

The Norwalk Patriot

Friday, April 22, 2016

Vol. 10 No. 12

12040FosterRoad,Norwalk,CA90650

Norwalk Chamber selling raffle tickets

NORWALK – The Norwalk Chamber of Commerce is selling raffle tickets with a grand prize of \$2,500.

Second prize is a “wagon of holiday cheer.”

Only 250 tickets will be sold. The drawing will take place at the chamber’s Dec. 8 holiday mixer at the Sproul Reception Center.

Raffle tickets are \$25. To purchase a ticket, call (562) 864-7785 or email ceo@norwalkchamber.com.

Citizenship clinic at Norwalk Library

NORWALK – The Norwalk Library, in partnership with the South Asian Network, will host a citizenship clinic Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

The event is free but registration is required by calling the library at (562) 868-0775.

Classics book club meets Tuesday

NORWALK – The first meeting of the Alondra Library’s classics book club meets Tuesday, April 26, at 6:30 p.m.

The club will discuss Pearl S. Buck’s “The Good Earth,” written in 1931.

Copies of the book are available at the library. For questions, call (562) 868-777.

DIY Mother’s Day gifts

NORWALK – Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to the Norwalk Library on Wednesday, April 27, to create do-it-yourself Mother’s Day gifts.

All materials will be provided. The event is from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Senior trip to Strawberry Festival

NORWALK – Norwalk seniors can take a trip to the Strawberry Festival on Saturday, May 21.

The California Strawberry Festival in Oxnard features more than 50 food booths, contests, rides and attractions, more than 250 arts and crafts vendors, concerts and celebrity chef demonstrations.

Cost is \$15 and includes round trip transportation from City Hall.

Call (562) 929-5580 to register. The event is open to adults ages 50 and older.

Diabetes workshop in Cerritos

CERRITOS – The Cerritos Senior Center will host a free health lecture on diabetes this Wednesday at 1 p.m.

Learn how managing your diet, medication, exercise and attitude can bring about proven results in preventing and controlling diabetes.

Maria Puffpaff, N.P., of Pioneer Medical Group will lead the discussion.

The seminar is open to adults ages 50 and older. For questions, call (562) 916-8550.

Cerritos marks 60th anniversary

CERRITOS – Throughout the month of April, the Cerritos Library is holding an exhibit celebrating the city’s 60th anniversary.

Cerritos was incorporated on April 24, 1956 as the City of Dairy Valley

Cerritos is celebrating with its Community Spring Festival April 22-24.

Norwalk High senior Isabel Bayardo has been accepted to Johns Hopkins University on a Bloomberg Scholarship.

The 2015 grad is planning to study environmental engineering at the distinguished Whiting School of Engineering.

An avid reader with a 4.595 GPA, Bayardo credits a Millennium Club trip to the Aquarium of the Pacific as a freshman for setting in motion her desire to protect the ecosystem.

Photo courtesy Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District



Lynwood investing \$1.6 million to make students career-ready



LYNWOOD – Lynwood Unified will benefit from more than \$1 million in grants to extend career technical education (CTE) programs for middle and high school students, create internships for high school students and add avenues for earning college credit and professional certifications before graduation.

The funds include a \$1.05 million California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant and a \$650,000 California Careers Pathways Trust grant. Lynwood Unified will share with a micro-consortium of school districts led by Cerritos College. A third grant comes from the Linked Learning Hub, a partnership led by Long Beach Unified that includes Lynwood and California

State University, Long Beach and other districts – that will provide students broader access to student internships for high-demand careers and professional development opportunities for Lynwood educators to deepen career technical teaching, curriculum and the Linked Learning approach.

Linked Learning integrates curriculum across academic and career technical classes by combining hands on experience and rigorous classroom curriculum.

“These innovative partnerships give Lynwood Unified students a huge advantage,” said LUSD Superintendent Paul Gothold. “Students will have extraordinary opportunities to explore a variety

of high-demand professions. Students who know which path they wish to pursue can earn tuition-free college credits and even formal certifications.”

Lynwood Unified offers several career pathways, including Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering, Performing Arts, Photography, Media and Design Arts, Bio-Medical, Nursing, and Culinary Arts.

