



Michael Piña remembered as devoted husband and Dodgers fan

By Raul Samaniego Contributor

NORWALK – Family, friends and acquaintances of Michael Ray Piña said their final goodbyes to their son, friend, brother, father and husband last weekend.

Visitors arrived to a scene of photos celebrating Piña’s life, including pictures of him as a child sitting on Santa’s lap and another showing him as he played the role of Santa himself.

Piña, 47, died in Norwalk on May 3 when a series of bullets entered his car just before 3 a.m. when he was driving near the intersection of Horst Avenue and 166th Street.

Known affectionately as “Pee-wee” to those who knew him closely, nearly 300 were in attendance Saturday, May 13 at the Norwalk United Methodist Church on San Antonio Drive for his funeral and remembrance service.

Brother-in-law Tony Ramirez remembered Piña’s love of sports, including his own time playing Pop Warner Football as a youth in Norwalk.

Michael’s favorite sports teams included the Lakers, Raiders, and according to Ramirez, Piña was a “big Los Angeles Dodgers fan.”

In recognition of Piña’s passion for the Dodgers, many in attendance wore Dodger blue ribbons, hats, and jerseys.

Piña himself was wearing a Dodger jersey as he lay in repose during visitation and during his service.

“He even went to the Vin Scully Game,” Ramirez said referring to the Dodgers recognition for long time Dodgers announcer.

During the memorial service, some spoke of Piña’s incredible smile and his always well-trimmed beard.

Pastor Eddie Rodriguez reminded those in attendance of the “beginning” and “ending” of life.

He mentioned Michael’s 25-year marriage to his wife Lorraine, his mother Edna Walker, who went by the name “Pepper,” and the throngs of people who came to pay their last respects.

Close friend Fernando told the crowd, “I loved him like a brother.”

Talking about his proclivity for helping others, Fernando added, “He picked me up whenever I was down.”

Neighbor Evelyn Lozano shared, “Michael was part of our family.”

Pastor Ken Menchaca speaking in terms many in the audience understood said “He was a friend, a brother, a son, a husband...a homeboy.”

Meet the finalists to replace Rios on the NLMUSD school board

NORWALK – The Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District Board of Education on Monday, May 22 will interview the five candidates announced as finalists for the vacant seat on the seven-member board.

The Board will select one to become an “interim board member,” who barring any intervention from a citizen challenge, will be sworn in no sooner than 30 days from their appointment.

The appointee will then take their new seat with all the duties and responsibilities of their elected counterparts, overseeing an entity responsible for directing over \$200 million a year school budget.

At the board meeting on May 22, an appointee will be selected after all are interviewed and have the opportunity to address the board directly after the interview process.

The event is open to the public at the regularly-scheduled time of 6:30 p.m. in the school board chambers, located at 12820 Pioneer Blvd. in Norwalk.

After meeting all five candidates at an information session, The Patriot interviewed each, asking the same three questions regarding local educational policies and the current national dialogue around education.

JORGE A. TIRADO

Jorge Tirado of La Mirada takes pride in the fact that he has stayed near his three children’s schools as they complete their public education.

He has been both a resident of the city and the district boundaries for over 13 years.

Describing his current profession as an electrical engineer, he also exudes confidence, which may have been honed during his time in the United States Marine Corps.

In his response to transgendered student rights, Tirado said, “I don’t have an opinion on that.”

However, he did add, “It’s up to the local school district to set the guidelines.”

He referenced his “having served four different capacities at our children’s schools: SSC (School Site Council) Secretary, PTA Secretary, safety committee member, and coached soccer.”

On the subject of tax-payer school vouchers, Jorge said, “[They’re] very unbalanced in the long run,” meaning, “They benefit a segment of the population more than another.”

“I don’t think open-ended vouchers is a good idea.”

Tirado stated regarding any relationship with the current board, “I have none.”

IRENE SALAZAR

When asked about any relationships with board members, Salazar simply stated, “I don’t have any relationship with any of the Board.”

A graduate of the University of La Verne with a master’s degree in leadership and management, Salazar also has a bachelor’s degree in human services from California State University, Fullerton.

According to her resume, her experience includes “directly managing the community outreach and Education Department and WIC programs” for Orange and San Bernardino Counties’ Planned Parenthood locations as a vice president of community outreach and education.

“I am from public school systems,” Salazar said. “Currently, I do believe in the public school system. Our public schools are doing a good job.”

Salazar has lived in La Mirada for 10 years and currently has two children attending elementary and middle schools in the district.

She also shared that she is “heavily involved in sports,” with her daughters especially in softball.

As for her opinion of transgendered students, she said “I believe they have the right to use the bathroom of their choice.”

“They need the support of teachers and the community,” Salazar said.

NORMA AMEZCUA

Norwalk resident Norma Amezcua cites her passion for those she is working with as her qualifications for school board member consideration.

Amezcua states in her application, “My passion is and always will be to provide the most vulnerable people with the assistance, support and resources needed to be productive citizens.”

She states that she is an assistant director of childcare and pre-school programs.

She cited that while she doesn’t have a personal relationship with current board members, she has engaged some members through her activities with the Lions Club of Norwalk, where she is an active

participant.

With currently no children attending any district schools, she cites her experience; Amezcua also referenced her involvement with the Norwalk’s Lion’s Club as part of her volunteer activities in addition to her association with the Cerritos College Child Development Consortium Advisory Board.

Amezcua is also a “commissioner with the City of Norwalk Social Service Department.”

She stated, “I am a product of public education,” and “I would not recommend [school vouchers]. We have good public schools.”

Speaking regarding transgendered students rights she stated, “We have to respect our students and their rights.”

DIEGO DE LAMA

De Lama is currently waiting for the fall semester to begin where his first child will be enrolling at a NLMUSD school.

Currently employed as a senior relationship banker and assistant vice president for Union Bank, he has resided in La Mirada for 22 years.

De Lama earned a master’s in business administration from Biola University in 2008 after receiving his bachelor’s degree from California State University, Long Beach in 2001.

In addition to his stated financial experience background, he also lists that he is bilingual, speaking and writing in Spanish.

When asked about his opinion regarding school vouchers, De Lama had “no comment” regarding the issue.

In so far as any relationship with the board, he simply stated, “I’ve met them and I see them at events. It has always been professional.”

As for transgendered student rights he shared, “The school environment should be as stress free as possible.”

Finally he added, “I am excited about the opportunity to interview [for the open board seat].”

JUDE CAZARES

Cazares has been a teacher for 21 years in the Los Angeles Unified School District. While teaching at Southeast High School in Southgate, he met and, for a while, taught at the same time as Board Member, Darryl Adams.

Other than that, he would see Adams at varies functions supporting events and shared “that was the extent of their relationship.”

Regarding school vouchers, Cazares said, “I’m a product of private schools,” adding “I don’t want anything to be taken from public schools.

“To be honest, I’ve never really thought about [school vouchers].”

When asked about transgendered students, Cazares explained, “I think everyone has the same rights.”

Asking for clarification, he continued, “I don’t have a problem with that [transgender identity].”

Citing the Constitution, he went on to say, “the 14th Amendment gives everyone the same rights.” -- Raul Samaniego, contributor

Sanchez Elementary students celebrate Arbor Day with tree planting at Norwalk Park

NORWALK – Sanchez Elementary fifth-graders took up gardening gloves and shovels on April 25 as they joined Norwalk city workers and officials in planting 25 Golden Medallion trees at Hermosillo Park in honor of National Arbor Day.

