

## David Cruz chosen as new John Glenn football coach



New Football Head Coach, David Cruz, stands in the football stadium at John Glenn High School. (Photo by Keith Durflinger)

Longtime former Athletic Director has held multiple coaching positions in 18-year career

By John Sherrard Contributor

**NORWALK** – John Glenn High School has recently chosen David Cruz as head football coach after 14 years as an assistant. Cruz, who graduated from El Rancho in 1985, has mostly coached the defense, in particular, defensive backs for John Glenn over the years.

Cruz, 53, who is currently the Assistant Athletic Director, will replace Vince Lobendahn, who was the football coach for the last seven years from 2013-19.

Cruz becomes the ninth coach in the last 20 years for the Eagles.

“This has been my dream job for many years here at John Glenn high,” said Cruz, who has been at the school for 18 years.

“I always wanted to be a head football coach, but I just started coaching other sports and assisting with the football team for all of these years.”

After many years of no post-season appearances, while in the Suburban League, Glenn has qualified for the CIF-Southern Section D12 playoffs the last two seasons, while in the 605 League.

“I’m really excited for him,” said 2020 graduate and former running back, Edwin Udengwu, who had a 2,000-yard season in his junior year. “He brings a lot of new leadership and he was an amazing mentor to me.

“He was one of the first persons I came in contact with at the school.”

Edwin, who has a younger brother Mikel, coming in as a freshman and will play football, finished with a 4.0 GPA in school and will be playing at Fullerton College this season.

“He (Cruz) was really supportive of me and I’m really excited for him to be a coach,” Mikel Udengwu said. “I’m excited and nervous and it’ll be awhile to get back into shape. I can learn from him.”

Cruz, who played football, basketball and volleyball at El Rancho, then went on to Cerritos College for football, and finished up his final two years at Whittier College playing football.

“After my playing days, I entered the Army and served from 1991 through 1997, mainly stationed in Fort Sill, Oklahoma,” said Cruz, where he met his future wife, Shannon. “During those years, I coached (football) at Cameron University in Lawton, OK for a year and four years at Empire HS.”

After working for Uncle Sam, Cruz worked five years as a Medical Lab Technician for Duncan Regional Hospital in Duncan, Ok.

In 2002, Cruz and his now wife Shanon, came together to John Glenn.

“We came as a package deal,” he joked. Shanon was hired as a math teacher and David had the opportunity to teach a health class. Twelve years later David Cruz got the opportunity to teach PE. Along the way, Shanon received the prestigious Teacher of the Year Award for the 2007-08 school year in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District.

“She is now my boss,” said David, referring to her Vice Principal position.

“We are very excited to have Dave step in as our head coach for the upcoming season,” John Glenn Athletic Director Linda Parra said. “He has always been a dedicated coach and has a huge heart for the Athletes in the program. I have witnessed him give countless hours and days up to coach our athletes.

“When our previous head coach (Vince Lobendahn) resigned, it was important for us to find a coach who understood our athletes and could step right in and continue the growing success of the football program. Dave is also a teacher on campus

and that’s a huge bonus!”

Cruz has been a part of the JG coaching staff since the 2002-03 school year.

Cruz, like most high school football coaches right now, isn’t even sure when the 2020 season will begin due to the current situation.

One of the first items on his agenda will be waiting to see the decision that CIF State will announce this coming Monday, July 20 on all Fall sports.

JG debuted its brand new football stadium on campus last season and Cruz hopes there will be a season sometime.

“At the beginning of the summer I had all of these plans,” Cruz said. “As the weeks went by I kind of lost contact with them.

“I’m still excited. It’s an empty slate right now and I’m able to put forth what I think the kids need to know. We have plenty of time, so I’m excited.

“I’m excited about the future. Football will come back, whether or not it’s this season, weather or not it’s in January or next season. I feel like my kids will be prepared and we’ll have some success.”

Asked how it could affect his team by not getting a chance to

Continued on page 6

### Norwalk restaurant grades

**L&L Hawaiian Barbeque**  
12431 Norwalk Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 7/9/20  
Grade: **A**

**Burger IM**  
14133 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 6/24/20  
Grade: **A**

**Huh Daegam Restaurant**  
16511 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 6/17/20  
Grade: **A**

**88 Kings Chinese Food**  
16441 Pioneer Blvd.  
Inspected: 6/17/20  
Grade: **A**

**Coffee Code**  
13250 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 6/15/20  
Grade: **A**

**RT Kitchen Snacks & More**  
15714 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 6/11/20  
Grade: **A**

**KFC**  
12959 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 6/11/20  
Grade: **A**

**ABC Donuts**  
10620 Imperial Hwy.  
Date Inspected: 6/11/20  
Grade: **A**

**Pizza Hut**  
12125 Imperial Hwy.  
Date Inspected: 6/10/20  
Grade: **A**

**Jamba Juice**  
12305 Imperial Hwy.  
Date Inspected: 6/10/20  
Grade: **A**

**Rainbow Donuts**  
12307 Imperial Hwy.  
Date Inspected: 6/10/20  
Grade: **A**

**Subway**  
11782 Firestone Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 6/10/20  
Grade: **A**

**In n Out**  
14330 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 6/9/20  
Grade: **A**

**Subway**  
13019 Rosecrans  
Date Inspected: 6/9/20  
Grade: **A**

**Candlelight Bakery**  
10965 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 6/9/20  
Grade: **A**

**Taco Bell**  
13410 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 6/9/20  
Grade: **A**

**Starbucks**  
13001 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 6/9/20  
Grade: **A**

**Randy’s Donuts**  
10989 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 6/9/20  
Grade: **A**

**Spoon Me Latin Delights**  
14431 Pioneer Blvd.  
Date Inspected: 6/9/20  
Grade: **A**

**Little Caesars**  
13019 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 6/9/20  
Grade: **A**

**Donut King**  
12000 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 6/9/20  
Grade: **A**

**Las Aguilas Bakery**  
12834 1/2 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 6/9/20  
Grade: **A**

**Subway**  
10995 Rosecrans Ave.  
Date Inspected: 6/9/20  
Grade: **A**

### Weekend at a Glance

Friday 84° ☁️

Saturday 86° ☁️

Sunday 88° ☁️

### ON THIS DAY JULY 17

#### 1918:

The RMS Carpathia, the ship that rescued 705 survivors of the Titanic, was sunk off Ireland by a German submarine.

#### 1938:

Pilot Douglas Corrigan departed New York City for Long Beach, Calif. Citing poor visibility, he mistakenly traveled east and instead landed in Dublin, Ireland.

#### 1955:

Disneyland opened in Anaheim, Calif., with five themed “lands” and 20 attractions.



Disneyland grand opening

#### 1976:

The Summer Olympics opened in Montreal with 25 African teams boycotting due to New Zealand’s participation. New Zealand had been criticized for participating in South African sporting events during apartheid.

#### 1979:

Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza Debayle resigned and fled to Miami. Denied entry by President Carter, he took refuge in Paraguay, where he was assassinated a year later.

#### 1981:

Two walkways at a Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kansas City collapsed onto a dance floor below, killing 114 people.

#### 1984:

The national drinking age in the U.S. was changed from 18 to 21.

#### 1998:

A magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Papua New Guinea, killing at least 2,183 people.

#### 2018:

Twelve new moons were discovered to be orbiting Jupiter.

#### Notable Birthdays

Actor **Donald Sutherland** turns 85.  
“Baywatch” actor **David Hasselhoff** turns 68.  
German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** turns 66.  
Country singer **Luke Bryan** turns 44.

#### Notable Deaths

**Henry Hartsfield**, a U.S. astronaut who logged more than 480 hours in space, died on this day in 2014 of complications from back surgery. He was 80.  
**Bruiser Brody**, a football player and wrestler, was stabbed to death during a wrestling event in Puerto Rico. His attacker, who claimed self defense, was later acquitted. Brody was 42.  
Hall of Fame pitcher **Dizzy Dean** died of a heart attack in 1974. He was 64.  
Hall of Fame centerfielder **Ty Cobb** died in 1961 after falling into a diabetic coma. He was 74.  
Legendary jazz vocalist **Billie Holiday** died in 1959 of heart failure caused by cirrhosis of the liver. She was 44.

