

Santa Claus arrives Saturday via helicopter

NORWALK – Santa Claus will arrive in Norwalk this Saturday but instead of a sleigh, he’s arriving by helicopter.

Santa is scheduled to arrive at Norwalk Town Square at noon this Saturday, Nov. 24. The shopping center is located at Pioneer Boulevard and Rosecrans Avenue.

Former television and radio personality Commander Chuck Street will pilot Santa’s helicopter for the landing, which will take place near the clock tower.

After Santa’s arrival, the community is invited to stay for a real snow play area, train rides, children’s craft activities, face painting, pony rides, a balloon artist, prize drawings, photos with Santa, and storytelling with Mrs. Claus.

Festivities will continue until 3 p.m.

Holiday light hunt starts Monday

NORWALK – The city of Norwalk is throwing a holiday light hunt next week.

During the week of Nov. 26, residents can search the city for large, illuminated light bulbs that will be hidden throughout Norwalk.

Find a light bulb and return it to the city’s Snowfest event on Saturday, Dec. 1, at 2 p.m. for a special gift from Santa Claus.

The game is limited to Norwalk residents only and there is a limit of one light bulb per family/ household. City employees and their immediate family members are not eligible to participate.

For questions or more information, call the Department of Recreation and Park Services at (562) 929-5702.

Tree lighting scheduled for Dec. 1

NORWALK – Norwalk will light its Christmas tree at a public ceremony Saturday, Dec. 1, on the City Hall lawn.

Snowfest will include snow slides, food booths, face painting, a snow play area, arts and crafts, and live stage entertainment from 12-5 p.m. The tree lighting and a visit from Santa Claus begins at 6 p.m. .

Residents who attend the Snowfest and tree lighting ceremony are invited to stuff a bus with new, unwrapped toys.

All toys collected will be donated to the Social Services Department’s Angel Tree program.

The bus will be parked on the City Hall lawn.

Snowfest is free and open to the community. For questions, call (562) 929-5702.

Angel Tree gift tags now available

NORWALK – Residents are invited to participate in Norwalk’s Angel Tree program, which provides a festival holiday celebration for children ages 5-11 whose families are experiencing difficulties.

Children will receive gifts of clothing and toys, participate in crafts, and meet Santa Claus.

Angel Tree tags can be picked up at Norwalk City Hall, the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, Norwalk Senior Center, and the Social Services Center.

Wrapped gifts must be returned by Dec. 3. Clothing donations and financial contributions are also accepted.

For more information, call the Social Services Center at (562) 929-5544.

Norwalk extends ban on new gas stations

►The City Council extended for an additional year a temporary moratorium on new gas stations as city officials examine their proliferation and their impacts on the local environment.

By Eric Pierce Editor

NORWALK – The Norwalk City Council on Tuesday extended a temporary ban on new gas stations as the city investigates their proliferation in Norwalk.

The ordinance passed Tuesday prevents new gas stations from opening in the city for one year. It also restricts current Norwalk gas stations from expanding.

Concerned over the number of new gas stations in the city, Norwalk council members established a 45-day prohibition on fuel stations on Dec. 5, 2017. A month later, the council extended the moratorium an additional 10 months and 15 days.

This week’s extension is the final extension permitted by law.

In addition to the number of gas station facilities in Norwalk, city officials expressed concern about environmental factors related to leaking underground storage tanks.

Officials said they’ll use the 1-year prohibition to monitor gas station regulations from other cities and make a comparative analysis.

FEE STUDY: Council members delayed a decision to hire an outside consultant to study and evaluate Norwalk’s set of fees pending more research.

The fee study is generally completed once every 10 years with the purpose of establishing rates and fees that do not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing those services, officials said.

“The results of these studies

provide the city with the knowledge and tools to ensure that current cost recovery practices are compliant with local and state laws, and develop cost recovery policies that balance the needs of the General Fund against subsidies to promote growth and development,” city officials wrote in a staff report.

Matrix Consulting Group will conduct the fee study for Norwalk at a cost of \$50,000. Matrix has completed financial services for area cities, including Downey and Montebello.

