

## Shared Stories: The Ties That Bind

*From the time she was little, Vicky Williams always had a love of reading and a thirst for learning. Her first “F” ever was devastating, but also a turning point in her life. 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*

### “The Stylish and Eloquent Ms. Moss” by Vickie Williams

My worst and best experience in school happened in the ninth grade, my first year at Carroll High School in Monroe, Louisiana. It was a turning point in my life. My ninth grade English teacher, Ms. Betty Moss, taught me a thing or two.

I failed the first test we had in class. I was devastated. I felt she had whipped me with a big stick. I agonized over doing so poorly and was deeply pained. It was the first time I failed an exam. My eyes were drenched in tears and my heart was broken. I felt so wounded and deeply ashamed.

I struggled to tell my mother. I had always brought good news and good grades home from school. It frightened me to bear such bad news. I trembled as I spoke.

“Ma Dear, I have something to show you.” I reached in my notebook fumbling through nervously. I let the page speak for me as tears flooded my eyes.

“Oh baby, I am so sorry,” she said, as she looked at that big, fat red F.

“I don’t know what went wrong. I did study. Only one person passed and he received an A plus.”

“Dry your eyes and don’t give up. I believe in you and you just keep trying. It can’t help but get better.” She reached for me and gave me a long hug.

“Are you hungry?”

“No I am not.” Mother never failed to provide an after school treat before supper. My head was too busy to think about eating. I was anxious to crack open my books and do my homework.

My grades were always in good standing with my parents and teachers from first through eighth grade. Homework took precedence over recreation and play. My parents always stressed education and mother always stayed connected with our teachers. She was the president of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for several years.

Ms. Betty Moss introduced me to James Weldon Johnson and Edgar Allen Poe’s poetry. I read Dickens and Shakespeare for the first time in her class.

My first book report was on Great Expectations. It was the first book I read from cover to cover. It was very thick and a struggle to complete. It took all of my two-week Christmas vacation to finish. The more I read the more I wanted to read.

Along with the other assignments and determination not to be defeated, I vowed in my spirit to rise above that awful grade. I threw myself into reading, as if I had no tomorrow. My next exam on breaking down sentences and identifying each part came easier. I made an A minus.

Ms. Moss started to gleam in my eyes, as my grade improved. She was tall, slim, dark brown, and sassy. She dressed as if she had stepped out of Vogue magazine, young and stylish. She wore her hair in a mushroom. Her makeup was immaculate. She spoke with eloquence. Her diction was flawless, her enunciation as clear as glass.

There was substance in her actions, depth in her words. She made us work, piled mountains of homework on us, gave pop quizzes, and I made sure I paid attention in class. Once my fear of her diminished, my confidence soared and I conquered her mountain.

She was passionate about teaching, set the bar high, made no excuses, and pushed for excellence. With time, she mellowed in my eyes. She was calm, cool, collected, and fresh out of college. Her bark was worst than her bite. She did not tolerate talking in class unless she asked a student to speak.

She was strict with no apologies. Shirts tucked in, no chewing gum, or students allowed in class after the bell rang. Yes, she pushed us to the limit. However, looking back she got our minds turning, our adrenalin flowing, and captured our attention. Her encouragement and my comeback from failing her first exam changed my attitude. I grew to like her.

She towered over us like a giraffe, taught with purpose and conviction, and carried herself with pride exuding passion and enthusiasm for teaching. She was composed, regal, and confident. “Let your good be better and your better be best,” was the echo of her refrain.

Her call to action was more than teaching. It was about building character, resolve, and motivating her students to think. She taught me that I could fail and get back up, although I stumbled out of the blocks.

I felt like the tortoise not the hare, stayed the course and made it to the finish line. The sweetest grade I ever made was the A that I received in Ms. Moss’s ninth grade English class. It turned my world around.

I moved to California in 1968. It was a year or two after moving that I heard Ms. Moss died in an auto accident. During my teenage years, I would save the allowance my mother gave me to buy books on sale at Thrifty Drug Store and often spent my

See STORIES on Page 2

## Norwalk City Council split on how to fill Rodarte’s open seat

**NORWALK** – The Norwalk City Council on Tuesday failed to agree on how to fill a coveted vacant seat left by former Councilmember Marcel Rodarte, who resigned last month.

Unable to garner the three votes necessary to adopt a replacement plan, the four councilmembers decidedly split over whether they should unilaterally appoint Rodarte’s successor or call for a special election in March 2017.

Mayor Mike Mendez and Councilmember Luigi Vernola advocated for appointing a qualified resident to the dais.

“We’ll have the community put the word out – and we’ll collect resumes from the community,” Vernola said. “We can come on a Saturday and review the applications then make a decision. That’s the fair way.”

However, Vice Mayor Cheri Kelley and Councilmember Leonard Shryock disagreed, pushing instead for the Council to wait until March 7, 2017 for a special election when anyone can run to fill the open seat.

