

The Norwalk Patriot

Friday, Sept. 27, 2019

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14783 Carmenita Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

LA County votes to outlaw flavored tobacco

The ban comes amid a growing national backlash to vaping and electronic cigarettes.

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Tuesday cast a preliminary vote in favor of banning flavored tobacco within all unincorporated areas of L.A. County.

The proposed ordinance prohibits the sale of flavored tobacco products — including flavored e-cigarettes and menthol. Tuesday's vote was the first of two addressing the ordinance.

Along with the ban, the ordinance also requires all tobacco shops to obtain a county business license, which must be renewed every two years. The license would cost \$778 initially, and then would have to be renewed every two years at a cost of \$142.

This is in addition to the current \$235 annual Tobacco Retail License (TRL) fee those shops already pay.

"For decades, we were making incredible progress in decreasing tobacco use among young people. But flavored e-cigarettes have reversed that trend. Now nearly 1 in 10 high schoolers report using e-cigarettes," said Supervisor Janice Hahn after the preliminary vote.

"By taking action now and banning the sale of flavored products that mask the smell and taste of tobacco, we may be able to save this next generation from the same terrible health effects of nicotine addiction that generations before them suffered from."

There were dozens of demonstrators on both sides of the issue outside board headquarters in downtown L.A. ahead of the vote Tuesday morning.

This comes after L.A. City Attorney Mike Feuer last week issued his own report which also called for a ban on the sale of all flavored tobacco within city limits amid the growing use of e-cigarettes and other vaping products among youth.

So far, there has been one death and 16 pulmonary injuries caused by vaping, according to the L.A. County Department of Public Health. The deceased victim was described as an older adult over 55 years of age with chronic health issues. Two-thirds of the cases involved patients under 25 years old, the public health department noted. All but one of the patients used both an e-cigarette and a cannabis-type product, but not necessarily at the same time.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has launched a \$20 million statewide public awareness campaign designed to inform youth about the dangers of vaping.

Earlier this month, the Trump Administration announced that it has directed the Federal Drug Administration to pull flavored e-cigarettes off the market nationwide.

If approved, it's unclear when that would take effect.

Norwalk gives OK to daytime healthcare facility

The healthcare center will see up to 220 clients and operate six days a week.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

NORWALK - A proposed adult day healthcare facility got the green light from Norwalk's Planning Commission at their meeting Wednesday evening.

The planned facility will occupy a previously empty, two-story commercial building located at 11745 Firestone Blvd.

A staff of approximately 12 full time staff and 18 independently contracted employees will offer professional nursing services, physical, occupational, and speech therapies, mental health services, therapeutic activities, social services, personal care, hot meals, nutritional counseling, and transportation to and from the participant's residence.

According to the project applicant, these services are under the Community-based Adult Services (CBAS) program, administered between the Department of Health Care Services, the California Department of Public Health, and the Department of Aging.



An adult day healthcare center has received approval to open at 11745 Firestone Blvd. in Norwalk. Photo by Alex Dominguez

The CBAS is designed with the hopes of delaying or preventing the institutionalization of eligible older adults and adults with chronic medical, mental, or cognitive conditions who may otherwise be at risk for as long as possible.

It is anticipated that the facility will be serving 220 clients, admitted in increments of 40 per month from the start of operations until capacity has been reached at the sixth month. It is currently planned to operate Monday through Saturday between the hours of 8 a.m. and

2:30 p.m. for participants, and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for facility staff.

Of those clients, it is believed that a majority will utilize the bus transportation. Those who don't will be dropped off by a family member, caretaker, or the like.

Commissioner Kim Apodaca called the project, "a great improvement [to the area]."

Commissioner Linda Lopez said she agreed with Apodaca, adding "I think this will be a great addition to the city."

Norwalk congresswoman supports impeachment

NORWALK - Norwalk's representative in Congress, Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-38), said she supports a possible impeachment of President Trump if the allegations by an anonymous whistleblower are determined to be true.

"It has become glaringly clear that Trump used his official office, including threatening our taxpayer dollars, to look for dirt from a foreign counterpart just so he could try to undermine a political opponent," Sanchez said in a prepared statement Tuesday.

"The most recent whistleblower complaint is a serious national security matter that requires our immediate attention, yet the Director of National Intelligence continues to withhold information, undermining Congress, the rule of law and our democracy."

"Congress and the American people deserve to know whether the President encouraged a foreign country to interfere with the 2020 election. If it

turns out that he did, I believe that President Trump must be impeached."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Tuesday announced a formal impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump, a dramatic and historic move that comes as the President faces outrage over reports that he pressured a foreign leader in an effort to target a political rival.

The announcement marks the most direct step taken by the House Democratic leader to embrace impeachment proceedings and is a significant escalation in the fight between House Democrats and the President.

"Today, I am announcing the House of Representatives moving forward with an official impeachment inquiry," Pelosi said in a brief speech in the Capitol, adding, "The President must be held accountable. No one is above the law."

"Actions taken to date by the President have seriously violated the Constitution," the House



speaker said.

Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in a July 25 call to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden.

That call was also part of a whistleblower complaint submitted to the Intelligence Community Inspector General.

The president's July conversation followed moves by the White House to stanch the flow of military assistance for Ukraine that Washington had been providing since the armed incursion by Russian forces in 2014.

Sheriff's deputies to start wearing body cameras

LOS ANGELES - Deputies with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department are expected to be equipped with body cameras soon after county supervisors voted for them unanimously Tuesday.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 in favor of the body-worn cameras which would record all interactions deputies have with the public.

The motion submitted by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Hilda Solis calls for the phased implementation of a body-worn camera program in the LASD.

Access to the camera footage would be available to prosecutors with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, as

well as the public defender and alternate public defender.

In their motion, Ridley-Thomas and Solis call the body cams a "widely used tool across the country to improve accountability and transparency of law enforcement."

They also point out that the county has been considering body-worn cameras since the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence recommended, in 2012, that the LASD use them to address problematic use of force.

A constantly changing technology and shifting projected costs, however, have delayed the body cams being worn.

In July 2018, however, the Civilian Oversight Commission approved a report recommending

the county move forward with body cams.

A month later, supervisors unanimously approved a Ridley-Thomas/Solis motion to hire an expert consultant to make recommendations. That expert was the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The IACP unveiled its report in June, along with a number of recommendations.

On the question of cost, the IACP considers the proposed \$34.4 million for the body-cam program with 33 new full-time staff reasonable given the scale of the sheriff's patrol operations.

The Century, Lakewood, Industry, West Hollywood and Lancaster stations are scheduled to receive the cameras first.