Norwalk’s last fee study occurred in May 2007.

BUS TECHNOLOGY: Norwalk buses will soon be receiving some serious technological upgrades.

On Tuesday, the City Council awarded a \$1.29 million contract to upgrade its fleet of buses with intelligence software that will provide automatic vehicle location of buses, computer-aided dispatching, and software that calculates real-time information from data generated by this technology.

The contract was awarded to Avail Technologies Inc., which will now be tasked with developing and implementing the project, tabbed the Norwalk Intelligent Transportation System.

A separate contract worth \$199,999 was awarded to EIGER Techsystems to act as a project manager for the technology implementation.

The project is mostly funded by state proposition funding, including \$947,338 from Proposition 1B, \$70,000 from Proposition A local return funds, and \$280,000 from the Federal Transportation Administration.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLICY: Intersections may become a little safer during power outages

after the City Council on Tuesday reversed a policy that prohibited Public Safety staff from putting up stop signs or providing traffic control at intersections during black outs.

Following the advice of their insurance carrier, the City Council in 2016 adopted policy that directed city employees not to install stop signs or provide traffic control during power outages.

The policy was based on a recommendation from the California Joint Power Insurance Agency that said cities could be held liable if a collision occurred at a blacked out intersection after the city installed stop signs.

Instead, Norwalk expected drivers to follow the California vehicle code, which requires drivers to stop at inoperative signals.

The policy, however, was met with backlash by residents.

“This policy issue is being brought forward for City Council reconsideration in light of the city’s experience in the last year, in which several outages at signalized intersections have resulted in a high volume of community calls for Public Safety to respond and provide traffic control to relieve traffic congestion and improve the flow of traffic,” public safety director Grissel Chavez wrote in a staff report.

“In following the current policy, the Department is not able to respond in the requested manner.”

With Tuesday’s decision, Norwalk can now dispatch public safety officers to intersections that lose power.

There are 84 signalized intersections under Norwalk’s jurisdiction.

Norwalk restaurant grades

RJM Vallejo Mini Market
13340 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 11/16/18
Grade: **A**

Randy’s Donuts
10989 Rosecrans Ave B-14
Date Inspected: 11/15/18
Grade: **A**

Rancho Grande
10935 E Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 11/15/18
Grade: **A**

Ana’s Bionicos
10977 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 10/22/18
Grade: **A**

Tacos Los Guerro
12115 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 11/7/18
Grade: **B**

7 Eleven
10962 E Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 11/7/18
Grade: **A**

China Bowl Express
11031 Firestone Blvd Ste 102
Date Inspected: 11/7/18
Grade: **A**

RC Burger Cafe
10961 E Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 11/7/18
Grade: **B**

Ana’s Bionicos
11005 Firestone Blvd. Ste 112B
Date Inspected: 11/7/18
Grade: **A**

7 Eleven
11461 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 10/6/18
Grade: **B**

Zury’s Raspados
11405 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 11/6/18
Grade: **A**

Circle K
11405 Firestone Blvd. Ste A
Date Inspected: 11/6/18
Grade: **A**

Wok California
12551 1/2 E Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 11/5/18
Grade: **A**

Yum Yum Donuts
15900 S Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 11/1/18
Grade: **A**

Subway
15925 S Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 10/12/18
Grade: **A**

Weinerschnitzel
11660 Imperial Hwy.
Date Inspected: 10/30/18
Grade: **A**

Mariscos Las Islitas
14419 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 10/30/18
Grade: **A**

La Lupita Supermarket
15704 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 10/30/18
Grade: **A**

R&G Food Basket
14407 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 10/29/18
Grade: **A**

Costco
12324 Hoxie Ave.
Date Inspected: 10/25/18
Grade: **A**

Sanchez Restaurant
12061 162nd St.
Date Inspected: 10/25/18
Grade: **A**

L&L Hawaiian BBQ
12431 Norwalk Blvd.
Date Inspected: 10/25/18
Grade: **B**

Weekend at a Glance

Friday

69°

Saturday

71°

Sunday

74°



Santa Claus Arrival

Saturday - Norwalk Town Square, 12 pm

Watch as Santa Claus arrives via helicopter. Plus free train rides, carnival games, real snow play area and sledding, crafts, pony rides, and more.



