

## Op-Ed: Norwalk could be model for California cities

Norwalk could be a model for other cities looking to maintain a robust economy.

By David Gonzalez Jr.

**NORWALK** - Norwalk's long-term multi-node Economic Development Plan is a model other cities in California have come to embrace.

The bold plan was initially developed in 2017, during the mayoral tenure of Luigi Vernola. Like Norwalk, these cities are experiencing early success. However, Norwalk, like few others has greater potential as a function of their location and transportation advantage by being served by four freeways in addition to being home to Metrolink and Metro Green Line Stations. In addition, Norwalk is situated at the midpoint between Orange and Los Angeles counties. A timely effort by Norwalk's policy makers.

The county is expected to add about 48,400 payroll jobs this year, according to the forecast. Although this represents positive news for the region, there are some indicators that show a possible slow down, both due to the rising cost of housing and population decreases. The median housing price in Los Angeles County is expected to rise from \$658,339 this year and \$674,463 in 2021, leaving many in the area unable to afford to continue to live here. As stated by Tyler LaFerriere, associate economist at LAEDC, "There is enough momentum in the economy to maintain moderate growth in 2020, as there was



in 2019... However, there are ... headwinds in the local economy to prevent a significant increase in growth, such as housing prices and population decline."

Given this news it has become even more important for local government to find ways to continue to attract business and development in their city. It has become quite competitive for many cities who struggle to gain interest from developers. Some cities have resorted to cohorts with other cities to try and find solutions. This has spread to a variety of cities across state lines - all trying to find ways to continue development and job growth in their city.

In Norwalk, there has been a strategic method to develop previously vacant land in order

to attract these businesses to ensure a robust local economy and job creation. In 2017, the Norwalk city council in a united effort approved the Fitness Village that includes a 37,000 square foot gym (LA Fitness) and two drive through food establishments (Chick-Fil-A and Panera Bread), along with other shops coming in. The City is also preparing for private development at the 51-acre Tank Farm. Norwalk has plans to purchase the property and has set aside \$3 million from a 2005 former redevelopment agency bond that could be used as a nonrefundable deposit or to help with the planning processes. Not to mention the 35-acres that is in the process of being transferred from the state to the city. These efforts ensure that cities like Norwalk remain competitive and

ensure job creation for the local population.

Housing shortage is becoming a big issue in Los Angeles County. The shortage is driving high costs and should be grounds for grave concern regarding sustainable economic growth. It is primarily for this reason that municipalities in the county need aggressive strategies to ensure the sustainability of their tax base to ensure city services are not affected. Norwalk may be the model to pursue when it comes to maintaining a robust local economy.

*Dr. David Gonzalez, Jr. is assistant professor of public administration and organizational leadership at Brandman University*

## Cerritos receives \$20,000 for Machine Tool Tech Scholarships

**CERRITOS** - Cerritos College recently received a \$20,000 donation from the Gene Haas Foundation to support students enrolled in its Machine Tool Technology program.

The Gene Haas Foundation has been a strong supporter of the program, donating \$20,000 in 2018 and \$25,000 in 2016 to support Machine Tool Technology

students. The funds will support scholarships for Machine Tool Technology students. The Machine Tool Technology Department at Cerritos College is one of a few premier programs in Southern California that offers machine tool training using real-world materials and projects.

"We are grateful for the Gene Haas Foundation's continued

## State of the City today

**NORWALK** - The 2020 State of the City address is happening today at the Norwalk Doubletree Hotel at 11:30 am.

The event will include presentations by Mayor Margarita Rios, the Chamber of Commerce, and The Sheriff's Department.

State of the City also serves as a fundraiser, with proceeds going to local organizations. This year's beneficiaries are Su Casa and Kingdom Causes.

support," said Chuong Vo, department chair, Machine Tool Technology. "This grant will help students in our program pursue their educational goals."

The Gene Haas Foundation was created in 1999 by Gene Haas, founder and president of Haas Automation, Inc., the largest

machine tool manufacturer in the United States. All Haas products are manufactured at the company's facility in Southern California, and distributed through a worldwide network of more than 170 Haas Factory Outlets.

## CDC urges Americans to prepare for coronavirus outbreak

Federal health authorities said Tuesday they now expect a wider spread of the coronavirus in the U.S. and are preparing for a potential pandemic, though they remain unsure about how severe the health threat could be.

Nancy Messonnier, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said Tuesday the agency expects a sustained transmission of the virus and called for businesses, schools and communities to brace themselves and plan for potential outbreaks.

"We expect we will see community spread in this country," meaning the virus circulating within local communities, said Dr. Messonnier. She added that the question isn't if the virus will expand in the U.S., but when.

In the U.S., 14 locally diagnosed cases have been confirmed, with an additional 40 from the outbreak on the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Asia and three among Americans who returned from China aboard

U.S.-chartered flights.

So far, American public-health systems have sought to contain the virus by isolating confirmed cases while monitoring close contacts of these patients for signs of infection. This strategy is most effective when the case count is relatively low and each case can be epidemiologically linked to each other and traced to an original source, health authorities say. That is the current situation with the confirmed U.S. cases.

But if the virus spreads more widely, it might become difficult or impossible to contain it with the current methods, experts say. Instead, the efforts would shift to strategies such as closing schools, canceling mass gatherings and requiring employees to work from home.

"The disruption to everyday life might be severe," Dr. Messonnier said.

Meantime, the Trump administration's response to the virus was challenged Tuesday in Congress. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar,

who heads the U.S. coronavirus task force, was questioned about whether his agency is doing enough, especially in light of its request for \$2.5 billion in emergency funding—less than what was granted to fight earlier threats of pandemics.

"It seems to me at the outset that this request for the money...is lowballing it," said Sen. Richard Shelby (R., Ala.), the committee's chairman. "You can't afford to do that."

Democrats at the hearing pushed back on recent upbeat assurances about the virus by President Trump on Twitter. "We are disregarding scientific evidence and relying on tweets," said Sen. Patty Murray (D., Wash.). "I'm deeply concerned we are way behind the eight ball on this."

Mr. Trump this month said the coronavirus could go away with warm weather. But the CDC's Dr. Messonnier said in a Feb. 12 media call that she would caution against "overinterpreting that hypothesis."

Mr. Azar, who praised the

president's approach, said his agency is requesting the amount of funding that is needed, adding that the administration will work with traditional public-health tools to mitigate a sustained spread if it occurs.

Financial markets are falling on concern about the virus's economic impact. As the markets slid, several administration officials appeared to temper the CDC's comments about the virus.

Speaking at a media briefing, Mr. Azar said cases in the U.S. are contained and that "people shouldn't panic when we see new cases." He said Dr. Messonnier's comments were aimed at educating the public about possible future actions. White House economic adviser Lawrence Kudlow, speaking on CNBC, said: "We have contained this. I won't say airtight, but pretty close to airtight."

