

The Norwalk Patriot

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John Glenn science teacher wins WHO Award

NORWALK – John Glenn High School science teacher Mitch L'Angelle was honored May 11 for 25 years of extraordinary leadership among students and colleagues by the Teachers Association of Norwalk-La Mirada (TANLA) at the We Honor Ours (WHO) Awards Banquet.

"I truly love working at Norwalk-La Mirada because of my fantastic colleagues in education and the students whom I care deeply for their growth and success in life," L'Angelle said. "I accept this award on behalf of all the hard-working teachers in Norwalk-La Mirada."

L'Angelle has spent his entire Norwalk-La Mirada Unified career at John Glenn High. Originally hired in 1991 as a physical education teacher, L'Angelle quickly transitioned into the classroom, and now teaches anatomy/physiology and biology, as well as serving as the chairman of the science department.

"Mitch L'Angelle is a man of great character," TANLA President Clay Walker said. "His willingness to participate in association activities and so often be a voice of reason has served his colleagues and the District very well. We are proud to honor him."

L'Angelle is a member of the NLMUSD Superintendent's Cabinet, where his thoughtfulness and clarity are held in high regard. He also serves on the NLMUSD Teacher of the Year selection committee and the TANLA scholarship committee.

"Whether as a teacher, department chair, site representative or member of the Superintendent's Cabinet, Mitch L'Angelle is a man of leadership and integrity," NLMUSD Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian said. "Congratulations to Mitch for receiving this prestigious honor."

The WHO Award is given annually to a colleague in recognition of outstanding contributions to education, involvement in the local teachers association as well as dedicated and active participation in the California Teachers Association.

"Mitch L'Angelle is a model representative for John Glenn High School," NLMUSD Board President Karen Morrison said. "His service to the District has been invaluable."

Utility box to be painted this weekend

NORWALK – High school students will complete the third of three scheduled utility box art projects this weekend in Norwalk.

In 2014, the City Council approved beautification of utility boxes at various locations throughout the city.

Having observed similar projects in other community, Norwalk's Art in Public Places Committee presented the concept to showcase local student talent and creativity in a forum open to residents and visitors.

The artists -- Jocelyn Cruz of Norwalk High, and Michelle Ceja and Karen Gomez of John Glenn -- have developed a collaborative design which will be painted onto the utility box at the northwest corner of Rosecrans and Shoemaker avenues.

Other utility box themes include Asian art and Norwalk landmarks. The latest design depicts the succession of Southern California landscape elements from the desert to ocean.

Painting will take place Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. until completion.

The public is invited to view the art in progress.

Steve Napolitano undaunted in campaign to replace Knabe



By Christian Brown
Staff Writer

NORWALK – Running against a politician with the last name Hahn might intimidate most, but for Steve Napolitano, the challenge is undoubtedly worthwhile.

"Nobody knows the Fourth District better than me and I have a record of achievement," said Napolitano. "We don't need an L.A.-centric, Washington, D.C. approach to the county. We need a public servant."

Napolitano is vying for the Fourth District seat on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, which goes vacant this fall when longtime supervisor Don Knabe gets termed out of office.

With a \$28 billion budget to manage annually, the board of supervisors represents 10 million people and oversees large public health, social services, and criminal justice agencies. In fact, LA County manages the largest local prison system and child welfare program in the U.S.

Napolitano isn't the only one, however, contending for a chance to steer these massive bureaucracies. Rep. Janice Hahn (D-San Pedro) and Whittier Union High School District board member Ralph Pacheco are also hoping to represent the Fourth District, which stretches from the South Bay, down to Long Beach, and up through the Gateway cities.

Knabe has actually already chosen his successor, endorsing Napolitano for the job.

"Now more than ever, we need someone who will continue our legacy of being fiscally responsible so that we can provide the programs and services that our 10 million residents demand," said Knabe in a statement last October.

"Steve shares these values and gets that you can't spend what you don't have. He will make the tough decisions so that we don't put our financial burden on future generations."

The endorsement was expected. Since 2005, Napolitano has served as Knabe's senior deputy and liaison to Fourth District cities in the South Bay. Prior to this post, Napolitano was elected to three terms on the Manhattan

Beach City Council, where he championed a revitalization of local beaches.

"Public service is my passion – I've been doing it for 25 years," he said. "We must always put people in the community first."

Napolitano, in fact, laid out a seven-point plan, which includes support for early childhood education, fighting rising crime and homelessness, and rebuilding key infrastructure like public transit.

To cut crime, Napolitano suggests a veterans initiative to fill the nearly 1,000 open positions inside the LA County Sheriff's Department with qualified veterans.

With homelessness around LA County up 5.7% since last year, Napolitano maintains that finding new revenue streams for affordable housing is paramount. The board of supervisors recently announced 47 strategies for solving homelessness in LA County, including the introduction of a half-cent tax on county residents who earn more than \$1 million a year.

Napolitano said he's not opposed to the "millionaire's tax," but he worries it could be unstable if the money garnered is not spent transparently and effectively.

"People don't support blank checks to the government," he said. "We need a spending plan [first] to see how exactly this money will get spent."

Even more than his seven-point platform, Napolitano's temperament regarding fiscal responsibility may ultimately epitomize him as a candidate.

On May 11, the LA Times endorsed Janice Hahn to replace Knabe, framing her as a heartfelt candidate with a "more sweeping vision and a deeper commitment." Napolitano (and Pacheco) were described as likeable leaders who would approach the board of supervisors as a "small city council."

"I think they got it wrong," Napolitano said. "We have some big problems and we need big solutions, but we're also made up of small cities."

"We're the most diverse district in the county – we need a supervisor who is out in the community, not an L.A. city elitist."

Although the Times editorial favored Hahn – whose father Kenneth Hahn served on the board of supervisors for 40 years – it acknowledged that having a fiscally conservative voice on the board ensures the progressive majority on the board remembers to budget accordingly.

"If we're not keeping an eye on the checkbook, we're writing checks that we can't cash," Napolitano said.

The 50-year-old Napolitano understands Janice Hahn enjoys instant name recognition – her brother James K. Hahn served as Los Angeles mayor and city attorney – but he's hoping to distinguish himself as the homegrown candidate with endorsements from Fourth District leaders.

"Do we want someone tied to special interests who isn't even familiar with the Fourth District," Napolitano asked. "Janice is a good person, but the policy proposals, I haven't seen them. This isn't just about getting elected, there's work we've got to do afterwards. I will put people and our communities first."

