

The Norwalk Patriot

Friday, May 22, 2020

Vol. 14 No. 16

14783 Carmenita Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

New assistance program aids businesses impacted by COVID-19

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

NORWALK - Norwalk City Council on Tuesday gave the thumbs up for a new program aimed to help businesses hit hard by the coronavirus outbreak.

The new Business Assistance Program is aimed at assisting private, for-profit entities to avoid business closures. It also includes a potentially forgivable 0% interest loan.

Norwalk secured the funding it will be using for the task force due to the CARES ACT, signed by President Donald Trump on March 27 to combat the spread and impacts of COVID-19.

Through CARES, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be granting Norwalk a total of \$747,572 in Community Development Block Grant coronavirus response (CDBG-CV) funds.

Of that total, \$700,000 will go to the new program. The remaining funds will go towards administrative costs, with \$30,000 earmarked to pay for professional services provided by Michael Baker, Inc. once an agreement is approved by the City Attorney.

Norwalk accepting applications for Environmental Awareness Scholarships

NORWALK - For the second year in a row, the City of Norwalk, in collaboration with Athens Services, is hosting the Environmental Awareness Scholarship, which recognizes local high school seniors who are active in their community and show an interest in environmental issues.

Five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded and may be used towards reimbursement of registration or tuition fees at any college, university or trade school.

To be eligible, students:

- Must be a senior in a public or private high school
- Reside in Norwalk
- Have a minimum 2.0 GPA

The Norwalk Education Alliance Committee will review applications and recommend candidates to the Norwalk City Council, who will decide on the top five entries. Selections will be based on GPA, essay, volunteer work and extracurricular activities. Scholarship recipients will receive notification in early July.

Applications are available on the recycling webpage on norwalk.org. Completed applications and requested materials must be submitted at recycling@norwalkca.gov by Thursday, June 11 at 6 p.m.

For additional information, interested students may contact Gabriela Garcia at (562) 929-5964.



Santa Fe's Herlinda "Chita" Aguirre practices at a park as she gets ready to attend North Dakota University in the fall. (Photo by Keith Durlinger)

Meet North Dakota U's next softball star

Despite the loss of her senior season, Santa Fe standout and Norwalk resident Chita Aguirre looks onward.

By John Sherrard
Contributor

NORWALK - Santa Fe High School senior softball standout Chita Aguirre is all but 5'4", but has developed a strong bat and great glove and more importantly, a tremendous love of the game.

Those three combine for a ticket to the next level of competition - a scholarship to NCAA DI University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

"I am so proud to hear that she was getting a chance to play at North Dakota next season," Santa Fe softball coach AJ Reyes said. "She has earned it. UND is lucky to have her on their softball team."

This all came to fruition, you might say, when she was a then 13-year-old incoming freshman heard her fielding coach, Kevin Helms, tell her that she has the opportunity to get her college paid for with hard work and a scholarship. It worked. Helms was coach at La Habra in 2019.

Chita, whose actual first name is Herlinda, but has been called Chita since she was a baby because she had a love for hot Cheeto chips.

"Growing up we just started calling her Chita," said her mother, Rebecca Aguirre. "She was a chunky baby and has never



Herlinda "Chita" Aguirre hits into a net in her backyard as she gets ready to attend North Dakota University. (Photo by Keith Durlinger)

called her by her name."

No matter what name she has been called, she is also a double CIF-Southern Section Champion.

As a sophomore she was part of the Division 4 softball champions. The next Fall in her junior year, she was a member of the Division 4A Basketball championship team.

"It was surreal," Chita said of the two title wins. "Winning and living it was great. Honestly, I'm real grateful that I won two titles."

As for heading to UND, Chita said - "I knew I wanted to go there once I went there on my official visit in August (of 2019). It's like a home-town feel."

She also realizes it's pretty cold in the winter, but has no

problem with the drastic change of temperature. "I've never complained about the weather."

UND is also known for its college hockey team and she is a fan of the sport.

"I've always been a fan of hockey and they showed us the hockey arena," she said.

Aguirre will be majoring in Business and Business Economics.

"My passion is to open a facility to work on the mental aspects of the game, something like Kobe Bryant's Sports Academy" she added.

She loves to read and is reading a book titled "The Champions Mindset."

Continued on page 7

Norwalk COVID-19 statistics: 310 cases 12 deaths

Information collected from Los Angeles County Public Health website: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/locations.htm>.

Updated numbers as of 8 pm on Tuesday, May 19.

The goal of the BMP would be to provide a safe, efficient, and connected network of bicycle facilities that residents and stakeholders can enjoy for a variety of purposes, while offering several co-benefits including the reduction of air pollution, easing congestion,

and improving public health. It would also aid in identifying locations throughout the City to construct alternative urban pathways, including bike and walking paths and park trails.

The contract was approved unanimously.

Norwalk restaurant grades

So Cal Pizza
12253 Imperial Hwy.
Date Inspected: 5/7/20
Grade: **A**

Applebees
12129 Imperial Hwy.
Date Inspected: 5/7/20
Grade: **A**

Denny's
12616 Pioneer Blvd.
Inspected: 5/6/20
Grade: **A**

Albert's Mexican Food
11610 Imperial Hwy
Date Inspected: 5/6/20
Grade: **A**

CC Pho
12359 Imperial Hwy
Date Inspected: 5/6/20
Grade: **A**

Don Julio's Tacos and Tamales
12856 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 5/6/20
Grade: **A**

Wienerchnitzel
11610 Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 5/5/20
Grade: **A**

KFC
10937 Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 5/5/20
Grade: **A**

Tam's Super Burgers
11700 Rosecrans Ave
Date Inspected: 4/29/20
Grade: **A**

Bobos
12949 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 4/22/20
Grade: **A**

El Marinero
11025 Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 4/22/20
Grade: **A**

Rivera's Juice Bar
11912 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 4/22/20
Grade: **A**

Church's Chicken
15816 S Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 4/21/20
Grade: **A**

Tommy's Original
15911 S Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 4/16/20
Grade: **A**

Antichucheria Peroana
14351 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 4/15/20
Grade: **A**

Los Compadres
11600 Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 4/14/20
Grade: **A**

Toros Taqueria
15617 Studebaker Rd.
Date Inspected: 4/7/20
Grade: **A**

DK's
12549 Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 4/7/20
Grade: **A**

McDonalds
12602 Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 4/7/20
Grade: **A**

Lucian's Pizza
15008 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 4/3/20
Grade: **A**

Dulce Canella
15012 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 4/3/20
Grade: **A**

Yum Yum Donuts
15900 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 4/3/20
Grade: **A**

Top Donuts
10939 Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 4/3/20
Grade: **A**

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 78°

Saturday 77°

Sunday 83°

THINGS TO WATCH



The Willoughbys

Netflix (film)

Four siblings with horribly selfish parents hatch a plan to get rid of them for good and form a perfectly imperfect family of their own. Will Forte, Maya Rudolph and Ricky Gervais lend their voices in this animated film.



The Foreigner

Netflix (film)

After his daughter is killed by terrorists, a sullen restaurateur seeks the identities of those responsible and travels to Ireland to take vengeance. Starring Jackie Chan and Pierce Brosnan.



Romeo Must Die

Netflix (film)

While investigating his brother's murder, an ex-cop gets roped into a turf war between two factions involving the daughter of his family's rival.



The Wonder Years

Hulu (TV series)

Set in the extraordinary years of the late 60's, "The Wonder Years" looks back through the eyes of Kevin on the joys and tribulations of growing up in a typical suburban household.



I, Tonya

Hulu (film)

Based on the unbelievable but true events, "I, Tonya" is a dark comedic tale of one of the most sensational scandals in sports history.



Escape from Alcatraz

Hulu (film)

Three daring men make a possible successful attempt at escaping from one of the most infamous prisons in the world. Starring Clint Eastwood, the film is based on the real-life 1962 attempted prison escape.

During this pandemic, we remember and honor our fallen servicemembers

By Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard

This year, we will observe a Memorial Day unlike any we have ever seen in our lifetime. A day traditionally filled with public remembrances and parades will be forced to take a very different form in this time of isolation and social distancing. On Monday, unfortunately, most of us will have to observe Memorial Day in private. Our thoughts and prayers, however, will be the same as ever. We will remember, honor, and mourn America's fallen servicemembers and their families; and we will reflect on the profound debt we owe to them for their sacrifice.

As an American, your congresswoman, and the daughter, wife, and stepmother of veterans, every day I am reminded of and grateful for the servicemembers who gave their lives to defend and protect us. But this year, as Memorial Day approaches, I have felt that gratitude even more profoundly than usual.