The District will create more work-based learning and career exploration opportunities for lower grade levels. Additional courses developed by Project Lead The Way – the nation’s leader in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) curriculum – will be accessible to middle school students during the school day and offered at no cost as extended day and summer courses.

The District will expand its career technical program to elementary grades through a series of events that incorporate mentoring opportunities for upper grade CTE students. The District will also continue to offer student leadership opportunities through career-related organizations, such as the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, National Society of Black Engineers, and Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA): Future Health Professionals.

All ninth-grade students will take a college and career prep course, and all students will have access to Naviance -- a web-based platform for students to research colleges, plan courses and connect what they are doing in school to what they would like to do once they complete their education.

Educators also plan to expand opportunities for high school students to enroll concurrently in college classes.

Students typically enroll in a three-year program of classes for each pathway, ending with a capstone course that can bring industry-recognized certifications, licenses or credentials that can help them secure jobs after graduation or position them more strongly for college admission.

Last year, five Lynwood high school students graduated with completed certificates from Cerritos College in Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering.

“By opening up these career pathways for students, we are helping them develop the skills, technical knowledge, and real-world experience for high-skill and highly successful careers,” Lynwood Unified Board of Education President Alma-Delia Renteria said.

Shared Stories: Pictures of a Birthday Party

Photographs carefully saved by an aunt were a revelation to Maria Gutierrez. In one afternoon, the story in the pictures overcame Maria’s feelings of abandonment, and reassured her that she was loved. 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 Maria Helen Gutierrez

It was on a beautiful sunny day one April that my husband and I set aside time to visit my dad’s only sister in Monterey Park.

After enjoying a light lunch, Aunt Alice invited us into her living room. Stacked in the center of a large, antique, brown coffee table were four family albums. Hoping to find pictures of my parents, siblings, and myself, I asked permission to look at them.

Halfway through the second album, which was four inches thick, I saw several pictures of myself, dressed up in pink and lavender, and standing on a table with a cake in front of me. I was surprised to know that Aunt Alice and Grandma Delfina had taken this picture of my first birthday party.

My aunt answered my questions about the pictures, and then I asked if I could borrow them to make a set for myself.

That day, as I looked at the photo albums, God helped me realize how much I was loved by Mama and Grandma Delfina. Yes, I was not an ugly duckling that my father and the boys in junior high made me feel like.

These precious pictures and the discussion with Aunt Alice gave me the therapy that I needed in order to overcome the feelings of abandonment and abuse by my father and the mocking that I experienced in school and church.

These pictures strengthened my commitment to be a loyal, godly wife, daughter, and supportive sister toward my siblings; and I desire to uplift others.

The following is the story that I learned from Aunt Alice and the pictures of my first birthday party.

Early in the morning of February 25 my mother woke me with a loving greeting and kiss. “Elena, My Love, it is your first birthday.” She bathed me and fed me homemade “Avena” oatmeal with cinnamon and bananas.

After breakfast, with me sitting on my pink “Little Lulu” designed high chair, Mama carefully removed my “rollers.” The rollers were shredded strips of rags that were used to tie and set my hair in curls the night before.

Mama combed my long, brown, thick hair, styling it to resemble Shirley Temple curls. Two-inch wide pink and lavender ribbons were tied on both sides of my head in fluffy bows.

Mother and Grandma Delfina made me feel like a princess in a pink and lavender dress that Grandma had made on her Singer sewing machine. The night before my mother had added white beaded ruffles to the puffy sleeves and hemline of my dress.

An antique brown dining table was placed in front of Grandma’s white, English colonial fireplace, which was freshly painted that week. There was a mirror above it, and the mantle was decorated with streamers and ribbons. The table was decorated with handmade crepe paper roses.

This was the stage where Mama carefully stood me. Grandma told me to smile as I posed for a picture of me blowing out the big pink candle in the center of the rose-decorated cake.

Calls for ice cream could be heard from my ten impatient cousins. Mama served me a big bowl of ice cream with a small piece of marble cake.