#### Holidays

Today is **Yellow Pig Day**, created by Princeton mathematics students to celebrate the number 17.

Also celebrated today **World Emoji Day**, celebrating this new form of mobile communication.

## SoCalGas awards \$5,000 scholarships to Cerritos College graduates

**NORWALK** – Cerritos College Foundation has announced Rachelle Elhessen and Tran Pham as the recipients of the SoCalGas Scholarship. Both students will receive \$5,000 to support the continuation of their higher education. SoCalGas, a Sempra Energy utility, believes that a well-educated workforce makes good business sense and is essential for a vital and economically healthy Southern California.

Rachelle Elhessen just earned associate degrees for transfer in mathematics and physics from Cerritos College and has been accepted to the University of Southern California (USC). She plans to earn a B.S. in chemical engineering with the goal of advancing technologies in sustainable and clean energy to aid third-world countries. A Bellflower resident, Rachelle was active in the Cerritos College’s Scholars’ Honors Program and NASA Aerospace Scholars Program. She also participated in the Research Experience Program at USC. “Engineering can be used for so much more

than just structurally designing houses and buildings,” said Rachelle. “Having visited third world countries in the Middle East, I have witnessed firsthand the consequences of water and electricity shortages. As a chemical engineer, I can remedy this problem.”

Tran Pham will matriculate to the University of California, Berkeley where she will continue her business administration studies. After earning her bachelor’s degree, she wants to work for a Big-4 accounting firm as a certified public accountant (CPA). While at Cerritos College, Tran served as the President of the Cerritos College Accounting Club and Vice President of Education at Cerritos College Toastmasters. She also co-founded the campus chapter of the Association of Latin Professionals for America (ALPFA). “I want to become a CPA as I believe it will grant me a better future and help me become a better-rounded professional. Organizations flourish by creating and supporting transparency and other community values.

CPAs play an essential role in delivering that mission, as they are well-respected strategic business advisors and decision-makers,” said Tran.

“We are honored to provide scholarships to Rachelle and Tran. Their academic achievements, goals, and volunteer experiences were exceptional,” said Julia

Emerson, Public Affairs Manager at SoCalGas. Julia is a Cerritos College alumna, who served as Vice President of the Associated Students of Cerritos College and then-mascot Freda Falcon. “We send our appreciation and well-wishes to all of the students who applied,” she said.

## Norwalk COVID-19 statistics: 1639 cases 37 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, July 14.



# Bellflower church holds large food distribution event

By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

Secret Place Church gave away 32,000 pounds of food to help over 500 families in need on Wednesday

**BELFLOWER** - Over 32,000 pounds of assorted foods and provisions were given out in Bellflower on Wednesday,

The effort was that of the

Secret Place Church in Bellflower.

Church Pastor Troy L. Campbell said that it is the church's mission to "bless people with whatever their needs are."

"We partnered with the City of Bellflower, and all different churches and organizations so we can not only bless this community here, but so they can come and take back tons of food to their community as well," said Campbell.

Campbell says that the church was giving away 32,000 pounds of food on Wednesday, and would likely help out anywhere from 500 to 700 families.

This comes at a time where many find themselves struggling due to the coronavirus pandemic.

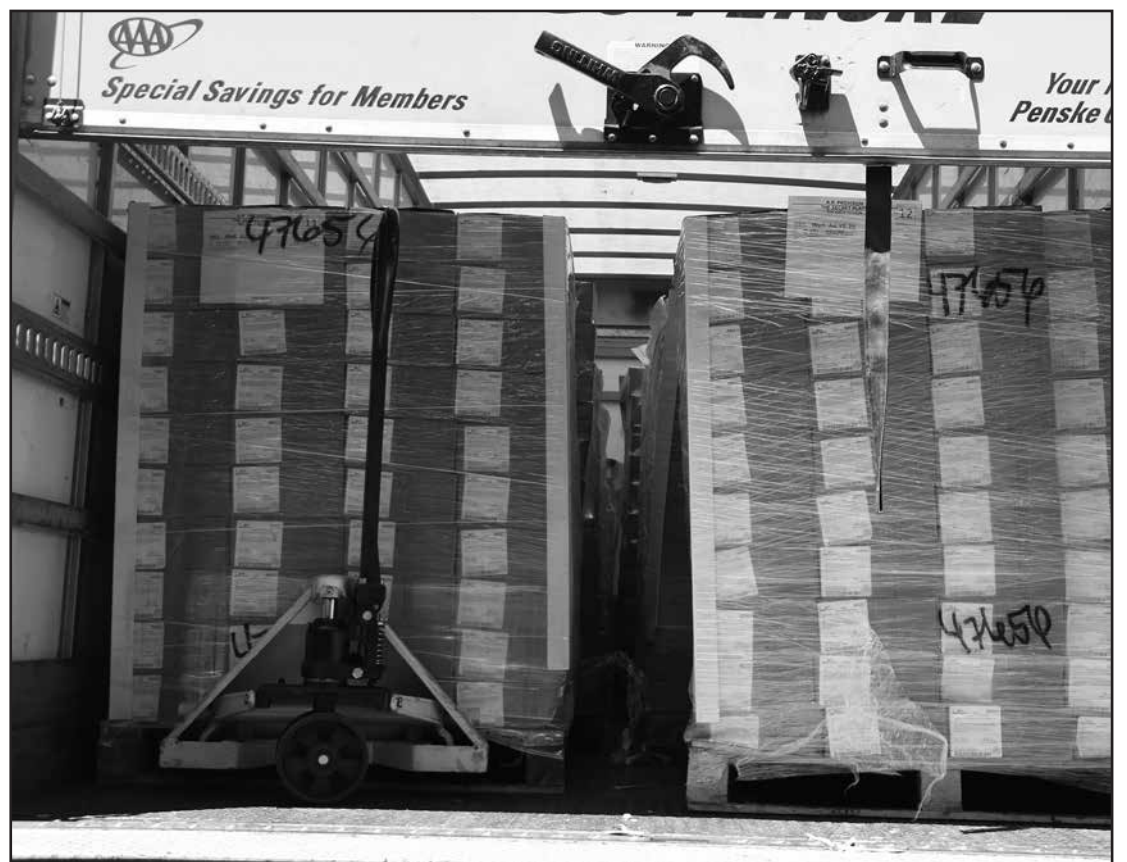
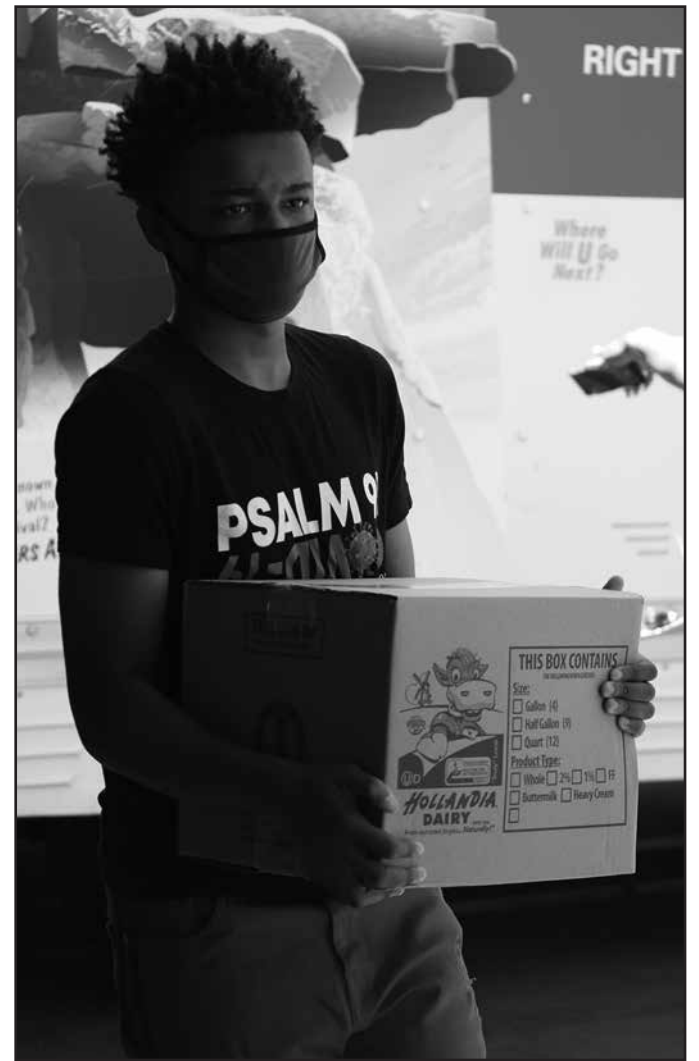
"It's super significant," said Campbell. "We look at the news; we see in San Antonio, Texas there were lines that were so big for people who really didn't

have food. We feel that same urgency here in Bellflower and surrounding LA County."