“The learning curve for this job is huge. Looking at resumes doesn’t give us everything we need to know,” said Kelley, who maintained the voters should have a voice in selecting Rodarte’s successor.

“I’m just against giving incumbent status to a non-elected person,” said Shryock.

The Council voted first on Tuesday for a motion to appoint a replacement and then for a motion to wait for a special election in March. Both motions failed with a 2-2 split vote.

Rodarte resigned on June 30 to accept a job as executive director of California Contract Cities Association. According to city code, the Council has 60 days from Rodarte’s resignation to decide on an option to replace him.

If councilmembers choose to appoint a person to the Council, he or she would hold the office until March 7. At that time, the appointee could run to retain the seat until the remainder of Rodarte’s term, which ends March 2019.

If the Council votes to wait until March 2017 for a special election, the seat will stay vacant until then when residents can run to fill the seat until March 2019.

Councilmembers agreed to take up the issue again at the next City Council meeting on Aug. 2. –**Christian Brown, editor**

## Carmenita Road Bridge reopens as I-5 Freeway expansion project progresses



**NORWALK** – Mayor Mike Mendez joined U.S. Congresswomen Linda and Loretta Sanchez, state Senator Tony Mendoza, Assembly member Ian Calderon, and L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe on Monday to celebrate the opening of the I-5 Carmenita Road Bridge.

Standing adjacent the new overpass, officials praised the recently completed interchange project, which extends through the cities of Santa Fe Springs and Norwalk from Alondra Boulevard to Shoemaker Avenue.

The freeway improvements involved replacing and reconstructing the existing two-lane overcrossing with a 10-lane -- five lanes each direction -- structure, and reconfiguring the Carmenita Road interchange at the I-5 Freeway. The project reconfigured the on and off-ramps, realigning the frontage roads.

The Carmenita Road Interchange Project is one of six segments in construction as part of the \$1.6 billion I-5 South Corridor Improvement Projects, extending seven miles from the Los Angeles/Orange County line to the San Gabriel River Freeway (I-605).

## Norwalk-La Mirada school board passes \$200M budget for 2016-17 school year

■ **NLMUSD:** Norwalk-La Mirada school board approves \$200M spending plan, but warns of looming deficits.

By **Christian Brown**  
Editor

**NORWALK** – The Norwalk-La Mirada Unified’s Board of Education has approved a more than \$200 million balanced budget for the 2016-17 school year.

However, plagued by declining student enrollment and potentially volatile funding from the state, district officials are forecasting steady deficits over the next three years.

In a unanimous 6-0 vote, with board member Margarita Rios absent, the Board of Education on June 27 adopted the new spending plan that develops programs that focus on supporting three high-need groups: students from low-income families, foster children, and English learners.

After holding stakeholder meetings throughout the year with students, parents, and faculty, the district narrowed its budget goals to six themes, which include creating an engaging and connected learning environment, increasing student achievement and college/career readiness, expanding a high-quality staff, engaging parents, offering equal access to rigorous instruction, and improving infrastructure district-wide.

In order to meet these goals, the 2016-17 budget divides up \$206.05 million in revenues for district projects and programs.

While 85% of the funds go towards salaries and benefits, \$28.4 million will pay for everything from expanding AVID programs in



elementary schools (\$77,762) and instructional coaching (\$1.45 million) to launching K-12 dual language programs (\$1.29 million) and hiring more safety personnel around district campuses (\$305,425).

As a result of one-time state monies – nearly \$4.2 million – the district projects it will complete the 2016-17 school year with a \$3.1 million surplus of revenues. Added to the existing district revenue fund of \$36,762,699, NLMUSD expects to have roughly \$40 million in unassigned funds next year.

Nonetheless, multi-year projections by district staff show that declining enrollment and a slowdown in education funding from the state’s budget could create deficit spending for the district, depleting the reserves and putting the district in fiscal jeopardy.

Although NLMUSD Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian is optimistic that this will not happen, she said it’s prudent to put extra emphasis on the looming risks.

“Looking to the future, [Governor Brown] is careful to point out that the state’s projections do not assume a recession, but do assume that Proposition 30 temporary taxes expire,” she said. “On the extension of taxes, the governor has said, ‘I’m leaving that to the people of California,’ but under these assumptions, the state forecasts large deficits, which grow even higher if a recession should develop.

“Once the dust settles in November, we could experience significant revisions in revenue projections, and we will keep stakeholders informed of any changes.”

## La Habra man sentenced for standoff with Norwalk deputies

**NORWALK** – A La Habra man was sentenced today to more than 110 years in state prison after being convicted of shooting at law enforcement during a standoff in Norwalk two years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced.

Jason Edwin Devore, 39, was sentenced to 111 years and eight months in prison by Los Angeles County Superior Court Mildred Escobedo. In June, Devore was found guilty of five counts of assault on a peace officer with a semiautomatic firearm and 16 counts of second-degree robbery.