Norwalk restaurant grades

El Tazumal
16014 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 9/24/19
Grade: **A**

Arco
15604 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 9/24/19
Grade: **A**

Lowes
14873 Carmenita Rd.
Date Inspected: 9/20/19
Grade: **A**

California Sushi and Teriyaki
12305 Norwalk Blvd.
Date Inspected: 9/18/19
Grade: **A**

Las Aguilas Bakery
12834 1/2 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 9/18/19
Grade: **A**

Starbucks
14322 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 9/18/19
Grade: **A**

Cliff's Liquor
12816 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 9/18/19
Grade: **A**

Panda Express
12327 Norwalk Blvd.
Date Inspected: 9/18/19
Grade: **A**

W.W. Service Inc.
12800 E Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 9/18/19
Grade: **A**

Imperial King Liquor
10630 Imperial Hwy.
Date Inspected: 9/18/19
Grade: **A**

C.C. Pho
12359 Imperial Hwy.
Date Inspected: 9/18/19
Grade: **A**

Shakey's Pizza
11403 Firestone Blvd.
Inspected: 9/18/19
Grade: **A**

Huh Daigam Restaurant
16511 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 9/12/19
Grade: **A**

Go Hyang Jib
16441 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 9/12/19
Grade: **A**

3 Amigos Tacos
16441 S Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 9/12/19
Grade: **A**

Dippity Donuts
14636 Carmenita Rd.
Date Inspected: 9/11/19
Grade: **A**

Little Caesars
13019 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 9/11/19
Grade: **A**

KFC
12959 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 9/11/19
Grade: **B**

Good Fortune Tasty Restaurant
15912 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 9/10/19
Grade: **B**

RC Burgers
10951 Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 9/10/19
Grade: **A**

Top Donuts
10939 Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 9/10/19
Grade: **A**

Lupita's Mexican Restaurante
15018 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 9/10/19
Grade: **A**

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 75°

Saturday 72°

Sunday 73°



Whittier Pride

Saturday - Central Park in Whittier, 11 am to 6 pm

An LGBTQ+ extravaganza with live music on two stages, food, vendors, and drag queen performances.



Miss Downey Pageant

Saturday - Downey Theatre, 6 pm

Who will be crowned Miss Downey? Watch as extraordinary young women compete in this Downey tradition. Tickets available at the box office.



L.A. Chocolate Convention

Sunday - Pasadena Convention Center, 10 am to 7 pm

Chocolate tastings, demonstrations, author/chef talks, and interviews by Taste TV's "Chocolate Television." \$20



Old Tyme Fall Festival

Saturday - Buena Park Historical Society, 12-5 pm

Welcome autumn with this free festival featuring family games, crafts, food, entertainment, Halloween vendors, and historical house tours.



Bruno Mars & the Hooligans

Saturday - Whittier Community Theatre, 7 pm

The ultimate Bruno Mars tribute band brings the talent and technology necessary to replicate a Bruno Mars live concert. \$25

TWEET OF THE WEEK

@CityOfNorwalkCA: Norwalk is going pink this October as part of efforts to promote breast cancer awareness. Join Mayor Margarita L. Rios on Mon, Sept 30, 8-10 am, Starbucks, 11790 Firestone, as we kick off the campaign & find out how you can support individuals & families impacted by cancer.

Follow us on Twitter at: [Twitter.com/NorwalkPatriot](https://twitter.com/NorwalkPatriot)

NORWALK HAPPENINGS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Smarty Pants Storytime, 10:30-11 am. Enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement while learning school readiness skills. Attendance is limited, and advance registration in required. For ages 2-5 with an adult caregiver. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

Fall Fiesta, 5-10 pm. A three-day carnival (Sept. 27-30) with carnival games, rides, live music, food, and more. St. John of God Church, 13819 Pioneer Blvd.

Ghosts & Goblins Movie Night, 6:30 pm. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs for a spooky night watching "Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween" on an outdoor 400-ft. screen. Food available for purchase. Glazier Park, 10810 Excelsior Dr.

Open Mic, 7 pm. We invite all types of performers, from singers, dancers, magicians, & beatboxers...to take center stage in front of an enthusiastic, hometown audience. We'll supply the mic, stand, speakers and auxiliary cord and you bring the talent. Norwalk Cultural Arts Center, 13200 Clarkdale Ave.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Smart Gardening Advanced Workshop, 11 am. Learn the fundamentals of organic gardening, drought-tolerant landscaping, and integrated pest management. No reservations needed. For ages 18 and up. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

Women's Personal Safety Workshop, 2-3:30 pm. In this 90-minute workshop, receive a basic introduction to hand-to-hand defenses and non-lethal weapons. If you've always wanted to take self-defense, this basic workshop is a good place to start. Out of Harm's Way, 12521 Alondra Blvd.

Games and Activity Day, 2-4 pm. Drop in for board games, card games, puzzles, and play! We'll have activities for children and family members of all ages. Best suited for ages 4 and up. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Lit Wits Book Club: The Story of Arthur Truluv, 6:30 pm. Join us to read and discuss the novel, "The Story of Arthur Truluv" by bestselling author, Elizabeth Berg. For ages 18 and up. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Legal Research Class: Legal Research on the Internet, 1:30 pm. This class introduces free and low cost websites for researching California and federal law. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Family Place Parent-Child Workshop, 5-6:15 pm. Spend time together, play, make friends, and talk one-on-one with specialists in child development, during this enjoyable five-week series. Registration is required. For 0-3 years old and their parent/caregiver. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

Hispanic Heritage Month Art Activity, 2 pm. Join us to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by creating your own yarn painting inspired by the art of the Huichol. You'll use colorful yarn and glue. For ages 18 and up. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

Bookmark Contest, 4-5 pm. Join us as we create bookmark designs for the 40th LA County Library Bookmark Contest. We will provide all needed supplies. Be creative, original, and have fun. For ages 5-12. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

Smarty Pants Storytime, 10:30-11 am. Enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement while learning school readiness skills. Attendance is limited, and advance registration in required. For ages 2-5 with an adult caregiver. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

Celebrity Waiter & Dance,

6 pm. Get waited on by local celebrities at this annual dance fundraiser in support of CAPC, which works on behalf of people with developmental disabilities. DoubleTree Hotel, 13111 Sycamore Dr.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Latin Dance Class, 12 pm. Learn how to dance salsa, cha-cha, and merengue from U.S. Ballroom champion, Adrian Brian. For ages 18 and up. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

Blessed and Unstoppable, 12 pm. Motivational speaker Dr. Billy Alsbrooks will speak on the "art of greatness" and share how these principles can be applied to your everyday life. \$100 admission. DoubleTree Hotel, 13111 Sycamore Dr.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Classic Book Club - "Lady Chatterley's Lover" by D. H. Lawrence, 6:30-7:30 pm. After a crippling injury leaves her husband important, Lady Chatterley is torn between love for her husband and her physical desires. With her husband's consent, she seeks out other means of fulfilling her needs. Copies of the book available at the library or online at lacountylibrary.overdrive.com. New members welcomed. For Adults 18+. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Hispanic Heritage Month Art Activity: Yarn Painting, 2-3 pm. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by creating your own Yarn Painting (Nierkas) inspired by the art of the Huichol. Traditionally made from tree resin and beeswax, you'll make your own with colorful cotton yarn and glue. Join us and make your own colorful yarn art! For ages 18 and up. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