In times of crisis like now, when our nation is devastated by tragedy and loss, I am especially thankful for the fallen heroes who have defended us in times of peril and darkness. They wore the uniform of our nation and faced unimaginable dangers to assure our defense. They faced that peril willingly, and often knowingly, at the potential cost of their own lives. Due to their brave and noble sacrifice, America has overcome such darkness for more than two centuries and has become the greatest nation in the world.

Yet, we are once again facing one of the most difficult challenges

in our nation's history. Tragically, we have already lost tens of thousands of our fellow Americans to the invisible enemy we call COVID-19. Many more are in pain and suffer from COVID's impact - including those who have lost loved ones; those who have seen their wages cut; those who have lost their jobs; and those who have suffered physical and mental illness.

Now, more than ever, it is the responsibility of all of us to carry our brave fallen servicemembers' torch of patriotism, to protect our country against the enemy we now face. Each of us has the power and responsibility to help our country survive this crisis. We can contribute to our victory over this virus by making sensible decisions to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our neighbors.

Our victory over the coronavirus will require us to follow the examples of our fallen heroes, and of those serving today, through their leadership qualities of resilience, selflessness, and courage.

We demonstrate resilience when we patiently follow health and safety policies designed by health experts to reduce the spread of COVID-19. I know how hard it is to isolate oneself, and to be separated from family and friends. But these policies will help to save lives, and are the best chances we have to prevent infecting others and ourselves with COVID-19.

We can demonstrate selflessness when we put the needs of others before our own. That means, as annoying as it is, wearing a mask and practicing social distancing when we are outside. It means

taking time to look after friends and family by staying in touch through phone calls, video chats, letters, texts, and emails. It means looking out for our neighbors, including seniors and other high-risk individuals, who may need our help getting the necessities of life, including social contact at a distance of six feet or more.

And during our darkest moments, we can demonstrate courage when we ask for help. If you have lost your job, need support to care for your family, experience issues affecting your mental health, or are facing domestic violence, please know resources are available which may help. I invite you to visit my website at roybal-allard.house.gov/coronavirus to see some of the services available to you, your family, and friends.

The virtues of the heroes we honor this Memorial Day have rarely been more relevant, or more necessary, than they are for us today. If we unite in showing resilience, selflessness, and courage against COVID-19, we will prevail - and we will indeed honor and reaffirm the high standards our fallen heroes set when they sacrificed all for our great country. May God bless you, your family, and the United States of America.

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard represents California's 40th District, which contains the communities of Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Downey, Huntington Park, Maywood, Paramount, Vernon, and parts of Bellflower, East Los Angeles, Florence-Firestone, and South Los Angeles.

Mental health is critical in a COVID-19 world

As we face new circumstances and challenges due to COVID-19 - including isolation, balancing work life with homeschooling children, joblessness or grief - it's critically important that we prioritize mental health during this time of uncertainty and sudden change.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and paying attention to our mental health means having a balanced emotional and psychological sense of one's well-being.

While people may be focused on staying up-to-date on news about the coronavirus outbreak, they may also be neglecting their mental well-being.

It's a fact that millions of Americans are experiencing disruptions to their lives as a result of COVID-19. Feeling stressed and anxious is normal during this period of tremendous change. However, paying attention to one's mental well-being has perhaps never been as important as it is today.

"Mental health is critically important to everyone, especially during these challenging times," said

Dr. Juan-Carlos Zuberbuhler, a board-certified child/adolescent/adult psychiatrist with Kaiser Permanente Southern California. "As COVID-19 impacts our way of life in a way not seen in generations, it is especially important to understand how mental health affects our lives, and know the signs when seeking help may be necessary."

According to Dr. Zuberbuhler, signs of stress that can be related to the COVID-19 crisis include:

- Constant fear and worry about your own health and the health of your loved ones.
- Changes in sleep or eating patterns.
- Difficulty sleeping or concentrating.
- Worsening of chronic health problems.
- Increased use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.

Dr. Zuberbuhler recommends taking the following action to relieve stress that is harmful to your health:

Take breaks from news stories and social media that may be negative in nature, as hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting. Look for the "Helpers" in any tragic story.

Take care of your body. Take deep breaths, stretch or meditate. Eat healthy, well-balanced meals; exercise regularly, get plenty of sleep and avoid alcohol and drugs.

Make time to unwind. Do some other activities you enjoy.

Connect with others. Despite physical distancing, we can enjoy increased social connections. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling, and understand it is normal to feel anxious.

Understand how much stress-related growth is happening around us. This includes using video and social media in a more meaningful way to connect with others as we observe physical distancing.

Know that anxiety is normal during these challenging times, and can actually help keep us safe and healthy. The goal is to make room for your anxiety and foster other emotions such as compassion and empathy, especially for frontline heroes who are putting their lives on the line to protect us.

Call your health care provider if stress gets in the way of your daily activities for several days in a row.

Supervisor Hahn appoints taskforce to guide reopening of local economy

Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn has appointed 39 local business and cultural leaders to the LA County Economic Resiliency Task Force so that they can use their experience and expertise to guide LA County's safe reopening amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The task force includes 13 representatives from different sectors of LA County's economy. Each one of those 13 task force members will chair working groups focused on reopening and revitalizing their specific sector or industry.

During the second meeting of the task force, county leaders discussed a goal of more fully reopening the LA County economy by July 4th.

"The longer we stay closed in certain sectors, particularly small businesses and restaurants, the odds are that they will not be able to come back," said Supervisor Janice Hahn. "I feel that we have to get to the point that we learn to live with the virus. We cannot stay locked down forever. My hope is that this task force will bring forth real plans for reopening these sectors that our Department of Public Health can agree on and present to the governor."

Hahn's appointees to the LA County Economic Resiliency Task Force and working groups include:

Arts and Culture Sector

- Lori Bettison-Varga (Natural History Museum)
- Eric Eisenberg (LA County Arts Commission)
- Adrienne Nakashima (South Coast Botanic Garden)

Business—Corporate and Manufacturing

- Joe Ahn (Northrop Grumman Corp.)
- Randy Bowers (Malaga Bank)
- Banyon Huetter (Caruso)

Business— Small

- Adam Carillo (ETA Agency)
- Donna Duperron (Torrance Chamber of Commerce)
- Anna Wu (Wu and Associates)

Commodities and Goods Movement

- Mario Cordero (Port of Long Beach)
- Diane Middleton (LA Harbor Commission)

Education

- Lou Anne Bynum (Long Beach City College)
- Judy Chen (Mt. San Antonio)
- Jim Gash (Pepperdine)
- Dr. Barry Corey (Biola University)

Faith Based Organizations

- Ed Dover (Pastor Beatitudes of Our Lord Catholic Church)
- Jose Gomez (Archdiocese of Los Angeles)
- Alex Wu (Hsi Lai Temple)
- Yossi Mintz (Chabad of the Beach Cities)

Film, Entertainment and Digital Media

- Thomas Davis (California Film Commission Local 80)

- Mark Hubbard (Hubbard Accountancy Crop)
- Arlen Valdivia

Foundations and Non-Profits

- Heidi Butzine (Lomita Chamber of Commerce)
- Gloria Cordero (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California)
- Elise Swanson (San Pedro Chamber of Commerce)

Healthcare and Bio-science

- Craig Leach (Torrance Memorial Medical Center)
- Mary Lemeir (Providence Little Company of Mary)
- Matthew Sandoval (Lakewood Regional Medical Center)

Infrastructure Development and Construction

- Robert Ferrante (LA County Sanitation District)
- Elvin Moon (Regional Planning Commission)
- Matt Petersen (LA Cleantech Incubator)

Labor

- Dan Langford (Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters)
- Vivian Malauulu (ILWU)
- Rick Vasquez (Sprinkler Fitters UA 709)

Restaurants, Leisure and Hospitality

- Jim Luttojohnann (Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce)
- Janet Zaluda (Marina Del Rey Convention and Visitors Bureau)

Sports and Large Venue Entertainment

- Kelly Cheeseman (AEG Sports LA Kings/Galaxy)
- Kathy Schlossman (LA Sports and Entertainment Commission)
- Suzy Schuster (LA Memorial Coliseum)

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House Democrats’ Heroes Act is a giant political scam

By Justin Haskins

When House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on May 14 that the current coronavirus crisis “is really quite an exciting time for us,” she meant it.

On Friday, House Democrats passed a gargantuan \$3 trillion COVID-19 bill – the HEROES Act – that will serve as a starting point for negotiations with Senate Republicans and the White House over the next round of coronavirus “relief” legislation.

