

Newly-elected Cerritos College board names youngest president ever

NORWALK – Re-elected members of the Cerritos College Board of Trustees Carmen Avalos (Area #2), Marisa Perez (Area #4) and Dr. Sandra Salazar (Area #6) returned to the Board to serve four-year terms. The Board also welcomed newly elected Trustee Martha Camacho-Rodriguez, representing Area #1.

Martha Camacho-Rodriguez of Downey is a special education teacher at Dominguez High School in the Compton Unified School District.

Carmen Avalos served on the Cerritos College Board of Trustees from 2005 to 2009, and was elected again in 2012. She has served as South Gate's City Clerk since 2001 and teaches biology.

Dr. Sandra Salazar of Norwalk is a family medicine physician in Los Angeles.



Zurich Lewis

Marisa Perez of Lakewood works with South Coast Air Quality Management District since 2010.

The board elected new officers for 2017, electing Zurich Lewis as the new board president, Carmen Avalos as vice president, and Dr. Shin Liu as clerk. The 23-year-old Lewis became the youngest, and the first Cuban-American board president in the College history.

"I am truly honored to have the full faith and confidence of my colleagues

to lead this board," said Lewis.

"I pledge to ensure our meetings are laser focused on student success by fostering healthy debate on the issues key to our college. I will work to create unity on our board so our college may best serve the communities we represent."



Norwalk hosts annual Angel Tree event for local families and kids in need

NORWALK – The annual Angel Tree Christmas event was held Saturday, Dec. 10 at the Dolores Huerta School Complex for children of the city of Norwalk.

Gifts of toys and clothing selected for individual children were provided by generous benefactors just for this affair.

"We invited over 1,450 children, and they should be here throughout the day, along with their families," said Angel Tree director, Veronica Garcia.

"They'll be receiving toys, a gift of clothing, playing games, having their faces painted and visiting with Santa," Garcia continued.

When asked who can participate, Garcia stated, "Norwalk resident [children] only."

Angel Tree is a donation-sponsored event from various sources including, "corporate and private sponsored donations."

"We have over 150 volunteers here today," Garcia shared of the commitment to produce the event.

Finally, Garcia added, "It is really through the generosity of the community that we are able to put this on...and we appreciate all the support."

Also in attendance was Norwalk Councilmember Leonard Shryock who stated that, "It's just the picture of what the Christmas spirit is."

Sitting with Santa were 5-year-old Elias and his 7-year-old brother Enrique Chavez along with their mother, Maria Diaz.

Mother Diaz said, "We have lived in Norwalk for 14 years."

Like many of the attendees, this was their first time participating in Angel Tree.

New this year were several declared candidates for next March's council race including, Harvey Cardenas, Ken Manchaca and Margarita Rios.

All three had been certified as of Friday's deadline for submitting paperwork to run in the early spring municipal election on March 7.

Gift solicitations usually begin in earnest in November but monetary gifts are welcome year-round, according to Garcia.

For further information, call the Social Services Department at (562) 929-5544. – **Raul Samaniego, contributor**



Four Norwalk-La Mirada Unified middle school students construct a cantilever using spaghetti and masking tape, one of several introductory engineering projects designed to spur interest in the Norwalk High School engineering pathway, during Female Challenge Day. | Photo: NLMUSD

'Female Challenge Day' inspires NLMUSD girls to pursue engineering

NORWALK – Nearly 100 female Norwalk-La Mirada eighth-graders from Corvallis, Los Alisos and Waite middle schools participated in a day of hands-on learning and instruction during Female Challenge Day on Dec. 2 at Norwalk High School.

Cal Poly Pomona Project Lead The Way (PLTW) students joined Norwalk High School's Pathway to Engineering (PTE) students to speak to the middle schoolers about the challenges and rewards of pursuing education and careers in the traditionally male-dominated field of engineering.

"The purpose of 'Female Challenge Day' is to encourage our eighth-grade girls to visualize themselves in a career pathway that leads straight to university," Norwalk High engineering teacher Alan Davis said. "We want to demonstrate that engineering can be fun and that the sky is the limit for those who are curious, have vivid imaginations and high expectations."

Cal Poly students began the day by advising the middle-schoolers on the various branches of engineering available to study, including civil, chemical and electrical, which can lead to lucrative careers in aerospace, space exploration, transportation and infrastructure, coding and developing smartphone apps.

The students broke out into smaller groups to work with the Cal Poly representatives on introductory engineering projects, such as making a hydraulic crane out of popsicle sticks and a syringe, or constructing a cantilever out of spaghetti and masking tape.

Ten female 2017 graduates from Norwalk High's inaugural PTE class held a breakout session to talk about how diversity in the field of engineering can lead to advances and technological breakthroughs.

"The engineering pathway helps you to be creative," Norwalk High senior Jessica Valencia said. "Engineering is all about designing and solving problems. In order to innovate, you have to have fresh ideas and be open-minded. The female perspective is extremely vital to this field."

Los Alisos eighth-grader Emily Ma, who is interesting in studying chemical or mechanical engineering, was fascinated at the depth of the PTE curriculum, and how it helps inform other subjects of interest to her.

"I can also use this knowledge for my art," Ma said. "Also, I never knew that hydraulics was a part of engineering. I found that making a crane was very challenging and fun."

Norwalk High began its PTE program in 2014, and will graduate its first class this school year.

"We have so many intelligent and gifted young women in our schools, and they are eager and prepared to excel in any field of study they choose," NLMUSD Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian said. "There is great opportunity for those who feel they design a better car, or develop a research program that can provide the world with cleaner water."

Shared Stories: A Box of Chocolates

Life presented Daniela Kanz with a special surprise one Christmas at the Downey Wonderbowl. 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 Daniela Kanz

I heard Forrest Gump, played by Tom Hanks in the 1994 movie, say, "Mama always said life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get."

Whenever Christmas rolls around, I always receive a box of chocolates. My daughters have continued the tradition their dad started. "Why do I get a box of chocolates every Christmas?" you ask.

Turn the calendar back to December 23, 1961. This New York transplant to California went with a friend to Wonderbowl in Downey.

We noticed several young fellows about our age, bowling. One of the fellows made me chuckle every time he went to throw the ball. As he began his stance and before he let go of the ball, he did a little movement similar to what is now known as twerking. I suppose he was way beyond his time.

After a few minutes of watching them, we wandered over to where people played pool. Then I noticed a table similar to pool but with more balls.

I remarked, "I wonder what they are playing," to my friend. It turned out that the person standing next to me was not my friend, but the fellow I had noticed earlier.

