

## Beware crisis scams, warns IRS

Contributed by the IRS

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will begin to distribute COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments in a matter of weeks. For most Americans, this will be a direct deposit into your bank account. For the unbanked, elderly or other groups that have traditionally received tax refunds via paper check, they will receive their economic impact payments in this manner as well.

With any good news story from the IRS, comes an opportunity for criminals and scammers to take advantage of the American public.

- Scammers may try to get you to sign over your check to them.

- Scammers may use this as an opportunity to get you to “verify” your filing information in order to receive your money, using your personal information to file false tax returns in an identity theft scheme.

Between these two schemes, everyone receiving an economic impact payment is at risk.

The Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI) is working tirelessly alongside our civil counterparts and law enforcement partners to identify scams and halt wrongdoers from taking advantage of the American people. Special Agent in Charge Ryan L. Korner warns, “unfortunately criminals are taking this unprecedented pandemic as an opportunity to exploit the public. It is critical now more than ever to remain vigilant for scams that are attempting to steal your personal information and your money. All Americans should specifically be on the lookout for scammers trying to directly steal their COVID-19 Economic Impact Payment, as well as fraudsters trying to trick them into providing sensitive information by convincing them it is required to receive their payment from the IRS.”

“While much of the country is working from home, scammers and con artists are also working – on schemes to steal your money,” said United States Attorney Nick Hanna. “Criminals are taking advantage of the health emergency, so I urge everyone to heed the warnings to protect your personal information, your bank account and anything potentially valuable to a fraudster. The Justice Department will vigorously investigate and prosecute criminals, but we need everyone to be extra careful so they can avoid becoming a victim.”

The IRS will deposit your economic impact payment into the direct deposit account you previously provided on your tax return (or, in the alternative, send you a paper check). The IRS will not call and ask you to verify your payment details. Do not give out your bank account, debit account, or PayPal account information – even if someone claims it is necessary to get your economic impact payment. Beware of this scam.

If you receive a call, do not engage with scammers or thieves. Just hang up. If you receive texts or emails claiming that you can get your money faster by sending personal information or clicking on links, delete them. Do not click on any links in those emails.

Reports are also swirling about bogus checks. If you receive a “check” in the mail now, it’s a fraud -- it will take the Treasury Department a few weeks to distribute the payments. If you receive a “check” for an odd amount (especially one with cents), or a check that requires that you verify the check online or by calling a number, it’s fraud.

Continued on page 6

## Costco limits shopping parties to two per membership

Only two shoppers per membership will be allowed into Costco, beginning today

**NORWALK** – Costco is once again temporarily changing its policy in response to the global coronavirus pandemic, which has caused store traffic to spike and in-demand items to sell out across the country.

Beginning April 3, members will only be allowed to bring one guest inside the store with them. Previously, Costco members could bring two guests per membership card, as well as their children.

The big-box chain explained the decision on its website, saying the move is designed to control the amount of people in the warehouse at one time.

“This temporary change is for your safety and the safety of our employees and other members, and to further assist with our social distancing efforts,” the website reads.

Costco has been routinely updating procedures in an effort to better protect its employees and customers.

Over the past few weeks, Costco has altered its hours, increased its sanitization



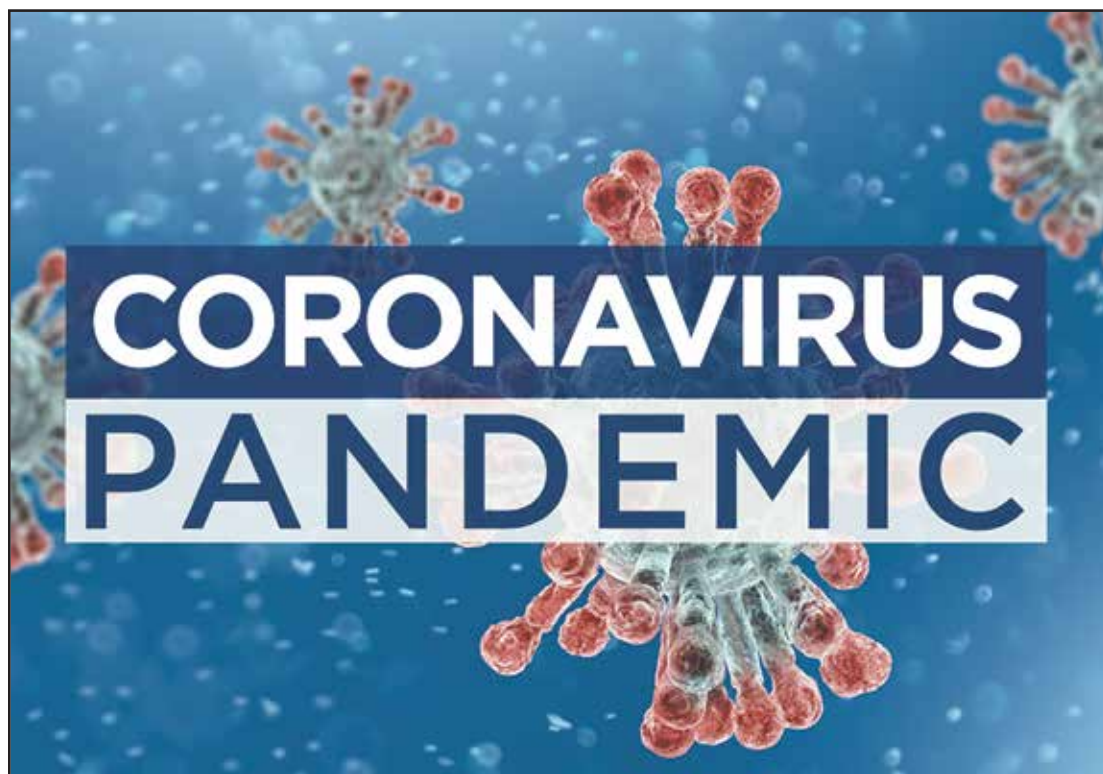
Long lines of shoppers wait outside Norwalk’s Costco store. Photo by Alex Dominguez

of high-touch surfaces like shopping cart handles and merchandise shelves, and placed limits on in-demand items. The warehouses also stopped offering food sampling and are no longer accepting returns on certain merchandise.