Tamale Festival

Sunday - La Habra Civic Center, 9 am to 6 pm

40-plus food vendors, 80-plus general vendors, artwalk, tamale lessons, three stages of entertainment, tree lighting ceremony, and more.



A Carpenters Christmas

Saturday - La Mirada Theater for the Performing Arts, 8 pm

Singer and playwright Lisa Rock and her 6-piece backing band are keeping The Carpenters' holiday traditions alive by bringing their unforgettable Christmas songs to the stage. \$15-\$49



The Nutcracker

All Weekend - Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts

Los Angeles Ballet presents its version of the holiday classic, “The Nutcracker,” set in 1912 Los Angeles. \$34-\$102



Hollywood Christmas Parade

Sunday - Hollywood, 5 pm

Floats, balloons, costume characters, bands, equestrians and celebrities from all genres. Nancy O'Dell is this year's grand marshal.



Car Show

All Weekend - Norwalk City Hall lawn, 10 am to 5 pm

“For the Love of Stephanie Car Show” features lowriders, bombs, and everything in between, with trophies for Best of Show, Mayor’s Trophy, and others. Plus live music from 10 bands. No alcohol, no attitudes.

NORWALK HAPPENINGS

SATURDAY, NOV. 24

Small Business Saturday, 9:30-10:30 am. Celebrate Small Business Saturday with coffee and croissants. Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, 14783 Carmenita Rd.

For the Love of Stephanie Car Show and Concert, 10 am to 5 pm. Lowriders, bombs, and classic cars, plus vendors and live bands. No alcohol, no attitudes. Norwalk City Hall lawn, 12700 Norwalk Blvd.

Santa Vists Norwalk, 12 pm. Santa Claus arrives in Norwalk via helicopter. Plus carnival games, snow play area, pony rides, crafts, and more. Norwalk Town Square, 11633 The Plz.

SUNDAY, NOV. 25

For the Love of Stephanie Car Show and Concert, 10 am to 5 pm. Lowriders, bombs, and classic cars, plus vendors and live bands. No alcohol, no attitudes. Norwalk City Hall lawn, 12700 Norwalk Blvd.

MONDAY, NOV. 26

Holiday Arts & Crafts, 10 am. Learn to relieve stress and anxiety through crafts in this class from AppleCare Medical Group. All materials provided. Norwalk Senior Center, 14040 San Antonio Dr.

Lit Wits Book Club, 6:30 pm. The Lit Wits Book Club will read and discuss Tommy Orange's first novel, "There There." Orange writes about the dilemma urban Native Americans experience and gives readers a shattering depiction of an America few of us have ever seen. Program is suitable for adults. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28

LASD Recruitment, 10 am to 1 pm. Meet with representatives of the L.A. County Sheriff's Department and learn what it takes to join the force. Cerritos College, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

Coffee with a Cop, 5:30 pm. Come share a hot cup of coffee with your Public Safety and

Sheriff's Station team. Discuss issues or learn more about one another in a relaxed and casual environment. McDonald's, 10841 Imperial Hwy.

My Personal Garden, 6 pm. Create your own personal garden, or give the bonsai as a gift for someone special. Cost is \$10 per person. Adults 35 and older, or 18 and up if accompanying a senior. Norwalk Senior Center, 14040 San Antonio Dr.

THURSDAY, NOV. 29

Toys for Tacos, 11 am to 1 pm. Donate a new unwrapped toy and receive a taco plate (2 tacos, rice and beans) made by the Norwalk High School SkillsUSA chapter. All toys collected will be provided to the Social Services department for the Angel Tree program. City Hall lawn, 12700 Norwalk Blvd.

FRIDAY, NOV. 30

"Almost, Maine", 8 pm. Nine short plays that explore love and loss in a remote, mythical almost-town called Almost, Maine. Burnight Studio Theatre, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

SATURDAY, DEC. 1

Quartermania Fundraiser, 10:30 am. Quartermania is a cross between an auction and a raffle, where people "bid" to win a prize. Bids are 1-4 quarters. Southeast Academy, 12940 Foster Rd.