Grandma Delfina caught me with my mouth full of food as she clicked her Kodak camera. Thank God she took another picture of me, this time catching a good pose of me laughing and smiling while my cousins and I played games like Pin the Tail On the Donkey and tossing balls at Bozo’s nose.

Gifts were piled on Grandma’s antique coffee table which sat in front of the dining room window. I enjoyed opening the gifts, and Mama and Grandma saved the wrapping paper and colorful bows. My cousins went home with a smile and with cookies made by Mama and Grandma.

Mama used the paper as liners for bedroom vanity drawers. I used some of the bows to decorate my doll’s hair, and Mama would put some bows in my hair.

Now, at age 60-plus, I cherish the memories of the fun-filled piñata parties that I enjoyed the following years with my four siblings: Carmela, the twins Genie and Junior, and Ramon.

Every child in the world should experience at least one special birthday party. Now antique tables and vintage homes will always remind me of Grandma’s warm, loving and festive home where beautiful memories were made.

Thank you, Mama and Grandma, for blessing me with loving tokens.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 72°

Saturday 76°

Sunday 77°

THINGS TO DO



Bike Festival

Saturday - Pico Rivera Student Services, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bicycle rides, vendors, community booths, bike repairs, health fair, and more. 9426 Marjorie St.



Community Empowerment

Saturday - Woman's Club of Downey, 10 a.m.

Hear updates from Downey mayor Alex Saab, chat with Downey Police, and learn about your community.



Grunion Run

Saturday - Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, 8 p.m.

Watch the silvery fish swim to shore to spawn. Warm clothing and flashlights recommended. \$5 adults



Freestyle Festival

All Weekend - Queen Mary

Performances by Salt N Pepa, Stevie B., Slick Rick, Lisa Lisa, Biz Markie, and others. \$50



GGG

Saturday - The Forum, 6 p.m.

Middleweight champion Gennady Golovkin faces Dominic Wade. Tickets start at \$30



Juliete Venegas

Friday - The Wiltern, 7 p.m.