On June 10, 2014, Devore and George Contreras, 21, of Los Angeles, barricaded themselves in a trailer in Norwalk after law enforcement attempted to arrest Devore, who was a suspect in a series of robberies throughout the Los Angeles region.

Prosecutors said shots were fired at officers on three separate occasions during the prolonged standoff. No one was injured.

After several hours, Contreras surrendered to authorities. Tear gas was later fired into the trailer that flushed Devore out. Both men were arrested.

In June, Contreras pleaded no contest to two counts of assault on a peace officer and one count of second-degree robbery. He was sentenced to 12 years and four months in prison. The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Bureau of Investigation and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

## Weekend at a Glance

Friday 100°

Saturday 92°

Sunday 87°

### THINGS TO DO



#### 626 Night Market

July 22-24 - Santa Anita Park, 4 p.m.

The original Asian-themed festival returns with hundreds of food and entertainment attractions.



#### Recreation Swim

Friday - Norwalk Aquatic Pavillion 7:45 p.m.

Enjoy a night of recreational swimming. \$4 adults, \$3 kids, \$3 seniors



#### Open Mic

Saturday - Norwalk Cultural Arts Center 8 p.m.

Open mic for singers, poets, comedians, musicians and more.



#### The Port of Los Angeles Lobster Festival

Saturday and Sunday - L.A. Waterfront 11 a.m.

Discounted Maine lobster meals and live entertainment. Tickets start at \$12.



#### Luis Coronel

Sunday - Fox Theater, Pomona 7 p.m.

The Latin pop singer and teen idol brings his tour to Southern California.

### FROM OUR FACEBOOK

**Norwalk City Council deadlocks over how to fill Marcel Rodarte’s open seat**

**Marisela Cervantes:** This city needs new leadership with a vision! Mendez and Vernola need to let us choose!

**Marcos Lopez:** I agree special election. I know this will cost us money but its better that it goes to this than another marketing plan of \$120,000.

**David Lauderdale:** While I definitely agree with your position on the waste of money on a new city brand. The cost for the “special election” will be minimal as it will be inclusive with the next regularly scheduled election.

**Kevin James Landry:** Let the people you serve decide with an election.

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Assemblymember CRISTINA GARCIA invites you to bring your ideas, questions and concerns about legislative issues to discuss over a cup of coffee at one of the following Saturday mornings:

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9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

PICO RIVERA SENIOR CENTER  
9200 MINES AVE.  
PICO RIVERA, CA 90660

**JULY 30**  
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

BARBARA J. RILEY COMMUNITY & SENIOR CENTER  
7810 QUILL DR.  
DOWNEY, CA 90242

**AUGUST 6**  
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

ABC ADULT SCHOOL  
ROOM E-7 ON CUESTA CAMPUS  
12254 CUESTA DR.  
CERRITOS, CA 90703

**AUGUST 13\***  
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

BELL GARDENS SENIOR CENTER  
6722 CLARA ST.  
BELL GARDENS, CA 90201

\* THIS EVENT WILL BE IN SPANISH.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP PLEASE CALL (562) 861-5803 OR VISIT [ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV/GX](http://ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV/GX)

CAFÉ CON LA ASAMBLEISTA CRISTINA GARCIA EL 13 DE AGOSTO EN BELL GARDENS. PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN LLAME AL (562) 861-5803.



The Norwalk City Council on Tuesday honored five public safety cadets with recognition for their accomplishments earned at the Camp Superstars competition.

# STORIES: How one teacher turned failure into inspiration

Continued from Page 1

lunch breaks in the library reading, while attending Los Angeles High School.

The student I became, the worlds I traveled through books, the beauty and knowledge I discovered reading, the magic on pages that inspired me, I attribute to Ms. Moss. She was the catalyst to my thirst and resolve. She encouraged my hunger to do better.

My drive to bounce back from failure and to reach for excellence was because of her. Memories of Ms. Moss shine through as if it were only yesterday.

Many years later, my mother and I were having a conversation about my ninth grade experience. She had reached out to Ms. Moss without me knowing. They were both in agreement that I would be okay. They knew time would change the outcome and my tears would go away.

I dreamed of going to college at a young age. Fortunately, my mother's dream of me attending college and Ms. Moss's wishes for me to succeed did not become ashes. I am eternally grateful to both of them. What valuable lessons they both taught me.

# Johnny Lemucchi living life, even without a heart (literally)

■ **LIFE-SAVER:** Downey man is one of approximately 50 people worldwide to receive artificial heart.

By Alex Dominguez Contributor

DOWNEY – For most people, being described as “heartless” would be considered unflattering, insulting and downright rude. But for 55-year-old Downey resident Johnny Lemucchi, it's a more accurate term than many might realize.

Lemucchi is a long-time resident of Downey, having lived in the city for 30 years. He has been husband to Carol for 34 years, father of three, and just recently, a grandfather.

