

Governor proposes \$176.6M to clean up Exide

VERNON – Governor Jerry Brown on Wednesday proposed a \$176.6 million spending plan to fund expedited and expanded testing and cleanup of residential properties, schools, daycare centers and parks around the former Exide Technologies facility in Vernon.

“This Exide battery recycling facility has been a problem for a very long time,” said Brown. “With this funding plan, we’re opening a new chapter that will help protect the community and hold Exide responsible.”

The administration’s plan was detailed in a Department of Finance letter sent to the California State Senate and Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee chairs.

The \$176.6 million plan will ensure all residential properties, schools, daycare centers and parks within the 1.7 mile radius of the Exide Technologies facility are tested and contaminated soil removed where lead levels are the highest and potential exposure the greatest.

This plan expedites and expands efforts already underway and includes an exemption to the California Environmental Quality Act, authorities said.

Local legislators reacted positively to the plan.

“I am very pleased to hear that Governor Brown is proposing \$176.6 million in funds to test and clean up land around the former Exide plant. Residents of these contaminated areas have been clamoring for urgent relief.

“Governor Brown’s funding proposal, and his support for expediting the cleanup process, are important steps in making our communities safe once again. To date, the state’s effort has been dangerously slow and underfunded. This announcement is a much-needed change of direction in the state’s work to clean up Exide. I am hopeful the governor’s announcement will help ensure that the DTSC will have all the funds needed to test and clean up the affected properties.”

“Given the urgency of this crisis, I implore the state legislature to immediately approve this funding in order to expedite the critical work of cleaning up the poisons in our contaminated neighborhoods. The health and well-being of our communities depends on swift and sustained action by the state.”

“I have been working closely with the Governor on securing funding for Exide,” added Assemblymember Cristina Garcia. “I look forward to working with my colleagues to create a necessary CEQA exemption to expedite the testing and cleanup of these homes.

“Today, along with Assemblymember Miguel Santiago and I will be introducing legislation on a proposed battery fee. This measure would create a state mandated Lead-Acid(Car) Battery Recycling program, and have \$1 from that fund go to repay the \$176.6 million loan program.

“The Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) will continue to pursue holding Exide responsible for repaying the loan. If Exide cannot be held liable my legislation will repay the initial \$176.6 million loan and continue to fund the cleanup of the 10,000 homes surrounding Exide and other areas of the state contaminated by lead acid batteries.

I look forward to continuing to work with Assemblymember Santiago, Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee Chair, Assemblymember Luis Alejo and Vice Chair, Assemblymember Brian Dahle as my bill moves through the Assembly. I thank them for their commitment to our community’s health and their leadership. Without a team effort we cannot be successful.”

The problem with senior housing (or lack of it)



By Sharon Smith Contributor

NORWALK – You can’t read the newspaper today or turn on the radio and TV without hearing or seeing something on the subject of senior housing. I never would have known it to be such a drastic problem until it became reality for me.

After having worked from age 16 to 76, having two failed marriages, and making not-too-smart financial decisions, I was living in a mobile home in need of endless repairs. After 14 years of living there, I was persuaded to retire, and my Social Security became my sole source of income. Having lived with various relatives in situations not working for us, I decided it was time for me to check into senior housing. Was I ever in for a rude awakening!

I take a “Memoirs Writing Class” at the Norwalk Senior Center, and I asked the receptionist about senior housing, and she gave me a list covering a number of cities in the surrounding area. These were Norwalk, Downey, Bellflower, Lakewood, Santa Fe Springs, Pico Rivera, and Whittier. I began by phoning each listed facility and eliminated those offering assisted living, since I am fortunate enough to be in good health and capable of taking care of all my needs.

Over the course of the next few weeks, dear friends Maggie and Eddie accompanied me to facility after facility where I was told the wait could be as long as two to six years; the shortest wait time being one year! Some facilities were taking applications; others had such an extensive waiting list that they were

no longer taking applications.

A studio apartment, 525 sq. ft., goes for \$788 in Norwalk (in my income bracket). I applied to two of their apartments, but they could not tell me how long the wait would be. It’s all dependent upon a tenant’s dying or giving the 30-day required notice of moving; even then there’s that waiting list to deal with!