On May 31, the Coalition for a Just LA will host a candidates' forum with Hahn and Napolitano at the First Congregational Church of Long Beach starting at 6:30 p.m.

Norwalk-La Mirada school district honors its 'stars'



NORWALK – Credited with inspiring and encouraging students and teachers alike, Nuffer Elementary School kindergarten teacher Denise Daguimol was honored as the Teacher of the Year at Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District's 2016 Star Awards on May 10 at Excelsior High School.

"I am honored and very proud to represent the teachers in the District, who I consider my family," Daguimol said. "I enjoy working with them. They inspire me."

Daguimol came to Nuffer in 2006, after 10 years at Edmondson Elementary. She is a graduate of South Gate High School, received a Bachelor of Arts in history from Cal State Fullerton, her teaching credential from UCLA and a Master of Education from Concordia University.

Nuffer Elementary principal Mak Sar was not surprised Daguimol was selected for the top honor.

"She works so well with the students and staff," Sar said. "I am very happy for her. She is a wonderful person and a great teacher."

Daguimol was honored at the annual ceremony, which recognizes dedicated teachers, classified employees and administrators for their commitment to the District. Teachers and classified employees nominated by their peers at each school site were also recognized.

"Great educators make a difference in the lives of their students, positive changes that reverberate over the course of a lifetime," NLMUSD Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian said. "Thank you for all the magnificent work you do. You are second to none."

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified Star Award recipients:

•**District Administrator of the Year:** Student and Family Services Director Christopher Moton

•**Site Administrator of the Year:** Norwalk High School Principal Dr. Ryan Smith

•**Confidential/Classified Manager of the Year:** Technology Services Director Tim Scholefield

•**Classified Employee of the Year:** District Translator Judith Banuelos Cabral

•**Wellness Star Award:** John Glenn High School SDC Teacher Saxty Soto

"Norwalk-La Mirada's Star Awards do more than confer commendations for excellence, they are an opportunity for our hard-working employees to celebrate their achievements with their friends and family," NLMUSD Board President Karen Morrison said. "They honor us with their dedication and commitment. Congratulations to all of our Star Award recipients."

The District also recognized close to 100 employees for their years of service. Glazier Elementary School third-grade teacher Martha W. Treadway received a Star Award for her 45 years at the District, along with those who have reached 25-, 30-, 35- and 40-year milestones.

2016 Years of Service Honorees:

45 Years: Martha W. Treadway

40 Years: Amy S. Takata

35 Years: Susan Allen, Martin F. Carapia, Marcela Cueto-Sanchez, Sandra L. Drake, Victoria Gustafson, Mary B. Lubliner, Maria Orozco

30 Years: Susan D. Alperin, Janet Belo, Linda Burch, Yvette V. Cantu, John K. Clauson, Patricia Cortez, Mitchell Crist, Esther Dominguez, Daren Estes, Frank S. Farone, Sheila Filzen, Michael A. Flores, Rebecca Frieson, Albert D. Gonse Jr., Maria Gonzalez, Susan Harpole, Pamela A. Heckathorn-Hale, Kathryn L. Hoffman, Bonita L. James, Ana V. Kapamjian, Lori Knight, John Koliass, Josephine M. Lai, Nona D. Louthan, Annette Manolios, Kenneth Mardis, Raymond R. Portillo, Luis E. Ramirez, Nancy Rhodes, Maria Rodriguez, Brenda A. Rodriguez, Lourdes M. Ruvalcaba, Irma M. Saenz, Sharon Sampson-Thomas, Karen K. Slater, Jerry Stein, June L. Swinney, Pamela Trimble, Debra K. Verkaik, Laurie Zupan-Smilowitz

25 Years: Magdalena Alonzo, Lillian Amezcua, Tracy A. Bassaj, Thomas Black Jr., Elizabeth Briceno, Myriam Burks, Rafael Campos, Barbara Caudillo, Vicki Coley, Debra Curtin, Beverly Duffee, Anna Marie Endara, Sendy Engstrum, Lori Erbeznic, Margarita Fernandez, Catherine Fisher, Stephen Freck, Raul Garcia, Terrie R. Gilliland Velez, Kathy Gonzalez, Juliet D. Griffith, Emily Gutierrez-McDonald, Deborah K. Henderson, Jerry Koppe, Diana Maier, Janece Mann, Norberta Martinez, Robert E. McGuire, Daniel Meyers, Laura Navarette, Raymond Niemann, Mary L. Pobojeski, Regina Podany, Maria C. Rivera, Vickie L. Roberts, Maria E. Sambrano, Guadalupe Sanchez, Tomas Santana, Patricia Severns, Sharon R. Todd, Connie Udabe, Rosa Valenzuela, Patricia Varela, Paula Wiechert.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 66°

Saturday 68°

Sunday 70°

THINGS TO DO



Relay for Life

Saturday - Downey Adult School, 9 a.m.

A 24-hour fundraiser benefiting American Cancer Society



Golf Tournament

Friday - Rio Hondo Golf Club, 12 p.m.

Golf tournament to benefit 10-20 Club. Celebrity guests.



Campaign Kick-Off

Saturday - Rivera Park, 12:30 p.m.

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez kicks off her re-election campaign.



5K Color Run

Saturday - Dodger Stadium, 8 a.m.

5K run/walk with music, dancing and lots of color.



Open Mic

Friday - Norwalk Cultural Arts Center, 7 p.m.

Singers, dancers, poets, comedians all invited. Up to 7 minutes stage time.



Strawberry Festival

Saturday and Sunday - Oxnard

All things strawberry, including food, vendors and artists.

TWEET OF THE WEEK

@livin_prophet: why is there a helicopter over my house doesn't it know I got finals

Follow us!
@DowneyPatriot

Rio Hondo is first college to offer degree in hybrid technology

WHITTIER – Rio Hondo College's groundbreaking Automotive Technology Program received approval April 27 to offer California's first Associate of Science degree in hybrid/electric vehicle/fuel-cell technology, a high-demand career field.

The approval from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office came in just 22 days – an incredibly quick turnaround that acknowledges the strength of the program, said Professor John Frala, who designed the Associate of Science degree.

"Companies are calling me about employees already," Frala said. "These cars are in heavy demand in California and there is a shortage of qualified technicians right now. Not many technicians out in the field are safely trained to work on high-voltage vehicles."