Lemucchi has been highly active in youth, school, and adult league athletics during his years in Downey, especially in soccer where he refereed and coached, including a National Games winning team in 2012. Lemucchi estimates that he has coached over 1500 kids.

However, Lemucchi's life took an extreme unexpected turn just a few months ago when he went in for a routine physical.

“I went for a physical [and] the doctor told me that he's calling the paramedics,” said Lemucchi. “I said ‘for what?’, and he says ‘you're having a heart attack.’”

Before receiving the shocking



they don't know about this,” said Lemucchi. “What they're doing is they're putting people on hospice and then just letting them die. And there's no reason...”

According to Lemmuchi, he is around sixth on the list for a heart transplant, however that number can easily fluctuate from day to day depending on need. His artificial heart is by no means meant to be a permanent fix, however, he describes it as a “bridge” until he eventually gets the phone call from the hospital that he and his family are so anxiously awaiting.

# Shooting in Artesia leaves one dead, two injured

ARTESIA – Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide detectives are continuing to investigate a shooting that left one man dead and two other men injured at a party on Saturday evening.

Detectives report that at approximately 10:20 p.m., Lakewood Station deputies responded to the 18000 block of Alburis Avenue in Artesia regarding a “gunshot victim” call.

When they arrived they discovered three Hispanic men suffering from gunshot wounds. Detectives learned four unknown men arrived at a graduation party in the rear yard of the location.

During the party, a confrontation ensued which resulted in the shooting of the three victims.

One victim sustained gunshot wounds to his upper torso and was pronounced dead at the scene. The other two shooting victims were transported to a local hospital and remain in fair condition.

There is no suspect information and the motive for the shooting is unknown.

Detectives say there is no additional information at this time and the investigation is on-going.

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Homicide Bureau at (323) 890-5500.

news, Lemucchi says that he had been keeping up with his regular routine, including his soccer activities; he had even refereed a bunch of games over the Labor Day Weekend, only feeling dehydrated, if anything.

According to test results, doctors were able to determine that his heart attack had occurred sometime in September, however Lemucchi didn't go in for his fateful physical until November.

Lemucchi entered Whittier Medical Center Nov. 6. His heart was showing only 14% outflow.

Originally, the plan was to implant a defibrillator, however complications arose and Lemucchi was told nothing could be done and was sent home.

In December, Lemucchi went to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, with practically the same result. However, a series of events left doctors uncomfortable with sending him home.

Then, on one particular Tuesday evening, Lemucchi's heart rate dramatically spiked and never came down. This singular event was the catalyst that caused doctors to finally decide to act and insert a defibrillator.

Eventually Lemucchi was allowed to come home. However, it wasn't long before another incident occurred and Lemucchi was right back in the hospital.

That was on a Sunday. On Monday, Lemucchi went into cardiac arrest.

Lemucchi was prepared for a heart transplant at Whittier. A special

ambulance with a nurse, surgeon, and two technicians transported him back to Cedars-Sinai for the procedure. Lemucchi's heart was removed and replaced with a total artificial heart.

During the procedure, a prosthetic heart was implanted and connected to an external machine by tubes. The machine uses air to constantly and consistently pump Lemmuchi's blood throughout his body. According to Lemucchi, he is one of about 50 people worldwide with the total artificial heart, and one of about 20 to 30 nationwide.

Lemucchi now carries a backpack that holds his machine, along with spare batteries. He's had his artificial heart for over 160 days.

Since the procedure, Lemucchi says that he has gotten some weird looks, raised eyebrows, and curious questions about the machine he now carries around with him. While he says some people do get “a little goofy” about the subject, he has no issues explaining his condition.

He also has no qualms about being kept alive by a machine, and has never felt less-than-human because of it.

“I'd rather be looked at than viewed,” said Lemucchi. “...I'm alive...to me, if I didn't have it I wouldn't be here....I'm not gonna give up on life.”

Lemucchi now hopes that his experience can educate physician and patient alike, and even potentially save lives.

“Even the cardiologists -

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# African Americans still fighting to be first class citizens

By Ebony Slaughter-Johnson

When I heard about the police shootings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, I thought back to another name etched into American history: Dred Scott.

In 1857, the Supreme Court was tasked with deciding whether Scott, an African American man born into slavery, should be granted his freedom. The justices not only denied Scott's request, but also took the opportunity to send a chilling message to all African Americans, free and enslaved, that reverberates to this day.

The court held that as members of an inferior race, African Americans were not citizens at all — and, as such, did not even have legal standing to sue. African Americans, as Chief Justice Roger Taney so decisively determined, had “no rights which the white man was bound to respect.”

The next century was characterized by an ongoing struggle to prove Taney wrong.

