Friday, April 29, 2016 Vol. 10 No. 13 12040 Foster Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

#### **Downey mayor** emphasises quality of life in State of the City speech

**By Eric Pierce Editor** 

**DOWNEY** – Downey remains a safe city in strong financial standing thanks to conservative spending that prioritizes public safety and quality of life, Mayor Alex Saab said Tuesday.

The mayor made the statements during the Downey Chamber of Commerce's State of the City fundraising event, held at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

on our police and fire departments, but it's worth every single dime," Saab said.

many recent developments in Downey, with a couple of surprise announcements. For example, Saab revealed the creation of a Downtown and stay dedicated to achieving Downey art walk, and announced it," NLMUSD Superintendent Dr. that a citizens patrol program is Hasmik Danielian said. "This is under consideration by the police department

Much of the mayor's presentation centered on maintaining a high quality of life for residents. Saab said Downey was on pace to open its 200th neighborhood watch group this year (there are 186 groups currently) and street repairs on Downey roadways are at an all-time high.

"From a strong, fiscally sound budget of over \$160 million to a wide expansion of our citywide street improvement projects, our commitment to you is to continue to enhance the qualify of life in Downey for everyone," said the mayor.

Park rangers - under the authority of Downey Police - will soon begin patrols of Downey parks, Saab said. Keeping the downtown area safe is also a priority, said the

Saab heaped praise on Downey's fire department, and said the city was committed to providing them "with the latest state of the art equipment." Two new fire engines are expected to go into service next month, and firefighters already received new jaws of life apparatus.

"We're committed to allocating the funds necessary to help police and fire do their jobs," the mayor

Saab said that the new Alfa Romeo dealership opening next month expects to sell up to 900 vehicles annually within three years, and also lauded Downey Nissan for their expansion.

It was also announced that Walmart will have its grand opening May 11 at 7:30 a.m. Walmart's new store manager was in attendance.

The mayor ended his address by imploring residents to give back to their community.

"Volunteer, join a service club.... the more you volunteer, the more you appreciate Downey, and the greater our city becomes."

#### Sign up now for Kids & Cops golf tournament

NORWALK - Norwalk's Kids & Cops Miniature Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, June 4, at 11 a.m. at Golf N Stuff.

The tournament is for kids ages

The barbecue and awards ceremony will immediately follow the golfing at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex.

Deadline to register for the tournament is May 7. Space is limited; registration is taken at the Arts & Sports Complex.

For more information, call (562) 929-5566

## Norwalk-La Mirada students showcase talents in joint concert with La Mirada Symphony

NORWALK - Thirty Norwalk-La Mirada middle school musicians, all District Honor Band members, got their first experience performing on the big stage when they joined with the La Mirada Symphony for a pair of performances April 19 at the La Mirada Theater for the Performing Arts, with more than 1,000 district students in the audience.

The Youth Enrichment program performance is a showcase for the district's Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) program. Two district music teachers - Vanessa Trevino from Benton Middle School and David Yamamoto from Corvallis "Not many cities spend like we do Middle School - served as guest

"The opportunity to perform with some of the best musicians in The mayor's address covered the world is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and serves to show our students that anything is possible if they establish a goal a wonderful event. They played School guitarists were introduced beautifully."

> La Mirada Symphony conductor Alan Mautner began the program by giving the audience a brief tutorial on the four components of a symphony orchestra percussion, wind, brass and strings. Then, assembled the honor band musicians on stage to play "Into the Harrell, who will continue her Clouds" and "The Thunderer."

"This is my first time getting to play with the symphony," said Julissa Flores, a Corvallis seventhgrader who plays double bass. "I am looking to improve myself and my classmates. We can all learn from each other."



A Norwalk-La Mirada student makes her musical debut with assistance from La Mirada Symphony conductor Alan Mautner on April 19, during a pair of performances with the La Mirada Symphony by thirty NLMUSD middle school honor band musicians.

as winners of the Blanche Nissim Memorial Competition. LMHS senior Kayla Harrell and sophomore Alyssa Salas performed a guitar duet of a Domenico Scarlatti sonata and received both a medal and a \$100 cash prize.

"This is pretty cool," said music education at Vanguard University and has collaborated with Salas for two years. "This is such a great opportunity to learn from professionals."

In a light moment, Mautner invited four NLMUSD elementary school students on stage to play

Next, two La Mirada High a variety of unlikely percussion they apply themselves." instruments – a slide whistle, a bike horn and a bird whistle - with the symphony. This prompted a large cheer from the audience, which consisted of the entire District fifthgrade class, as well as advanced band, orchestra and guitar class students from all the middle

> "This is a really fun day, and it serves as an excellent recruitment tool for the music program," District VAPA coordinator Karen Calhoun said. "For the fifth-grade class, it presents an achievable goal for them upon entering middle school, and for the middle school musicians, it shows what can be accomplished if

Music instruction is offered to every NLMUSD student - from transitional kindergarten to grade twelve - as part of the VAPA curriculum. The Youth Enrichment Program began in 2001 as a way to bring orchestral music to the

"Our collaboration with the La Mirada Symphony continues to be a jewel of our performing arts program, and we thank their board of directors for their enthusiasm and support for our VAPA program," NLMUSD Board President Karen Morrison said.

### Weekend at a Glance



#### THINGS TO DO



**Arbor Day** Saturday - New River Park in Norwalk, 8 a.m.

Help celebrate Arbor Day with a community tree-planting. All material is provided.



**Ride and Stride** 

Sunday - Downey, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Roads will close to vehicular traffic as residents enjoy walking, biking and more. Plus food and music.