Rio Hondo College is recognized for its trail-blazing efforts in automotive technology.

In spring 2015, Rio Hondo was chosen to offer a Bachelor of Science degree in automotive technology as part of a historic venture at the state community colleges. The degree becomes available in fall 2016.

Frala, who worked on the BS program, began developing the concept for the new AS degree four years ago as part of his focus on alternative-fuel technology. A pioneer in the field, Frala sits on the Green Team, a state advisory group dedicated to creating a series of hydrogen refueling stations known as the California Hydrogen Highway.

California's 21st hydrogen station opened on April 27 with about 80 stations expected to be open by December.

Frala also led an effort that secured a \$200,000 National Science Foundation grant in May 2015 to develop alternative fuels training. The funds accelerated creation of the AS degree.

To earn the degree, students will need to study electrical systems, chemistry, physics and applied mathematics – a combination of skills demanded by the complex alternative-fuels vehicles.

"Rio Hondo College continues to forge new career paths for our students, staying at the forefront of technology and opportunity," said Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss. "This new degree is a tremendous addition to our rich Automotive Technology Program."

Frala said students in the AS program will qualify to continue in the Bachelor of Science program as well as for automotive technology programs at California State University, Los Angeles. They can also earn Certificates of Achievement in the alternative-fuel technology field.

"This new degree adds another avenue to success for Rio Hondo students," Board of Trustees President Mary Ann Pacheco said. "Our growing Automotive Technology Program provides a perfect complement to our array of excellent professional training programs in public safety and nursing and general education fields that prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions."

Bellflower preschools transition to state programs

BELLFLOWER – Bellflower Unified's preschool program will transition from the federal Head Start Program to a State Preschool Program, boosting enrollment capacity, expanding family eligibility and customizing curriculum to align more cohesively with TK/K-12 instruction.

The shift in 2016-17 will give Bellflower Unified greater oversight of the preschool curriculum and program operation. It will allow the District to enrich the preschool experience while still supporting many of the family and community needs parents have

grown accustomed to under the Head Start previously provided through a partnership with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE).

"Bellflower Unified's commitment to quality early childhood education has been a hallmark for more than 20 years," Superintendent Dr. Brian Jacobs said. "Our students succeeded under our partnership with LACOE and the Head Start Program, but offering our own state preschool program will give our children and families even more opportunities to thrive within the increased flexibility allowed by

the state."

This program change will also allow Bellflower Unified to expand the program's capacity to 240 students, up from 216. Next, it will more than double the maximum allowed family income to approximately \$53,000 for a family of four, enabling Bellflower Unified to reach a greater number of families in need.

Finally, Bellflower Unified can adjust services, such as nutrition or mental health counseling, to the specific needs of its students, rather than following a one-size-fits-all

model. The District also will sculpt curriculum to align more effectively with pre-kindergarten, transitional kindergarten and kindergarten programs.

"Bellflower Unified's early childhood education becomes even stronger with this shift," said Board of Education President Dr. Paul Helzer. "Preschool lays a foundation for all the schooling to come."

Registration is underway for 2016-17. For information, call Early Childhood Education Program Director Cristina Blevins at (562) 461-2227.

Lynwood graduation rate reaches 89%

LYNWOOD – Open access to high-level courses, expansion of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs and increased emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) have helped boost Lynwood Unified's graduation rates to record highs in 2014-15.

The graduation rate rose from 80.8 percent to 89.1 percent at Lynwood High School, the larger of the District's two comprehensive high schools. Firebaugh High

School's rate – already high in 2014 – rose nearly two percentage points to 90.4 percent. The figures measure graduation rates for the cohort of students who entered ninth grade in 2011.

Lynwood Unified Superintendent Paul Gothold attributes the increase to the District's work at cutting dropout and suspension rates, and elevating the number of students taking courses needed to qualify for admission to the University of California and California State

University – up to 41.4 percent from 33 percent since 2011.

"At a time when we are asking more of our students and educators than ever before, this announcement is another sign that they continue to rise to the occasion," Gothold said. "Preparing students to be successful in college and in sustainable careers after school is our ultimate goal. I am extremely proud of our administrators, teachers, staff, and of course our students."

Gothold said eliminating

remedial classes and student tracking has increased academic rigor for all students, making a major impact on raising the graduation rates.

"Lynwood Unified students and staff are extraordinary," LUSD Board of Education President Alma-Delia Renteria said. "Everyone is working hard and stepping up to the challenge. We have seen increased high school success because of the support our schools are providing to students to help them complete their education."

With help from MMA gym, Arc clients learn self defense

By Alex Dominguez Contributor

DOWNEY – Isaias Mambo squares up with his fellow instructor at King Cobra MMA, and assumes a fighting stance. He turns to his pupil.

"If you drop your hands here, look," says Mambo. Mambo's sparring partner takes a soft simulated swing at his head. "Boom, K.O."

While this advice is likely invaluable for anyone entering the fighting world, it may be even more important for Mambo's current class: a handful of individuals in The Arc.

Mambo has held several free classes for The Arc Los Angeles & Orange Counties, a nonprofit organization that offers programs and services for over 200 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

He's not paid for it, however Mambo says that he does it "just because I want to."

Arc officials first saw the need for the training when they discovered that some of their participants were being bullied and harassed out in their local community, especially while using public transit to get to

work like the Arc trains them to do. There has even been at least one case of a robbery.

"Out in the community, they're going to come across different kinds of people," said Carol Bejarano, a Career Development Trainer with Arc. "So we want to prepare them in the event if they ever come across someone that is harassing them, how to deal with that individual. We want them to be safe, we want them to know 'stranger danger,' and the procedure of how to go about a situation – a bad situation."

Mambo describes the techniques being taught as "hundreds of years of knowledge being passed down." During the one hour session, each individual was taught a handful of basic strikes and combos, as well as participated in physical training and

abdominal exercises.

Despite the ultimate goal of each individual being able to defend his or herself when needed, Mambo closed the class with an important instruction – only fight when you absolutely have to.

According to Bejarano, no one has – and hopefully will not – had to use their training since first receiving it. However, until a time comes where such action is needed, Mambo's teaching has had a different positive effect.

"They feel more confident going out on their own, taking the bus," said Bejarano. "It makes them feel that if they do come across someone, that they're able to defend themselves."