African American heroism during the Civil War era hastened the passage of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, which ended slavery and (theoretically) reversed race-based restrictions on citizenship. Yet these gains were negated almost as quickly as they were realized, as the strong grip of Jim Crow choked communities throughout the South.

Over the violent decades that followed, African Americans endured church bombings, harassment, and police beatings and animal attacks, like the brutalities inflicted on those marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965. This sacrifice of the black body, along with sustained lobbying, ultimately led to the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Yet even today, second-class citizenship continues. It shows up in generational poverty, a disparate education system, mass incarceration, and violence at the hands of police.

In fact, African Americans are three times as likely as whites to be killed by police, even though they're twice as likely to be unarmed. That's produced a slew of names that, like Dred Scott's, may loom over our history for centuries because of the rights they were denied.

In 2012, Trayvon Martin and Jordan Davis, both of whom had committed no crimes or infractions of any sort, were deprived of their constitutional right to life by self-deputized racists who proclaimed themselves judge, juror, and executioner and gunned them down.

That same year, Rekia Boyd was murdered under a hail of bullets by an off-duty police officer who reproached Boyd and her friends for talking too loudly, depriving her of her right to free speech, freedom of assembly, and life.

In August 2014, Michael Brown's right to a fair and public trial was violated by the police officer who shot him and callously left his lifeless body to bleed out in the street.

Walter Scott's life and right to due process were taken in April 2015 at the hands of a law enforcement officer, who then had the audacity to plant his weapon next to Scott's motionless body on the ground — all over a mere traffic violation.

On July 5, 2016, Alton Sterling, a father of five who was selling CDs to provide for his children, was murdered by law enforcement officers who violated his Fourth Amendment right to prevent unwarranted search and seizure simply

because he fit a certain profile.

Less than 48 hours later, Philando Castile was pulled over for a broken tail light. Castile's non-threatening disclosure that he was legally carrying a concealed weapon prompted a police officer to murder him in front of his partner and her four-year-old daughter, violating his Second Amendment right to bear arms.

In 2016, one would hope that the “inalienable rights” of all Americans are respected. Yet Taney's words that African Americans “have no rights which the white man was bound to respect” still ring loud and clear.

The fight for full African American citizenship continues.

*Ebony Slaughter-Johnson is a Next Leader at the Institute for Policy Studies. She researches history and the criminalization of poverty.*

## Assemblymembers Calderon and Low respond to Dell Inc.'s decision to lay off janitors

SACRAMENTO – Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon (D-Whittier) and Assemblymember Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley) issued the following statement regarding Dell Inc.'s decision to lay off their janitors at a Santa Clara office building:

“In May 2016, janitors working at tech companies across the Silicon Valley signed a historic contract that gives new protections against sexual violence and raises wages to a minimum of \$15 an hour.

“However, Dell – through their real estate management company CB Richard Ellis - now wants to ignore that contract, negotiated in good faith, and move to cheaper, nonunionized labor to replace current janitorial staff.

“Instead of embracing measures to protect the hardworking men and women that keep Dell's facilities pristine, Dell wants to cut costs. It is unacceptable that a company in Silicon Valley - where so much wealth is generated – is getting rid of its unionized janitors to save money.

“We are strong supporters of Silicon Valley and the innovation economy. However a company that



made \$3.2 billion in profit in fiscal year 2015 should be able to afford to pay their janitors a living wage.

“Dell's actions are in direct conflict with the beliefs of their CEO's own Foundation that ‘financial stability can help families break the cycle of poverty and ensure better health and education for their children.’

“We urge Dell and CBRE to retain its janitors and ensure they are not left on a path to poverty. Companies should fairly serve the community they reside in and the workers that help make them successful.

“Dell has long been a leader in the technology community. This is not a lead others should follow.”

## Police officers innocent until proven guilty

Dear Editor:

How very sad that another video gone viral has again caused great lawlessness in our country.

From the video, many were quick to blame the officer for the shooting in St. Paul, and this may be the case, however, we have not heard the officer's side of the story. Before he was allowed to give an explanation, he has been “hung over a tree.” In our country, I was under the assumption that we're innocent until proven guilty.

As in Ferguson and other shootings, the federal government is quick to blame and by doing so has exacerbated the situation, causing riots, the killing of five innocent police officers, and maiming nine others in Dallas.

All people should be educated as to what to do during a police confrontation. Sure there are some crooked cops as in any profession, but to always blame the police before they are heard is not the American way.

Perhaps the best thing for the police would be to operate in pairs -- black and white. When an alleged offender is black, have the black officer confront him/her. If the offender is white, have a white officer confront him/her. With this procedure, there should be no cause for racial discrimination.

The meddling federal government should keep out of the situation unless the local and state governments fail to bring proper law and order.

Martha Morrissey-Call  
Downey

### The Norwalk Patriot

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The Norwalk Patriot is published weekly by The Downey Patriot, Inc.  
Controlled Distribution, 22,000 copies are printed.  
Distributed by CIPS Marketing Group, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.