"We just want to be a conduit; we can get it out. We can get high quality food to people...we have the opportunity to be a blessing to people in need. I know what it's like to be in need, and it doesn't feel good. So let's get it to people who need it."



Church goers worked quickly and effectively to distribute food. The event had already drawn a significant crowd by it's 2 p.m. start time. (Photos by Alex Dominguez)





# Too much faith in models

By John Stossel

Between 2 million and 3 million Americans will die!

That was the prediction from “experts” at London’s Imperial College when COVID-19 began. They did also say if there was “social distancing of the whole population,” the death toll could be cut in half, but 1.1 million to 1.46 million Americans would still die by this summer.

Our actual death toll has been about one-tenth of that.

Nevertheless, Imperial College’s model was extremely influential.

Politicians issued stay-at-home orders. They said we must trust the “experts.”

“Follow the science. Listen to the experts. Do what they tell you,” said Joe Biden, laughing at what he considered an obvious truth.

But “there is no such thing as “the science!” replies science reporter Matt Ridley in my new video about “expert” predictions. “Science consists of people disagreeing with each other!”

The lockdowns, he adds, were “quite dangerously wrong.”

Because Imperial’s model predicted that COVID-19 would overwhelm hospitals, patients were moved to nursing homes. The coronavirus then spread in nursing homes.

Ordering almost every worker to stay home led to an economic collapse that may have killed people, too.

“The main interventions that helped prevent people dying were stopping large gatherings, people washing their hands and wearing face masks, general social distancing — not forcing

people to stay home,” says Ridley.

Even New York Governor Andrew Cuomo now admits: “We all failed at that business. All the early national experts: ‘Here’s my projection model.’ They were all wrong.”

If he and other politicians had just done just a little research, then they would have known that Imperial College researchers repeatedly predict great disasters that don’t happen. Their model predicted 65,000 deaths from swine flu, 136,000 from mad cow disease and 200 million from bird flu.

The real numbers were in the hundreds.

After such predictions were repeatedly wrong, why did politicians boss us around based on those same “experts” models?

“If you say something really pessimistic about how many people are going to die,” explains Ridley, “the media want to believe you. The politicians aren’t not believe you.”

This bias towards pessimism applies to fear of climate change, too.

Thirty-two years ago, climate “experts” said rising seas would “completely cover” the islands of the Maldives “in the next 30 years.” But now, 32 years later, the islands are not only still there, they’re doing better than ever. They’re even building new airports.

“Climate change is real,” says Ridley, “but it’s not happening nearly as fast as models predicted.”

Models repeatedly overpredict disaster because that’s “a very good way of attracting attention to your science and getting rewarded for it,” says Ridley.

One more example: For years, “experts” predicted an oil

shortage. President Jimmy Carter warned, “The oil and natural gas we rely on for 75% of our energy are simply running out.” All the “experts” agreed.

But as the demand for oil grew, oil prices rose. That inspired entrepreneurs to invent new ways of getting more oil and gas out of the same rocks. They succeeded so well that America now has so much oil and gas that we sell some to other countries.

Ridley’s new book, “How Innovation Works,” shows how innovators prove “experts” wrong all the time.

He points out that the founder of Digital Equipment Corporation once said: “There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home.”

Microsoft’s CEO confidently said: “There’s no chance the iPhone is going to get significant market share.”

New York Times columnist Paul Krugman wrote that because “most people have nothing to say to each other... the Internet’s impact on the economy (will be) no greater than the fax machine’s.”

Of course, not all experts are wrong. Useful experts do exist. I want a trained civil engineer to design any bridge I cross.

But Ridley points out: “There is no such thing as expertise on the future. It’s dangerous to rely too much on models (which lead politicians to) lock down society and destroy people’s livelihood. Danger lies both ways.”

*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.”*

# The Double-Edged Sword of Facial Recognition Technology

By Diane Dimond

On the television crime drama “FBI,” Special Agent Jubal Valentine brusquely orders an underling to run a photograph through facial recognition to identify a suspect. Boom! After a rocket-speed search, the computer spits out a name and address. Field agents get to work, and in no time, the bad guy is under arrest.

I’m here to tell you it is not that easy and it’s not that accurate.

Facial recognition programs are notoriously error-prone, often misidentifying an innocent person as potentially guilty. At the same time, these programs have proven to be wildly successful in catching criminals, both minor offenders and more violent ones, like child rapists.

Like most controversies these days, there is a wide chasm of opinion. Facial recognition is either a great gizmo in law enforcement’s tool belt or another means to perpetuate racial inequity in the name of public safety.

Here are some facts.

A recent federal study of 189 different facial recognition algorithms confirmed previous research showing facial recognition systems come to shockingly wrong identifications when searches involve people of color (especially women of color), the very young and the elderly. Native Americans had the highest rate of misidentification. Asian and African Americans faces were up to 100 times more likely to be incorrectly identified when compared to searches for white male suspects. Pacific Islanders are also often misidentified.

Case in point: Last January, Robert Williams, a gainfully employed, married father in Michigan, was shocked when he was handcuffed on his front lawn by Detroit Police. Surveillance video showing a heavyset Black man shoplifting expensive watches had been run through a facial recognition program, and Williams’ face came up a match. Williams had no police record and repeatedly proclaimed innocence. If the arresting officers had asked, he could have proven he was at work that day. Instead, the humiliated Williams was arraigned on charges of first-degree theft and held for 30 hours. Ultimately, the charges were dropped, but at last report, his record has still not been expunged.

One big complaint is that police are not required to reveal that they zeroed in on a suspect via a facial recognition program. As senior public defender Aimee Wyant in Pinellas County, Florida, put it, “Once the cops find a suspect, they’re like a dog with a bone: That’s their suspect. So, we’ve got to figure out where they got that name to start.”

Its reported that 1 in 4 U.S. law enforcement departments have used facial recognition in the search for suspects, but there are no definitive statistics kept on the percentage of error. We know minorities and women are prone to misidentification, but just how frequently does that happen?

The FBI, for example, runs more than 4,000 checks per month using a nationwide hodgepodge of photographs of nearly 120 million Americans. These photos come from state’s driver’s licenses, mug shots, juvenile records and other databases. Cooperating states, in turn, get access to the FBI’s system.

Since half of all American adults are in the FBI system, chances are high that your photo is in that database. Could you become another Robert Williams?

There is little oversight of the nation’s facial recognition systems, even though more and more organizations are using it — from surveillance at airports and border crossings to corporate and community security. Its use is more widespread than you can imagine.

A couple of years ago, the American Civil Liberties Union ran a test on Amazon’s Rekognition facial recognition program. Photos of every member of the U.S. Congress were scanned for possible matches with a vast array of mugshots. Astonishingly, 28 members were falsely identified as matching someone in the database.

Still, cop shops across the country can list all sorts of closed cases that began with a trip through facial recognition software. Convictions have been secured for child sex abuse, property crimes, credit card fraud, burglaries, robberies and car theft. Suspects have been identified in cold case shootings and incidents of road rage.

Good detectives know that a facial recognition photo match is only the beginning. Further investigation of alibis, witness statements and forensic evidence analysis is always required before arrest. Has that always happened in the past? No. Do cops learn from their mistakes? Let’s hope so.

*To find out more about Diane Dimond, visit her website at [www.dianedimond.com](http://www.dianedimond.com). Her latest book, “Thinking Outside the Crime and Justice Box,” is available on Amazon.com.*

# Statues face a hard look

By Jamie Stiehm

WASHINGTON — Statues are all the rage as the house of American history came under fire from street protests for racial justice.

Statues do more than honor the dead. Stone speaks to us, the living, about privilege, power and place.

Statues are not always reliable narrators of “history.”

Confederate statues are defiant symbols of white male supremacy, which is why they’re the public sculptures President Donald Trump holds dearest.