Authorities have tested over 426 people in the U.S. for the virus, not including those who have been repatriated. But many state and local health

## Norwalk restaurant grades

**Ana's Bionicos**  
11005 Firestone Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 2/25/20  
Grade: **A**

**Tacos y Mariscos Las Islis**  
14419 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 2/25/20  
Grade: **A**

**R&G's Food Basket - Camalias**  
14407 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 2/25/20  
Grade: **A**

**R&G's Food Basket - Bakery**  
14407 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 2/25/20  
Grade: **A**

**Waba Grill**  
11005 Firestone Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 2/25/20  
Grade: **A**

**Tacos Chihuahua**  
11735 The Plz  
Date Inspected: 2/24/20  
Grade: **A**

**Wingstop**  
11739 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 2/24/20  
Grade: **A**

**Sonoma Grill**  
13111 Sycamore Dr.  
Date Inspected: 2/24/20  
Grade: **A**

**TNT Tostas and Tacos**  
11042 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 2/21/20  
Grade: **B**

**Ho Ho China**  
11568 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 2/21/20  
Grade: **A**

**Talia's Coffee**  
12200 Civic Center  
Date Inspected: 2/20/20  
Grade: **A**

**Golden Pho Restaurant**  
10925 Alondra Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 2/19/20  
Grade: **A**

**Lupitas Mexican Restaurant**  
15018 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 2/19/20  
Grade: **A**

**El Tazumal**  
16014 Pioneer Blvd.  
Inspected: 2/19/20  
Grade: **A**

**AMC**  
12300 Civic Center Dr.  
Date Inspected: 2/19/20  
Grade: **A**

**AMC Bar**  
12300 Civic Center Dr.  
Date Inspected: 2/19/20  
Grade: **A**

**Good Fortune Tasty Restaurant**  
15912 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 2/19/20  
Grade: **A**

**Stinkin' Crawfish**  
11752 Firestone Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 2/18/20  
Grade: **A**

**Sushi Joint**  
11957 Firestone Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 2/18/20  
Grade: **A**

**Ozen Sushi**  
16511 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 2/14/20  
Grade: **B**

**Burger IM**  
14133 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 2/13/20  
Grade: **A**

**Senor Baja**  
11833 Alondra Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 2/13/20  
Grade: **A**

**Jack in the Box**  
12060 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 2/13/20  
Grade: **A**

## Weekend at a Glance

Friday 85°

Saturday 71°

Sunday 63°

### THINGS TO DO



#### 5K for TLC

**Saturday - Apollo Park, 7:30 am**  
A 5K run/walk in support of the TLC Family Resource Center. On-site registration is \$40 for adults, \$30 for kids and starts at 6 am.



#### Mobile Pet Vaccines

**Saturday - Whittier High School, 10 am to 2 pm**  
Low-cost pet vaccinations, microchips, and flea and tick treatments provided by Spay Neuter Project LA. No appointment necessary.



#### And Then There Were None

**All Weekend - Whittier Community Theatre**  
Agatha Christie's best-selling crime novel comes to life on stage. The story follows 10 strangers at a dinner party who soon start dying one by one.



#### Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival

**Sunday - Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, 11 am to 3:30 pm**  
Celebrate Japanese culture and the arrival of spring with classical dance demonstrations, drums, music, a bonsai exhibit, and more. Free.



#### Bonnie & Clyde The Musical

**All Weekend - The Found Theatre in Long Beach**  
A retelling of the historical romance that shocked the nation. The music is a mixture of rock-a-billy, country, blue grass and gospel.

### TWEET OF THE WEEK

The sales tax in Norwalk is 9.5%. However, the City only receives 1% of the sales tax. Most of the sales tax revenue goes to State and County. The revenue generated by Measure P would stay under local control for City services. Visit <https://soo.nr/4Dxf> or call 562-929-5735.. @CityofNorwalkCA

Twitter.com/DowneyPatriot

## Short Stories

# Hope in a new Generation

By Yolanda Adele Contributor

In 1960 I transferred from Hollenbeck Jr. High School in East Los Angeles, a community immersed in eclectic cultures, to Huntington Park, a predominately white neighborhood at that time. My ethnicity was not evident to many because of my Asian surname and light skin.

As the "new kid," I didn't have any close friends, so when Clara, a popular girl in school, befriended me, I was relieved and hopeful for a great school experience. We went to see the Gidget movies, did our homework together, and we were both Elvis fans. I was blissful.

Clara told me about an exclusive after-school club she was in called Lucky Thirteens. She invited me to a meeting.

"They will ask you a few questions; if they like you, you are in," Clara said.

I got excited at the thought of being a member of the "in crowd," especially in such a short time. Enthusiastically, I asked, "what should I wear, what do I say?"

"You'll be fine, just don't mention that you are Mexican. You are light enough to pass."

"Pass for what?" I questioned.

"Don't get your feelings hurt, it's not personal. They can't just let anybody in. But

once they get to know you, I'm sure they will like you as much as I do."

I was hurt. My friend thought I was different, flawed somehow.

"I'm just trying to help you. Why can't you understand that?" Clara insisted.

"Most of my family is dark-skinned, hardworking people," I said. "I'm not ashamed of them or where I come from. I don't want to be in your stupid exclusive club."

...

Years later when our daughter was in high school, she told me a new boy at her school asked her for a date. She was concerned because he was

different.

"Does he have tattoos? Is he a trouble maker?" I asked.

"No, Mom. Ronnie is an honor student; he is outgoing, funny, and cute. He just happens to be an African American."

When I heard that, I had an epiphany moment. What the dictionary describes as "a sudden perception of the essential nature of things." Or it may have simply been my mother's intuition telling me this was a teachable moment.

"Does the color of his skin change the things you like about Ronnie?"

"No."

"Does he treat you well?"

"Yes."

"Well, you know the rules," I said, "He will have to come to the house so we can meet him. He has to be aware of your curfew. A concern I do have is that a racist person may voice negative remarks at you and Ronnie."

"If there is the slightest hint of trouble, I will call you, like I would on any of my dates, alright?"

She rolled her eyes for a moment then hugged me before running to the phone.

Ronnie came to the house. He was well-mannered and personable. Ronnie immediately offered his

handshake. He had an easy smile about him. When they left, my husband and I watched from the window and saw Ronnie open the car door for her.

She called an hour before her curfew. She wanted me to know they went to Farrell's Ice Cream Shop where they met some friends. And they were having fun. She sounded happy and secure.

I hung up the phone and went to lie down on the sofa as I usually do to wait for her to come home.

I felt covered by a blanket of optimism and prayed for peace and hope in the new generation.

## A Revealing Question

By Yolanda Adele Contributor

On a peaceful spring morning at the park, my precious six-year-old granddaughter, Jaime, seemed content at least for the moment to sit quietly beside me at a picnic table. She colored in her new ballerina coloring book while I made entries into my journal.

After a while, her sweet angelic voice vibrated through the silence.

"Nana, will you push me on the swing?"

"Yes, Angel Face, just as soon as I'm finished writing."

"Nana, why do you write?" To my surprise I answered without hesitation.

"So someday you might

know me better." My answer seemed to satisfy us both.

I put down my pen and started to walk with her toward the swings. She hopped on one foot then the other, avoiding the cracks on the sidewalk. All the while she pleaded, "Watch me, Nana watch me!"

Her voice sounded distant while her earlier question played in my head; over and over like a phonograph needle stuck on a record groove.

"Why do you write, why do you write?" In all the years I had never asked myself that question.

My thoughts were interrupted upon hearing, "Nana! Watch what I can do." She did a somersault. As she flipped over, I saw for an instant not her face, but the face of my own little girl who grew up to be

her mother.

I held my breath until the next flip revealed Jamie's smiling face again. Then in a heartbeat, the answer as to why I write was as clear to me as the sky above us.

My writing is the aftermath of the resentments I have harbored for the years that too rapidly vanished. Also, my writing is an opportunity to revisit my life experiences with new-found knowledge. Journal and memoir writing is my vehicle; it drives me to find out who I've been and who I am before I must turn in my ticket to ride.

But for now, the insight is mine alone. Though my writing bares my vulnerabilities at times, it won't make a difference to me when I'm gone; but to those who have

loved me I will be leaving my authentic self which is "My Soul made visible."

"Nana, are you watching me?"

"Yes, I'm watching you, Jaime," I said out loud. Then I whispered to my soul, Nana is watching with all her heart.

*Yolanda Adele 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.*

## Church launches creative arts classes

**SANTA FE SPRINGS** - Freedom Christian Center (FCC) introduced a new session of School of Creative Arts (SOCA) on Tuesday.

The free educational classes will be taught by college graduates who manage and perform the weekly dance, music and multimedia aspects of each FCC service.