In addition to bailing out numerous irresponsible state and local governments and the Postal Service, the legislation is chock full of radical, wildly irresponsible provisions that clearly show that congressional Democrats are more concerned with expanding their power and pleasing their allies than they are fixing our broken economy.

Perhaps the most egregious example is Democrats’ proposal to expand \$600-per-week unemployment “bonuses” through the end of January 2021. There’s nothing wrong with providing people who have lost their jobs due to government’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic with some relief. But offering \$600 bonuses through January 2021 would discourage workers from finding new jobs throughout the beginning stages of our economic recovery by paying them as much or, in many cases, more than what they earned in wages prior to the pandemic.

According to an April analysis by a former Treasury Department analyst, the \$600 weekly unemployment bonus, when added to existing state unemployment benefits, offers roughly the same or more money to unemployed workers than the average wage in all but a dozen states.

Why would Democrats want to discourage people from going back to work for such a long period? The answer can be found by considering the end date for the bonus payments: The end of January 2021, the exact time that a potential Joe Biden presidency would begin.

By discouraging tens of millions of unemployed Americans from going back to work over the next several months, it all but guarantees that an economic recovery would be extremely slow through the November elections. And by ending those lucrative benefits just as Biden could be entering the White House, it makes it highly likely that job growth would increase dramatically at an opportune time for the Democratic Party.

Liberals clearly aren’t interested in fixing the economy as quickly as possible — which might explain, in part, why so many Democratic governors and mayors across the nation are so unwilling to reopen even the safest parts of their economies. If there were interested in fixing the economy, they would be doing everything in their power to make going back to work attractive. For congressional Democrats, it’s apparent that they see the present crisis as a political opportunity, one they are hellbent on taking advantage of, no matter the cost.

And this is just one of several large scams included in the legislation. The proposal would also eliminate the state and local tax (SALT) deduction cap through 2021, allowing a relatively small number of tax filers to deduct significantly more of their state and local taxes from their federal tax bills.

Although ending the SALT deduction cap would benefit some middle-class filers in high-tax states, it would be most beneficial to higher-income earners in high-cost cities like New York and San Francisco, which, of course, just so happen to be deep-blue constituencies for the Democratic Party.

According to a report from the Joint Committee on Taxation, 94 percent of those who would benefit from a SALT cap reduction or elimination earn at least \$100,000, and many earn a lot more.

Even more transparently political is the relief bill’s student loan forgiveness provision. If passed, House Democrats’ plan would forgive \$10,000 of student loan debt for borrowers currently paying \$0 per month under an income-based repayment plan, as well as those who are in forbearance, deferment, default or serious delinquency. In some cases, students with private loans would even

be eligible for loan forgiveness.

Liberals are painting this provision as a form of “relief” for younger Americans, many of whom were the first to be laid off when governments started to shut down the economy, but this part of the plan is nothing more than an attempt to buy support for the 2020 election.

Federal student loan payments have already been suspended through the end of September, and Democrats’ legislation would extend this through September 2021. Further, federal loan interest rates have been set to 0 percent so that student loan borrowers are not punished for choosing not to make payments. Additionally, many federal student loan borrowers are enrolled in income-based repayment plans, which don’t require payments when borrowers are unemployed.

With these provisions in mind, it’s clear that granting \$10,000 of student loan debt forgiveness would offer absolutely no additional help for younger people who have just lost their jobs, with the only exception being a limited number of private student loan borrowers who are in default or serious delinquency. In most cases, all the legislation would do is unnecessarily add billions more to an ever-growing national debt in an attempt to get young people out to the polls in November.

Simply put, House Democrats’ newest relief legislation is little more than a giant political scam. If they really were interested in improving the country, they would be working as quickly as possible to target relief to only those most in need while finding ways to safely reopen as much of the economy as possible — not advocating for costly, nonsensical, politically motivated reforms designed to help win elections.

Justin Haskins (jhaskins@heartland.org) is the editorial director and a research fellow at The Heartland Institute, a conservative-libertarian think tank based in Arlington Heights, Ill., that focuses on social, economic and environmental issues and promotes free-market policies.

Pandemic makes end-of-life care harder

By Froma Harrop

I just lost a dear elderly friend to cancer. Home hospice workers kept him comfortable. He spent his final weeks watching spring unfold in the outdoor Eden he had nurtured for decades. He died peacefully at night with me present.

My friend’s death had little to do with COVID-19. One can say that he was spared the trauma of getting hit by that deadly virus in the jaws of a pandemic. He wasn’t among the tragic thousands who died at home without medical attention. Nor did he pass away alone in a hospital that wouldn’t let loved ones in for fear of spreading the virus. His nurses didn’t have to FaceTime with loved ones to help them say goodbye.

But even so-called good deaths have been harder to achieve in the age of the coronavirus. When my friend exhibited signs of a stroke, I had to weigh the dangers of sending him to a hospital, where he might have gotten infected, over not attending to a possible health crisis.

I did call 911. As it turned out, he hadn’t had a stroke (or COVID). Tests found evidence that the cancer’s return affected speech. Reducing his calcium levels cleared up much of the immediate problem.

But during his three days in the hospital, neither I nor other

caregivers were allowed to visit. The busy doctors offered us disjointed reports of what was going on — when they bothered (or had the minutes) to call at all.

Upon his return, we immediately signed up for services provided by Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County in Connecticut. When you do that, emergency calls no longer go to 911 but to a number answered 24 hours a day by a hospice nurse.

When patients are nearing the end, hospice care emphasizes comfort and quality of life over harsh medical interventions. People in hospice often live longer than those undergoing radical treatments that weaken the body.

It may sound as though home hospice provided an island of calm far from the COVID front lines. It was far preferable to the harried and largely impersonal treatment in a hospital that focuses on keeping people alive at all costs.

But the virus made even home care with superb help complicated. Two appointments with his palliative care doctor had to be done via video calls. She did her best to assess what he needed but could not obtain important information only observable in a face-to-face consultation — things like checking the heart and weakness in the legs.

The hospice workers themselves face new challenges. Some

family members are afraid to even have them in the house.

“I have one couple, both elderly,” Jennifer Pool, a social worker with Visiting Nurse told me. “The wife is the caregiver right now.” The woman asked her, “Should I have the aide come? I don’t want to be the one to be responsible” for letting in the virus. And many such spouses are themselves older and medically vulnerable.

Frail elderly people may also fear allowing family to visit. And family members may share their concern.

Social distancing has forced hospices to cancel some of their services. They don’t do massages these days, and it’s difficult to offer spiritual guidance.

When the person dies, one can’t safely hold a funeral if it draws a large crowd. A funeral home director told me that many families are announcing that a service will be held at some future date.

Those left behind may have to mourn their loss in isolation. Bereavement groups can’t meet in person.

Caring and grieving have always been arduous work. As with so many other life events, the pandemic has made it all that much harder.

Follow Froma Harrop on Twitter @FromaHarrop. She can be reached at fhrop@gmail.com.

What if the government has it wrong?

By Judge Andrew P. Napolitano

What if the government has it wrong — on the medicine and the law?

What if face masks can’t stop the COVID-19 virus? What if quarantining the healthy makes no medical sense? What if staying at home for months reduces immunity?

What if more people have been infected with the virus in their homes than outside them?

What if there are as many credible scientists and physicians who disagree with the government as those who agree with it? What if the government chooses to listen only to scientists and physicians who would tell it what it wanted to hear? What if the government silences scientists and physicians, and even fires one, who attempt to tell it what it didn’t want to hear?

What if the government wants to stoke fear in the populace because mass fear produces mass compliance? What if individual fear reduces individual immunity?

What if a healthy immunity gets stronger when challenged? What if a pampered immunity gets weaker when challenged? What if we all pass germs and viruses — that we don’t even know we have — on to others all the time, but their immune systems repel what we pass on to them?

What if the COVID-19 virus has run its course and run into natural

immunities? What if many folks have had symptom-free episodes with many viruses and are now immune from them? What if the government refuses to understand this because it undermines the government’s power to control us?

What if government orders to nursing homes and assisted living facilities to accept the sick and contagious are insane? What if the same government that micromanages nursing homes and assisted living facilities knows that they are not hospitals and are not equipped to cure the sick or contain contagion?

What if the government makes health care decisions not on the basis of medicine or human nature but statistics? What if reliance on the government’s statistics has made many folks sick?

What if we’d all be healthier and happier if we make our own choices with our own physicians rather than the government making choices for us? What if it is un-American for the government to tell you how to care for yourself? What if it is equally un-American for you to follow the government when it intrudes into your personal choices?

