

The Norwalk Patriot

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14783 Carmenita Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

Mazen Nabulsi announces candidacy for Cerritos College Board of Trustees

The Cerritos College Alumnus will bid for the Trustee Board Area 1 seat.

NORWALK - Mazen Nabulsi, a Cerritos College alumnus and chairperson of the Cerritos College Foundation, has announced his candidacy for the Cerritos College Board of Trustees seat (Area 1) which covers the City of Downey, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens and South Gate.

Mazen is a lifelong Downey resident, attending the Downey Unified school system including graduating from Downey High School. He received his Associate Degree in General Education from Cerritos College. Upon graduation, Mazen transferred to Pepperdine University where he earned a political science degree.

Thereafter, he earned a law degree at California Western, San Diego, and practiced in the field of real estate, contracts, and tort law. Mazen currently works in Downey as a real estate broker-associate at 24 Hour Real Estate.

"I am passionate about education and continuing to create successful pathways for our students. I will work tirelessly to create partnerships and opportunities between Cerritos College and our communities"

said Mazen.

While he was a full-time student at Cerritos College, Mazen served as student body president and student trustee to the Cerritos College Board. The student body voted him Person of the Year and Student Newsmaker of the Year.

During his tenure, Mazen helped lobby state and national officials to support community college educational funding. As president, he lobbied school administrators and officials to maintain educational funding levels, which helped to avoid classroom summer cuts, and extended library hours during exam periods. He also supported our students with educational and extracurricular activities.

"As student body president, I lobbied in Washington D.C. for further community college funding. I met with local and state officials to advocate for passage of a bill which helped to bolster funding for K-12, including Cerritos College," said Mazen "When our summer school programs were in danger of being eliminated, I advocated our school administration at Cerritos College to continue funding it for our students."

Mazen is running on four key points: taxpayer accountability



Nabulsi is a resident of Downey, and real estate broker-associate at 24 Hour Real Estate.

and transparency; community outreach and opportunities for all new and current students; partnering with local organizations and employers to expand post-graduation employment opportunities for all students; and the modernization of classrooms by continuing to bring the latest technology, and campus safety.

Girls Wrestling on the rise at Norwalk High School

Zitlali Sarmiento and Anahy Aguilar win Suburban League individual titles in 2019; Five advance to CIF championships

By John Sherrard Contributor

NORWALK - Even though there hasn't been school in months and the wrestling season was over long ago, there was a certain buzz on the Norwalk High School campus this last year about the girls wrestling program.

In fact, just in its second year as a program, two of the girls won league titles.

Senior Anahy Aguilar (145 Lbs.) and sophomore Zitlali Sarmiento (128 Lbs.) each won their Suburban League titles last season.

"We had a lot of growth this past year," second year girls wrestling coach Brian DeVries said. "In the 2018-19 season the program was young and just starting out. This past season we were still young but with some experience."

"I was brought on last summer to help grow the overall program at all levels, but mainly



Norwalk High School Girls Wrestling head coach, Brian DeVries with his team from left, Carlee Romero, Kayla Romero, Zitlali Sarmiento, Amahyi Aguilar, Aryssa Eslava and Liyah Salazar. (Photo by Keith Durlinger)

the girls program. Our program went from four girls in '18-'19 to nine girls this past year. By league finals we were down to five due to injuries, grades, and family issues."

The Norwalk team still took five girls to compete at league finals. They were: Liyah Salazar, 118 Lbs., Sarmiento, 128 Lbs.,

Aryssa Eslava, 133 Lbs., Soley Garcia, 139 Lbs. and Aguilar, 145 Lbs.

All five girls advanced to the CIF-Southern Section championships for a program first. Only the top two placers advance to CIF.

"Of the five to CIF, only two

were returners," DeVries said. "We (coaches) were excited. This is what we did and that's amazing. Now, it's a point of pride. It was real fun for the girls."

"In wrestling, the terms and scoring are new to about 90%

Continued on page 2

Red Cross hosting blood drive in Norwalk

NORWALK - The Norwalk community is invited to participate in a Red Cross Blood Drive at the Social Services Center on Tuesday, August 4.

The need for blood is constant and healthy, eligible individuals are encouraged to donate to avoid potential shortages due to COVID-19.

The blood drive will take

place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. Photo identification is required at time of donation.

Donors may schedule their appointments online at www.redcrossblood.org using the sponsor code: NorwalkSS or calling (562) 929-5544.

Norwalk COVID-19 statistics: 2056 cases 44 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.

Norwalk restaurant grades

Baja California Bar and Grill
11521 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 7/16/20
Grade: **A**

California Sushi & Teriyaki
12531 Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 7/15/20
Grade: **A**

Wok California
12551 1/2 Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 7/15/20
Grade: **A**

Casa Adelita
12842 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 7/14/20
Grade: **A**

Senor Baja
11833 Alondra Blvd.
Date Inspected: 7/10/20
Grade: **A**

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**

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 80° ☁️

Saturday 82° ☁️

Sunday 83° ☁️

ON THIS DAY JULY 24

1487: Citizens of Leeuwarden, Netherlands strike against a ban on foreign beer. The prohibition was later lifted.

1537: French explorer Jacques Cartier planted a cross on the Gaspe Peninsula (near present-day Quebec) and took possession in the name of the king of France.

1567: Mary, Queen of Scots, was forced to abdicate in favor of her 1-year-old son.

1847: After 17 months of travel, Brigham Young leads 148 Mormon pioneers into Salt Lake Valley, resulting in the establishment of Salt Lake City.

1866: Tennessee becomes the first state readmitted to the Union following the Civil War.

1950: Cape Canaveral began operations with the launch of a Bumper rocket.

1969: Apollo 11 splashed down safely in the Pacific Ocean after its successful moon mission.



Apollo 11

1974: The Supreme Court ruled that President Nixon did not have the authority to withhold subpoenaed White House tapes and ordered him to surrender the tapes to the Watergate special prosecutor.

1987: Hulda Crooks, age 91, became the oldest person to climb Mt. Fuji, Japan's highest peak.

Notable Birthdays

Michael Richards, best known for his portrayal of Kramer on the TV sitcom "Seinfeld," turns 71.

Lynda Carter, who starred as Wonder Woman in the live-action TV series, turns 69.

Hall of fame basketball player **Karl Malone** turns 57.

Actress and singer **Jennifer Lopez** turns 51.

Retired wrestler and model **Torrie Wilson** turns 45.

Actress **Rose Byrne** turns 41.

Lakers small forward **Kyle Kuzma** turns 25.

Conservationist **Bindi Irwin** turns 22.

Notable Deaths

Martin Van Buren, the eighth president of the United States, died of heart failure on this day in 1862. He was 79.

James Chadwick, a British physicist who was awarded the 1935 Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery of the neutron, died in 1974 at age 82.

Peter Sellers, the English actor and comedian who starred in "The Pink Panther" film series, died in 1980 of a heart attack. He was 54.

Sherman Hemsley, the charismatic actor and star of "The Jeffersons," died 2012 of superior vena cava syndrome. He was 74.

Holidays

Today is **National Tequila Day**; celebrate accordingly.

Norwalk sees success in girls wrestling

Continued from page 1

of athletes starting out. It's definitely a learning experience."

Capping the successful Suburban League finals for the Lancers were three seconds and the two individual league titles.

Salazar and Aguilar become Norwalk's first women wrestlers to make multiple CIF appearances, while Aguilar becomes the Lancers first two-time Suburban League Champ.

Aguilar started as the lone girl on the boys team in her freshman year and has seen it grow since then. "I'm hoping to come back and coach at Norwalk," Aguilar said. "I would really love to do that."

Eslava and Garcia, who were both first-year wrestlers last season, earned second place in league and also qualified for CIF by virtue of their hard work and determination.

DeVries, who graduated from Norwalk in 2000 and wrestled, was brought in by boys coach Frank Soto to get the girls program started.

"Within our team is a lot of growth," said DeVries, who has been a special education teacher in the district for the past 15 years. He just finished his first year teaching at Norwalk in 2019-20.

"There's a lot of excitement and they did some great things," DeVries added.

Some of that excitement comes from veteran wrestler Aguilar and first-year freshman Sarmiento.

Aguilar had an older brother, Alberto (Norwalk graduate, 2013) on the wrestling team and a twin brother (Anthony) and her boyfriend (Alonzo Ramirez) on the current boys team.

She is surrounded by wrestlers and has waited for her upcoming senior year.

"I've been waiting for my senior and I hope it's not lost,"

said Anahy, of the current situation with the pandemic. "Not until my junior year did we just have a coach just for us. This year since we got a coach, more people are talking about joining (the team)."