MakMo: K'Nex Sail Cars, 4-5 pm. Harness the power of the wind! We will design and build sail-powered

cars, then test them to see which design works best! For ages 8-12. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

Beer Launch, 4-6 pm. Peroni Beer celebrates its official local launch. Northgae Market, 11660 Firestone Blvd.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Smarty Pants Storytime, 10:30-11 am. Enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement while learning school readiness skills. Attendance is limited, and advance registration in required. For ages 2-5 with an adult caregiver. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Holiday Boutique, 8 am to 2 pm. Get an early start on your holiday shopping. Pancake breakfast from 7 to 11 am, and vendor shopping from 8 am to 2 pm. Southeast Japanese School, 14615 Gridley Rd.

Game and Activity Day, 2-4 pm. Drop in for board games, card games, puzzles, and play! We'll have activities for children and family members of all ages. Best suited for ages 4 and up. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Origami for Adults, 2-3 pm. Join instructor Emmy Lam as she teaches about the art of origami. You will learn all about the origin of this art form and have the chance to create your own art out of paper. For ages 18 and up. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

Bookmark Contest, 4-5 pm. Join us as we create bookmark designs for the 40th LA County Library Bookmark Contest. We will provide all needed supplies. Be creative, original, and have fun. For ages 12-18. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

Smarty Pants Storytime, 10:30-11 am. Enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement while learning school readiness skills. Attendance is limited, and advance registration in required. For ages 2-5 with an adult caregiver. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Arturo Sanchez Halloween Parade, 11 am. Dress in your favorite costume and join in the parade alongside marching bands, floats, show cars, and more. Costume contest begins at 9:15 a.m. Norwalk Boulevard and Mapledale Street

Harbor Groove Band, 9 pm. Dance to live music by the Harbor Groove Band, playing a diverse playlist of 70s, 80s, and 90s music, plus Latin and R&B. IV Lounge, 12500 Firestone Blvd.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Family Worship Day, 10 am. Special worship service followed by a variety of fun games and food. Meet other families and make new friends. Trinity Lutheran Church, 11507 Studebaker Rd.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Santa Sleigh Volunteer Meeting, 7 pm. Are you interested in

helping spread joy as Santa Claus visits Norwalk neighborhoods this holiday season? Volunteers help as line monitors, elves, assistants to Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and general helpers. Must be at least 15 years old. Norwalk Transportation Building, 12650 E. Imperial Hwy.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

Origami for Adults, 2 pm. Join us to learn about the art of origami and create your own art out of paper. All materials will be provided. For ages 18 and up. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

DIY Comic Books, 4-5 pm. Be a writer and illustrator of your own comic book. We have all the materials for this cool project. For ages 12-18. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

Play & Explore, 10:30-11:30 am. Play and explore sessions are designed to promote toddler social skills as well as cognitive and motor skills. Ages 1-3 with an adult caregiver. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

Halloween Dance, 6-9 pm. Wear your appropriate Halloween costume and dancing shoes. This dance is designed for children, teens and adults with developmental, physical or learning disabilities. \$14 per person. Sproul Reception Center, 12239 Sproul St.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Game and Activity Day, 2-4 pm. Drop in for board games, card games, puzzles, and play! We'll have activities for children and family members of all ages. Best suited for ages 4 and up. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

Lit Wits Book Club, 2 pm. Join us to read and discuss the novel, *The Women in the Castle* by bestselling author Jessica Shattuck. For ages 18 and up. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

Toothpick Sculptures, 4-5 pm. Have fun constructing two and three-dimensional structures with simple materials. Great STEM project. For ages 5-12. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Halloween Festival Dia de los Muertos, 6-9 pm. Family-friendly event with games, a costume contest, cake walk, music, crafts, an inflatable village, and candy. Food available for purchase. City Hall lawn, 12700 Norwalk Blvd.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Diabolic Lounge, 6:30 pm. An all-ages concert with music from The Radiacs (UK), The Quaranteds, The Peabrains, Radamen, Lost Boys and Salems Ghosts. American Legion Post 359, 11986 Front St.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

How to Avoid Holiday Weight Gain, 10 am. Learn how to indulge in the holidays in a healthy way and without being overly restrictive. Coast Plaza Hospital, 13100 Studebaker Rd.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Daddy-Daughter Hollywood Glamour Dance, 5:30-8:30 pm. Light dinner, crafts, games, activities and dancing. \$20 per couple, \$7 each additional child. Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, 13000 Clarkdale Ave.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

SnowFest and Tree-Lighting Ceremony, 12-8 pm. Snow slides, a snow play area, game booths, train rides, craft tents, face painting, live entertainment, and a visit from Santa Claus. The tree lighting is scheduled for 6 pm.

Diabolic Lounge, 6:30 pm. Live music by The Grim, Peabrains, and The Dead Ricardos. \$14 pre-sale, \$18 at the door. All ages show. American Legion Post 359, 11986 Front St.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

Holidays at the Museum, 5-8 pm. Tour Norwalk's historic museum which will be decorated just for this occasion. D.D. Johnston-Hargitt House Museum, 12426 Mapledale St.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

Las Posadas, 6-9 pm. A traditional cultural celebration featuring a candlelight procession, caroling of holiday songs, performances by mariachis and ballet folkloricos, and more. City Hall lawn, 12700 Norwalk Blvd.

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



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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Arturo Sanchez Halloween Parade, 11 am. Dress in your favorite costume and join in the parade alongside marching bands, floats, show cars, and more. Costume contest begins at 9:15 a.m. Norwalk Boulevard and Mapledale Street

Harbor Groove Band, 9 pm. Dance to live music by the Harbor Groove Band, playing a diverse playlist of 70s, 80s, and 90s music, plus Latin and R&B. IV Lounge, 12500 Firestone Blvd.

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Family Worship Day, 10 am. Special worship service followed by a variety of fun games and food. Meet other families and make new friends. Trinity Lutheran Church, 11507 Studebaker Rd.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Santa Sleigh Volunteer Meeting, 7 pm. Are you interested in

Little Willie G, the voice of Thee Midneters, will perform live at First Baptist Church of Downey on Saturday, Oct. 12, at 6:30 p.m. Comedian Brian Swinehart also will perform.

Tickets are \$25 and all proceeds will go to Easter Seals, a non-profit that provides advocacy services for people with disabilities.

To purchase tickets, call Rowena at (562) 319-9883.