In a letter from CEO and President Craig Jelinek, he said the brand is “closely monitoring the situation” and complying with guidance from public health officials.

“As new information

becomes available, management is keeping warehouse staff well informed so they can respond swiftly and appropriately,” the letter reads. “While the circumstances continue to change and we modify our operations as necessary, we thank you for your patience and cooperation. As new developments occur, be assured we are committed to taking care of our members and employees and to our mission of providing low prices, quality merchandise and exceptional service.”



## Coronavirus cases climb every day

Coronavirus numbers continue to surge in Southern California.

By Eric Pierce  
Editor

**NORWALK** — The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Norwalk continues to swell daily, with the city hosting nearly two dozen patients as of Thursday.

Officials with the L.A. County Department of Health said Wednesday that Norwalk has 21 confirmed COVID-19 cases. The number is expected to rise as testing becomes more prevalent.

Health officials did not say if the 21 cases were Norwalk residents, hospital patients, or both.

To date, authorities have identified 3,518 coronavirus cases across all areas of LA County, including 65 deaths.

Of those who were sick, 733

have been hospitalized at some point during their illness.

Emerging evidence suggests that there may be a significant number of people infected with COVID-19 who are asymptomatic and capable of spreading the virus to others.

New guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests that people should consider using universal precautions all the time – assuming that each of us can infect others even when we aren’t sick.

“Our sadness is not diminished by the daily frequency of announced deaths related to COVID-19, and reminds us of our need to work together to protect each other,” said Barbara Ferrer, Los Angeles County Public Health Director.

“The hard truth is we have some difficult days ahead as we work tirelessly to flatten the curve of this horrible virus. Though the end may not be as close as we’d like, if we all

continue to do our part to slow the spread by staying home, social distancing, self-isolating when we are positive or presumed positive, and self-quarantining if we are close contacts of a positive case, we will get to the end of the COVID-19 crisis more quickly, together.”

Public Health has issued the following guidance for people with mild illness during this time of increased spread:

If you are mildly sick, stay home for at least seven days and until 72 hours after being fever and symptom free. Call your doctor if you are concerned and/or your symptoms worsen. Individuals who are elderly, have underlying health conditions or pregnant should consider contacting their providers earlier when they are sick.

Surrounding cities have also received confirmed coronavirus cases, including Downey (37), Whittier (15), Pico Rivera (14), South Gate (25) and Paramount (10).

## Norwalk restaurant grades

**Hola Pho**  
11575 Rosecrans Ave.  
Inspected: 3/13/20  
Grade: **A**

**Taco Bell**  
12503 Alondra Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 3/13/20  
Grade: **A**

**Noemi’s Mexican Restaurant**  
14350 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 3/13/20  
Grade: **A**

**Hibachi Grill Buffet**  
14021 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 3/12/20  
Grade: **A**

**The Poke Co.**  
12200 Civic Center Dr.  
Date Inspected: 3/12/20  
Grade: **B**

**Ana’s Bionicos**  
10977 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 3/12/20  
Grade: **A**

**RC Burgers**  
14041 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 3/12/20  
Grade: **A**

**Costco - Bakery**  
12324 Hoxie Ave.  
Date Inspected: 3/12/20  
Grade: **A**

**Costco - Pizza**  
12324 Hoxie Ave.  
Date Inspected: 3/12/20  
Grade: **A**

**El Eden**  
10628 E Imperial Hwy.  
Date Inspected: 3/11/20  
Grade: **A**

**Casa Adelita**  
12842 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 3/11/20  
Grade: **A**

**Un Rinconcito Argentino**  
10633 Imperial Hwy.  
Date Inspected: 3/11/20  
Grade: **A**

**El Pollo Loco**  
11473 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 3/10/20  
Grade: **A**

**Yoshinoya Beef Bowl**  
12555 Alondra Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 3/10/20  
Grade: **A**

**Angelina’s Famous Pizza**  
12553 Alondra Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 3/10/20  
Grade: **A**

**Food 4 Less Bakery**  
10901 Imperial Hwy.  
Date Inspected: 3/10/20  
Grade: **A**

**Kikka**  
11660 Firestone Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 3/10/20  
Grade: **A**

**Santos Juice Bar**  
13324 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 3/9/20  
Grade: **A**

**IHOP**  
12623 Norwalk Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 3/9/20  
Grade: **A**

**Chinatown Express**  
13935 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 3/9/20  
Grade: **A**

**California Bakery**  
11860 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 3/5/20  
Grade: **A**

**California Sushi and Teriyaki**  
12305 Norwalk Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 3/5/20  
Grade: **A**

**Foodium**  
12440 Imperial Hwy.  
Date Inspected: 3/5/20  
Grade: **A**

## Weekend at a Glance

Friday 72° ☀️

Saturday 71° ☀️

Sunday 65° ☁️

### THINGS TO DO



#### Gentefied

All Weekend - Netflix

The Morales cousins scramble to save their grandfather’s taco shop – and pursue their own dreams – as gentrification shakes up their LA neighborhood.



#### Tangerine

All Weekend - Hulu

A prostitute tears through Tinseltown on Christmas Eve searching for the pimp who broke her heart.



#### Fantasia

All Weekend - Disney+

A collection of animated interpretations of great works of Western classical music. The film was released in 1940 and produced by Walt Disney.



#### Dollface

All Weekend - Prime Video

After breaking up with her longtime boyfriend, a woman tries to reconnect with the friends she lost during the relationship.



#### Cadillac Records

All Weekend - Netflix

The rise of Chess Records and its recording artists, including Chuck Berry, Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon and the great Etta James.

### TWEET OF THE WEEK

UPDATE: We are extending the suspension of parking enforcement for preferential parking and street sweeping to APRIL 30. Please share with friends & neighbors. @CityofNorwalkCA

Twitter.com/NorwalkPatriot



# Downey fashion designer Johana Hernández making safety masks for hospital workers

**DOWNEY** — To help combat the COVID-19 health crisis, Downey's Johana Hernández, fashion designer of choice amongst new Latinx Hollywood celebrities, is making safety masks for hospital workers at PIH Health Hospital in Downey.

Hernández's connection to the hospital is personal — her father's life was saved from a heart attack by the hospital's expert staff.