Sarmiento, who began wrestling in the summer after eighth grade, became the first Norwalk freshman to win a league title.

"When I first started, my friends were shocked," said Sarmiento, who used to play volleyball, but now concentrates solely on wrestling. "At first it was a little difficult and I learned quickly. I would have to have my coach help me with my moves. Not many girls wrestle and I have a chance to compete."

"I think letting go of volleyball will be my best decision."

Sarmiento, in that summer before high school, would go to both practices and totally be exhausted by the end of the day.

"Unfortunately, girls wrestling is not a universally accepted sport amongst young women," DeVries said. "It is tough to get girls to sign up. Due to low numbers in the '18-'19 season, the girls team attended minimal tournaments."

However, with his current group of wrestlers and newcomers, that sounds like a thing of the past.

Nationwide, 28 states now have state championships in high school.

DeVries, who has four young children - Duke (10), Lylah (8), Logan (7) and Lucas (5), and wife Wendy, describes his team as his "other" family. "Just before COVID hit in March, my wife and I were going in multiple directions with our four kids." Wendy DeVries is a math teacher at Artesia and has been coaching volleyball at Artesia and a little at Norwalk.

In the beginning it was tough without a full team.

"Not getting busses due to

low numbers, I would often drive the wrestlers in my suburban with my daughter (Lylah) by my side," said DeVries, of his "unofficial coach". "She wanted to go to every tournament with me."

Lylah wrestled in their youth program and was even showing his wrestlers some of the moves and they said, "if this wrestler can do it, I can do it."

"Parents also helped to drive their kids to tournaments in order to make the 7am weigh-ins. We were a wrestling family."

DeVries' daughter has slowly become his unofficial coach during tournaments with her encouragement on the sidelines.

"At the tournaments she would yell out the terms, 'roll your fingers or walk them out,'" Aguilar said. "She would also record our matches and we would review them."

No doubt, Lylah will be a future Lancer.

Two other wrestlers, sisters Kayla Romero, (freshman) and Carlee Romero (sophomore) both missed league finals due to missed weight and a broken collar bone, respectively. "Both of them are strong members of our wrestling family," DeVries said. "We started off with 15 girls but dwindled down, as many quit, were injured or became academically ineligible. We packed our schedule with tournaments almost every weekend."

"The program is growing and will be competing for a league title next season," DeVries said. "It would be our first as a girls wrestling program, assuming we have a season."

All these women work hard to break down stereotypes, work through doubters, ignore criticism of society and their peers, which is not easy for high schoolers. They pave paths for future women wrestlers and continue the nationwide growth and popularity of women's wrestling. Wrestling is a sport

that prepares you for all sports. They truly have my respect and admiration."

What they said:

Carlee Romero, sophomore - "My first year was interesting because I've never wrestled before. I was kind of behind as I was still learning. It was fun and definitely not what I expected. It feels like a new journey and we're kind of discovering it. I would recommend it because it brings out a different side of girls. You get to be tomboyish, but you are still wrestling with girls. It is very empowering for girls."

Kayla Romero, freshman - "I felt like it was a really good season. We had a lot of ups and downs, but in the end it was really worth it. It gave me a lot of strength and conditioning. It was scary at first because I had never done it before, but I had a lot of help because I go to a gym (House of Power) and it was easier. I've wrestled a boy before and we were equal in strength, but he had a little more technique. I guess I know what to learn."



The Norwalk Girls Wrestling team. (Photo by Keith Durlinger)

Aryssa Eslava - "This year was definitely challenging. It was my first time wrestling. I learned mental toughness and that made me a lot stronger, mentally and physically. This is not just a sport for boys and I feel strong in knowing that as a girl I can do this sport."

Liyah Salazar - "I got injured a lot this year, but overall it was a really fun year. It was second

year and I'm happy it (girls wrestling) is growing. It's a beautiful sport, a beautiful sport. For other girls to experience it, I'm really happy about it. Some people think it isn't a girls sport and I like to prove them wrong. Some boys take it easy because I am a girl, but there's some guys out there who don't like holding back and that's what I like about it. There's sometimes when I just want a challenge."

Norwalk has scholarships for career training

NORWALK - The City of Norwalk is offering scholarships to residents for career and technical training.

Funding for this program is through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, with the primary objective to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

The scholarships, ranging from \$1,050 to \$2,600, will assist with tuition for occupational training in health sciences, medical technology or welding/metal fabrication at Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School. Students are responsible for costs associated with their books, exam supplies and uniforms.

To qualify, the applicant must be a Norwalk resident (proof of residency is required), must be 18 years of age or older, and meet income qualifications.

Applications are available online at <https://www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/community-development/norwalk-la-mirada-adult-school-scholarships>. The deadline to apply is Friday, July 31 at 4 p.m. Applications must be dropped off in person at City Hall and the applicant must call in advance to schedule an appointment.

Funding for the program is limited. For more information, contact the Housing Division at (562) 929-5951.

Norwalk expands Small Business Loan Program

By Alex Dominguez Staff Writer

NORWALK - Norwalk City Council unanimously voted to expand its Small Business Loan Program on Tuesday, extending its reach beyond overdue rent.

The Small Business Loan Program was passed by the city on May 19, made possible through the CARES Act which brought \$747,572 in CDBG-CV funds. These funds are limited to the prevention, preparation, and response of COVID-19.

Up until now, Norwalk has used the Small Business Loan Program to assist with past-due rent payments, up to a maximum loan amount of \$10,000.

To date, the city has had 56 applications for the program, approving 15 and signing loan documents with six businesses.

With Tuesday's revision, the program now allows for aid for businesses who may have fallen up to three months behind on utility payments, assistance with the purchase of supplies and materials associated with the prevention of the spread of COVID-19, and assistance with costs associated with the construction of boundaries necessary to operate under current health department guidelines.

In addition, the maximum loan amount was increased to \$35,000.

The city also anticipates allocating additional CARES funds to assist private, for-profit entities to avoid job loss due to business closures from social distancing.

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When mob mentality and moral suasion meet the markets

By Veronique de Rugy

A wave of hasty firings is sweeping across the country, driven by demands from what some call the “cancel culture.” The New York Times editorial page editor James Bennett ran an op-ed from Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., that displeased the paper’s readers and some colleagues, so he lost his job. The chief curator at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Gary Garrels, lost his job, too, after he was accused of being a racist for saying he would still collect art from white men. But the list of those who lost their jobs is much longer, and the rationale is sometimes as stunningly weak as someone liking the wrong tweet.

As a result, fear has gripped many workers: Any day, any worker can be fired for simply angering a Twitter mob. Meanwhile, employers are left wondering how they should react when one of their employees becomes a target.

Every case is different, and employers should be able to dismiss workers. “Employment at will” remains the best labor policy. However, one piece of wisdom is worth following: During scary, emotional or angry times, don’t act hastily. Slow down.

There is value in not making rash decisions during stressful times. Mental health professionals often advise grieving families to not make any life-altering decisions for a solid year after the death of a loved one. In daily life, some common advice for those about to send a nasty email or text is, “Sleep on it.”

Acting out of anger is not uncommon. Mark Twain, for instance, noted, “Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured.” Aristotle observed, “Anybody can become angry — that is easy — but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose and in the right way — that is not within everybody’s power and is not easy.”

This rule of not acting out of passion is central to our political system. James Madison, in “Federalist No. 10,” warns of impetuous mobs or factions “united and actuated by some common impulse of passion, or of interest, adverse to the rights of other citizens, or to the permanent and aggregate interests of the community.” As such, Madison and the Constitution’s other architects created a system

of governance that discourages fast, immediate action and gratification.

The built-in slowdown requirement enshrined in the Constitution is also present in our legal system. Due process means that no stage of legal proceedings can be dispensed with, preventing government from acting too hastily.

Today, the wisdom that inspires our constitutional system and many other fields could help private firms when responding to the demands of an impetuous mob. Imagine if employers adopted the public position to wait, let’s say two weeks or so, when faced with demands that a worker be fired for some alleged claim. Such a policy would have a few advantages.

First, it would give the company time to determine if the accusations are well founded. It would also allow the company to assess the bigger impact of such a decision on other employees without excessive retaliation costs for not acting quickly enough.

Second, a waiting period would allow heads to level and passions to cool. In the age of instantaneous news, the mob might become distracted by other events, allowing a company to assess the situation without the constant pressure. At the end of the waiting period, if the employer decides it still needs to let the employee go, it will have had time to develop an argument for why it’s making that decision as opposed to the contradicting messaging that has surrounded many of the recent firings.