Racou Fest 7016 Sunday - Los Angeles Center Studios,

Signature bacon dishes, vendors, photo booths, and unlimited beer from over 20 breweries. \$64



Tacos & Beer 5K Saturday - El Dorado Park in Long Beach, 9 a.m.

5K run/walk with entertainment along the route. Plus live mariachi, pinatas, and more. \$49



**Coffee with Janice Hahn** Saturday - Long Beach Fire Station No. 12, 10 a.m.

Meet the leading candidate to replace Don Knabe.



#### **Relay for Life**

Saturday - Paramount Park, 9 a.m. 24-hour fundraiser for American Cancer Society.

#### TWEET OF THE WEEK

@TalonMarks: Editor-in-chief, Karla Enriquez, speaks about how the proposed budget cut for TM would impact us deeply.

## After just one year of training, Whittier High ballerina qualifies for international competition



High School sophomore Madeline Czekaj placed third in the San Diego Youth America Grand Prix classical senior division out of more than 180 dancers. Now, she is headed to the New York City finals to compete for ballet scholarship opportunities. (Photo credit: Chloe Hemsley)

WHITTIER - It takes some professional ballerinas a lifetime ballet. At Whittier High, Czekaj is to gain recognition for their technical wizardry and skill, artistic musicality and grace, and unrivaled passion for their dance. 3.8 GPA. For Whittier High School student

In January, Czekaj, 15, competed against more than 180 dancers to tie third place in the San Diego Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) classical senior division, qualifying her for the YAGP finals in New York City April 22-29 and the opportunity to win a scholarship to one of the world's 30 leading dance academies.

Despite having only one year of formal ballet training, Czekaj is now among the group of 486 soloists and 789 ensembles from 36 countries to make it to the YAGP finals, one of the most prestigious ballet competitions.

"This is like the Olympics for ballet," Czekaj said. "I love ballet because I can express my feelings through my body instead of by speaking. Through this competition, can hopefully get noticed by a professional ballet school so I can turn that love into a career."

Her achievements don't stop at enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) European history and honors English and geometry and carries a

"I really admire my high

Madeline Czekaj, it has taken just school for allowing me to pursue has now worked up to practicing my passion and complete projects four to five hours a day, six days my hectic ballet schedule is very School.

important to me." summer scholarship opportunities from professional ballet schools in Boston, Houston and San Francisco. That number could jump be in attendance in search of fresh

"Madeline sets such a great example for her peers," Whittier High School Principal Lori Eshilian said. "For her to rise to the top that quickly in a program that is so demanding speaks volumes about her. She exhibits the kind of perseverance all students can strive

Czekaj got her first glimpse of ballet at age 10, when her older sister briefly took up the art form. Due to financial circumstances, Czekaj didn't enroll into a formal program until she was 14, taking one-hour classes for the first few weeks. The flourishing ballerina

ahead of time if I have a competition a week with coaches Sarma coming up," Czekaj said. "Being Lapenieks Rosenberg and Lawrence able to include school work into Rosenberg at the Anaheim Ballet

"After one year of formal Czekaj's has already received training, I'm amazed to see how far Madeline's come and how patient she has been just waiting for her chance to shine," said her mother, Sylvia Flores. "Some of after her New York competition, these girls started practicing when where scouts from the world's most they were 3 or 4 years old and had prestigious ballet programs will to push themselves so hard to get to where they are now. I am just so overwhelmed and happy for her and can't wait to see what opportunities the future has in store for her."

> Czekaj hopes to transform her passion for ballet into a career.

"We want all our students pursue their dreams," Whittier Union High School District Superintendent Sandra Thorstenson said. "Madeline is chasing her dream and maintaining extraordinary grades at the same time. Her ability to sustain this excellence inside and outside the classroom is something we hope other students can learn from as they explore their own futures."

#### 8-17. Cost is \$10 and includes golf, a t-shirt, barbecue, awards and raffle dislete. Assembly speaker to deliver commencement address Students graduating

Assembly Anthony Rendon will deliver the to some of the nation's top colleges commencement address when and universities, including UCLA, Cerritos College holds its 59th UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara, annual graduation ceremony California State Universities Friday, May 20, at 6 p.m. in Falcon Northridge, Los Angeles, Long Stadium.

The college will present associate degrees and skills in 2012, representing the 63rd certificates earned during the District, and was elected the 70th 2015-2016 academic year.

Speaker transferring will be transitioning Beach, Fullerton, among others.

Rendon was elected to office Speaker of the Assembly and

assumed the position on March 7. Rendon attended Cerritos College entrance gates are located on both before earning his bachelor's and the northeast and northwest sides master's degrees from California of Falcon Stadium and will open State University, Fullerton. As a recipient of a National

Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, he earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside and completed his postdoctoral work at Boston University.

at 4:30 p.m. No strollers will be admitted into the stadium for the 02 Friday, April 29, 2016 The Norwalk Patriot

#### Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

intends to spend some \$600 million, originally earmarked to fight Ebola,

to combat the spread of the Zika virus. And, that looks to be just beginning; Congress may authorize \$1.8 billion more.



three **Just** months ago, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Zika virus infection an international public health emergency. It has been seen in at least 55 countries and territories between 2007 and March of this year. Just what do we know about Zika?

The scariest news about the Zika virus is that a pregnant woman can transmit it to her developing child. It has been shown to be the direct cause of microcephaly (the development of an abnormally small head), and is linked to a range of other serious developmental problems, including issues with hearing and vision. Less frequently, in adults, the virus is linked to Guillain-Barré, a severe autoimmune reaction.