He responded, "They are playing Snooker." I had recently seen the movie The Hustler with Paul Newman, so I was intrigued. The young man began to explain the difference between Snooker and Pool.

Then he said, "Would you like to get a cup of coffee?"

I replied, "But, I don't even know you."

His response, "My name is Bruno, what's yours?"

"Ahhhhh, Dani..."

"OK, now – let's get that cup of coffee." After my friend Bruno and I entered the dining area and sat at a booth, the other young men swarmed us, one of whom latched on to my friend.

Soon it was time to drive to Long Beach to get my friend home. Bruno insisted on coming along as fog had rolled in and he was concerned about this novice driver navigating the Long Beach Freeway in the fog.

After dropping my friend off, I dropped Bruno off and went to my apartment in Downey figuring I would

See STORIES on Page 2

Weekend at a Glance

Friday	61°	
Saturday	57°	
Sunday	58°	

THINGS TO DO



Cash'd Out

Friday - Santa Fe Springs Swap Meet, 7 p.m.
Tribute concert to the late Johnny Cash, featuring the band Cash'd Out.



Holiday Concert

Saturday - Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 3 p.m.
Bands, choirs and dance companies from the many cultures of the region celebrate the season.



Rudolph: The Musical

Saturday - Dolby Theatre, 10:30 a.m.
All your favorite Christmas characters come to life in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical."



A Cinderella Christmas

Saturday - Pasadena Playhouse, 12 p.m. and 4 p.m.
The timeless tale of Cinderella, featuring comedy, dancing, magic and contemporary music.



Tidepool Walk

Saturday - Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, 11:30 a.m.
Join aquarium staff on an outdoor walk on the rocks to see animals in their natural habitat.



Lakers v. Clippers

Sunday - Staples Center, 7:30 p.m.
LA's rival NBA teams take on one another in a Christmas showdown on the basketball court.

Join the conversation at: [Facebook.com/NorwalkPatriot](https://www.facebook.com/NorwalkPatriot)

STORIES: Christmas surprises at the Downey Wonderbowl

CONTINUED from Page 1

never see this fellow again, though I did give him my phone number.

The next morning, was Christmas Eve day. I woke up to a knock on my door. There stood Bruno. "How did you find me?"

"I called and you gave me the address," he said. I must have done that in my sleep. Soon we were sitting at my kitchen table, drinking tea and visiting.

He asked what I had planned for the holiday. I told him I planned on going to midnight candlelight service at the Downey Presbyterian Church and that I had one ticket to see King of Kings in Hollywood.

He told me that his Dad had a stroke and was at Rancho Los Amigos in Downey. Would I accompany Bruno on a visit to his Dad?

I had nothing better to do and truth be told, I liked him.

His Dad was extremely happy to see his son and I enjoyed the Dad's German accent. It made me feel nostalgic for my parents.

After our visit, Bruno suggested we take a drive and look at the lights around town, since it had become dark.

The drive was enchanting, as I never experienced this growing up in New York City.

After the drive, Bruno wanted me to come to his home to meet his Mom. It was only fair, since I already met his Dad.

After visiting awhile, it was time to open gifts. I enjoyed watching the festivities when all of a sudden Bruno handed me a wrapped box.

I was stunned. We just met and spent the entire day together. How did he have something for me?

I opened the box and saw it was See's Candy. Later I learned that he had originally given it to his Mom and asked if she minded if he gave it to me.

He had another worry. What if the present had a note attached that said - MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM NORRIS THERMADOR - his place of employment. He was thankful there was no such note.

Since I had nothing for him, I went in my wallet and offered him the movie ticket. He said he would not go unless I went with him. He called and found out he could obtain another ticket. He also accompanied me to the candle light service.

This man captured my heart and by February 10th we were married.

Do you have a story to tell? Would you like a little help in finding the words? Join creative writing instructor Bonnie J. Mansell for an 18-week class on Tuesday afternoons from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Norwalk Senior Center beginning Jan.10, 2017.

The class will discuss brainstorming, writing theories, techniques, and styles with the help of writing prompts and guided exercises.



On Nov. 12, 2016 Justin Brache of Bellflower won the Master Hula Grand Prize, teen male division, in Maui's 2016 Hula O Na Keiki competition. Eleven contestants, age 9 to 17, competed in their respective divisions as soloists or as boy and girl pair(s). Brache, 17, is a senior at CAMS (California Academy of Mathematics & Science) in Carson. He is the son of Anne and Dio Brache of Bellflower. | Photo: Hula O Na Keiki

Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees names 2016-17 officers

WHITTIER - Rio Hondo College's Board of Trustees named Norma Edith Garcia as president for 2016-17, Madeline Shapiro as vice president, and Vicky Santana as clerk during the board's annual reorganization meeting on Dec. 14.

"Our primary and most significant task is to advocate for our students - including the undocumented - and provide them with every opportunity to pursue an education that will prepare them for their higher-education journeys, new careers or advancement in their current career fields," said Garcia, who also is president of the El Monte Promise Foundation.

The nonprofit foundation strives to create a seamless cradle-to-college pathway for youths in the greater El Monte region.

The local effort unites parents, students, and community leaders from school districts, colleges, local governments, businesses, nonprofits and private foundations to coordinate systems and mobilize resources to benefit local students.

The College will also engage with the community this winter and spring with a series of monthly community education forums highlighting Rio Hondo College's student services as well as academic and career education programs.

Garcia attended Citrus College and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from UCLA. Most recently re-elected to the board in November 2013, she represents Trustee Area 1, which includes El Monte.

She served as vice president of the board in 2015-16.

Shapiro was also most recently re-elected in 2013 and represents Trustee Area 5, which includes East Whittier. She served as clerk in 2015-16. Santana, who was elected to her second term in 2015, represents Trustee Area 2, which includes Pico Rivera.



Norma Edith Garcia

The board includes Mary Ann Pacheco, whose Trustee Area 3 encompasses Whittier and South El Monte, and Gary Mendez, whose Trustee Area 4 spans Los Nietos, Santa Fe Springs, South Whittier and North Norwalk.

Superintendent and President Teresa Dreyfuss congratulated the new officers.

"Rio Hondo College has marked significant milestones and major achievements in the last year, and we are poised to tackle even greater challenges in 2016-17," Dreyfuss said.

"I look forward to a close collaboration with our board leaders."

Garcia recognized Pacheco, the board's 2015-16 president, for her dedication. Pacheco served as a highly public representative of Rio Hondo College, attending frequent College and community events on behalf of the institution.