There’s a larger issue here, one that we libertarians pay too little attention to: What is the proper role of moral suasion on commerce?



(Getty Images)

If there is no role, then the state, with its formal law, becomes the only constraint other than market competition. If there is a role, as Aristotle hinted, then let’s be sure to do it right.

For now, however, it’s easy to see the benefits for all involved if firms start waiting a little before dismissing employees under public pressure.

Veronique de Rugy is a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

Hospitalized During COVID

By R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr.

I was due to have a mammogram. I skipped it. I was due for a follow-up chest MRI. I skipped that. As a former smoker, I had scheduled a CT scan for May. I skipped that, too.

The woman who helped me raise my children, who has been with me for 30 years, who I love with all my heart, has been in chemo since last fall. She can’t avoid going to the hospital, and I could never live with myself if I were to give her COVID. So I had done everything I can to keep her safe. No hospitals for me.

But my body gave in.

Faced with clear evidence that I was bleeding internally, somewhere, my (ex) family doctor told my son to call an ambulance and get me to the hospital, ASAP. My kids stood outside as the ambulance and fire truck pulled up to my house. The paramedics in Santa Monica were great; not only did they know exactly what they were doing but they did it with kindness and compassion, both toward me and toward my children.

That was pretty much the end of kindness and compassion. And who could blame them?

I tested negative for COVID and was ultimately given a room on a non-COVID floor. I’ve been in the Santa Monica hospital before. That time, three years ago, the doctors and nurses could not have been better; I marveled that the smaller hospital (smaller than Cedars-Sinai, where the celebrities go, where most of my doctors have privileges) was so much easier to manage, for me and for my family, than the supposedly “better” hospital I was used to. So I wasn’t afraid when the ambulance driver told me they could only take me to the hospital closest to my home. No problem, I thought; my family doctor even had privileges there.

The good news is that the doctors I’d never met diagnosed the bleed — two large ulcers — and that my new family doctor (from Cedars), who I met on FaceTime, put me on medicine that seems to have stopped the bleeding, and relieved me of the chronic stomach pain I’ve been enduring (with the help of pain pills) for years.

The bad news is that being in the hospital, even for something that was not nearly as frightening as COVID, is absolutely miserable.

The nurses, with one exception, were at best one step away from being abusive. I either called for help too often (why do you have to go to the bathroom so often?) or not often enough (why did you get out of bed without calling?). My favorite aide looked on in horror as the nurses chewed me out, crossing the line from frustration to abuse.

Outside my door during shift change, I could hear myself being described as a problem patient, not only for the bathroom business but also because, in the ER, they hooked up my IVs in the crook of each elbow so that if I so much as bent my arms to pick up a book or make a phone call, the alarms would sound. Keep your arms straight! Don’t even think of asking for food and water! No one bothered to change the order for days after I had the procedures.

And who could blame them? Even on a non-COVID floor, fear, frustration and loneliness ruled. In normal times, a friend or family member would be there to help. In these times, it all falls on the nurses, who have good reason to worry about themselves and their families, and who are left to do everything.

One night, late, I tried to change my gown, drenched with sweat from the new medicines. But undoing the snaps, getting myself out of the old gown and into the new one, was nearly impossible. My door was open, in the hopes that I would see a nurse walking by. Instead, I found myself looking at a middle-aged man who was watching my struggle. He didn’t look like a nurse. When a nurse finally came, she told me that no one by that description worked on the floor. And then she hurried on to the next patient.



(Getty Images)

To keep myself calm, I started a list, keeping track of which nurses and aides were the most brutal. When I got home, I tore up the list. It is no time for complaints. I’m out of the hospital. I’m lucky. The men and women who took care of me are not so lucky. I am grateful to them.

To Mask or Not To Mask

By R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr.

I have, for most of my adult life, been a practicing hypochondriac. So, it will come as no surprise to you to hear that I am a zealous reader of the Journal of the American Medical Association, or JAMA. I find

something of interest in practically every issue. Recently, I found myself engrossed in the thoughts of Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who is also, if I am not mistaken, a noted bird watcher. I, of course, know very little about the birds. Yet, thanks to Redfield and the JAMA, I am now very much up to date in my knowledge about the wearing of masks and the controversy surrounding them during this pandemic.

You might recall that, some weeks ago, I wrote in this column about what I saw as a looming conflict between those who advocate wearing masks to protect themselves from the Wuhan virus (also known as the coronavirus) and those carefree Americans who think that they might take their chances and go about their business maskless. Well, not surprisingly, the conflict has continued to heat up, and now it has led to full-fledged warfare, with each side taking up arms against the other and blood being spilled.

In my column, I vowed to remain “absolutely neutral” in the coming warfare between those who have advocated masks and those who would go maskless. I even offered a little joke hoping to get the contending sides to lighten up a bit. I wrote that, for the sake of public health, both the mask-wearers and the maskless should wash their hands at every opportunity and also wash their feet and blow their noses. I am told that Dr. Anthony Fauci did not think my joke was particularly funny.

I hope that he and the pulchritudinous Dr. Deborah Birx will take note of this column. I have changed my tune. I have been won over by the advocates of masks. It was Redfield and his argument in the JAMA that convinced me. He believes the pandemic can be brought under control in four to eight weeks, if “we could get everybody to wear a mask right now.” In a signed editorial, he said there is “ample evidence” that masks assist in reducing transmission of the virus. Think of it! We could limit this horrible plague to a few weeks — if we all worked together.

As things stand now, Americans are awaiting the arrival of therapeutic drugs or of vaccines, thanks to the ingenuity of our great

pharmaceutical companies. I have no doubt the medications will be at hand someday soon. But Redfield says if we all wear masks, we will overcome this plague in a matter of weeks. I say, give masks a chance. (And I do hope the good doctor will not follow the example of the Washington Redskins and change the first syllable of his last name. That would be excessive.)

Even if the American pharmaceutical industry has some medications ready by the fall, it will take months, probably years, to vaccinate everyone. There will be those who refuse to take the medications because of religious scruples. There will be those who refuse them because of constitutional concerns. Probably, there will be some hypochondriacs who will dream up some dread diseases attendant with the medications. Believe me; I know about these types of kooks. And there will be the congenital ornery.

In fact, all of these uncooperative types who I have imagined as opposing future vaccinations have already appeared on the scene. They compose a large number of those who refuse to wear masks today. Actually, I was refusing to wear a mask before I read the cogent thoughts of Redfield.

Which brings me to the nub of the matter. Redfield has convinced me that if I wear a mask, we can beat this plague. Or, rather, if millions of my fellow Americans wear masks and are as reasonable as I am, we can beat this plague. But how many millions of Americans can be relied upon to follow Redfield’s prescription? How many Americans are reasonable? Consider the protests in Portland, Oregon. Consider the hotheads in New York City and Washington, D.C. How about the angry young men in Chicago?

After careful consideration, I have come to the conclusion that only the giant pharmaceutical corporations will save us. Though for me, I am wearing a mask henceforth.

R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr. is founder and editor in chief of *The American Spectator*. He is a senior fellow at the London Center for Policy Research and the author, most recently, of “*The Death of Liberalism*,” published by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

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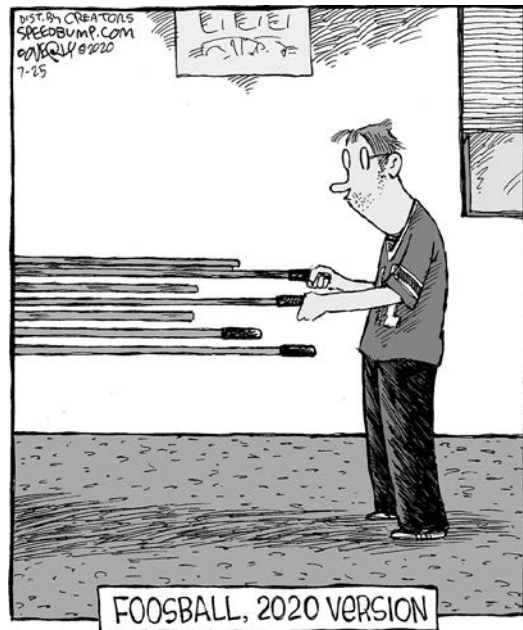
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