Because 75%-80% of those infected with Zika show no symptoms, it is difficult to know how many cases actually exist, and extremely challenging to control its spread. In one out of four or five cases, however, those infected develop a flat pinkish rash, bloodshot eyes, fever, and joint pain.

The virus is most often spread by mosquitoes, but by sexual contact as well. It was first isolated in 1947 in a rhesus monkey and is named after the Zika Forest in Uganda. Until 2007, there were only 14 human cases of Zika documented. This current outbreak began in 2015 in Brazil. It is possible that the virus was brought to Brazil during the 2014 World Cup, by an infected traveler who had been exposed in French Polynesia. That person may have then been bitten by a mosquito, which subsequently infected others. A baby was born in Hawaii with

The Obama administration microcephaly due to Zika, but the mother likely contracted the virus when she was in Brazil. The first case of Zika contracted on the United States mainland was through sexual transmission, when a person exposed outside of the United States had sexual contact with a partner in

> The infection is potentially so devastating that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued travel notices, with huge consequences for tourism. As of April 18th, countries with active Zika transmission in the Americas that pregnant women are urged to avoid are: Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Bonaire, Brazil, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Organization warns that the virus is likely to spread throughout most of the Americas by the end of this year.

In addition, travel notices have been issued for a number of the at what stage of pregnancy the fetus Pacific Islands, as well as Cape is the most vulnerable to infection. Verde in Africa. Refer to the State At this time, the best advice is if you Department or CDC website for

Note that the upcoming summer Olympics are to be held, of all places, in Brazil. A number of athletes face a tough decision over whether to attend. Several countries have advised their own citizens to delay pregnant and suspect that you may pregnancy for now, until more is known about the virus.

general symptoms of Zika can appear staff and former chief of medicine at similar to other viral infections, so Downey Regional Medical Center. the first question asked is whether Write to him in care of this newspaper there was a reasonable chance of at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, exposure to Zika. If so, there are Downey, CA 90240. both blood and urine tests that can detect the virus.

There is no specific treatment



Local physician and Norwalk Patriot columnist Dr. Alan Frischer finished the Boston Marathon with a time of 3 hours and 49 minutes, qualifying himself to run the race again next year.

for the Zika infection. There is no vaccination to prevent it, or medicine to treat it. Like the virus Sint Maarten, Suriname, Trinidad that causes the common cold, and Tobago, U.S. Virgin Islands, recommendations are to treat the and Venezuela. The World Health symptoms, get lots of rest, and to drink plenty of fluids.

> The virus is not considered dangerous to anyone other than pregnant women. It is not clear yet are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, take extra precautions to avoid mosquitos, avoid sexual contact with a partner who could possibly have been exposed to the virus, and do not travel to the countries listed above. If you are have Zika, consult your doctor as soon as possible.

How is the diagnosis made? The Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of

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## Number of kids using tobacco hasn't dropped since 2011

Administration's (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products in today's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

Youth Tobacco Survey show that 4.7 million middle and high school students were current users (at least once in the past 30 days) of a tobacco product in 2015, and more than 2.3 million of those students were current users of two or more tobacco products. Three million middle and high school students were current users of e-cigarettes in 2015, up from 2.46 million in 2014.

Sixteen percent of high school and 5.3 percent of middle school students were current users of e-cigarettes in 2015, making e-cigarettes the most commonly used tobacco product among vouth for the second consecutive year. During 2011 through 2015, e-cigarette use rose from 1.5 percent to 16.0 percent among high school students and from 0.6 percent to 5.3 percent among middle school

From 2011 through 2015, tobacco, and significant decreases in current cigarette smoking occurred among youth, but there was no significant change in the prevalence of current cigarette smoking among this group during 2014 - 2015. In 2015,

new data published by the Centers use, making cigarettes the second-(CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug both middle and high school

> "E-cigarettes are now the most commonly used tobacco product harm to brain development."

In addition to e-cigarettes and cigarettes, high school students used other tobacco products:

8.6 percent smoked cigars, 7.2 percent used hookahs,

6.0 percent used smokeless

percent smoked pipe tobacco,

0.6 percent smoked bidis. After e-cigarettes and cigarettes, middle school students reported using these products:

2.0 percent used hookahs, 1.8 percent used smokeless

tobacco, 1.6 percent smoked cigars, 0.4 percent smoked pipe

0.2 percent smoked bidis.

Among non-Hispanic white and Hispanic high school students, e-cigarettes were the most commonly used tobacco product. Among non-Hispanic black high

Overall tobacco use by middle 9.3 percent of high school students school students, cigars were the and high school students has not and 2.3 percent of middle school most commonly used tobacco changed since 2011, according to students reported current cigarette product. Cigarette use was higher among non-Hispanic whites than for Disease Control and Prevention most-used tobacco product among among non-Hispanic blacks. Smokeless tobacco use was higher among non-Hispanic whites than students of other races.

"We're very concerned that one among youth, and use continues in four high school students use Data from the 2015 National to climb," said CDC Director Tom tobacco, and that almost half of Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. "No form of those use more than one product," youth tobacco use is safe. Nicotine said Corinne Graffunder, Dr.P.H., is an addictive drug and use during M.P.H., director of CDC's Office adolescence may cause lasting on Smoking and Health. "We know about 90 percent of all adult smokers first try cigarettes as teens. Fully implementing proven tobacco control strategies could prevent another generation of Americans from suffering from tobaccorelated diseases and premature

> FDA has regulatory authority over cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, roll-your-own tobacco, smokeless tobacco. The agency is finalizing the rule to bring additional tobacco products such as e-cigarettes, hookahs, and some or all cigars under that same authority.