Legislation would require financial literacy education in grades K-12

WHITTIER – The Assembly approved Assembly Bill 2546 yesterday, a measure authored by Majority Leader Ian Calderon (D-Whittier) which will require the Instructional Quality Commission to include financial literacy in six different grade levels during its next curriculum framework update, with bipartisan support.

Specifically, AB 2546 will require the addition of two courses of age-appropriate financial education in kindergarten through 5th grade, and two courses in high school.

"Research indicates that financial illiteracy is a persistent

problem in California," said Calderon. "Financial literacy education needs to occur early and often in order to give students a deep understanding of these important concepts and prepare them for a complex financial world."

Earlier this year, the Select Committee on Youth and California's Future and the Assembly Banking and Finance Committee held a joint informational hearing on the issue of financial literacy. During the hearing, testimony confirmed that an early introduction to financial concepts and repetition of those lessons yields a deeper understanding. Students who had

financial education courses early and more often had higher rates of savings and were less likely to rely on high-cost methods of borrowing.

In a recent survey by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, only 42% of Californians answered at least four questions correctly on a five question financial literacy quiz.

According to the Jump\$art Coalition, the average high school student's score in financial literacy was 48%. However, minority students fared far worse than their white counterparts; 89% of African-Americans and 83% of Latinos failed to score a passing grade on the financial literacy test compared to 64% of white students.

In addition, 38% of men, in contrast to 22% of women, correctly answered all three financial literacy questions in a 2014 survey.

Exotic bird performance at Alondra Library

NORWALK – Alondra Library will welcome Wildlife Wendy's Tropical Birds on Tuesday, May 24 at 4 p.m.

Kids can enjoy a live performance with different large bird species. These tropical birds will be performing entertaining tricks and kids will learn some fun facts.

This program is for all ages of children.

Admission is free to the public.

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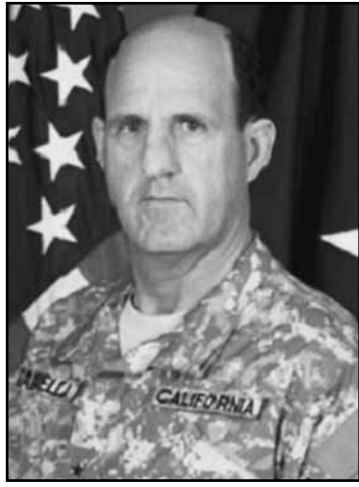
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Hablo Español Bar # 225243

Norwalk will commemorate Memorial Day with a free tribute Monday, May 30, at 11 a.m. on the civic center lawn.



Coordinated by the city of Norwalk and American Legion Post 359, the event will include the Southeast Academy color guard, rifle volley by the National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion, music performed by the Norwalk All-City Youth Band, and a keynote address by James L. Gabrielli, Brigadier General, Commander of the State Military Department's Youth and Community Programs Task Force and former U.S. Marine.

Complimentary refreshments will be served and free parking is available.

Upcoming events at the Norwalk Senior Center

NORWALK – Celebrate Memorial Day with a barbecue at the Norwalk Senior Center on Saturday, May 28, from 1-3:30 p.m.

Admission is \$5 and includes a meal of barbecued boneless, skinless chicken thigh, barbecue beans, coleslaw, roll, beverage and coffee. Games and prizes will take place throughout the event.

Tickets are available now through May 26 at the senior center, and will not be sold on the day of the event. Seniors ages 50 and older may purchase one ticket for themselves and one ticket for a spouse or adult companion.

•The Norwalk Senior Center is hosting western dances every Wednesday from 5:30-8 p.m.

The free event is for adults ages 50 and older. Birthdays are celebrated once each month, including cake and song.

No registration is necessary.

•The Norwalk Senior Center is sponsoring a trip to the USS Battleship Iowa in San Pedro on June 22.

Tickets are \$15 and include round trip transportation from Norwalk City Hall and a guided tour of the ship.

See the world famous Captain's Cabin and journey through World War II, the Korean War and the Cold War to experience a sailor's life on the lead ship of the last class of gunships.

Later, have lunch on your own at Ports O'Call Village.

The event is open to adults ages 50 and older. Norwalk resident tickets are currently on sale, with a maximum of two reservations per person.

The bus leaves Norwalk City Hall at 9 a.m. and returns at 5 p.m.

For more information, call (562) 929-5580.

Shared Stories: Capitol Capers

Helen Hampton shares a fond memory of an adventure with her late sister Audrey when they "crashed" the Congressional Dining Room on a visit to Washington, D.C. 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 Helen Hampton

Several years ago, my sister Audrey and I drove from Virginia, where she lives, to Washington, D.C. I had never been there before, and of course I did not know my way around. We wanted to go to the Capitol and take the tour.

After going around and around

looking for a place to park, I saw a man move one of the "saw horses" that had been put there so no one could park. He parked his car and then put the saw horse back.

I told Audrey that if he did it, so could I. She said that they would tow the car away if we did that. There was no place else to park, so I pulled a saw horse aside and parked the car, then put the saw horse back. Audrey was having a fit by then, but we proceeded to the Capitol anyway.

We toured the hallowed halls and had a wonderful time. About an hour later, we smelled the most wonderful aroma coming down the halls.

I said, "Let's stop and get something to eat." We walked into this beautiful, elegant dining room. The lady at the reception desk asked if she could help us.

I said that we would like to eat

lunch there. She said that she was sorry, but this dining room was just for members of Congress.

I peeked past her and said, "Oh, I'm so disappointed. We so wanted to eat in this lovely place."

I think she felt sorry for us, so she said, "I'll tell you what. Over there towards the back you'll see a sign that says 'Press Only.' You may sit there." I thanked her profusely, and we proceeded back to the Press section. We found a nice table and sat down feeling very important.

Just as we started to look at the menu, two well-dressed gentlemen came over, sat at our table, and asked us which newspaper we were from. We reluctantly admitted that we weren't from the media after all – we were just visitors to Washington, D.C. who had to park illegally just to

get into the Capital.

They asked us who our congressmen were and several other questions. Needless to say, Audrey was having even more of a fit by then.

She didn't know who her congressman was, but I did know the congressman from my area because my daughter went to school with his daughter in Long Beach. After a very thorough "grilling," we were finally allowed to order our lunch.