“This is important for students to see how they can make a positive impact on their environment,” teacher Michelle Kibic said. “It’s beautiful that the students can plant the trees and come back years later to see how their work has grown.”

The students, working in teams of five, started the day with a lesson from Norwalk workers on how to prepare the trees, from digging the hole to the right tools for planting.

“I enjoyed working with the soil, and learning about the vitamin tablets that keep moisture in the ground to help the tree grow,” Sanchez fifth-grader Kamilah Cervantes said.

The students took turns clearing soil from the hole after city workers dug it out and placed in a vitamin tablet. The students then worked with their team leader to release the tree from the pot before gently settling it in the earth, and with a large scoop shovel, replaced the dirt.

“Thank you to the city of Norwalk and its hardworking officials for providing us the opportunity to show our care for our local park,” Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian said.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 87°

Saturday 90°

Sunday 89°

THINGS TO DO



Roll Around Rancho

Saturday - Rancho Los Amigos, 9 am

Run, walk or roll around a flat course at Rancho Los Amigos, then enjoy a health and wellness festival.



Hargitt House Re-opening

Saturday - 12426 Mapledale St., 11 am

After months of renovation, Norwalk’s historic Hargitt House will be unveiled in a grand re-opening.



KROQ Weenie Roast

Saturday - StubHub Center, 12 pm

Performances by Lorde, Paramore, Imagine Dragons, Lana Del Rey, Incubus, and others.



Dog-friendly Boat Tours

Saturday - L.A. Maritime Museum, 9:30 am

Take your well-behaved, leashed dog on a one-hour tour of the Los Angeles Harbor.

FROM OUR FACEBOOK

Family and friends remember Michael Pina as a loving husband

Rick Martin-Ramirez: RIP Michael. You had a kind soul and big heart. It was a pleasure to have met you and known you brother. Rest now.

Danette Neisinger: Looks familiar. I grew up in Norwalk on Horst. But I’m a few years older than he. Prayers for the family and friends during a difficult time.

Donna Robinson-Wills: He’s my oldest daughter’s uncle and we lost contact with him over the years. This was not how I expected to contact him. All I can say is he was a good man and when he was young he loved hanging with his brother Rick. RIP Michael.

Garcia Jess: This is beautiful. God rest your soul, PeeWee.

Tonya Prince: RIP Uncle Michael. I love you. I still can’t believe it.

Robin Bolda Wilson: Wow.. very close to my old neighborhood. So sad.

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

Upcoming Events

HISTORY COMES ALIVE: Brimming with comedy, where he will riff on politics, the economy, and California history, Chuck Kovacic will channel Will Rogers in a staged one-man show on May 20, 7-9 p.m. at Long Beach's Rancho Los Cerritos.

After a brief intermission, theater-goers will step further back in time when John Muir, portrayed by equity actor and conservationist Michael Oates, will tell the story of his life.

The performance will take place in Rancho Los Cerritos' inner courtyard, which will be transformed for the evening into a plein air theater.

Tickets start at \$25 for general admission; VIP tickets, which includes a boxed dinner, a complimentary glass of wine, and priority seating, are available for \$55. Advance registration is required.

PIZZA FUNDRAISER: In order to raise money for its upcoming projects, Soroptimist International of Norwalk is sponsoring a bingo and pizza fundraiser on Tuesday, May 23 from 6-8 p.m.

The event is being held at So-Cal Pizza, located at 12253 Imperial Highway in Norwalk. For \$5, attendees will receive two slices of cheese or pepperoni pizza and a salad.

So-Cal Pizza is donating the food and all proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards the Soroptimist mission to improve the lives of women and girls through social and economic empowerment programs.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Lynda Fisher at (714) 204-2381 or visit www.sinorwalk.org.

COFFEE WITH TATREAU: Residents and business owners are invited to meet Los Angeles County Sheriff's Captain Jim Tatreau, who was recently selected as the new captain of Norwalk Sheriff's Station, which also serves La Mirada.

The Coffee with the Captain event will be held Tuesday, May 23 at 8 a.m. at the Starbucks located at 15010 Imperial Hwy. For additional information, call the La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station at (562) 902-2960.

Shared Stories: The Ties That Bind

Candy Wong's family is from Po Tai island in Hong Kong. Every year the islanders celebrate the festival of Tin Hau, goddess of the sea who protects fishermen and sailors. Candy's uncle has a well-known restaurant on this small, nearly uninhabited island. 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

"Po Tai Island and My Wonderful Uncle" by Candy Wong

Po Toi Island, a island belonging to Hong Kong, is my homeland. It is the most southern part of Hong Kong. Most of the islanders are fishermen.

Being fishermen, they believe in a Goddess named Tin Hau. People on this island thank Tin Hau for blessing their lives. They celebrate Tin Hau's birthday on March 23rd every year.

The leaders of the island ask every resident in the island to donate money to pay for four days and three nights of opera performance. The opera performance is very intricate and requires a lot of preparation.

First, they need to build a temporary theater, which can seat 500 people. Then, they invite a Cantonese opera group to come to the island to perform opera in front of Tin Hau Temple. During the Tin Hau festival, every islander stops working and joins every gathering. Tin Hau festival is so much fun for everyone. It is like a carnival on the island.

My uncle, Leund Chi Ming, is one of the leaders in the festival and he's a leader because of his involvement with tourism on the island.

While I don't live there anymore, my uncle is a famous cook who still lives on the Island. My uncle is able to survive on an island with less than fifty occupants through building a restaurant called Ming Kee.

It's an open-aired restaurant with a small stage for dancing. Working only four days a week, from Thursday to Sunday, his salary stems from the tourism business. Most of the tourists venture onto the island for its hiking trails in hope of catching a sunset facing the Pacific Ocean.

Thursday is his business preparation day. In the morning, he drives his small truck to the organic farms in Aberdeen to buy seasonal vegetables. In the afternoon, he chats with fishermen at the Aberdeen pier and makes deals with them. Usually he orders lobsters, shrimps, mussels, clams, fishes, crabs and, of course, my favorite eels.

After all of the food is delivered to his restaurant, he works with the workers to clean and chop until midnight. He then awaits his first customer to come the next day. He keeps a close eye on the pier to greet the first customer coming onto the island.

Guided by two rows of hanging orange lights, customers slowly file in, and my uncle greets each one of them with the biggest smile. Usually, customers like to sit in the front part of the restaurant. It is because the restaurant is built on the beach; and they can take a walk after dinner or dive into the sea and swim in the unpolluted sea water. The meals at my uncle's restaurant, in my heart, are priceless.

Gradually, many people in Hong Kong began to know about the restaurant. Recently, he was interviewed by a journalist from the travel guide, Lonely Planets. After the article was published, the business of my uncle's restaurant increased 30%.

He is planning to work one more day a week, and he hopes to use it to create new dishes and do extra business preparation. I hope my uncle really enjoys his career because his passion to serve great food and provide an unforgettable experience to Po Tai Island is cherished.

Rancho hosts run, walk, and roll festival

DOWNEY – Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center will host its annual "Run, Walk and Roll-A-Thon" this Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In addition to the run, walk or roll course, there will be health education booths, a kids fun zone, zumba, music, entertain, and raffles. Participants may run, walk, or roll in their wheelchairs around the flat course, supported by staff members and community volunteers to cheer them on.