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Why a Trump impeachment should terrify you

BY FRANK BRUNI

President Trump deserves to be impeached. But the prospect terrifies me, and it should terrify you, too.

That's not to say that it's the wrong move. Arguably, it's the only move, at least in terms of fidelity to the Constitution and to basic decency. From the moment that Trump stepped into the office of the presidency, he has degraded it — with words that a president has no business speaking (or tweeting); with ceaseless lies; with infantile and often unhinged behavior; with raging conflicts of interest; with managerial ineptitude; with a rapacious ego that's never sated; and with foreign dealings that compromise America's values, independence and interests. How can principled lawmakers not tell him, in the most emphatic manner available, that enough is enough?

But there's no way to say what happens now that a formal impeachment inquiry is being opened. None. You're going to hear a lot in coming days and weeks about Bill Clinton, but using the example of his impeachment in late 1998 is a bit ridiculous: He was a very different president accused of very different offenses at a very different time. Besides which, political analysts who do cite it don't agree on the lessons. So a pundit making confident predictions about the political fallout from the impeachment of Trump is a pundit far out on a slender limb.

Any scenario is possible, including one in which impeachment redounds to Trump's benefit and increases the chances of his re-election, because he paints himself a martyr, eludes conviction in the Senate, frames that as exoneration and watches his fans mobilize and turn out as never before. And a second Trump term wouldn't just be the sadly suboptimal byproduct of a noble stand; it would be disastrous. Morally as well as practically, limiting this unfit, amoral, unsteady man's time in the presidency takes precedence over any small cluster of sentences written centuries ago.

But while an impeachment's impact on November 2020 is unknowable, its effect on us as a nation is almost certain. A dangerously polarized and often viciously partisan country would grow more so, with people on opposing sides hunkering down deeper in their camps and clinging harder to their chosen narratives as the president — concerned only with himself — ratcheted up his

insistence that truth itself was subjective and up for grabs.

That's not a reason to blink, but it's a reality to brace for. At a juncture when we so desperately need to rediscover common ground, we'd be widening the fault lines. Bringing the country together afterward would call for more than a talented politician; it would demand a miracle worker. None of the Democratic presidential candidates qualify.

Impeachment should terrify you because it would mean a continued, relentless, overwhelming focus on Trump's lawlessness, antics, fictions and inane tweets. He would win in the short term — and all Americans would lose — because as long as most of the oxygen in Washington is consumed by the ghastly carnival of this barker, there's too little left for the nation's very real problems and for scrutiny of his substantive inadequacy in addressing them.

From the House Republicans' persecution of Hillary Clinton through the permanent hysteria of House Democrats under Trump, Washington has devolved ever further into a place where process muscles out progress, grandstanding eclipses governing and noise muffles any meaningful signal. To be engaged in politics is to be engaged in battle — and that shouldn't and needn't always be so.

Where's the infrastructure plan that we're — oh — a quarter-century late in implementing? Where are the fixes to a health care system whose problems go far beyond the tens of millions of Americans still uninsured? What about education? Impeachment would shove all of those issues even further to the margins than it already is.

During the Democratic primary and then the general election, the Trump melodrama and the Trump spectacle would overshadow all else. And many Americans' estrangement from Washington — their cynicism about its ability to improve their lives even a whit — would intensify.

That could be all the more true on account of their confusion. If you're favorably disposed toward Trump and receptive to his claims of persecution, you've watched the meticulous and drawn-out work of Robert Mueller, you've noticed a seemingly nonstop schedule of Capitol Hill hearings and of star witnesses (Michael Cohen, Mueller, Bill Barr, Corey Lewandowski), and you thought that the House

Judiciary Committee was already doing an impeachment inquiry. The latest developments strike you as "Groundhog Day" on the Potomac.

If you're horribly offended and utterly exhausted by Trump, you're tempted to cheer impeachment as long-sought justice and prayed-for release and forget that it's just the prelude to the main act, which is a trial in the Senate. That chamber is controlled by Republicans, who, based on current conditions, are as likely to convict Trump as they are to co-sponsor Elizabeth Warren's wealth tax. So Trump's supporters would wind up furious that he was put through what they regarded as an overwrought exercise with a foregone conclusion, while the frustration of Trump's detractors would be exponentially multiplied. Let the healing begin!

And would impeachment proceedings effectively lay bare — and force Americans to focus on — sins of Trump's that are being ignored? That's long been one of Democrats' arguments for impeachment, but I wonder. For starters, some of the hearings to date — Lewandowski's in particular — raise questions about their ability to pry loose what they want from witnesses and isolate the damning evidence amid the ambient vitriol. But more than that, there has been such saturation coverage of Trump that many voters may not be able to stomach it any more, and today's political tribalism doesn't allow for all that much in the way of epiphanies and transformations. Trump's true colors were conspicuous from the start. You either saw a perverse rainbow or you stared into darkness.

Meanwhile, Trump. How vulnerable will drawn-out impeachment proceedings make him feel? How impotent? How desperate? To flex his power, vent his fury or distract the audience, what would he do? He's untethered by scruple. He's capable of anything. Maybe it's not just a culture war that he'd whip up. Maybe it's the real thing.

Certainly he'd do all he could to persuade Americans of the nefariousness of Democrats, and absolutely his strategy would be to smear the people, the procedures and the institutions arrayed against him as utterly unworthy of trust. If holding on to power meant ruling over rubble, so be it. Trump is beholden only to Trump, and he'd simply declare the rubble gold dust.

Frank Bruni is author of three best-selling books and a columnist for the New York Times.

Beto's boneheaded call for gun confiscation

BY STEVE CHAPMAN

In an IQ contest with Beto O'Rourke, I would guess, Donald Trump would finish a distant second. But in tweeting Wednesday that, when it comes to gun legislation, "Dummy Beto made it much harder to make a deal," Trump actually had a point.

The president was referring to O'Rourke's comments on AR-15 rifles during the Sept. 12 Democratic presidential debate. The general Democratic Party consensus is to forbid the sale, manufacture and import of "assault weapons," with the federal government offering to buy back those already in existence. But O'Rourke is not willing to stop there. He wants to require all current owners to hand them over.

Asked, "Are you proposing taking away their guns?" he was moved to make the stirring proclamation: "Hell, yes, we're going to take your AR-15, your AK-47. We're not going to allow it to be used against our fellow Americans anymore."

It was a thunderous vindication of the paranoia that afflicts a segment of the gun-owning population. Barack Obama ran in 2008 promising not to take away anyone's firearms, and he was true to his word. Gun fanatics accused him and his party of plotting to do just that, though, and Beto has given them the — what's the term? — smoking gun.

Joe Biden hasn't helped. Asked in August about the suspicion that, if elected, he would take away guns, he blurted: "Bingo! You're right, if you have an assault weapon." Realizing his gaffe, Biden backtracked, saying he didn't favor confiscation. But the first remark

will live forever.