Sapphire Dreams, 11:30 am. The annual philanthropic extravaganza by Soroptimist International of Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs. DoubleTree Hotel, 13111 Sycamore Dr.

SnowFest, 12-8 pm. The city hall lawn is transformed into Snow Fest, Calif., with snow slides, a snow play area, train rides, game booths, craft tents, face painting, and live performances. The event is capped with the lighting of a 30-ft. Christmas tree. City Hall lawn, 12700 Norwalk Blvd.

Indoor Soccer, 12 pm. The American Outlaws of Long Beach face the American Outlaws of Los Angeles in an indoor soccer

rematch. Urban Soccer 5 Center, 12000 Firestone Blvd.

International Food Festival, 6 pm. Taste food from different parts of the world. Plus jumpers, basketball and a photo booth. Adonai SDA Church, 13246 Mapledale St.

SUNDAY, DEC. 2

Film Screening: Oxygen, 4 pm. The Gujarati Society of Southern California presents a free screening of the Gujarati film, "Oxygen." No fee but donations accepted. Sanatan Dharma Temple, 15311 Pioneer Blvd.

TUESDAY, DEC. 4

Children's Holiday Show, 4 pm. Flights of Fantasy Story Theatre presents the holiday show, 'Tis the Season to be Jolly,' an interactive show for all ages. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5

Holiday Mixer, 5:30-7:30 pm. Social networking, beverages, and a canned food drive to benefit the Norwalk Food Pantry. Bring a canned food to receive a free raffle ticket. Sproul Reception Center, 12239 Sproul St.

THURSDAY, DEC. 6

"Almost, Maine", 8 pm. Nine short plays that explore love and loss in a remote, mythical almost-town called Almost, Maine. Burnight Studio Theatre, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

FRIDAY, DEC. 7

"Almost, Maine", 8 pm. Nine short plays that explore love and loss in a remote, mythical almost-town called Almost, Maine. Burnight Studio Theatre, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

SATURDAY, DEC. 8

"Almost, Maine", 8 pm. Nine short plays that explore love and loss in a remote, mythical almost-town called Almost, Maine. Burnight Studio Theatre, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

SUNDAY, DEC. 9

"Almost, Maine", 2 pm. Nine short plays that explore love and loss in a remote, mythical almost-town called Almost, Maine. Burnight Studio Theatre, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

Holiday Concert, 6 pm. A free holiday concert by the Praise Symphony Orchestra. Norwalk Missionary Baptist Church, 11429 Beaty Ave.

THURSDAY, DEC. 13

LED Greeting Cards for the Holidays, 2 pm. Learn a few simple rules for making circuits on paper and create a hand-made greeting card with working lights for the holidays. This program is suitable for adults and will be in English and Spanish. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

SATURDAY, DEC. 15

Holidays at the Museum, 1-4 pm. Holiday entertainment and refreshments at Norwalk's historic home and museum. D.D. Johnston-Hargitt House Museum, 12426 Mapledale St.

TUESDAY, DEC. 18

Creating Connections Luncheon, 12 pm. Enjoy a lunch and gift exchange (value no more than \$20) hosted by the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce. Outback Steakhouse, 12850 Norwalk Blvd.

SATURDAY, DEC. 29

Pokemon Premiere Challenge, 12 pm. A Pokemon video game competition, with prizes for each age division. \$5 buy-in. Unrated Gaming, 15617 Studebaker Rd., Suite 3.

SATURDAY, JAN. 5

Las Posadas, 6 pm. An annual tradition, this event features a candlelit procession, caroling of holiday songs, performances by mariachis and folklorico dancers, pinatas for kids, and more. City Hall lawn, 12700 Norwalk Blvd.

TUESDAY, JAN. 8

Blood Drive, 12-6 pm. Donate blood to the American Red Cross

and help save a life. City Hall, 12700 Norwalk Blvd.

