

## Wildfires ravage Northern California

► **DISASTERS:** The Mendocino Complex Fire is now the largest fire in California’s recorded history.

Downey firefighters are helping battle the Carr Fire near Redding.

**CLEAR LAKE** – Catastrophic wildfires continue to ravage California, as one blaze nearly doubled in size over the last three days, making it the largest in the state’s history.

No one has been injured in the Mendocino Complex Fire, which consists of two fires -- the Ranch Fire and the River Fire -- burning around Clear Lake, in several counties in Northern California.

Combined, they form the biggest blaze that California firefighters are currently battling. Altogether, the Mendocino Complex Fire has burned 283,800 acres -- growing about 80% since Friday night. As of Monday evening, it was 30% contained and had destroyed 75 residences.

The Mendocino Complex Fire has now surpassed last year’s Thomas Fire, which burned 281,893 acres in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, as the largest fire in Cal Fire history.

Exhausted firefighters across the state are trying to contain 16 major fires that are burning in hot, dry and windy conditions.

On Monday, another fast-moving fire ignited in the state -- this time in Orange County, where firefighters battled the Holy Fire that expanded to more than 4,000 acres. That fire started in the Cleveland National Forest and evacuations in the nearby areas have been ordered, according to the Orange County Fire Authority.

In Northern California’s Shasta County, the devastating Carr Fire claimed its seventh victim Saturday when a Pacific Gas & Electric worker died while working with a crew to restore power, utility spokesman J.D. Guidi said.

On Sunday, a team of Downey firefighters departed to help battle the Carr Fire, which is burning near Redding, north of Sacramento.

Over the weekend, the White House approved a disaster declaration for Shasta County, allowing affected residents from the Carr Fire to apply for federal disaster assistance such as temporary housing, home repairs and other programs.

At the same time, President Donald Trump blamed the state’s environmental laws for the wildfires.

“California wildfires are being magnified & made so much worse by the bad environmental laws which aren’t allowing massive amounts of readily available water to be properly utilized,” he tweeted Sunday. “It is being diverted into the Pacific Ocean. Must also tree clear to stop fire spreading!”

It wasn’t immediately clear what California laws Trump was referring to. Henri Grissino-Mayer, a geography professor at the University of Tennessee, said he had “no clue” what Trump was referring to in his tweet.

Continued on page 2

## Norwalk students return school next week

► **BACK TO SCHOOL:** The fall semester begins Aug. 16 at all 28 Norwalk-La Mirada public campuses.

**NORWALK** – The first day of classes for the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District is Thursday, Aug. 16.

All 28 campuses of the K-12 district, which encompasses the cities of Norwalk, La Mirada and a portion of Santa Fe Springs, are still accepting new students.

NLMUSD features many award-winning schools and 21st century learning programs, including Morrison Elementary School in Norwalk and Escalona Elementary School in La Mirada, which were each recently named as a California Distinguished School by the state Department of Education.

In addition, Gardenhill Elementary School in La Mirada was named during the 2017-18 academic year as a PTA National PTA School of Excellence and a Project Lead the Way National Distinguished School.

All the NLMUSD campuses — 17 elementary schools, six middle schools and five high schools — are part of the district’s technology



Seniors celebrate at the John Glenn High School graduation ceremony in June. Credit: Lifetouch.

integration plan called the 2020 Learning Initiative, which will dramatically increase student access to and use of digital devices such as iPads, Chromebooks and iMacs.

Also, there are various outdoor renovations around the district that are now underway or planned. These include major stadium and athletic field upgrades in Norwalk for John Glenn High School, Norwalk High School and Corvallis Middle School, and sports field

improvements at Benton Visual and Performing Arts Magnet Middle School in La Mirada and a gym expansion for La Mirada High School.

For information on enrollment at NLMUSD schools, including required documents such as birth certificates, immunization records and proof of residence, visit [nlmusd.org/sfs/](http://nlmusd.org/sfs/) or email [enroll@nlmusd.org](mailto:enroll@nlmusd.org) or call (562) 210-2102.

## Paramount opens new STEM high school

► **STEM ACADEMY:** Odyssey STEM Academy officially opens Aug. 22. Its curriculum focuses on science, technology, engineering and math.