For Democrats to say they want to seize a class of common firearms is the equivalent of a homeowner who, failing to get her asking price, decides to triple it. Or maybe it's the equivalent of losing a U.S. Senate race and then deciding you should run for president.

Such statements make it easier for Trump to pass up the sort of deal that, in periodic moments of weakness, he has suggested he could accept. Instead of being on the defensive, he's able to go on offense.

If there is anything gun control advocates have learned in the past 25 years, it's that incremental change is extremely hard and anything more is impossible. In 1994, a federal assault weapons ban became law, but no significant federal gun control bill has passed since then. Supporters of the ban couldn't even get it renewed when it expired in 2004.

After the Sandy Hook massacre, Barack Obama proposed a modest change: requiring a background check for all gun sales. Though his party controlled the Senate, he was unable to muster the 60 votes needed to overcome a filibuster, and the bill died.

Come 2021, a Democratic president would do well to get that obvious reform enacted. A more ambitious step, such as a ban on new assault weapons, is probably beyond reach.

Yet Beto wants to leapfrog these meager changes and focus on taking away guns that have long been legal. His demand is only likely

to convince a lot of people that any gun control measure, no matter how modest, would be confiscation on the installment plan.

And where is the need for confiscation, anyway? It would affect only gun owners who have shown zero propensity to commit crimes, much less mass shootings, with their AR-15s. A ban on the manufacture, import or sale of these firearms, however, would prevent any person who doesn't already have an AR-15 from legally acquiring one. So aspiring mass shooters would find it much harder to get them.

Not that I would favor such a measure, because gun makers will find ways to modify their products to comply with the letter of the law — as they did after 1994. The legal market would continue to offer an array of firearms functionally identical to the banned ones.

One restriction that would serve a noncosmetic purpose is a limit on the size of magazines, to force mass shooters to reload. Even that rule would probably be ineffectual, because switching out magazines is a quick process, not one that gives potential victims much time to subdue their assailant. That said, the imposition on gun owners — a group that includes me — would be trivial.

Small victories may be uninspiring, but not as much as defeat. Beto's provocative position makes sense as part of the melodramatic journey of self-discovery he seems to be on. But for those who would like to pass any gun regulations, it amounts to friendly fire.

Steve Chapman is a blogger and columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

Democracy needs unions

BY CHRISTINE OWENS

You deserve to have a say in matters that affect you. Everyone does. That's democracy.

This shouldn't change when you go to work.

Democratic rights in the workplace — including the right to form a union, and the power to speak up about workplace issues — go hand in hand with a democratic society. But for decades now, those rights have been under assault. It's time we fight to restore them.

Make no mistake: By whittling away at workers' right to a voice at work, right-wing corporate activists have also been able to curtail workers' voices at the ballot box, too.

Unionized workers vote at higher rates than non-union workers. States that have adopted so-called "right to work" laws to undermine unions have seen a net decline in turnout.

That's exactly why corporate lobbyists and their political cronies push such laws — it's part of their strategy to weaken support for

popular proposals that help working people, from higher minimum wages to stronger social insurance programs.

These efforts work hand in hand with voter suppression, gerrymandering, and other efforts to undermine voting rights — as well as with "carve-outs" to labor laws, which exclude categories of workers like farm and domestic workers. Together these abuses disenfranchise workers and lock in poverty wages.

We've seen what happens when huge corporations, and the politicians beholden to them, wield all the political power.

They roll back government oversight so companies can engage in dangerous — even deadly — workplace practices. They widen tax loopholes so that companies that operate in our backyards don't contribute to the upkeep of our communities. And they make corporations "people" with democratic rights far greater than those of actual human beings.

Then they illegally retaliate against workers who try to join together for change. They threaten mass layoffs and the decimation of communities. From the moment a person is hired, she's told she's replaceable and compelled to sign away her rights, leaving her on her own against an all-powerful boss.

But increasingly, working people are fighting back.

Around the nation, worker activists are urging lawmakers to prohibit employers from firing people in retaliation for trying to improve their own workplaces. They're calling for an end to

longstanding racist exclusions of caregivers and agricultural workers from labor protections. And, from poultry plants to commercial banks, they're blowing the whistle on dangerous employer practices that hurt workers and consumers alike.

Working people are joining together to demand a more just economy in other ways, too.

From Walmart workers walking off the job to protest guns sales following the El Paso massacre, to adjunct professors warning that poverty wages affect the quality in the classroom, workers are protecting our democracy.

When call center workers in Mississippi draw attention to low wages and high turnover in critical federal services, and employees of the furnishing company Wayfair walk out to protest the inhumane treatment of immigrants at the border, they're reminding us of our civic responsibilities.

When teachers fill streets and statehouses to raise the specter of generational harm from underfunded schools, and museum employees lift the veil on pay inequality in arts institutions, they highlight the permanent damage to our country if worker voices are silenced.

Restoring worker power isn't just about restoring the right to unionize. It's about balancing one-sided corporate control with workplace democracy.

Christine Owens is executive director of the National Employment Law Project.

Sensible gun laws

Dear Editor:

The weekly occurrences of mass shootings in the USA are headlines for a few days until the next one. However, there are 90 gun-related deaths in this gun culture country every day. We spend over \$700 million each year on military defense, but since the tragedy of 9/11, there have been over 600,000 gun deaths in the USA.

The Second Amendment, which was written by slave owners many, many years ago, says that a well regulated militia, not individual gun ownership, is the way it was intended.

We have a well regulated militia with the police force, National Guard, and armed services. The NRA, in defense of gun manufacturers, has deceived the public in this regard. Just recently, Amnesty International warned people around the world not to travel to the USA because of gun violence.

The money we spend on defense is 10 times more than any other civilized country. We could cut this in half and spend it on

mental health facilities, cancer research and the homeless crisis. Unfortunately, I don't think anything will change as our government leaders are too afraid and there are too many gun zealots out there to intimidate them. It would be interesting if this subject were to be a national vote and see what would happen about the issue of gun control.

Our priorities are out of control...Wake up, America, and get in line with other sensible gun practices as in Japan, Australia, and the UK, whose gun deaths are less than what occurs in the USA in just a few days.

Last but not least, statistics show that if you own a gun, you are much more likely to be killed than if you did not.