THURSDAY, JAN. 10

Self Defense Workshop, 2 pm. A basic introduction to hand-to-hand self defense. Plus, learn about non-lethal weapons such as pepper spray, stun guns and pressure point tools. Z-Ultimate Self Defense Stud

SATURDAY, JAN. 12

CalJOBS Workshop, 2 pm. Are you searching for a career, looking to change your career, or just browsing what's available? Attend the CalJOBS workshop to learn about the 10-Steps for Job Seekers and view a live demo of the CalJOBS website. This program is suitable for adults. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

Compiled by Eric Pierce. Email calendar listings to eric@thedowneypatriot.com

Church offers free brunch Sunday

NORWALK – Walking in the Spirit Ministries of Norwalk is hosting a free neighborhood brunch this Sunday, Nov. 25, starting at 11 a.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel.

For more information, call (213) 248-6343.

‘Almost, Maine’ playing at Cerritos College

NORWALK – Theatre students will perform “Almost, Maine,” a play by John Cariani, starting next week at the Cerritos College Burnight Studio Theatre.

Almost, Maine, is a town that is so far north, it’s almost not in the United States -- it’s practically in Canada.

One cold, clear winter night, as the Northern Lights hover in the star-filled sky, the residents of Almost, Maine, find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and hilarious ways.

Performances are Nov. 30, Dec. 1, and Dec. 6-8 at 8 p.m., with a Dec. 9 matinee at 2 p.m.

Pre-sale tickets are \$15 general admission; \$14 for high school students and seniors; and \$12 for children ages 5-12. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$3 extra.

To purchase tickets, go online to cerritos.edu/theatre.

‘Diary of Anne Frank’ on stage at John Glenn

NORWALK – “The Diary of Anne Frank” will be performed at John Glenn High School next month by the school’s drama department.

In this new adaptation by Wendy Kesselman, from the original stage play by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, newly discovered writings from the diary of Anne Frank, as well as survivor accounts, are interwoven to create a contemporary impassioned story of the lives of people persecuted under Nazi rule.

This is an adaptation for a new generation able to confront the true horrors of the holocaust, organizers said.

“This production is unlike anything ever done in our community, and your attendance would be greatly appreciated,” said actor educator Jonathan Mesisca.

Performances are Dec. 5-7 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased at the door.

Seats can also be reserved ahead of time by emailing JohnGlennHSDrama@gmail.com.