Totally frustrated by now, one empathetic woman to whom I talked gave me the phone number of someone she knew at the Housing Authority who she felt sure would be able to help me. I quickly called him, explained my dilemma in detail and asked, “Isn’t there anything available for an American senior citizen who has contributed to the system for 58 years?” To which he promptly replied, “I know what you’re going through. I am a Mexican American citizen also, and I can’t help my own parents and friends with their housing needs. The immigrants, homeless and lower income brackets have the priority.”

I even learned in one conversation that HUD and Section 8 Housing Authorities are no longer taking applications. They, too, are inundated with seemingly endless waiting lists!

There’s ongoing publicity surrounding the current and the impending homeless population due to the upcoming El Nino crisis and the influx of the immigrants. It tugs at my heart-strings, and we can all empathize with the lower income population, or when seeing the homeless living under pup tents on

our streets, and out of shopping carts full of their meager belongings.

But, in my opinion, not enough is being brought to the forefront regarding the plight of senior citizens and the middle class with their ever-escalating costs of housing – be it buying or renting.

Not giving up too easily, my next approach to the problem was to check into the Whittier area, in particular, as they are known to have “casitas,” “granny houses” or “mother-in-law quarters” behind the main house. The older section also has an ample variety of duplexes and triplexes as well. Those dear friends of mine again drove me up one street after another. We saw very few “For Rent” signs, and the several numbers I did call turned out to be for one bedrooms that went for as much as \$1,100 to \$1,300 which just about amounted to my total Income per month. So, that, too, turned out to be an effort in futility.

Feeling totally frustrated and “down in the dumps” about the situation, I decided to share my problem with my particular group at the writing class. Bless their hearts! Word got around, a classmate made an offer I couldn’t refuse, and it has been a win-win situation in a lovely home that came with a cute and playful dog named Dency.

I’m back to my usual “attitude of gratitude,” and thanking God for answering the prayers of my friends and loved ones and for always opening another window each time one is closed.

Legislation would require nursing homes to publicly post number of nurses on duty

WHITTIER – Assemblymember Ian Calderon (D–Whittier) introduced Assembly Bill 2079 (AB 2079) Wednesday, which would raise the minimum number of direct care service hours for nursing assistants in order to improve the quality of care in nursing facilities.

“Nursing assistants are the primary providers of direct care who meet the needs of seniors and people

with disabilities,” stated Calderon. “Residents of Skilled Nursing Facilities and their families deserve a safe living environment to help patients recover and heal in a timely manner.”

Current staff requirements for Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) do not meet the direct care needs of nursing home residents. The California Department of Public Health enacted regulations that converted the 3.2-hour requirement into ratios; however these regulations do not differentiate between types of direct caregivers. This

means operators of SNFs can include non-direct caregiving personnel to meet the 3.2 nursing hours per patient care requirement. This causes chronic under-staffing of registered nurses (RNs), licensed vocational nurses (LVNs), and certified nursing assistants (CNAs) in these facilities and creates potentially unsafe living conditions for residents as they are subject to sub-par care and greater risk of hospitalization.

AB 2079 requires SNFs to publicly post, at all times, the number of direct caregivers on duty and assure

a minimum number of hours of care provided by CNAs by instituting specified staff-to-patient ratios per shift.

This bill would raise the minimum number of direct care service hours, transforming the care and environment in nursing homes to provide a more person centered level of care.

“AB 2079 helps to ensure that direct care staff are available to meet the needs of seniors, people with disabilities, and people recovering from illness and injury,” stated Calderon.

SHARED STORIES: THE TIES THAT BIND

My Talented Mother

Even though Janice Collins’s mother was a farm girl, she could do so much more. She was good at algebra, geometry, and construction, as well as making cottage cheese and raising chickens to sell the eggs. Shared Stories is a weekly column featuring articles by participants in a writing class at the Norwalk Senior Center. Bonnie Mansell is the instructor for this free class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. Curated by Carol Kearns.