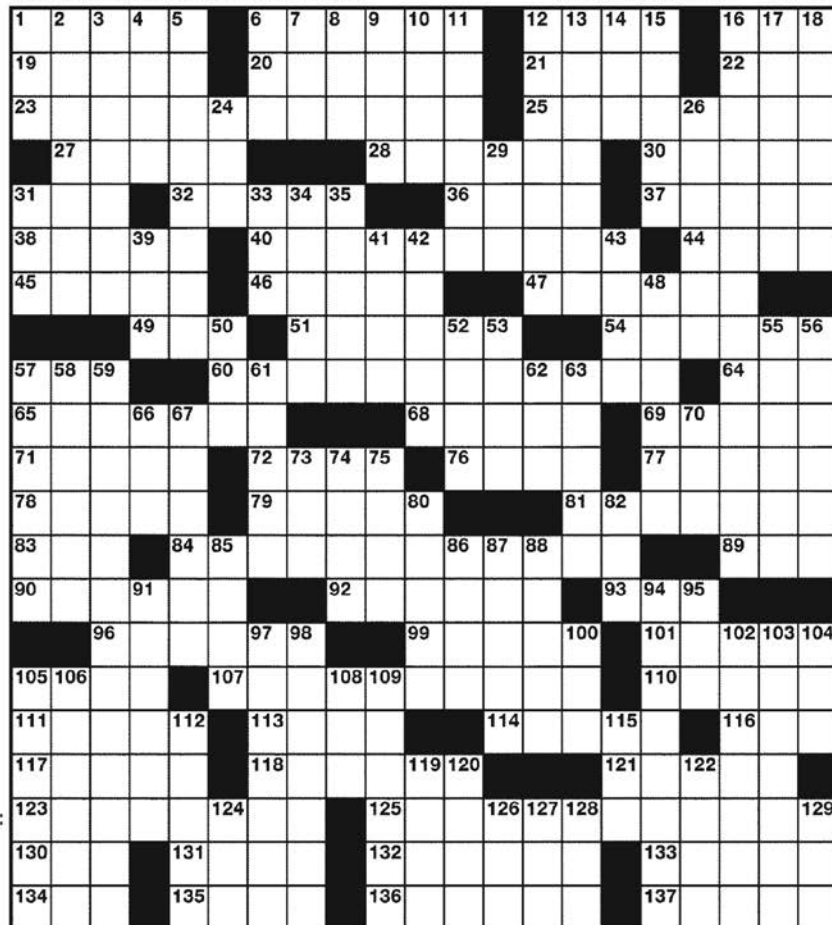
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THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
WIDE OPEN SPACES: In the great outdoors
by Greg Johnson

- ACROSS
1 Trade pact signed in 1993
6 Pantry item with a string
12 Measures of resistance
16 Org. fighting identity theft
19 Witch craft
20 High fashion suit brand
21 Table game
22 Salad topper
23 Fruit facility in northern climes
25 From Madrid, in Madrid
27 Mideast rulers
28 Ritually designate
30 Night in Rome
31 Grammy category
32 Central Florida city
36 Capital of Togo
37 Heckles or jeers
38 Studies with urgency
40 100-acre sports facility
44 Miami- County
45 "Same here"
46 Rise, as a river
47 Land on the Mediterranean
49 Big T on sorority housing
51 Bard's stage direction
54 Alternative to bold counter (tachometer)
60 Drill demonstration area
64 Lobster Diavolo
65 Not all that precise
68 Bird perch
69 Wheel of Fortune purchase choices
71 One toasted at brunch
72 Water-resistant hardwood
76 Mincemeat ingredient
77 Small singers
78 Mandicuri's material
79 Iliad byline
81 Fisher, the first mother in space
83 So far
84 Herder's workplace
89 Protector of teeth: Abbr.
90 Go by
92 Enter username and password
93 '70s den arrival
96 Comic book "Kapow!"
99 Navel formation
101 KITCHEN on a moving box
105 100 pounds of hay, say
107 Much of a mall's real estate
110 Possible altar answer
111 Top crew
113 Edges out
114 Conclude with
116 SUV make
117 Southpaw's sobriquet
118 Season's greeting
121 Coloration
123 Showing self-pride
125 Urban plaza
130 Last pronoun in the Declaration
131 Make more acute
132 World Cup chant
133 Vocalize
134 Drive-thru setup
135 Nails down, as a date
136 Fluorescent pigment
137 Outskirts of Sioux Falls
DOWN
1 Network with Peacock streaming
2 In (behind in repayment)
3 Pole vaulter's landing place
4 Morrison who wrote Beloved
5 Dessert with oranges
6 Road coating
7 Goof
8 Comedian Schumer
9 Rum cake
10 Common quote notation
11 Escort for hire
12 Tubeless test site
13 Certain restaurant greeter
14 Floor cleaner
15 Teenspeak, for example
16 Venue with conflicting goals
17 Slanty
18 Six-foot-five funny fellow
24 Top-left PC key
26 Shrugged's comment
29 Slip with a promise
31 It established 1 Down
33 Chief prosecutors: Abbr.
34 "Not so high!"
35 Smart speaker voice
39 Bon (witticism)
41 Beat it
42 Source of hints
43 "lad" (IRELAND anagram)
48 Very early
50 Retail ID
52 Independent charities: Abbr.
53 Pants, so to speak
55 Newly unwrinkled
56 Puts in motion
57 Sort of steak
58 Protector of teeth
59 Produce business
61 moment (right now)
62 "Abounding in" ending
63 Indian state
66 Generational designation
67 Actress Milano
70 Significant period
73 Want ad letters
74 Concert array
75 Foreign Legion hat
80 Tease
82 CS/ setting
85 Rope fiber
86 Tucked in
87 Album ID
88 Group of locals
91 Skirt folds
94 "Medical" skin care brand
95 Unanalyzed, as data
97 Search for an Alcatraz escapee
98 Whom the Miracle Mets beat
100 Flight board posting, for short
102 Lions and tigers (not bears)
103 Tall symbol of two states
104 Inc. cousin
105 Trainer in Creed
106 Dined in a diner
108 80-110 (Trans-Canada Highway speed limit range)
109 Shrimp's classification
112 Ancient tales
115 NHL extra periods
119 Luau dance
120 Toe the line
122 Common sundae topping
124 Opposing team
126 Activity record
127 Unfavorable opinion
128 Lofty suit
129 EMT destinations

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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.

CRANBERRY BOGS (23 Across), according to cranberries.org, is Virginia-born Francis Dade, British Columbia. The Dade in Canadian provinces of Quebec and to Washington, as well as the northern U.S., from Massachusetts through the Atlantic Ocean.

ASTRONAUT ANNA LEE FISHER (81 Across) was a Mission Specialist on a 1984 flight of the Discovery space shuttle.

LEGALS

Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

By Dr. Alan Frischer
We are in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, and it has changed our world. Predictions about the near future are difficult to make. Still, let's remember that this isn't the first time! What can we learn from the Spanish Flu pandemic of 192 years ago?



The 1918 flu was caused by an H1N1 virus that probably originated in birds. In this country, it was first seen in members of the military. Thought to have begun in Spain (it most likely did not), the name Spanish Flu stuck.

Over nearly three years, this virus infected an estimated 500 million people. That came to roughly one out of every three people on the planet! It killed some 675,000 people in the United States alone, with a much higher mortality rate than we are seeing today with COVID-19.

Much like COVID-19, it was transmitted through respiratory droplets, and older adults were most at risk of developing severe symptoms. However, in stark contrast to today's pandemic, the Spanish Flu more seriously impacted children under the age of five, and adults aged 20-40.

Today's world is far more densely populated than the world of 1918 - the population has grown from less than 2 billion then, to 7.5 billion today, making the spread much faster. People in 1918 tended to live in closer quarters, did not fully understand the value of hygiene, and did not have access to the medical care that we have today. As today, in 1918 there was no vaccine to prevent the disease, but today we do have the benefit of antibiotics, steroids, and antiviral agents to lessen the severity. The world of 1918 was at war, with large numbers of troops traveling to distant locations, and this aided the spread. Malnutrition was a factor for both soldiers and for civilians, and this made victims more susceptible to disease.

Back in 1918, officials downplayed the significance of the first cases. Mass gatherings continued and schools remained open. After the first cases appeared, Philadelphia waited some two weeks to implement physical distancing and other measures. In contrast, St. Louis moved to implement physical distancing measures

within two days of its first reported cases. Philadelphia ended up facing a considerably larger epidemic than that of St. Louis.

Let's look at how two countries have handled our current pandemic: the United States and South Korea. Coincidentally, the first confirmed case of COVID-19 was found in both countries on the same day, January 20. The

government of South Korea immediately banned mass gatherings and implemented extensive testing, contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine. South Korea contained the spread of the virus, and has had, very roughly, 14,000 cases and 300 deaths. The United States is, of course, far larger, but we currently have experienced nearly four million cases and close to 150,000 deaths.