Hernández is also teaching people how to make safety masks from home through online videos on the Glaudi YouTube channel.

Hernández recently launched Glaudi Beverly Hills and was inducted into the Hall of Fame at her alma mater Downey High

School, where she was enshrined along the likes of The Carpenters and Metallica's James Hetfield.

Born in Compton of Salvadorian parents, Hernández is the first designer of Salvadorian descent to go to Paris Fashion Week and has designed many dresses for young Latinx celebrities. Like many Latin American immigrants, her parents worked long hours in the Los Angeles garment industry sewing for brands such as Calvin Klein, Guess and Gap.

This is where Hernández got her inspiration to make her own name in fashion. At age 19, she got her first job as a head designer. Her first collection was presented in the Wall Street Journal.

At age 22, she was the head designer for Seven7 Jeans, in where she designed for all sizes including plus sizes. She also designed for Isaac Mizrahi Jeans, Eli Tahari, Disney personality Hannah Montana, and more.

Hernández' collections are available exclusively at GLAUDI stores locations. At age 24, she showcased her own collection, GLAUDI by Johana Hernández for a cause; through her fashion events and sales, she would donate for low income children in Latin America.

Hernández also made her triumphant return from Paris Fashion Week where she showed for the third time, a first for a designer of Salvadorian descent.



# Downey pastor dies of COVID-19

**DOWNEY** — Alex Bernard, an outreach pastor at Desert Reign Church in Downey, died Saturday, one week after he was diagnosed with COVID-19.

"Our hearts are heavy. Our dear Pastor Alex has gone on to be with the Lord," the church wrote on Facebook. "He loved the Lord, his family and had a huge heart to help people. He will be missed beyond words."

Bernard posted a selfie on March 20 from Kaiser Permanente, where he went after experiencing a dry cough. His condition quickly deteriorated.

"My brother was a faithful servant of God," Zenaida Galindo Ortega posted on Facebook. "He

loved doing the Lord's work. Feeding the homeless on Skid Row, praying for people in the hospital, preaching in the jails in Mexico, outreaching to others with his delicious BBQ cooking. He was a great man and he will be truly missed."

"We were praying for a miracle of healing. What we had was a miracle right in front of us," added his daughter, Crystal Harris. "My dad's whole life was a miracle in motion out on display for everyone to see the goodness and mercy of God."

Highly active in the community, Bernard was a member of the Rotary Club of Downey.

"Alex was always ready to lend a hand where needed in the club or here in the community," Rotary Club President Nathan Mahoney said in an email. "He touched and blessed so many lives with his kindness and willingness to help others. His life was one of service to god and to people. It will be a huge void that will be very hard to fill. I can't begin to imagine the pain his family is going through. I ask you please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers."

A GoFundMe page is collecting donations to help pay for Bernard's funeral.

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# Andrew Cuomo reminds us how it's done

By Jeff Robbins

In “The Splendid and the Vile,” his new book about former Prime Minister Winston Churchill’s stewardship of Britain through the desperate early months of World War II, Erik Larson details the seemingly hopeless circumstances confronting the country. Germany had overrun Europe and was poised to begin a bombing campaign aimed at obliterating British cities and, if that didn’t force England’s surrender, to invade England. By late 1941, 45,000 Britons had been killed and 52,000 injured. Three hundred thousand British soldiers were trapped at Dunkirk, certain to be captured or annihilated. German submarines were preventing supplies from reaching Britain, which was effectively on its own.

Churchill was defiant. “We shall not fail or falter,” he proclaimed. “We shall not weaken or tire. Neither the sudden shock of battle nor the long-drawn trails of vigilance and exertion will wear us down.” His people knew that he was as tireless as he was asking them to be. “Papa has served them with his heart (and) his mind,” Churchill’s daughter wrote in her diary, “and they have given him in his finest and darkest hour their love and confidence.”

It is fair to say that Americans have not been similarly blessed during the current crisis. The Daily Dissemble, the White House “briefings” on the novel coronavirus, are substantially mixtures of misrepresentation and nonsense. The president has two signature specialties. One is making claims demonstrated within 24 hours to be misleading or simply false. The other is settling upon a truly meaningless banality (“It’s very important that our economy be strong. A strong economy is very, very important. Really important.”) and just repeating it endlessly, as though doing so makes it less meaningless. Both have been on full display during these briefings.

One bright spot has been New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who, like Churchill, has had to deliver continuously dreadful news while inspiring confidence. Americans confined to their homes have taken to tuning in to the governor’s daily press conferences not only to hear about the state of things in New York but also to get reminded of what leadership looks like.

It has been 90 years since Americans made it a regular point to listen to what a leader had to say. Our grandparents and great-grandparents gathered to listen to then-President Franklin Roosevelt’s fireside chats during the Great Depression because they felt they could trust him: to tell the truth, to know what he was doing, to have a plan of action, to empathize with them. Cuomo brings these qualities to his briefings, and Americans living nowhere near New York tune in because of it.

In truth, even a leader merely playing with the proverbial full deck of cards would be a sight for sore eyes for Americans, who have been deprived of this for three years. But Cuomo has been just what the doctor ordered. In contrast to the president’s profound unreliability, Cuomo exudes command: Here is Plan A. Here is why it is urgent that Plan A work. Here are the problems that we face making Plan A work. Here is what we are doing to solve those problems. Here is Plan B.

Cuomo, a tough political gut fighter, has provided both humanity and inspiration while showcasing hands-on management.

“This is going to be a long day, and it’s going to be a hard day, and it’s going to be an ugly day, and it’s going to be a sad day,” Cuomo told the National Guard before deploying it to assist reeling New Yorkers.

He reaffirmed the words of his late father and predecessor, Gov. Mario Cuomo, on what a democratic government is supposed to



mean. It is, he reiterated, “family, mutuality, the sharing of benefits and burdens for the good of all, feeling one another’s pain, sharing one another’s blessings — reasonably, honestly, fairly, without respect to race or sex or geography or political affiliation.”

Cuomo’s management and words have reassured a deeply anxious nation, one that is grateful to him for his finest hour.