**PARAMOUNT** – Five incoming freshmen joined Paramount Unified Board members and community leaders in cutting a ceremonial red ribbon on Aug. 1 to launch the district’s new science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) high school as nearly 100 attendees cheered in celebration.

Odyssey Principal Keith Nuthall and Academic Dean Becky Perez welcomed Superintendent Ruth Pérez, Paramount Mayor Diane Martinez and others to Odyssey STEM Academy, which will open its doors to a freshman class of 144 students on Aug. 22.

The school will add a grade level each year until all grades are fully enrolled.

“We are so excited to be launching Odyssey and instilling a new group of students with ‘Strong Mind, Strong Heart and Strong Will,’” Nuthall said. “As we start the

Odyssey journey today, I am reminded of all the students we encounter through the years who leave such an impact on our lives.”

Nuthall encouraged the audience to share their memories of special students.

Incoming freshman Blue Phillips spoke about his journey to Odyssey as a student who nearly failed third grade but learned to give his best effort through the encouragement of educators.

“Life is a lot like a backflip – sometimes you try things and fall on your face,” Phillips said. “But you have to give your all. Odyssey is great for me and my family and gives me the chance to be the best I can.”

Elliot Washor, co-founder of Big Picture Learning, gave a keynote speech that advised educators to listen to the passions of their students. Lakewood City Councilmember Jeff Wood presented the school with a certificate of recognition.

Nuthall and Perez led a tour of the remodeled campus in Lakewood, which will empower students to pursue science

and technology. The campus features a video conference production room, labs, 3-D printers and is planning to add a greenhouse.

“We have created an environment that we feel will challenge our students and allow them to flourish in a growing technological society,” Paramount Superintendent Ruth Pérez said. “I cannot wait to open the doors and begin inspiring our young people.”

Odyssey is the culmination of a three-year District project to create an innovative, new learning environment for students. The school’s name was selected in fall 2017 after a community and Board of Education vote. A lottery was held for prospective students in February.

The new high school will offer engineering and biomedical pathways through Project Lead The Way (PLTW), the nation’s leading provider of STEM curriculum, and use project-based learning to teach students to identify and solve real-world problems.

Vanessa Delgado won Tuesday’s special election.



as mayor of Montebello but is the subject of a recall attempt after she voted to allow commercial cultivation of marijuana in the city.

Delgado was also criticized after the City Council awarded a construction contract to a company that employs Delgado’s brother. Delgado abstained from the vote.

## Norwalk restaurant grades

**Senor Baja**  
11833 Alondra Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 8/7/18  
Grade: **A**

**RC Burger Cafe**  
10961 Firestone Blvd  
Date Inspected: 8/3/18  
Grade: **B**

**Starbucks**  
13001 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 8/3/18  
Grade: **A**

**Jim’s Burgers**  
12949 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 8/2/18  
Grade: **A**

**Yogurtland**  
13933 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 8/1/18  
Grade: **A**

**Zury’s Raspados**  
11405 Firestone Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 8/1/18  
Grade: **B**

**L & L Hawaiian Barbecue**  
12431 S Norwalk Blvd. #C  
Date Inspected: 7/27/18  
Grade: **A**

**BMW Cafe**  
10856 Firestone Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 7/26/18  
Grade: **A**

**Taco Bell**  
12503 E Alondra Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 7/26/18  
Grade: **A**

**Food 4 Less**  
10901 Imperial Hwy.  
Date Inspected: 7/26/18  
Grade: **A**

**Food 4 Less Bakery**  
10901 Imperial Hwy.  
Date Inspected: 7/26/18  
Grade: **A**

**Food 4 Less Meat Dept.**  
10901 Imperial Hwy.  
Date Inspected: 7/26/18  
Grade: **A**

**Yoshinoya Beef Bowl**  
12555 Alondra Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 7/26/18  
Grade: **A**

**Ski’s Liquor**  
12615 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 7/24/18  
Grade: **B**

**Burger Basket**  
12155 Firestone Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 7/24/18  
Grade: **B**

**Tacos Los Guerro**  
12115 Firestone Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 7/24/18  
Grade: **B**

**El Pollo Loco**  
11473 E Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 7/24/18  
Grade: **A**

**Rivera’s Juice Bar**  
11912 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 7/23/18  
Grade: **A**

**99 Cents Only Store**  
12301 Norwalk Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 7/23/18  
Grade: **A**

**Salud Perfecta**  
15722 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 7/23/18  
Grade: **A**

**GNC**  
13931 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 7/23/18  
Grade: **A**

**Target**  
12051 E Imperial Hwy.  
Date Inspected: 7/20/18  
Grade: **A**

## Weekend at a Glance

Friday 92° ☀

Saturday 89° ☀

Sunday 86° ☀



### Summer Jamz

**Saturday - Gerdes Park, 4-8 pm**

The band Vinyl Funk performs 60s R&B and 70s funk. Plus food booths, games and other family-friendly activities.