A statue of fierce Andrew Jackson, a slave owner president, was almost taken down by protestors outside the Oval Office. Jackson was not a Confederate, but he was still close to Trump’s heart.

There’s a move afoot to remove a park statue of Abraham Lincoln here in D.C. because it portrays an emancipated man of color taking a knee and looking up at the Civil War president. Frederick Douglass gave a famous address at the Freedmen’s Memorial in 1876.

Don’t take it down.

I knew the world was changing when I asked House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., about the Christopher Columbus statue toppled and tossed in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor with no police action. The topic was close to home. Pelosi grew up there as the popular mayor’s daughter.

The Baltimore-born Speaker gave a crisp answer on her hometown and old Little Italy neighborhood: “If the community doesn’t want the statue, the statue shouldn’t be there.”

That startled some reporters in the room. The topic quickly went viral online.

Chad Pergram, a congressional correspondent for Fox News, followed my question: “Respectfully, shouldn’t that be done by a commission or the city council, not by a mob in the middle of the night?”

Pelosi responded, “People will do what they do.”

Under the pandemic and the economy’s summer storm, some statues can fall where they may. Yet Pelosi aims to clear out the Capitol’s Confederate statues now, at this burning turning point.

Sometimes, history happens all at once.

“We know they are not worth it if they committed treason against the United States,” she stated.

Americans are taking a hard look at our heroes, pondering if we’ve worshipped false gods among the Founding Fathers.

Where does the social uprising against statues of Southern slave owners end? That’s the question Southern lawmakers raise to quell “airbrushing” Confederates figures, as Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell puts it.

George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were the wealthiest early presidents, with thousands of acres tilled by generations of enslaved people. The Virginia “planters” who enslaved hundreds of Black people called them “servants.”

Let’s learn to live with that self-evident, sordid truth. We’ve idealized the human founders on pedestals too long.

But the memorials are key touchstones for democracy’s dialogue. Jefferson’s shrine shows a confession on slavery: “Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that his justice cannot sleep forever.”

Just after the Fourth of July, a white descendant of Thomas Jefferson argued for canceling his ancestor’s pristine memorial on the Tidal Basin in The New York Times. Thanks, Lucian K. Truscott IV.

The idea would hold more weight from a Black descendant, don’t you think?

Slavery was Jefferson’s tragic flaw, which mirrored the nation he so eloquently envisioned. As we now know, Jefferson had a racially mixed family with his slave mistress, Sally Hemings, after his wife Martha died.

That “secret” branch gave narratives and handed down memories (and DNA) that finally led to a Black and white family reunion at Monticello, Jefferson’s mountaintop mansion.

My mother surveyed outdoor art, noting that men are exclusively celebrated. On my avenue, a captivating Nelson Mandela statue stands outside the South African embassy. Just three marble figures of women are in the Capitol Rotunda, in one monument to women’s suffrage.

Confederate marble figures are coming down faster than you can say “Robert E. Lee.” Men who waged war — for slavery — against the United States oppressively commanded perches in Southern cities and the U.S. Capitol.

Actually, the 1890 horseback statue of Lee, which dominates Richmond, Virginia, still stands against the sky, but not for long. The community and governor want it gone with the wind.

“Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln. You know, heroes,” Pelosi said in her parting comments.

“They would want us to be talking about the future ... about looking forward, not looking back.”

*Jamie Stiehm can be reached at [JamieStiehm.com](mailto:JamieStiehm.com).*

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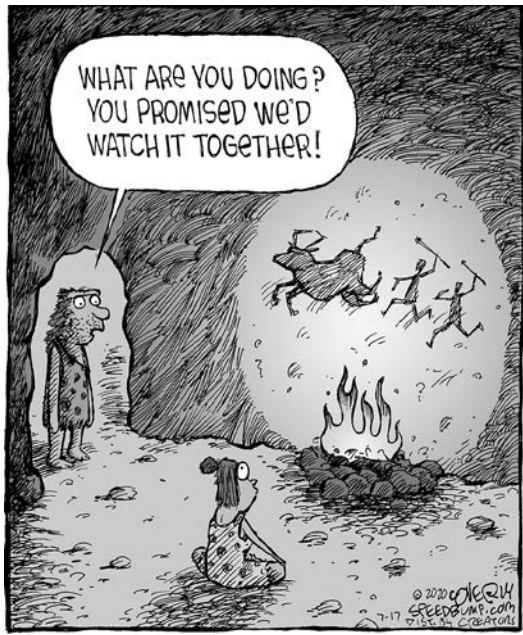
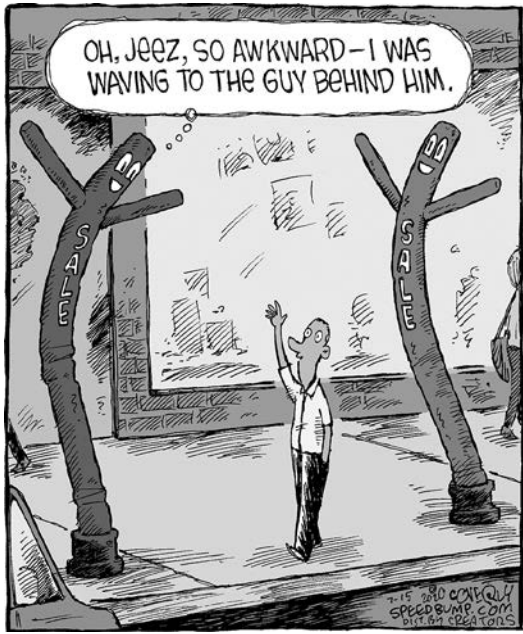
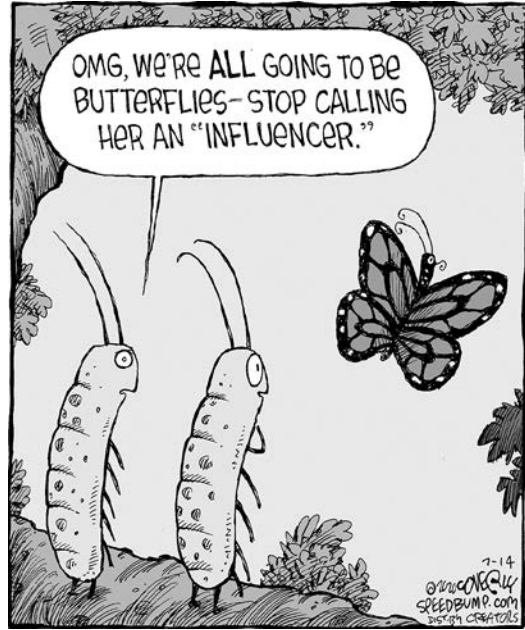
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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MONDAYS

1st, 6:00 p.m. - Public Safety meetings - Council Chambers

## TUESDAYS

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Farmers Market - Excelsior High School  
1st & 3rd 6:00 p.m. - Toastmasters Meetings - Registrar Recorder/County Clerks Office  
1st & 3rd, 6:00 p.m. - City Council - Council Chambers  
3rd, 5:45 p.m. - Housing Authority - Council Chambers

## WEDNESDAYS

1st, 12:30 p.m. - Soroptimist International - Soroptimist Village  
1st & 3rd, 7:00 p.m. - Lions Club - Bruce's Restaurant  
2nd, 10:30 a.m. - Norwalk Woman's Club - Masonic Lodge  
2nd & 4th, 1:30 p.m. - Alondra Senior Citizens - Social Services Center  
2nd & 4th, 7:30 p.m. - Planning Commission - Council Chambers  
4th, 11:30 a.m. - Coordinating Council - Arts & Sports Complex

## THURSDAYS

7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts Troop 924 - Norwalk United Methodist Church  
2nd, 7:00 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