Advertise Your Business

The Norwalk Patriot NEWSPAPER

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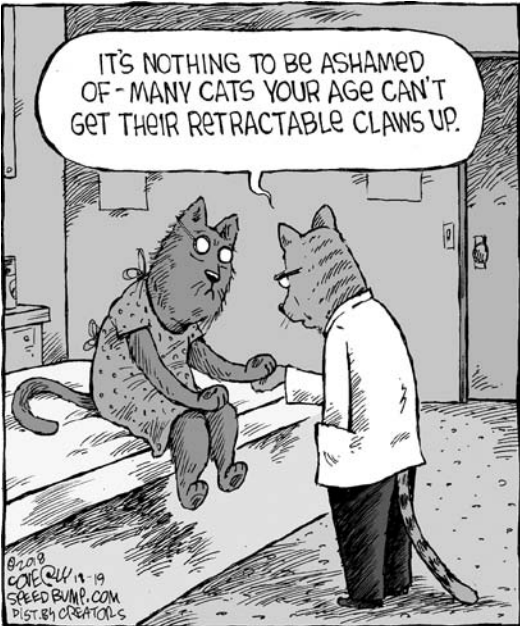
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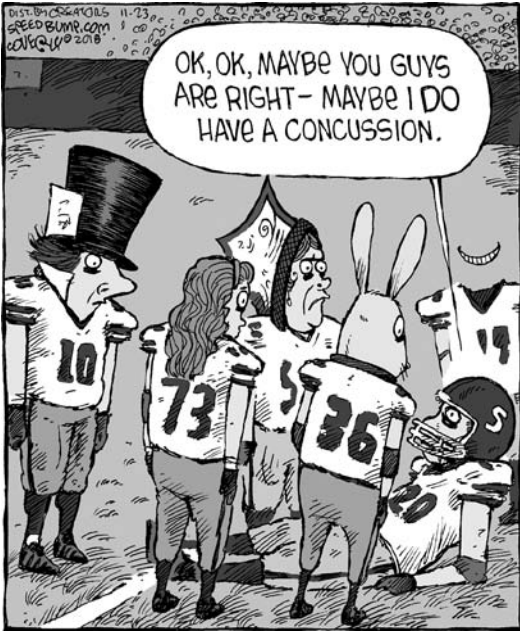
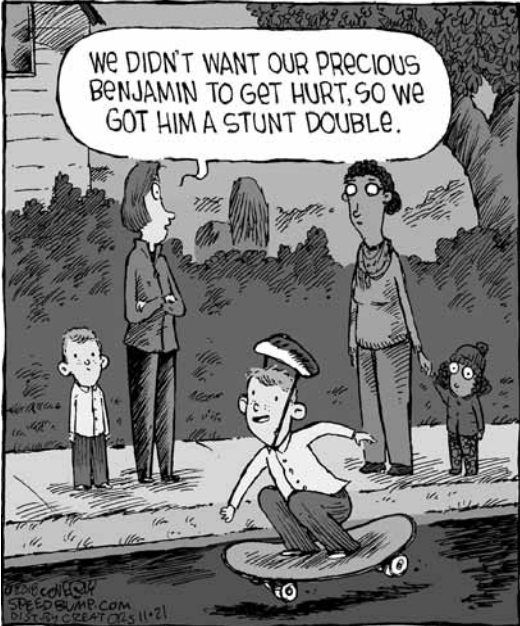
Having a Yard Sale? Looking for Renters? Call our Classifieds Department (562) 904-3668

The Norwalk Patriot Newspaper advertisement featuring a collage of local news stories and community events. The main headline reads "Norwalk man charged with murder" with a sub-headline "Freeway off-ramp closed for 3 months". Other headlines include "SUMMER CONCERTS ON THE LAWN", "Norwalk restaurant grades", and "Weekend at a Glance". The ad also features a "Movie Night: 'Wonder'" section and a "Summer Soul Festival" announcement.

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



On This Day...

- November 23, 1889: The first jukebox made its debut in San Francisco, at the Palais Royale Saloon.
- 1936: The first edition of "Life" was published.
- 1945: The U.S. wartime rationing of most foods ended.
- 1971: The People's Republic of China was seated in the United Nations Security Council.
- 1988: Wayne Gretzky scored his 600th National Hockey League (NHL) goal.
- 1991: The Sacramento Kings ended the NBA's longest road losing streak at 43 games.
- 2010: North Korea shelled Yeonpyeong Island.

To Advertise in

The Norwalk Patriot

Please Call

Michael Robinson

(562) 404-3008

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

Address:

14783 Carmenita Road Norwalk, CA 90650

Email:

news@thedowneypatriot.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

1st & 3rd, 6:00 p.m. - City Council - Council Chambers

3rd, 5:45 p.m. - Housing Authority - Council Chambers

WEDNESDAYS

1st, 12:30 p.m. - Soroptimist International - Soroptimist Village

1st & 3rd, 7:00 p.m. - Lions Club - Bruce's Restaurant

2nd, 10:30 a.m. - Norwalk Woman's Club - Masonic Lodge

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

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)
T. HANKS-GIVEN DAY: "T." as in "Tom"
by S.N.