The event also features "race buddies", which are volunteers who are paired with a racer, who may not have run or pushed their wheelchair for long distances prior to the race.

Each race participant will receive a medal as they cross the finish line to commemorate their achievement. As many of the participants are past and current patients, being able to finish a distance race marks an important milestone in their personal journey of recovery.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, stroke is the 4th leading cause of death in the United States, and can often leave survivors with residual weakness, paralysis, speech impairments, and cognitive difficulties.

Each year, approximately 795,000 people have a stroke in the United States, with almost 130,000 of these cases resulting in death. It affects people of all ages, genders, and ethnic groups.

Rancho has more than 60 years of experience providing quality care for persons with disabilities.

Bellflower Unified names 2017 Teacher of the Year

BELLFLOWER – A home education teacher known for her dedication to honing her craft, helping colleagues improve and unwavering faith in her students' abilities was named Bellflower Unified's 2017 Teacher of the Year on Wednesday, May 10.

Leah Moak, an 11-year teacher in Bellflower Unified, transferred to the District's Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy in 2015-16 as a way of challenging herself to continue growing as a teacher.

A former instructional coach in English language arts, she has been praised for her openness in seeking feedback on her own teaching and her ability to help other teachers grow.

"Leah teaches from the heart and, as a result, is able to make great gains with even the most challenging students because they know that she loves them and will do all she can to ensure they succeed," said Las Flores Principal Tami Zylla, who nominated Moak for the honor.

Moak was surprised with the news during a flag assembly on May 10 by her Las Flores colleagues, principal and Bellflower Unified Superintendent Dr. Brian Jacobs. Other district leaders were also in attendance for the recognition and joined students and teachers across the campus in erupting in cheers when Dr. Jacobs made the special announcement.

Moak received a bouquet of flowers from her husband and hugs from her three children, who also surprised her at the celebration.

"Leah Moak exemplifies what all of our Bellflower Unified teachers stand for -- dedication to ensuring our students achieve their very best," Jacobs said. "She inspires her students daily and her colleagues continually, lifting all of us to achieve that same standard of excellence."

Moak said the award is an affirmation of the efforts she takes to plan engaging lessons.

"I feel really lucky to be able to do what I do. It's not a job, it's my passion," she said.

Moak is known for her creative approach. For example, she introduced an exploration of special projects for homeschooled students enrolled in Friday enrichment classes at Las Flores, one of the academy's extra-curricular efforts.

Called "Genius Hour," the program is modeled on Google's highly successful employee motivational tool.

In Memory of

Stephanie Eileen Alvarado Elizarraraz

August 9, 1983 - May 15, 2017

Stephanie Eileen Alvarado Elizarraraz was born August of 1983 and raised in Norwalk, California.

Her talent was recognized at the tender age of 6 when a local band leader, Sebastian Juarez, heard her sing "Angel Baby" at a family function and without hesitation invited her to sing at all his gigs. Her loving family encouraged her to develop her immense voice by taking her to her performances and supporting her young career. She continued to perform locally in talent shows, community events and church functions.

As a teenager, she was managed by Isreal Cortez who groomed her and advanced her career by connecting her with musicians and producers.

Stephanie's soulful sultry voice has been heard by many not just in her home town, but around the world. Her voice took her on tours throughout Asia and parts of Europe. She also performed for the USO Tour in Baghdad for the United States troops with the band Soto. She shared the stage with groups such as, Malo, Brenton Wood, Tierra, Rocky Padilla, El Chicano and Teena Marie. Her voice is also featured on a new song "Hideaway" by Opra that will be released worldwide in summer 2017.

Her untimely medical condition, cancer, forced her to stop her singing career to focus on her health. Stephanie was also a licensed vocational nurse, wife and and mother of three handsome boys. She gained strength from her strong belief in God and the support of her family, friends and fans. No matter what the future held, the stage of life was hers and she stood front and center claiming Victory.

She became our singing angel on May 15, 2017 at 4:00pm

Services will be open for all to attend:

Viewing:
Date: Thursday May 25, 2017
Time: 5:00pm-9:00pm
Where: Rose Hills Whittier Sky Rose Chapel

Funeral:
Date: Friday May 26, 2017
Time: 9:00am-11:00am
Where: Rose Hills Whittier Sky Rose Chapel
Burial immediately after

Stephanie requested that no one wear black. On the day of the funeral she'd like everyone to wear white (all white not necessary).



Aldi store announces June 1 grand opening

DOWNEY – Aldi has announced that its new Downey grocery store will open June 1.

A grand opening celebration is scheduled for 8:25 a.m. with the first 100 shoppers receiving a "golden ticket" that contains Aldi gift cards of various amounts.

The Downey store, located at 11215 Lakewood Blvd., features bright colors, high ceilings, natural lighting, energy-saving refrigeration and LED lighting. It was built using recycled materials, Aldi officials said.

Aldi is also opening a Santa Fe Springs location, at 13210 Telegraph Rd., which opens May 25.

"We're thrilled to join the Santa Fe Springs and Downey communities and offer customers the benefits of the Aldi shopping experience," said John Alvarez, director of operations for Aldi in Moreno Valley. "Our stores are easy to navigate, so it's easy for shoppers to get in, get what they need and continue on with their day knowing they left with a shopping cart full of groceries that fit their lifestyle and save them money."

Aldi stores are smaller than traditional grocery stores and utilize a shopping cart rental system: insert a quarter to release a shopping cart from the corral and receive the quarter back upon returning the cart.

Operating hours will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. -- **Eric Pierce, editor**

Norwalk announces keynote speaker for Memorial Day tribute

NORWALK –The city of Norwalk has announced the guest speaker for this year's Memorial Day tribute ceremony, which will honor those who gave their lives in service to the country.

John Kelsall, a recent recipient of the President's Lifetime Achievement Award, will serve as keynote speaker on Monday, May 20 at 10:30 a.m. at Norwalk City Hall.

Kelsall, along with his wife, Teri, founded the non-profit organization, the Jonas Project, to help veterans realize their dream of owning and managing a business.

The organization was created in honor of the Kelsall's son, Lieutenant Commander Jonas B. Kelsall, a U.S. Navy Seal, killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan in 2011.

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Have you seen George W. Bush’s paintings? Something’s missing

By Adam Johnson

George W. Bush has been on something of a public relations tour recently, showcasing paintings he’s done since leaving office. The tour seems designed to rebuild his image as a tortured artist wrestling with his demons — a flawed but morally introspective tragic figure.

And it’s been remarkably effective. Bush has been the lucky recipient of dozens of friendly write-ups, interviews, and TV appearances, all with only the mildest of chiding around the margins.

Bush’s new PR tour centers around him painting wounded American veterans — foregrounded as the primary negative consequence of Bush’s invasion of Iraq.

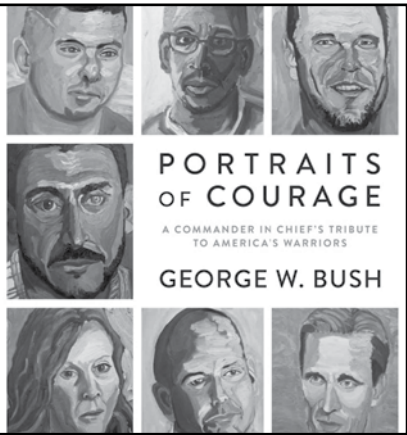
In all of the fawning press coverage, though, one thing has been notably absent: Bush’s Iraqi victims.