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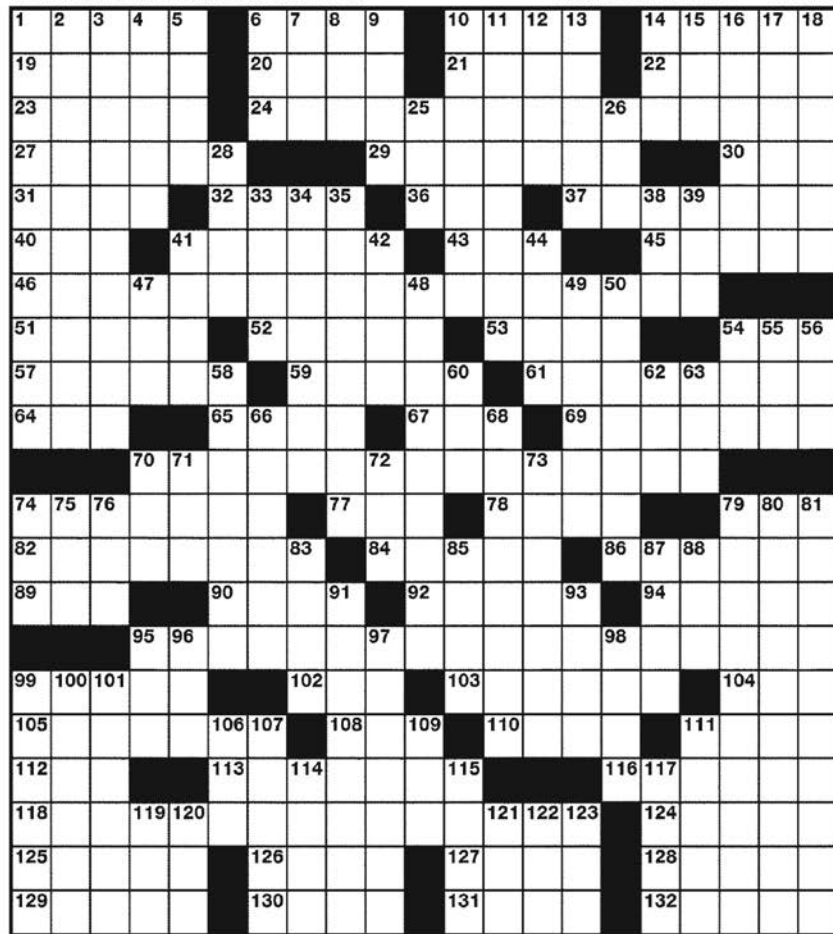
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## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
TRIPLE DOUBLES: Across five names  
by S.N.

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- 6 Generic pooch
- 10 Neglect to include
- 14 Overly promotes
- 19 Circle of friends
- 20 Magi, for instance
- 21 Network junction
- 22 French river near WWI battles
- 23 Person on a Most Wanted List
- 24 Creator of 1 Across
- 27 Aries, to astrologers
- 29 Got sidetracked
- 30 Walk-on role
- 31 Gershwin operatic heroine
- 32 Juxtapose
- 36 Nautical signal
- 37 Imposing building
- 40 Early afternoon
- 41 Farming scourge
- 43 Forever stamp letters
- 45 Social stability
- 46 Ingrid Bergman's performing daughter
- 51 Citrus fruit, in Spain
- 52 Help for hand-tool gripping
- 53 Thailand's former name
- 54 Most Wanted List publisher
- 57 Overjoys
- 59 Uncool dude
- 61 Prime-quality
- 64 Home for a dragon
- 65 Laser pointer battery
- 67 What the 22 Across is made of
- 69 School skippers
- 70 Legendary planter of nurseries
- 74 Etail promotion
- 77 Family nickname
- 78 Nautical ropes
- 79 Verse of admiration
- 82 Person hanging around
- 84 Wavelike fabric pattern
- 86 Mountain range in the NATO alphabet
- 89 Over there, in verse
- 90 Half a pair of thrills
- 92 Press agent
- 94 Copy machine attachments
- 95 Legendary jazz saxophonist
- 99 Of a pontificate
- 102 Part of RSVP
- 103 Creator of *The West Wing*
- 104 Early PC screen
- 105 Slipping away from
- 108 Hair of a hare
- 110 Withdraw (from)
- 111 Principal island of Indonesia
- 112 Muscle twitch
- 113 Violin virtuoso Jascha
- 116 Blue Muppet
- 118 Mentor to Manet and Cézanne
- 124 \_\_\_ out a living
- 125 Video game pioneer
- 126 Submerged
- 127 Cézanne of frame fame
- 128 Hill count in Roma
- 129 A bundle of nerves
- 130 A bundle of nerves
- 131 Raced along
- 132 Covert meeting
- DOWN
- 1 How some like their eggs
- 2 Good for grasping, as possums' tails
- 3 Guy with "deck-spertise"
- 4 Designer dresses
- 5 Sicilian peak
- 6 1-800-FLOWERS rival
- 7 Tax shelter letters
- 8 Talk trash
- 9 Half a pair of thrills
- 10 Hard to bear
- 11 Syrup in baked beans
- 12 How to just hang around
- 13 Little laugh
- 14 Sound of contemplation
- 15 Orange veggie
- 16 Get an early start at an auction
- 17 Attempt to tempt
- 18 "Irish" dog
- 25 "For what \_\_\_ worth..."
- 26 Interject
- 28 Retail complex
- 33 Swindle
- 34 Amin, for one
- 35 What some toll roads are called
- 38 Atom with a charge
- 39 Calendar watch window display
- 41 Half of N.B.
- 42 Lacerated
- 44 Returned to the ground
- 47 Automated web browser
- 48 Living room convertible
- 49 Taoist philosopher
- 50 Awe
- 54 Alligator habitat
- 55 Crunchy lunch order
- 56 Uncertain factors
- 58 Desertlike
- 60 Protestant denom.
- 62 Grafton of whodunits
- 63 Dined on
- 66 Adjective for the Incas
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- 87 Rd. through Mobile and Tucson
- 88 Go wrong
- 91 Sound of a cold
- 93 America's first radio station
- 95 Unmannerly guy
- 96 Common Arab prename
- 97 What pilots like to see
- 98 Car door flaw
- 99 Scratching post user
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- 101 Video game with gobbling ghosts
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- 109 ACLU concerns
- 111 Card that could be a king
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- 120 False account
- 121 Hard knock
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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.

of its radios. Westinghouse as a way to sell more this year. It was established by celebrates its 100th anniversary. Philipsburg's KDKA (93 Down) because of his ravenous appetite. "carnibal," bestowed in high school (95 Across) is an alteration of "CARNIBAL." ADDELEY them. The nickname devices required small electronic devices required didn't become widely available AAAA batteries (65 Across)





# LEGALS

# In Whittier, young adults choose prayer over protest



(Photo by Eric Pierce)

The Your Voice Matters festival brought young people together to pray over and discuss many of the civil issues facing them today.

By Eric Pierce  
Editor

**WHITTIER** — Like many of us, Jim Ortiz watched the protests on television.

Crowds of predominantly young people, angry and frustrated with police brutality and racial inequality, demanded change within their communities. Protestors called for the abolishment of police departments across the country.

Ortiz, senior pastor at My Friend's House Assembly of God Church in Whittier, sympathized. As a church leader with experience in youth ministry, however, he knew the protestors didn't speak for all young people.

That was the motivation behind Your Voice Matters, a festival held Saturday at Whittier's Central Park where young adults gathered to pray for police and share their thoughts

regarding the civil unrest that has engulfed our country.

Ortiz helped organize the event along with local churches, non-profits, civic leaders, and Voices of Whittier.

"We recognized there was something happening that needed to be addressed," said Ortiz. "We all know that every life matters — it's not just Black lives that matter, it's Hispanic lives, it's everybody's lives that matter too. And so we need to provide an alternative voice."

"There's more to resolving racial issues than just defunding the police or changing policies and administrative procedures," Ortiz continued. "Those are needed perhaps to some degree.

But the issues and the problems are much deeper and bigger than just those cosmetic things.

"I consider those cosmetic issues because the problem is in the heart of people. That officer that killed George Floyd in Minneapolis, he didn't do that just because he was a cop. There was something wrong in his heart. There was something much deeper to cause someone like that in that authority to destroy a life in that fashion. That's more than he was a police man — he was also a troubled person."

In addition to public prayer, Saturday's event featured a voter registration booth, on-site counselors, a pregnancy care clinic, and a video booth where

guests could record their thoughts on current circumstances.

Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri spoke at the event, as did council members Fernando Dutra and Jessica Martinez, and interim Whittier police chief Aviv Bar.