The American-born Mexican pop-rock singer performs live. \$35

TWEET OF THE WEEK

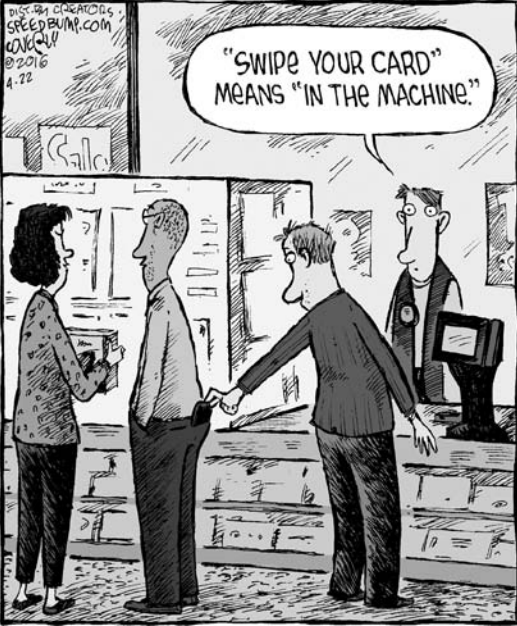
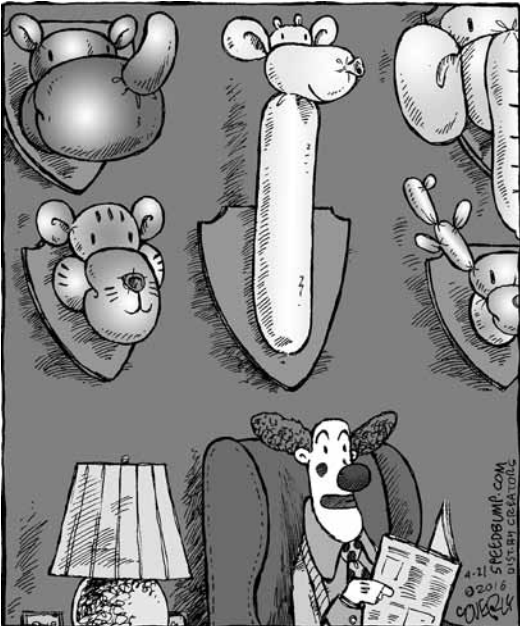
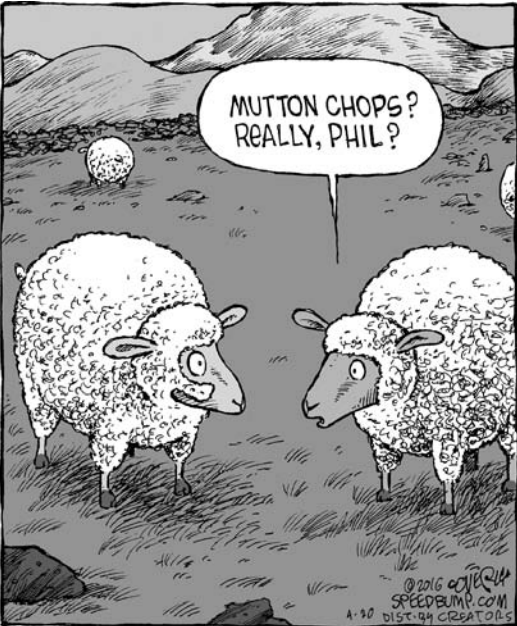
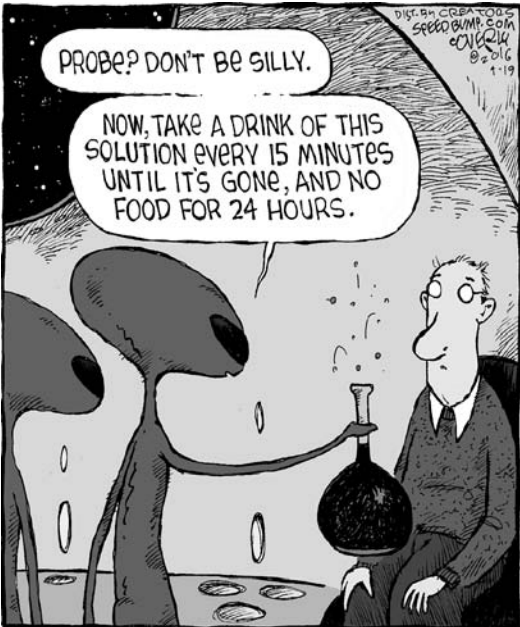
@LegendofLucky: Nothing like that fresh Norwalk air (I'm secretly the best photographer ever)

Follow us!
@DowneyPatriot

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



On This Day...

April 22, 1864: Congress authorized the use of the phrase “In God We Trust” on U.S. coins.

1994: Richard M. Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, died at age 81 in New York City, four days after suffering a stroke.

2000: Armed immigration agents seized Elian Gonzalez from his relatives’ home in Miami; the 6-year-old boy was reunited with his father.

Birthdays: Actor Jack Nicholson (79), guitarist Peter Frampton (66), comedian Ryan Stiles (57), retired football player Marshawn Lynch (30), model Amber Heard (30) and former Dodgers second baseman Dee Gordon (28).

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The Norwalk Patriot
Please Call
Dorothy Michael
• • • • •
MaryAnn Sourial
(562) 868-3022

Send us your Letters to the Editor, Press Releases, photos, meeting and club schedules!

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Norwalk, CA 90650

Email:
news@thedowneypatriot.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - DIY Mother’s Day gifts - Norwalk Library

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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

1:00 p.m. - Adult color club “Color Us Happy” - Norwalk Library
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)