Headlines include “George W. Bush’s Best-Selling Book of Paintings Shows Curiosity and Compassion” (in the Washington Post); “‘W.’ and the Art of Redemption” (New York Times); and “From Caricature to Man of Character: How Time and Art Change Image of Bush” (Christian Science Monitor).

In all of these write-ups, you’ll find not a single mention of Iraqis.

The Washington Post article made vague reference to “the trauma here and in Iraq,” but none noted the specific number of Iraqi deaths — with serious estimates ranging from 500,000 to 1 million — that resulted from Bush’s war of aggression. None profiled an Iraqi who suffered or continues to suffer as a result.

This is likely for the same reason Bush didn’t bother to find any Iraqis to paint — they simply don’t factor into the U.S.



moral calculus. One glowing profile, by Kane Farabaugh of the government-funded outlet Voice of America, doesn’t even contain the word “Iraq.”

Others make glib jokes about it, like the New York Times’ Mimi Swartz. After noting that The New Yorker’s art critic “can barely hide his surprise when describing the

quality as astonishingly high,” Swartz cracked: “Why the shock and awe? Because Mr. Bush’s artistic talent goes against the stereotype we have of him.”

“Shock and awe,” you may remember, refers to the initial overwhelming bombing raids the U.S. launched on Baghdad at the dawn of its invasion.

To the extent the Iraq invasion is addressed, in other words, it’s as a punchline. Iraqi victims aren’t just ignored; their trauma is used to jazz up an otherwise mediocre piece of art criticism.

This type of runaway nationalism is so common we hardly notice it. To the extent Bush is sorry, he only regrets the Americans he helped kill and maim.

Many American veterans suffered greatly during and after the invasion. But they make up roughly 2 percent of those who suffered as a result of the war. The other 98 percent are faceless Arabs whose humanity these critics think isn’t worth touching on, much less exploring.

All cultures naturally prioritize their own, but the wholesale erasure of Iraqis from Bush’s rebranding tour, framed as “atonement” and “redemption,” is striking in its raw nationalist myopia.

Adam Johnson is a contributing analyst for FAIR.org.

Congress wants to cut your health care — and trim billionaires’ taxes

By Chuck Collins

Members of the House GOP were in a hurry on May 4 to pass their bill to gut Obamacare. They rushed it through before anyone even had a chance to check its cost or calculate its impact on people’s access to insurance.

Their urgency, however, had little to do with health care. The real reason for the rush? To set the table for massive tax cuts.

Indeed, the House health plan would give a \$1 trillion boon to wealthy households and pave the way for still bigger corporate tax cuts to come, as part of the so-called “tax reform” they’re pushing.

Meanwhile, dismantling the Affordable Care Act will cause up to 24 million people to lose their health coverage, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. (Though even that estimate is based on the less extreme version of the bill that failed to pass in April. The new plan may be even worse.)

Why would a GOP politician support an unpopular bill that fewer than 20 percent of voters think is a good idea? Why risk angry constituents showing up at town hall meetings?

Put simply, to please their wealthy donors and Wall Street corporations. For complex legislative reasons, repealing Obamacare’s taxes on the rich first will make it easier for them to slash corporate taxes next.

As the “tax reform” debate begins, prepare for sermons about how cutting taxes for rich and global corporations will be great for the economy. Slashing the corporate tax rate, we’ll be told, will boost U.S. competitiveness.

But if Congress were really concerned about the economy, policy wouldn’t be driven by tax cuts. The real parasite eating the insides of the U.S. economy isn’t taxes, billionaire investor Warren Buffett explained recently, but health care.

In fact, taxes have been

steadily going down, especially for the very wealthy and global corporations. “As a percent of GDP,” Buffett told shareholders of his investment firm, the corporate tax haul “has gone down.” But “medical costs, which are borne to a great extent by business,” have increased.

In 1960, corporate taxes in the U.S. were about 4 percent of the economy. Today, they’re less than half that. As taxes have fallen, meanwhile, the share of GDP spent on health care has gone from 5 percent of the economy in the 1960s to 17 percent today.

These costs are the real “tax” on businesses. As any small business owner can tell you, health care costs are one of the biggest expenses in maintaining a healthy and productive work force.

Yet the GOP bill will weaken health care coverage and regulation, which will increase costs and hurt U.S. companies.

U.S. employers, remember, must compete with countries that have superior universal health insurance for their citizens and significantly lower

costs. While health care eats up 17 percent of the U.S. economy, it’s around just 11 percent in Germany, 10 percent in Japan, 9 percent in Britain, and 5.5 percent in China.

No wonder Buffett concluded that “medical costs are the tapeworm of American economic competitiveness.”

Buffett observed that the House health care bill would give him an immediate \$680,000 annual tax cut, a break he doesn’t really need, while only allowing that tapeworm to bore deeper.

For all its limitations, the Affordable Care Act has expanded coverage and the quality of life for millions of Americans. It’s also put in place important provisions to contain exploding health care expenses, slowing the rise of costs.

The GOP plan to reduce coverage and deregulate health care will take us in the wrong direction. That’s a pretty poor bargain for yet another tax cut for the richest Americans.

Chuck Collins is a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies and a co-editor of Inequality.org.

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.

Norwalk art show cancelled

Dear Editor:

Many in the Los Angeles and local arts communities have been anticipating the upcoming exhibit of my new artwork. My show last May, Water Music/Fire Dance, was a success and attended by collectors from the Valley to the Desert. It was a great experience for me and everyone.

The documentary film on the exhibit was shown for six weeks around the clock in the window of Stay Gallery in Downey during the studio portion of my artist residency earlier this year (December 2016 through January 2017).My upcoming show, Ordinary Time, an exhibit with sculptures by the inimitable June Diamond and paintings by myself, is cancelled. There were irreconcilable differences between the artists and Mary Paxon Gallery of Norwalk.

The exhibit would have been a relevant statement on the disposability of our society.The arts communities of Downey, Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, and the surrounding cities are struggling have been struggling for several years. In Downey, I see an arts community in search of community. The few cultural venues and active arts groups available (except for Downey Theater, Downey Symphony) are young and isolated from the example of more established institutions. Or they are dying.

It is, therefore, understandable that the professionalism of Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, etc. is not always present here. It is not, however, understandable that reasonable consideration of the art and the artists themselves is not always present. Common courtesy is not regional.I will not enumerate here the list of unprofessional and unreasonable requirements imposed by the administration of Mary Paxon Gallery. It will suffice to say that the possibility of community is not supported by its activity.

I regret that this show is cancelled but will source another venue for the exhibit.

Roy Anthony Shabla
Director of Collections, Downey Museum of Art

Blinking red light

Dear Editor:

As a Norwalk resident, I was concerned when a sink hole developed on Alondra Boulevard last month at Cerritos College. I saw repairs start right away and because of that the firehouse red-light and the light on the corner of Gridley and Alondra have been blinking red ever since. That was over a month ago! I see people blow through both of the red lights all the time. Do you know what the holdup is that will restore those lights back to normal? Haven’t heard anything about the repairs.

