever want to leave," Gideon told the Associated Press. It's "a nice gated community."

What uprooted them from one of LA's wealthiest pockets? They became climate refugees when the nearby Aliso Canyon natural gas storage well sprang a nasty leak.

Clouds of gas have billowed from the faulty well, which lacked a subsurface shutoff valve, for three and a half months. After inhaling nonstop plumes of methane, benzene, and other toxic chemicals, local residents began to suffer nausea, vomiting, headaches, and nosebleeds. The disaster has also smacked local businesses hard and eroded real estate values.

Erin Brockovich, the activist and legal researcher made famous by an Academy-award winning film depicting her against-all-odds victory against another California utility, lives only 30 miles away. Now working with a law firm to help the locals file claims, she calls the Aliso Canyon leak a "BP oil spill, just on land" — because of its magnitude, duration, and climate impact.

And that's why this incident imperils more than the people who live there and the bottom line of Southern California Gas Co., the local utility that ran the well.

Just as the Gulf Coast disaster invigorated opposition to offshore oil drilling, the Porter Ranch debacle may sap the natural gas industry's popularity. Above all, it's exposing the fuel's persistent reputation as "clean" and climate-friendly as a complete lie.

Environmentalists, backed by ample research, have struggled to debunk that narrative for years.

Although burning natural gas releases less carbon dioxide than coal or diesel, extracting and distributing it releases methane into the atmosphere. And so do storage accidents like this one.

And methane is between 86 and 105 times as powerful as CO<sub>2</sub> at disrupting the climate over a 20-year period. The now common practice of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, to

we tallied the complaints in the database and built a list of the 15 companies with the most complaints.

The list is topped by heavy-hitting debt buyers like Encore Capital Group and PRA Group, whose business models hinge on buying portfolios of consumer debts for pennies on the dollar and then wringing payments out of alleged debtors. Both of these companies more than doubled their profits from 2010 to 2014.

Major student loan servicer Navient (formerly Sallie Mae) also makes the top 15 list for complaints about its debt collection tactics.

But it's particularly worth noting that six out of the top 15 offenders on this list are original creditors, not third-party collectors. They include Citibank, JPMorgan Chase, Capital One, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, and Synchrony Financial (the largest issuer of private label credit cards).

This is important, because the primary protection most consumers have against unfair collection tactics — the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act — applies only to third parties, not original creditors. This is a troubling double standard.

The new rules must also apply to the original creditors — including payday lenders, credit card companies, and big banks — along with third-party collectors and debt buyers.

The rules should limit phone calls to prevent harassment and require collectors to have complete documentation before attempting to collect. The rules should prohibit selling, purchasing, and attempting to collect old, paid, or expired "zombie" debt.

Finally, the bureau should toughen the penalties for collectors breaking the rules.

Living with debt isn't a personal failing — it's a national crisis. The bureau needs to stand up for everyday people and put a stop to abusive collection tactics.

LeeAnn Hall is the executive director of Alliance for a Just Society, a national research, policy, and organizing network working for economic, racial, and social justice.

obtain natural gas also pollutes waterways and squanders water — a big problem for parched California.

Environmental Defense Fund is tracking the climate damage wrought by the broken well, which is located in a vacant oil field about a mile and a half underground. The group calculates that the roughly 100,000 metric tons of natural gas that escaped is the equivalent of burning nearly 900 million gallons of gasoline.

This big climate footprint is particularly troubling because thanks to record production levels, natural gas will soon become the nation's top power source, eclipsing coal. Natural gas supplies have grown so fast that U.S. prices are crashing due to oversupply. The industry wants to fix this imbalance through exports.

Shipping the stuff overseas requires condensing natural gas into liquid form at very high heat, using expensive infrastructure. More production will trigger more pollution and potential leaks.

Exporting liquefied natural gas, or LNG, also depends on persuading foreigners to buy it. But where are the customers?

Selling to Europe means competing with Russian producers. And the Russians stand ready to block this competition by slashing their own prices. At the same time, liquefied natural gas prices in Asia have fallen. Experts say they could plunge further as supplies outweigh demand.

In other words, the natural gas business has turned into a money-losing venture at the same time that the fossil fuel's real costs to people and the planet are becoming clearer.

Capping the failed well won't stop all the physical, emotional, and financial distress experienced by Laura Gideon and thousands of other Southern Californians. As she told the AP: "We're in mourning now."

The natural gas industry probably is too. It's a fracking mess.

Columnist Emily Schwartz Greco is the managing editor of OtherWords, a non-profit national editorial service run by the Institute for Policy Studies.

LEGALS

GOVERNMENT

CITY OF NORWALK  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
FOR PROPOSED COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND  
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS  
FUND CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND  
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Date: March 3, 2016  
Time: 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard  
Place: Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex  
Founders Room, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue,  
Norwalk, CA 90650

Description: Each year, the City receives federal funds that are used to address a variety of housing, non-housing and community development needs. For Fiscal Year 2016-2017, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has not released final allocation amounts. As a result, the budget amounts are estimates only. Based on funding received during the prior Program Year, the City of Norwalk expects to receive approximately \$1,142,462 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through its entitlement grant. In addition, the City anticipates receiving approximately \$241,365 of Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds. HUD may approve greater or lesser amounts of CDBG and HOME funds. The draft Annual Action Plan, which will be released to the public in March, will either contain the final funding amounts or will provide alternatives if the funding amounts are increased/decreased prior to adoption of the Annual Action Plan.