"We are here today because there are a lot of people — young people — who are hurting in the heart," said Vinatieri. "The idea for us today is for those of us who know the Lord, that this is a safe place, that we don't have to get sucked into what's been going on in society, that we can stand up for what we believe, the Lord Jesus, the father, the son, the holy spirit, because that's the only real answer..."

# Two more charged in kidnapping of Chinese national

**LOS ANGELES** - Two men from the San Gabriel Valley were charged Wednesday in federal court for allegedly participating in the kidnapping of Ruochen "Tony" Liao, a Chinese national who was violently abducted from a mall parking lot in San Gabriel two years ago, and whose parents were extorted for \$2 million in ransom before Liao died from his injuries.

Anthony Valladares, 28, of Pasadena, and Alexis Ivan Romero Velez, 24, most recently a resident of Azusa, were taken into custody Tuesday during the execution of search warrants by FBI agents and members of the San Gabriel Valley Safe Street Task Force.

Federal prosecutors on Wednesday filed a criminal complaint in United States District Court that charges both Valladares and Romero with one count of kidnapping.

Previously in this investigation, two Chinese nationals were charged in a four-count indictment alleging they kidnapped Liao and attempted to collect \$2 million in ransom from his family in exchange for the victim's life.

Guangyao Yang, 26, and Peicheng Shen, 34, whose last known U.S. residences were in

West Covina, were charged with conspiracy to kidnap, kidnapping, attempted extortion in violation of the Hobbs Act, and threat by foreign communication. Yang and Shen are currently in custody in China on charges filed there related to the kidnapping.

During the investigation, the FBI learned that Valladares and Romero worked with Yang and Shen to conduct the kidnapping, during which Liao was repeatedly beaten and tased into submission, according to the affidavit in support of the complaint. Valladares was the "muscle" hired to intimidate, beat and subdue Liao during the kidnapping, and Romero was the driver of the vehicle used in the kidnapping, according to the affidavit.

Valladares and Romero were arrested Tuesday after making statements about their roles in the kidnapping to investigators. According to the affidavit, Valladares admitted that he was hired to assist in the kidnapping, agreed to accept \$1,000 for the job, and restrained Liao during the kidnapping.

Romero admitted, according to the affidavit, that he was recruited by Valladares and was the driver during the kidnapping.

After Liao was kidnapped

on July 16, 2018, his parents in China received ransom demands and "proof-of-life" photos suggesting that Liao had been badly beaten, blindfolded, and tied up with duct tape. Liao's parents were told to deposit the ransom payment into Chinese bank accounts within three hours, according to court documents.

Investigators believe Liao was held captive in a closet at a residence in Corona. During his captivity, investigators believe Liao was frequently beaten and ultimately died the night of July 17.

During the early morning of July 18, investigators believe Yang and Shen drove to the desert near the town of Mojave to bury Liao's body.

On July 26, 2019, the FBI laboratory used DNA testing to identify Liao's remains, which were recovered following a search by the FBI's Evidence Response Team.

Valladares and Romero made an initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

The kidnapping charge carries a statutory maximum penalty of life in federal prison.

# Downey continues financial support of Stay Gallery

**DOWNEY** - Downey City Council approved an agreement with The Downey Art Vibe (DAV) on Tuesday, allowing the group to continue operation of the Stay Gallery for three years.

The agreement includes an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for the term of Aug. 1, 2020 through May 31, 2023.

The city's subsidy is used to

pay rent for the facility, located at 11140 Downey Ave.

The DAV and stay have operated with the city under such terms since 2012.

## FICT. BUS NAME

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME 2020096886**  
FILE NO: 2017054083 DATE FILED: MARCH 3, 2017  
NAME OF BUSINESS(ES): THE SHOP FORWARD  
STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: 12836 ALONDRA BLVD., CERRITOS, CA, 90703  
REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) MICHAEL GERALD LTD, 12836 ALONDRA BLVD., CERRITOS CA 90703  
If Corporation or LLC - Print State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
Business was conducted by: a Corporation I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) S/ MICHAEL GERALD LTD., TRUSTEE - ATTORNEY OF RECORD, DONALD GRIER  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on JUNE 18, 2020

a.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**, 14783 CARMENITA ROAD, NORWALK, CA 90650  
JUNE 24, 2020  
Judge Margaret M. Bernal  
Judge Of The Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney, In Pro Per  
**ADOLFO DANIEL RODRIGUEZ**  
12318 EAST 214TH STREET  
HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716  
(714) 292-3936  
ADRSKYLINE@GMAIL.COM

The Norwalk Patriot  
7/17/20, 7/24/20, 7/31/20, 8/7/20

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7/3/20, 7/10/20, 7/17/20, 7/24/20

## NOTICES

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
CASE NUMBER: 20NWCP00144  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner ADOLFO DANIEL RODRIGUEZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
Present name (1) ADOLFO DANIEL RODRIGUEZ to Proposed name (1) ADOLFO DANIEL ANDRADE  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show 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. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
NOTICE OF HEARING  
Date: SEPTEMBER 9, 2020, Time: 10:30

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## Downey yard sign vandalized with anti-police graffiti



By Alex Dominguez  
Staff Writer

(Photo courtesy Tania Patino)

**DOWNEY** - A Downey family was shocked to find their positive message yard sign recently vandalized with an apparent anti-police slogan.

The message displayed is simple; "Keep calm, stay positive! #DowneyShines."

As far as Tania Patino was concerned, it was a message that was non-political, non-controversial, and nonpartisan.

It was perfect for the current trying times.

According to Patino, her family has displayed a rainbow-adorned message on their front lawn for months, after another community-minded resident donated and dispersed several similar signs throughout the neighborhood.

So, on the morning of Friday July 3, she was dismayed to find it graffitied over with the letters "FTP," commonly believed to mean "f\*ck the police."

"We were shocked and disappointed that someone would even consider doing that to a sign that has no political ties, or racial ties, for that matter," said Patino.

Patino says that there was no other damage done to her

property, besides a few paint overspray marks in her front yard.

She also doesn't believe this is a coincidence, citing some of the pushback that the recent police appreciation parade - coordinated by the Positively Downey Facebook group - received.

"I think there was another negative post regarding the local Downey restaurant The Olive that donated food that day," said Patino. "I think it's all related, absolutely."

The Olive was the recipient of some negative Twitter attention shortly after catering the police appreciation event, with some calling for residents to boycott the establishment due to their support of Downey's officers.

Still, Patino and her family have remained resilient and have not been discouraged by this one act of vandalism.

In fact, the sign has been repaired.

"We put it right back out, said Patino. "We just figure, 'Downey Strong, let's keep it up.'"

"I know more people want the signs to show unity. So, I think it's important to show unity and, you know, they're not going to scare us to take it down."

## LA County expands testing in 'high-needs' area, including Norwalk

**NORWALK** - Los Angeles health officials on Wednesday announced details of a focused effort to expand testing capacity by over 65% in targeted "hot-spot" communities in response to data showing a disproportionately higher burden of COVID-related illness in communities of color and those with higher rates of poverty, including in Norwalk.

Officials also announced a \$4 million investment in public-private partnerships, outreach, and community engagement to reduce transmission disparities and facilitate broader access to testing while providing historically under-resourced communities with resources.

The data collected from County-supported testing sites points to a concerning trend in higher test positivity rate by race and economic status and higher mortality rate in Black and Latinx communities, where the age-adjusted mortality rate is twice that of whites. Test positivity is an important indicator of the trajectory of the pandemic and the ability to provide enough testing needed

to keep transmission low. The rate of test positivity is higher among the Latinx community than among any other racial or ethnic group in L.A. County; data also shows a direct correlation between poverty level and test positivity.

"This data is alarming and requires urgent focus to do more to expand access to testing and address the health equity issues that COVID-19 makes tragically clear every day," said Los Angeles County Department of Health Services director Dr. Christina Ghaly. "We must remember that testing is only one factor. There are underlying reasons why communities of color are disproportionately impacted by worse outcomes of COVID-19—long-standing structural and systemic issues, including social determinants of health, that the County is working to address and mitigate amidst this pandemic."

Focusing on "hot-spot" areas, the County is adding testing capacity by standing up new sites and adding capacity to existing sites in a manner that addresses the stark disproportionality of testing access facing vulnerable

populations identified through heat mapping. The mapping shows communities with higher test positivity and mortality rates and where the overall testing rate is not meeting the 1.5 tests per 1,000 daily threshold set by the State of California.