Mark Thomas
Norwalk

Planned Parenthood misconceptions

Dear Editor:

I’m writing in response to Patti Sharpe’s open letter to Senator Feinstein (Letters to the editor Patriot, 5/11/2017). While I appreciate her views as a pro-lifer, I must correct some inaccuracies in her letter regarding Planned Parenthood.

The first is in regard the use of federal funding for abortions, this is untrue. In 1976, The Hyde Amendment (Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL) prohibited the use of federal funds to pay for abortions with the exception in rape, incest, or life-endangering pregnancy.

While P.P. does perform abortions, among its top three health services (abortions, contraceptives, STD testing) it amounts to only about 3 percent of its long list of health services, like pregnancy testing and adoptions. P.P. receives Medicaid funding from the federal government, which allows the very low income to have access to health care. The second inaccurate statement was that Planned Parenthood does not provide prenatal care. This is simply not true.

Therefore, I ask Patti if it makes any sense to deny prenatal care to an unborn child because that parent is a low-income. That is what will happen: even relying on donations would not guarantee coverage to all 75 percent of Planned Parenthood’s mostly-below-the-poverty-level patients. By defunding P.P., unwanted pregnancies would rise and Medicaid cost over 10 years would be \$650 million. Trumpcare would phase out Medicaid.

So how is it pro-life to take away the poor’s healthcare, which is a basic human right along with clean water, air, and safe food?

Joanne Gallo
Downey

\$10.00

GUARANTEED DELIVERY

SUBSCRIPTION

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

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The Norwalk Patriot

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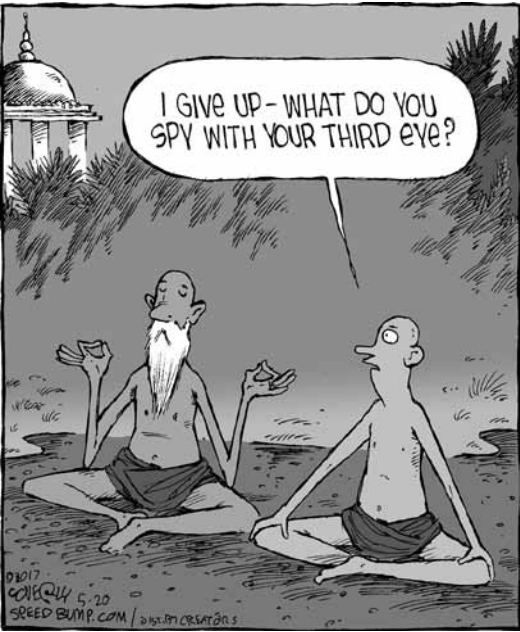
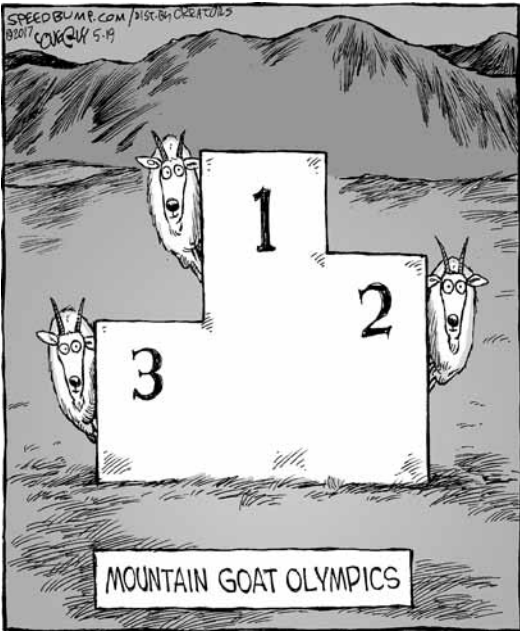
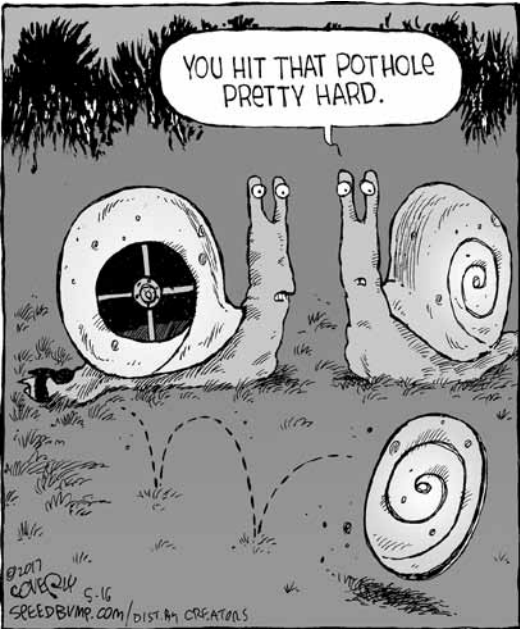
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SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



On This Day...

May 19, 1906: The Federated Boys' Clubs, forerunner of the Boys' Clubs of America, were organized.

1962: Marilyn Monroe performed a sultry rendition of "Happy Birthday" for U.S. President John F. Kennedy. The event was a fundraiser at New York's Madison Square Garden.

1981: The Empire State Building was designated a New York City Landmark.

2005: "Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith" brought in \$50 million in its opening day.

BIRTHDAYS: "Chewbacca" actor Peter Mayhew (73); The Who guitarist Pete Townshend (72); Model and pop singer Grace Jones (69); Former NFL quarterback Archie Manning (68); Actor Maile Flanagan (52); TV actor Jason Gray-Stanford (47); NBA player Kevin Garnett (41); Lifestyle expert Aaron Marino (41); Young adults author Kiera Cass (36); MMA fighter Georges St-Pierre (36); Model Jon Kortajarena (32); Pop singer Sam Smith (25); and Dancer JoJo Siwa (14).



Kiera Cass

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The
Norwalk
Patriot

Please Call
Michael Robinson
(562) 868-3022

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

Address:

12040 Foster Road
Norwalk, CA 90650

Email:

news@thedowneypatriot.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 20

11:00 a.m. - Hargitt House Re-opening - 12426 Mapledale St.



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

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

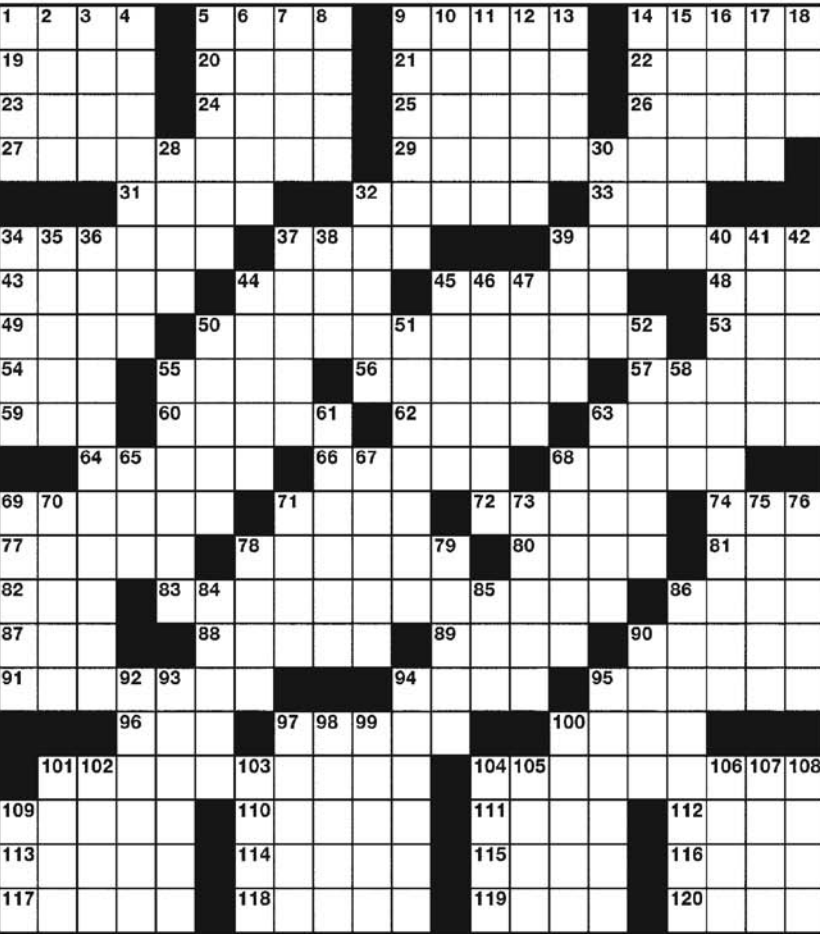
COMPONENT PARTS: Of what, you'll soon figure out
by Gail Grabowski