Christmas candlelight service

NORWALK - The Apostolic Lighthouse of Norwalk is inviting the community to a Christmas candlelight service on Sunday, December 25 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. A Spanish service will follow at 3 p.m. The church is located at 12127 E. Pine St. For more information, contact David Davenport at (562) 863-6727 or visit www.alighthouse4u.org.

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7-0 vote extends NLMUSD board member terms one year

By Raul Samaniego Contributor

NORWALK - The Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District Board with a 7-0 vote, approved a provision of California SB415, extending each member's voter-elected term by an extra year.

Taken at the Dec. 12 meeting, the vote was a resolution that accepted the new state law requirement to switch municipal elections from odd-numbered years to even years.

This was suggested to coincide with other major elections, which saves money, and more importantly, increases voter turnout for Board elections.

According to Norwalk Deputy City Clerk, Elva I. Esquivel, the [Norwalk] City Council is aware of the impending changes, and has not yet discussed the change to even numbered years, but plans to do so after the start of the new year.

The additional year would only affect those school board seats up for re-election in 2017 and 2019 respectively. The four-year term would still remain after the even-year adjustments were made.

Norwalk voters have a tradition of low voter turnout in these

municipal or "off year" elections.

During the discussion period, Board member Jesse Urquidi stated, "I did not sign up for an extra year."

When asked for clarification of the statement Urquidi was asked, did he suggest that if the election was indeed held next year, he did not plan on running for reelection?

Urquidi replied, "That's not what I said."

No further comment from Urquidi was given.

California State Senator Benjamin Hueso (D-San Diego) sponsored the bill which was signed by Governor Brown in October 2015 and officially becomes law Jan. 1, 2018.

In an effort to save money and increase voter turnout for contests such as school board and city council elections, the law mandates that those elections coincide with even-numbered years where larger county, state, and federal elections take place.

With a history of voter turnout in the low teens during these off years, it is believed that conjoining the school board election with larger elections when representatives and senators are elected will increase voter involvement in board and council selections.



Roosevelt Elementary students sing and dance a joyful "Jingle Bells" on Dec. 7 during the Lynwood Unified Winter Concert. | Photo: LUSD

Lynwood Unified's students celebrate the holiday season with winter musical and concert

LYNWOOD - Initiating the start of the holiday season, more than 500 Lynwood Unified students from all 18 schools presented festive dances, songs and band ensembles during the District's culminating Winter Concert on Dec. 7 and 8.

"As we approach Winter Break, it is important for all our campuses to come together for an event like this to allow students to show off their amazing talents," Superintendent Paul Gothold said.

"We also want to show parents how accomplished all our students are and we hope parents will continue to encourage their students to participate in performing arts."

On Dec. 7, students from Lincoln, Marshall, Lugo, Will Rogers, Mark Twain, Roosevelt and Washington elementary schools; Chavez and Hosler middle schools; and Lynwood High School danced a Santa Mambo, sang "Jingle Bells" and "We Need a Little Christmas, Mr. Santa."

They also performed an "Uptown Funk" dance and Mannequin Challenge.

Helen Keller, Abbott, Rosa Parks, Wilson and Lindbergh elementary schools; Lynwood Middle School; Firebaugh and Vista/Pathway high schools; and the District's Conga Kids spurred on the holiday spirit on Dec. 8 through renditions of songs like "Santa Claus is Coming to

Town" and "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree."

Conga Kids Dance group closed out the night with a lively routine.

"I am very impressed when I see how accomplished Lynwood Unified students are, and these concerts are definitely something for them to look forward to," LUSD Board President Alma-Delia Renteria said.

"Our students should be so proud of all their hard work, and I would especially like to thank our teachers who go above and beyond to bring these creative outlets to our students."

This year, the District expanded the band program at Firebaugh High School, incorporated band instructors at the District's three middle schools and Vista High School.

The district also extended the after-school Bridge Theatre program at Lynwood Unified's elementary schools to include its three middle schools, and added Conga Kids dance classes for all fifth-graders and P.S. Arts instruction for all second-graders.

"It is very important for our students to have performing arts as an outlet to express themselves," Lynwood Unified Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator Dr. Mariana Astorga-Almanza said.

"I'm excited to see that the District is investing so much in the visual and performing arts."

Go Metro for the holidays!

Metro Briefs

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New U-Pass Program Aimed at College Students
Metro recently launched a program that upgrades an existing student's college ID into a transit pass through a special sticker with smart-chip technology. U-Pass is a safe, speedy and secure way to travel to and from school with unlimited rides on all Metro Rail and bus lines. To find out if your college is participating, visit metro.net/college or contact your school's transit administrator.

Metro

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Want to govern effectively, Mr. Trump?



By Lee H. Hamilton

As Mario Cuomo said, politicians campaign in poetry but have to govern in prose. Now we have a president-elect who campaigned in tweets...but still will have to govern in prose.

Donald Trump showed great skill as a campaigner, steering his campaign past a slew of professional politicians who underestimated him at every turn. Now the test is whether he can govern — that is, whether he can run the United States government, conduct foreign policy in treacherous times, and reshape domestic policy to fit his goals. This requires a very different set of skills from those he showed before the election.

So, like a few thousand other Americans, I'd like to give him some advice. Not on the substance of policy itself — that he'll handle himself — but on how to be effective at achieving what he'd like to achieve.

First, he has to set priorities. During the course of the campaign, according to The Washington Post, Donald Trump made 282 promises. He is not going to be able to deliver on them all.

So he'll need to set out his priorities with clarity and force. As the head of a vast federal establishment, clarity of objectives is crucially important in policy implementation. He cannot afford to sow confusion. Though this president-elect prides himself on unpredictability, conducting policy in an unpredictable way is the mark of a rogue state.

Unpredictability creates doubt about what he wants to achieve — both on Capitol Hill and among the vast number of people and agencies charged with

carrying out his policies — which in turn produces a race by elected officials to fill the clarity vacuum with their own agendas and prevents frontline agencies from planning. Many Americans and foreign governments have already been unnerved by the unexpected Twitter messages coming from President-Elect Trump; this will only make his job harder once he takes office.

Second, the president-elect must fix his conflict-of-interest challenge. Because of the extraordinary extent of his business interests, he has an unprecedented number of potential conflicts for a U.S. president. He will be negotiating policy with many people, agencies and countries where he or his business partners have a bottom-line stake in what happens.