### Citizenship Clinic

**Saturday - Barbara J. Riley Center in Downey, 10 am**

Learn to protect your legal immigration status and become eligible for broader employment opportunities. Free assistance with naturalization applications.



### Long Beach Jazz Festival

**All Weekend - Rainbow Lagoon Park**

A 3-day jazz festival featuring more than a dozen artists, including Poncho Sanchez and Eric Roberson. \$60-\$65



### “Grease”

**Saturday - Burton Chace Park in Marina del Rey, 8 pm**

Arrive early at 6 pm for free swing dancing lessons, then stay for a free outdoor screening of “Grease.”



### Tanabata Festival

**All Weekend - Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo**

Enjoy Japanese foods, listen to live music, shop arts & crafts booths, and view hundreds of pieces of handmade art.



### Marisela

**Friday - Microsoft Theater, 8 pm**

The Mexican-American singer known as “La Dama de Hierro” performs live. \$45

## TWEETS OF THE WEEK

@JaValeMcGee: I hate when people look at menus with no pictures and say “oooh the curry looks good”....























SHARED STORIES: Service with a smile

After working hard to advance her education and work as an administrative assistant, Daniela Kanz discovered that the benefits of waitressing were more compatible with the needs of her growing family – until one harrowing experience. 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

Although I trained as a clerical office worker, secretary, and administrative assistant, I intermittently held waitressing jobs. At fourteen, I got a job at White Castle in Queens near my home. In California, you can only find White Castle Hamburgers in the freezer section of the grocery store.

My second waitressing job, at the age of seventeen, was at a little neighborhood Italian restaurant in Brooklyn. That is where my love for mozzarella cheese is from. Right at the door of the kitchen to the dining room was a huge vat of shredded mozzarella. I pinched a little of the cheese and it flew into my mouth as I walked by.

After marrying and having children, I realized that I could earn either the same (or perhaps even more) income at waitressing than I was earning in an office, and for fewer hours. Tips were generous in the early 1960s. This allowed me to work alternate shifts to my husband's hours, thereby not needing babysitters.

My sister-in-law Marie supplemented her income with waitressing. She and her mother used to work the various golf club resorts in the Chicago area and that is where she received her waitress training.

A fond memory is recalling Marie bringing home a tray and stacking it with heavy books to simulate the effort needed to carry a tray. I walked up and down my hallway practicing placing the tray on and off my shoulder and bending at the knees while keeping my back erect to learn placing the tray on a tray stand.

Now I was ready for my first assignment at Roger Young Auditorium in Los Angeles. I can still see myself standing in line with all the other servers waiting to put salads on our trays, to be topped off with two cold yellow asparagus spears. I did not know asparagus came in any color other than green, nor did I know you could eat them cold.

Working at Roger Young required me to join the Waitress Union. By joining the union, I had opportunities

to work assignments out of the union hall. This led to working for many weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs at temples, and many home and Hollywood studio parties as well as working at the Los Angeles Coliseum hot dog stands.

One of the best places I worked was at the Hollywood Palladium as I came home with more tips than most. The most memorable times at the Palladium were working New Year's Eve when Lawrence Welk hosted the festivities.

We would work the late shift and after cleaning up we would all get a few hours sleep right on the carpet around the dance floor. In the morning, we would get up early to set up for the huge catholic parishioner's breakfast held on the first day of the year. Our customers walked from the nearby church to the Palladium.

Simultaneously while working at the Palladium, I worked for Solway Catering. This was in 1969 after my last child was born and my husband was on strike at his work – Norris Industries. Taking pity on my family, Mrs. Solway insisted I take home any leftovers from the events we worked to feed my family.

Another favorite assignment was working at the Chef's Table at the Olympia Hotel on Olympic Blvd. in Los Angeles. I smile as I recall serving the basketball players with their long legs sticking out and being careful not to trip over them. I was amazed at the amount of food they could consume, starting a meal off with a couple of milk shakes.