*Jeff Robbins, a former assistant United States attorney and United States delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, was chief counsel for the minority of the United States Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.*

# Why did the U.S. put China first?

By Michelle Malkin

A little less than two months ago, the U.S. State Department made a curious announcement that suggests President Trump’s “America First” administration put “China First” at a critical moment during the burgeoning Wuhan pandemic.

I asked the State Department about the controversy this week — and the vague and nonresponsive responses I received on background from a Foggy Bottom spokesperson raise more questions than they answer.

The Feb. 7, 2020 press statement attributed to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is headlined: “The United States Announces Assistance to Combat the Novel Coronavirus.” That week, we are told, the State Department “facilitated the transportation of nearly 17.8 tons of donated medical supplies to the Chinese people, including masks, gowns, gauze, respirators, and other vital materials. These donations are a testament to the generosity of the American people.”

Whoa, whoa, whoa. Nearly 18 tons of critical medical supplies went to the Communist government whose country unleashed COVID-19 on the world, downplayed it, punished whistleblowers who warned about it and attacked critics worldwide as racist? Whose idea was this “generosity?” Which “American people” approved this plan? Was the aid solicited or unsolicited? I asked our government.

The answer: “We have no additional details at this time.”

The press statement elaborated further that “the United States government is announcing it is prepared to spend up to \$100 million in existing funds to assist China and other impacted countries... to contain and combat the novel coronavirus. This commitment — along with the hundreds of millions generously donated by the American private sector — demonstrates strong U.S. leadership in response to the outbreak.”

How much of the “up to \$100 million” has been spent to assist China instead of the American people since Feb. 7, I asked our

government.

The answer: No reply.

By what means were the 18 tons of medical goods transported: Air or sea? If by sea, on what ships were the goods transported to China and when and where did they arrive? If by air, which carriers transported the goods and when and where did they arrive?

(I asked about shipping because U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao’s family owns the New York-based multinational shipping behemoth, Foremost Group. The mega-fleet was built in China, subsidized with loans from the ChiComs’ Export-Import bank and conducts nearly three-quarters of its freight business in China. Secretary Chao was designated an “international consultant” of the Wuhan government in 2009. Her sister, Angela Chao, is CEO of Foremost and organized a humanitarian shipment of masks, gloves and gowns from New York to Wuhan in partnership with the “Hubei Charity Foundation” a week after the State Department’s press statement.)

I also asked whether any of the precious medical supply items shipped to China in February were sent back to the U.S. as part of White House adviser Jared Kushner’s “Project Airbridge” transfer of personal protective equipment last weekend from China to New York — including 130,000 N95 masks, 1.8 million face masks and gowns, more than 10.3 million gloves and more than 70,000 thermometers?

Here’s the full answer I received from the State Department spokesperson:

“In early February the American people demonstrated their characteristic generosity by donating 17.8 tons of medical supplies to help the Chinese people contain the impact and stem the spread of COVID-19 from Wuhan to other parts of China and the world. These donations were provided by Samaritan’s Purse, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Intermountain Healthcare, and Boeing. The State Department facilitated the delivery of these medical supplies to Project HOPE in China on flights that ultimately brought

home over 800 American citizens back from Wuhan at the outbreak of the pandemic.”

Odd. Very odd. Boeing’s huge shipment of 250,000 medical masks was reported on Jan. 29, more than a week before the State Department’s announcement. Side note: Was it “characteristic generosity” or self-serving corporate relations? The troubled aircraft company has been desperately seeking business after China’s de facto boycott the past couple of years and stands to benefit most from the China trade deal signed in January. Also: Did the multinational company’s purported goodwill gesture deprive the American people of scarce PPE resources? Sure seems so.

LDS’s own press statement about its donations to China was also released Jan. 29 and made no mention of the State Department’s role in facilitating delivery of “220,000 respirator masks, 870 protective goggles and more than 6,500 protective coveralls.” It appears LDS has its very own special relationship with “Project Hope,” a nongovernmental organization that works closely with the Chinese Ministry of Health. The church chartered flights from Salt Lake City and Atlanta to Shanghai at the behest of its president, Dr. Russell Nelson, who had performed heart surgeries in China. Photos of the LDS church’s PPE drop show LDS volunteers in Shanghai smiling in front of a massive wall of 3M boxes full of medical equipment on Feb. 4.

Finally, the State Department’s red-flag mention that some of the planes used to deliver these resources to China brought back 800 Americans from Wuhan deserves more probing. Was this entire “charitable” exercise — which sent abroad 18 tons of the very items Americans are now desperately scraping to manufacture out of paper towels, pillow fabric and bandanas — cover for some sort of COVID-pro-quo?

Inquiring minds ought to know.

*Michelle Malkin is a syndicated columnist. Her email address is MichelleMalkinInvestigates@protonmail.com.*

# Keep the government out of private labor

By John Stossel

Congress passed and the president signed a \$2 trillion “stimulus” bill.

“Not enough!” shrieked politicians. They said the government must do more.

They demanded President Donald Trump reactivate the Defense Production Act, a 1950 law that lets government force companies to make things.

Trump hesitated.

That upset lovers of big dictatorial government. They demanded the president order companies to make respirators, masks and other desperately needed medical equipment.

CNN’s Alisyn Camerota joined the media mob asking “What’s the holdup?!” Then a White House press reporter confronted Trump at the White House, asking, “Why not use it now?”

The president surprised me by responding: “We’re a country not based on nationalizing our business. Call a person over in Venezuela, ask them, ‘how did nationalization of their businesses work out?’ Not too well.”

No, it didn’t.

Venezuela was once one of the richest countries in Latin America. Now it’s one of the poorest.

That’s because government dictating production leads to less production.

Although Venezuela has more oil in the ground than any other country, once the socialists nationalized the oil industry, production declined. Today, Venezuelans struggle to buy gasoline.

When government orders companies to do things, companies don’t innovate. They’re less able to adjust quickly to market demand. That’s the topic of my new video.

Today, hospitals need more ventilators. But the government doesn’t need to order companies to make more. The private sector is already on it.

Automakers slowed car production and are gearing up their factories to produce ventilators. Other businesses are, too. That’s what businesses do when conditions change; they pivot.

Distillers that once made gin and vodka now make hand sanitizer. The federal government had to waive regulations to allow them to sell it.