If he does not fix this before he takes office, conflict-of-interest charges will dog him throughout his presidency and weaken, if not cripple, his effectiveness. He has to protect himself from charges that his actions as president are influenced by his personal financial interests. It won't be enough to put everything in a blind trust controlled by his children. As Newsweek recently pointed out, "every nation on Earth will know that doing business with the Trump Organization will one day benefit the family."

Third, President Trump will need to keep his majorities united. Given Republican dominance of Capitol Hill, he's in a strong position to get things done. But he'll have to keep his fellow Republicans on his side. Some Republican leaders are already separating themselves from his attack on the CIA analysis of Russian interference in the election. Showing respect for, and reaching out to, GOP lawmakers will matter.

So will considering a variety of different views and treating them with respect — which is how a pluralist democracy works. Knowing how to work cooperatively and accessibly with potential allies on Capitol Hill and throughout the D.C. power structure will be crucial to making his priorities a reality.

Finally, in order to do this, it's not enough simply to say "I want this." He has to take seriously the role of facts in the deliberative process. Members of Congress and others need to be able to defend their support for politically difficult proposals — and they cannot do this without factually based arguments.

Accurate information is necessary to make sound judgments about policy. Trump's decision not to regularly hear information from intelligence officials is worrisome. For a president to succeed, he needs to interact in a measured, sensible, reassuring way, and supply his allies with solid analysis and information, not guesses, instincts, opinions, and debunk-able theories.

A president who sets clear priorities, removes all doubt about potential conflicts of interest, and works responsibly with his allies on fact-driven policies can make good progress and achieve his goals.

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

The dangers of big philanthropy

By Chuck Collins

It's the season of giving.

When you hear about a billionaire "giving back" — like Nike founder Phil Knight's \$400 million gift to Stanford, or hedge fund John Paulsen's \$400 million donation to Harvard — do you feel a warm glow?

They could've kept their money and bought another house or private jet, you might think. But what if you heard that the tax write-offs billionaires claim for gifts like these force the rest of us to shell out more?

Suddenly that glow doesn't feel so warm.

Compare that generosity to what you've probably seen in your own community. In every small town in America — at the local convenience store or diner — there's "the jar," a special collection for someone who needs an operation or has faced one of life's misfortunes.

Everyone who can chips in. No one writes it off their taxes.

Keeping score that way would be as unseemly as asking for a tax break for coaching a neighborhood youth sports team, volunteering at a shelter, or making a casserole for someone coming home from the hospital.

The wealthy, on the other hand, use the tax deductions that come with mega-gifts to dramatically reduce, and sometimes eliminate, their tax obligations. They do it at the behest of "wealth defense advisers" — tax lawyers, accountants, and estate and trust planners — whose job is to maximize their clients' wealth and minimize their taxes.

Those headline-making gifts you hear about may be motivated by a generous impulse, but they're also another tool of tax avoidance — especially when it comes to donating appreciated stocks, artwork, and land, which help them avoid paying capital gains taxes.

The rest of us have a stake in these gifts. For every dollar donated to charity by a wealthy individual, everyone else effectively chips in 40 to 50 cents. When their tax bills go down, we pick up the slack to pay for public services such as infrastructure, research, and defense.

Unfortunately, this is the wave of the future. More and more, our country's charitable giving is dominated and controlled by billionaire megadonors, their foundations, and donor-advised funds, according to a report I coauthored for the Institute for Policy Studies.

Between 2003 and 2013, itemized contributions from people making \$10 million or more increased by 104 percent. The number of private grant-making foundations, mostly established by wealthy individuals and their families, has doubled since 1993. Today there are over 80,000.

Meanwhile, charitable giving by low and middle-income donors has steadily declined, reflecting stagnant wages, declining homeownership, and growing economic insecurity by low- and middle-income families. From 2003 to 2013, itemized charitable deductions by donors making less than \$100,000 declined by over a third.

This top-heavy philanthropy poses a danger to charities, too. It makes their funding less predictable and pressures them to focus on wooing a finite, relatively small number of mega-donors, rather than on doing the important work many of them do.

But the largest peril is for our democracy. Unchecked, private foundations can become blocks of concentrated, unaccountable power with considerable clout in shaping our laws and culture. They can become extensions of the power, privilege, and influence of a handful of rich families.

In this season of giving, we'll hear plenty about billionaires "giving back" through donations to education, the arts, health, and medicine. But let's not lose sight of the fact that you and I are subsidizing the charitable choices of the wealthy. Maybe we'd all be better off if these billionaires just paid their fair share of taxes.

Women deserve access to tampons, period

By Olivia Alperstein

For many women, getting a period for 3 to 8 days every month can be hellish — everything from bleeding, cramps, and fatigue to the humiliating march to the local store for tampons and pads.

But these women are incredibly lucky compared to thousands of marginalized Americans who lack adequate access to these products so fundamental to women's reproductive health.

In particular, women in prison face an uphill battle getting their hands on feminine hygiene products. Incarcerated people earn at most 75 cents a day, which has to be split between basic necessities like toothpaste and deodorant.

In prison, costs range from \$2.63 for 24 pads to over \$4 for eight tampons. That means giving up more than three days of wages for pads and nearly twice that much for tampons.

Most inmates simply can't afford it, and lack of access to menstrual supplies creates toxic choices for women.

Prisoners frequently either go without supplies, bleeding onto clothes they're then stuck with until the next laundry day, or end up using one tampon or pad for multiple days. Wearing an individual tampon or pad for more than the recommended maximum of eight hours increases the risk of bacterial or fungal infection as well as toxic shock syndrome, a rare but serious illness that can lead to death.

Plus, prison supplies are limited, and women's periods may sync up when they're in close quarters. That's hundreds, potentially thousands, of women all stuck with their periods at the same time facing tension surrounding limited tampon supplies. Even the last-resort option of stuffing toilet paper down your pants comes at a price, as toilet paper is rationed in prisons.

Going through your period in the privacy of your own home can be difficult enough. Going through your period in prison without adequate access to supplies is beyond degrading — it's cruel.

Limiting access to feminine products in prisons is a form of abuse used to wield control over inmates and dehumanize them. Barring drastic policy changes, prison officials have little incentive to make tampons and pads easily available to all prisoners.

Homeless women also have a tremendous disadvantage when it comes to fundamental feminine hygiene. Unlike prisoners who have a weekly laundry day, homeless people who sleep on the streets can't afford to do laundry and have no place to shower.