Once, because I could not find a baby sitter, the manager said, "Bring the kids with you – we really need you here for a big banquet." A huge aviary with large parrots and several large fish tanks containing koi was in the center of the dining area. My three kids were entertained for a very short time watching the birds and fish.

The manager then said, "We'll take them to an empty room and let them watch TV." I was exhausted by the end of my shift from running back and forth from the room checking on the kids and running to the banquet room.

Providing a meal to food service employees is a benefit. At the Chef's Table, employees were required to eat their meals

on the premises. I worked the morning shift so that I could return home in time for my husband to leave for his work at Norris Industries in Vernon making cartridge cases for the Viet Nam War. He worked the Swing Shift (leaving for work at approximately 3:30 for a 4:00 start time).

The cooks were so kind and knew that I had to leave without eating so I could get home in time. They broke the rule and made me a sandwich, threw it in a lunch sack, and told me to run on. Little did they know that the lunch they made for me ended up being lunch for my husband.

Magic Mountain opened on Memorial Day weekend on May 30, 1971, but prior to the public coming to the amusement park, there was a huge party for celebrities. Many of the workers from the union hall were asked to work in a huge warehouse to prepare the pretty lunch box meals to be served.

There were so many guests expected at such a large venue that the union could not provide enough workers and we were asked to bring family members to help out – especially bartenders. Every man in the family was happy to work the event.

My last waitress memory is when I was robbed. I worked the late shift at a small truck stop on Alameda Street in Los Angeles. The instructions were that at the end of the shift I was to take the cash out of the register, put it in the moneybag, and take it next door to the gas station. They never suggested I not do it alone.

As I walked from the restaurant to the gas station, someone stuck something in my back, presumably a gun, and told me to turn the money over. It took a minute for my brain to comprehend what was happening. When I finally dropped the money to the ground, the assailant grabbed and tore my coat as he ran off with the money.

Whatever transpired thereafter has escaped my memory. The questioning by the police and the reprimand: "What were you thinking – walking alone with all that cash?" still rings in my ear. The ignorance of youth is all I can come up with as an answer.

That incident ended my waitressing career.

Monster trucks and fireworks close out OC Fair entertainment

COSTA MESA – The Toyota Summer Concert Series at Pacific Amphitheatre is going strong through Aug. 25 and tickets are available for several shows.

Music and events at The Hangar and Action Sports Arena will end when the annual OC Fair closes on Aug. 12, but the Pacific Symphony will close out the season at Pacific Amphitheatre with a Tchaikovsky Fireworks Spectacular on Sept. 8.

A string of sold-out shows, including Willie Nelson & Family and Alison Krauss (Aug. 9), Rebelution Free Rein Summer Tour (Aug. 10), Steve Miller Band and Peter Frampton (Aug. 12) and Stray Cats (Aug. 17) will fill Pacific Amphitheatre this week.

But second Rebelution (Aug. 11) and Stray Cats (Aug. 16) shows give fans another chance to catch these favorites. Tickets are available on Ticketmaster.

Then, on Aug. 18, the Pacific Symphony will perform the music of E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial while the movie plays.

Tickets are also available for Ziggy Marley/The Green/Josh Heinrichs (Aug. 19), Thievery Corporation/Steel Pulse/Simpkin Project (Aug. 24) and Phillip Phillips/Gavin DeGraw (Aug. 25) at Pacific Amphitheatre, as well as tribute bands Totally Go-Go's/Idol X (Aug. 9) and Devotional/Hollywood Erasure (Aug. 10) at The Hangar. The iBUYPOWER GameFest Expo and VIP Experience moves into The Hangar Aug. 11-12 to close the Fair.

At Action Sports Arena, the destruction continues with two Orange Crush Demolition Derbies (Aug. 9 and 12), Damsels of Destruction (Aug. 10) and a new show this year, Terrible Trucks, a full-size truck demolition event (Aug. 11).

Tickets purchased before Aug. 12 include free admission to the 2018 OC Fair.



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# OBITUARIES: Charlotte Rae starred in ‘Facts of Life’

LOS ANGELES – Actress Charlotte Rae, known best for her roles on the sitcoms “Diff’rent Strokes” and “The Facts of Life,” died Aug. 5 at the age of 92.