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- 1 Just shy of shut
 - 2 Lug
 - 3 Sandwich served with sticks

- DOWN
- 61 Just shy of shut
 - 2 Lug
 - 3 Sandwich served with sticks

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WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 5/14/17



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- 108 Where a lap ends
- 109 "Bad" cholesterol, for short

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.



LEGALS

GOVERNMENT

**CITY OF NORWALK
NOTICE INVITING BIDS FOR THE
REHABILITATION OF
PIONEER BOULEVARD
FROM ALONDRA BOULEVARD TO
ROSECRANS AVENUE
CITY PROJECT NO. 7149.1**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Norwalk will accept bids for this project until the hour of **eleven o'clock A.M. on June 6, 2017**. Bids are to be submitted to the City Clerk's office, Room 10, City Hall, 12700 Norwalk Boulevard, Norwalk, California 90650. Bids will be opened and read aloud in the City Clerk's Office Room 10 unless otherwise posted.

OBTAINING BID DOCUMENTS. Plans, specifications, bid forms, bonds and contracts may be obtained at the office of the City Engineer, Room 12, City Hall. Plans and specifications will be issued to prospective bidders over the counter for a \$24.50 charge. For plans and specifications that are required to be mailed the charge will be \$29.50. Checks are to be made payable to the City of Norwalk.

FACSIMILE NUMBER AND EMAIL ADDRESS. Bidders shall supply the City Engineer with a facsimile number and email address to facilitate transmission of Addenda and other information related to these Contract Documents. If the Addenda and other information are emailed, the City shall also send all documents by facsimile or U.S. Mail. Failure to provide such a facsimile number and email address may result in late notification. The City does not guarantee that it will provide any information by facsimile, email, or both. A Bidder shall be responsible for all Addenda regardless of whether Bidder received any such fax or email, and a Bidder shall have no recourse due to not receiving such facsimile, email or both.

REGISTRATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS. In accordance with Labor Code Sections 1725.5 and 1771.1, no contractor or subcontractor shall be qualified to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal, subject to the requirements of Section 4104 of the Public Contract Code, or engage in the performance of any contract for public work, unless currently registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to Section 1725.5 [with limited exceptions for bid purposes only under Labor Code Section 1771.1(a)].

PREVAILING WAGES. In accordance with Labor Code Section 1770 et seq., the Project is a "public work." The selected Bidder (Contractor) and any Subcontractors shall pay wages in accordance with the determination of the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations ("DIR") regarding the prevailing rate of per diem wages. Copies of those rates are available from the Department of Industrial Relations' Web site. The Contractor shall post a copy of the DIR's determination of the prevailing rate of per diem wages at each job site. This Project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the DIR.

BONDS. Each Bid must be accompanied by a cash deposit, cashier's check, certified check or Bidder's Bond issued by a Surety insurer, made payable to the City and in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total Bid submitted. Personal or company checks are not acceptable. Upon Contract award, the Contractor shall provide faithful performance and payment Bonds, each in a sum equal to the Contract Price. Before acceptance of the Project, the Contractor shall submit a warranty or maintenance Bond that is valid for one year from acceptance, in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the final Contract Price; in lieu of that Bond, the Contractor may submit proof from the Surety that the performance Bond has been extended for the appropriate duration of time. All Bonds must be issued by a California admitted Surety insurer using the forms set forth in the Contract Documents, or in any other form approved by the City Attorney. Failure to obtain a warranty or maintenance Bond that is valid for one year from acceptance, in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the final Contract Price; in lieu of that Bond, the Contractor may submit proof from the Surety that the performance Bond has been extended for the appropriate duration of time. All Bonds must be issued by a California admitted Surety insurer using the forms set forth in the Contract Documents, or in any other form approved by the City Attorney.

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY RECORD. The bidder shall submit as part of its Bid a completed copy of its Industrial Safety Record including all construction Work undertaken in California by the bidder and any partnership, joint venture or corporation that any principal of the bidder participated in as a principal or owner for the last five (5) calendar years and the current calendar year before the date of Bid submission.

INCORPORATION OF STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS. The 2015 edition of "Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction" ("Standard Specifications"), as amended by the Contract Documents, is incorporated into the Contract Documents by reference.

RETENTION SUBSTITUTION. Five percent (5%) of any progress payment will be withheld as retention. In accordance with Public Contract Code Section 22300, and at the request and expense of the Contractor, securities equivalent to the amount withheld may be deposited with the City or with a State or federally chartered bank as escrow agent, which shall then pay such moneys to the Contractor. Upon satisfactory completion of the Project, the securities shall be returned to the Contractor. Alternatively, the Contractor may request that the City make payments of earned retentions directly to an escrow agent, at the Contractor's expense. No such substitutions shall be accepted until all related documents are approved by the City Attorney.

LIQUIDATED DAMAGES. Liquidated damages shall accrue in the amount of **\$500** for each day that Work remains incomplete beyond the Project **120 Working Day** completion deadline as specified in the Contract Documents.

BIDDING PROCESS. The City Council of the City of Norwalk reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and/or waive any informality on a bid. No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of sixty (60) days after the date and time set for the opening thereof.

BY ORDER OF THE NORWALK CITY COUNCIL of the City of Norwalk, California this 21st day of March 2017.

Theresa Devoy, CMC
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF NORWALK

The Norwalk Patriot
5/19/17

CITY OF NORWALK SUMMARY ORDINANCE NO. 17-1691

The Norwalk City Council, at a meeting held on May 16, 2017, adopted, by the following roll call vote, proposed **Ordinance No. 17-1691, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORWALK SETTING FORTH ITS FINDINGS OF FACT AND DECISION APPROVING ZONE CHANGE NO. 356**, to change the zone of the property located at 11739 Potter Street (Assessor's Parcel Number 8074-021-049) from Restricted Commercial (C-1) to Single-Family Residential (R-1) zone to create consistency between the zone and the existing land use to eliminate the non-conforming status of the property:

AYES: Councilmembers Ayala and Rios, Vice Mayor Shryock, and Mayor Vernola
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: Councilmember Perez

The full text of Ordinance No. 17-1691 is available for review in the Office of the City Clerk during regular business hours.