This makes sanitation a real issue, especially during a period. Temporary housing locations are often overcrowded with limited resources to begin with. Homeless shelters don't automatically hand out free supplies, and people rarely think to donate them.

You can use toilet paper in public restrooms to line your underwear, but it's often the cheap,

razor-thin kind that doesn't absorb much, and public facilities don't look kindly on homeless people. Some facilities still charge a quarter for one cheap tampon with a tough cardboard applicator, which is meant only for a light flow.

The average price for a small box of tampons or pads at a local pharmacy like CVS is at least \$5, which is even more out of reach.

Having the means to maintain basic hygiene is an issue of human dignity. Around the world, people are shamed, ostracized, and even physically punished for having their periods. In the supposedly enlightened United States, millions lack proper access to menstrual supplies.

Marginalized groups like incarcerated and homeless women risk losing their dignity once a month like clockwork, all for the want of a tampon or pad that should be provided for free by prisons and housing assistance

programs. Access to feminine hygiene products is a critical part of women's reproductive health, and it needs to be treated as such.

Olivia Alperstein is the Communications and Policy Associate of Progressive Congress

Letters to the Editor

Have an opinion you'd like to share? Letters to the editor for this newspaper can be mailed to 12040 Foster Road, Norwalk, CA 90650, or e-mailed to christian@thenorwalkpatriot.com.

Please keep letters as brief as possible and include a full name and address.

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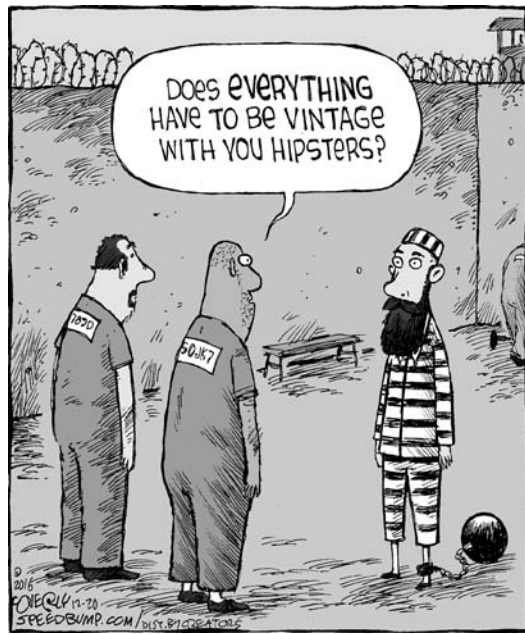
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news@thedowneypatriot.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Christmas candlelight service - Apostolic Lighthouse

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

12:00 p.m. - Rotary - Doubletree Hotel

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

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...

December 23, 1880: Thomas Edison incorporated the Edison Electric Light Company of Europe.

1951: A National Football League (NFL) championship game was televised nationally for the first time. The Los Angeles Rams beat the Cleveland Browns 24-17. The DuMont Network paid \$75,000 for the rights to the game.

1986: The experimental airplane Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, completed the first non-stop, around-the-world flight without refueling as it landed safely at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

BIRTHDAYS: Soap actress Susan Lucci (70); Football coach Jim Harbaugh (53); Pearl Jam lead singer Eddie Vedder (52); WWE wrestler Luke Harper (37); TV producer Martin Kratt (51); Naked Cowboy (46); Model Jodie Marsh (38); MLB shortstop Hanley Ramirez (33); TV actor Ravi Dubey (33); and TV actress Isabella Castillo (22).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
ALL THE TRIMMINGS: Of a timely sort
by Gail Grabowski

ACROSS	78 Rec-room scrape	7 Calf-length skirt
1 Falling-out	80 Yellowish brown	8 Tech support caller
5 Make a mess of	82 Big brute	9 Support for a statue
10 Make a mess of	83 Parisian school	10 Loose overcoat
14 Aids in a crime	85 One-liner	11 Tennis official
19 Natural skin soother	86 Parisian "Cool!"	12 Celebrity's projection
20 Licorice-flavored herb	87 Archer's equipment	13 Quick bite
21 Cannonballs, for instance	91 Complains, so to speak	14 Ascended
22 Morocco's capital	93 Medieval drudge	15 "You shouldn't do that"
23 Textile factory	95 Finish with	16 Fine wood
24 ___ one's time (waited)	96 Be sorry about	17 Fashion sense
25 Data in coll. transcripts	98 Telly watcher	18 Gave up a seat
26 Playground assertion	99 Essay page	20 CIA forerunner
27 Human dynamo	101 Church officer	30 Bingham of Baywatch
29 Forcefully attacks	103 Half a figure eight	33 Antidrug cop
31 Tortuous journey	105 Ornamental shrub	36 Tourney passes
32 Capture	108 Sweater size	37 Golden St. campus
34 Tried a new hue	109 Arm art	38 Wheat husk
35 Obstinate beast	113 Hollywood nickname	39 Cyberzines
36 Camper's stove fuel	115 Talent series once hosted by Ed McMahon	40 Country singer Gibbs
38 Thorn in one's side	118 Turn out to be	41 Thin pasta
39 Bibliography abbr.	119 Not minding one's manners	43 2009 Peace Nobel
42 Basement racer, perhaps	120 Sleepyhead in an Everly's tune	44 Video arcade pioneer
44 Episodic story line	121 Nile queen, for short	46 Domino product
45 Scored 100% on	122 Ripply fabric pattern	47 Beast on Michigan's flag
49 ___ Park (Edison lab site)	123 Isn't oneself	48 Belittle, so to speak
51 Hotel employee	124 Formally establish	50 Long-established
55 Aladdin prince	125 Part of S&L	52 Big name in wrap
56 Sra. Perón's homeland	126 Range rover	53 Lowly worker
57 Tibet's capital	127 Track event	54 "Science Guy" of TV
59 Low-fat	128 Many Hamlet	58 Sound of steam
60 Pulls suddenly	129 Ending like -trix	61 Syrian ___ Republic
62 Darkened		63 The Winds of War author
64 Interior design		64 Was bold
66 "Take this"	DOWN	65 CPR expert
67 Rural storehouse	1 Stallone's commando	66 Transport by truck
68 Original locale of Muscle Beach	2 Homeric epic	69 Keep bothering
72 Much of the Old World	3 Imprudent activity	70 Struggling with choices
75 Centers of activity	4 Blabs	71 A Beautiful Mind star
77 Major blood vessel	5 Chatty get-together	73 Teheran native
	6 Consolidate	74 Uneasy feeling