Governments have a responsibility to prepare for a pandemic. They have an obligation to invest in public-health systems that will protect us from the likelihood of the next pandemic. Our government reacted neither quickly nor adequately back in January, and early action is critical because a contagion spreads exponentially. Every day counts. Our government officials have a responsibility to create a consistent message in order to help prevent the spread of disease and to keep us as safe as possible.

Deaths from the 1918 pandemic came in three major waves. The second wave proved to be the deadliest. Today's health experts nervously study that pattern. Just like then, we have all grown tired of physical distancing, masks, and other safety mechanisms, and want to return to our pre-pandemic lives. Will history repeat itself with a much larger second wave?

Keep in mind that the major treatment for the Spanish Flu was aspirin. After three years of misery, the virus disappeared. This was likely due to the eventual herd immunity as enough people got infected and either recovered...or died. Pandemics do eventually end. While human nature and behavior have not changed in 102 years, medical science certainly has. Despite a complex geopolitical situation, we are not in the midst of a raging world war. We have unprecedented global communication and the ability to share information. Drug and vaccine trials are being conducted worldwide. I am praying, like all of you, that this modern pandemic ends soon, so that we can learn from it and resume the life we choose. Let's all work together on this mission.

Buying a house? Beware of fraud

Purchasing a home is an exciting time, but homebuyers should be on guard so their down payments and closing costs don't end up in a criminal's account.

In the homebuyer scam, criminals identify potential victims by hacking into the computers of homebuyers, real estate agents and escrow companies. Their goal is to get details of a home purchase that is underway.

A fake email is sent to the homebuyer by someone impersonating the real estate agent or escrow company. The email instructs the buyer to wire the down payment and closing costs to the criminal's bank account.

TIPS:

Learn about the closing process from your real estate and escrow company agents and ask for verified phone numbers and email addresses.

Personally verify bank account details for wire transfers with your trusted agents.

Be suspicious of any deviation from previously discussed closing steps, especially bank account changes.

If you are victimized, immediately request that your bank reverse the wire transfer, notify your local police agency and file a complaint with the Federal Bureau of Investigation at www.ic3.gov.

Courtesy of the L.A. County District Attorney's Office.

BULK SALES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (Division 6 of the Commercial Code) Escrow No. 204296-CS

(1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described.
(2) The name and business addresses of the seller are: QUEZADA'S RESTAURANT, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, 15544 LA MIRADA BLVD., LA MIRADA, CA 90638
(3) The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is:
(4) The names and business address of the Buyer(s) are: RPM QA SERVICES, LLC AND EDWARD TORRES, 1080 N BATAVIA STREET, SUITE C, ORANGE, CA 92667
(5) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: ALL FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT of that certain business located at: 15544 LA MIRADA BLVD., LA MIRADA, CA 90638
(6) The business name used by the seller(s) at said location is: QUEZADA'S TACOS
(7) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is AUGUST 11, 2020, at the office of R ESCROW, 1205 E CHAPMAN AVE., ORANGE, CA 92668 Escrow No. 204296-CS. Escrow Officer CANDICE SILVA
(8) Claims may be filed with Same as "7" above.
(9) The last date for filing claims is: AUGUST 10, 2020
(10) This Bulk Sale is subject to Section 6106.2 of the Uniform Commercial Code.
(11) As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: NONE.
DATED: JUNE 3, 2020
TRANSFEREES: RPM QA SERVICES, LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AND EDWARD TORRES LA2565794 NORWALK PATRIOT 7/24/2020

FCS LA2565794
The Norwalk Patriot
7/24/20

FICT. BUS NAME

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME 2020095886

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

The Norwalk Patriot
7/31/20, 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: 20NWC00144
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 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
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

PROBATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF JAMES EDWARD LAMMEY, JR. Case No. 20STPB05099

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JAMES EDWARD LAMMEY, JR. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Veronica Trout in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Veronica Trout be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on Nov. 23, 2020 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 4 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under

section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:
G JACQUELINE PELAEZ ESQ SBN 207067
SIMONIAN LAW APC
131 N EL MOLINO AVE
STE 300
PASADENA CA 91101
CN970553 LAMMEY Jul 24, 31, Aug 7, 2020

CN970553
The Norwalk Patriot
7/24/20, 7/31/20, 8/7/20

TRUSTEE SALES

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE NO. FCC 4253.1 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 08/07/2018. 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. On 08/13/2020, at 10:00AM, FOOTHILL CONVEYANCE CORPORATION, a California Corporation, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 08/15/2018, as Instrument No. 20180822503, Book __, Page __ of Official Records, executed by: DENISE SMITH, Trustee, or her successors in Trust of THE DENISE SMITH TRUST, Dated October 20, 2017 as Trustor(s), in the office of the County Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, State of California, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States (in the forms which are lawful tender in the United States) and/or cashier's, certified or other checks specified in Civil Code Section 2924h (payable in full at time of sale) AT: Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA 91766 all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof Exhibit "A" LEGAL DESCRIPTION The Land Referred to Herein Below Is Situated In The City Of Norwalk, County Of Los Angeles, State Of California, And Is Described As Follows: PARCEL 1: Lot 122 Of Tract No. 20422, In The City Of Norwalk, County Of Los Angeles, State Of California, As Per Map Recorded In Book 532 Page(5) 35 Through 38 Inclusive Of Maps, In The Office Of The County Recorder Of Said County. Except Therefrom All Oil, Gas, Minerals, And Other Hydrocarbon Substances Lying Below The Surface Of Said Land, But With No Right Of Surface Entry As Provided In Deeds Of Record. PARCEL 2: That Portion Of That Part Of The Southeast One-Quarter Of The Northwest One-Quarter Of Section 14, Township 3 South, Range 12 West Of The Rancho Santa Gertrudes, Subdivided For The Santa Gertrudes Land Association, As Shown On A Map Recorded In Book Page 502 Of Miscellaneous Records, In The Office Of Los Angeles, Described In Deed To The Los Angeles County Flood Control District, Recorded In Book 9665 Page 43 Of Official Records, In The Office Of Said Recorder, Together With That Portion Of That Part Of Said Southeast One Quarter Of The Northwest One-Quarter Of Said Section 14, Described In Deed To The New San Gabriel River Levee District, Recorded In Book 3734 Page 315 Of Deeds, In The

Office Of Said Recorder, All Bounded In The North By The Westerly Prolongation Of The Magasin Ton Office Of Said Recorder, On The South By Westerly Prolongation Of The Southerly Line Of Said Lot 122, On The East By The Westerly Line Of Said Lot 122, And Bounded By The West By The Following Described Line: Beginning At The Intersection Of The Northerly Line Of Said Section With That Course Described As Having A Bearing And Length Of South 2 Degrees 59'25" East 472.15 Feet In Easement Deed To Los Angeles County Flood Control District as Recorded In Book 10103 Page 285, Of Official Records, In The Office Of Said Recorder, Thence Along Said Course South 2 Degrees 59'25" East 85.12 Feet; Thence South 41 Degrees 46'30" West 102.54 Feet; Thence South 3 Degrees 28'45" East, 460.16 Feet, Thence South 6 Degrees 10'13" East 338.89 Feet; Thence South 10 Degrees 13'12" East 387.91 Feet, Thence South 14 Degrees 11'55" East 504.93 Feet; Thence South 13 Degrees 05'30" East 647.78 Feet; Thence South 16 Degrees 18'11" East 100 Feet. The street address and other common designation if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 13313 Newmire Avenue, NORWALK, CA 90650-2168 APN: 8051-008-008, 8051-008-044 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances. To say the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, for the amount reasonably estimated to be \$138,833.06 (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Trustee's Sale). It is possible that at the time of sale, the amount owing will be greater than this amount or that the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In the event that tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of moneys paid to the Trustee and the Trustee shall have no obligation to refund the same. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924d of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (818)248-0233 or visit this Internet Web site: www.foothillconveyance.com, using the file number assigned to this case (see trustee sale number beginning with "FCC"). Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: 07/15/2020 FOOTHILL CONVEYANCE CORPORATION, as said Trustee Authorized Signature Cameron Kessinger, Vice President 3221 North Verdugo Road, Glendale, CA 91208 (818) 248-0233 THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE NPP0370903 To: NORWALK PATRIOT 07/24/2020, 07/31/2020, 08/07/2020

NPP0370903
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7/24/20, 7/31/20, 8/7/20

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Email: legals@thedowneypatriot.com
Phone: 562-404-3008 • Fax: 562-904-3124

Rose Parade cancellation is just another blow for Downey Rose Float Association

The group has already lost out on thousands of dollars due to COVID-19.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY - With the announcement of the 2021 Tournament of Roses cancellation, the Downey Rose Float Association has been left in a state of limbo.