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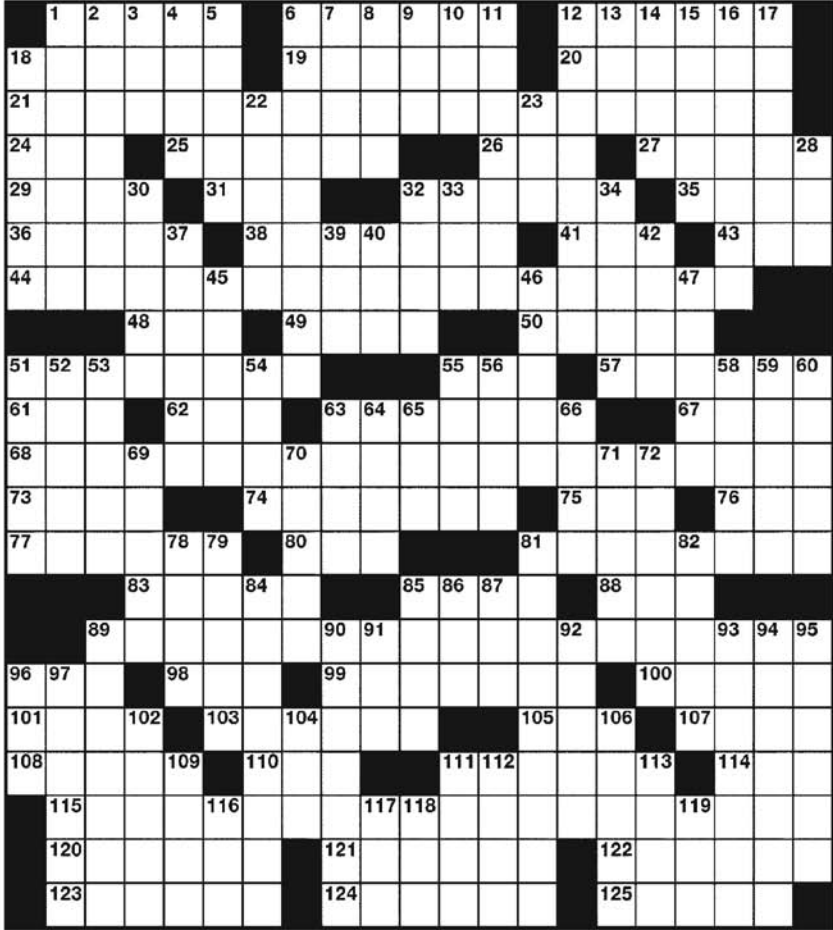
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CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN

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ADVERTISING POLICY

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

"Lucys," in honor of Lucille Ball. (115 Across) are known as the AMERICAN COMEDY AWARDS. The statues presented at the producer or executive producer. MINISTRIES (68 Across) were as six Emmys for OUTSTANDING (Across), having received it in 2002 at the age of 45. Hanks' ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (21 recipient to date of APT's LIFE Tom Hanks is the youngest



Knott’s announces new water craft ride

BUENA PARK – A new expedition in an uncharted territory awaits eager explorers with the upcoming debut of Calico River Rapids, opening at Knott’s Berry Farm in summer 2019.

Knott’s popular Bigfoot Rapids white water raft ride will undergo a major renovation with the addition of new features to the attraction including new animatronics, themed show scenes, a new story overlay and plenty of dynamic water effects.

The arrival of Calico River Rapids is one of the many experiences that Knott’s guests can enjoy in 2019.

Calico River Rapids will take voyagers on a search for new land through the outskirts of Calico, the richly themed area in Knott’s esteemed Ghost Town. Guests will journey through the authentic setting with the help of legendary frontiersmen who have plotted the path for settlers to explore.

Rafters will encounter a variety of wild surprises along the way such as roaring rapids, indigenous wildlife, and peculiar homesteaders. The circular raft ride, which seats six passengers, will traverse through unexpected twists and turns, rushing waters and rapid currents as it navigates the unexplored river path.

The attraction will come to life with new animatronics and special effects designed and manufactured by Garner Holt Productions, Inc., the world’s largest designer and manufacturer of animatronics for theme parks.

The park’s popular Seasons of Fun events will kick off with the return of the newly-expanded Knott’s Peanuts Celebration, a unique event dedicated to the beloved PEANUTS characters. Guests are invited to step inside the pages of a Charles M. Schulz comic strip as the characters take over the entire park, weekends from January 26 – March 10, 2019 and on President’s Day, Monday, February 18.