What if the Supreme Court has ruled many times that your health care decisions are private, personal and to be made between you and your physician? What if the Supreme Court has also ruled many times that your private health care decisions are none of the government’s business?

What if we never elected a government to keep us free from all viruses, but we did elect it to keep us free from all tyrants? What if the government — which can’t deliver the mail, fill potholes, stop robocalls, or spend within its income — is the last entity on earth into whose hands we would voluntarily repose our health for safekeeping? What if the government won’t admit that its understanding of science is colored by politics?

What if the government has misunderstood its mandate? What if the government thinks it can do its job by keeping us safe but unfree? What if — according to the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence — government’s first duty is to safeguard our rights? What if there is no legal basis for the government to keep us at home or to close our businesses?

What if the government gave itself the power to interfere with

our personal choices? What if that self-imposed power violates the basic constitutional principle that the government derives its powers from the consent of the governed? What if no one consented to a government that interferes with our personal choices? What if our personal choices to take personal chances have never needed a government permission slip?

What if the Constitution was written to restrain the government? What if all in government — local, state and federal — have taken an oath to uphold and comply with the Constitution?

What if the government decrees that liquor sales are essential but clothing sales are not? What if the government decrees that abortions are essential but orthopedic surgery is not? What if the government decrees that music stores are essential but the free exercise of religion is not?

What if these decisions about what is essential and inessential are for individuals — and not for the government — to make?

What if to the barber or short-order cook or retail sales person a barbershop and a luncheonette and a clothing store are essential? What if to those who love God, the free exercise of religion is essential?

What if the government makes essential whatever serves its friends, enhances its wealth, maintains its stability and removes obstacles to its exercise of power? What if the Constitution — with its protections of our rights to make free choices — is an intentional obstacle to governmental power?

What if America’s founders and the Constitution’s framers chose liberty over safety? What if the government doesn’t like that choice? What if the government only nominally endorses it?

What if — when the pandemic is over — the government remains tyrannical? What if — when the pandemic is over — folks sue the government for its destruction of life, liberty and property only to learn that the government gave itself immunity from such lawsuits? What if — when the pandemic is over — the government refuses to acknowledge its end?

What if — as Thomas Jefferson said — the blood of patriots should be spilled on the tree of revolution at least once in every generation? What if we nullify the government that has nullified our rights?

The Norwalk Patriot STAFF

| | |
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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.

Help with remodeling

Dear Editor:

This lockdown has been a drag on our economy and our morale. But something good always comes from even the worst of circumstances. We’re noticing with our clients that as the world slowly reopens again, families are moving in together.

This moment is forcing us together in order to save on costs -- and that’s not so bad. Many Americans are also now working from home and needing a home office as the commercial office space gets reconsidered.

If you suddenly need to remodel your home interior and/or office interior to make everybody comfortable, of if you’re ready to build a detached home in your backyard for bother togetherness and independence, let us know.

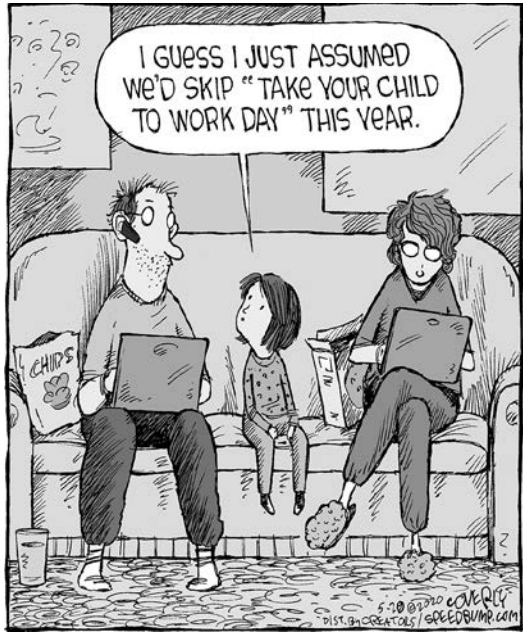
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replacement of dryrot damage, termite infestation or the repair of foundation cracks, we can help.

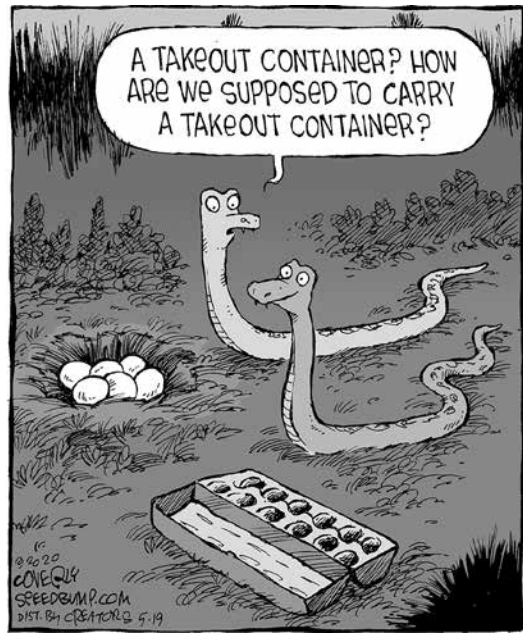
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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, 7:00 p.m. - American Legion Post No. 359 - 11986 Front St.
2nd, 7:30 p.m. - Golden Trowel -Norwalk Masonic Lodge

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...

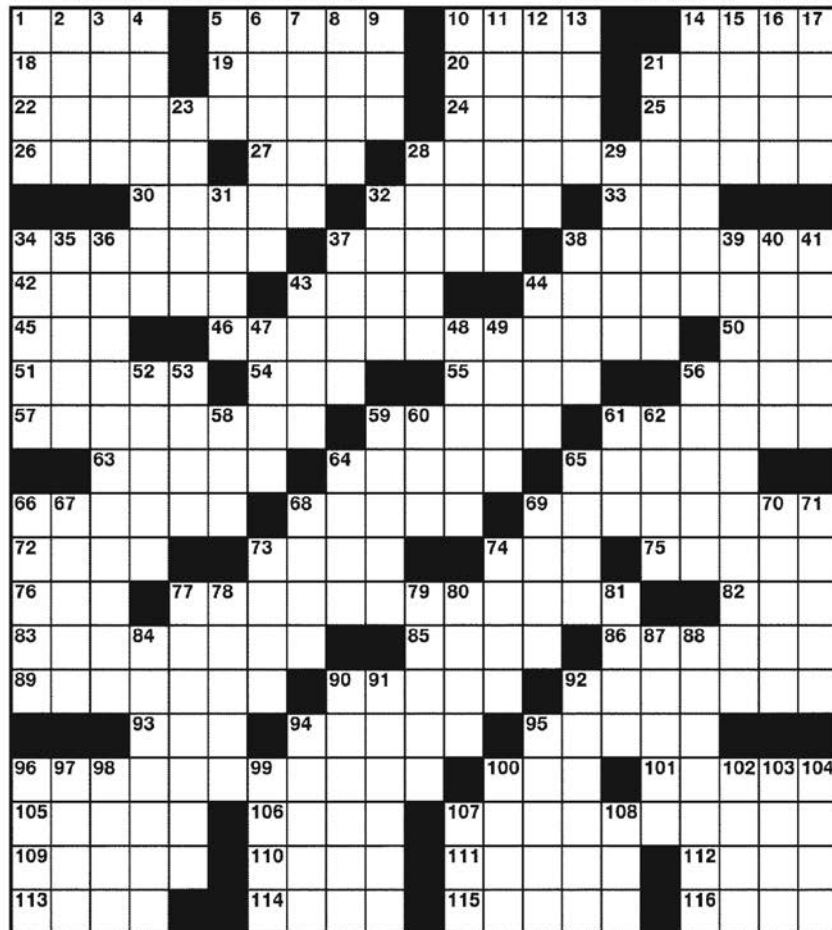
- May 22, 1841: Henry Kennedy received a patent for the first reclining chair.
- 1849: Abraham Lincoln received a patent for the floating dry dock.
- 1967: "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" premiered on PBS.
- 1972: U.S. President Nixon became the first U.S. president to visit Russia. He met with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev.
- 1992: Johnny Carson hosted NBC's "Tonight Show" for the last time. He had been host for 30 years.
- 2012: In Japan, the Tokyo Skytree tower opened.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
PULL OVER: And over and over
by Mark McClain

- ACROSS**
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- 10 Place often called "Plaza"
- 14 Tater
- 18 Pub array
- 19 Marine's break
- 20 Double Stuf cookie
- 21 Part in reserve
- 22 Pet project legislation
- 24 Concrete
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- 65 Freakish
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- 109 Sprat rhyme words
- 110 Sooner, familiarly
- 111 Perplex
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- 114 Spherical hammer part
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- 116 County bordering Sonoma
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- 71 Grand ___ National Park
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- 103 From far down
- 104 Taj Mahal city
- 107 Centrifuge site
- 108 Wiggly swimmer

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

Introduced in 1974, the Double Stuf Oreo (20 Across) is available in chocolate and birthday cake. The Foundation (57 Across) include fillings that include peanut butter, conservationist activities of the Tennessee-based American Eagle Foundation (57 Across) include the rehabilitation and release of birds of prey. Bugs Bunny's girlfriend LOLA (13 Down) made her debut in the 1996 feature film Space Jam.