Theresa Devoy, CMC, City Clerk

May 18, 2017

The Norwalk Patriot
5/19/17

PROBATE

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO
ADMINISTER ESTATE OF
PATSY LOIS MASSEY
Case No. 17STPB03955**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of PATSY LOIS MASSEY

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by LAWRENCE E. MASSEY in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that LAWRENCE E. MASSEY 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. (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 on June 7, 2017 at 9:30 AM in Dept. No. 5 located at 111 NORTH HILL STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012, STANLEY MOSK COURTHOUSE.

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 the 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:
JEFFERY J. CZECH (SB#145240);
JONATHAN A. HOWELL (SB#234044)
CZECH & HOWELL, APC
2400 E. Katella Avenue, Suite 655
Anaheim, CA 92806
(714) 522-5553
(562) 802-1142
jeff@czechandhowell.com

The Norwalk Patriot
5/12/17, 5/19/17, 5/26/17

TRUSTEE SALES

T.S. No.: 2016-02265-CA

A.P.N.:

8056-018-029
Property Address: **12255 - 12259 1/2
Rosecrans Avenue, Norwalk, CA 90650**

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

PURSUANT TO CIVIL CODE § 2923.3(a) (d), THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REFERRED TO BELOW IS NOT ATTACHED TO THE RECORDED COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT BUT ONLY TO THE COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR.

NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED

注： 本文件包含一个信息摘要
참고사항: 본 첨부 문서에 정보 요약서가
있습니다.
NOTA: SE ADJUNTA UN RESUMEN
DE LA INFORMACION DE ESTE
DOCUMENTO
TALA: MAYROONG BUOD NG
IMPORMASYON SA DOKUMENTONG
ITO NA NAKALAKIP
LƯU Ý: KẸM THẺ ĐÃ LẤY BẢN TRÌNH
BÀY TÓM LƯỢC VỀ THÔNG TIN TRONG
TÀI LIỆU NÀY

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:
YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 02/01/2005. 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.

Trustor: Myrna Galvan, A Single Woman
Duly Appointed Trustee: **Western Progressive, LLC**
Deed of Trust Recorded **02/11/2005** as Instrument No. **05 0323515** in book ---, page--- and of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of **Los Angeles** County, California, Date of Sale: **06/12/2017 at 11:00 AM**
Place of Sale: **BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA, CA 91766**

Estimated amount of unpaid balance, reasonably estimated costs and other charges: **\$ 434,545.95**

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

THE TRUSTEE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER, FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, A SAVINGS ASSOCIATION OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE:

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 as:

More fully described in said Deed of Trust.

Street Address or other common designation of real property: **12255 - 12259 1/2 Rosecrans Avenue, Norwalk, CA 90650**
A.P.N.: **8056-018-029**

The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above.

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 thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: **\$ 434,545.95.**

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.

If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse.

The beneficiary of the Deed of Trust has executed and delivered to the undersigned a written request to commence foreclosure, and the undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S 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 this property.

The Norwalk Patriot
5/15/17, 5/12/17, 5/19/17

T.S. No. 16-44481 APN: 8048-029-001

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11/15/2005. 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.

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 **(866) 960-8299** or visit this Internet Web site <http://www.altsource.com/MortgageServices/DefaultManagement/TrusteeServices.aspx> using the file number assigned to this case **2016-02265-CA**. 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.

**Western Progressive, LLC, as Trustee
for beneficiary
C/o 30 Corporate Park, Suite 450
Irvine, CA 92606
Sale Information Line: (866) 960-8299** <http://www.altsource.com/MortgageServices/DefaultManagement/TrusteeServices.aspx>

Date: April 28, 2017

Trustee Sale Assistant

WESTERN PROGRESSIVE, LLC MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

The Norwalk Patriot
5/12/17, 5/19/17, 5/26/17

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 129474-01, 018-0773 Title Order No. 70027152 APN 8049-003 003 TRA No.: **YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 05/11/2005. 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 05/26/2017 at 10:00AM, MORTGAGE LENDER SERVICES, INC. as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 05/18/2005 as Document No. 05 1167594 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California, executed by: RICHARD LOZANO AND JULIE LOZANO, as Trustor, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). Place of sale: Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA 91766, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust 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.

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 (916) 939-0772 or visit this Internet Web site www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 129474-11. 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. Date: 04/24/2017 MORTGAGE LENDER SERVICES, INC. 11707 Fair Oaks Blvd., Ste 202 Fair Oaks, CA 95628 (916) 962-3453 Sale Information Line: (916) 939-0772 or www.nationwideposting.com TARA CAMPBELL, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT MORTGAGE LENDER SERVICES, INC. MAY BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NPP0306748 To: NORWALK PATRIOT PUB: 05/05/2017, 05/12/2017, 05/19/2017

The Norwalk Patriot
5/15/17, 5/12/17, 5/19/17

T.S. No. 16-44481 APN: 8048-029-001

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11/15/2005. 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: IRMA O SUAREZ, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN

Duly Appointed Trustee: Zieve, Brodnax & Steele, LLP Deed of Trust recorded 11/23/2005 as Instrument No. 05 2869109 in book , page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, Date of Sale: **6/2/2017** 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: **\$901,113.31**

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:

**12006-12006 OLIVE STREET
NORWALK, CA 90650**
Described as follows:
LOT 72 OF TRACT NO. 5348, IN THE CITY OF NORWALK, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AS PER MAP RECORDED IN BOOK 63, PAGE 72 OF MAPS, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY.

A.P.N.#: 8048-029-001

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 16-44481. 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.

Date: **5/8/2017**
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 22273 5/12, 5/19, 5/26/17

The Norwalk Patriot
5/12/17, 5/19/17, 5/26/17

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. CA-16-74536-CL, Order No.: 16026464-CA-VOI NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED TO THE COPY PROVIDED TO THE MORTGAGOR OR TRUSTOR (Pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code 2923.3) **YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF**

TRUST DATED 4/20/2005. 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 duly appointed trustee. 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. **BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.** Trustor(s): **GABRIEL LOPEZ AND MARIA RAMIREZ** Recorded: **5/17/2005** as Instrument No. **05 1154039** and modified as per Modification Agreement recorded 7/11/2005 as Instrument No. 06 1519517 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California; Date of Sale: **5/30/2017 at 10:00 AM** Place of Sale: **Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, located at 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA 91766** Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$110,649.95** The purported property address is: **15007 FLATBUSH AVE, Norwalk, CA 90650-5321** Assessor's Parcel No.: **8076-017-014**

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 (844) 477-7869 or visit this Internet Web site WWW.STOXPOSTING.COM, using the file number assigned to this case 029034-CA. 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 SALES INFORMATION:** (844) 477-7869 CLEAR RECON CORP. 4375 Juddland Drive Suite 200 San Diego, California 92117

The Norwalk Patriot
5/15/17, 5/12/17, 5/19/17

T.S. No.: 170206030

Notice Of Trustee's Sale
Loan No.: 251730 Order No. 5931427 APN: 8080-015-042 You Are In Default Under A Deed Of Trust Dated 12/28/2015. 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, cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's 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: Montano Investments, Inc., a California Corporation Duly Appointed Trustee: Aztec T.D. Service Co. Recorded 12/31/2015 as Instrument No. 2015164925 in book , page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, Date of Sale: **6/2/2017** at 11:00 AM Place of Sale: Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$399,670.66 Street