By Janice Collins

I wish to acknowledge my mother, Gladys Josephine Fouts Hager Husler, for who she was and the many things she did. She faced many hardships in her life.

Mom was born in Missouri in 1906 and was the seventh of eight children. Her father died at an early age, and her mother had all of the children gathered around the deathbed of their father, telling him goodbye and praying. She was seven at the time and her younger sister was five. The hardship came to everyone because even she and her little sister had to help in anyway they could.

One thing was enjoyable for them as children. She and her sister liked to sing. They sang a duet for their school program.

My grandmother couldn’t earn enough money keeping books for the grain elevator in Passaic, Missouri, and she heard of a managing job at a restaurant in Butler, Missouri. They moved to Butler and everyone helped

run the restaurant.

Later in life, as the children were becoming of age to manage better at other jobs, the family made a move to Belpre, Kansas, where Mom’s uncle lived.

Mom was in high school and doing well. She was an intelligent person and earned enough credits to graduate a year early. Mom was always good at reasoning problems and algebra, as well as geometry. The teacher would always send her to the blackboard to do these problems and explain them to her classmates.

Since my mother had her credits, my grandmother allowed her to quit school and get married. Andy Hager asked Mom to marry him, and since her mother liked Andy, she agreed. Andy owned a farm. He was good to Mom. Since Mom liked horses, he bought a horse for her to ride. He also taught her to drive.

After four years of marriage, Andy had a swelling of his throat, and the doctor traveled to Hutchinson, Kansas, to get the necessary medication. Andy died, however, before the doctor could get back to Belpre. Mom was by his side, and he told her he probably wouldn’t make it. The swelling cut off his oxygen and he stopped breathing.

Mom and Andy had two children at that time – my half-sister Juanita who was three years old, and my half-brother Arthur who was only six months. Arthur had double pneumonia and a nurse was caring for him.

Mom delivered milk to the people

in Belpre, and she tried to keep the farm going by using a plow behind a mule. This was in the late 1920’s. Times got hard again, and she could not make the necessary money to pay her taxes. So the farm was taken from her.

My grandmother and mother moved into a place together so my grandmother could take care of Juanita and Arthur, and also make money by babysitting other children. My mother went to work for the Larned Mental Hospital as head cook. Together they made a living.

After a while, my mother started dating the man who would become my father, Louis Husler. They dated three years before they were married. They made a good couple. My mother had two more children – my brother Edward and myself.

My father had been working his father’s farm at this time, and when his father died, the farm was sold because his siblings didn’t want to keep it. Dad rented land in Kansas to continue farming, and then later, when I was twelve, we moved to Colorado.

During these years Mom helped Dad with farm work, raised a large garden, and canned fruits and vegetables. She also raised chickens and gathered eggs to take to St. John, Kansas to sell.

My parents separated cream and sold the cream to a creamery. Mom made our own cottage cheese and churned the butter. Chickens and steers were butchered and taken to a rented freezer in town.

We moved to Stratton, Colorado, where Dad bought his own farm. Colorado had a serious drought in the 1950’s and both of my parents had to get outside jobs. Once again Mom became a cook – this time at the Stratton Café. She was known to be good at it.

When a trailer factory opened up in Stratton, both of my parents got a job there. My mother was good at measuring to perfection when put to carpentry work. She could use an electric saw and turned out good looking cabinets for the trailers

Mom stayed on the farm after dad died, but she finally hired people to do the work since she was in her ’70’s.

At the age of 80, my brother Edward told her she needed to be with someone. They noticed that she would fall asleep and drop necessary pills under her rocker. Also, she would forget which day it was. People would come from Stratton to check up on her because they worried. Her driving skills weren’t good anymore.

Mom went to live in the Boulder Mountains where my brother owns a large house. He gave her a beautiful bedroom with a veranda by the mountain. She was happy there. His wife was a nurse practitioner.

Mom died at the age of 92. She had many hardships in her life, but she was good at anything she put her mind to. She was buried in a Stratton cemetery with Dad.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 67°

Saturday 73°

Sunday 78°

THINGS TO DO



Bob Saget

Friday, Saturday - Brea Improv

The “Fuller House” star embraces his “dark side” in a stand-up comedy special. \$30



Murder Mystery

Saturday, Downey Elks Lodge - 5:30 p.m.