> "The FDA remains deeply concerned about the overall high rate at which children and adolescents use tobacco products, including novel products such as e-cigarettes and hookah," said Mitch Zeller, J.D., director of the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products.

## Study finds link between e-cigarette advertising and use among teens

and the use of e-cigarettes by middle and high school students, according to a new study by the Centers for Disease Control and assess the link between exposure to e-cigarette advertising and current youth from using e-cigarettes as well as other tobacco products.

The study, published in the April 2016 edition of the journal Pediatrics, assessed current (past 30-day) use of e-cigarettes and exposure to e-cigarette advertising in four different types of media: retail stores, the internet, TV/movies, and magazines/ newspapers. The National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) is a school-based, self-administered

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There is a link between exposure questionnaire given to more than product among youth, surpassing to e-cigarette advertisements 22,000 middle and high school conventional cigarettes. students in 2014.

NYTS, CDC researchers found e-cigarettes," said CDC Director that the greater the exposure Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. Prevention. This is the first study to to e-cigarette advertisements "Exposure to e-cigarette advertising among middle and high school is associated with youth e-cigarette students, the greater the odds of use - and that is concerning to me e-cigarette use, and it concludes that their e-cigarette use. As noted in as CDC Director, as a doctor, and efforts to reduce youth exposure to CDC's Jan. 5, 2016, Vital Signs as a parent." advertising are critical to prevent report on e-cigarette advertising exposure among youth, spending on e-cigarette advertising rose from \$6.4 million in 2011 to an estimated \$115 million in 2014.

> During the same time, current e-cigarette use among youth soared; from 1.5 percent in 2011 to 13.4 in 2014 among high school students, and from 0.6 percent in 2011 to 3.9 percent in 2014 among middle school students. e-cigarettes and other tobacco In 2014, e-cigarettes became the most commonly used tobacco

> > HABLAMOS ESPANOL

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"Kids should not use any type Analyzing data from the 2014 of tobacco product, including

> States and localities can consider strategies to reduce youth exposure to e-cigarette advertising and marketing which include:

> Limiting tobacco product sales to facilities that never admit youth,

> Restricting the number of stores that sell tobacco products and how close they can be to schools,

> Limits on internet sales of products

> "Many of the ads we're seeing for e-cigarettes today - that rely on sex, independence and rebellion look eerily like the ads that were used to sell cigarettes and other conventional tobacco products for generations," said Brian King, Ph.D., deputy director for research translation in the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health. "Any tobacco use by youth is dangerous to their health. The unrestricted marketing of e-cigarettes and dramatic increases in their use by youth could reverse decades of progress in preventing tobacco use among

> FDA has regulatory authority over cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, roll-your-own tobacco, and smokeless tobacco. The agency is finalizing a rule that, if finalized as proposed, will bring additional tobacco products such as e-cigarettes, hookahs, and some or all cigars under that same authority. Regulating the manufacturing, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products - coupled with proven population-based strategies - can reduce youth tobacco use and initiation. These strategies include funding tobacco control programs at CDC-recommended levels, increasing prices of tobacco products, implementing and enforcing comprehensive smokefree laws, and sustaining hardhitting tobacco cessation and prevention media campaigns.



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The Norwalk Patriot 03 Friday, April 29, 2016

## Cerritos selects new mayor: News and notes from Cerritos

selected as mayor of Cerritos and Club and Blind Start of America. Naresh Solanki as mayor pro tem by their colleagues during the City Council's annual reorganization meeting and mayoral transition on March 16.

Cerritos Fine Arts and Historical Commissioner and on the Board of Directors for the Friends of Arts Education at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts. A Cerritos resident since 1969, he was also a member of the Los Angeles County Parks Commission.

Mayor Ray serves on the City Council's Budget/Finance, Performing Arts, Personnel and Sanitation Districts 2, 3, 18 and 19/ Waste Management.

A resident of Cerritos since 1988, Mayor Pro Tem Solanki was elected to the City Council in 2015. A grocery store chain owner, Solanki served on the Planning Commission for eight years. He is a member of the City Council's Budget/Finance, Performing Arts, Personnel, Business and Industry and Senior Services/Senior Center committees. He serves as the Council's delegate to the Southeast Water Coalition Joint Powers Authority and the SELACO Workforce Development Board -Cities Association, the Gateway Cities Council of Governments 91/605/405 Corridor Cities Governments.

Mayor Pro Tem Solanki is active in the Cerritos Chamber of

Outgoing Mayor Carol K. Chen was honored at the meeting for her many contributions to the community during her term. Chen was elected to the City Council in Mayor Ray was elected to June 2008, re-elected in March 2009, the Cerritos City Council in and served as mayor of Cerritos 2013. He previously served as a from 2011–2012. She was re-elected Cerritos Planning Commissioner, to the City Council in 2013 and became mayor again in 2015. She is a member of the City Council's Performing Arts, County Health Department/Health Insurance and Legislative committees.

was re-elected in 2009 and served as mayor from 2008-2009 and 2012-2013. Edwards was elected to the City Council again in 2015. Auto Mall committees. He is the A Cerritos resident for more than delegate to the Los Angeles County 35 years, he was a Cerritos Parks City Selection Committee, Gateway and Recreation Commissioner Cities Council of Governments and and a Cerritos Community Safety Committee Member. Active in the Cerritos Optimist Club and Vietnam Veterans Association, Edwards is a retired ABC Unified School District teacher. He is a Council liaison to the ABC Unified School recipient of several Ovation awards District and the Council liaison to the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the four shows as part of the CCPA's City's Performing Arts and Parks 2016-2017 Broadway Series. 3-D and Recreation committees.