LEGALIS

Memorial Day: a day to remember special heroes

By Mario A. Guerra

Memorial Day is a day of national awareness and solemn reverence; a day for us to honor the military men and women who gave their lives in defense of our nation, its values, our freedoms and our liberties.



This year, our observance of Memorial Day may be different from previous years while we help slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic by social distancing. Instead of parades or large memorial events, we can remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in a more private way.

There are several ways to do this. We can honor them by participating in the National Moment of Remembrance, a call to voluntarily and informally pause at 3:00 PM local time on Monday, Memorial Day, to reflect on and remember those Americans who died in service to our nation.

We can also fly our flags at half-staff from sunrise until noon only, then raise them briskly to the top of the staff until sunset, in honor of the nation's battle heroes.

Do you know a Gold Star family? Perhaps you can offer to help them in some small way. At the very least, we can thank them for the sacrifice their family has made and for the selfless service their Soldier gave to our country.

Observance Memorial Day was first observed after the Civil War and called "Decoration Day" because families typically remembered their loved ones by decorating gravesites with flowers or flags. We still do that across America today.

In fact, the soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment - The Old Guard - place small American flags at every grave marker in Arlington National Cemetery each and every Memorial Day.

The loss of these brave men and women throughout our nation's history are felt as deeply in our Army as they are in families and communities across this great nation. In the Army, we consider our greatest asset to be our people.

Our all-volunteer Army is a credit to Americans of all races, genders and creeds; and our common commitment to defense and love of country binds us together and unifies us. That goes to the heart of what it means to be an American.

On Memorial Day, I hope, too, that we can remember the link we have with all the generations that have gone before us who selflessly served their country and paid the ultimate price. From the recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq back to the American Revolution, our Soldiers continuously put the welfare of the nation, the Army, and their fellow Soldiers before their own. And we honor those who paid the ultimate price in defense and service to the United States.

In May, we began a commemoration of the 75th anniversary of V-E Day. And as we mark that milestone, and as we gather on this Memorial Day, we are again reminded of the true cost of war.

On May 7, 1945, the Allies accepted Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender. This didn't mean the war was over - Allies were still fighting in the Pacific theater - but it meant peace for millions of people in Europe. The Allies determined that May 8 would be a day of celebration after enduring years of hardship, terrorism, brutality and the death of friends, loved ones and their armed forces.

In London, the news was announced the evening of May 7. Londoners poured out into the streets, and the only thing that stopped the party that night was rain. The next day, more than a million people celebrated.

At Buckingham Palace, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth

and Prime Minister Winston Churchill waved to the crowds below. Two of the revelers were Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, blending into the enormous crowds. I think it was one of the most memorable nights of my life," Queen Elizabeth remembered.

In Paris, which had been occupied for four years, the Champs Elysees was a river of people singing "It's a Long Way to Tipperary," and one eyewitness said from the Place de la Concorde to the Arc de Triomphe there was no place to move or even breathe, the crowds were so vast.

In Berlin, the defeat was both bitter and a relief. Now, people celebrate those who were in the resistance or use the day to reflect on the past, but in 1945, the German people had lost too much to celebrate.

In the United States, V-E day also happened to be President Harry Truman's 61st birthday. Truman dedicated the day to the late President Roosevelt, who led the United States through the war. Fifteen thousand police mobilized to control the enormous crowd gathered in New York's Times Square. In New Orleans, people danced in the streets.

On the front lines, it was a different story. First Lieutenant William Lee Preston, of the U.S. Third Army's 65th Infantry Division wrote, "The front line troops didn't celebrate. Most of the men merely read the story of victory from the division bulletin sent to the troops, said something like 'I'm glad' and walked away.

Perhaps it was a different story in their hearts, or perhaps they were too tired, or thinking of home too much, or thinking of their buddies who didn't live to see the victory, to do much celebrating or merry making." More than 405,000 Americans died in World War II, giving their lives for our freedom.

Today, we pause to remember the sacrifices that the Allied forces made to ensure people were freed from Nazism, and the sacrifices American Soldiers have made in every conflict, to ensure we remain free. Of course, in the Army, we continue to pay a high price for ensuring America's freedom and security.

Every year, Soldiers die in combat or in accidents, and most recently, Capt. Douglas Linn Hickok, a physician assistant and New Jersey National Guardsman, died after testing positive for the coronavirus.

We will always continue to honor and remember those who died while answering the call to serve our nation.

Today, we pay special tribute to the men and women who have paid the ultimate price, whether it is deployed in harm's way all across the globe, training, or to our newest enemy -- COVID-19. We remember them and many more with gratitude and respect for the selfless service they provided our country.

Memorial Day is a time to honor our commitment to never forget those who served and sacrificed for America. And today, we do that once again. Thank you for reading this and thank you for remembering our soldiers and their selfless service.

Mario A. Guerra is the former mayor of Downey and currently serves as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. He can be reached at www.marioaguerra.com

NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case Number: 20NWCP00104. To all interested persons: Petitioner JAZMIN PEREZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name (1) JAZMIN PEREZ to Proposed name (1) LUNA KIDDO PEREZ

Notice of Hearing Date: MAY 20, 2020, Time: 1:30 p.m., Department: C, Room: 312

The address of the court is 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk 90659

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, The Norwalk Patriot

The Norwalk Patriot 5/12/20, 5/8/20, 5/15/20, 5/22/20

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case Number: 20NWCP00029. To all interested persons: Petitioner GENE ARYAN ARROYAS filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name (1) GENE ARYAN ARROYAS to Proposed name (1) GENE ARYAN ARROYAS

Notice of Hearing Date: MARCH 25, 2020, Time: 1:30 p.m., Department: C, Room: 312

The address of the court is 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk 90650

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, The Norwalk Patriot

The Norwalk Patriot 5/22/20, 5/29/20, 6/5/20, 6/12/20

TRUSTEE SALES

T.S. No.: 20-00065 Title Order: 8762497

CITY OF NORWALK NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING STREET VACATION NO. 88 GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 182 ZONE CHANGE NO. 361 SIGN USE PERMIT NO. 315 DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020. Time: 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. Place: Via Teleconference City Council Chambers, Norwalk City Hall, 12700 Norwalk Boulevard, Norwalk, CA 90650

Project Description: For the Planning Commission to make recommendations on the following applications filed by Evergreen Media, LLC. ("Applicant"); a request to allow the construction of an off-premise, digital billboard sign on a City owned property.

- 1. Vacate a portion of former Firestone Boulevard right-of-way for other City purposes; 2. Designate the project site as General Commercial in the City's General Plan; 3. Designate the project site as General Commercial (C-3) zone on the City's Zoning Map; 4. Allow the construction of an 80-foot tall, off-premise digital billboard sign containing two (2) screens; and 5. Approve a development agreement between the City and the Applicant to establish an easement and allow the construction for the billboard on a City owned property.

Final action regarding this project will be taken by the City Council at a subsequent public hearing.

Environmental Review Information: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines of the City of Norwalk, this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and a Negative Declaration has been prepared for the proposed project.