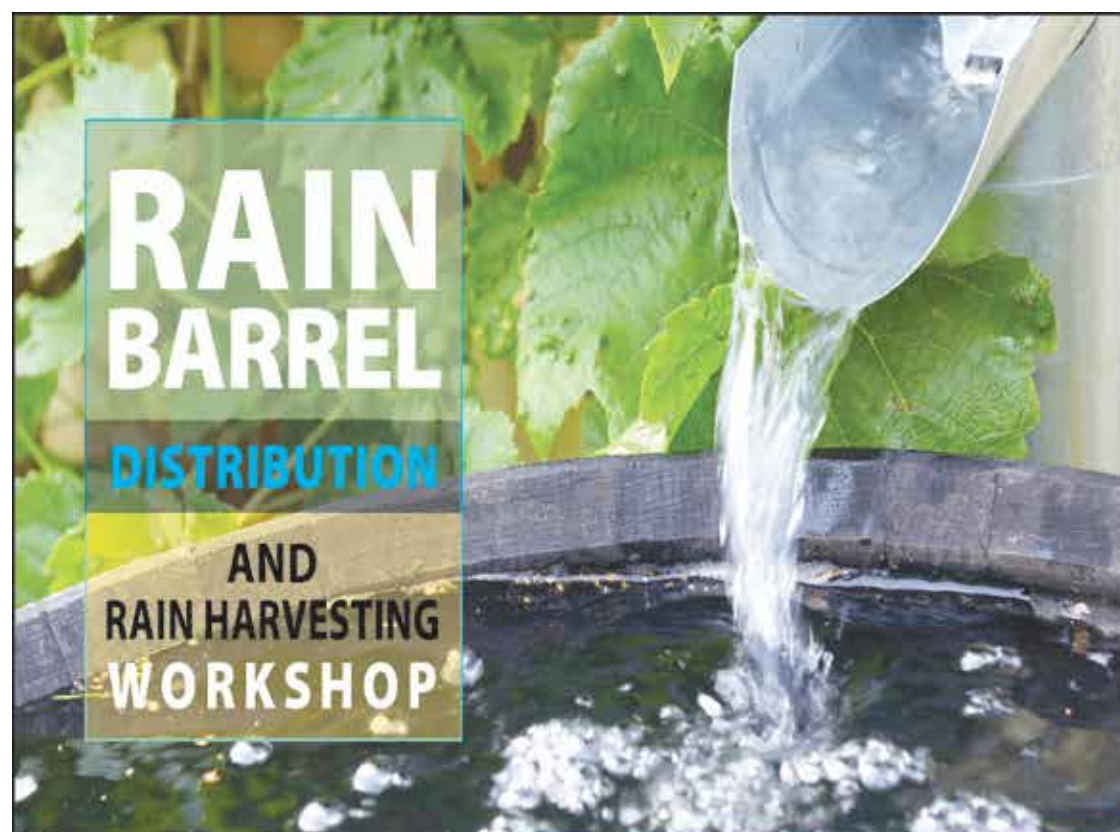
SOCA will provide classes in all the following areas: graphic design, social media, videography, photography, dance, sound engineering, vocals, bass, guitar and media production.

A drama and production course will also be offered due to the growing success of "Night of Terror"—Freedom's annual Halloween maze and live

production—which drew 7,500 visitors in 2019.

"We are excited to offer an opportunity for people to learn about various disciplines in music, dance and multimedia," said Pastor Jason Lozano, lead pastor of Freedom Christian Center. "All of the skills taught at School of Creative Arts make up an integral part of our Sunday services and the best thing is that they can also be applied in the workforce."

SOCA classes will take place at Freedom Christian Center 13808 Imperial Hwy, Santa Fe Springs at 6:30 p.m.



**RAIN BARREL DISTRIBUTION AND RAIN HARVESTING WORKSHOP**

Rain Barrels have many benefits. They divert water from storm drain systems, conserve a vital natural resource, protect our waterways from runoff pollution and may help you save money by reducing water bills.

The cost of the rain barrel is \$20 plus tax. Maximum 2 rain barrels per household. Must pre-order to receive your rain barrel.

*If you have purchased 2 barrels from us at a previous event, or received a rebate from SoCalWaterSmart for 2 barrels, you will not be eligible to participate.*

Two timeslots to choose from:

- WORKSHOP 1:** 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.  
**DISTRIBUTION 1:** 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- WORKSHOP 2:** 12 Noon - 1 p.m.  
**DISTRIBUTION 2:** 12 Noon - 2 p.m.

Workshop discussion topics include:

- Rainwater Harvesting
- Installation of a Rain Barrel
- Water Conservation Techniques
- Benefits of a Rain Barrel



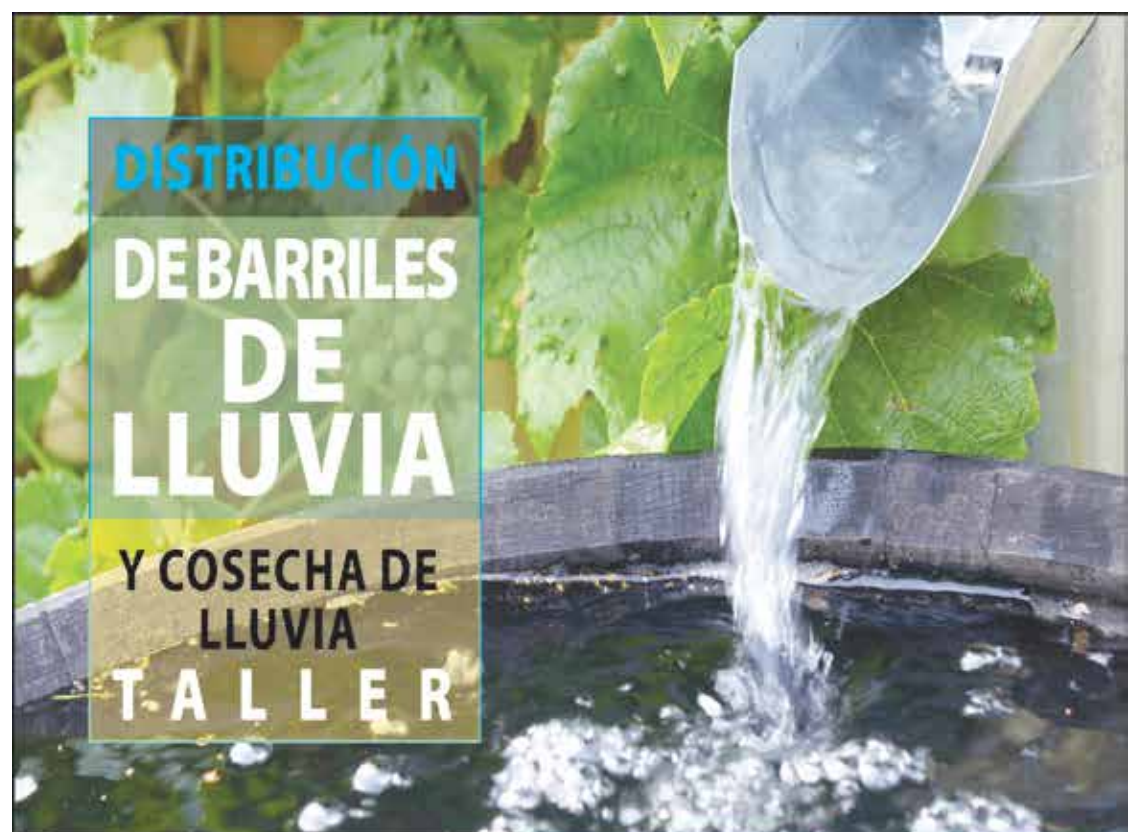
**Date:**  
Saturday, March 14  
**Location:**  
Norwalk City Hall 12700  
Norwalk Blvd.  
Norwalk, CA

**FREE WORKSHOP!**

Pre-Order Required:

Visit [RainBarrelsIntl.com](http://RainBarrelsIntl.com), click the "EVENTS" tab and select "City of Norwalk" or call 919-602-6316

For questions or more information contact:  
[Info@RainBarrelsIntl.com](mailto:Info@RainBarrelsIntl.com) or 919-602-6316



**DISTRIBUCIÓN DE BARRILES DE LLUVIA Y COSECHA DE LLUVIA TALLER**

Los barriles de lluvia tienen muchos beneficios. Desvían el agua de los sistemas de drenaje pluvial, conservan un recurso natural vital, protegen nuestros cursos de agua de la contaminación de la escorrentía y pueden ayudarlo a ahorrar dinero al reducir las facturas de agua.