The City uses CDBG and HOME funds to promote housing rehabilitation, affordable housing, social service programs, homeless services, economic development programs, capital improvements, such as street and curb replacement, and other similar services and facilities for the benefit of low to moderate income persons. The Social Services Commission will discuss housing and community development needs, the development of proposed activities, and review program performance. The public is encouraged to attend the Public Hearing and provide comments on the development of the Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Public Comment: Interested persons are invited to attend this hearing and be heard regarding this matter. Written comments may be submitted to the Community Development Department prior to the time set for the hearing. Address written comments: Attention: Kristin Maitthonis at 12700 Norwalk Blvd., Room 11, Norwalk, CA 90650 or at kmaitthonis@norwalkca.gov. More Information: Questions concerning the public hearing matter should be directed to Kristin Maitthonis, Community Development Department at (562) 929-5951 or by email at kmaitthonis@norwalkca.gov. Accessibility: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in a City meeting or other services offered by the City, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (562) 929-5720. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting or time when services are needed will assist the City staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting or service. Assisted hearing devices will be available at this hearing without prior notification.

Dated this 12th day of February 2016.  
/s/ Theresa Devoy, CMC  
City Clerk

The Norwalk Patriot  
2/12/16

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COMMENTARY

## Valentine's Day comes early at Norwalk Library

By Raul Samaniego  
Contributor

NORWALK – The Norwalk Library held its final Designer Den Workshop Wednesday in the meeting room of the library facility.

The night's project: Chocolate kiss handmade red rose valentine gifts.

Librarian Andrea Crow expected around three to four participants.

"We've been getting two to four people at these events," Crow said.

Over two dozen participants showed up for the Valentine themed craft event.

"This is our best turnout we've ever had," exclaimed a happy Ms Crow,

When asked, about 80% of those in attendance said this was their first event at the library and that they had read about it in the Norwalk Patriot newspaper.

The event is sponsored by the volunteer group, "Friends of the Library."

All material was included at no cost to the participants.

Crow explained that these events are usually touted as "Adult oriented," for the projects tend to be a little more difficult.

However, the 10 or so children in the room were just as excited and welcome as the adults.

When supplies ran out, a chocolate Kiss run was made. Actually, Ms Crow seized the opportunity to provide a backup Autumn jar project for those who wished to complete a project.

Lifelong Norwalk residents Rita Gutierrez and her sister Della Yriarte, shared that while this was their first try at paper projects at the library, their strong Norwalk Lancer

Norwalk librarian Andrea Crow and Norwalk resident Ruth Beauchamp. Photo by Raul Samaniego

background gave them the ability to accomplish their goal.

Well, I might have added a little Pilot (Excelsior) ribbing with them. It was all in fun.

Gutierrez shared that she was currently between Valentines and this was just for practice for future experiences.

A grandmother team of Toni Delgado and her granddaughter shared that she too had read the notice in the Norwalk Patriot and

because her granddaughter liked crafts, she decided to come.

Another long time resident, Ruth Beauchamp, listened intently as Librarian and instructor Andrea Crow, explained the delicate process of working with chocolate Kisses, construction paper and florist tape.

All in all, everyone had a smile on their face as they prepared for one of America's favorite holiday, Valentines Day.

## Downey Police step up traffic enforcement

DOWNEY – The Downey Police Department plans to increase enforcement of pedestrian and bicycle traffic safety laws this month.

The department has mapped out locations over the last three years where pedestrian and bike collisions have occurred, with the violations that led to those crashes.

Extra officers will be on duty patrolling areas where bicycle and pedestrian collisions occur in an effort to lower deaths and injuries.

Officers will be looking for violations made by drivers, bicycle riders and pedestrians that can lead to collisions, particularly drivers speeding, making illegal turns, failing to stop for signs and signals, and failing to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

Officers also will look for pedestrians that cross the street illegally or fail to yield to drivers who have the right-of-way. Bicycle riders will be cited for failing to follow the same traffic laws that apply to motorists.

Funding for the increased enforcement comes from a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

## College celebrates Chinese New Year

NORWALK – Cerritos College will celebrate the Chinese New Year with a celebration Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 11 a.m.

The event is free and open to the public. It will feature performances, activity booths, workshops, free food, giveaways, and more.

Performances include Chinese opera, a lion dance, martial arts demonstration, and music. Panda Express, Tea Station and more will provide free food samples and products.

Free parking is available in Lot C-1, C-2 and C-10.

## College faculty to showcase talents

NORWALK – Students, faculty and alumni of the Cerritos College Theatre Department will perform a benefit concert Feb. 28 in the campus Burnight Center Theatre.

The event begins at 2 p.m. and includes solo and chamber music feature a wide variety of musical genres.

Pre-sale tickets are \$12 general admission and \$10 for seniors and students. Children's tickets are \$8.

Advance tickets can be purchased online at [cerritos.edu/music](http://cerritos.edu/music). Prices will be slightly higher if purchased at the door.

## 'American Pickers' coming to SoCal

LOS ANGELES – The History Channel show "American Pickers" will be in Southern California next month and producers are in need of homes that can be "picked."

The show follows Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz as they hunt for antiques -- from motorcycles, classic cars and bicycles, to one-of-a-kind vintage memorabilia.

Some of the things they look for include vintage bicycles, toys, unusual radios, movie memorabilia, advertising, military items, folk art, pre-50's western gear, early firefighting equipment, , automotive items, and clothing.

Anyone with a large, private collection that is willing to participate in the show is asked to email a description of the collection with photos to [americanpickers@cinetflix.com](mailto:americanpickers@cinetflix.com) or call (855) OLD-RUST.

## Free lecture on gallstones

CERRITOS – Seniors are invited to a free health lecture on gallstones Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 1 p.m. at the Cerritos Senior Center.

Dr. Angelyn Moultrie-Lizana of Pioneer Medical Group will present several factors that increase likelihood of gallstones, information on gallbladder disease, and current treatment options.

The lecture is open to adults ages 50 and older. For more information call (562) 916-8550.



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