MISSPELLING BEE: Of the ingestible sort

by Fred Piscop

ACROSS

1 The Prado's locale

7 Sculpted form

12 Relay, as information

18 Soccer-match cheer

19 Sky hunter

20 Big Sky Country

21 Gum brand

23 Dessert-topping brand

24 CPR pros

25 Moonshine holders

26 Banqueted, perhaps

28 Well-behaved

29 Hiking trail

30 Weather page data

31 Designer Geoffrey

33 Without incident

37 Cereal brand

39 Be in accord

40 HBO talk-show host

42 Talia, to Nicolas

43 Produce cartography

46 Swedish currency

47 Grace conclusion

48 PC key near Insert

50 Self-esteem

51 Paulo, Brazil

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54 Socked away

55 Baseball great Ryan

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59 Abundant

60 Right-leaning, as type

61 Gondolier's implement

63 Ice-cream brand

67 Voice quality

68 Without delay

70 Aussie rapper

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73 Press-kit insert

74 Oscar winner Foxx

76 Overly proper one

77 Clean-air org.

80 Get-up-and-go

81 Destroys by degrees

83 Street (reputation)

84 Midnight in Paris

86 Mos. and mos.

87 Waste no time

88 Mediterranean

106 Down

89 Hawk's gripper

90 Cracker-topping brand

93 Shakespearean

94 101 Down provider

97 Get-well program

98 Marsh plant

100 Trim down

101 Barbershop quartet member

102 Owner of Whiskas

103 Prefix for present

107 Snack cake brand

110 Cereal brand

113 Mideast language group

114 Good-for-nothing

115 Gas-pump selection

116 Sent to a new team

117 Stand in good

118 Require decryption to read

10 One in the army

11 Lake near Syracuse

12 Okra portion

13 "What else?"

14 Mostly Ghostly

15 Admitted at the door

16 Chilling

17 Back of the neck

20 Doc's prescription

22 Except for

23 Enlarge, as a blueprint

27 Ensnare

29 "If you would . . ."

30 In those days

31 Needing straightening

32 Breadth

33 Upscale retail chain

34 Taj Mahal city

35 Cereal brand

36 Ending for velvet

37 Use a strop on

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41 Accumulate

43 Soft-drink brand

44 All over

45 Puerto Rican city

48 Looney Tunes toon

49 Even once

53 Top of the head

54 Onslaught

56 Mare fare

58 Fabric rip

59 Kelly's former TV partner

60 Eddie Bauer competitor

61 Popeye's dad

62 Questionnaire choice

64 Cellphone display

65 Marsh wader

66 Slip away from

69 Strong-arm

72 In a chair

74 Opera star Carreras

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78 Drudge

79 Actress Hathaway

82 Essen's river

83 Nursery item

85 Trail the pack

88 Auto, humorously

91 Branch of Buddhism

92 Fingerprint patterns

93 Right next to

94 Rattan worker

95 Nasal appraisal

96 Up the ante, perhaps

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99 Go wrong

100 Subtle alert

101 Pampering, for short

102 Small plateau

103 World Oil Outlook publisher

104 Soup at sushi bars

105 Must-have thing

106 Land in water

108 Banqueted, perhaps

109 Soup-to-go topper

111 Sign from a conductor

112 Go wrong

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

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The Norwalk Patriot reserves the right to censor, reclassify, revise or reject any ad. The Norwalk Patriot is not responsible for incorrect ads beyond the first business day of an ad scheduled. Please check your ad on the first day of publication and report any errors we have made to the Classified Department at 562-904-3668 at the beginning of the next business day to have it publish correctly for the remainder of the schedule.

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.

Shire (nee Coppola).

his father's sister, actress Talia

Nicolas Cage (ne Coppola) and

reference at 42 Across is to actor

on a 1963 cover of Vogue. The

BRENE (31 Across) was featured

fashion collection of Geoffrey

meadow. A dress from the first

word for "meadow"; the Spanish

PRADO (1 Across) is the museum

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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@thedownepatriot.com.

This Industry is Making a Killing

By Rebecca Green

The 2016 presidential elections are proving historic, and not just because of the surprising success of self-proclaimed socialist Bernie Sanders, the lively debate among feminists over whether to support Hillary Clinton, or Donald Trump's unorthodox candidacy.

The elections are also groundbreaking because they're revealing more dramatically than ever the corrosive effect of big money on our decaying democracy.

Following the 2010 Citizens United Supreme Court decision and related rulings, corporations and the wealthiest Americans gained the legal right to raise and spend as much money as they want on political candidates.

The 2012 elections were consequently the most expensive in U.S. history. And this year's races are predicted to cost even more. With the general election still six months away, donors have already sunk \$1 billion into the presidential race — with \$619 million raised by candidates and another \$412 million by super PACs.

Big money in politics drives grave inequality in our country. It also drives war.