Some give it away. It’s not just charity; it’s “goodwill.” They hope customers will remember the good deed, and that’ll lead to profit in the future.

The best catalyst to spur production is simple pursuit of profit. It’s what gets companies to produce new things instantly. Unlike governments, businesses have no guaranteed income. To survive, let alone grow, they must constantly innovate to make sure more money comes in than goes out.

The socialists call that “greed.”

Without question, some tycoons are greedy. They pursue profit to the point that they have more money than they will ever need.

That’s fine. That greed for success drives them to get me what I need.

I assume it’s what inspired Ford to start using 3D printers to make face masks.

The profit motive delivers the goods. Higher prices tell companies what products are most urgently needed.

When our government failed to produce enough coronavirus test kits, private companies filled the gap. Some offered convenient tests you could use at home.

But the government didn’t like it, saying the test hadn’t been approved. The tests were withdrawn.

Government’s rules often make it harder for private actors to help people. In a crisis, America’s unsung heroes are people who overcome that.

Many truck drivers wanted to work overtime to help, but federal law said they must not work more than 11 hours a day. Finally, the government suspended the regulation.

We ought to suspend a lot of these rules permanently. Allow Americans to make our own choices about when we want to work.

In this crisis, businesses are trying all sorts of new things. Supermarkets started offering special “senior hours” so older people can safely get supplies we need.

Musicians are livestreaming concerts.

Restaurants are switching to takeout and delivery.

People have lost jobs, but if businesses are free to adapt, they’ll create many new jobs.

Because demand for deliveries has increased, Amazon is hiring 100,000 new workers. Walmart is hiring 150,000.

The free market adjusts. We don’t need “production acts” to tell us what to do.

*John Stossel is author of “Give Me a Break: How I Exposed Hucksters, Cheats, and Scam Artists and Became the Scourge of the Liberal Media.”*

## Rent relief

Dear Editor:

There is a movement to allow renters not to pay rent while the coronavirus crisis is with us. This movement ignores the situation of small landlords like myself.

I am retired and depend on rental income for my survival. If we are going to help renters, it is only fair that we also help small landlords whose income depends on rental income and who will be in a precarious situation without it.

**Jorge Montero Downey**

## The Norwalk Patriot STAFF

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Display Advertising

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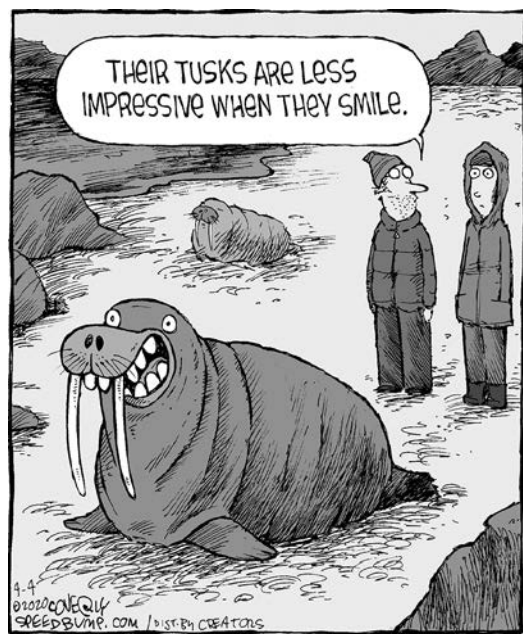
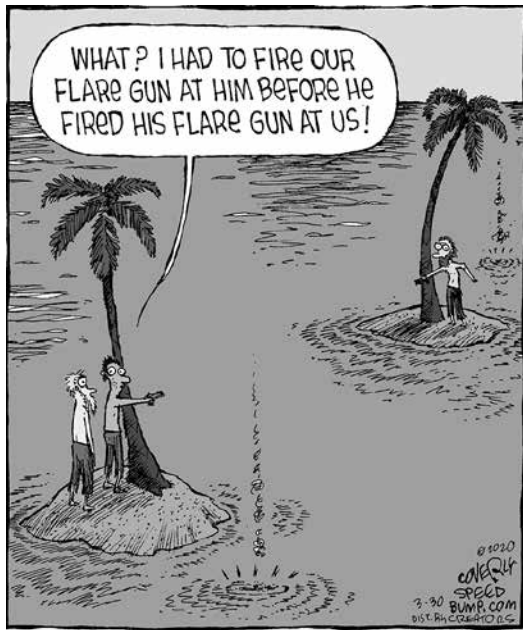
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The Norwalk Patriot is published weekly by The Downey Patriot, Inc.  
Controlled Distribution, 22,000 copies are printed.  
Distributed by CIPS Marketing Group, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.



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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...

- April 3, 1860: The first Pony Express riders left St. Joseph, MO and Sacramento, CA. The trip across country took about 10 days. The Pony Express only lasted about a year and a half.
- 1882: The American outlaw Jesse James was shot in the back and killed by Robert Ford for a \$5,000 reward. There was later controversy over whether it was actually Jesse James that had been killed.
- 1953: "TV Guide" was published for the first time.
- 1996: Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski was arrested. He pled guilty in January 1998 to five Unabomber attacks in exchange for a life sentence without chance for parole.
- 1976: Washington, DC, opened its subway system.
- 2004: NASA successfully launched an unpowered X-43A jet that hit Mach 7 (about 5,000 mph).

### THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
**CHANGE OF CLOTHES: For you to change back**  
by S.N.

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- 4 Hit the road
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- 9 Joined on a sofa
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- 35 Online payment option
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- 96 Egyptian goddess
- 97 "We should..."
- 98 Deep bends
- 100 Selling very well
- 102 Chapter of history

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Reach Stan Newman at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, or at www.StanXwords.com

### ADVERTISING POLICY

The Norwalk Patriot reserves the right to censor, reclassify, revise or reject any ad. The Norwalk Patriot is not responsible for incorrect ads beyond the first business day of an ad scheduled. Please check your ad on the first day of publication and report any errors we have made to the Classified Department at 562-904-3668 at the beginning of the next business day to have it publish correctly for the remainder of the schedule.