El costo de barril de lluvia es de \$20 más impuestos. Máximo 2 barriles de lluvia por hogar. Debe pre-ordenar para recibir su barril de lluvia.

*Si compró 2 barriles en un evento anterior, o ha recibido un reembolso de SoCalWaterSmart por 2 barriles, no será elegible para participar.*

Dos horarios de tiempo para elegir:

- TALLER 1:** 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.  
**DISTRIBUCIÓN 1:** 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- TALLER 2:** 12 del mediodía - 1 p.m.  
**DISTRIBUCIÓN 2:** 12 mediodía - 1 p.m.

Los temas de discusión del taller incluyen:

- Colecta de Agua de Lluvia
- Instalación de un Barril de Lluvia
- Técnicas de Conservación de Agua
- Beneficios de un Barril de Lluvia



**Fecha:**  
Sábado 14 de Marzo.  
**Ubicación:**  
Norwalk City Hall  
12700 Norwalk Blvd.  
Norwalk, CA

**GRATUITO TALLER!**

Pre-Pedido Requerido:

Visite [RainBarrelsIntl.com](http://RainBarrelsIntl.com), haga clic en la etiqueta "EVENTOS" y seleccione "Ciudad de Norwalk" o llame al 919-602-6316

Para preguntas o más información, póngase en contacto con: [Info@RainBarrelsIntl.com](mailto:Info@RainBarrelsIntl.com) o 919-602-6316



# Where things stand after the debate

By Neil Patel

After watching the Las Vegas Democratic debate, it's becoming less and less clear how the Democrats plan to defeat, or even challenge, President Donald Trump this fall. As a conservative Republican watching just for kicks, the debate was amazing — tons of drama and entertainment value. But if you are a Democrat committed to getting rid of Trump, it was probably not so much fun. In fact, it had to have been depressing to watch. There were fireworks and interesting storylines, but when the smoke cleared, who was left to take on Trump?

Sen. Elizabeth Warren came out scorching against Michael Bloomberg: "So I'd like to talk about who we're running against, a billionaire who calls women 'fat broads' and 'horse-faced lesbians.' And, no, I'm not talking about Donald Trump. I'm talking about Mayor Bloomberg," she said.

Bloomberg's response? Not a word. He just took it. It left you wondering: Who advised Bloomberg to get into this debate? Bloomberg was chugging along, gaining ground in the polls. His unprecedented campaign, consisting of an advertising onslaught and nothing else, was actually working. But then someone decided Bloomberg should pay off the Democratic National Committee to change their debate qualification rules so he could participate. Besides the obvious corruption of allowing Bloomberg, one of the committee's biggest donors, to change a policy that was not changed for a sitting U.S. senator like Cory Booker, it's pretty clear this strategy backfired on Bloomberg. He could have and should have used the DNC's debate rules as an excuse for staying out longer.

Bloomberg took hits all night for his stop-and-frisk policies, his tax returns, his Republican past, his wealth and a host of other

issues. On his record with women Bloomberg looked especially bad — not-ready-for-prime-time bad. He looked guilty, nervous and flat-out unprepared for the onslaught he faced. Like many other powerful people, he appears to live a life where he just isn't challenged very often. Bloomberg had a shocked "I can't believe anyone's talking to me like this" look on his face for most of the night. It was a little like the look on Jeb Bush's face when Trump first went after him during the 2016 debates.

There was complete malpractice by Bloomberg's massive staff in preparing him for this debate. The overall impression was a guy who's just not ready for such a big stage. Bloomberg's huge bankroll — along with the desire of many Democrats to find an electable alternative to Trump — gives him plenty of opportunity to recover, but this was not a good start.

Joe Biden is becoming a sad afterthought. He's slid so much the others barely even bother attacking him. He's perilously close to becoming the "Saturday Night Live" caricature of himself. There's no coming back when you cross that line. Ask Sarah Palin.

As Biden slips away, it's important to remember that Barack Obama could have helped him at any point — but refused. Biden was Obama's loyal junior partner for eight years. Biden was never treated very well by Team Obama, a pattern that's continuing now. Obama clearly doesn't think Biden's up to the job, and based on his performance to date, it's hard to disagree.

Unless you think Pete Buttigieg, Elizabeth Warren or Amy Klobuchar have a real shot at the nomination, that leaves Sen. Bernie Sanders. Is America ready for a socialist president who honeymooned in the Soviet Union? Sadly, that may be a real possibility. Sanders helped himself a lot in Wednesday's debate. He has a coherent worldview, and at a time when every financial,

academic, political and media institution in America is endangered by failure and corruption, Sanders' tear-it-all-down attitude appeals to the public more than that of any other candidate. When Sanders unloaded on Bloomberg, he spoke for a growing number of Americans who see our system as rigged:

"We have a grotesque and immoral distribution of wealth and income. Mike Bloomberg owns more wealth than the bottom 125 million Americans. That's wrong. That's immoral ... We have enormous problems facing this country, and we cannot continue seeing a situation where, in the last three years, billionaires in this country saw an \$850 billion increase in their wealth — congratulations, Mr. Bloomberg — but the average American last year saw less than a 1% increase in his or her income. That's wrong."

Sanders, along with Trump and unlike all the establishment candidates, has a feel for the frustrations of regular Americans. But in the back of their minds, Democratic primary voters know that Sanders is risky. Going with your heart and voting for Bernie could usher in four more years of Trump. Interestingly, as first Biden and now maybe Bloomberg falter, voters may decide that Sanders isn't much more of a risk after all. The Vegas debate certainly suggested as much. Does anyone think Biden or Bloomberg can debate Trump after their performances? Sanders can. He's a long shot, but amazingly, he may be their best chance at victory.

**Neil Patel co-founded The Daily Caller, one of America's fastest-growing online news outlets, which regularly breaks news and distributes it to over 15 million monthly readers. Patel also co-founded The Daily Caller News Foundation, a nonprofit news company that trains journalists, produces fact-checks and conducts longer-term investigative reporting. The Daily Caller News Foundation licenses its content free of charge to over 300 news outlets, reaching potentially hundreds of millions of people per month.**

# Is Japan capable of hosting the Olympics?

By Koichi Nakano

The Japanese government's response to the coronavirus outbreak has been staggeringly incompetent. Why, when so much is at stake for Japan, especially as the host country of the Olympics this summer?

The first infection in Japan was confirmed on Jan. 28. The World Health Organization declared the coronavirus to be "a public health emergency of international concern" on Jan. 30. But it took until Feb. 17 for the Health Ministry of Japan to even inform the public about when, where and how to contact government health care centers in case of a suspected infection. And it was only this Tuesday that the government finally adopted a "basic policy" for responding to the outbreak — which essentially boiled down to asking people to stay home. As of Wednesday, there were 847 confirmed cases of Covid-19 (and six deaths) in or just offshore of Japan.

Medical professionals are running short of face masks, disinfectant and test kits — and Japan is running short of medical professionals who can perform diagnostic tests. Yet so far Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has rejected the opposition's demand to increase the budget currently under discussion in Parliament, or the Diet, to help tackle the outbreak; he has said it was premature to assume that the existing budget reserve will be insufficient.

And so the Japanese people have been told not to seek testing, nor bother visiting medical institutions unless their symptoms are severe and lasting. Mr. Abe has, in effect, outsourced the government's containment efforts to the population itself, while the state concentrates limited resources on the severely ill and makes little effort to increase those resources. He might also have been thinking: With no test, there can be no rise in confirmed cases either.