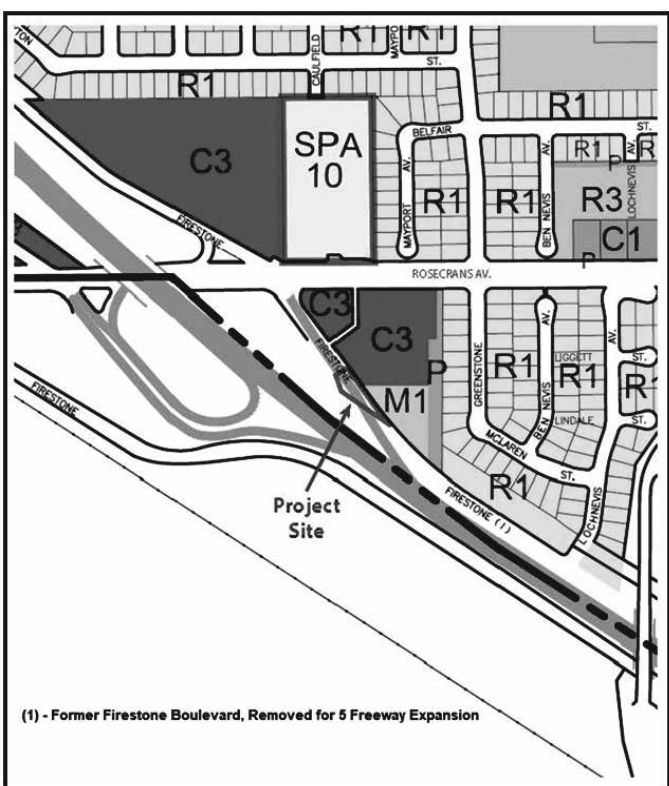
Public Comment: Interested persons may review the agenda report for the above-described project at the City's webpage at: https://www.norwalk.org/city-hall/meeting-agendas-393. Until further notice, the Planning Commission meetings will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order N-25-20, which does allow for Planning Commission and/or staff to teleconference.

More Information: Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Beth Chow, Senior Planner, at (562) 929-5953 or bchow@norwalkca.gov.

Accessibility: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in a City meeting or other services offered by this City, please contact the Community Development Department at (562) 929-5744.

John P. Ramirez, AICP Director of Community Development

PROJECT LOCATION MAP



The Norwalk Patriot 5/22/20, 5/29/20

Loan No.: FPL15605 APN: 8056-013-007 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10/27/2016. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.

THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/31/2006. 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.

NPP0370269 The Norwalk Patriot 5/22/20, 5/29/20, 6/5/20

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No.: 19-3462 Loan No.: *****680 APN: 8082-014-042 NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF

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Short Stories

Abstract art class

By Yolanda Adele

I had to take an elective class in my junior high school. The only class available to me was an art class. I was mortified. In fact, at that age I was usually mortified about something.

But what made matters worse was that I sat between two artsy type students with talent beyond what that class offered. The only thing that I ever painted was with my fingers in kindergarten. And then the teacher had to guess what my subject matter was. I often made up the answer as to what my paintings were about, because it wasn't even clear to me what I had created.

Consequently, I painted first then gave my "art" a name of anything that my picture may have even remotely resembled. Which I don't think is too far from the truth for some of the so-called "modern art" I have seen at museums.

My art instructor, Mr. Arthur Farr (whom some kids nicknamed Artsy Farts), said he wanted a few watercolor paintings from each of his classes to put in the art display case in the hall. Anyone whose painting was picked would automatically get an "A" for his or her project or at least extra credit. Though I knew that I was out of my league compared to my peers, I decided to participate in order to get a decent grade for effort.

I painted a beach scene

and stick-like figures of children playing in the sand at least that is what I told myself the painting was about.

I suddenly became intimidated when I saw my competitor's precise brush strokes of a seascape on his canvas. So, before Mr. Farr came around to my easel, I took my "painting" to the sink and tried to wash my mistakes down the drain. The ocean hues in my painting ran together while the stick figures, which were probably drier, stayed intact. I finally decided to just leave the painting alone and take my criticisms.

A few kids teased me, saying anything from my painting looked like a pizza explosion to a freak show underwater. I didn't disagree with them either; I couldn't in good conscience anyway. That is why I was as shocked as they were when Mr. Farr chose my painting.

He said I was a free-stylist, able to think in the abstract. Somehow, his words had the power to free and help me feel accepted enough to just have fun and enjoy the class. The more abstract I became the better.

I call Mr. Farr a great teacher.

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.

LA Philharmonic cancels 2020 season

LOS ANGELES - In response to the latest guidance of public health officials and in an effort to protect artists, audiences, and staff from the spread of COVID-19, the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association is canceling the 2020 seasons at the Hollywood Bowl and The Ford.

Seasons at these two Los Angeles County venues, normally scheduled from June through September, are programmed by the LA Phil and feature a wide variety of artists, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

The LA Phil estimates that revenues lost from these canceled concerts, as well as a portion of the orchestra's spring season, will result in a roughly \$80 million budget shortfall.

To mitigate these losses, the LA Phil must now take additional steps to address the financial impact caused by the pandemic and is furloughing approximately 25% of its full-time non-union workforce, as well as the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra through September 30, 2020, and is laying off seasonal Hollywood Bowl employees.

Prior to these decisions, the association reduced all non-essential expenses, laid off its part-time employees, instituted salary reductions of 35% in aggregate, and made the decision to draw from its endowment. These cost-saving measures will continue through the summer.

To preserve the LA Phil as it faces unprecedented financial strain, the Association is launching "Play Your Part," a \$35 million campaign. "Play Your Part" will support all of the association's ongoing operations and programs, including the LA Phil's YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles) program and other educational initiatives, which serve more than 150,000 youth, families, and teachers every year.

As part of the overall campaign, Hollywood Bowl ticketholders will have the option of supporting what has been a summertime tradition for generations of Los Angeles families by donating the value of their tickets back to the LA Phil, raising an initial \$1 million from a challenge grant from Jane and Michael Eisner.

"The cancellation of our summer programs and the resulting impact on our musicians and staff is devastating. We are all broken hearted by the effects of this crisis and share the disappointment of all those who

look forward to the Bowl and Ford seasons every year," said Chad Smith, the association's chief executive officer.

"As we deal with this public health emergency, our task now, which we share with all of Los Angeles, is to go forward with strength and resilience, knowing we will get through this with one another's help. The LA Phil has been here for more than one hundred years, and the Hollywood Bowl and The Ford for almost as long. We are doing what is necessary to ensure that we are all here for the next century."

Gail Samuel, president of the Hollywood Bowl and Chief Operating Officer of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, said, "The Hollywood Bowl and The Ford are much more than performance venues. They are iconic places and represent summer traditions that have played a part in defining Los Angeles itself. It's deeply saddening to acknowledge that the 2020 summer season is gone, but the LA Phil isn't going anywhere. Our cultural community is among the most vibrant and creative in the world. We have every reason to look ahead with hope and confidence to next summer's centennial celebrations at the Hollywood Bowl and The Ford."

Thomas L. Beckmen, LA Phil Board Chair, said, "Now that these wrenching but necessary decisions have been made, all of us who understand how much the LA Phil does for Los Angeles must do what we can to bolster this great institution and keep it vital for the future. We get so much inspiration and pride from the LA Phil, whether it's performing at Walt Disney Concert Hall or the Bowl, whether it's reaching out to young people through YOLA or presenting diverse programs at The Ford. For everyone who can, this is a time to reciprocate and play our part."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl said, "This decision makes me heartsick for all the County residents who have made the Bowl and the Ford a treasured ritual of each summer, although this is the best decision to make in the face of the threat from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of Supervisors will continue to work closely with these great cultural institutions as we work our way through this crisis and ensure their stability for the future."

COVID-19 claims life of youth football coach

DOWNEY - Robert Olvera, a volunteer coach with the Downey Razorbacks youth football league, died Tuesday after contracting Covid-19, according to friends and family members.

He is survived by a wife, Ashley, and three children: Adrian (10), Dominic (8) and Robert (5). Each of the children attend Downey schools.

Olvera also served as the Razorbacks' athletic director.

"We are deeply saddened and sorry for the loss and we hope it brings comfort to the entire Olvera family knowing that their grief is shared by all of us who knew Robert," the Razorbacks

Pier 1 closing all stores

Pier 1, the seller of wicker chairs and scented candles, said it will go out of business and permanently close all 540 of its stores.

The Fort Worth, Texas-based company said Tuesday that it was unable to find a buyer for its business after filing for

bankruptcy protection earlier this year.

It will start going-out-of-business sales as soon as it can reopen stores that have been temporarily shut due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Downey's Dr. John Garcia named regional Superintendent of the Year

DOWNEY - Dr. John Garcia, Downey Unified's superintendent, was selected as the Superintendent of the Year for Region 14 of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA).

This is a distinguished honor as Region 14 consists of 24 school districts covering an area from Beverly Hills to Long Beach. Each year ACSA acknowledges outstanding performance and achievement by individual administrators in various regions throughout California.

Garcia, Downey Unified superintendent for the last seven years, was selected for this award for his "exceptional leadership in managing school programs, commitment to educational quality and student achievement, commitment to professional growth, and creativity and innovation in dealing with issues and problems facing public education."