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Comic Expo

Saturday and Sunday, Long Beach Convention Center

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Roller Derby

Saturday, Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Culver City, 5:30 p.m.

Angel City Derby opens its 2016 season with a double-header. All ages. \$13

FROM OUR FACEBOOK

Insufficient senior housing options

Anna Gabriel: This is the biggest problem for people. Rent is outrageous. About 10 years ago the city of Santa Monica offered rent control to people. It’s a great idea; somebody in LA County, preferably Norwalk, should do something about landlords gouging people.

Kelleen Mullen Day: My mom has been on a list for years! Actually on multiple lists. She did get called about one but it was upstairs and they had no elevator. At 78 that’s not an option.

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TWEET OF THE WEEK

@CerritosFalcon: Almost was eaten by a lion but anyways how was your day today?

Follow us! [@DowneyPatriot](https://twitter.com/DowneyPatriot)

LA MIRADA – Vigilance and strong communication are the keys to maintaining a safe and rewarding online experience for school-age children, concerned parents learned at a Cyber Safety workshop at Dolland Elementary School on Feb. 5.

The workshop, presented by the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified Instructional Technology Department, centered on common sense practices that parent and child can agree on, as well as an overview of popular mobile phone apps and the proliferation of cyber threats.

such as bullying, predators, ID theft and online addiction.

“Cyber safety is a paramount concern for our community,” NLMUSD Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian said, “We are committed to providing education and resources for parents who

have had difficulty keeping pace with rapidly evolving modern technology.”

Cathy De Alba, a District Technology Integration Coach, led the discussion with a PowerPoint presentation outlining numerous strategies for being a good digital citizen. De Alba urged Dolland parents to sit down with their children to discuss and sign an Internet Agreement detailing family rules and safe habits regarding online activity.

De Alba stressed that although parents cannot monitor their children's online activity 24 hours a day, they can take steps to ensure children keep themselves safe, think first and keep a healthy balance between their online and physical activities. She advised parents that building trust with their children and paying close attention to their moods were invaluable tools in helping children develop safe online

habits.

"If your child is on the computer, make sure they are where you can see them," De Alba said. "Make them understand you have the right to look at what is on their phone and delete anything that may be inappropriate. However, you cannot be too strict. Communication is the key."

Graciela Romero, who has two children that attend Dollard, signed the Internet Agreement after attending a Coffee with the Superintendent monthly meeting. The Cyber Safety workshop was organized as a direct result of parent consultations with Dr. Danielian.

"It's a matter of safety. Your child is online and you don't know who is on the other side," Romero said. "I worry about bullying, but also, in many cases, it is the parents trying to catch up with their children. There is always something new to learn."

In addition to the Cyber workshop, a 10-week computer class for adults has begun at Waite Middle School. Parents who have never had an email address or touched a computer keyboard before are meeting twice weekly for ten weeks. They are learning the Microsoft Office suite of programs with curriculum centered on how to protect their children on the Internet by monitoring their use and adding filters to their computers. They are also learning how to use the Internet to support their students in other ways, including the college and financial aid application process – much of which is now accomplished online.

"I congratulate our parents for participating in the workshop and in the computer classes," NLMUSD Board of Education President Karen Morrison said. "As a District, we want to do everything we can to help parents understand the importance of cyber-safety. These parents are taking the time to learn about the importance of Internet safety and stepping out of their comfort zones to learn new skills."

NLMUSD has also built a comprehensive Digital Citizen and Online Safety Resource Library for parents, students and teachers on its website with a series of links, including suggestions for setting rules for mobile phone use and “myths and truths about internet safety” supporting the concepts of digital citizenship.

Library hosting citizenship clinic

NORWALK – Norwalk Library will host a citizenship clinic Thursday, March 10, from 5-7:30 p.m.

Participants will receive free application support, legal advice, study materials and a fee waiver application.

Register by calling the library at (562) 868-0775. The clinic is held in partnership with the South Asian Network.