The inadequacy of the government's response was laid bare by the unmitigated epidemiological and public relations disaster that was the saga of the Diamond Princess cruise ship. After a 14-day quarantine, at least 634 passengers and crew members (out of a total of 3,645 people) were confirmed to have been infected aboard the ship. "We're in a petri dish," one passenger said. "It's an experiment. We're their guinea pigs."

Since their people started leaving the ship on Feb. 19, confirmed cases among them have been reported in the United States, Australia, Israel and Britain. Whereas those countries placed returning passengers under another 14-day period of isolation, Japan simply released all Japanese nationals from the boat — and at least one of them later tested positive for Covid-19. Twenty-three passengers, most of them Japanese, were also accidentally allowed to go without having undergone mandatory medical tests.

Astonishingly, the Japanese government released without a test more than 90 officials who boarded the ship during the quarantine, even though four had already tested positive — and this, according to one report, because of concern that "they won't be able to fulfill their official duties if found positive." The Health Ministry has since agreed to test 41 officials, but it still won't test any medical professionals and quarantine officers who were on board, on grounds that "they had taken sufficient precautions" themselves.

As some observers have pointed out, a measure of denial and inertia is at play. The Japanese bureaucracy is notoriously dominated by a culture of "kotonakare shugi" (literally, "no-problem-ism"), which prioritizes stability and conformity, and shuns anything that might rock the institutional boat. Sound the alarm about an impending crisis and you might be blamed for causing it.

Mr. Abe's cabinet set up a task force of ministers to handle the novel coronavirus on Jan. 30, but for many days that group was primarily focused on the situation unfolding in China, particularly on evacuating Japanese nationals from Wuhan, the city at the source of the initial outbreak. As recently as Feb. 13, Japan's health minister was still saying that more information was necessary "from an epidemiological standpoint to say infections are growing across the country." Two days later, though, he finally acknowledged that Japan has entered a "new phase" of the outbreak, and now was emphasizing the need to test people and treat the seriously ill. The day after that was the first time the task force convened its panel of experts to seek advice about the conditions in Japan and what measures should be taken.

Why is Mr. Abe — who is no stranger to an authoritarian style of leadership and readily breaks rules and conventions, as well as, arguably, the Constitution, to get his way — not doing more, or more decisively?

The answer might simply be: out of a lack of interest, personal and political. When the expert panel finally gathered on Feb. 16, Mr. Abe addressed it for just three minutes and then spent the rest of the day at home. The task force has met 13 times, but according to the opposition, the prime minister has been seen in attendance a mere 12 minutes on average.

The day after the first Japanese death from Covid-19 was reported, Mr. Abe was at a task force meeting for eight minutes, and then spent nearly three hours at dinner with the chairman and the president of Nikkei, the media organization. Shinjiro Koizumi, the environment minister and a rising star in the ruling party, skipped a task force meeting altogether to attend a New Year's party with supporters from his constituency.

# Media Silence on Voter-Registration Attack Deepens Our Divide

By Salena Zito

In the hours and days after Gregory Timm reportedly plowed his vehicle into a tent of Republican Party volunteers registering voters in the Kernan Village Shopping Center parking lot in Jacksonville, Florida, national coverage of the event has been alarmingly lacking.

Local news channel WJXT reported days later on the arrest report, which showed Timm telling the sheriff's office his "disapproval of Trump" was the motivating factor for the attack. He showed the office a self-recorded video of him driving straight at the volunteers, expressing frustration that the video cut out before "the good part." Even then, as I write this, the best The New York Times could muster

was wire coverage.

No teams of reporters were sent to uncover his dark motivations, upbringing or political leanings. No psychological profiles have been written up, nor have any experts weighed in on how this is a growing threat. These are all tools that would have been used by an army of reporters if Timm had been a Trump supporter plowing into Democratic Party volunteers registering voters.

The problem isn't that Timm's attack on the GOP wasn't covered by most of the media. It's that it wasn't covered with the same voracious appetite news organizations have whenever someone who is even peripherally associated with the right does something to a Democrat.

This isn't whataboutism; this is realism. It gets to the heart of why people, especially conservatives, believe the media not only has a liberal bias but also either doesn't cover stories that show when conservatives are attacked or buries them.

Jeryl Bier, a freelance writer whose dispatches can be found in the Wall Street Journal and National Review, says no journalist can approach the news completely disinterested. "But I find that many reporters and journalists who either present themselves as nonpartisan or nonideological or seem to think they are or that they overcome it in their reporting just can't really seem to do it," he said.

In the odd case of the feeble coverage of the attack on the Republican volunteers, Bier says story selection is clearly a problem, and it is something he has taken to social media to amplify repeatedly.

Bier was also struck by the irony that at the same time he was pointing out on Twitter that The New York Times was literally ignoring the attack, its national editor, Marc Lacey, tweeted there was "a bounty of fabulous new jobs on the @NYTNational staff, all aimed at deepening our coverage of the country. All of them will be based outside of NY and DC."

"I thought it was quite ironic and telling," Bier said, adding that it may be a sure sign the newspaper understands it hasn't gotten the middle of the country for a very long time.

It's one thing to have a reporter parachute in to cover an event. It is another to have him emotionally embedded and wedded to the community he is covering.

One of the many layers of the story untold about the attack was that Timm's intent was likely meant to strike fear in people wanting

to do anything that would associate them with the president in public, including helping him get reelected.

Sen. Rick Scott of Florida said in an interview that the reaction had been the opposite at the Duval County Republican Party headquarters, where the volunteers who were attacked came from. "The chair of the Duval GOP, Dean Black, said not only has interest in volunteering picked way up since the incident, a bunch of Democrats came into the office to personally renounce what happened," he said.

It should come as no shock, particularly if you're conservative or independent, that when it comes to trust in the media, people are sharply divided.

According to a new Pew Research Center study, more Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents trust, rather than distrust, most of the 30 outlets in the study, which includes The New York Times. The reverse is true among Republicans and center-right independents. In fact, the gap has widened substantially in the past six years for Republicans' trust in the media to get the story right, or without bias, or report it at all.

Bier says the danger for right-leaning news organizations is overcompensating for what they see as left-wing bias. "It is truly difficult to walk the line, but more in media need to strive for that balance," he says.

One of the more common observations I hear from people on how my profession reports on politics in this country centers on how Trump has been covered since he became president.

The conversation typically goes something like this: "I don't mind that you scrutinize every move he makes or what his motivations are. That is your job. I just want to know why you didn't cover the last guy with the same gusto, which was also your job."

It is fair to say that logic should also apply to how incidents that affect Republicans are covered. There would have been a week's worth of cable news coverage, several nationwide protests and someone calling for a national conversation by now had the victims of the attack been supporting anyone but Trump.