Since 1955, The Downey Rose Float Association (DRFA) has maintained a constant (and often, successful) presence in Pasadena's annual beginning-of-year parade.

Unfortunately for participants and spectators alike, the current Coronavirus crisis would ultimately pull the plug on next year's festivities, with parade officials announcing 2021's parade cancellation last week.

This is the first time since WWII that the annual parade has been canceled.

According to DRFA President Jeremy Clifton, the lack of a parade next year is a disappointing reality, albeit not an entirely unexpected one.

"We anticipated that it would come to that," said Clifton. "We spoke to [parade officials] once, and it was, 'We will let you know by basically June what our plan is.' Then it went to, 'We'll let you know by July...' Tournament basically was basing everything off of where the Coronavirus was going and what LA County, Governor of the State, and CDC was recommending."

"Once everything started spiraling out of control, they realized they couldn't do it."

Clifton added that it's a decision that DRFA understands, due to the pandemic.

Still, the announcement comes as more salt in the wound after an already difficult year for DRFA, as



This year's float concept was created by current Little Miss Downey Alexis Givens.

COVID-19 has almost completely derailed the organization's usual fundraising efforts, including the Miss Downey Pageant and Parade of Winners.

"We were going to have our pageant in September - which is when we change our court - which was postponed indefinitely," said Clifton. "We have our Parade of Winners which comes up in October which we most likely won't be able to do."

"The only major fundraiser that we've been able to have this year was the fireworks stand, and that was successful, thank God. That's the only thing that's keeping us afloat."

If there's any silver lining with the parade's cancellation,

it's that there wasn't any major construction done for the upcoming float yet.

Downey's 2021 float was entitled "Reading: It's an Adventure" and featured three storybooks coming to life. Its concept was that of current Little Miss Downey Alexis Givens. The final rendering was done by Thom Neighbors.

"It was based off of education," said Clifton.

It remains uncertain if Rose Parade Officials will carry over the 2021 theme to 2022, and by extension, if DRFA will be able to use the same concept later on.

O.C. man admits operating ATM network that laundered millions of dollars of Bitcoin

LOS ANGELES - A Yorba Linda man has agreed to plead guilty to federal criminal charges that he operated an illegal virtual-currency money services business that exchanged up to \$25 million - including on behalf of criminals - through in-person transactions and a network of Bitcoin ATM-type kiosks.

Kais Mohammad, 36, a.k.a. "Superman29," was charged in a three-count criminal information filed Wednesday in United States District Court. In a plea agreement also filed Wednesday, Mohammad agreed to plead guilty to one count of operating an unlicensed money transmitting business, one count of money laundering, and one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program.

According to his plea agreement, from December 2014 to November 2019, Mohammad owned and operated Herocoin, an illegal virtual-currency money services business. As part of his business, Mohammad offered Bitcoin-cash exchange services, charging commissions of up to 25 percent - significantly above the prevailing market rate - for doing so.

Using the moniker "Superman29," Mohammad advertised his business online to buy and sell Bitcoin throughout Southern California, in transactions up to \$25,000. In a typical transaction, he met clients at a public location and exchanged currency for them. Mohammad generally did not inquire as to the source of the clients' funds and on many occasions he knew the funds were the proceeds of criminal activity. Mohammad admitted that he knew at least one Herocoin client was engaged in illegal activity on the dark web.

Mohammad later purchased and advertised on the internet

a network of Bitcoin ATM-type kiosks, which were located in malls, gas stations and convenience stores in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. These kiosks allowed customers to use cash to buy Bitcoin, an Internet-based cryptocurrency, or sell Bitcoin in exchange for cash that is dispensed onsite.

Mohammad processed cryptocurrency deposited into the machines, supplied the machines with cash that customers would withdraw, and maintained the server software that operated the machines. Mohammad was able to monitor transactions on the machines and identify each transaction that occurred on them.

During the time of Herocoin's operation, Mohammad, a former bank employee, intentionally failed to register his company with the U.S. Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). Mohammad admitted he was aware that he was required to - but chose not to - develop and maintain an effective anti-money laundering program, file currency transaction reports for exchanges of currency in excess of \$10,000, conduct due diligence on customers, and file suspicious activity reports for transactions over \$2,000 involving customers he had reason to suspect were involved in criminal activity. With respect to his Bitcoin ATM network, Mohammad further admitted that he did not have a program in place that would have allowed him to obtain identifications for customers conducting multiple transactions of up to \$3,000 or verify that any identification provided was the person conducting the transaction.

After FinCEN contacted Mohammad in July 2018 about his need to register his company, Mohammad did so, but he

continued to fail to comply fully with federal law concerning money laundering, conducting due diligence and reporting suspicious customers.

During the course of its investigation, law enforcement conducted multiple transactions with Mohammad, including three successive purchases of Bitcoin totaling \$14,500 by the same undercover agent from an ATM kiosk in Lakewood on September 12, 2018, for which Mohammad did not file a currency transaction report as required.

From February 2019 to August 2019, Mohammad also conducted multiple in-person transactions with undercover agents who represented they worked at a "karaoke bar" that employed women from Korea who entertained men in various ways, including engaging in sexual activity, according to the plea agreement. On August 28, 2019, Mohammad met with an agent and exchanged \$16,000 in cash, which the agent represented were the proceeds from illegal activity, for 1.58592 Bitcoin. Mohammad never filed a currency transaction report or suspicious activity report for these transactions.

In total, Mohammad admitted that he exchanged between \$15 million and \$25 million from in-person exchanges and transactions occurring at his Bitcoin kiosks.

Mohammad is expected to plead guilty to the charges at a hearing in the coming weeks. Upon pleading guilty, Mohammad will face a statutory maximum sentence of 30 years in federal prison. As part of the plea agreement, Mohammad has agreed to forfeit cash, cryptocurrency, and 17 Bitcoin ATMs that he operated as part of his business.

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IRS releases list of 'dirty dozen' scams to avoid

The Internal Revenue Service this week announced its annual "Dirty Dozen" list of tax scams with a special emphasis on aggressive and evolving schemes related to coronavirus tax relief, including Economic Impact Payments.

This year, the Dirty Dozen focuses on scams that target taxpayers. The criminals behind these bogus schemes view everyone as potentially easy prey. The IRS urges everyone to be on guard all the time and look out for others in their lives.

"Tax scams tend to rise during tax season or during times of crisis, and scam artists are using pandemic to try stealing money and information from honest taxpayers," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "The IRS provides the Dirty Dozen list to help raise awareness about common scams that fraudsters use to target people. We urge people to watch out for these scams. The IRS is doing its part to protect Americans. We will relentlessly pursue criminals trying to steal your money or sensitive personal financial information."

Taxpayers are encouraged to review the list and be on the lookout for these scams throughout the year. Taxpayers should also remember that they are legally responsible for what is on their tax return even if it is prepared by someone else. Consumers can help protect themselves by choosing a reputable tax preparer.

The IRS urges taxpayers to refrain from engaging potential scammers online or on the phone. The IRS plans to unveil a similar list of enforcement and compliance priorities this year as well.

Here are this year's 'Dirty Dozen' scams:

Phishing: Taxpayers should be alert to potential fake emails or websites looking to steal personal information. The IRS will never initiate contact with taxpayers via email about a tax bill, refund or Economic Impact Payments. Don't click on links claiming to be from the IRS. Be wary of emails and websites - they may be nothing more than scams to steal personal information.

IRS Criminal Investigation has seen a tremendous increase in phishing schemes utilizing emails, letters, texts and links. These phishing schemes are using keywords such as "coronavirus," "COVID-19" and "Stimulus" in various ways.

These schemes are blasted to large numbers of people in an effort to get personal identifying information or financial account information, including account numbers and passwords. Most of these new schemes are actively playing on the fear and unknown of the virus and the stimulus payments. (For more see IR-2020-115.)

Fake Charities: Criminals frequently exploit natural disasters and other situations such as the current COVID-19 pandemic by setting up fake charities to steal from well-intentioned people trying to help in times of need. Fake charity scams generally rise during times like these.