"Dr. Garcia is extremely adept at creating a positive, dedicated, educational environment that includes and represents all members of the Downey Unified family," expressed Donald LaPlante, Downey Unified's Board of Education President. "His work ethic is unparalleled and he is guided by a strong moral compass, which sets a high standard for staff and students alike. His judgments and decisions are guided by what is best for our students and we are proud to have him as our superintendent."

Also set to be recognized, was Downey Adult School Principal, Blanca Rochin, who was selected as the ACSA Region 14 Adult Education Administrator of the Year and later was named the 2020 Adult Education

Administrator of the Year Award for the State of California.

With a total of 19 regions in the state of California, ACSA Region 14 serves the following school districts in Los Angeles County: ABC Unified, Bellflower Unified, Beverly Hills Unified, Centinela Valley Union High, Compton Unified, Culver City Unified, Downey Unified, El Segundo Unified, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach City, Inglewood Unified, Lawndale, Lennox, Long Beach Unified, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Lynwood Unified, Manhattan Beach Unified, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified, Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified, Paramount Unified, Redondo Beach Unified, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified, Torrance Unified, Wiseburn, and community college districts and universities servicing these areas.

The Association of California School Administrators was established in 1971 and is the umbrella organization for school leaders in the state, serving more than 16,000 school leaders throughout California. ACSA's 19 regions divide the state geographically, allowing the voices of members to be heard at the local level.

The mission of ACSA is to support California's educational leaders, ensure all students have the essential skills and knowledge needed to excel and champion public education. More than two dozen job-alike and issue-oriented councils and committees, a board of directors and a delegate assembly keep ACSA focused on school leadership and on education policy issues at the local, state and federal levels.

Book sheds new light on El Camino Real

Now the highway has the utilitarian designation of U.S. Route 101, but originally it had a name of romance and mystery — El Camino Real, or the King's Highway, built on the trail pioneered by the Spanish friars and marked by mission bells on the roadside.

Regional historian Stephen H. Provost brings back the romance of this fabled highway in his new book "Highway 101: The History of El Camino Real" (Craven Street Books, publication date May 19, 2020).

The second in Provost's California's Historic Highways series, "Highway 101" tells the picturesque story of this great highway and the restaurants, motels, gas stations and tourist stops that made the road memorable to generations of travelers, illustrated with 200 historic photographs of the life and times of the highway.

Unique among U.S. highways, the route of Highway 101 wasn't chosen for utilitarian reasons but to retrace the old El Camino Real, the legendary King's Highway of Spanish colonial days. From its beginning, Highway 101 was conceived as a romantic recreation of the past — or as a cynic might put it, as a tourism promotion to bring travelers to the Old California missions.

"Highway 101" traces the history of every mile of the roads that became U.S. Route 101, from the Carlsbad Highway in San Diego to the Redwood Highway on the Oregon border. This amazing history documents how a 1901 antiquarian project to recreate the mission trail grew to be the six-lane superhighway of today, and how automobile travel transformed from leisurely tourism to one of the greatest

selling tools in American history.

As Provost observes, the travelers on a highway are a captive audience for billboards, restaurants, hotels, gas stations, roadside attractions and tourist traps of all kinds. From Disneyland to the historic Madonna Inn to the Avenue of the Giants, "Highway 101" catalogs the great landmarks along the road. "Highway 101" recreates the sights, sounds and flavors of road trips from early 20th century to the present day, with lively and detailed descriptions of the landmarks and business empires that flourished along the highway.

"Highway 101" also covers some of the extraordinary history that has happened on the roadside. Highway 101 runs through California's agriculture heartland, and many of the labor struggles of the 20th century took place along the highway. "Highway 101" chronicles the migrations of the Depression, the great Salinas lettuce strike of 1936, the desperate laborers photographed by Dorothea Lange and the worst bus-train accident in U.S. history, when a train hauling sugar beets plowed into a bus carrying celery workers.

Additional chapters cover the birth of the California oil industry, the invention of the motel and the development of the theme park industry, plus the fascinating personalities, from Jelly Roll Morton to Cecil B. DeMille, whose lives intersected with the history of the route.

A colorful history of Americana, commerce, travel and fun, "Highway 101" captures the magic of the open road.

Officials hope technology will get people to show up to court

LOS ANGELES - The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the creation of a one-year pilot program to reduce the number of failures to appear in the County of Los Angeles' courts, directing the public defender to utilize a technology-based solution to communicate information to clients to help ensure their appearance in court.

The goal of this pilot is to make courtrooms and courthouses safer and keep the jail population down in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, while ultimately producing better outcomes for justice-involved individuals, officials said.

Piloting a low-cost text message-based communication and engagement tool can help low-income clients appear in court and at mandatory appointments, preventing technical violations leading to the issuance of bench warrants and resulting in costly warrant execution and incarceration, county officials said.

"We must take advantage of the readily available, cost effective, emerging technologies to help reduce failures to appear and, at the same time, continue doing all that we can to keep individuals safe during this crisis," said Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. "This is an important long-term goal in criminal justice reform and promoting alternatives to incarceration, and increasingly important given the pandemic and high volume of upcoming court dates."

Due to the risk of COVID-19

spreading rapidly within the crowded jails, the jail population has been reduced from 17,000 to less than 12,000, a release of over 5,000 incarcerated individuals. Many of the individuals recently released have pending court dates as early as June; this expected increase in court dates adds to the urgency in reducing failures to appear, especially for those defendants from low-income communities.

Reducing failures to appear is essential to avoiding re-arrests and the likely spike in the jail population that would result, which could undermine the county's efforts to contain the virus, proponents of the program said.

"The approved pilot is a proven tool to get Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender clients back to court on time," said Los Angeles County Public Defender Ricardo Garcia. "Supervisor Ridley-Thomas's, and the Board of Supervisors', prospective thinking will help reduce "failure to appear" warrants, decrease the number of arrests and prevent re-filling the jails with our indigent clients during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Other jurisdictions that have utilized similar technology have seen substantial reductions in failure to appear rates, with one study finding that text message reminders contributed to a 36 percent decrease in the failure to appear rate in New York City. Additionally, the savings associated with preventing failures to appear should prove to be considerable for Los Angeles County.

Dedication propels Santa Fe softball star into next level of competition

Continued from page 1

She also believes playing sports is a privilege.

She believes in three main things, that if she is not paying attention to the sport, it won't be there for her. "If I don't do my chores, I don't play. If I don't honor my parents, I don't play. If I don't keep up my grades, I don't play."

One low point in her life was the passing of her Uncle Jamie last year. "I kind of lost my way."

She rebounded and had a great season eventually.

"What can I say about Chita, but that she's the heart and soul of the team," Reyes said. She is our vocal leader and that person you want on your team.

"She's a 3-year letterman and got a chance to start last year as a junior. This was the year that she was going to break out. She's been working hard on and off the field, so that this year would be her best year, but unfortunately this virus stopped it.

"She's the girl you want up when you need that clutch hit."

Several times this year she got clutch hits to get Santa Fe back in the game. The Chiefs, who were off to a 6-2-1 start, were having a close game against

Temple city this season.

"She hit a huge two-run double to secure our victory," Reyes added. "She played a great shortstop as well.

"This year's team was meshing together and playing some awesome softball. We had a perfect mix of youth and veterans on our team. These girls had the drive to do great in our league (Del Rio) and make a run in the playoffs."

But, it wasn't meant to be and Aguirre is ok with that.

"Everything happens for a reason," said Chita, who played baseball from the age of four (T-ball) up to seventh grade.

"There's not much you can do about it (the stoppage of the season). Honestly, it (the virus) hit close to home."

Her mother came down with the virus and had a fever for 16 days and spent two of them in the hospital.

"I had Covid-19 and now we have to see the bright side," said her mother. "We need to be grateful and God is giving us something to look at. Be grateful for it."

She still has to be careful, but as Rebecca Aguirre says, "You have to keep going."

Her mother kidded about her upcoming journey to North Dakota. "I'm going to get her a horse. She already has the cowboy boots!"

Chita also has a brother, Fidencio, who is a senior at Don Lugo and plays varsity baseball.

"It was hard for both of them," Rebecca Aguirre said of the stoppage in play. "I tell them so much to not give up."

Becky, as she goes by, remembers one instant about Chita when a nine-year-old asked for her autograph. "I'm very proud of what she has accomplished.

"I'm proud of my kids. You have to stay positive."

Chita's brother Fidencio is also her personal trainer during this 'stay at home' time we are living in.

"He pushes me in every workout."