**Salena Zito is a CNN political analyst, and a staff reporter and columnist for the Washington Examiner.**

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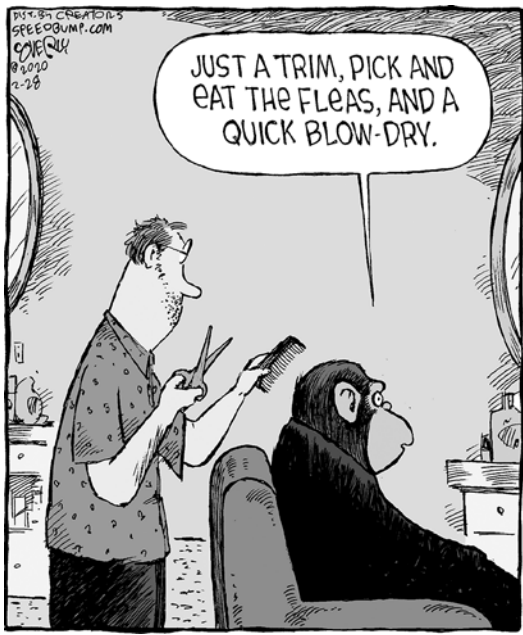
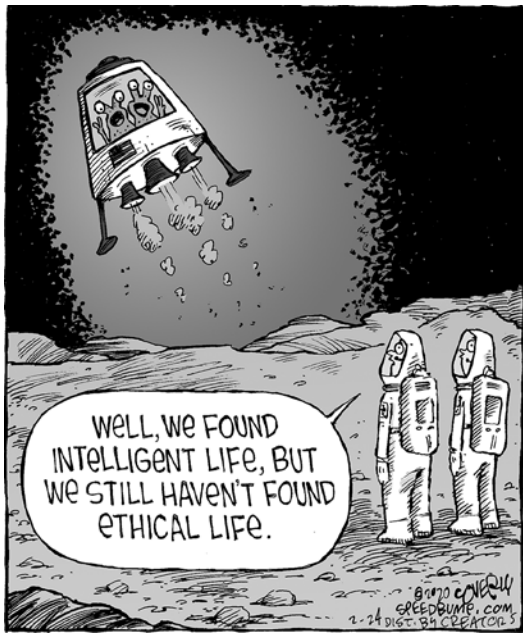
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 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...

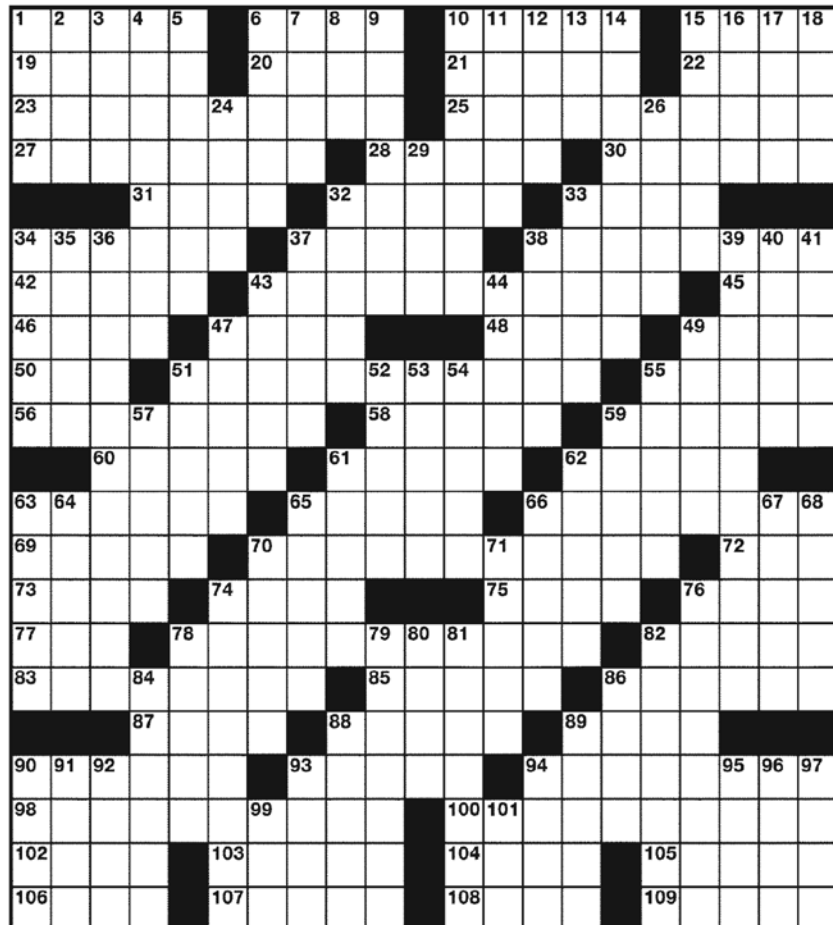
Feb 28, 1849: Regular steamboat service to California via Cape Horn arrived in San Francisco for the first time. The SS California had left New York Harbor on October 6, 1848. The trip took 4 months and 21 days. 1883: The first vaudeville theater opened. 1983: "M\*A\*S\*H" became the most watched television program in history when the final episode aired. 2013: Benedict XVI resigned as pope. He was the first pope to resign since Gregory XII in 1415 and the first to resign voluntarily since Celestine V in 1294.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com) WEAR YOUR FOOD: And a drink, too by S.N.

- ACROSS 1 Embarrassing commotion 6 Do as you're told 10 Bit of land in a river 15 \$5 bills 19 First in Who's Who in the Bible 20 Andean nation 21 Vacuum "feature" 22 Women's touring org. 23 Beef cut 25 Beef cut 27 Military guardians 28 Goes on the lam 30 Have no use for 31 Ship's cargo area 32 Buttercup cousin 33 "And away \_\_\_!" 34 Find believable 37 Disguises (as noun or verb) 38 Bite-size sandwich 42 Linger 43 Farfalle, at a trattoria 45 Detrimental 46 Close \_\_\_ (approach) 47 Unalterable destiny 48 Mine extractions 49 High-debt Wall St. deals 50 Needing a fill-up 51 California almond brand 55 British blade 56 Camping accommodations "\_\_\_ not amused" 59 Western watering hole 60 Orchestral contingent 61 Shoppers' references 62 Journalist Farrow 63 Legendary Indy champ 65 Count of jazz fame 66 Ships before payment 69 Male whales 70 Stuffed fungal fare 72 "I'll take that as \_\_\_" 73 No longer fizzy 74 A fifth of MX 75 Transmission selection 76 Aware of 77 Intention 78 Cylindrical lunch 82 Nation split in 2011 83 Meadowlark cousin 85 Real Time host on HBO 86 Input again 87 Charter NATO member 88 Arafat successor 89 Featherly scarves 90 Crooner's rendition 93 As \_\_\_ resort 94 Most miscellaneous 98 Fried side 100 Vodka/cranberry juice cocktail 102 Innately 103 These, to Ruiz 104 Frosty coating 105 What surrounds some yards 106 Become entangled 107 Raucous 108 Poetic lament 109 Bands of brothers DOWN 1 Fresh talk 2 Bar of soap 3 Ireland nickname 4 Honduras' hemisphere 5 Disorder, in thermodynamics 6 Participated, with "in" 7 Honey bunch 8 Celebrated period 9 Barrel of laughs 10 Fervid 11 Hog call 12 Swim meet practice 13 \_\_\_ for Evidence (Grafton novel) 14 What psis look like 15 Very, unfortunately 16 Lodge letters 17 Auspices 18 Director Gus Van \_\_\_ 24 Riverbank buildup 26 Aqua \_\_\_ (strong acid) 29 Adversary of the Avengers 32 Handled clumsily 33 \_\_\_ up (got smart) 34 Slanted 35 Transport for Hiawatha 36 Multi-rack roast 37 Spots of dust 38 Battle river of 1914 cocktail 39 Yuletide confection 40 Spanish gold 41 Clark Kent colleague 43 Modem measures 44 Half of 55 Down 47 Admiral's armada 49 Much of "Deck the Halls" 51 Hip-hop dudes 52 "In my wild dreams" 53 Norse pantheon 54 San \_\_\_ (Palo Alto neighbor) 55 Stock stat source, for short 57 Hose-clamp fastener 59 Underwater tracker 61 Vision correction acronym 62 Postgame summary 63 '90s Britcom 64 Pop singer Iglesias 65 GM make since 1908 66 Mascara mishap 67 Available if needed 68 Lorna of literature 70 Banquet job 71 Grouchy ones 74 Small fry 76 Nonmember 78 With no tickets, as a driver's license 79 Diplomatic establishment 80 Puts the collar on 81 "\_\_\_ gonna do about it?" 82 Keep anyone from entering 84 Rectangular shape 86 UCLA marching program 88 Math procedures, for short 89 Dutch South Africans 90 Bounces about 91 Common quote attribution 92 Euro predecessor in Palermo 93 Prefix like contra- 94 Bestower of PG's and R's, formerly 95 Novelist O'Brien 96 Splinter group 97 Low numero 99 Prefix like equi- 101 Verizon's ISP

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The MINI OREO (38 Across) was introduced by Nabisco in 1991, discontinued circa 1998, and reintroduced in 2000. BLUE DIAMOND (51 Across) is a cooperative of some 3,500 California almond growers, believed to be responsible for more than half of the state's production. Like a number of other birds, the BOBOLINK (83 Across) is named for its call, which sounds something like "Bob O'Lincoln."