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

The Italian word for "ewe" is pecora being word for "of sheep", pecora being Pecorino (94 Across) is the Italian word for Pecorino International in 2016. chain (57 Across) was purchased by Marriott International in 2016. 1937, the 400+hotel SHERATON losing to Bidm. Founded in Picture Oscar nominee for 2014, SELMA (10 Across) was a Best



LEGAL NOTICES

FICT. BUS NAME

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File Number 2020052068 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) SOLIS SERVICES, 1671 PARK AVE, LONG BEACH CA 90815, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

The Norwalk Patriot 3/13/20, 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File Number 2020051662 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) AR DESIGN & CONCEPTS, 13222 ELMCROFT AVENUE, NORWALK CA 90650, LA COUNTY

The Norwalk Patriot 3/13/20, 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File Number 2020042800 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) PETITE GARDEN LIFE, 13641 ALLEGAN ST, WHITTIER CA 90605, LA COUNTY

The Norwalk Patriot 3/13/20, 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File Number 2020059851 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) A5 LIQUOR INC, 6905 E CARSON ST, LAKEWOOD CA 90713, LA COUNTY

The Norwalk Patriot 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20, 4/10/20

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File Number 2020058002 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) A5 LIQUOR INC, 6905 E CARSON ST, LAKEWOOD CA 90713

The Norwalk Patriot 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20, 4/10/20

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File Number 2020058231 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) LIN'S BEAUTE, 12050 165TH STREET, NORWALK CA 90650, LA COUNTY

punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). S/ A5 LIQUOR INC, PRESIDENT, BASEL ALISSA This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on MARCH 9, 2020

The Norwalk Patriot 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20, 4/10/20

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File Number 2020058231 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) LIN'S BEAUTE, 12050 165TH STREET, NORWALK CA 90650, LA COUNTY

The Norwalk Patriot 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20, 4/10/20

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File Number 2020046346 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) BUY-N-SAVE INSURANCE SERVICES, 14339 PIONEER BLVD, NORWALK CA 90650, LA COUNTY

The Norwalk Patriot 3/13/20, 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File Number 2020059851 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) HAAYDEN, LLC, 2814 W SLAUSON AVE, LOS ANGELES CA 90043, LA COUNTY

The Norwalk Patriot 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20, 4/10/20

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File Number 2020059851 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) HAAYDEN, LLC, 2814 W SLAUSON AVE, LOS ANGELES CA 90043, LA COUNTY

The Norwalk Patriot 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20, 4/10/20

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File Number 2020059851 THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) HAAYDEN, LLC, 2814 W SLAUSON AVE, LOS ANGELES CA 90043, LA COUNTY

The Norwalk Patriot 3/13/20, 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME 2020058205 FILE NO.: 2019039310 DATE FILED: FEBRUARY 14, 2019

The Norwalk Patriot 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20, 4/10/20

NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: 20NWCPC00071

The Norwalk Patriot 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20, 4/10/20

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: 20NWCPC00086

The Norwalk Patriot 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20, 4/10/20

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: 20NWCPC00093

The Norwalk Patriot 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20, 4/10/20

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: 20NWCPC00004

The Norwalk Patriot 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20, 4/10/20

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: 20NWCPC00004

cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

The Norwalk Patriot 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20, 4/10/20

PROBATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF CHARLES RAY MEDLIN, JR. CASE NO. 20STPB02144 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of CHARLES RAY MEDLIN, JR.

The Norwalk Patriot 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF OLIVE O. BRADY CASE NO. 20STPB00039 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of OLIVE O. BRADY.

The Norwalk Patriot 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20

petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

The Norwalk Patriot 3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20, 4/10/20

TRUSTEE SALES

T.S. No.: 191211412 Notice of Trustee's Sale Loan No.: Beatty Order No. 95523148 APN: 8047-017-009 You Are In Default Under A Deed Of Trust Dated 10/25/2018.

The Norwalk Patriot 4/3/20, 4/10/20, 4/17/20

TS No.: 8749390 TS No.: CA1900284737 APN: 8051-010-021 Property Address: 12720 NEWMIRE AVENUE NORWALK, CA 90650

The Norwalk Patriot 4/3/20, 4/10/20, 4/17/20

3/27/20, 4/3/20, 4/10/20

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. CA-19-874505-NJ Order No.: 191239512-CA-VEE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 1/31/2018.

The Norwalk Patriot 4/3/20, 4/10/20, 4/17/20

TSG No.: 8749390 TS No.: CA1900284737 APN: 8051-010-021 Property Address: 12720 NEWMIRE AVENUE NORWALK, CA 90650

The Norwalk Patriot 4/3/20, 4/10/20, 4/17/20

Need to run a Legal Notice? The Norwalk Patriot is a newspaper of general circulation - and has been adjudicated in the County and the City. We can take any and all legal ads. Contact The Norwalk Patriot we can help! Email: legals@thedowneypatriot.com Phone: 562-404-3008 • Fax: 562-904-3124



# LEGALS

Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA 91766 All right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE ABOVE MENTIONED DEED OF TRUST APN# 8051-010-021 The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above purported to be: 12720 NEWMIRE AVENUE, NORWALK, CA 90650 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any inaccuracy of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$351,157.55. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust has deposited all documents evidencing the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust and has declared all sums secured thereby immediately due and payable, and has caused a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be executed. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the County where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 800-280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-19-870765-CL. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any inaccuracy of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: Quality Loan Service Corporation 2763 Camino Del Rio South San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Reinstatement Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 Quality Loan Service Corp. TS No.: CA-19-870765-CL IDSPub #0161624 3/27/2020 4/3/2020 4/10/2020

only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. Date: First American Title Insurance Company 4795 Regent Blvd, Mail Code 1011-F Irving, TX 75063 First American Title Insurance Company MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE FOR TRUSTEES SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (916)939-0772 NPP0369015 To: NORWALK PATRIOT 03/20/2020, 03/27/2020, 04/03/2020

NPP0369015  
The Norwalk Patriot  
3/20/20, 3/27/20, 4/3/20

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. CA-19-870765-CL Order No.: D57300-19006120 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 3/20/2012. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.** A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. **BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.** Trustor(s): Jennifer M Elam, an unmarried woman Recorded: 4/2/2012 as Instrument No. 20120493151 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California; Date of Sale: 4/23/2020 at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: At the Doubletree Hotel Los Angeles-Norwalk, 13111 Sycamore Drive, Norwalk, CA 90650, in the Vineyard Ballroom Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$213,941.03 The purported property address is: 14004 EDGEWATER DR UNIT 52, NORWALK, CA 90650 Assessor's Parcel No.: 8052-017-095 **NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information.