After all, war is a profitable industry. While millions of people all over the world are being killed and traumatized by violence, a small few make a killing from the never-ending war machine.

During the Iraq War, for example, weapons manufacturers and a cadre of other corporations made billions on federal contracts.

Most notoriously this included Halliburton, a military contractor previously led by Dick Cheney. The company made huge profits from George W. Bush's decision to wage a costly, unjustified, and illegal war while Cheney served as his vice president.

Military-industrial corporations spend heavily on political campaigns. They've given over \$1 million to this year's presidential candidates so far — over \$200,000 of which went to Hillary Clinton, who leads the pack in industry backing.

These corporations target House and Senate members who sit on the Armed Forces and Appropriations Committees, who control the purse strings for key defense line items. And

The Death Gap

By Sam Pizzigati

Rich people live longer than poor people. No big news there — we've known that health tracks wealth for quite some time now.

But here's what we haven't known: The life-expectancy gap between rich and poor in the United

States is actually accelerating.

Since 2001, American men among the nation's most affluent 5 percent have seen their lifespans increase by more than two years. American women in that bracket have registered an almost three-year extension to their life expectancy.

Meanwhile, the poorest five percent of Americans have seen essentially no gains at all.

Now a three-year gain in average lifespan might not, at first glance, seem earth-shakingly significant. But consider this: If doctors could by some miracle suddenly cure all cancer, federal health officials tell us, the average overall American life expectancy would increase by just three years.

In other words, as MIT's Michael Stepner puts it, the changes in life expectancy we've witnessed over the last 15 years rank as "the equivalent of the richest Americans winning the war on cancer."

The gap widens to a chasm when you look at the 1 percent.

Forty-year-old American women among our nation's top 1 percent can now expect to live 10 years longer than women of the same age in America's poorest 1 percent. For men, the gap has grown even wider — to 15 years.

All these stats come from a study just published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. This new research combines IRS tax records with Social Security Administration mortality data to paint a deeply unnerving picture of 21st-century life and death.

LEGALSGOVERNMENT

CITY OF NORWALK
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ADJUSTMENT OF FEES AND SERVICE CHARGES

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2016
Time: 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard
Place: City Council Chambers, Norwalk City Hall, 12700 Norwalk Boulevard, Norwalk, CA 90650

Description: The City Council will conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of Resolution No. 16-18, which would establish and/or adjust citywide fees and service charges, including, but not limited to, development fees such as applications for zone changes, conditional use permits and variances, park use fees, recreation class fees, regulatory business permits, pet license fees, utilities department fees, and facility rentals and other similar fees and charges. A copy of a Comprehensive User Fee Study showing the cost to the City to provide the services or process the permits for which the fees are imposed and prepared for the City by an independent firm is on file in the City Clerk's Office and may be inspected or copied during normal office hours. Public Comment: Interested persons are invited to attend this hearing and be heard regarding this matter. Written comments may be submitted to the City Council prior to the time set for the hearing. Address written comments: Attention City Clerk at the address noted above or by email to clerk@norwalkca.gov. More Information: Questions concerning the public hearing matter should be directed to Jana Stuard, Finance Director at (562) 929-5748, jstuard@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 this 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 15th day of April 2016.

/s/ Theresa Devoy, CMC
City Clerk

The Norwalk Patriot
4/15/16, 4/22/16

cleverly, they've planted factories in most congressional districts. Even if they provide just a few dozen constituent jobs per district, that helps curry favor with each member of Congress.

Thanks to aggressive lobbying efforts, weapons manufacturers have secured the five largest contracts made by the federal government over the last seven years. In 2014, the U.S. government awarded over \$90 billion worth of contracts to Lockheed Martin, Boeing, General Dynamics, Raytheon, and Northrop Grumman.

Military spending has been one of the top three biggest federal programs every year since 2000, and it's far and away the largest discretionary portion. Year after year, elected officials spend several times more on the military than on education, energy, and the environment combined.