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### The Norwalk Patriot

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

**HARD STORIES: THE TIES THAT BIND**

#### An Inflatable Idea

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

By Yolanda Ade

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 shy 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 "training bras" counted. Still, Frederick's merchandise defined sexy; just what an adolescent, 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 backstreet 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. She had a puzzled look on her face when she asked,

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

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

"You found money?"

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

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

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

Carla quickly locked her bedroom door behind us. Her eyes were wide like Betty Boop, she demanded to see what I had found. "Not so fast," I said. "First 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 pouring over the pages we decided to pull our babysitting money and our allowances to buy a "She'll Be a Lady" bra. "Well be co-owners of a brassiere that'll lift and squeeze what little we had on our chest. The ad said that this bra was revolutionary. It came with a magical strap, which allowed a woman to inflate her screen sex goddesses.

"We'll look like movie stars," I promised.

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

We stood up on the bed bouncing and laughing, throwing pillows in to the air. After a few minutes we felt 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 be one of us if it not going to be a wallflower. I will not be a plain-Jane. Can you imagine the look on Mr. A's face when she sees the new glamorous Me wearing my secret weapon?"

"Mild's such a stuck-up witch with a capital 'B' since she got all the boys' attention after padding her 'training 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 walk.

"Oh Jane, you can already walk like Marilyn, but I bet that you will do it even better when you are wearing 'The She'll'."

"I really have to go home now!" I finally said. "The catalogue will be safer here. You don't have a rug-rat 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 snoop 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."

"You're kidding me, not so bad. He is tall and a bit mature."

"You're kidding me, not so bad. He is tall and a bit mature."

### CERRITOS LIBRARY INVESTS IN TECH FOR TEENS

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

By Christian Brown  
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

At a cost of more than \$290,000, the teen studio, which is approximately 70 people, will be a more open place to do research."

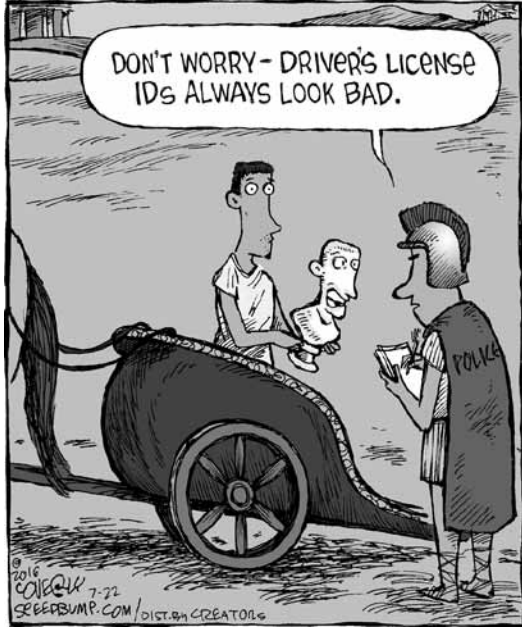
Similarly, junior high school students believe the new facility will help them with their homework.



SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



On This Day...

**July 22, 1796:** Cleveland was founded by General Moses Cleaveland.

**1955:** U.S. Vice-President Richard M. Nixon chaired a cabinet meeting in Washington, DC. It was the first time that a Vice-President had carried out the task.

**2009:** The longest total solar eclipse of the 21st century, lasting up to 6 minutes and 38.8 seconds, occurred over parts of Asia and the Pacific Ocean.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Game show host Alex Trebek (76); actor Danny Glover (70); actor Willem Dafoe (61); R&B singer Keith Sweat (55); TV star David Spade (52); NFL player Stevie Johnson (30); Pop singer and actress Selena Gomez (24).

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 22

7:45 p.m. - Recreation Swim - Norwalk Aquatic Pavillion

SATURDAY, JULY 23

8:00 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

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

**SPELLING B: Starting just as you might expect**  
by S.N.

**ACROSS**

1 Tarries

6 "A man walks into \_ \_ \_ ."

10 They're often seen on superheroes

15 Blender setting

19 Computer game pioneer

20 Subtle glow

21 French farewell

22 Break in the action

23 Carter's National Security Advisor

25 Wagner opera Valkyrie

27 Attractive stuff

28 Traditional teachings

30 Linked, as spacecraft

31 Recipe amt.

32 Emergency money

33 Enliven, with "up"

34 Close again, as some doors

37 Unexcitable

38 Washrooms, for short

39 Swimsuit top

42 Have \_ (be concerned)

43 Middle class

46 Handbag designer

47 Quaker colonist VIP

48 Rid of rind

49 How, in Honduras

50 Nevada city

51 Empty boasting

55 Stuff in bran

56 Pillages

58 Nigeria neighbor

59 Former Labour leader

60 Light brown

61 Order to a projectionist

62 Word like *danke*

63 Prenatal procedures

65 Inaccurate

66 Theater legend Lynn

69 Beef cuts

70 It might get into a jam

72 Type of toothpaste

73 Triathlete's vehicle

74 Mexican War president

75 Lack of hardships

76 Chew persistently

77 GI hangout

78 Lapel adornment

82 Make joyous

83 *Music Feed* airer

84 Sharp surface

85 Family members

86 *Compadres*

87 Foot part

88 Congratulations

89 Aid feloniously

90 "Lemme!"