If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 800-280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-19-870765-CL. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any inaccuracy of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: Quality Loan Service Corporation 2763 Camino Del Rio South San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Reinstatement Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 Quality Loan Service Corp. TS No.: CA-19-870765-CL IDSPub #0161624 3/27/2020 4/3/2020 4/10/2020

IDS 0161624  
The Norwalk Patriot  
3/27/20, 4/3/20, 4/10/20

**COURTESY CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**What is price gouging?**

Price gouging refers to sellers trying to take unfair advantage of consumers during an emergency or disaster by greatly increasing prices for essential consumer goods and services.

**Is price gouging illegal in California?**

Yes, in certain circumstances. California's anti-price gouging statute, Penal Code Section 396, prohibits raising the price of many consumer goods and services by more than 10% after an emergency has been declared.

**Local laws may also contain their own prohibitions on price gouging.**

**When does California's anti-price gouging statute apply?**

The statute applies immediately after the President of the United States, the Governor of California, or city or county executive officer declares a state of emergency.

**How can I find out if a declaration of emergency is in effect?**

Emergency declarations issued by the Governor are generally available on the Governor's website at [gov.ca.gov](http://gov.ca.gov). For information about local declarations of emergency, please contact your local city or county emergency authority or sheriff's office.

**Who is subject to the statute?**

Individuals, businesses, and other entities must comply with the statute. The statute applies to all sellers, including manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and retailers. It also covers all sales, including sales to individuals and families, businesses and other organizations, and government agencies.

**What goods and services are covered by the statute?**

The statute applies to the following major necessities: lodging (including permanent or temporary rental housing, hotels, motels, and mobile homes); food and drink (including food and drink for animals); emergency supplies such as water, flashlights, radios, batteries, candles, blankets, soaps, diapers, temporary shelters, tape, toiletries, plywood, nails, and hammers; and medical supplies such as prescription and nonprescription medications, bandages, gauze, isopropyl alcohol, and antibacterial products.

It also applies to other goods and services including: home heating oil; building materials, including lumber, construction tools, and windows; transportation; freight; storage services; gasoline and other motor fuels; and repair and reconstruction services.

# Scammers will change their tactics in coronavirus schemes

Continued from page 1

## Beware Scams and Schemes

An aggressive and sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, has been making the rounds throughout the country. Callers claim to be employees of the IRS, but are not. Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. Or, victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information.

With COVID-19 scams, they may urge you to pay this fake "debt" with your economic impact check. For those who

receive an actual check, they may ask you to endorse it and forward to them for "payment of past debts."

Remember: Scammers Change Tactics -- Variations of the IRS impersonation scam continue year-round and they tend to peak when scammers find prime opportunities to strike—like a new economic impact check being sent.

## Surge in Email, Phishing and Malware Schemes

Scam emails are designed to trick taxpayers into thinking these are official communications from the IRS, tax industry professionals or tax software companies. These phishing emails ask taxpayers about a wide range of topics -- related to refunds, filing status, ordering transcripts and verifying PIN information -- in order to steal

your personal information or file false tax returns.

When people click on links from these phishing emails, they are taken to sites designed to imitate an official-looking website, such as IRS.gov. The sites may also carry malware, which can infect people's computers to steal their files or record their keystrokes.

Also be aware of email phishing scams that appear to be from the IRS and include a link to a bogus websites intended to mirror the official IRS website. These emails contain the direction "you are to update your IRS e-file immediately." The emails mention USA.gov and IRSGov (without a dot between "IRS" and "gov"). Don't get scammed. These emails are not from the IRS.

# Price gouging FAQs

## Courtesy California Attorney General

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The statute applies immediately after the President of the United States, the Governor of California, or city or county executive officer declares a state of emergency.

### How can I find out if a declaration of emergency is in effect?

Emergency declarations issued by the Governor are generally available on the Governor's website at [gov.ca.gov](http://gov.ca.gov). For information about local declarations of emergency, please contact your local city or county emergency authority or sheriff's office.

### Who is subject to the statute?

Individuals, businesses, and other entities must comply with the statute. The statute applies to all sellers, including manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and retailers. It also covers all sales, including sales to individuals and families, businesses and other organizations, and government agencies.

### What goods and services are covered by the statute?

The statute applies to the following major necessities: lodging (including permanent or temporary rental housing, hotels, motels, and mobile homes); food and drink (including food and drink for animals); emergency supplies such as water, flashlights, radios, batteries, candles, blankets, soaps, diapers, temporary shelters, tape, toiletries, plywood, nails, and hammers; and medical supplies such as prescription and nonprescription medications, bandages, gauze, isopropyl alcohol, and antibacterial products.

It also applies to other goods and services including: home heating oil; building materials, including lumber, construction tools, and windows; transportation; freight; storage services; gasoline and other motor fuels; and repair and

reconstruction services.

The goods and services listed above are just examples; the statute's protections are not strictly limited to these items.

### How long do the restrictions of the statute apply?

The statute generally applies for 30 days after a declaration of emergency, although for reconstruction services and emergency cleanup services, it applies for 180 days after a declaration of emergency. State and local officials may extend the effective period of the statute beyond these timeframes.

### What if I experienced price increases outside of the city or county where the emergency or disaster is occurring or occurred?

The statute does not restrict its protection to a city or county where the emergency or disaster is located. In addition to applying in the city or county covered by the declaration, it is intended to prevent price gouging elsewhere in the state where there is increased consumer demand as a result of the declared emergency. For example, if a fire in San Diego County causes residents to evacuate to neighboring Imperial County, hotels in Imperial County may not raise rates by more than 10% to take advantage of the increase in demand for lodging.

### What if a seller increased the price of a good or service because the seller's costs of providing the good or service increased?

If the seller can prove that the increased price is directly attributable to increases in the cost of labor or materials needed to provide the good or service, the seller may not be liable under the statute. It's important to note that manufacturers, wholesalers, and distributors must also comply with the statute when selling covered goods or services to a retailer.