LEGALS

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 (877) 440-4460 or visit this Internet Web site www.mkconsultantsinc.com, using the file number assigned to this case 170206030. 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. Date: 5/9/2017 Aztec T.D. Service Co. by Total Lender Solutions, Inc. its authorized agent 10855 Sorrento Valley Road, Ste 102 San Diego, CA 92121 Phone: (818) 848-8960 Sale Line: (877) 440-4460 By: /s/ Naomi Finkelstein, Trustee Sale Officer

The Norwalk Patriot
5/19/17, 5/26/17, 6/2/17

T.S. No. 051426-CA APN: 8070-021-037 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/3/2011 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 On 6/20/2017 at 10:30 AM, CLEAR RECON CORP., as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 9/8/2009, as Instrument No. 20091364778, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Los Angeles County, State of CALIFORNIA executed by: JOSEPHINE DELGADO AS TRUSTEES OF THE JOSEPHINE DELGADO LIVING TRUST WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, SAVINGS ASSOCIATION, OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE: BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA, CA 91766 all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED ON SAID DEED OF TRUST. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 14517 CLARESSA AVENUE NORWALK, CA 90650 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$350,647.91 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sale and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. 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 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 (844) 477-7869 or visit this Internet Web site WWW.STOXPOSTING.COM, using the file number assigned to this case 051426-CA. 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 SALES INFORMATION: (844) 477-7869 CLEAR RECON CORP. 4375 Jutland Drive Suite 200 San Diego, California 92117

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Hargitt House re-opens this Saturday

NORWALK – The city of Norwalk's Recreation and Park Services Department and the Historical Heritage Commission will host a re-opening for the Hargitt House Museum on Saturday, May 20 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The Eastlake Victorian style home was built in 1891 by the D.D. Johnston family as part of a 120-acre ranch where wine grapes, avocados and citrus fruits were cultivated. The local historical landmark was closed for several months due to a massive restoration project that included the rebuild of stairs, installation of a new roof, exterior painting, as well as several landscape improvements. The Hargitt House Museum is located at 12426 Mapledale St. The event will include tours of the home, live entertainment, old fashioned butter churning, turn of the century lawn games and arts & crafts. The museum will resume regular operating hours on June 3. For more information, please call (562) 929-5521.

Memorial Day BBQ for seniors

NORWALK – The city is hosting a pre-Memorial Day BBQ for seniors on Saturday, May 27 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Each ticket comes with a meal that includes barbeque chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, and live entertainment by Brasas. The event is open to seniors 50 years and older, and takes place at the Norwalk Senior Center, located at 14040 San Antonio Drive. Admission is \$5 per person and tickets are currently on sale through Thursday, May 25. No tickets will be sold on the day of the event. For more information, please call (562) 929-5580.



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CERRITOS COLLEGE
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Meet David Betancourt: Cerritos College's music department guru

By Marck Parra

NORWALK – A trumpet performance stands out during a jazz concert for a young Dr. David Betancourt as realization settles in about his future.

It was on that fateful night that Dr. Beatncourt, now Director of Music at Cerritos College, knew he wanted music to play a predominant role in his life.

Following that night, Dr. David Betancourt started playing the trumpet, as well as any instrument he could get his hands on, to explore the vast world of music.

It wasn't until he got to high school, however, that he knew exactly what profession he wanted to pursue.

"I've had more of a passion, I think, for teaching ever since high school," Betancourt says.

"One of my own band directors in high school really just changed my whole life... and ever since then I've been wanting to teach."

Finding a field to teach came easy to Dr. Betancourt — it was an obvious no-brainer.

"It just so happens that I love music, so I put the two together and that is why I teach music," Betancourt explains.

A man of versatility, Dr. Betancourt admits he can play most instruments, but says there

are still a couple of what he calls "odd" instruments that he does not know.

"It's the one's that aren't usually seen at places [that I can't play]," Dr. Betancourt admits. "[For example] you don't always see an accordion hanging around or a mandolin, so other than that, I have a basic fundamental knowledge of it."

His journey to pursue his childhood dream kicked off at Berkeley College of Music and Performance where he earned his undergraduate degree in music education.

Dr. Betancourt wasn't finished

there, and a master's degree in instrumental conducting at Northern Arizona University quickly followed.

A doctorate degree in music education at USC capped off an impressive run of diplomas.

All of these certifications finally allowed him to reach his goal of becoming a music instructor all while allowing him to continue playing his trumpet — and any instrument he wished.

Before he officially became a faculty member of Cerritos College in 1999, he taught at Northern Arizona University and at a high

school just outside of Boston on the east coast.

Since his arrival, staff and faculty members have not overlooked the vital role he plays in the Cerritos College Music Department. As recently as a year ago, he received the award for Most Outstanding Faculty Member.

But it's not only the faculty at Cerritos College who praise Dr. Betancourt's work of all things music related on campus, his students and band pupils have nothing but the highest of praise for the music director.

Anna Lopez, who plays flute for the concert band at school, has choice words for Dr. Betancourt.

"From one to ten, I give my experience [with the concert band] an 11," Lopez begins to explain. "Dr. B. is an incredible conductor."

Dr. Betancourt is happy with the state of his bands and his role at Cerritos College, but admits improvements are always welcomed.

"I'm always looking on how we can progress, but they usually meet those expectations," Dr. Betancourt admits.

This story was originally published in Talon Marks , the student-ran newspaper at Cerritos College. To read the original, visit www.talonmarks.com/arts/2017/05/12/dr-betancourt-cerritos-colleges-music-guru.

Former L.A. Sheriff Lee Baca sentenced to 3 years in federal prison for scheme to obstruct investigation into jail beatings

LOS ANGELES – Former Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, who was convicted of overseeing a scheme designed to obstruct a federal investigation into corruption and civil rights abuses at county jail facilities, was sentenced last Friday to 36 months in federal prison. Baca, 74, who also was

found guilty of lying to federal investigators, was sentenced on May 12 by United States District Judge Percy Anderson.

Judge Anderson, who presided over a series of trials that led to the conviction of 10 former members of the Sheriff's Department involved in the scheme to obstruct justice, said Baca "knew what he

was doing was wrong, and he had no problem using his office to further his own agenda."

Judge Anderson ordered Baca to begin serving his sentence by July 25. In addition to the prison term, the judge ordered Baca to pay a \$7,500 fine.

"Blind obedience to a corrupt culture has serious consequences," Judge Anderson said.

The sentencing follows a trial that ended in March when a federal jury convicted Baca on three felony counts: conspiracy to obstruct justice, obstruction of justice and making false statement to federal investigators.

The evidence presented at trial showed that Baca was the top figure in the conspiracy, which also involved his right-hand man and deputies who implemented orders from the Sheriff.

"Rather than fulfill his sworn duty to uphold the law and protect the public, Lee Baca made a decision to protect what he viewed as his empire, and then he took actions in an effort to simply protect himself," said Acting United States United States Attorney Sandra R. Brown.

"He wore the badge, but ultimately, he failed the department and the public's trust. Today's sentence demonstrates that no one is above the law – not even the leader of the largest municipal police agency in the nation."

Eleven other former deputies have been convicted of federal charges, mostly related to unprovoked beatings of inmates and subsequent cover-ups.

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Eva Juárez -Attorney
Malhotra & Malhotra

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