Colin Clarke Downey

The Norwalk Patriot STAFF

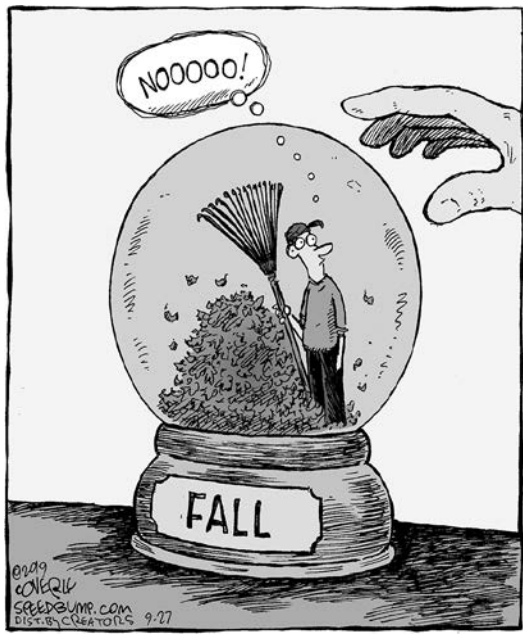
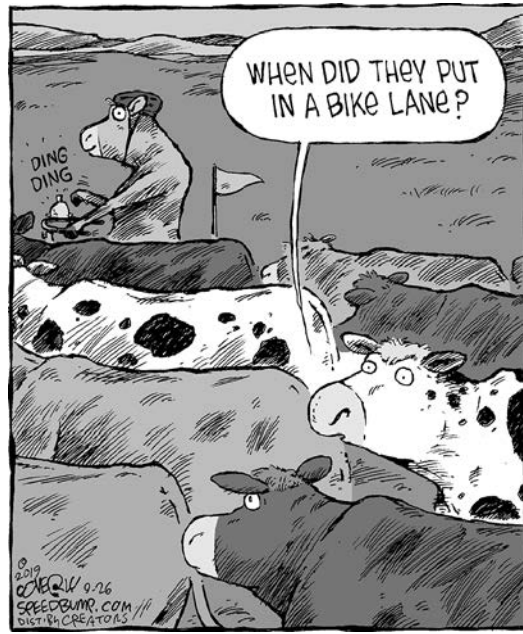
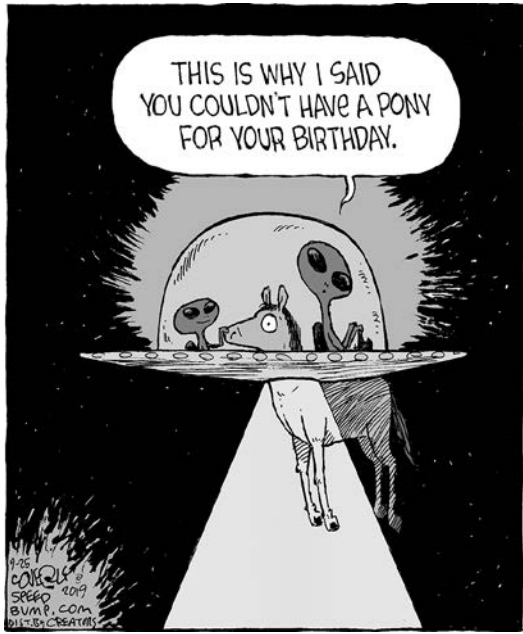
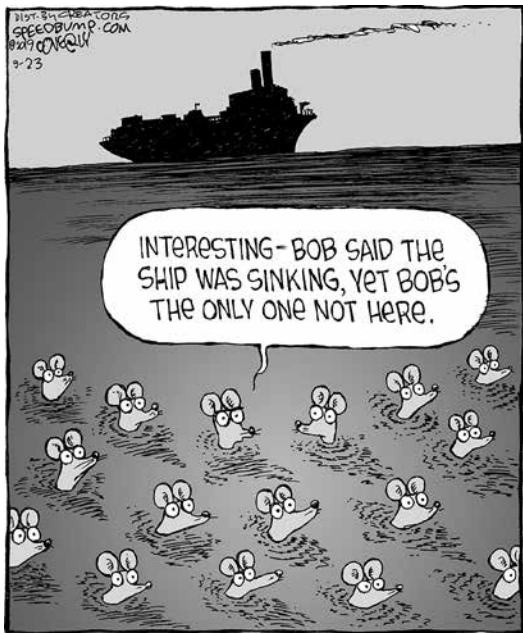
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

On This Day...

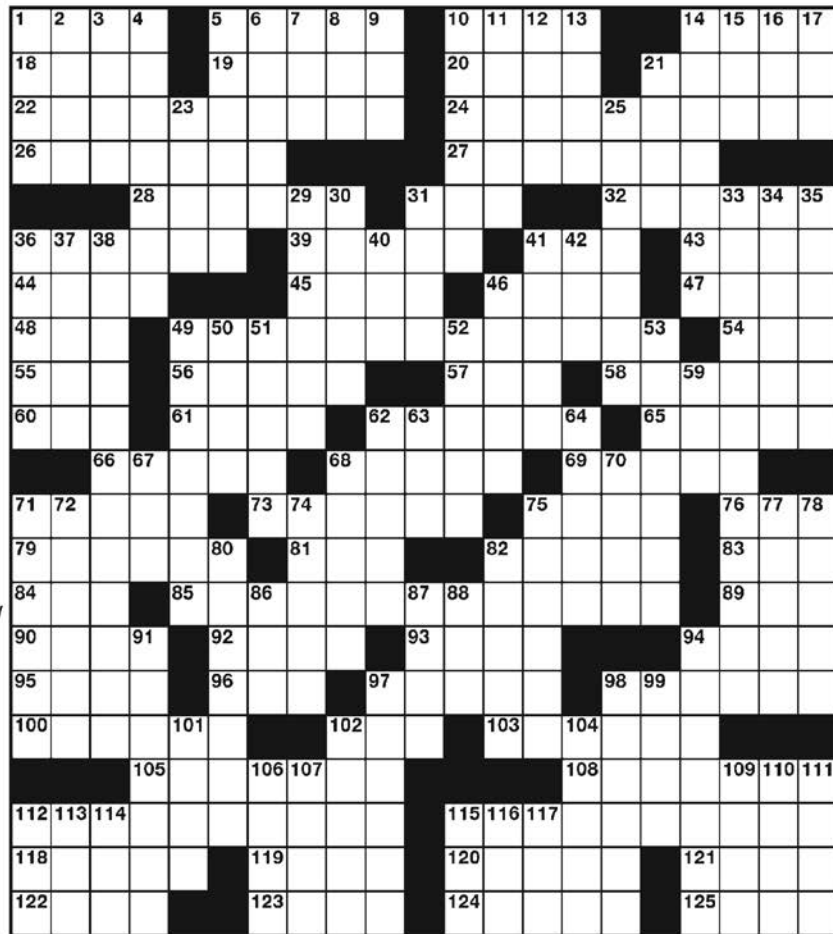
- Sept. 27, 1954: The "Tonight!" show made its debut on NBC-TV with Steve Allen as host.
- 1979: The Department of Education became the 13th Cabinet in U.S. history after the final approval from Congress.
- 1989: Two men went over the 176-foot-high Niagara Falls in a barrel. Jeffrey Petkovich and Peter Debernardi were the first to ever survive the Horseshoe Falls.
- 1998: Mark McGwire (St. Louis Cardinals) set a major league baseball record when he hit his 70th home run of the season.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
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by Fred Piscop

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Scott Fitzgerald. where his students included F. of English literature at Princeton, (78 Down) was a visiting professor from 1914 to 1923. Alfred Noyes thousands of ELK (48 Across) National Park Service, tens of and Australia. According to the high-tech inventors from Japan ed in the early 21st century by PATENTS (36 Across) were exceed- Thomas Edison's record 1,093



Hate crimes in L.A. County reach 10-year high

More than half of all hate crimes were racially motivated, stats show.