# NORWALK HAPPENINGS

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**PLAY & EXPLORE, 10:30 - 11:30 AM.** Spend time with your child exploring and playing with age-appropriate toys. For ages 0-5 with an adult caregiver. Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd.

**State of the City address, 11 am,** The Norwalk Community Coordinating Council presents the 2020 State of the City Address. The community is invited to learn about Norwalk's upcoming goals and projects, as well as review the past year's accomplishments. The event will include presentations by the Sheriff's Department and Norwalk Chamber of Commerce. Tickets: \$49. Deadline to purchase tickets is February 22. To purchase tickets or for sponsorship info, please contact Gordon at (562) 400-8188 or at bluecamino85@yahoo.com. No ticket sales at the door.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

**Kids Fun Zone, 12 - 3 PM.** This week we'll be making mandalas! Mandalas have been known to have a calming effect over the mind & the artist. Kids will be able to make their very own mandala from scratch or participate

in coloring a pre-made velvet mandala. Norwalk Civic Center.

## MONDAY, MARCH 2

**DBP Spirit Night at Chick-fil-a, 5 pm.** Come out to Chick-Fil-A on Imperial and Bloomfield in Norwalk to support Team DBP in raising funds for their programs and services. All proceeds will benefit youth through backpack distribution, scholarship awards, youth outreach, and mentorship. Let the Chick-Fil-A team know at the register (between 5pm-8pm) that you are there to support Dream Big Project.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020

**Legal Research Class: Custody & Child Support 1:30 - 2:15 pm.** Get the basics on child custody and support, including modifying and enforcing orders, and resources to help. For Adults 18+. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Highway.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 7

**25-Year Anniversary, 7 pm.** Rockabilly band Three Bad Jacks celebrates its 25-year anniversary.

With special guests The Knockout Kings, No Que No, The Ripkatz and Los Paka Lolos. \$15 cover. American Legion Post 359, 11986 Front St.

**Finding the Rest of Me: Where do I Start? 12:00 - 1:30 pm.** Ms. Bocage, a genealogy expert, will introduce the basic requirements to connect your family tree. This visually aided genealogy class will facilitate your journey through forms, charts, and records. For Adults 18+. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Highway.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 20

**Diabolic Lounge, 7 pm to 1:30 am.** Live music by The Psychlocks, The Peabrians, Uptown Psychos, Johnny Dahmer, The Syndicates, Six Silver Bullets and Lost Boys. \$15 presale, \$20 at the door. American Legion Post 359, 11986 Front St.

**Artastic, 6 pm.** free special event that celebrates the arts and highlights the Cultural Arts Center's programs and classes. This community event will feature free art activities and projects, multiple art exhibits, entertainment, a fundraising dinner, and much more! Stop by to see how you can get involved in the creative process and art appreciation. For more

information, please call 929-5521. Norwalk Cultural Arts Center.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 21

**Quartermania, 11 am to 3 pm.** Support Norwalk Woman's Club scholarships while you shop, and bid on items for 1, 2, or 3 quarters. Join us for a fast-paced and fun afternoon where everyone is a winner! \$20 ticket price includes lunch. Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex

## MONDAY, MARCH 23

**Lit Wits Book Club: A Woman of No Importance by Sonia Purnell 6:30 - 7:30 pm.** Read and discuss the never-before-told story of one woman's heroism that changed the course WWII. Virginia Hall was one of the greatest spies in American history, yet her story remains untold. Author, Sonia Purnell uncovers the captivating story of a powerful, influential, yet shockingly overlooked heroine of WWII. For Adults 18+. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Highway.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 11

**Egg-stravagant Egg Hunt, 12:30-3:30 pm.** Families are invited to enjoy an afternoon of fun with egg hunts, games and live entertainment. For more info, please call the Recreation Dept at 562-929-5702. City Hall.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 18

**Grind Now, Die Later fest, 4 pm.** Music event held at American Legion Post 359. Tickets are \$10 online, or \$15 at the door.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 19

**Learn How To Play In A Charity Golf Tournament, 1-4:30 pm.** Join the #Latina Golfers for an in-depth, hands-on, Golf 101 Bootcamp that will teach you how to play in a charity golf tournament. You'll never have to say no to that business golf invitation again! You will learn the do's and don'ts of business golf including golf etiquette. You will also learn the fundamentals of the golf swing and putting. And you will be taken to the golf course to put into action what you learned and learn step-by-step what to do from tee box to the green. No golf experience needed and we provide the golf

equipment. Refunds will be given up to 7 days before event minus a \$28 administrative fee. \$95 cost plus 7.42 processing fee.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 25

**Kids Fun Zone, 12 - 3 PM.** This month we'll be celebrating Dia de Los Niños aka Children's Day! We'll be hosting several unique kids crafts while teaching about Spanish heritage & culture. Norwalk Civic Center.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

**90's Rock Show at Concerts in the Park, 7 pm.** Join your community for an all-ages 90s Concert NIGHT in Norwalk.

Email calendar listings to [eric@thedownypatriot.com](mailto:eric@thedownypatriot.com), or to [alex@thedownypatriot.com](mailto:alex@thedownypatriot.com).

# As threat of Coronavirus looms, crucial testing stalls

Continued from page 1

not including those who have been repatriated. But many state and local health departments lack the test kits they need to diagnose the infections because federal health authorities are still working out kinks in the kits. The limited availability of the kits could hamstring local efforts to handle the anticipated rise in cases and identify cases that now exist, public-health and hospital officials said.

Testing for the virus has been relatively slow because most local health officials must ship patient samples to the CDC in Atlanta and isolate these patients while waiting for the results. That can take days. To speed up diagnoses, the CDC wants to send test kits to state and local health departments.

But the rollout stalled earlier this month after the kits produced inconclusive results during verification testing at state and local health

departments.

"We still do not know when the CDC kit replacements will come out, and our members are pretty anxious about it," said Scott Becker, chief executive officer of the Association of Public Health Laboratories. "It doesn't feel like a good place to be."

The CDC said it is working to remanufacture the reagent, the substance used in a chemical reaction in the tests, that is suspected to be at fault for the inconclusive results. Once that is done it will send out replacements.

Twelve states and localities are now testing for the virus themselves using kits determined to be effective. The CDC said it hopes commercial tests might be available soon to augment the CDC kit used by health departments and hospitals.

Tests are needed, especially

if cases expand, because the symptoms of the coronavirus, such as a fever and a dry cough, are similar to those of the flu and other viral infections, said David Weber, medical director at the University of North Carolina Hospitals' Departments of Hospital Epidemiology.

A delay in testing adds to the burdens of hospitals that need to keep patients while they wait for the results.

"U.S. hospitals are not set up to have a huge number of extra beds that are just sitting vacant, including those with quarantine capacity," said Michael Mina, an associate medical director in clinical microbiology and pathology at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

# Downey forced to adjust to \$2 million Measure S shortfall

By Alex Dominguez Staff Writer

Adjustments and added projects have pushed the estimated cost of Downey's Measure S initiative over \$16,000,000 to what was originally planned

DOWNEY - City council revised and amended cost estimates for Measure S on Tuesday, adjusting to compensate for changes in several of the tax's projects.

According to a report by city staff, the scope of several Measure S projects were expanded and improved upon during the course of implementation, such as

the remodeling of the four fire stations becoming a comprehensive modernization.