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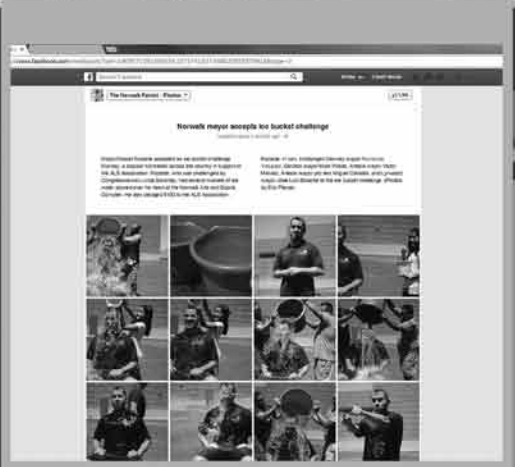



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WHITTIER - California High School arts teacher Julie Tonkovich is one of only 10 public school teachers appointed to serve on the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC), an advisory body to the State Board of Education, providing her the opportunity to help develop and strengthen education standards that will benefit students across the state.

Tonkovich – who has been teaching visual arts at her alma mater for 24 years – will begin serving her four-year term in January 2017. She will work with an 18-member commission to help revise and update the framework for education, drawing on her

experience as a visual and performing arts teacher and utilizing her English and social science credentials within her art classes.

Under this appointment, Tonkovich will advise the state Board of Education on curriculum and recommend instructional materials that will assist teachers in successfully implementing standards-based instruction.

"I try to keep up on education trends by attending development classes and conferences. If my students are going to be entering this modern 21st-century workforce, I need to teach them how to navigate it ahead of time."

Tonkovich said. "I am so fortunate to have this opportunity and am excited to make a difference in the education community."

Tonkovich was selected as the California Art Education Association's Outstanding Visual Art Educator in 2013 and has developed a keen ability to establish new arts standards and curriculum at the local level, while meeting the needs of a diverse student population.

At Cal High, Tonkovich teaches Art 1 and 2, Advanced Placement (AP) Studio Art for 2-D and drawing, AP Art History, and Video and Cinematic Arts — a course she developed. She

keeps current on trends in the art world by constantly reading blogs and news articles, attending conferences and workshops, and continuously trying to improve her knowledge of technology with opportunities such as iMovie lessons, bringing up-to-date, 21st century teaching to her students.

In addition to teaching AP classes, Tonkovich has also been teaching arts courses for English learners and special education students for more than two decades. She has attended trainings to assist English learners and participated in several conferences and workshops on Asperger's syndrome and autism to learn more about special education

teaching.

"I work well with a diverse student population," Tonkovich said. "Every student learns differently, so I alter my teaching style to address the diverse backgrounds and preferences of my students."

Field trips and art exhibitions are also a regular part of Tonkovich's curriculum. Students attend monthly trips outside the classroom to deepen their understanding of art and also exhibit their work at campus, local or national competitions. Her students have also been taught to reflect themselves in their artwork, think critically and make deliberate choices in the creative process.

"I want my students to always get the 'big idea' when it comes to their projects," Tonkovich said. "I make sure everything they do has a lasting value outside the classroom. I hope to bring all of this with me when I begin my

work with IQC.”

Additionally, Tonkovich has presented lectures at the National Art Educator Association conventions for eight years and is a mentor and peer coach at several area universities.

"Julie has demonstrated her ability to strengthen standards, instruction and assessment, while capturing the attention of her students through her engaging, inclusive teaching style," Whittier Union High School District Superintendent Sandra Thorstenson said. "Our District student achievement rate continues to grow thanks to our quality teachers, our collaborative culture and the innovative frameworks our teachers help to develop, and I am confident that Julie will inspire that same forward thinking at the state level."

WHITTIER – State Senator Tony Mendoza (D-Artesia) on Tuesday introduced a measure that would require school buses in California to be equipped with child-safety alarm systems to ensure that children are not left on buses unattended and in potentially hazardous circumstances.

Mendoza's proposal comes after an autistic student died last September after being forgotten on a school bus in Whittier. Authorities say Hun Joon Lee was left inside the hot bus for seven hours after being forgotten by a substitute bus driver.