When we left to go back to our car, Audrey said, "If that car has been towed, I'll kill you!" But when we arrived at the parking spot, we saw the most beautiful sight – the car was still there! That made our trip a complete success.

Downey Relay for Life approaches \$1M goal

DOWNEY – The community of Downey will gather at Downey Adult School this Saturday, May 21, at 9 am to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Downey.

Over the course of 14 years, the Relay For Life of Downey has raised a total of \$912,375 to help in the fight against cancer, while involving more than 10,500 walkers.

In its 15th year, with over 50 teams registered to participate in Saturday's event, Downey is not only racing for a cure, they are racing to \$1 million. With a total of over \$50,000 raised so far, this community is well on their way to reaching their \$120,000 goal.

Relay For Life is a 24-hour event that brings together teams from local businesses, schools, churches and families for fun, food, music, entertainment and a night under the stars while team members take turns walking or running on a track.

Relay For Life begins with a Cancer Survivor's Breakfast at 7:30 am to celebrate life, followed by a Survivors Lap at 9 am.

One of the highlights of the event is the Luminaria Ceremony, which begins at 9 pm. During the event, people may purchase a \$10 luminaria in memory or in honor of someone who has been touched by cancer. The luminaria bags are placed around the track and lit during a memorial program that includes guest speakers.

To make a donation to the event, visit the Downey Relay for Life website. For information about Relay For Life or about cancer, call toll-free anytime 1-800-227- 2345 or visit the American Cancer Society Web site at cancer.org.

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The Norwalk Patriot

Friday, Sept. 20, 2013 Vol. 7 No. 33 12040 Foster Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

SHARED STORIES: THE TIES THAT BIND

An Inflatable Idea

Shared Stories is a weekly column featuring articles from a writing class at the Norwalk Senior Center. Yolanda is a lifelong Norwalk resident who likes to see everyone with a smile on their face. In this piece she explores with dramatic flair the feelings of two young girls who find a Frederick's catalogue. The names have been changed to protect the innocent. Curated by Carol Kearns

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

Children my age were: "Too old for toys and too young for boys." It was the era of liberated women burning their bras. I didn't think, "braising bras" counted. Still, Frederick's merchandise defined sexy; just what an upward, almost blossoming, teenage girl wanted to get her hands on. I could hardly believe that I now owned a coveted catalogue.

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

It was difficult to contain my excitement. I was relieved when Carla opened the door instead of her mother. We had a puzzled look on her face when she asked, "Are you alright? You look kinda weird."

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

"You found money?"

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

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

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

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

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

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

After the twelfth or thirteenth time pointing over the pages we decided to pull our babysitting money and our allowances to buy a "Sex! Sex!" MOD be co-owners of a brassiere that lift and squeeze what little we had on our best. The ad said that this bra was revolutionary. It came with a magical straw, which allowed a woman to inflate a much femininity as she desired into this wonder undergarment, thus giving her a cleavage that could rival any other screen sex goddess.

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

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

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

"I just thought of a plan, Carla. We will flip a coin to see who'd get to wear it to the Sock Hop next month."

"I can bet one of us is not going to be a wallflower. I will not be a plain-lane. Can you imagine the look on Mira's face when she sees the new glamorous Me wearing my secret weapon?"

"Mira's such a stuck-up witch with a capital 'S' since she got all the boys' attention after padding her 'mining bra'."

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

"Like how?" she asked me.

I got up from the bed. "With shoulders swaying like this." I said as I demonstrated my best Marilyn Monroe "The She!"

"Oh! You can already walk like Marilyn, but I bet that you will do it even better when you are wearing 'It really have to go home now!' I finally said. "The catalogue will be after here. You don't have a rug-sat sister to share your room with. Do you want to put the catalogue under your mattress?"

"Ha! No, that's where I leave my 'G' rated diary for my mom to snort through. I will put it in the big dictionary on top of the bookcase. Not even my brother will look there."

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

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

"Jane? He's not so bad. He is tall and a bit mature."

"Jane? He's not so bad. He is tall and a bit mature."

"Jane? He's not so bad. He is tall and a bit mature."

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

CERRITOS LIBRARY INVESTS IN TECH FOR TEENS

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

By Christian Brown
Staff Writer

CERRITOS – In an effort to expand educational and creative resources for teenage patrons, the Cerritos Library on Saturday will unveil a new, 2,500-sq-ft, teen studio, featuring 18 Apple iMac work stations, three 60-inch interactive touch screens, and more than 7,000 books and documents.

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

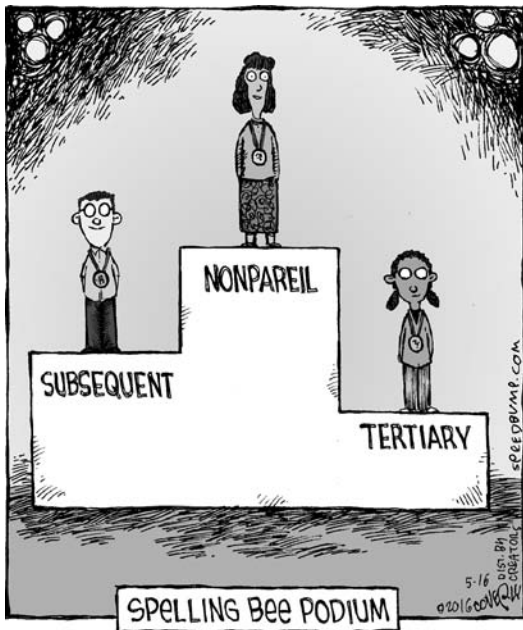
"This is not just a library for books, but for learning," said Councilwoman Carol Chen, who initially proposed the concept of a teen studio. "It's not just for reading, it's a whole learning experience with the newest and latest technology – we want to nurture the concept of a library as it is a computerized classroom with space for both group and individual study."