Mark E. Pulido was elected to the Cerritos City Council in 2011 and served as mayor from 2014-2015. He was re-elected to the City Council in 2015. He productions will include "Joseph Policy Board. Solanki is the alternate served on the ABC Unified School delegate to the California Contract District Board from 2001-2011, Dreamcoat," "Once on This Island," including a term as board president in 2007-2008. Pulido serves on the City's Performing Arts and Library Committee, Sanitation Districts 2, 3, committees and is a Council liaison 18 & 19/Waste Management and the to the ABC Unified School District Southern California Association of and the Council liaison to Cerritos Community College.

•The Cerritos City Council Beauty" and "The Summit:" The

CERRITOS - George Ray was Commerce, the Cerritos Optimist has approved new playground Manhattan Transfer Meets Take 6. improvements and equipment for Bettencourt Park, Jacob Park and Liberty Park. WCCR Construction of Ontario was awarded a \$372,000 contract to perform the work.

> The playgrounds will get new climbers, interactive elements, slides and swings. The contract also includes new playground surfacing at Bettencourt and Liberty parks.

Liberty Park's racquetball court will be refurbished and the concrete furnishings at its North Shelter will be repainted. A starburst color palette of blue and gray tones was Jim Edwards was elected to the chosen for Bettencourt Park. Jacob Cerritos City Council in 2005. He Park's color scheme will be an oceanblue hue. Liberty Park's playground will be in various shades of blue.

> The work is currently under way and is expected to be completed in early June.

> •The Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts (CCPA) will welcome a new Broadway performance partner as part of the upcoming 2016-2017 Season. 3

-D Theatricals, which is the and L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award nominations, will present Theatricals has built a reputation for producing Broadway-caliber musicals with extraordinary actors and musicians.

2016-2017 Season and the Amazing Technicolor "Oklahoma" and "Spamalot."

The CCPA 2016-2017 Season will also feature such outstanding performers as Kristin Chenoweth, The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain "Holiday Show," Russian National Ballet Theatre "Sleeping

The 2016-2017 Season Brochure will be available, and ticket orders can be placed, in June.

•The City of Cerritos invites the community to attend a Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 30 at 10 a.m. near the Cerritos Veterans Memorial in the Cerritos Civic Center. The event is held in honor of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation's freedom as members of the United States armed forces.

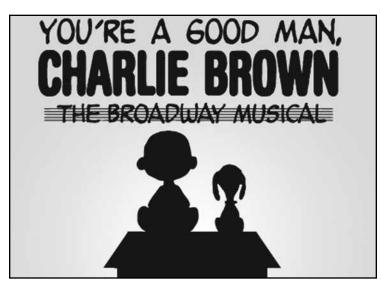
The Memorial Day Ceremony will begin with prelude music by the 40th Infantry Division Band stationed at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base at 9:45 a.m. The ceremony will include a presentation of colors, comments by the City Council, laying of wreaths and a moment of silence. Light refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

At the event, the Friends of the 1st CEB will be collecting donations of granola bars, beef jerky, mints and individual-sized powdered drink mixes for care packages to be sent to marines deployed overseas. New, unopened packages of wet wipes in packs of 20 also will be collected.

The City of Cerritos will hold two low-cost rabies clinics for dogs and cats in Shelter 1 at Cerritos Park East from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21 and Wednesday, July 27.

The clinics are sponsored by Long Beach Animal Care Services and Artesia Animal Hospital, in cooperation with the City of Cerritos' Community Safety and Community Participation divisions.

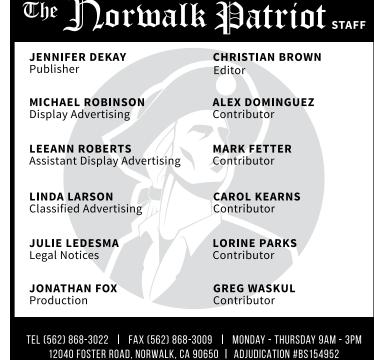
More information will be provided in the June and July issues of "The Cerritos News."



The off-Broadway musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" will be performed by the Cerritos College Theatre & Film Department with performances starting today.

Though considered a "good man" by his friends, Charlie Brown can't seem to win the heart of the little red-haired girl, nor his friend Lucy. Meanwhile Snoopy and līnus daydream and the rest of the friends battle with kites, school, baseball and misunderstandings before finally coming to realize what makes them truly happy. Performances are April 29-30 at 8 p.m., May 5-7 at 8 p.m., and May 8 at 2 p.m.

Ticket sare \$20 general admission; \$18 for students, staff and seniors; and \$15 for children ages 5-12. No children under age 5 will be admitted.



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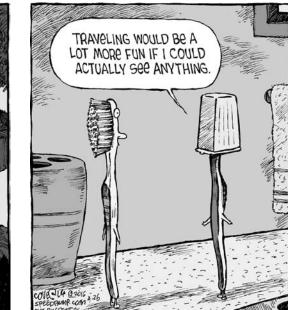
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The Norwalk Patriot Friday, April 29, 2016

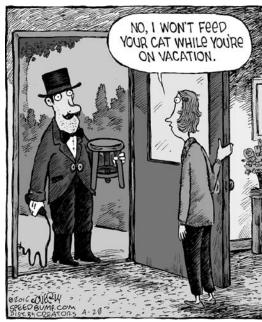
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#### On This Day.

April 29, 1945: Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler married his longtime mistress Eva Braun in a Berlin bunker. (The couple killed themselves the next day.)

1992: Rioting erupted in Los Angeles after a jury acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost all charges in the videotaped beating of Rodney King. Fifty-four people were killed.

1996: The musical "Rent" opened on Broadway.