Lockheed Martin's problematic F-35 jet illustrates this disturbingly disproportionate use of funds. The same \$1.5 trillion Washington will spend on the jet, journalist Tom Cahill calculates, could have provided tuition-free public higher education for every student in the U.S. for the next 23 years. Instead, the Pentagon ordered a fighter plane that can't even fire its own gun yet.

Given all of this, how can anyone justify war spending?

Some folks will say it's to make us safer. Yet the aggressive U.S. military response following the 9/11 attacks — the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, the NATO bombing of Libya, and drone strikes in Pakistan and Yemen — has only destabilized the region. "Regime change" foreign policies have collapsed governments and opened the doors to Islamist terrorist groups like ISIS.

Others may say they support a robust Pentagon budget because of the jobs the military creates. But dollar for dollar, education spending creates nearly three times more jobs than military spending.

We need to stop letting politicians and corporations treat violence and death as "business opportunities." Until politics become about people instead of profits, we'll remain crushed in the death grip of the war machine.

And that is the real national security threat facing the United States today.

Rebecca Green is an intern with the women-led peace group CodePink.

Advertisement for The Norwalk Patriot subscription. It features a large graphic with the text "\$10.00 GUARANTEED DELIVERY SUBSCRIPTION". Below this, there is a photo of the newspaper's front page, which includes headlines such as "School board considers bond measure to renovate schools" and "Council approves CDBG spending plan".

The Norwalk Patriot is offering subscriptions for \$10/year. Subscription guarantees delivery every Friday to single-family homes in Norwalk.

12040 Foster Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

Name:	
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Phone:	

COMMENTARY: City Council makes ill-advised changes to Norwalk bus system

By Raul Samaniego
Contributor

NORWALK – The Norwalk City Council voted to implement the proposed changes to Norwalk Transit Route Numbers 1 and 3 at Tuesday’s public comment council meeting.

Council Member Leonard Shryock led the way with what sounded like an commander’s order to Transportation Director James Parker to basically stop working on any proposals regarding this issue and gave an ultimatum to the City of Whittier to come up with some cash of their own.

Council Member Cheri Kelly was opposed to “subsidizing” the NTS for other communities.

Councilman Marcel Rodarte was no angel on this matter either. He was very vocal in his opposition to the continuation and/or taking over Metro line 270. That’s a lot of posturing for a lame duck council member who is departing the big leather chair within 60 days or so.

Half a dozen people addressed the council including the acknowledgement that over 160 signatures on two petitions from riders were presented in support of their opposition to any service cuts..

There seemed to be confusion as to who the riders were. One woman said she rode the bus south from the San Gabriel Valley and would be “adversely affected if the service was eliminated.”

Another wheelchair bound speaker asked directly if any council member or Mr. Parker rode the bus system.

No hands went up.

There is an environment of wondering why the Metro 270 is being discontinued by the Metro system. Some believe it is a low rider, low revenue generating route.

The absorption of the Metro line 270 into the NTS system appears dependent on a Meeting slated for April 28th by the Metro organization.

Riding the Number 3 last week,

I spoke with half a dozen riders who would be affected by the cuts.

Bonita Griego, 69, was returning from her monthly trip to the Norwalk Civic Center area.

With the deletion of the route 3 between Telegraph Road and Carmenita to the Whittier Depot, it would add some time to her commute with “a less than 10 minute walk to pick up the 270.”

Unfortunately, her plans weren’t including the elimination of the Metro line 270 as an alternative. Griego has been riding the number 3 for over a year now.

The atmosphere emitting from Councilman Shryock was one of contempt for the riders who seemingly were all residents of communities other than Norwalk.

For me, I get that. I utilize the number three when I am going to Whittier for the pleasure of sitting in their heavily shaded downtown area, sipping a cup of coffee and visiting that book store I mentioned last week.

The Depot at the end of route 3 services primarily the NTS bus with a nice sitting park and old style re-furnished train station.

“John,” a 66-year-old commuter, used the number 3 “mainly for convenience.” He was returning from a shopping trip to the Gateway Center at the designated new ending point at Telegraph and Carmenita.

A couple blocks away at the Whittier Senior Center, Joan Mithers, Community Services Manager Parks, Recreation & Community Services, was aware of the situation and stated that any comments at the time were “premature.”