"California should join other states that require child safety alarm systems on school buses. It is vital that we do everything we can to protect the many thousands of children transported daily to and from school," said Mendoza. "It is my hope that we can find some meaning in the recent tragic loss of a Whittier student on a school bus, in the form of meaningful change that will safeguard other children. It should not take events like this one to spur us into action on these issues."

Specifically, SB 1072 will:

*Require all school buses to be equipped with an operational child-safety alarm system that prompts the driver to inspect all seats before leaving

the bus. The system must be approved by the CHP and hard-wired into the vehicle's electrical system and activated when the ignition is turned on.

*Require drivers upon a renewal of their annual school bus driver safety certificate to receive training in child-safety check procedures.

*Impose a penalty for a driver, school district or contractor who knowingly permits a child to be transported in a bus in which a child safety alarm has not been installed, is not properly maintained, or is not in good working order.

*Direct the CHP to promulgate rules to implement this section and provide a list of child-safety alarms that are approved for use in school busses and a qualified technician or mechanic that can install the system.

*Grant school districts and school bus contractors a grace period of three months after the date that the CHP issues the rules to install a child safety alarm.

Current law requires public and private school districts to create and follow a transportation safety plan containing procedures for school personnel to follow to ensure the safe transportation of pupils. The plans must include specific procedures on

boarding and exiting a school bus at each pupil's bus stop and at the final trip destination.

Additionally, to operate a school bus, a driver is required to obtain a California Special Driver Certificate from the Department of Motor

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SHARED STORIES: THE TIES THAT BIND

An Inflatable Idea

Shared 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 the explorer with dramatic flair feelings of two young girls who find a Frederick's of Hollywood catalogue. The names have been changed to protect the innocent. Courtesy by Carol Kram

By Yolanda Adele

NORWALK - While walking home from my junior high school one day I saw a Frederick's 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 stood by myself 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 their bras. I didn't think "raising bras" counted. Still, Frederick's merchandise defined sexy; just what an adolescent catalogue.

I did what came naturally. I ran to my best friend's house to share my miraculous find. Had I been in a truck meet I had there seen in first place. It seemed that I reached Carla's front door in a few minutes. I tucked the catalogue into my skirt's 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. She 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. 'Who is at the door?'"

"It's just Jane, Mom. We are going to do our homework. Please let 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 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 close your eyes." 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 dress.

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

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

After the twelfth or thirteenth time pouring over the pages we decided to pull our babysitting money and our allowances to buy that "I'll be a star" T-shirt. Well be co-owners of a business that's well like what we on our own. The ad said that this bra was revolutionary. It came with a magical elastic, which allowed a woman to inflate her breasts to the desired into this wonder undergarment, thus giving her a cleavage that could rival any top 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 fat chested than I was. We were exhilarated at the potential promise this bra would "inflate" for us.

We stood up on the bed bouncing and laughing, throwing pillows in to the air. After a few minutes we fell 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 his face when she sees the new glamorous Me wearing my secret weapon?"

"Marilyn is such a stuck-up witch with a capital 'B' since she got all the boys' attention after padding her thighs too."

"Carla if I 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 safer here. You don't have a rag-tag sister share your room with you. Do you want to put the catalogue under your mattress?"

"Hi! No, that's where I lose my 'G' rated rating for my mom to sneak through. I will put it in the big stationary top of the bookcase. Not even my brother will look there."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rachel Tagawa and Nathaniel Yu are seen on iMac 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 1,500-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 iMac work stations, 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 Carol 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 library as it is a computerized classroom with space for both group and individual study.

In addition to new iMac computers, the studio center also boasts a 49-inch computer touch screen that allows up to four people to interact, take

Rahna Anjail practices on one of Cerritos Library's three new 65-inch touchscreen monitors.

with the modern devices," said Cerritos High senior Alexa Flores. "The teen studio, which will be opening and relating. It's a better, more open place to do research."