Fraudulent schemes normally start with unsolicited contact by telephone, text, social media, e-mail or in-person using a variety of tactics. Bogus websites use names similar to legitimate charities to trick people to send money or provide personal financial information. They may even claim to be working for or on behalf of the IRS to help victims file casualty loss claims and get tax refunds.

Taxpayers should be particularly wary of charities with names like nationally known organizations. Legitimate charities will provide their Employer Identification Number (EIN), if requested,

which can be used to verify their legitimacy. Taxpayers can find legitimate and qualified charities with the search tool on IRS.gov.

Threatening Impersonator Phone Calls: IRS impersonation scams come in many forms. A common one remains bogus threatening phone calls from a criminal claiming to be with the IRS. The scammer attempts to instill fear and urgency in the potential victim. In fact, the IRS will never threaten a taxpayer or surprise him or her with a demand for immediate payment.

Phone scams or "vishing" (voice phishing) pose a major threat. Scam phone calls, including those threatening arrest, deportation or license revocation if the victim doesn't pay a bogus tax bill, are reported year-round. These calls often take the form of a "robocall" (a text-to-speech recorded message with instructions for returning the call).

The IRS will never demand immediate payment, threaten, ask for financial information over the phone, or call about an unexpected refund or Economic Impact Payment. Taxpayers should contact the real IRS if they worry about having a tax problem.

Social Media Scams: Taxpayers need to protect themselves against social media scams, which frequently use events like COVID-19 to try tricking people. Social media enables anyone to share information with anyone else on the Internet. Scammers use that information as ammunition for a wide variety of scams. These include emails where scammers impersonate someone's family, friends or co-workers.

Social media scams have also led to tax-related identity theft. The basic element of social media scams is convincing a potential victim that he or she is dealing with a person close to them that they trust via email, text or social media messaging.

Using personal information, a scammer may email a potential victim and include a link to something of interest to the recipient which contains malware intended to commit more crimes. Scammers also infiltrate their victim's emails and cell phones to go after their friends and family with fake emails that appear to be real and text messages soliciting, for example, small donations to fake charities that are appealing to the victims.

EIP or Refund Theft: The IRS has made great strides against refund fraud and theft in recent years, but they remain an ongoing threat. Criminals this year also turned their attention to stealing Economic Impact Payments as provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Much of this stems from identity theft whereby criminals file false tax returns or supply other bogus information to the IRS to divert refunds to wrong addresses or bank accounts.

The IRS recently warned nursing homes and other care facilities that Economic Impact Payments generally belong to the recipients, not the organizations providing the care. This came following concerns that people and businesses may be taking advantage of vulnerable populations who received the payments. These payments do not count as a resource for determining eligibility for Medicaid and other federal programs. They also do not count as income in determining eligibility for these programs. See IR-2020-121 for more.

Taxpayers can consult the Coronavirus Tax Relief page of IRS.gov for assistance in getting their EIPs. Anyone who believes they may be a victim of identity theft should consult the Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft on IRS.gov.



Getty Images)

Senior Fraud: Senior citizens and those who care about them need to be on alert for tax scams targeting older Americans. The IRS recognizes the pervasiveness of fraud targeting older Americans along with the Department of Justice and FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), among others.

Seniors are more likely to be targeted and victimized by scammers than other segments of society. Financial abuse of seniors is a problem among personal and professional relationships. Anecdotal evidence across professional services indicates that elder fraud goes down substantially when the service provider knows a trusted friend or family member is taking an interest in the senior's affairs.

Older Americans are becoming more comfortable with evolving technologies, such as social media. Unfortunately, that gives scammers another means of taking advantage. Phishing scams linked to Covid-19 have been a major threat this filing season. Seniors need to be alert for a continuing surge of fake emails, text messages, websites and social media attempts to steal personal information.

Scams targeting non-English speakers: IRS impersonators and other scammers also target groups with limited English proficiency. These scams are often threatening in nature. Some scams also target those potentially receiving an Economic Impact Payment and request personal or financial information from the taxpayer.

Phone scams pose a major threat to people with limited access to information, including individuals not entirely comfortable with the English language. These calls frequently take the form of a "robocall" (a text-to-speech recorded message with instructions for returning the call), but in some cases may be made by a real person. These con artists may have some of the taxpayer's information, including their address, the last four digits of their Social Security number or other personal details - making the phone calls seem more legitimate.

A common one remains the IRS impersonation scam where a taxpayer receives a telephone call threatening jail time, deportation or revocation of a driver's license from someone claiming to be with the IRS. Taxpayers who are recent immigrants often are the most vulnerable and should ignore these threats and not engage

the scammers.

Unscrupulous Return Preparers: Selecting the right return preparer is important. They are entrusted with a taxpayer's sensitive personal data. Most tax professionals provide honest, high-quality service, but dishonest preparers pop up every filing season committing fraud, harming innocent taxpayers or talking taxpayers into doing illegal things they regret later.

Taxpayers should avoid so-called "ghost" preparers who expose their clients to potentially serious filing mistakes as well as possible tax fraud and risk of losing their refunds. With many tax professionals impacted by COVID-19 and their offices potentially closed, taxpayers should take particular care in selecting a credible tax preparer.

Ghost preparers don't sign the tax returns they prepare. They may print the tax return and tell the taxpayer to sign and mail it to the IRS. For e-filed returns, the ghost preparer will prepare but not digitally sign as the paid preparer. By law, anyone who is paid to prepare or assists in preparing federal tax returns must have a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN). Paid preparers must sign and include their PTIN on returns.

Unscrupulous preparers may also target those without a filing requirement and may or may not be due a refund. They promise inflated refunds by claiming fake tax credits, including education credits, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and others. Taxpayers should avoid preparers who ask them to sign a blank return, promise a big refund before looking at the taxpayer's records or charge fees based on a percentage of the refund.

Taxpayers are ultimately responsible for the accuracy of their tax return, regardless of who prepares it. Taxpayers can go to a special page on IRS.gov for tips on choosing a preparer.

Offer in Compromise Mills: Taxpayers need to be wary of misleading tax debt resolution companies that can exaggerate chances to settle tax debts for "pennies on the dollar" through an Offer in Compromise (OIC). These offers are available for taxpayers who meet very specific criteria under law to qualify for reducing their tax bill. But unscrupulous companies oversell the program to unqualified candidates so they can collect a hefty fee from taxpayers already struggling with debt.

These scams are commonly called OIC "mills," which cast

a wide net for taxpayers, charge them pricey fees and churn out applications for a program they're unlikely to qualify for. Although the OIC program helps thousands of taxpayers each year reduce their tax debt, not everyone qualifies for an OIC. In Fiscal Year 2019, there were 54,000 OICs submitted to the IRS. The agency accepted 18,000 of them.

Individual taxpayers can use the free online Offer in Compromise Pre-Qualifier tool to see if they qualify. The simple tool allows taxpayers to confirm eligibility and provides an estimated offer amount. Taxpayers can apply for an OIC without third-party representation; but the IRS reminds taxpayers that if they need help, they should be cautious about whom they hire.

Fake Payments with Repayment Demands: Criminals are always finding new ways to trick taxpayers into believing their scam including putting a bogus refund into the taxpayer's actual bank account. Here's how the scam works:

A con artist steals or obtains a taxpayer's personal data including Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and bank account information. The scammer files a bogus tax return and has the refund deposited into the taxpayer's checking or savings account. Once the direct deposit hits the taxpayer's bank account, the fraudster places a call to them, posing as an IRS employee. The taxpayer is told that there's been an error and that the IRS needs the money returned immediately or penalties and interest will result. The taxpayer is told to buy specific gift cards for the amount of the refund.

The IRS will never demand payment by a specific method. There are many payment options available to taxpayers and there's also a process through which taxpayers have the right to question the amount of tax we say they owe. Anytime a taxpayer receives an unexpected refund and a call from us out of the blue demanding a refund repayment, they should reach out to their banking institution and to the IRS.

Payroll and HR Scams: Tax professionals, employers and taxpayers need to be on guard against phishing designed to steal Form W-2s and other tax information. These are Business Email Compromise (BEC) or Business Email Spoofing (BES). This is particularly true with many businesses closed and their employees working from home due to COVID-19. Currently, two of the most common types of these scams

are the gift card scam and the direct deposit scam.

In the gift card scam, a compromised email account is often used to send a request to purchase gift cards in various denominations. In the direct deposit scheme, the fraudster may have access to the victim's email account (also known as an email account compromise or "EAC"). They may also impersonate the potential victim to have the organization change the employee's direct deposit information to reroute their deposit to an account the fraudster controls.