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

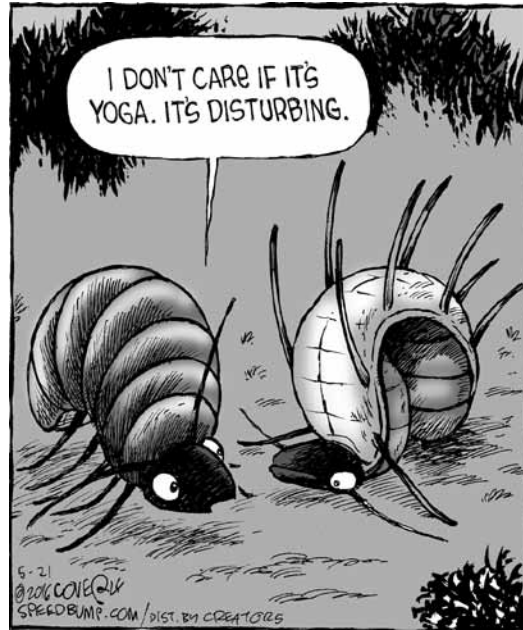
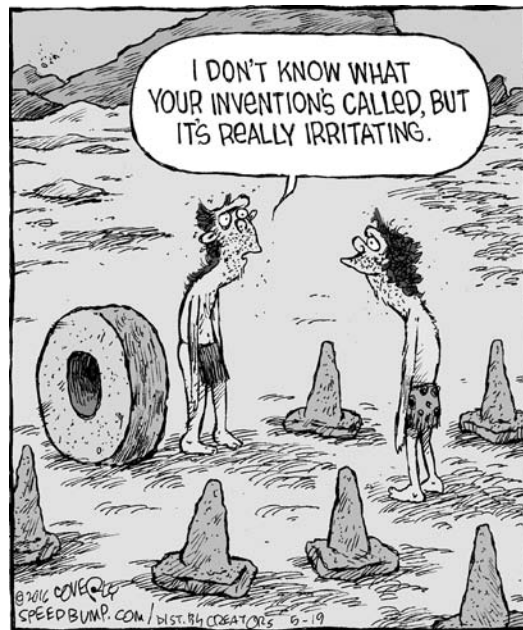
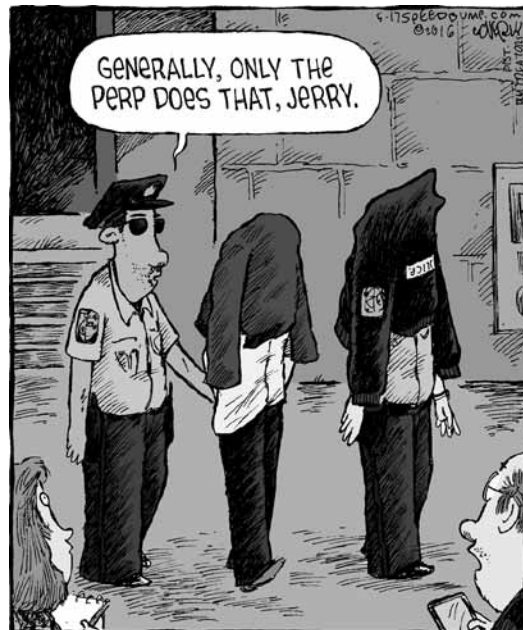
At a cost of more than \$290,000, the teen studio, which is approximately 70 people, will be a better, more open place to do homework, study, and interact with other students.

Similarly, junior high school students, like the 15-year-old Chen, take

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 20

7 p.m. - Open Mic - Norwalk Cultural Arts Center

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

On This Day...

May 20, 1927: Charles Lindbergh took off for Paris from Roosevelt Field in Long Island, N.Y., aboard the Spirit of St. Louis on the first nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean.
1932: Amelia Earhart took off from Newfoundland for Ireland to become the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.
1993: The series finale of "Cheers" aired on NBC.
Birthdays: Pop singer Cher (70), actress Mindy Cohn (50), wrestler Road Dogg (47), race car driver Tony Stewart (45) and rapper Busta Rhymes (44).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
THE WAY WE WORE: Fashion statements of the past
by S.N.

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	75 Cul-de-__	76 Some lodge members	77 Solitary	78 Literary or musical work	79 Member of the mackerel family	80 Brink	81 1920s men's fashion	82 Katherine of Grey's Anatomy	83 Italian Renaissance rhymester	84 Strongroom	85 Lost feathers	86 Brink	87 Some Yugoslavs, today	88 DC baseballer	89 Touring band's aide	90 Left Bank's "thanks"	91 Marine conservation pioneer	92 1910s women's fashion	93 1960s women's fashion	94 Caesarean rebuke	95 Ravel contemporary	96 Oskar in Schindler's List	97 Nostalgic tune	98 Wooden wedge	99 Justice Kagan	100 Queen in Frozen	101 Experiments	102 PD dispatches	103 Thicken, as cream	104 One-time Hemingway home	105 Frozen dessert franchise	106 Flashy basketball shot	107 Scents	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118																																																													
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CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2016 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 5/15/16

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

ADVERTISING POLICY

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.

The term SPITZ (10 Across) refers to a group of canine breeds such as the Welsh corgi and Alaskan malamute. As a 1994 Olympic champion, figure skater Oksana Baiul (66 Across) became the first Olympic gold-medal winner from Ukraine. LINDS Pauling (48 Down) is the only person to be awarded two unshared Nobel Prizes—for Chemistry (1954) and Peace (1962).

A commencement address for the most indebted class ever

By Chuck Collins

Congratulations, college graduates! As you enter the next phase of life, you and your parents should be proud of your achievements.

But, I'm sorry to say, they've come at a price: The system is trying to squeeze you harder than any previous generation.

Many baby boomers, perhaps including your parents, benefited from a time when higher education was seen as a shared social responsibility. Between 1945 and 1975, tens of millions of them graduated from college with little or no debt.

But now, tens of millions of you are graduating with astounding levels of debt.

This year, seven in 10 graduating seniors borrowed for their educations. Their average debt is now over \$37,000 — the highest figure for any class ever.

Already, some 43 percent of borrowers — together owing \$200 billion — have either stopped making payments or are behind on their student loans. Millions are in default.

This debt casts a long shadow on the finances of graduates. During the last quarter of 2015 alone, the Education Department moved to garnish \$176 million in wages.

There's no economic benefit to this system whatsoever. Indebted students delay starting families and buying houses, experience compounding economic distress, and are less inclined to take entrepreneurial risks.

One driver of the change from your parents' generation has been tax cuts for the wealthy, which have led to cuts in higher education budgets. Forty-seven states now spend less per student on higher education than they did before the 2008 economic recession.

In effect, we're shifting tax obligations away from multi-millionaires and onto states and middle-income taxpayers. And that's led colleges to rely on higher tuition costs and fees.

In 2005, for instance, Congress stopped sharing revenue from the estate tax — a levy on inherited wealth exclusively paid by multi-million dollar estates — with the states. Most state legislatures failed to replace it at the state level, costing them billions in revenue over the last decade.