New projects have been added to the program as well, including the Wilderness Park pond restoration, a firefighters memorial, and new futsal courts at Independence Park.

Currently, total available funding is estimated to be around \$64,335,000, short nearly \$2 million of the newly projected \$66,247,000 cost.

This shortfall could be

covered using proceeds from a future unspecified real estate transaction, which will be presented as part of the city's fiscal year 2020-21 budget.

Measure S funding became available in December of 2017, and projects subsequently began the following April. All projects are to conclude by December this year.

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# A Mamba memorial

By William Odis Martin  
Contributor

Laker Nation amassed Monday morning to bid its final farewell to Kobe and Gigi Bryant. I was blessed to be one of the 20,000 some odd fans welcomed into the Staples Center to celebrate Kobe's life with his closest friends and family, a memory I intend to retain close to my heart until I meet my grave.

It was the ultimate culmination of nearly a month of grieving the fallen superstar and his beloved second oldest daughter, two of the nine people who perished in a helicopter accident in January.

The memorable event fatefully fell on 2/24/20-- a numerologists' nocturnal

emission. The number two is relevant for Gigi's jersey number, while the 24 is for her dad, and 20 is for the number of years he dedicated to the purple and gold.

Beyoncé's breathtaking performance opened the proceedings which truly set the tone. I could hear fellow mourners weeping all around me as her harmonies and angelic octaves serenaded us to shreds. She finished with a kiss up to the heavens to her longtime friend.

A visibly emotional Jimmy Kimmel was the perfect host as he successfully peppered in his lighthearted humor while maintaining the somberness of the special occasion. Hall of Fame speakers included NBA greats Shaquille O'Neal and

Michael Jordan.

I fully expected Shaq to reflect and share some personal memories from his time sharing the court with his iconic teammate, but I was completely shocked that MJ made it a point to honor Kobe's legacy.

It was a rare, 10-minute, heartfelt, soggy podium appearance by MJ, who praised Kobe's competitive spirit and drive to be the best version of himself in all facets of life.

"In the game of basketball, in life, and as a parent, Kobe left nothing in the tank. He left it all on the floor," remembered Jordan.

Jordan admitted that Kobe came off as a pesky little brother at first, always asking annoying

questions, trying to pick their big brother's brains. But MJ eventually grew into the new role Kobe created for him in his life and was proud to consider him a little brother. MJ looked forward to sharing his insights and expertise with his little bro anytime he asked.

"No matter where he saw me, it was a challenge," recalled a teary eyed Jordan. "And I admired him because of his passion. You rarely see someone who is looking and trying to improve each and every day, not just in sports but as a parent, as a husband. I am inspired by what he has done, what he has shared with Vanessa and with his kids."

Rob Pelinka, Lakers general manager and one of Kobe's closest friends, shared some of

his most intimate memories with both Kobe and his goddaughter Gigi. He shared some of Kobe's best qualities as a friend, father, and advocate for women's athletics. He explained bearing witness to Mamba's genius and obsessive drive which allowed him to accomplish the impossible.

Alicia Keys performed Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" which Kobe learned to play by ear to impress his love of his life, Vanessa.

The Mom-ba was powerful and gracious. She was bold and embodied Kobe's fearlessness as she shared their most precious memories with the city he adored.

Christina Aguilera performed

one of the greatest renditions I have ever heard of "Ava Maria" in Italian before being awkwardly ushered off the stage just as she was about to address the audience. She seemed like she had something to say which was my only minute blemish from the two-hour celebration.

All of the proceeds from the sold out memorial went directly to the Mamba & Mambacita Foundation, which will be continuing its legacy by bringing positive impact through sports. To donate or learn more about the cause check out their website. <https://mambamambacitasports.org>

## Trailers for homeless start arriving in South L.A.

LOS ANGELES - The first 10 trailers sent by Governor Gavin Newsom to Los Angeles County to help alleviate California's homeless crisis arrived in South Los Angeles last week.

Previously used by first responders to the Camp Fire in Northern California, the trailers are being repurposed to temporarily house 10 homeless families with children who are currently living on the streets - in cars or dilapidated RV's - or in rented motel rooms in South L.A.

The trailers are the centerpiece of a project called Safe Landing for Families-Broadway.

"State government is doing more than ever before to combat homelessness. This first wave of trailers to Los Angeles County

is part of our state's broader effort to deploy more resources directly into communities," said Newsom. "California is treating homelessness like the crisis it is and it's going to take every level of government stepping up to do their part. I appreciate LA County leaders for providing land and putting these critically needed resources to work."

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas filed the Board of Supervisors motion to request the trailers from the Governor and to develop the Safe Landings for Families-Broadway project. Councilmember Price filed the Los Angeles City Council motion to expedite the lease for the project site, an LA City-owned parking lot at Broadway and 85th Street.

"Where there's a will, there's a way," Ridley-Thomas said. "Just three weeks after identifying a site for the trailers, we have the manifestation of collective civic action. The State of California, LA County and LA City, working shoulder-to-shoulder with the nonprofit, philanthropy and private sectors, as well as residents and volunteers, have created a safe landing for families transitioning out of homelessness. This is what a crisis response can and should look like."

"With the addition of this location, families will now be offered a fresh start to get back on their feet and on track to building a better future. We're not only transforming their lives, but restoring their dignity," said Councilman Curren Price. "We understand the magnitude of this humanitarian crisis and we need to examine every possible solution from different angles. We must continue to work collaboratively and expeditiously with our partners if we are to solve the crisis of our generation."

One of LA County's Measure

H-funded nonprofit partners, St. Joseph Center, deployed street outreach teams to identify the families who would move into the trailers. At the project site, it will provide the families with wraparound services and connect them to longer-term affordable housing.

"We are so excited to be part of this innovative solution for homeless families from the local community," St. Joseph Center President and CEO Va Lecia Adams Kellum, Ph.D. said. "We look forward to working with them and providing the wraparound services they need to get permanently housed and back on their feet. It's an honor to be a partner in this important first step to getting homeless families to a place of health and stability."

Over the last few weeks, LA County's Chief Executive Office and Public Works Department, in coordination with LA City's Department of Water and Power and other agencies, expedited the installation of electricity, water and sewage connections at the site, as well as other improvements to make it a safe, secure and welcoming environment.

"The LA County Board of Supervisors has engaged every County agency in its effort to provide a safe landing for the region's homeless," LA County Public Works Director Mark Pestrella said. "One of the most significant challenges for our unsheltered neighbors is living without access to the elements of basic human need: safety, shelter and access to clean water. Together, we have equipped 10 RV trailers with power and sewer connections; heat; and a safe, clean water supply. LA County Public Works is proud to be part of the state and regional partnership that is providing a Safe Landing for Families."

To help ensure that Safe

Landing for Families lives up to its name, the real estate development firm Trammell Crow Co., along with ConAm Building Co. and Unisource Solutions, donated a trailer for the St. Joseph Center staff to use as an office at the site. Meanwhile, the California Community Foundation donated funds for a playground, dog run and patio area.

"This project is an example of how - in just three weeks - the State, the County, the City, and the private sector can come together and make a difference for 10 families," Trammell Crow Senior Managing Director Brad Cox said. "That comes from a collaboration, a partnership, a recognition that this problem is not going to be solved in a silo. It needs to be solved with each of us taking individual ownership, having our companies take ownership, and making a difference so that we can solve and address this problem. We are so pleased to be part of this project, and we thank you for the opportunity."

On Saturday, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, Councilmember Price, St. Joseph Center and United Way of Greater LA will host a Community Day with about 50 volunteers and residents from surrounding neighborhoods to prepare and beautify the site. This includes installing landscaping, equipping the trailers with basic necessities, and creating welcome baskets for the families who will move in.

Later this month, Caltrans will deliver the second batch of 10 trailers to Safe Landing for Families-Exposition, which will be in the parking lot of a former LA County Probation building on Exposition and Crenshaw Boulevards.

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