Birthdays: Country singer Willie Nelson (83), comedian Jerry Seinfeld (62), actor Daniel Day-Lewis (59), actress Michelle Pfeiffer (58), rapper Master P (49), actress Uma Thurman (46), retired tennis player Andre Agassi (46) and NFL quarterback Jay Cutler (33).

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#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 30**

8 a.m. - Arbor Day - New River Park

#### **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

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## It's getting harder to govern, and it's not just politicians' fault

By Lee H. Hamilton

We may not know who our next President is going to be, but here's one thing that's almost certain: he or she will take office with roughly half of the electorate unhappy and mistrustful. The notion that the President speaks for a broad coalition of Americans who are willing to set aside their differences on behalf of a compelling new vision for the country? It's vanished.

I've spent a lot of time pondering where it went, and though I still haven't found an answer, I do know this: it's not only Washington's — or even the political class's — fault.

Let's start with a lament I hear frequently about this year's crop of presidential candidates: "Is this the best we can do?" I used to believe that the popular argument that the best among us do not seek political office was wrong — that there were plenty of standout Americans who went into politics. And there are. But there are also a lot of talented people — the kind who could lead us beyond our tired political discourse — who take a look at politics and turn the other way. They don't want to spend their waking hours grubbing for donations. They don't want to put their families through the attacks and vitriol that so often show up in political campaigns now. They believe they have better ways of spending their time than subjecting themselves and everyone they know to the kind of scrutiny that has become part and parcel of political life.

I've known a lot of very good people in politics. They were motivated by a true interest in improving the country, were fair-minded, respected other points of view, were skillful consensus-builders, and took the time to develop genuine friendships across the political divide. They saw politics as a competition of ideas, not a mean-spirited clash of ideologies.

I see less of this today. Many politicians seem genuinely not to like one another. Backed all too often by their constituents and contributors, they distrust the other party's members — and see a victory by the other party as a threat to the well-being of the nation.

This is a departure from the past, and it's not a healthy one. There was a time when the parties played a significant role in the system by serving to build consensus. They were collections of diverse constituencies that had developed

the capacity to meld disparate interests together — not always harmoniously, but usually effectively. They helped build a unity of effort in the government, as did a variety of public and private organizations — such as unions, charitable institutions and the like.

This was vital: we don't have many consensus-building mechanisms in our political culture. But a lot of groups that helped do this are weaker now than they were.

Which is a shame in a year like this, when voters are angry and distrustful. Much of this, I believe, stems from economic insecurity. Incomes remain stagnant, and many of the jobs being created are low-wage jobs. A lot of Americans have lost confidence that their children will have a better life than they had.

This doesn't mean that fear of terrorism and a general feeling that society is heading in the wrong direction don't matter this year. Nor does it mean that there aren't plenty of people who are reasonably satisfied with their lives, and who recognize that the U.S., especially in comparison with other countries, is doing reasonably well. But overall, economic malaise seems to be front and center in voters' minds.

This may help explain why voters this year seem not to have much appetite for the substance and complexity of policy. Many of them have responded enthusiastically to candidates who lay out a straightforward vision but don't bother much with the details of policy. And a lot of voters seem to relish the clashes that this year's campaigning has produced, and are uninterested in talk of finding common ground.

It's a campaign year, of course, so a certain amount of this is to be expected. But if the voters' surly mood and mistrust carry over after November, it's going to be very hard for the next President — and politicians in general — to govern effectively.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

## Free exercise of religion doesn't include right to discriminate

By Marc Morial

It wasn't so long ago when one of the most powerful justifications wielded in support of segregation was religious belief.

Throughout the American South, state-sanctioned Jim Crow laws legally separated blacks from whites. Schools were segregated. Restaurants were segregated. Blacks and whites couldn't legally marry. Even water fountains were designated by race.

Defenders of these racist policies employed a variety of arguments to support the institution of discrimination, including — as one lower court justice actually argued in a landmark civil rights case — that God "separated the races" because "he did not intend for the races to mix."

Today, so-called religious freedom bills are cropping up around the nation that would turn back the clock on American progress against legal discrimination.

Cloaked under the mantle of religious liberty, right-wing lawmakers are claiming the "religious freedom" to deny other citizens whose lifestyles they disagree with — including gay and transgender Americans — employment, professional or private services, and the right to marry, among other things.

The free exercise of religion sits at the heart of our nation's founding. But we live in a democracy, not a theocracy. We can't let religious liberty be abused as a tool of oppression against any class of people.

Following huge public outcry and the threat of millions in lost business in the state, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal vetoed a religious freedom bill that was meant to let faith-based groups and individuals refuse services or employment to people on religious grounds.

Elsewhere, these laws are on the march.

In Missouri, lawmakers are looking at legislation that would amend the state constitution to protect individuals and businesses that refuse to provide goods or services for same-sex marriage ceremonies or celebrations of same-sex couples.

As Missouri lawmakers consider the law for a future vote, the NCAA is considering bids from other states for future events — potentially costing Kansas City, Missouri millions in revenue from lost sporting events.

Over 20 states have passed some form of religious freedom bill or put policies in place that violate our country's core principles of inclusion. Most recently, North Carolina passed a sweeping bill violating these principles, and Mississippi followed suit.

Our country was founded on the idea that people shouldn't be persecuted because of their religious beliefs. But like with any other right, there are reasonable limits to its free exercise. In a democracy as diverse as ours, tensions between different communities are inevitable.

As our nation's first president articulated, the government must "give bigotry no sanction." In other words, Americans don't have the right to deny others their rights.