In fact, the 32 states that let their estate taxes expire are foregoing between \$3 to \$6 billion a year, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates. The resulting tax benefits have gone entirely to multi-millionaires and billionaires — and contributed to tuition increases.

For example, California used to raise almost \$1 billion a year in revenue from its state-level estate tax. Now that figure is down to zero. And since 2008, average tuition has increased over \$3,500 at four-year public colleges and universities in the state.

Florida, meanwhile, lost \$700 million a year — and raised tuition nearly \$2,500. Michigan lost \$155 million a year and hiked average tuition \$2,200.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Washington State went the opposite route.

Washington taxes wealthy estates and dedicates the \$150 million it raises each year to an education legacy trust account, which supports K-12 education and the state's community college system. Other states should follow this model, and students and parents should take the lead in demanding it.

Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders said at a Philadelphia town hall that there's one thing he's 100 percent certain about.

If millions of young people stood up and said they're "sick and tired of leaving college \$30,000, \$50,000, \$70,000 in debt, that they want public colleges and universities tuition-free," he predicted, "that is exactly what would happen."

Sanders is right: Imagine a political movement made up of the 40 million households that currently hold \$1.2 trillion in debt.

If we stood up and pressed for policies to eliminate millionaire tax breaks and dedicate the revenue to debt-free education, it would change the face of America.

Graduates, let's get to work.

Chuck Collins directs the Program on Inequality and the Common Good at the Institute for Policy Studies.

Marijuana and the teenage brain

By Joel Reynoza

Many youth today accept marijuana as medicine and one can say that this troubling trend has led to the normalization of marijuana use among young people.

I work in the drug and alcohol prevention field and have taught life skills to 6th grade students for about four years now. Every year when the topic of marijuana comes up the outcome is about the same: "that it is a medicine and could be good for you."

A 2015 survey concluded that 35% of 12th graders in the U.S report using marijuana in the past year. This amount of use can be attributed to the relaxed attitudes of their peers and family members and the misinformation presented by the media. As a prevention professional I am writing here today in the hopes that parents and community members take the harmful health effects of this drug more seriously.

The reality of marijuana is that it is especially harmful to young people. During pre-teens and throughout the teenage years the brain is going through a massive development phase. Dr. Gruber, PhD. Director of the MIND program at McLean Hospital/Harvard medical school, states that during this time of development and into the early mid-20's the brain is particularly sensitive to damage from drug exposure.

In addition, addiction is one of the potential consequences of early use by adolescents. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, adults who use marijuana have a 9% chance of becoming addicted, as opposed to teenagers whose rate jumps to 17%, which translates to adolescents almost being twice as likely to become addicted to marijuana.

One of the short term side effects of marijuana is impaired body movement which severely affects one's ability to drive. Another side effect is reduced thinking and problem solving skills which leads to doing poorly in school and higher dropout rates. The chemical Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the drug that produces the sensation of being high and that leads to being impaired and activities that were once really easy such as paying attention in class and driving are no longer easy, nor safe.

The long-term effects of marijuana use on the brain are much more severe. Marijuana use is linked to anxiety, depression and even schizophrenia in some studies. This can affect a person's quality of life and their role in the community. THC affects the information processed by part of the brain (hippocampus) that controls learning and memory. For long-term users; marijuana physically alters the brain volume and damages the brain's white matter. White matter in the brain helps communication among the neurons and those who reported using marijuana 5 times in the past 7 days and have used more than 2,500 times

in their lives had physical damage to the white matter in their brains.

That same study was able to link white matter changes to higher impulsivity rates. In the past four years my experience with young people has taught me that impulsivity is the action that creates many problems for them. They act before they think about the outcomes or consequences. This type of behavior can have a direct impact on society like violence, car accidents, and uneducated-unproductive youth.

It is important for us to speak to our parents and community members about the harms caused by marijuana. Young people should not treat marijuana as something healthy; it should be treated for what it is: a drug. Misinformation and marketing towards young people can cause a lot of problems for families who are unaware of the toll marijuana takes on teenagers.

Like alcohol, marijuana should not be treated as a "rite of passage," because the effects on the brain could be permanent. The short-term effects of driving while under the influence or dropping out of school will have devastating effects on our young people. We need to think about the damage it can cause to our brains, and our lives.

It is our job to inform the community about the dangers of marijuana use for teenagers, we need to educate ourselves on how this drug affects our lives, and we need to be advocates for healthy communities.

LEGALS

NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER: VS028587 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Francisco J Victoria filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name (1) Francisco J Victoria to Proposed name (1) Frank Valiant

DATE: June 22, 2016, Time: 1:30 pm, Department C The address of the court is 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, California 90650

The Norwalk Patriot 5/20/16, 5/27/16, 6/3/16, 6/10/16

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY MEETING Metropolitan State Hospital - Modernization Project Update

DATE: June 1, 2016 TIME: 6:30 PM PLACE: Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex (Sproul Room) 13000 Clarkdale Avenue, Norwalk CA 90650

The California Department of State Hospitals is in the planning process of modernizing and increasing security on a portion of the Metropolitan State Hospital, located at 11401 Bloomfield Avenue and is holding a community meeting at the above time and place to discuss these improvements.

The purpose of the project is to increase security on the hospital campus through various improvements, including additional internal fencing and security technology. The planned improvements would also expand the visitor center, create a new central parking area, improve internal circulation, and provide additional landscaping and screening.

The California Department of General Services is preparing an environmental document pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) on behalf of the lead agency, the California Department of State Hospitals. Public review of the CEQA document is expected summer 2016.

Should you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact the project manager, Stephanie Coleman with the Department of General Services at (916) 376-1602 or at Stephanie.Coleman@dgs.ca.gov.

The Norwalk Patriot 5/20/16

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Call Linda Larson to include your ad in The Norwalk Patriot Classified Section Deadline is Wednesday at 11:00 am (562) 904-3668

Advertisement for The Norwalk Patriot subscription. Features a large '\$10.00 GUARANTEED DELIVERY' graphic and a photo of the newspaper's front page with the headline 'School board considers bond measure to renovate schools'.

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

Subscription form with fields for Name, Address, and Phone.