She did add, “We are very interested in preserving the bus lines in Whittier.”

When asked how the city was prepared to do that, Mithers said she was “not ready to speak to that.”

Well, after waiting 40 minutes

for those two sentences, I jumped back on the Raulmobile and headed back to the Depot for the bus ride home. Waiting for the bus under the nicely constructed shelter was 28-year-old Nick Rodriguez.

“I use the Number 3 to get me to the Norwalk Metrolink Station,” he said. “I go out to Corona once a week to visit my mom.”

At Tuesday’s public comment meeting, the council’s decision to drop parts of the number 1 and the 3 was passed 3 to 2 with members Shryock, Kelly and Rodarte voting for riders to warm up their thumbs and invest in some name brand walking shoes with Vernola and Mayor Mike Mendez siding with me, I mean, the valued riders of route 3 and 1.

As the meeting was winding down with the last item on the agenda, I hobble out to get some last words from Whittier’s Joan Mithers as she made a dash for the exit.

With the look of Kelly Ripa when she heard the news of her Live Show host’s announcement that he was leaving the show, Ms Mithers could only compose herself and say, “No comment.”

Finally, the deletion for route 1’s weekday section north of Rio Hondo College is scheduled to be implemented June 27, 2016.

Route 3’s removal of the section north of Carmenita and Telegraph Road to the Whittier Depot is scheduled for September 2016 with no specific date listed.

Again, unfortunately, the final decision regarding Metro route 270 will not be known until Thursday April 28.

So, AMC, please implement a \$5 dollar Tuesday so I can again give my cinema and coffee business to a Norwalk provider.



5 ways to save on an overseas trip

By Nathaniel Sillin

My neighbors and I talked for weeks about their upcoming European vacation with their teenaged kids. We discussed every single place they planned to visit. But when I asked if they knew how much their European train and ground transportation, smartphone data plans and meals out were going to cost, they shrugged and said, “We’re not worried. That’s the cheapest part of the trip!”

They might have been right ‐ if they had planned ahead. Sometimes it’s not the airfare and hotel bill that get you, it’s the failure to monitor small expenses that can turn into big ones in a hurry. No matter where you go, there are hidden money pits. That’s why smart money management before you travel is so important. Whether you meet or exceed your budget depends on how you plan and execute your spending.

Consider these five tips to help you conserve funds in all major areas of vacation spending:

1. **Start by sweating the small stuff.** Take some time to do a bit of research on basic expenses at the various locations where you’re

planning to go. Talking to friends can help and so can travel magazines and sites.

2. **Keep the costs of ground transportation in mind.** The convenience of cabs or rental cars will likely cost more and, depending where you go, some options might be safer than others, so study options like reloadable city smart cards or continental rail passes. Paying individual ticket prices for short hops or long journeys can drain your budget. Also, consider traveling at off-peak times of the day to get cheaper rates on train travel.

3. **Know what it costs to use your electronics.** You’ve probably heard about people getting socked with huge cell phone bills. To avoid this, call your carrier before you leave to make sure your phone will work wherever you’re going. If so, check if they offer an affordable international talk and data plan. If not, consider options like an international SIM card ‐ a small chip card that fits inside your phone for specific use within that country; or a prepaid phone. If you’re downloading any apps to supply maps, translation or reading material on your phone or computer, do it while you are home to avoid chewing up international data at your destination. Also, be careful with Wi-Fi. Many recognizable global restaurants and fast-food chains offer the service for free, so check before you pay for it. Once you’re home, be sure to cancel any international services you’ve ordered.

4. **Eat like the locals.** The Internet and the myriad travel sites it offers make it easy to find good places to eat at all price levels practically anywhere in the world. But eating food out can add up. Focus on the cheapest and safest ways the locals eat.

5. **Travel insurance can be smart money management.** Lost luggage, missed connections or a medical emergency won’t just ruin your trip, they can potentially wreck your finances. Check your personal home and health insurance to see what they might cover on a trip and back your protection with a leading travel insurance policy. Visit websites that will allow you to compare coverage you need to select the best option for you. Make sure to check any travel insurance policy closely for any exclusions or pre-existing conditions that could void your coverage.



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