### How does the statute affect rental housing?

As with all other covered goods and services, following a declaration of emergency, the statute generally prohibits landlords from increasing the price of rental housing by more than 10% of the previously charged or advertised price. For rental housing that was not rented or advertised for rent prior to a declaration of emergency, the price cannot exceed 160% of the fair market value of the rental housing as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

For rental housing advertised or rented on a daily basis, such as an AirBnB or VRBO listing, the daily price may not be increased by more than 10% following a declaration of emergency. For rental housing advertised or rented on a daily basis prior to a declaration of emergency

but offered on a full-time or monthly basis following a declaration of emergency, the price may not exceed 160% of the fair market value of the rental housing as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

A landlord may not justify an otherwise unlawful price increase by providing additional services such as gardening, cleaning, or utilities, or because they are now offering a shorter lease term. Similarly, a landlord may not charge more than the allowable price because an insurance company offered to pay a higher price.

Finally, the statute also makes it a separate misdemeanor for a landlord to evict a tenant and then re-rent the property at a rate that the landlord would have been prohibited from charging the evicted tenant under the price gouging statute.

### What are the consequences of violating the statute?

Violations of the price gouging statute are subject to criminal prosecution that can result in one-year imprisonment in county jail and/or a fine of up to \$10,000. Violations are also subject to civil enforcement actions including civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation, injunctive relief and mandatory restitution.

The Attorney General, local district attorneys, and private individuals can bring actions for violations of the statute.

### Can the Attorney General's office assist me with a claim against someone who price gouged me?

Our office cannot give you legal advice or represent you. If you believe that you might have a claim for price gouging, you might consider contacting an attorney to explore your options. For referral to a lawyer, you may contact the State Bar at (866) 442-2529 (toll-free in California) or (415) 538-2250 (from outside California), or through its website at: <http://www.calbar.ca.gov>. If you cannot afford to pay an attorney, you may consider contacting your local legal aid office. For a referral, visit <http://www.lsc.gov> and click on the Find Legal Assistance tab, or go to <http://lawhelpca.org>.

### Should I report price gouging to the Attorney General's office?

Even though our office cannot represent individuals, the Attorney General may, on behalf of the public, investigate or prosecute someone who has engaged in price gouging. Anyone who has been the victim of price gouging, or who has information regarding potential price gouging, is encouraged to immediately file a complaint with the Attorney General's Office by going to the Attorney General's website or by calling (800) 952-5225.

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Contact your local water provider with any questions about your water supply



# Tea house offering free remedy samples

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

**NORWALK** – Zen’s Tea House was founded in 2012 after founder Fernando Lopez was discharged from the Navy. The company got its start in local farmer’s markets before eventually expanding to include a café in Norwalk and a

warehouse in Santa Fe Springs.

“We’ve been in the right place at the right time,” said Lopez. “Teavana had just got bought out by Starbucks; by then I had been running the business for about a year. When that happened, the publicity of tea just kind of blew up.”

Zen’s specializes in Loose Leaf Botanical Nutraceuticals. While the tea market isn’t enjoying the same prior boom that it once had, Lopez says that Zen’s has found another type of customer.

“Although it’s kind of winded down – now not many people are buying tea – we do make blends for doctors and their patients, because with the opioid epidemic more people are looking for natural alternatives to pharmaceutical drugs; more people are looking for organic,

botanicals medicine.”

So, when Lopez began to see the writing on the wall of the medical crisis that was to come, he took action.

“We just started buying in bulk all the products, just kind of preparing for the storm, hoping it wouldn’t happen,” said Lopez. “Since we have a lot of this product and it’s not available for other people...what we wanted to do was share and give out these teas.”

In the wake of COVID-19, Zen’s has started a campaign where online customers can use a promo-code and receive a free immunity elixir.

“At the end of the day, we’re doing pretty well, and our motto is ‘helping people through the power of tea,’” said Lopez. “We wouldn’t be helping people if we didn’t extend a hand. So many people are scared; people are fighting left and right...We’re trying to be a light amongst all the chaos and fear.”

The café also remains open for take-out orders only and offers the free tea sample as well.

# Markets now required to sanitize stores

**LOS ANGELES** – The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a motion Tuesday to protect retail grocery, drug store and food delivery platform workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The motion authored by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and co-authored by Supervisor Janice Hann aims to provide workers with the supplies, tools and equipment necessary to protect them and the public they are serving.

The motion calls for employers to be required to sanitize and stock all bathrooms with necessary supplies, clean stores and shopping carts between uses, require employees to wash their hands every 30 minutes, provide sanitizing stations at the entrance of all stores, provide adequate security to enforce social distancing, establish operating hours to restock, provide access to COVID-19 testing, support employees so that they may address childcare and family

needs, and prohibit retaliation for exercising their rights.

“As the necessary precautions to protect our most first responders and health care workers are being put in place across the country, we must not forget or workers in the delivery service industry,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said. “In these difficult times, a visit to the grocery store makes extraordinarily clear that food and grocery delivery drivers are essential worker and we must do all that we can to protect them. This motion will provide these vital individuals with the fundamental items that will protect their health and well-being.”

Since the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors declared a Local Emergency on March 4th and the Los Angeles County Health Officer issued a revised Safer at Home Order on March 21st, retail grocery and drug stores have remained open to provide essential services while many other brick and mortar stores have temporarily closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Many people who are particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus, including those aged 65 and older or with underlying health

conditions, have turned to food delivery platforms to survive.

“We’re now two weeks into this crisis and we still do not have uniform standards across all grocery stores and pharmacies to protect workers and customers. Grocery workers are essential and they need basic protections no matter where they are working. As the largest county in California, we can lead the way and set the standard for the entire state. We need this level of immediate action to stop the spread of COVID-19,” UFCW Local 770 President John Grant said.

“In the middle of this global health emergency our grocery store, delivery, and drug store workers are now front-line responders. Their work is essential to keeping our county running and we need to make sure they have the tools they need to do their jobs safely. Today’s motion ensures employers in these sectors are sufficiently staffed and are able to provide the protective and sanitary equipment employees need to keep themselves and the public healthy,” stated Supervisor Janice Hann.

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