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) on Wednesday released its annual account of hate crimes reported throughout Los Angeles County in 2018.

The report's significant findings include the following:

There were 521 hate crimes reported in the County in 2018, a 2.6% increase from the previous year. This is the largest number reported since 2009. For the past five years, hate crimes have been trending upwards. Since reported hate crimes hit a 23-

year low in 2013 there has been a 36% rise.

Fifty-two percent of all hate crimes were racially-motivated and they increased 11% from 256 to 283. African Americans only comprise 9% of L.A. County residents but make up nearly half of racial hate crime victims. Anti-black crimes rose 9% from 129 to 140.

African Americans were also over-represented as victims of sexual orientation and anti-transgender crimes. Anti-Latino/a crimes rose for the fourth year in a row, from 72 to 85, a 16% increase.

After Middle Eastern victims, Latino/as were the most likely of any racial/ethnic group to be victims of violent racially-

motivated crime (68%).

Crimes targeting gay men, lesbians and LGBT organizations increased 20% from 108 to 130 and comprised 24% of all reported hate crimes. 72% of these crimes were of a violent nature (See page 31), a rate higher than those motivated by race (64%) or religion (28%).

There were 97 religious crimes, a decrease of 4%. They comprised 18% of all hate crimes. Eighty-three percent were anti-Jewish.

After two years of record highs, anti-transgender crimes declined 24% from 37 to 25, and 92% were of a violent nature, the highest rate of any victim group.

The overall rate of violence

increased from 56% to 61%. They included two murders and several attempted murders, the majority of which were part of an anti-black shooting spree allegedly committed by a gang member.

Hate crimes committed by gang members increased 31% from 36 to 47. Gang members were responsible for 9% of all hate crimes and 14% of racially-motivated crimes. 64% of these crimes were of a violent nature.

The largest number of hate crimes took place in the Metro Service Planning Area, which stretches from West Hollywood to Boyle Heights, followed by the San Fernando Valley region.

However, if one compares the populations of the areas to the numbers of reported hate

crimes, the Metro region had the highest rate followed by Western region (which includes West L.A., Beverly Hills, Culver City and a number of affluent beach communities).

"The troubling rise of these acts of hate must be met with unwavering condemnation. We must come together in solidarity to combat racism and bigotry head-on. As part of this ongoing effort, we must also initiate honest conversations, and build bridges of understanding with one another and tear down walls of fear and division," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis.

"Every LA County resident has a right to live free of prejudice, discrimination, harassment,

and violence. To that end, I will introduce a motion at our Oct. 1 Board meeting that will launch LA County's first anti-hate initiative, which will facilitate the way in which residents report hate crimes and will expedite the County's response so we could swiftly support victims and ensure that justice is served against those who seek to divide us."

"We are disturbed that reported hate crimes in L.A. County have been rising for five years in a row," said Robin Toma, LACCHR Executive Director. "Major cities across the nation are experiencing similar increases."

Short Stories

My Mother the Saint

By Helen Hampton Contributor

My precious, sainted mother was born in 1883 in Canada off the coast of Maine.

She traveled to Augusta, Maine to attend nursing school at the Augusta General Hospital. She graduated as a registered nurse in 1913.

She lived in a room in a boarding house and various doctors would send her out in the community to make house calls. She would take her black bag with medical supplies and drive her buckboard to help deliver babies or whatever was needed. In 1918 and 1919, there was a small pox epidemic and she visited many homes to administer aid. It is a wonder that she did not catch the disease herself.

She met my father in the hospital as he was a patient

there and she was his nurse. She was 38 years old and he was 52 when they married in 1921. Papa had been married for 20 years before he met Mama, but he and his wife had no children. His wife died in 1919.

You can imagine his delight when Mama gave birth to a son in 1922 and a daughter in 1924. But his happiness was short lived. He died when my brother, Danny, was 7 and I was 5. Mother was 47 and left with two small children to raise alone in the small town of Winslow, Maine.

Mother decided to put her nursing education to good use. She made her large home into a nursing home and took in elderly patients.

She did all the cooking herself, after my brother and I went to bed. She baked bread, pies, cakes and puddings. Then she would sleep as long as no patients rang their bells for

something they might need in the middle of the night. She seldom had enough sleep.

I tried to help her the best I could, as a little girl of 8 or 9, before going to school. On Mondays, washday, I would separate the clothes that came out of the wringer, so it would be easier for her to hang on the clothesline that went from the kitchen window down to a pole in the vegetable garden.

Many times as a child, I heard various doctors consulting my mother regarding symptoms of their different patients to confirm a diagnosis. I did not find this strange at the time, but years later I realized how much respect these doctors had for my mother's opinion.

When we had just a few patients that could be left alone, she was the neighborhood "doctor." Sometimes answering calls to take care of someone

with a gallbladder attack or any of a variety of ailments or conditions. At other times she would have to care for someone's sick child. As a consequence, she was never able to come to my school to hear me sing but I knew she would have loved to, so I understood.

When I was married in 1946, I moved to Florida. My mother came to live with us and worked at the Flagler Hospital during the five years that we lived there. We moved to Long Beach in 1951 and she came with us. She worked at the old Seaside Hospital and did private duty nursing. She was such a wonderful nurse that the doctors would ask the registry for Elizabeth Walsh. It did not take long for the word to spread to other doctors who also wished to use her dedicated services. She worked at St. Mary's and Long Beach Community Hospital as well.

She was such a devoted nurse that many times she would call me from the hospital and tell me not to pick her up when she would normally be off duty because they were unable to get a nurse for the next shift so she would work a double shift. Sometimes when I would pick her up, she would still have the lunch that I had packed for her. I'd say, "Mother, how come you didn't eat your lunch?" And she would tell me that a patient was so ill that she didn't have the time.

My mother retired the day my babies were born, in 1958. She was 75. She died in 1967 at age 84.

At Long Beach Memorial Hospital, in the lobby there is a wall with plaques commemorating charitable donations of a certain level. It took me years to finally be able to contribute enough to get a

plaque in my mother's name. I go down there several times a year to donate books and coloring books to the Children's Hospital and every time I stop by the lobby to say hello to Mama. Her plaque says "Elizabeth M. Walsh, R.N."