Her publicist, Harlan Boll, reported her passing. No cause of death was given.

Rae’s signature character, housekeeper Edna Garrett, got her start in 1978 on the Norman Lear sitcom “Diff’rent Strokes,” specifically because Lear had loved her previous work.

Rae stayed with the hit sitcom for its first season and part of its second – but she was as much a hit as the show’s other characters, so she was tapped for a spinoff.

“The Facts of Life” debuted in 1979, starring Rae as housemother at the Eastland School for girls. Rae helped make the show a ratings powerhouse throughout her seven seasons as its star.

Though she was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award in 1982, she never won for her longtime role.

Born April 22, 1926, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Rae was a singer as well as an actress on both stage and screen. She performed in stage musicals such as “The Threepenny Opera”

and “Li’l Abner,” and in 1955, she released a solo album, “Songs I Taught My Mother.”

She was nominated for Tony awards for her performances in “Pickwick” and “Morning, Noon and Night.”

Rae’s other television shows included “Car 54, Where Are You?” and “Hot L Baltimore,” as well as early seasons on “Sesame Street,” playing Molly the Mail Lady. In later years, she guest-starred on many shows, including “The King of Queens,” “ER,” “Pretty Little Liars” and “Girl Meets World.” Rae also appeared in several movies, among them “Hair,” “You Don’t Mess With the Zohan” and “Ricki and the Flash.”

Many of her castmates on “Diff’rent Strokes” and “The Facts of Life” paid tribute to Charlotte Rae on social media.

Actor Todd Bridges, who played Willis on “Diff’rent Strokes”: “You were loved by everyone on our show and you were loved by everyone on the facts of life will miss you ‘My heart is full of Pain’ Rest in peace my friend.”

Mindy Cohn, who played Natalie on “The Facts of Life,” paid tribute on Instagram: “She was my champion, a teacher, a proud example of the tenacity and perseverance needed to live

an actor’s life. i love you char. i will continue to make you proud. and, as I send sympathies to larry and the rest of the family, I wish you the happiest of homecomings. #ripcharlotterae

Kim Fields, who played Tootie on “The Facts of Life” said, “You all already know my heart is heavy yet.... sorry, no words at the moment just love and tears... and yeah, smiles.”

### Stan Mikita

Stan Mikita, a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame and the leading scorer in Chicago Blackhawks history, died Tuesday at age 78, according to a statement from his family.

Mikita played 1,396 games in the NHL from 1958 to 1980, all of them with the Blackhawks, to lead the franchise in that category. He won the Stanley Cup with Chicago in 1961.

Mikita amassed 1,467 points (541 goals and 926 assists), which ranks 14th in NHL history. Mikita won the Hart Trophy twice as league MVP, four Art Ross trophies as the league’s leading scorer and the Lady Byng twice as the most gentlemanly player. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1983.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman issued a statement Tuesday.

“Stan Mikita lived a remarkable life and was a wonderful man, respected and revered by so many,” he said. “One of the greatest players in NHL history and a Chicago icon, he was a pioneer of the game in so many ways.

“He designed the distinctive helmet he donned later in his career, when that still was a rarity. He curved his stick blade to an extent previously unthinkable, causing his shot to do tricks. He utterly transformed his playing style in his prime, going from one of the League’s most penalized players to one of its most gentlemanly.”

“Stan Mikita will be always remembered as a champion, an innovator and a master of the game. He embodied the Chicago Blackhawks. His excellence is illustrated by the team records he still holds today. His passion for the game was proved by the longevity of his playing career. The impact he had on the franchise is proved by fact that Blackhawks fans still wear his jersey to the United Center,” John McDonough, the Blackhawks’ president and CEO, said in a statement.

In 2015, Mikita was diagnosed with suspected dementia with Lewy bodies, a brain disorder that causes memory loss. “His mind is completely gone,” his wife, Jill, told the Chicago Tribune in June 2015. “I don’t like to use that term, but there’s no other way to describe it.”

Mikita had requested that his brain be donated for chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) research after his death.

Mikita worked as an ambassador for the Blackhawks during Wirtz’s tenure as owner, and in 2011 the team raised a statue in his honor at United Center. But it was another statue that put Mikita back in the spotlight just over a decade after his retirement.

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