COMMENTARY: Just another day in Norwalk

By Raul Samaniego
Contributor

NORWALK – Oh, I love the smell of Norwalk in the morning. That's something my Dad, Mr. Samaniego might have said. Actually it was more like, "You know when you're in Norwalk because you can smell it before you can see it."

Usually, either Mom or Dad would say that after one of those long weekend trips out to Arizona to visit his brother, my uncle, Joe.

We'd drive all night Friday to arrive sometime in the early morning hours in the strange desert air of Glendale. Ah, Glendale, that was the boondocks of Phoenix back around '68 or '72.

Why the smell you might ask? Well, Norwalk and Dairy Valley used to be the kings of milk dairies in the southland. Why, old Ralph Nottingham owned the land where Sanchez Elementary and Hermosillo Park now stand as testimony to that dairyman's vision for the people of South Norwalk.

The smell of manure and all that went with it actually meant I suppose that all was well with the economy that was a great part of the neighborhood back in the day.

When it smelled, it smelled good. Hence, the reference to knowing you were home when returning from a road trip.

Now, I think you might say something like, "You know your home when you can see the beacon of the Norwalk Square sign from the 91 freeway."

Last week, I had some personal business in downtown which my sister Eva and I did together. I invited her to join me for a ride though Santa Fe Springs, Downey, Pico Rivera Commerce and eventually Los Angeles.

Route 62 goes through the old Camino real route and ends near my Retinal Specialist Doctors Office near Wilshire on the west side. However, this trip it was something totally different.

Along the way, we needed a comfort stop, so we exited the bus near the Costco on Washington.

That's the same store my friend found that small fortune a couple months ago. I looked around, I saw no happiness on the ground.

After our forty minute break, a couple of dollar fifty wonder dogs, we were on the next bus headed to downtown.

Me? I use the public transportation like many use their cars.

We actually drove the same route about two weeks earlier. I hated it! I remembered why I don't drive to LA. Yes, the traffic, the expense and the stress. Take your pick. I experienced them all.

That trip, it must have been nice to sit shotgun for my sister didn't comprehend the pain that was resonating from my right knee. I am out of LA driving shape. I was dying.

I have to admit, I didn't mind sitting on the bus to LA the second trip. I wasn't stressed, my knee didn't hurt (my bottom was a tad tired though) and it only cost thirty five cents for the bus fare. I supposed the dollar fifty sausage dog at Costco was an expensable item (Wait, I'm not a suit anymore). Not bad; Los Angeles for less than two bucks.

Well, I've been downtown many times the last few years. Mostly for those eye appointments and now this personal business I mentioned.

Here is why I am writing. Forgive me if it sounds a little J.D. Salinger like.

After we finished our business in the civic center district, Eva and I headed for the red and blue lines entrance near Hill Street.

Going down two escalators about ten stories underground, we emerged onto the large underground platform of the Los Angeles Metro Subway (Yes, New Yorkers, LA has a subway).

Like I said no big deal. I've been riding light rail since my days in San Diego. This was no different. Just that we were underground was the cool thing. It was to be a short five minute ride to Union Station where we would connect with the big boy, the Metrolink train and then 24 minutes back to Norwalk.

Walking onto the silver car of the red line I decided to stand holding a pole for it was but a few minutes ride to our final destination. It was then

I saw it.

As I stood holding a pole, my eyes fixed straight ahead to a man in a business suit talking on his cell phone. How he got reception way down there I still don't know. It was when he started to exit that it happened.

As he walked out, he put his phone in his side pocket. Standing near the exit, this young man wearing headphones with a deep blue long sleeve shirt, black pants and converse style shoes in a blink of an eye took his device in his hands and waved it across the mans nalgas (That's spanglesh for buttocks).

"Nice swipe," is what I told the man.

He knew I knew.

He was one of those thieves we get tired of hearing about on the free digital TV at home.

He was swiping. That is, he was scanning the guy's secret data emitting from his cards and possibly his digital phone. This time though, I saw him.

He was squirming there in the low light of the train and he knew I knew.

I looked at him directly and I saw the dark glasses (Why do you need dark glass in the subway?).

He couldn't jump out of that car fast enough when the doors opened at the final destination, Union Station.

I bet he couldn't wait to find out what he had scanned with his notebook computer that was dangling from his shoulder. My sister was behind me and had no idea of what just happened.

At the top, I caught the attention of the nearest Homeland security and told them of the incident.

Deer in the headlights.

That was the look coming form the young protectors of our 2016 true life reality.

It wasn't a bomber, an unattended package or even an unruly passenger. It was notification of a skimmer in their midst.

What a day. Long bus rides, tall skyscrapers, thieves and a twenty four minute train ride back to Norwalk. This time, no smell, just the unlit beacon of the Norwalk Square sign as the 100 ton train approached the Norwalk-Santa Fe Springs Commuter Station.

Like I said, I love the smell of Norwalk in the morning.

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Upcoming events at the Downey Library

DOWNEY – Essie Landry, Social Security public affairs specialist, will give an "Understanding the Benefits" presentation, which will cover all Social Security programs and Medicare.

In addition, she will answer any questions you have about the

various programs. This program is free and open to the public.

To register stop by the Library or call (562) 904-7364.

The presentation will be held in the Cormack Room of the Downey City Library on

Saturday, May 21 from 10:30-11:30 am.

•Kelly Gallagher will lead a discussion and book signing at Downey City Hall.

Gallagher is a teacher, author,

speaker and coach devoted to the teaching of reading, writing, listening and speaking. He has written six books on educational guidance and taught at California State University of Fullerton.

To sign up for this free author event call (562) 904-7364 or email literacy@downeyca.org

This event will take place in the City Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, May 23, from 6:30-7:30 pm.

•Discover the seven pre-reading skills your child can start learning now to be successful readers and learners in the future. We will introduce you to simple activities you and your child can do together that will have a big impact on their schooling.

Register at the adult information desk or call (562) 904-7364.

Event will be held Tuesday, May 24 and Wednesday, May 25 from 10:40 to 11:10 am in the Children's area of the Downey City Library.

•Whether you have some service hours to work through this summer or you are looking for a way to give back to the community, teens are invited to the Volunteer Fair and discover summer opportunities.

Organizations from the Red Cross to Rabbit Rescue will be there, don't miss this chance to make a difference.

This program is free and open to high school students. For more information stop by the Library or call 562-904-7361.

The fair will be held in the Cormack Room of the Downey City Library on Wednesday, May 25 from 4-6 pm.



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