93 On-call accessory

94 Krypton, for instance

98 Deep-sea submersible

100 Star in Orion

102 Enthusiastic about

103 Divination deck

104 Confident assertion

105 Modern artist Max

106 Shipped off

107 Does a slow burn

108 Narrated

109 Electronic instrument, for short

**DOWN**

1 Newborn

2 Modest

3 acknowledgment

4 Stun

5 Construction crew

6 Pretty big

7 Erstwhile grocery chain

8 Otherwise engaged

8 Biblical sanctuary

9 Caboose, for instance

10 Certain city trip

11 Seller of space

12 Name of 12 popes

13 Poetic dusk

14 Arizona State athlete

15 Mesh well

16 Clumsy ship

17 \_ tyme (Victorian-era, maybe)

18 Beseeched

24 Technical sch.

26 Polo participant

29 At first, in a dict.

32 Hoodwinked

33 Public promenade

34 Did yard work

35 French school

36 Former American Ballet Theatre head

37 Hymnal contents

38 \_ wait (lurk)

39 Swift's land of giants

40 Shakespearean eloper

41 Prettify

43 Important thing

44 Bibliography notation

47 Uses leverage

49 Date qualifier

51 Buffoons

52 Borders on

53 Jam-packed

54 Salsa tidbit

55 Third point, in tennis

57 "Common Sense" writer

59 Literary category

61 Chicago journalist

62 Mike

62 Telegraph developer

63 Picture holder

64 A little wet

65 *The Prince of Tides* star

66 Misgivings

67 "Swell!"

68 Mel Brooks' Robin Hood

70 Big branch

71 Salad bar selections

74 Online broadcasts

76 Sparkling

78 Goodman of the Big Band era

79 Zeros

80 Hosiery shade

81 Being a satellite

82 Is revealed

86 Offspring of Eve

87 \_ water (facing trouble)

88 Comic-book blow

89 At \_ (done)

90 Long-billed bird

91 Taper off

92 Envelope abbr.

93 Slowly reduce, with "down"

94 Proofreader's abbr.

95 Tim of *Project Runway*

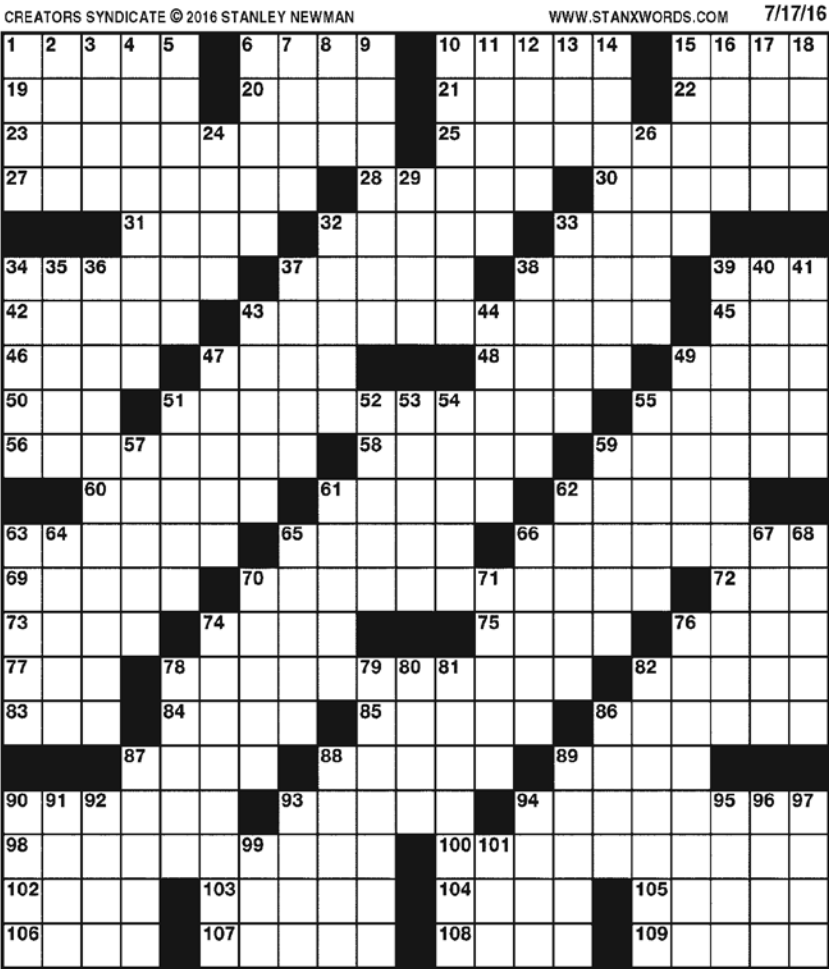
96 Deputy, for short

97 Thomas of clockdom

99 Angry hisser

101 "Green" prefix

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



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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.