I wish she had lived longer, so the girls would have known her better. They were 9 years old when she died and she had been in a nursing home for three years, so her contact with them was far more limited than I would have wished.

I feel that she is in Heaven and has helped me through some very tough times over the years. She truly is a saint in Heaven.

Helen Hampton is a member of the writing class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. It is held off-campus at the Norwalk Senior Center.

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Kaiser reaches 4-year deal with labor groups to avoid strike

By Eric Pierce
 Editor

DOWNNEY - Kaiser Permanente has reached a tentative agreement with nearly a dozen labor groups on a new 4-year contract, avoiding a potentially disruptive work stoppage scheduled to begin next month.

Kaiser Permanente and the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions agreed to the labor deal Tuesday. The agreement covers nearly 85,000 Kaiser employees across 11 local unions.

The agreement follows nearly five months of active bargaining that began in April. It will now go to coalition union members for ratification, where voting is

expected to be completed by the end of October.

If ratified, the contract will have an effective date of Oct. 1, 2019, and will cover more than 85,000 healthcare workers: 67,000 in California; 8,300 in Oregon and Washington; 3,100 in Colorado; 5,000 in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and northern Virginia; and 1,000 in Hawaii.

Coalition employees represent hundreds of job classifications, from optometrists and pharmacists to maintenance and service workers.

The new labor deal includes guaranteed wage increases each year through 2023; opportunities for career growth; a new

multimillion-dollar workforce development fund to provide educational opportunities for Californians who may not otherwise be able to pursue a career in healthcare; retirement benefits; and an additional \$250 for employee travel as part of the tuition reimbursement program raising the total to \$750.

Kaiser and the coalition also agreed to a list of jobs that will not be outsourced or subcontracted for the life of the contract. The list of jobs was not made public.

The agreement includes a pharmacy utilization approach that incentivizes employees to use its mail-order prescription service.



Kaiser Permanente workers protest outside the Downey campus in May 2019. Photo by Alex Dominguez

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Use extreme caution when buying a puppy online

By Anna Berardini
 Contributor

I want to share with everyone true stories and experiences that people have shared with me recently and the near past.

I've heard many things in the past few years about good people trusting people, being cheated out of their money, trying to adopt or purchase puppies online, in newspapers or general media. I myself was cheated 10 years ago by the Mexican puppy trade, people smuggling over the border, under-age sick puppies, purchased very cheap in Mexico to be sold to people here in the United States. They usually died within a few days from disease or parasites, leaving people with expensive vet bills and broken hearts.

With no one to hold responsible because these monstrous people met them on a corner or at a 7-Eleven or some small business with no receipt and no way of ever contacting them again. It's their plan, they make \$300 or \$400 on each puppy free and clear every time with no restitution for all the problems the puppy will have. They are still doing it today; I hear it from people at my salon every week.

Another way people are cheated is by sending money

through Western Union. Bad people advertise in the media showing adorable puppy pictures that aren't even their puppies, that way they can never be found and held responsible. When you use Western Union to send money you can never get it back, that's their plan. They'll even charge people for a cage, shipping, food and toys, all of which they never send. This happens every day.

They have temporary phone numbers most often with long-distance area codes to make you think they're so far away the puppies have to be shipped, when in reality they could be next door. As soon as they cheat enough people, they will change the phone number. They will also use different phone numbers and ask you to meet them halfway pretending to do you a favor to justify not coming to their home, so you can't see where they live and hold them responsible.

One lady told me she went to an address that she found online on Craigslist and they told her to come to their house. When the woman got there, a lady came out from the side of the house with puppies in a cage and told the lady they couldn't come in her house because her mother was sick and was asleep.

When the puppy died two days later, she went back to

the house because the phone number didn't work anymore and the woman didn't even live there. What she did was hide on the side of the house and pretend that she was living there.

In Norwalk, one of my dear friends, Mrs. Ruiz, sent a man \$900 a month ago for two adorable puppies she saw online. As soon as she came into my salon and told me she was supposed to pick them up at the airport, but they never arrived, I knew she had gotten cheated.

Her tiny Chihuahua, Taco, died two days before her second cancer surgery, it was more than heart breaking. He was 16 years old, then right after her surgery she found out she was not going to get the two puppies promised to her from a man that supposedly lived in Oklahoma.

This was my last straw.

We have given his phone number to several authorities and informed our local animal control about these atrocities. So, what are they doing about this problem? People are still getting cheated. The problem is not so much puppy mills in other states, it's right here happening locally every day of the year.

Why isn't someone doing anything? Everyone needs to know what is happening and become aware. The new pet

shop law is useless. Bless the people who adopt from their local animal shelters, but it's not stopping the state-wide puppy mill problem at all; they simply sell to whomever will buy.

We can buy guns. We can buy cigarettes and cigars. We can buy alcohol. We can now even buy weed. But we can't buy two adorable puppies she saw online...seriously? The American Kennel Club in North Carolina and many others are working on repealing this useless law and making a law that makes sense for individuals. Not everyone as a whole is evil and irresponsible. We need to stop punishing good and decent people who want to rescue animals.

So, never meet anyone on a corner to buy a puppy. Go to where they live, get a receipt, get a feeling for them and if you think the puppies are in peril, call the local animal control and report them. See something, say something!

Let's all stand up for the animals and the people that truly want to help them. Beware of Craigslist, be smart, be kind, and be happy.

Until next time, thanks for listening.

Anna Berardini owns Anna's Pet Grooming in Norwalk.

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Tips For Living With A Deaf Dog

- Keep your deaf dog on a leash or in a fenced yard. Deaf dogs cannot hear cars and other hazards.
- Learn to communicate using hand signals. Essential signals are: sit, stay, come, down, good, no and watch. Also establish a signal for your dog's name.
- Buy a tag for your dog's collar that says: "Sparky is deaf. If found, please call..."
- Place a bell on your dog's collar so you can find her.
- Use a flashlight to signal to your dog that you want her attention.
- Be consistent in your communication.
- Let the dog know when you are leaving the house. Do not "disappear" when she is asleep.
- Wake a deaf dog by putting food under her nose, or by touching her away from her face. Teach children how to wake a deaf dog without startling her. Some dogs may bite if startled when they are sleeping.

Signs Of Ear Or Hearing Problems With Your Dog

If your dog experiences the following, it could be a sign of deafness or another ear condition that should be evaluated by your veterinarian:

- Inattentiveness or change in obedience
- Inability or confusion when following familiar vocal commands
- Prolonged barking
- Difficulty waking up
- Repetitive head shaking or tilting toward side of affected ear
- Painful ears or smelly discharge from ears
- Change in personality