The multi-pronged effort includes the following:

Adding six new sites in high-need areas including Montebello, South Gate, Azusa, Panorama City, Compton and Downey/Norwalk, and expanding capacity at existing sites in Bellflower, Pomona, El Monte and East Los Angeles;

Allocating \$4 million from a Center for Disease Control grant to support a broadcast media and grassroots in-language, culturally-responsive messaging campaign including work with community-based organizations to perform outreach and education to community members and provide linkages to testing, healthcare and support services including housing, food and health insurance;

Supporting additional public-private partnerships and funding

partners embedded in high-risk communities as trusted messengers to effectively reach the most at-risk and historically under-resourced communities;

And expanding a successful pilot of community engagement at County-operated sites that connects community members to medical care and support services at the point of testing in concert and leverages collaborations with partners to distribute resource kits at other testing sites in high risk area that include protective equipment, basic need materials, food vouchers and multi-lingual and culturally sensitive prevention materials

"When we look at areas of highest need, adding testing sites is only one piece of a broader approach and it doesn't stop there," said emergency room physician and Department of Health Services' Director of Language Access and Inclusion, Dr. Erika Flores Uribe. "We must couple that with funneled medical and social resources to close the disparity gap through highly targeted, layered, in-language and culturally responsive outreach and support."

## New coach forced to wait just a bit longer for season



Continued from page 1

start conditioning recently as some teams in the area have been doing, Cruz said, ".....All of the schools are going to be dealing with it at some point or another. We just happen to be going through it (not practicing) right now. Everything is going to equal out. 'Im ok with it.'"

When and if the season gets underway, only four teams make up the 605 League - Cerritos, Pioneer, Artesia and Glenn. Glenn won its first league title in years with a 3-0 record last season.

No longer does Glenn have to compete against La Mirada or Mayfair.

Cruz is a man on an island right now with no team to coach, as the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District is holding off on team conditioning as of now.

Asked about his involvement in the sports at JG, Cruz simply said, ".....I want to say I've coached at least one game in almost every sport that we have. They say I'm the guy that never says no to an assignment or a job."

How true that statement is.

Cruz has coached wrestling, tennis, basketball, volleyball, softball and baseball.

**New Football Head Coach, David Cruz, sorts through their equipment.**  
(Photos by Keith Durflinger)



Of those sports, he has been the head coach for baseball, softball and volleyball. And now he can add football to his growing resume. Not that he is ever going anywhere!

"The kids, I love the kids," Cruz added. "I want to see them improve, get better and have some success. I like working, I'm a worker bee."

Along with his coaching and teaching duties, he was the Athletic Director for 10 years.

On his coaching staff for the coming season are a couple of new additions: Ernie Gutierrez (Tight End coach) and Chaz Sanders (Defensive Backs).

Returning coaches for Cruz are: Eric Richardson (Offensive Coordinator), Rico Robertson (Defensive Coordinator), Armando Salceda (Wide Receivers), Ric Ornelas (Linebackers) and Che Johnson (Running Backs).

With the season seemingly a ways off now, Cruz was asked what his mental goal for the team will be. After a short pause, he said, "I guess to have the kids accept where they are right now with the Covid-19 and some of the setbacks that we've had this season. For them to understand that it's not about one individual, it's the community. That would

probably be my mental goal for this year."

Cruz, who has waited for years for this opportunity, unfortunately will have to wait a little bit longer for kickoff. But, those athletes that will now have that chance to play under him should cherish the time with someone with all the experience he has given to John Glenn high through the years.

## New health protocols halt DUSD "hybrid" plans

**DOWNEY** - Students will likely not be returning to school campuses at the start of the school year, according to Downey Unified.

With many COVID-19 related regulations in constant flux, DUSD has spent most of the summer with very few answers as to how the upcoming school year might look. It was only recently the District released some sort of potential solution to coronavirus safety concerns, offering a "hybrid" format that would see students physically in class for two days of the week.

However, protocols released by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health on Monday have Downey officials reevaluating their options, and according to a statement released by the District on Tuesday, has left the previously pitched "hybrid" model highly unlikely.

The District also added that the anticipated Return to School Family survey would be delayed pending decisions to be made at the Board of Educations upcoming July 20 meeting.

## COVID-19 shuts down Cerritos Center

**CERRITOS** - The Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts will not present a 2020-21 season, citing uncertainty over the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This was a difficult decision, but one that the city believes is in the best interests of everyone's safety as we navigate through the pandemic," said Cerritos mayor Naresh Solanki.

Cerritos owns and operates the theater.

Cerritos will take advantage of the theater's closure to complete maintenance projects,

including the installation of a new fire suppression system.

"Since 1993, the CCPA has presented world-class performers and brought the joy of live entertainment and cultural enrichment to the community," Solanki said. "The city looks forward to continuing this proud tradition as the theater plans presentations for the 2021-2022 Season and beyond."

## Thrift shop now accepting appointments

**DOWNEY** - The Second Tyme Around Shoppe is now accepting reservations for an hour of "retail therapy."

To ensure social distancing, reservations are limited to one person and up to four friends.

Reservations are available

Tuesdays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. To make an appointment, call (562) 869-0232.

The thrift store is operated by the non-profit Assistance League of Downey and proceeds help fund the organization's various civic activities and projects.



# Dental office hasn't lost its touch, despite Covid

By Lorine Parks  
Society Columnist

If it weren't for her engaging smile, which shone even under all the wrappings, I might have thought I was being treated by a robot.

"I'm glad I'm nearing the end of my career," Lisa said, as she greeted me at the door. "Because I feel sorry for anyone just trying to start out like this. We've just come back a week ago, after being laid off for two months."

Lisa is my dental hygienist, and I had finally rescheduled my routine appointment.

Lisa is an example of an individual subcontractor within a small Downey professional office. The coronavirus has

made most dental work dangerous, leaving some dental practices scrambling to survive. Fortunately, because dentistry is such a personal and intimate service, clientele usually have already developed a loyal relationship with their "family" dentist and staff.

The American Dental Association (ADA) realized that the most basic routines of dentistry, from close contact with mouths to water-spraying tools, send fluids flying. So extra precautions have been added.

The team at the dentist's office has always had protocols for wearing masks. But today Lisa my hygienist was toggled out in much more.

She wore a baggy blue full length jump-suit over her

clothes, and on top of that, a discardable plastic apron. Over her nose and mouth was the usual mask, but over that, a plastic face shield suspended from a helmet. Lisa's blond hair was tucked into a paper shower cap, and she wore gloves.

"We change the apron every time we go into a new patient's room," Lisa said.

"Look at my scuffies." She shuffled her paper-clad shoes.

"You look like you're going to the moon," I said. And despite the cap being tilted at a slightly rakish angle, she did.

My masked dentist Dr. Sanjabi waved to me as I walked by the room where he was engaged in doing something inside the mouth of a recumbent

patient. Essential and emergency services have been available in the office during the COVID crisis, but optional procedures such as root canals and cleaning have been on hold since the emergency began.

"I can't turn my head with this visor," Lisa said, "so I can't talk much. And they won't let us use our water spray. I can't polish your teeth to finish the job."

In spite of these CDC-approved limitations, I felt sure she would find ways to do her usual thorough job. And Lisa's personal touch had not left her. She remembered that I liked to have a small pillow to prop my head while she worked.

Before I could get under Lisa's ministrations, I had

my temperature taken by the receptionist, and now as I sat in the examining chair, there was a clipboard with questions to answer: had I been in contact with anyone with the coronavirus, and did I have any of the symptoms that were listed.

Despite the limitations, my teeth got a full going-over. After my appointment was finished, wearing my face mask again, I took the time to check out the rest of the office security.

"We have a high tech HEPA air filter, to make sure any airborne particles emissions get removed," Lisa said.

Clear plastic panels had been hung from the ceiling around the receptionist area to protect the masked staff behind the

counter. And to protect me as well. No magazines were arrayed on the low table in the waiting room, so no would share the virus by passing around Yachting Today or Home Health.

Appointments are arranged so that there are no patients waiting together.