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
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67				68	69	70					71		72		73	74		
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86				87	88				89	90				91	92			
93		94		95					96				97	98				
			99	100					101	102			103	104				
105	106	107					108						109			110	111	112
113						114						115	116	117				
118						119						120				121		
122						123						124				125		
126						127						128				129		

76 Preschooler's dinner wear	92 Stumbling block	106 Wine grape
79 Masterpiece	94 "Without a doubt!"	107 Non-studio film
80 Bout enders	97 China-shop purchases	108 Nephew of Donald Duck
81 Color-chart listing	100 Baby bird	109 Brief moment
82 Was indebted to	101 Take one's sweet time	110 First acrylic fiber
83 Hence	102 Antarctic explorer	111 Porthole view
84 Edible ears	104 Canonized femme: Abbr.	112 Excelled
88 New Basketball Hall of Famer	89 Limp as ___	114 Airport shuttle
		116 Sushi staple
		117 Strong ___ ox

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 20th century. to the Antarctic in the early part of (Down) led three British expeditions Sir ERNEST Shackleton (102 "Aspirin" is derived from "spirea." (105 Across), which is why the word first isolated from a SPIREA plant physical fitness boom. Aspirin was to be the birthplace of America's (68 Across) is generally considered SANTA MONICA'S Muscle Beach

LEGALS

GOVERNMENT

CITY OF NORWALK NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Date: Tuesday, January 3, 2017
Time: 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard
Place: City Council Chambers, Norwalk City Hall, 12700 Norwalk Boulevard, Norwalk, CA 90650
Description: The City Council introduced Ordinance No. 16-1687, amending Chapter 8.48 Article X of the Norwalk Municipal Code for the recycling and disposal of construction, demolition, and renovation debris at its regular meeting on December 20, 2016. **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City Council will conduct a public hearing on January 3, 2017 to consider adoption of Ordinance No. 16-1687 and a resolution increasing security deposit amounts for Waste Management Plans submitted under the Construction and Demolition Program.
Public Comment: Interested persons are invited to attend this hearing and be heard regarding this matter. Written comments may be submitted to the City Council prior to the time set for the hearing. Address written comments: Attention City Clerk at the address noted above or by email to clerk@norwalkca.gov.
More Information: Questions concerning the public hearing matter should be directed to Ruby Picon, Management Analyst, at (562) 929-5964 or by email to rpicon@norwalkca.gov.
Accessibility: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in a City meeting or other services offered by this City, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (562) 929-5720. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting or time when services are needed will assist the City staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting or service. Assisted hearing devices will be available at this hearing without prior notification.

Dated this 23rd day of December 2016.
Theresa Devoy, CMC, City Clerk

The Norwalk Patriot
12/23/16, 12/30/16

NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE - In accordance with Sec.106 of the Programmatic Agreement, T-Mobile West, LLC plans to upgrade an existing telecommunication facility at 10601 Firestone Boulevard Norwalk, CA 92650. Please direct comments to Gavin L. at 818-898-4866 regarding site LA9300A. 12/23, 12/30/16
CNS-2951191#
THE NORWALK PATRIOT

The Norwalk Patriot
12/23/16, 12/30/16

PROBATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JAMES ALVIN LINGO AKA JAMES A. LINGO AKA JIM LINGO CASE NO. 16STPB05956

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of JAMES ALVIN LINGO AKA JAMES A. LINGO AKA JIM LINGO.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CHARLES ROBERT LINGO in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CHARLES ROBERT LINGO be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act with limited authority. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/13/17 at 8:30AM in Dept. 95 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either: (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner
JAY OBERHOLTZER
SBN 72127
JAY OBERHOLTZER, APLC
13215 E PENN ST #100
WHITTIER CA 90602-4718
12/16, 12/23, 12/30/16
CNS-2948932#
THE NORWALK PATRIOT

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12/16/16, 12/23/16, 12/30/16

TRUSTEE SALES

APN: 8025-008-004 TS No: CA05001041-16-1 TO No: 160229646-CA-VOI NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE (The above statement is made pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(1). The Summary will be provided to Trustor(s) and/or vested owner(s) only, pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d) (2).) YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED April 28, 2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On February 1, 2017 at 09:00 AM, near the fountain located in the Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, CA 91766, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust recorded on May 22, 2007 as Instruments No. 20071236961, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, executed by ARTURO ESPINOZA, MONTOYA AND SARAH MORENO S. M. MONTOYA, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS, as Trustor(s), in favor of FINANCIAL FREEDOM SENIOR FUNDING CORPORATION, A SUBSIDIARY OF INDIAC BANK, F.S.B. as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC

ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 800-280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site www.auction.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 0000006145924. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AUCTION.COM, LLC 800-280-2832 www.auction.com BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP as Trustee 20955 Pathfinder Road, Suite 300 Diamond Bar, CA 91765 (866) 795-1852 Dated: 12/12/2016 BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. A-4602118 12/16/2016, 12/23/2016, 12/30/2016

The Norwalk Patriot
12/16/16, 12/23/16, 12/30/16

T.S. No. 16-44286 APN: 8050-019-005
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 5/13/2015. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.
A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale.
Trustor: SERGIO E. DELGADO AND RACHEL D. MOHAN, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS
Duly Appointed Trustee: Zieve, Brodnax & Steele, LLP Deed of Trust recorded 5/20/2015 as Instrument No. 20150589599 in book , page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California.
Date of Sale: 1/9/2017 at 11:00 AM
Place of Sale: By the fountain located at 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, CA 91766
Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$401,255.62**
Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt owed.
Street Address or other common designation of real property: **13223 DALWOOD AVENUE NORWALK, CA 90650**
Described as follows:
As more fully described on said Deed of Trust.
A.P.N.#: **8050-019-005**
The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale.
NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property.
NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (714) 848-9272 or visit this Internet Web site www.elitepostandpub.com, using the file number assigned to this case 16-44286. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.
Dated: 12/8/2016
Zieve, Brodnax & Steele, LLP, as Trustee
30 Corporate Park, Suite 450 Irvine, CA 92606
For Non-Automated Sale Information, call: (714) 848-7920
For Sale Information: (714) 848-9272
www.elitepostandpub.com
Ashley Walker, Trustee Sale Assistant
THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY

INFORMATION WE OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. EPP 20816 12/16, 12/23, 12/30/16

The Norwalk Patriot
12/16/16, 12/23/16, 12/30/16

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Robert Cray tapped to play Downey Theatre next March

Five-time Grammy Award-winning Robert Cray Band performs live in concert at the Downey Theatre Saturday, March 11, at 8 p.m.