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*The Class of 2016 broke several records.*

- The longest list of college acceptances,
- The largest number of Distinguished Scholars (highest academic award at SJHS),
- The highest amount of scholarships and grants,
- The most graduates to sign for college athletics,
- The most California Scholarship Federation (CSF) seal-bearers, and
- The largest group of second-generation graduates (Mothers of 19 young women also graduated from SJHS.)

SJHS Board Member and Alumna, Andrea Webster '88, attended the graduation and said: “I was reminded today of what I love so much about Saint Joseph High School. The love and sisterhood was palpable.”

There is no doubt that these Saint Joseph High School graduates have become “all of which woman is capable.” They will change the world and we already miss them. SJHS welcomes the Class of 2020! These freshmen start their four-year Jester Journey on August 16.

You too can be part of this special community and attend Saint Joseph High School. Follow in the footsteps of Ava DuVernay, Lisa Fernandez, and all of our outstanding alumnae whose lives were changed because they attended SJHS. To learn more, please attend our Open House on November 13; 6th, 7th and 8th graders are invited to “A Day in the Life of a Jester” on November 18.

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Golden Corral may become Downey’s most eco-friendly restaurant via organic waste recycling

■ **GOLDEN CORRAL:** Restaurant expects to recycle 1,000 lbs. of food scraps per day.

compliant with AB 1826,” said Derek Tabak, chief marketing officer of Ecco-Technologies.

AB 1826 became law in April and requires businesses to recycle their organic waste depending on the amount of waste they generate per week. Mandatory recycling of organic waste is the next step toward achieving California’s aggressive recycling and greenhouse gas emission goals.

The Downey Golden Corral is considered a prime candidate for an organic waste-recycling program because the restaurant expects to generate more than 1,000 pounds of food waste every day.

Instead of throwing food scraps away, waste will be compacted on-site, creating an odorless, bacteria-free, gray-water bi-product stored in the machine’s ozone tank until needed for grinding or other uses.

“Five ounces of every pre- and post-meal serving is trash,” Tabak explained. “And the average diner at a Golden Corral restaurant eats five plates of food.”

Seventy-five percent of restaurant waste is food, which is comprised mostly of water, Tabak added.

By recycling its organic waste, Golden Corral expects to save money because its “garbage hauling needs will be greatly reduced.”

“The concept of saving money on waste hauling in a dramatic, environmentally sensitive way is new,” Tabak said. “The new law now forces many establishments to put a recycling system in place.”

Golden Corral could open as soon as next week.

By Eric Pierce  
Editor

**DOWNEY** – The new Golden Corral opening this summer at Lakewood Boulevard and Gallatin Road will be one of the most environmentally-friendly restaurants in Downey, company officials said.

Golden Corral announced it is partnering with Ecco-Technologies to reduce the amount of organic waste that winds up in dumpsters and landfills.

“The Golden Corral is the first restaurant in Downey that will be

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Southeast Japanese School & Community Center hosts 53rd annual cultural festival

**NORWALK** – The Southeast Japanese School and Community Center, located at 14615 Gridley Rd. in Norwalk will have its annual Cultural Festival and Ondo on Saturday, July 23 from 3-9 p.m. and Sunday, July 24, from 2-8 p.m.

Festivities include a roster of food options ranging from teriyaki beef and chicken, yakisoba, sushi, and udon to orange chicken and BBQ pork chops.

Guests are also welcomed to participate in basketball, baseball pitching, gold fish toss, cannonball air blaster, and golf putting. Archery, Judo(wrestling), Karate, and Kendo (fencing) demonstrations will be on display and local favorite Kelsey Kwong will perform music. E Mele Hana and Na Ipo Hula, Hawaiian Delites, Na Wahine ‘O Kawena, and Kamaki Keawe and Friends will also showcase traditional Japanese dance. Open mic karaoke is open to guests also.

In ancient days, villages extended only as far as they could hear the Taiko signal drum. Now the center uses the Taiko drums at the festival to signal that the Ondo folk dances will soon follow.

The Cultural Festival and Ondo began 53 years ago in 1963 when then PTA President Mary Uwate thought it would be a fun way to end the Japanese School session by having a party with food and games for the students. The fathers nailed together wood framed booths and the mothers cooked the food.

Kiddie rides were rented for the small children and games were bought in for the older students. Ondo dances ended the evening for the parents, children, friends, and neighbors of the Norwalk Japanese Community. After a successful first year, the parents decided to continue the festival.

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