Office schedules run on time, but in dentist's offices, unlike doctor's, they usually do anyway. Dentists are seeing a lower number of patients, partly because people hold back for fear of getting infected. But if people are scared to get their dental needs cared for, their overall health suffers.

They may be just exchanging one problem for another.

## Roybal-Allard demands FAA transparency in transportation bill

DOWNEY - Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard included language about aviation fuel dumps in the fiscal year 2021 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill and report.

The provision requires the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to be more transparent about the details of recent fuel dumps, and about the FAA's fuel dump review process.

The congresswoman, who represents several of the communities affected by the Jan. 14 Delta Airlines jet fuel dump, made the following statement prior to the committee's passage of the bill; a video of her statement can also be seen on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

"I'd like to begin by commending Chairman Price and his staff for putting together a great THUD appropriations bill

for fiscal year 2021, and I would like to thank him for including language in the report to address the issue of fuel dumping by commercial airlines.

"In January of this year, a low flying airline on emergency approach to LAX dumped 85,000 pounds of jet fuel over my district, including over several elementary schools where children were playing outside, as well as in neighboring communities.

"This event was extremely traumatic for the children and families it impacted. Because the jet fuel was dumped at low altitude, the fuel did not properly disperse into the atmosphere, as is typical when airlines dump fuel to make an emergency landing. As a result, children in my district were doused with jet fuel, and several individuals had to be medically evaluated.

"Responding to this emergency, I discovered that the FAA does not keep track of when and where fuel dumps happen. The report language in this bill will require FAA to report to Congress data on fuel dumps that happen between 2015 through 2020, and the process FAA uses to review fuel dumps. This will provide Congress with the information needed to evaluate current practices and, if necessary, make any adjustments to protect our neighborhoods.

"This language will also help my community, and the surrounding neighborhoods, and Americans throughout the country, know that Congress takes these experiences seriously, and that we are actively working to prevent this kind of traumatic event from happening again in any community."

## Graduates will be celebrated with drive-thru ceremonies

WHITTIER - Over 2,800 members of Whittier Union's Class of 2020 will have the opportunity to walk across a stage set up on the campuses they've called home for the last four years while being cheered on by families who will have a front-stage view during socially distanced drive-thru graduation ceremonies taking place the week of July 20.

Due to strict public health restrictions related to COVID-19, the District postponed in-person graduation ceremonies that were originally scheduled in June. Drive-thru ceremonies are now permitted in Los Angeles County under recently updated public health guidelines.

California High will hold its ceremony from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. July 20; La Serna will hold its ceremony from 4 to 9 p.m. July 21; Santa Fe High will hold

its ceremony from 5 to 9:30 p.m. July 22; Whittier High will hold its ceremony from 4 to 8 p.m. July 23; and Pioneer High will hold its event from 5 to 9 p.m. July 24. On July 22, the Transition program will honor students from 4 to 5 p.m.; Sierra Vista will celebrate students from 5 to 7 p.m.; Frontier will honor grads from 7 to 8:30 p.m.; and Whittier Union Adult School will celebrate graduates from 8:30 to 9 p.m. at the Sierra Education Center campus.

To ensure the continued safety of students, families and staff, everyone on site will be required to wear face masks and students will be assigned an arrival time based on last name. As part of a very structured process, students, donning their cap and gown regalia, will leave their vehicles, walk across a stage as their names are called, have their photos taken and

receive their diplomas. Families are encouraged to decorate their vehicles and take photos from the safety of their cars.

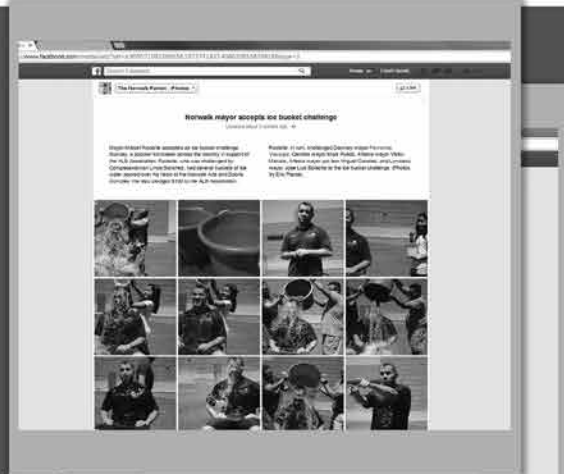
"Our administrative teams have been working tirelessly to carefully plan on-campus events that adhere to all social distancing protocols, while ensuring that families have an experience that is safe, festive and respectful of all the experiences and accomplishments of the Class of 2020," Superintendent Martin Plourde said. "These ceremonies will feature all of the traditional elements our seniors and families have been looking forward to and we promise to make this experience just as memorable."

Graduation speeches will be prerecorded and available for viewing on each school's website.

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# Lynwood secures \$25K grant for tech devices

**LYNWOOD** - Lynwood Unified will provide Rosa Parks Elementary students with brand new iPads, laptops, robotic kits, and other learning tools after receiving a \$25,000 grant from the American Honda Foundation to enhance technology education.

The new technology will allow students to continue reaching success both inside the classroom and out. The District's students and educators relied heavily on technology to stay connected during school closures. The new devices provided by the Honda grant can equip young learners to continue thriving through distance learning if necessary.

"We want to ensure students can achieve their goals without limitations on their learning tools," LUSD Superintendent Gudiel R. Crosthwaite said. "This grant will provide students with the best possible learning devices to advance their growth."

The electronics arriving at Rosa Parks will include Chromebooks, iPads, and a new 3D printer. The robotic kits will allow the students to experience the magic of science and engineering through building and interacting with robots. Rosa Parks enjoys a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program that prepares young people to

become 21st Century leaders.

"Our STEM education programs are a foundation for inspiring students at Rosa Parks and introducing them to possibilities for their future," Rosa Parks Principal Dawn Green said. "We are grateful to the American Honda Foundation for supporting our children and their dreams."

The American Honda Foundation shares the District's vision of investing in future leaders and supports youth education with a specific focus on STEM subjects. The Lynwood Partners Educational Foundation worked to help the District secure the grant and partnership.

"This investment in our students will continue to build their confidence and allow them to move out into the world with fearlessness," LUSD Board President Gary Hardie Jr. said. "We will continue to give students the best tools to succeed and watch them respond with exceptional outcomes."

# Whittier paying its officers \$5,500 retention bonus

**WHITTIER** - In an effort to prevent Whittier police officers from leaving for other agencies, the City Council this week approved \$5,500 retention bonuses for all of its officers.

By accepting the bonus, officers agree to stay in Whittier through the end of their labor agreement, which is set to expire July 1, 2021.

City Manager Brian Saeki said the Whittier Police Department has lost several officers to neighboring agencies offering better pay and benefits.

Replacing those officers is difficult because the pandemic has closed or slowed down the academies that train new police officers, said interim Police Chief Aviv Bar.

Whittier is budgeted for 121 police officers, responsible for patrolling incorporated Whittier

and Santa Fe Springs. However, only 110 of those positions are filled, and about 10 officers are out due to injury, leaving 100 available police officers, Saeki said.

A recent study concluded that Whittier requires 136 officers for adequate policing, Bar said.

Council members voted 5-0 to approve the bonuses, which comes at a time when protestors around the country are calling on local governments to defund or reform their police departments.

Mayor Pro Tem Henry Bouchot called the retention bonuses a separate issue.

"I think it's potentially misleading to look at this as part of a conversation we started having about a month ago," Bouchot said. "This is a separate issue. It has to do less with the state of public safety in this city generally, which is a conversation we have scheduled and that we're going to have, and more to do with a couple of duties that we have."

"And the first duty is to our residents and the idea of doing no harm. It's clear to me that if we continue to lose further officers, we're going to be put in a position where our department is stretched so thin that the likelihood of violent confrontation, of the loss of civilian life, and potentially the loss of sworn lives through things like car accidents and other injuries... above all we need to protect life. And that means to give people the opportunity to have reasonable amounts of rest and the ability to recuperate from long shifts."

"Second of all, I think we have a duty to our employees. It's not been lost on me just the extra demand for police services over the Fourth of July holiday, during our recent protests, and also just being out there with the public during a time of worldwide pandemic. When you have employees who are putting themselves at greater risk, in a way that no other employee class in this city is doing, I think that's something that should be rewarded with something more than a handshake and a smile."

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