Robert Cray has created a sound that rises from American roots and arrives today both fresh and familiar. In just over 40 years Cray and his band have recorded 20 studio releases, 15 of which have been on the Billboard charts, and played bars, concert halls, festivals and arenas around the world.

Cray is considered to be one of the most expressive vocalists and impressive guitarists on the contemporary rhythm and Blues scene drawing from R&B, rock, pop, and jazz.

Cray's musical resume reads like a who's who in contemporary music. He's played with a cross section of greats from a multitude of genres, including Chuck Berry, Keith Richards, Eric Clapton, and Tina Turner among others, and mentors like John Lee Hooker and B.B. King. These unique collaborations cement Cray's unique status as an artist who bridges the gap between R&B, Blues and rock.

Four years ago Cray was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame.

Tickets for Robert Cray Band are on sale now at the Downey Theatre Box Office. For tickets and information call (562) 861-8211 or visit online at DowneyTheatre.com. foundationscholarships.com beginning Jan. 1, 2017.



MOVIE REVIEW: Rogue One puts the 'war' in Star Wars

By Alex Dominguez
Contributor

Love it or hate it, it has been an eventful few years for fans of the Star Wars franchise.

Since Disney purchased Lucasfilm back in 2012, Luke, Leia and company have been joined by a myriad of new characters and source material, including books, comics, a television show currently airing its third season on Disney Channel, and, of course, a slew of new movies.

The newest movie to hit theaters, "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," released late last week to eagerly anticipating fans and skeptics alike.

While some may feel like Rogue One may be the next epic chapter (sub-chapter?) in the saga to be told cinematically, many others feel that this film could be just another shameless Disney money grab.

Both sides have a valid point.

The entire film takes place sometime between the events of the ongoing Star Wars Rebels TV show and the beginning of Episode IV. In laymen's terms, the entire movie takes place in the first two paragraphs of A New Hope's opening crawl.

This brings me to my first point: Rogue One may be in the Star Wars continuity, but it is not a Star Wars "Episode." And that's okay.

The film does a miraculously good job of holding the audience's attention and keeping suspense while functioning as a prequel to the original saga.

No surprises here folks; the events of Rogue one lead to the destruction of the Death Star.

Yet while the outcome of the film may be obvious, Rogue One's nonstop action keeps the viewer with a feeling of urgency and suspense.

This brings about one of the films other great qualities: Rogue One puts the "War" in Star Wars.

You won't find any Jedi or highflying light saber duels in Rogue One; those are more elegant elements for a more civilized movie.

What you will find in Rogue One is it's fast paced, gritty, boots-on-ground and X-Wing-in-the-sky battles.

Rogue One easily provides my personal favorite battle sequence in the entire franchise.

However, while Rogue One does provide tons of great action and storytelling, it does fall flat in some aspects.

Rogue One's character development is more than lacking for most of the cast. With the exception of main character Jyn Erso and hilarious new droid K-2SO, I found it extremely hard to connect or care for any of Rogue One's characters.

Erso, played by Felicity Jones, is the only character to receive any real kind of backstory or motive.

Even her counterpart, Captain Cassian Andor played by Diego Luna, seemed like little more than cannon fodder with a "Rebels good, Empire bad," mindset; an attribute that was particularly painful during what I can only assume was supposed to be a heartfelt, mid-movie monologue for the character.

Rogue One also overdoes its fan service, with many Easter eggs and cameos that seem to be included for the sole purpose of a cheap pop at the movie theaters.

Even Darth Vader, who was revealed to be in the movie during one of the original teaser trailers, seems as if he was placed into the film more for his draw power and less for his relevancy to the action, and could easily be removed without affecting the story whatsoever.

That being said, some of the aforementioned nods to the previous material is welcomed, and does in fact enrich certain scenes.

Rogue One is a good movie. While this part of the saga could easily have been left to a few brief sentences on a scrolling space background, many fans (myself included) will be and are happy to see this part of the story being told.

Rogue One is a nice addition to the franchise, and is worth a theater viewing by diehard fanatics and casual fans alike.

Cerritos behind schedule in fixing sewer line

By Raul Samaniego
Contributor

NORWALK – A 20" Cerritos-treated sewer water line continues to run unabated eight days after Cerritos water superintendent Charlie Emig said it would be repaired last Tuesday.

The pipe broke at the intersection of 166th Street and Elaine Avenue in the city of Norwalk, 1/4 mile from the closest boundary of both cities near Horst Avenue.

It had been reported to Norwalk officials, who alerted Cerritos authorities who own the pipe that is leaking.

According to Charlie Emig, "The pipe was put in 30 years ago."

At the time of the initial meeting, Emig was asked what happens if it cannot be repaired? Emig stated the leak "will be fixed today."

The city of Cerritos contracted Doty Brothers for the repair of the pipe.

Now over a week after crews started working on the problem, the treated water keeps seeping through the ground and according to work crew members on site, "It's going to take another week to fix."

A 27-year resident who lives across the street in Artesia said, "Nobody came to tell me about the leaking sewer water."

"My friend had mentioned last week that it was leaking," she continued.

Her front door is about 100 feet from the work being done.

Her neighbor, Katherine Reeves knew something was going on, but she said nobody told her what it was.

She said, "It's really noisy."

"I'm blasting music and I can still hear it (the noise from the work



Photo: Raul Samaniego

going on during the day)?"

According to Norwalk contract inspector Carlos Lopes, who was observing the ongoing project from across the street, "They have to go down 20 feet and under a storm drain to get to the leak."

Many ruptures occur on the systems aged potable water lines, this is the only treated sewage line currently leaking in the city of Norwalk.

While currently not using treated or "reclaimed water" for Norwalk purposes, Cerritos uses it for some of their irrigation needs, such as parks and other civic areas.

The odor emitting from the discharged water was evident and water was redirected into the county storm drain system close by.

An attempt to contact Charlie Emig was not returned via phone, however, he was later located at the job site and asked for an update regarding the timeline on the pipe repairs.

When reminded that it has been nine days since the original conversation, Emig responded, "It's

only been seven days."

At that point, on-site Cerritos Senior Assistant City Manager, Vince Brar, reviewed the situation.

When Brar was asked the same question for an estimate of the time to repair the leak, Brar replied, "We don't have a complete idea of the situation yet."

Asked if there were any health issues from the leak, Brar added, "There are no health issues."

As he spoke, a truck from "Ocean Blue Environmental Services," was vacuuming out material from the depths of the hole.