Religious liberty, as valuable and necessary as it is, doesn't give people the freedom to break laws. And the government shouldn't twist it to oppress a class of people in a nation whose goal, since its founding, has been to create a more perfect union.

Marc Morial is the CEO of the National Urban League.

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## America needs more than symbolic gestures in South China Sea

By U.S. Sen. John McCain

Admiral Harry Harris, the commander of US Pacific Command, was recently asked in a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing about China's strategic goals. "China seeks hegemony in East Asia. Simple as that," he responded. Admiral Harris concluded: "China is clearly militarizing the South China Sea and you'd have to believe in the flat Earth to think otherwise."

But despite the Obama administration's "three no's" — no reclamation of land, no militarization and no use of coercion — Beijing has pressed ahead with all three. The administration's aversion to risk has resulted in a policy that has failed to deter China's pursuit of maritime hegemony, while confusing and alarming America's regional allies and partners.

It is time to change course as we enter a critical two-month period for US policy in the Asia-Pacific region. The Permanent Court of Arbitration is expected to rule by early June in a case brought by the Philippines concerning China's claims in disputed areas of the South China Sea. Confronted with the possibility of an unfavorable ruling, China may use the coming months to secure its existing gains or pursue new forms of coercion to expand them. This could include further reclamation and militarization at strategic locations such as Scarborough Shoal, attempts to expel another country from a disputed territory or the declaration of an Air Defense Identification Zone in all or part of the South China Sea.

In response, the US will need to consider fresh policy options. As part of the annual Balikatan military exercise with the Philippines this month, the administration should consider having a carrier strike group patrol the waters near Scarborough Shoal in a visible display of US combat power.

Ashton Carter, US defense secretary, should emphasize on his trip to the Philippines that Manila is a treaty ally of the US. And the administration should urgently work with the Philippines and other regional allies and partners to develop strategies to counter Chinese behavior that is in violation of international law.

If China declares a South China Sea ADIZ, the US must be prepared to challenge this claim immediately by flying military aircraft inside the area affected under normal procedures, including not filing a flight plan, radioing ahead or registering frequencies.

It is also time for the US to move beyond symbolic gestures and launch a robust "freedom of the seas campaign". It should increase the pace and scope of the Freedom of Navigation program to challenge China's maritime claims, as well as the number of sailing days that US warships spend in the South China Sea. Joint patrols and exercises should be expanded and ocean surveillance patrols to gather intelligence throughout the western Pacific continued.

Finally, given the shifting military balance, the US needs to focus on enhancing its military posture across the region. Consistent with a recent Center for Strategic and International Studies report to Congress, it should deploy additional air, naval and ground forces forward to the region to reassure our allies.

Over the past several years, China has acted less like a "responsible stakeholder" in the rules-based order in the Asia-Pacific region and more like a bully. Up to now, American policy has failed to adapt to the scale and velocity of the challenge we face.

The potential threats China will pose in the South China Sea in the coming months demand a change of course that can reassure the region of America's commitment and demonstrate to Beijing that its pursuit of maritime hegemony will be met with a determined response.



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

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Friday, April 29, 2016 The Norwalk Patriot

## COMMENTARY: Gunfire erupts too close to home

By Raul Samaniego Contributor

NORWALK - Sherriff deputies responded to "shots fired" in the area of south Norwalk near Elaine Ave and 166th Street Thursday, April 21, around 5 p.m.

That, my friends is a classic AP (Associated Press) style, first sentence of a traditional article. The fact that it was me making the 911 call as I was that? talking with my friend Victoria on the phone is what is unique.

As I lay on my bed chatting with my San Diego based friend, we heard the tell-tale sound of, "BAM, BAM BAM-BAM, BAM, BAM, BAM-BAMM, BAM!" outside my window.

returning from a night out with my cousin, we were surprised by gunshots somewhere down the street.

Hearing the buzzing, whining of the bullets sailing over our heads, we instinctively hit the ground, dance clothes and all.

Last Thursday, the shots seemed like they were coming from the area near 166th Street.

As I got up, I looked outside my rear window and saw three or four young males running between the cars on their way towards Artesia.

As I turned for my phone, I heard a voice yelling some unintelligible taunts and screams.

Looking out between the leveler blinds, I saw the young urban terrorist. Remembering what I read from an account of a SEAL's reference (yes, those SEALS): "Concealment offers no protection, cover does."

I got as low as possible as I reached for my new phone, dialing 911.

At the other end of the line I heard something like, "Due to the high volume of calls, there will be a slight delay in a response, please continue hiding." Of course she said "holding" but my body was in a hiding position. Can you believe that?

Finally, a woman's voice answered with "911, what is your emergency?"

"There has just been a shooting near the intersection of 166th Street and Elaine Avenue in Norwalk. There's a 15-year-old dressed in a black feet. How do I know? I recently had the property lines measured and I tank top with black shorts with white socks trying to shoot towards

Her response: "Please hold for the Sherriff." Again, can you believe

After a few moments, another voice went through basically the same routine, "911, blah blah blah, please hold."

As I waited, I remembered, "Ah, I forgot my camera." No Pulitzer again.

When the Sherriff representative came on the line I again explained Gunshots in Norwalk are not new to me. Back in the 80's when I was the situation and she said there was a call already in. When she realized I had actually seen one of the guys trying to shoot, I explained, "He was cocking his semi-automatic handgun, but it kept misfiring."

> Perhaps he was the one that had let go with eight to ten shots a few seconds before. I could hear a description going out on a radio: "5'8" male Hispanic in black cutoff tank, black shorts, white socks, 140 lbs, heading south towards Artesia on foot."

> several more times as deputies asked what I saw.