In spring, the much-anticipated Knott’s Boysenberry Festival returns with countless one-of-a-kind boysenberry inspired food and drink offerings created by the Knott’s culinary team. Each year the menu ranges from deliciously sweet desserts to zesty savory dishes, plus tasty beverages bursting with tangy boysenberry flavors.

Unique entertainment and an array of artisan crafters round out the festival. Due to the festival’s increasing popularity, it will be expanding to a full month of deliciousness from March 29 – April 28, 2019.

In summer 2019, the fan favorite Old West adventure will continue

with the return of Ghost Town Alive!, as a new storyline set in the town of Calico is unraveled for guests to discover starting May 25 – August 18 and weekends from August 24 through Labor Day, September 2.

During Ghost Town Alive! guests may return to the streets of Calico and experience an authentic western adventure by becoming a star in the day’s evolving storyline, as they unlock adventures through interactions with the townsfolk or by joining in on the town’s activities. And as night falls, even more summer fun will continue throughout the park with new entertainment offerings.

For fall, the spooktacular family-friendly daytime Halloween event, Knott’s Spooky Farm, will invite families with little ghouls ages 3-11 to celebrate the spooky season exclusively on weekends starting September 28 – October 27, 2019, and Halloween day. Knott’s Spooky Farm will offer little ones delightfully wicked Halloween themed activities, live entertainment and much more.

As winter rolls in, the feeling of Christmas will truly be discovered at Knott’s Merry Farm, where joy will be in season from November 22, 2019 – January 5, 2020. Knott’s Merry Farm will host holiday cheer for park goers as they create new holiday memories set to the backdrop of a true classic Christmas.

Whittier school district aims to ease transition from junior high to high school

WHITTIER – The transition from middle to high school can be difficult for students who are having trouble acclimating to the new academic rigors. Sierra Vista High School, Whittier Union’s independent study campus, provides a bridge for these students through the Freshman Fresh Start program.

Launched in 2013 by Sierra Vista teachers Larry Neberman and Jenn Useda, Freshman Fresh Start is designed to support ninth-graders who are behind in credits, have poor attendance or need one-on-one teacher support. Students are recruited primarily from the Whittier Area Community Day School.

“There are many reasons that students fail to connect in middle school,” Useda said. “They don’t have the best social navigation skills or they feel they aren’t academically inclined. We let these students know that they have a place to go at Sierra Vista. We’re not concerned about their past, only what they can achieve in the future. Freshman Fresh Start is exactly that – a fresh start.”

The program, which can accommodate up to 35 students a year, includes a-g college prep courses and teaches the same curriculum as what is taught at the comprehensive high schools.

“I honestly believe that Fresh Start will help me gain credits and go back to my regular high school,” Sierra Vista freshman Jonathan Barradas said. “The teachers are nice.”

Students attend one homeroom class, where Neberman and Useda teach four core subjects (English, math, biology and physical education) and two electives (living skills and child development). Classroom distractions are kept at a minimum and the personalized learning

approach helps students bolster their academic and social skill sets. About half of the students return to their home schools or stay at Sierra Vista to study independently.

“Fresh Start is helping me catch up on my work and helping me understand that school isn’t supposed to be fun time,” Sierra Vista freshman Humberto Perez said. “It’s supposed to be about getting your work done and finish what you need to do.”

At the end of each school year, Neberman and Useda go to the Day School and introduce themselves to students and parents, offering their support to those who are struggling academically and socially.

“On the first day of school, we meet with the students and tell them, ‘You are smart,’” Useda said. “For many of our students, just the idea that they can have success in school is a tremendous boost to their confidence. For parents, we have an open-door policy. They are welcome on campus at any time and we invite them to join their children in the classroom if they want to.”

The result for many Sierra Vista freshmen is better social skills, better grades, a restoration of confidence and new friends.


“Freshman Fresh Start is an invaluable resource for the Whittier community, helping to change the lives of students who are in danger of falling through the cracks and putting them on the path to being lifelong learners,” Sierra Vista Director Nicki Buchholz said. “Larry Neberman and Jenn Useda have done an amazing job of identifying these students, bringing them into the program and working hard to help them achieve their academic goals.”



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The Norwalk Patriot

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