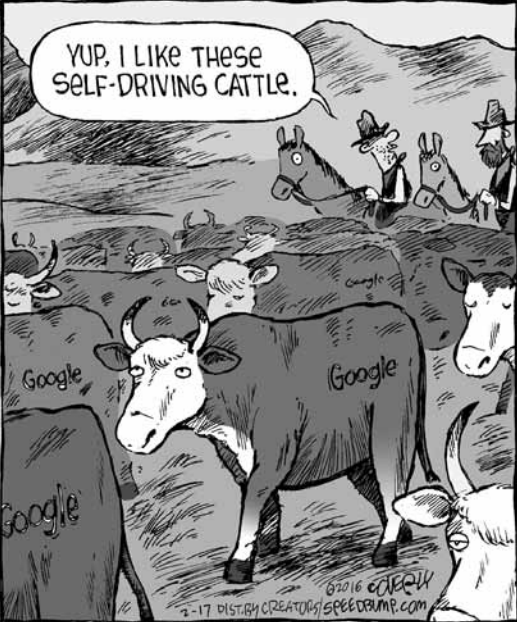
Similarly, junior believes the new

At a cost of more than \$200,000, the teen studio, which will be approximately 70 people, will be teenage library cardholders between the hours of 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. after school. It

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



On This Day...

Feb. 19, 1945: Some 30,000 U.S. Marines landed on Iwo Jima and began a month-long battle to seize control of the island from Japanese forces during World War II.

2008: An ailing Fidel Castro resigned the Cuban presidency after nearly a half-century in power.

2010: Golfer Tiger Woods admitted infidelity and acknowledged receiving therapy.

Birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson (76), actor Jeff Daniels (61), singer Seal (53), actor Benicio Del Toro (49), actress Haylie Duff (31) and actress Victoria Justice (23).

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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
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

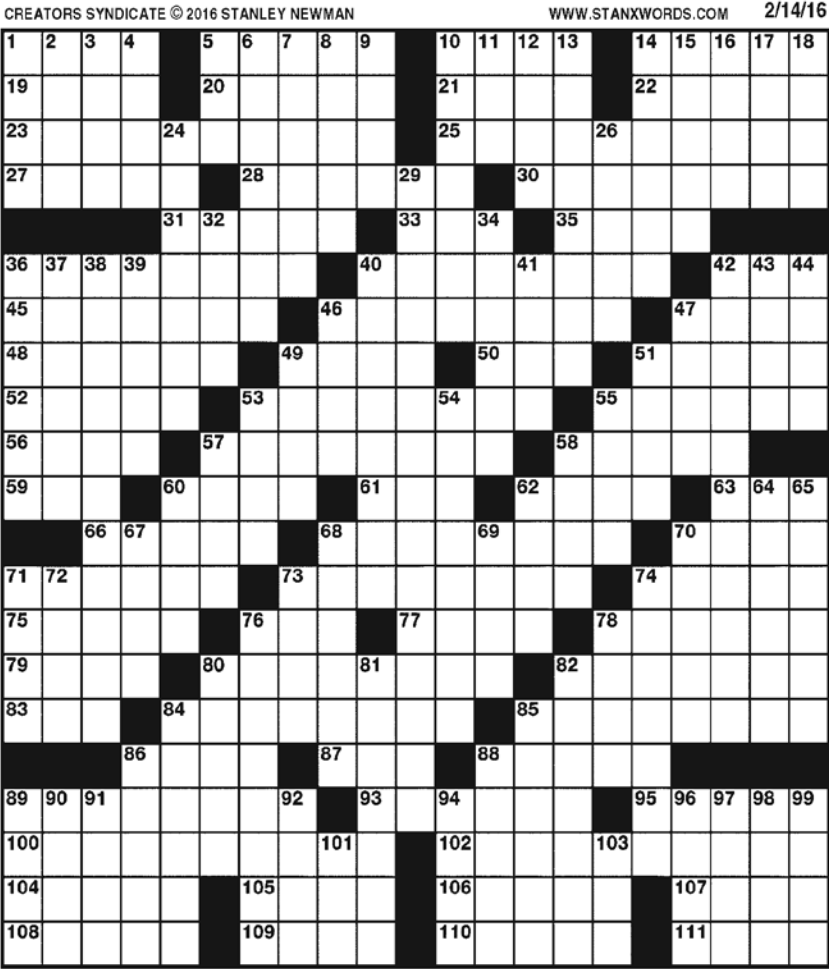
2nd, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast - First Christian Church of Norwalk
Have an event you want listed? E-mail news@thedowneypatriot.com