Some of you might say I should have kept my mouth shut or something to that effect.

up his blank on Pioneer Blvd. That time I didn't have my press badge visible

Thursday, it was out and displayed so there would be no doubt I posed

I approached the deputies saying, "I called."

I usually don't speculate, but since I didn't see the would-be shooter run with the gun, I started looking for a weapon near the cars and next

door field. The deputies started looking too.

The distance from my window to the shooter was almost exactly 28 knew the lot next to us is 25 feet wide. Add in the three feet to where he stood, and there you are.

How did I figure his height? Thank you geometry. I looked at the height of the truck and "guestimated" its height and the distance he was above it and five foot eight is what I came up with. I approximated on his weight.

Now all that went down in a matter of seconds.

Lt Colonel Dave Grossman in his book, "On Combat," tells how time seems to slow down while one is in a firefight. Maybe that is what

Grossman also wrote "On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society."

Those two works describe how and why our warriors in combat decide to kill or not to kill. On the streets of south Norwalk and elsewhere in the city, people are doing just that: killing.

As I stood and describe to a neighbor (who is a local police member) That was exactly what I told the operator. I would repeat the description how the shooter appeared to have jammed his gun, his words to me stressed perhaps our lapse in social responsibility.

"He must not have cleaned his gun."

As the streets were finally yellow taped off after some shell casings The last time I was near an urban terrorist, I had ridden my bike right were found closer than I imagined, the dozen or so sherriff cars slowly

Good news is no one was hit by this gun fire. This time.

## Shared Stories: Blueprints for Belle

During World War II, Belle Fluhart was a "cousin" of Rosie the Riveter. Trained as a skilled machinist by U.S. Electric Motors in Los Angeles, Belle moved to to replace me, and so there was nothing for me. Seattle where her husband was stationed, and she ended up working on planes for Boeing. 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 Belle Fluhart

In Minneapolis, Minnesota, in July of 1921, I was born, the middle child of nine children. Seven of us were boys. My given name is Isabelle, but that's too many syllables for all of those brothers, so my name became Belle very

Our family moved to California in 1928. I grew up during the Great

In 1941, I had been working as a waitress in a restaurant for about a year and a half. I had to be off work for two weeks with a bad case of tonsillitis and I had surgery to remove the tonsils.

When I returned to work, the restaurant owner explained that she'd had

"But," she said, "stay in touch in case something comes up."

As I was walking through the restaurant, I heard someone call, "Belle, Belle." I turned and saw one of my customers beckoning to me to come over to his table. I went over and greeted him.

He said, "What are you doing now?" I explained what happened and that I would be looking for work.

He said, "Why don't you come over to U.S. Motors and work for us?"

I said, "I don't know how to do any of the things you do over there." He said, "How do you know you don't?"

I said, "I don't know I don't, but I don't think I do."

He said, "Come over to U.S. Motors and put in an application." He handed me his business card and said, "You can put me down as a reference."

After leaving the restaurant, I walked the few blocks over to U.S. Electrical Motors and put in my application including my customer's name

I was given many tests including aptitude, math, dexterity, etc., all of which I passed with flying colors.

The man in Personnel said, "If anything open up, we'll call you." That didn't seem very promising, so as I was going home, I stopped at every business I passed and made an application for work.

I was very late getting home. My sister-in-law called, "Why are you so late? Someone's been calling every ten minutes all afternoon." She gave me the number and I called.

It was U.S. Motors and they wanted me to come in the next day for an interview. As it turned out, my customer who had given me his card was one of the owners of the company and when asked if he knew me, he said, "Don't let her get away." It surprised me that the time for the interview was 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

When I arrived the next afternoon a portly, silver-haired gentleman named Tommy was introduced to me. As we were walking around the machine shop Tommy explained to me that, "So many of our young men are being taken in the draft, that we have to ask some ladies to help us, and you

Tommy was swing shirt foreman of the machine shop. He asked if I could work the swing shift. I said, "Like what time to what time?"

He told me 4:30 in the afternoon to 3:00 in the morning. "We work a

I said, "Oh no, I couldn't do that, I would have a way home." He said, "We will see to it that you always have a way home."

My answer was, "In that case, sure I can."

"Then you will start tomorrow. You will need to wear very simple clothing and a snood over your hair. You will need to wear safety shoes. The man will be here tomorrow afternoon to fit you with safety shoes (steel-toed)."

That afternoon I found a nice blue and white pinstripe coverall with tab and rings on the waistband on each side so the waistband could be drawn in to fit beautifully. I also found a white blouse to wear under it, so the collar could be turned out over the coverall collar, and a snood for my hair. I bought two of everything.

Tommy was visibly pleased when I came in to work the next afternoon. The safety shoe man was there with three styles to choose from – two pairs of high tops and a pair of oxfords. Safety shoes are men's shoes. I chose the oxfords and he settled on one size larger and wider than my regular size of 7AA. He said that after I stood in them for a while my feet would spread

#### Cerritos Library chosen for financial exhibit

CERRITOS - Cerritos Library is one of 50 sites selected to host "Thinking Money," a new traveling exhibition designed to educate young people and their families about finances — including topics such as saving, spending and avoiding fraud — in a fun and easy-to-understand way.

Geared toward tweens, teens and adults, "Thinking Money" explores themes of wants-versus-needs, preparing for a rainy/sunny day and imagining your future self through an adventure-themed storyline, interactive iPad content and other fun activities.

Cerritos Library will host the 1,000-square-foot exhibition August 29 through October 7, 2017. The library will also receive a \$1,000 programming allowance for support materials and to hold training and public events related to financial topics.







Eva Juárez - Attorney Malhotra & Malhotra

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