Coach Reyes, who played college baseball at Rio Hondo and La Verne, was heart broken on the loss of the season, especially for the four seniors - Jackie Cardena (4-year varsity second baseman who has committed to the University of New Mexico Highlands in Las Vegas, New Mexico), Alex Martinez (who became a starter this season and



Santa Fe's Herlinda "Chita" Aguirre fields ground balls in her backyard as she gets ready to attend North Dakota University in the fall. (Photo by Keith Durlinger)

was batting over .400 and will enter the military), Cheyanne Hernandez (pitcher) and Chita.

"I feel bad for those girls this year," said Reyes, who is a L.A. Sheriff's deputy. "There was nothing I could do. It was a whole season that was lost.

"I feel bad because they worked so hard the last four years."

Chita Aguirre had great things to say about Reyes.

"What can I say about coach," Chita said of Reyes. "He cares

about his players. About your future, your plan is his plan."

And Aguirre has a plan.

"Everyday I try to switch it up," Aguirre said "I'm excited to get out there and get after it." The 5-4 dynamo certainly will do just that on the field and in life.

Nursing school reaches settlement in discrimination case

ARTESIA - Angeles Institute, a for-profit nursing school based in Artesia, has agreed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by allowing individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to enroll.

As part of a settlement agreement with the United States, the school also agreed to provide auxiliary aids and services necessary to ensure effective communication to these students.

The settlement, which was finalized Wednesday, resolves allegations that Angeles Institute denied a prospective student

admission to its nursing assistant program because he is deaf. The ADA prohibits public accommodations, including private educational institutions like Angeles Institute, from denying access to their programs or services to individuals with disabilities.

Under the settlement agreement, Angeles Institute must:

- modify its policies to clarify that prospective students cannot be denied admission because of a disability;
- provide interpreters or other auxiliary aids and services free of

charge when necessary to ensure they are accessible to individuals with disabilities;

• appoint an ADA Coordinator to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to the school's programs and services; and

• pay \$10,000 to the complainant and a \$5,000 civil penalty to the United States.

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Griselda Castro named principal of La Serna High School

WHITTIER - La Serna High School Assistant Principal Griselda Castro - an educator in the Whittier Union High School District for the past 25 years - has been appointed to serve as the Lancer campus' newest principal.

Certified teacher, will replace longtime La Serna Principal Ann Fitzgerald, who will begin her new role as assistant superintendent of personnel services July 1.

"I am humbled by this opportunity to serve the La Serna community, staff and

students in a new role," Castro said. "I have dedicated my entire teaching career to educating students in our Whittier Union schools and collaborating with a talented team of teachers, staff and administrators to elevate student achievement. La Serna High School is a very special place and I am excited to continue on this journey."

Castro began her career in 1995 at Santa Fe High School, where she taught social studies and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID).

She has held various leadership roles throughout her career, including social science department chair, curriculum coordinator, AVID coordinator and District new teacher adviser. She also served as an AVID senior program specialist for the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

From 2009 to 2019, Castro served as an assistant principal in the curriculum and guidance offices, developing instructional programs, guiding educators as they navigate state assessments and standards, and coordinating student support and guidance services. Castro transferred to La Serna High in 2019, where she continues to oversee curriculum and instruction. Her two oldest children graduated from Santa Fe High School.

"Griselda has proven herself to be a compassionate educator, exemplary leader and critical member of the Whittier Union family," Superintendent Martin Plourde said. "We are thrilled to name Griselda as La Serna's new principal and are confident that she - alongside the school's outstanding administrators, teachers, staff and students - will help La Serna continue to reach new levels of success."

La Mirada HS seniors threaten boycott of virtual graduation

Students have threatened to not tune in to their virtual graduation should NLMUSD fail to provide concrete answers about an in-person ceremony.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

LA MIRADA - Seniors at La Mirada High School have threatened to boycott their virtual ceremony, citing frustrations with communication between them and the Norwalk / La Mirada School District.

Even as elected leaders flirt with the idea of a gradual reopening of society in the wake of COVID-19, large gathering events hang in limbo. With the current school year just weeks from finishing up, many colleges and districts have resorted to online graduation ceremonies to celebrate their students who are moving on.

However, a group of La Mirada students have expressed feelings that an in-person ceremony is still just as important to have.

According to 18-year-old Michael Michener, one of the seniors at La Mirada leading the charge, attempts to create dialogue with the district and the school about a future ceremony have been unfruitful.

"Our school district released a statement to seniors which basically stated that given the current pandemic, our senior activities had been canceled, and they had instead chosen to do a virtual graduation," said Michener. "Unlike other school districts in the area, they gave really no mention as to whether or not we were planning on doing another ceremony in the future."

"We've continued to reach out to administrators and to the district trying to get answers from them, and what we've pretty much been told was that there is no guarantees that we're going to have anything in the future."

NLMUSD's website has been updated to include a page dedicated to information and questions about the currently scheduled virtual ceremonies. There, the district does say that there remains a possibility of

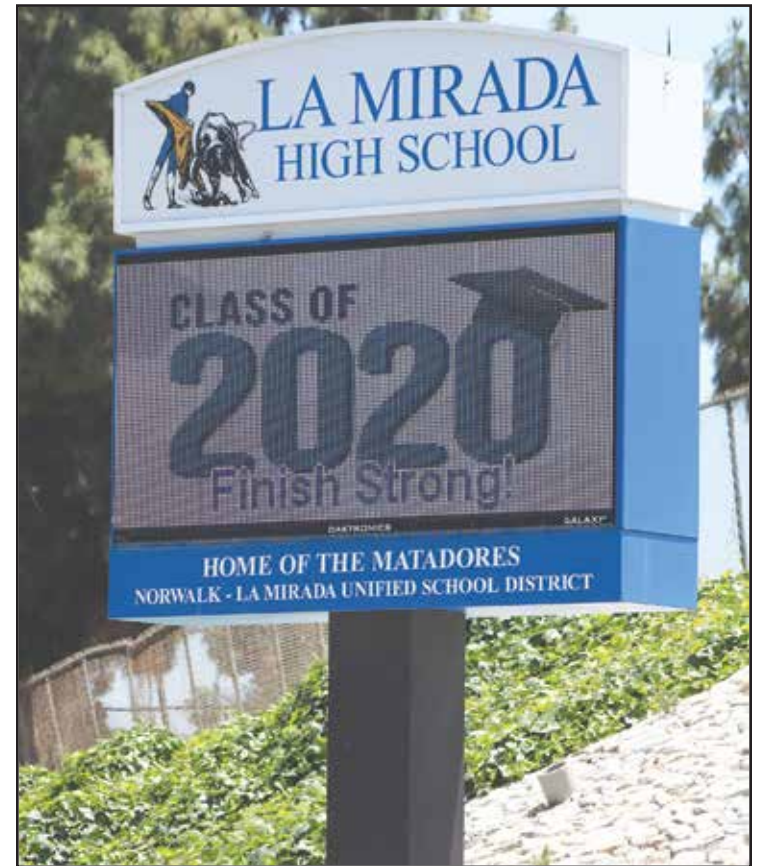


Photo by Alex Dominguez

a future in-person ceremony, which - should social distancing measures lift and guidelines be adjusted - the Board of Education would discuss.

In the meantime, Michener says that the district has stonewalled he and his fellow students from any kind of discussions.

While Michener says that "safety is our number one priority," he and his fellow seniors want assurance that "there will still be something there for us."

Michener and his fellow seniors fighting for their ceremony have drawn their line in the sand at June 13: the day that their virtual graduation is currently scheduled.

If there is no dialogue established before then, then Michener says that they will not tune in to their virtual ceremony.

"We just want to make sure that in light of everything that is happening right now, we as seniors aren't forgotten," said Michener. "For us, the virtual ceremony is of course something that they're just trying to do at this moment in time, and we are appreciative that they have tried to make some form of effort to doing these kind of things."

"But for many of us who have worked for the last 12 years... it's that principle of being able to walk down the aisle that first time; that experience that we're never going to be able to receive and the closure that we're never going to get from not being in high school. That's a big part of what we're missing here, the closure of being able to say goodbye to our friends, to the faculty, to the teachers that have taught us for multiple years."

George Lopez releasing Netflix comedy special

George Lopez is releasing his first comedy special on Netflix on June 30.

It's titled "George Lopez: We'll Do It For Half."

While this is the comedian's first special on the streaming service, he's had four HBO specials, the most recent in 2017.

In George Lopez: We'll Do It For Half, the comedy legend delivers a commentary on race, politics, and life lessons from the Latino community.

Filmed at The Warfield Theatre, the one-hour special also explores cultural differences, gender reveal parties, elevator etiquette, and more.

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