BEC/BES scams have used a variety of ploys to include requests for wire transfers, payment of fake invoices as well as others. In recent years, the IRS has observed variations of these scams where fake IRS documents are used in to lend legitimacy to the bogus request. For example, a fraudster may attempt a fake invoice scheme and use what appears to be a legitimate IRS document to help convince the victim.

The Direct Deposit and other BEC/BES variations should be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) where a complaint can be filed. The IRS requests that Form W-2 scams be reported to: phishing@irs.gov (Subject: W-2 Scam).

Ransomware: This is a growing cybercrime. Ransomware is malware targeting human and technical weaknesses to infect a potential victim's computer, network or server. Malware is a form of invasive software that is often frequently inadvertently downloaded by the user. Once downloaded, it tracks keystrokes and other computer activity. Once infected, ransomware looks for and locks critical or sensitive data with its own encryption. In some cases, entire computer networks can be adversely impacted.

Victims generally aren't aware of the attack until they try to access their data, or they receive a ransom request in the form of a pop-up window. These criminals don't want to be traced so they frequently use anonymous messaging platforms and demand payment in virtual currency such as Bitcoin.

Cybercriminals might use a phishing email to trick a potential victim into opening a link or attachment containing the ransomware. These may include email solicitations to support a fake COVID-19 charity. Cybercriminals also look for system vulnerabilities where human error is not needed to deliver their malware.

Prep sports delayed until December

By John Sherrard
Contributor

NORWALK - Finally, a decision has been reached for high school sports. After months of speculation, rumors and lots of talk among coaches, the CIF State announced last Monday that high school sports would return in late December.

The CIF-Southern Section also released the sports schedule, with the schedule broken up into two seasons - Fall and Spring.

Fall sports are: boys/girls cross country, field hockey, football (8 and 11 man), gymnastics, competitive cheer, boys/girls volleyball and boys/girls water polo.

The Spring sports are: badminton, baseball, boys/girls basketball, competitive sport

cheer, boys/girls golf, boys/girls lacrosse, boys/girls soccer, softball, boys/girls swimming & diving, boys/girls tennis, boys/girls track and field and boys/girls wrestling.

And, the big news is the return of football, with the first game on Friday January 8.

Even in this uneasy climate that we're in, one bright spot will be the first home game at the new stadium on the Norwalk High School campus.

Construction is expected to be completed by November or December.

"It's always about the safety of the kids, but that will be special having our first home game in our new stadium," Norwalk Athletic Director David Snyder said. "We have to take measures about the kids' safety."

Norwalk will open the season with its first home game on campus as it will host Bell on January 8.

"Absolutely, the idea of a new stadium will be very exciting," Norwalk football coach Dean Gray said. "It will only be great if it's a safe environment. Our number one priority will be safety first for the kids and everyone."

"When we do open up at the stadium, everything will be in place."

After a meeting with the commissioners from all 10 sections, Southern Section commissioner Rob Wigod released a statement on the decision. The CIF-Southern Section is the largest in the state.

"From start to finish, the focus has been on how we can serve the young men and young women we are so fortunate to serve in the best way we possibly can, and I commend everyone involved for never wavering in their support of that philosophy," Wigod said.

Pushing the calendar ahead five months was partly due to Governor Gavin Newsom's announcement last Friday that halted on-campus instruction in the counties on the state's COVID-19 watch list.

"The game-changer in all this is the ability for schools to be open," he added.

High school sports have been on hold since the middle of March and won't restart until December 14, which is the first date for practice for Fall sports. That still gives almost five months before the start-up date.

The split seasons will continue into late June with the athletic calendar, the CIF State announced on its website.

The Southern Section released the following reconstructed schedule:

Two Seasons - Fall and Spring - In examining the most effective way to deliver Fall, Winter and Spring sports for the 2020-2021 school year, the decision was made to condense three seasons of sport into two seasons of sport, primarily to help with the spacing between particular sports and the overlap of certain sports between seasons.



The stadium at Norwalk High School is gaining progress with the hopes of the football team to use it when it is completed in December. (Photo by Keith Durlinger)

Length of Regular Seasons - Regular seasons, some of which were 83 days (Soccer), 81 days (Basketball), 64 days (Football) and 57 days (Girls Volleyball) already had quite a range, in terms of the length of their seasons in previous years. We believe that to help with the overlap of seasons, affecting student-athletes, coaches and facilities, we would standardize the length of the regular seasons to approximately 72 days, for those who previously had more days than that, while leaving the others with less than 72 days alone. In doing so, we would help with the issues mentioned, but keep in mind that we are not imposing any reduction on the maximum number of allowable contests, per CIF Bylaw 1206, in any sport. The total number of days in some sports will be reduced, approximately 5%-12%, but schools can still play the same number of maximum allowable contests, if they choose, in that smaller window.

Section Championships - The 2020-2021 sports calendar includes full Section Championship experiences, which means the same number of champions in each sport, the same number of divisions in each sport and the same number of guaranteed entries from leagues advancing to the playoffs in each sport, as in previous years.

CIF Regional/State Championships - The CIF State Office has made the decision to streamline the CIF Regional and CIF State Championships competitions/tournaments to no longer than one week, once our Southern Section Championships have concluded. More details on format, dates, etc., will be forthcoming from the CIF State Office.

Athletic directors from Norwalk, Santa Fe and John Glenn commented on the CIF announcement, its effect on the student athletes and the massive scheduling and transportation issues that follow.

Norwalk AD David Snyder:

"We have started dates, but who knows what's going to happen. I'm drawing up the schedule, but it's up to the district (Norwalk-La Mirada Unified) and administration."

We're going to have to be upbeat and positive."

Santa Fe AD Steve Hendry:

"There are a lot of obstacles to making this work. I hate that kids are going to have to choose between sports (basketball and soccer and baseball and soccer in the same season). Fortunately, our coaches are going into this with the right attitude.... do what's best for the kids. We'll stay positive and do our best to make this work for them."

John Glenn AD Linda Parra:

"It is definitely a relief to have a sports calendar to work towards. Most of us were anticipating a late start date. Now that we have some guidelines, we can all begin adjusting our schedules. The busy spring season will be difficult for athletes who were traditionally multi-sport athletes. Some athletes will have to make the decision to only focus on one sport during the spring season. With that, it is a bit of a concern if all of our athletic teams will have the numbers needed to compete. But we have a great staff at John Glenn, and I am confident that our team of coaches, staff and administrators will work together to provide the best experience possible for our student athletes."

We just concluded our 605 League meeting and we approved the new league schedules and dates. We will adjust our schedules and calendars too."

Four coaches from Norwalk, Santa Fe and St.Paul all had their opinions on the announcement.

Norwalk football coach, Dean Gray:

"The first thing that I thought after the announcement was we

have a date (December 14) and now we can prepare for all of these protocols.

The next five months will give us the ability to put in all of the training and protocol that is needed. I've taken the COVID-19 class for coaches from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). We'll have all of the precautions in place at the stadium."

Norwalk girls wrestling coach, Brian DeVries:

"We're all in flux and knew what they (CIF) were saying. We'll be in the Spring now, which gives us more time to recruit at our school. That will help us to look at it as a positive. The negative is we're not on campus."

Santa Fe basketball coach, Leonard Romero:

"I've never been to the March (basketball) finals. Now (the season) starts in March. It's going to be interesting. I think in all fairness, it's a once in a lifetime thing and don't know how it's going to end."

"I'm still excited and I hope these kids get an opportunity to make it safe and get ready."

"I'm just heartbroken for this kid (Joey Peralta) on what sport he will choose, basketball or baseball. It's up to them (parents and Joey). 'Can I get him (for basketball) or can we share him with baseball'"

St. Paul football coach, Rick Zepeda:

"I thought that CIF did a great job getting us to January. We're just trying to get through this and then see what happens. I'm hoping that we will be back on campus and then we can practice everyday."

We will have a grander appreciation when we run on the field in January. We can be patient and wait for that moment."

Santa Fe multi-sport athlete, Joey Peralta, on his decision of which sport to compete in for the Spring. He was a two-time All Del Rio League basketball player (shooting guard) and a pitcher and shortstop on the baseball team. He is seriously thinking about playing both sports in the same season. A new Ad campaign may evolve, imitating Auburn's Bo Jackson from the 80's when he played both football (Raiders) and baseball (Kansas City) in the same year - "Joe knows!"

Santa Fe basketball and baseball player, Joey Peralta: "That definitely feels good to finally know we're going to play. Now, we know what's ahead. Baseball is my main sport, but I've been going back and forth to each sport for years. My mindset is to play both sports."

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