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
FOR VALENTINE'S DAY: AKA 29 Down
by S.N.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Role model
 - 5 Participated, with "in"
 - 10 350, in the Forum
 - 14 Disbursed
 - 19 Jurassic Park menace
 - 20 Blueblood
 - 21 Starter for sweet
 - 22 Elizabeth I's house
 - 23 Train puller
 - 25 Evinces vitality
 - 27 The other side
 - 28 Least common base hit
 - 30 Online lingo
 - 31 Downhill transportation
 - 33 Oprah's network
 - 35 Nintendo systems
 - 36 Props up
 - 40 Zoo features
 - 42 CD predecessors
 - 45 Ideal societies
 - 46 Encroach
 - 47 Motel amenity
 - 48 Moore poem VIP
 - 49 Singer Amos
 - 50 Strong cleanser
 - 51 Winter apparel
 - 52 Sources of wisdom
 - 53 Signs of affection
 - 55 Flock loser of rhyme
 - 56 Flock members
 - 57 Denies
 - 58 Saturn's largest moon
 - 59 On the Road narrator
 - 60 Cost of leaving
 - 61 Spa treatment, for short
 - 62 Large quantities
 - 63 Sci-fi sound effect
 - 66 Road retreat
 - 68 Transparent desserts
 - 70 Square-mile fraction
 - 71 With no trouble
- DOWN**
- 1 Just chillin'
 - 2 Canadian singing superstar
 - 3 Long ago
 - 4 Tower (over)
 - 5 Donator of Lennon's home to the National Trust
 - 6 Ceramic artisans
 - 7 Former Fords, for short
 - 8 First rock star on a US stamp
 - 9 Thought-provoking
 - 10 Narnia creator
 - 11 Big cheese
 - 12 Encouraging word
 - 13 "Me too!"
 - 14 Equilibrium
 - 15 Inexpensive mags of yore
 - 16 Actress Falco
 - 17 Astronomical sighting
 - 18 Arduous journey
 - 24 Séance holders
 - 26 Major messes
 - 29 Alternative title for the puzzle
 - 32 Security concern
 - 34 City near Vesuvius
 - 36 Smooches
 - 37 Parliament Hill locale
 - 38 Tough to attain
 - 39 Plants or moles
 - 40 One run in
 - 41 Solar products
 - 42 Wealth distribution diagram
 - 43 Not-so-gentle reminder
 - 44 Physical reprimand
 - 46 Unable to choose
 - 47 Kid-lit bear
 - 49 Peacock's pride
 - 51 Greenhouse supplies
 - 53 Genesis farmer
 - 54 Urban tree
 - 55 Storage containers
 - 57 Cartoonist Larson
 - 58 Stylish
 - 60 Zodiac beast
 - 62 Need a break
 - 64 ___ Army (golf legend's fans)
 - 65 Soprano Roberta
 - 67 Roof piece
 - 68 Beethoven actor
 - 69 Lab procedure
 - 70 First in Who's Who in the Bible
 - 71 To be, in Parée
 - 72 On holiday
 - 73 LummoX
 - 74 Submitting, with "in"
 - 76 Irrevocably
 - 78 Young stallion
 - 80 "Amscray!"
 - 81 Put pressure on
 - 82 Mars and Ares
 - 84 Fine point
 - 85 Guy handling screwdrivers
 - 86 Ascended
 - 88 Sore point
 - 89 Solidify
 - 90 Top-of-the-line
 - 91 Get outscored
 - 92 Paretsky of crime fiction
 - 94 Deflated slightly
 - 96 Consequently
 - 97 Kid-lit bear
 - 98 Olay alternative
 - 99 2014 TV Hall of Fame inductee
 - 101 Authenticate
 - 103 Michelle Obama, ___ Robinson

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



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