Reached via phone, Project Manager, Ed Acosta, with Ocean View Environmental Services, explained that their truck was on-site to help in the safety of the work area by vacuuming out both water and rock material so "Shoring up devices," could safely be installed.

Mr. Acosta stated that "nothing but storm runoff is allowed to go into the storm drain systems." Water from the leak had been going directly into a storm drain near the site.

On Wednesday, the city of Cerritos through Laurie Kajiwara, its public information manager, issued the following update on the water leak at 166th Street and Elaine Avenue in Norwalk.

"To make the area safe for driving over the holidays, the excavated area on 166th Street near Elaine Avenue is being backfilled as an interim solution while city of Cerritos staff works with the city of Norwalk, Los Angeles County Public Works, Los Angeles County Sanitation District and Liberty Utilities to coordinate repairs," she said.

"The water reclamation pumping plant that services the water line in question has been temporarily shut down. City staff will use the next few days to develop an optimal solution and obtain necessary approvals from the other involved agencies. The City's contractor and crews will return after the holidays to complete the repairs."

TALON MARKS

Succeeding in the face of adversity

By Briana Hicks

NORWALK – Perseverance is a word that describes Gerardo Estrada.

At age eight he came to the United States with his parents from Tijuana Baja California with a dream of a better life.

He and his parents came over legally, using a visa, but never returned to the border peninsula.

"We didn't have to jump a border or anything crazy like that," he said explaining how he arrived in the United States.

Estrada lists one of his struggles as having to adjust to a new language.

Adjusting to a New Home

"It took a while to adjust, learning English, but pretty much my parents brought us to give us a better life and a better future.

"One of the struggles would be having to take extra English classes, ESL, I had to take like ten. I caught up pretty well with [the language] it took a year, year and a half. Once I got to seventh or eighth grade I already knew how to speak English. When I got to high school [I was put] in ELD once again, I didn't have an elective, so I had a second English class," he said.

Another struggle for Estrada was getting to high school and not being able to do the things other high school students were doing such as getting a driver's license or a job.

"One of my other struggles was thinking I was different from other people. Once I was in high school, I was trying to get my driver's license but I couldn't get that because I didn't have my social security number, that's when it started hitting me."

Success in the Face of Adversity

Estrada also stated that he couldn't get a job. He ended up getting a job "on the side," as he described it, but described it as nothing serious.

His status as undocumented student also prevented him from setting up and receiving FAFSA.

"One of the struggles I had

was when I was a senior, we had this counselor at Bellflower High School, what they would do before the FAFSA deadline, they give a little FAFSA slip where you would [write down] your name and your social, so pretty much they were going to set up your account, so once they passed it out they told me 'you don't have a social so you don't get one.'"

He added, "It was plain, that's it no explanation or anything so I [said] 'what am I going to do?'"

Estrada saw this as a turning point where he realized that he had to do something to help his situation.

"I didn't even know about the Dream Act. The counselors there were not even aware. One of my counselors was only telling me about Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, which is a working permit.

"He wasn't telling me about the Dream Act, which had passed in June 2012 and the thing is he didn't know about it, they had to go talk to two career counselors and a counselor

[anything] about being a U.S. citizen.

"Apparently, I wasn't allowed to be on the campus [and] I was considered a threat supposedly. I didn't know [that you needed to be a citizen], I felt like they should've put it in the requirements. One of the things I struggle with is I think some faculty or some staff aren't aware of [how] we have different needs, or how to handle [situations]," he said.

He continued, "To be honest [being considered a threat] kind of hit me, but not too much because I'm still trying to try out new things."

Finding Support in Family, Friends, and School

Estrada acknowledged that he wants to go further and not give up because his family is really supportive of him.

"I feel like most undocumented families come here for their kids to have a better future. They're always very supportive. I appreciate that, especially my mom, she's my motivation because she does all this stuff."

In terms of receiving help at Cerritos, DREAM club co-advisor Lynn Wang has become apart of Estrada's support system.

"Gerardo [Estrada] has been pleasant to work with, he is a critical thinker. He always keeps his promise and take on responsibilities that he can endure. He has helped out for our homecoming float, fundraisers, high school outreach event at Marco Firebaugh High School, and he actively recruited educators and fellow students during the 'Educators Coming Out' day," she said.

Wang expressed that the DREAM Club serves as a support system for him.

"The club members encourages each other to do well in school. Also, the club advisors can assist him with his educational planning and any financial aid related questions, which can make the educational journey less intimidating."

Estrada plans to pursue being an engineer for his future career field.

This story was originally published in *Talon Marks*, the student-run newspaper at Cerritos College. To read the original version, visit www.talonmarks.com/college-life/2016/12/14/succeeding-in-the-face-of-adversity.



Gerardo Estrada

from Cal State Los Angeles and Dominguez. They had to contact a lot of universities eventually, they got it," he stated.

Estrada noted that it took three to four months for the whole process to take place.

"They're busy people too, eventually I passed the deadline for the Dream Act, luckily [my counselor] helped me write a letter, like a petition, that's how I got financial aid to attend Cerritos College."

Another struggle that he had to overcome was last year during a semester at Cerritos College.

Being Viewed as a Threat

"The physics department had a Nasa trip to the Neil Armstrong center and they sent me an email through OrgSync. I looked into it, I liked it, so I [decided] to give it a try. It didn't say [anything about needing] to be a full time student, engineering major, or physics, or mathematics [major, nor] did it say

Kaiser Permanente awards \$10,000 in scholarships

NORWALK – The Cerritos College Foundation recently awarded five students with scholarships funded through a grant provided by Kaiser Permanente.

Each \$2,000 scholarship is part of a larger \$20,000 grant presented by Kaiser Permanente to the Cerritos College Foundation in 2015. The purpose of the grant was to recognize students studying the health occupations areas of nursing, pharmacy technology, and mental health worker.

The Kaiser Permanente Nursing Scholarship was presented to first-year nursing student Marjorie Di Puglia of Los Angeles, and second-year nursing student Hong Vo of South El Monte. Allison Venida-Luc of Norwalk and Jeremy Castillo of Cerritos were each awarded the Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy Technology Scholarship, while Susan Garcia of Long Beach received the Kaiser Permanente Mental Health Worker Scholarship.

The Foundation will be awarding the remaining grant amount in the Spring of 2017. Eligible students enrolled at Cerritos College may apply online at www.cerritos.edu/foundation/scholarships beginning Jan. 1, 2017.

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