

The Norwalk Patriot

Friday, April 2, 2021

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14783 Carmenita Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

College condemns attacks on Asian population

■ Cerritos College takes stand against racial injustice and institutional racism.

NORWALK – Cerritos College in Norwalk has released the following statement in response to reports of attacks against Asians across the country:

“Cerritos College joins community leaders and advocates across the country in condemning [March 16’s] senseless shootings in Atlanta, Georgia. We also wish to acknowledge the pain and suffering that victims and their loved ones are experiencing.

This tragedy, along with other recent acts of violence, continues to shed light on the historic and pervasive problem of Anti-Asian violence and discrimination in the United States. Between March 2020 and December 2020, Stop AAPI Hate received nearly 3,000 firsthand accounts of anti-Asian hate incidents across the country. Nearly 44% of all incidents reported to Stop AAPI Hate have come from California, and no other state in the continental United States has a larger Asian population than our own.

We also recognize that Asian Americans experience more discrimination than these numbers indicate. A recent article from NPR suggests that underreporting of hate incidents is due to a combination of several factors, ranging from language and cultural barriers to a lack of trust in law enforcement.

In May of last year, the Cerritos College Board of Trustees expressed its denouncement of xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment. As leaders and trusted professionals in our community, we have a responsibility to stand against systemic racism and acts of violence. We must continue the challenging work of addressing systemic inequities to promote understanding, caring, and equity.

As a campus, we continue the work to advance racial justice in a number of ways, which include building racial equity awareness and analytical capacity across campus, equipping one another with the skills, tools, strategies, resources and relationships to be effective leaders and advocates in the fight for racial justice in education, and by taking both internal and external actions to combat institutional racism and advance racial justice.”

4M people receive vaccine

NORWALK – Four million people have been vaccinated against Covid-19 in Los Angeles County, health officials said Wednesday.

Of those vaccinated, 1,323,686 people received second doses.

This week, 378,400 total doses were allocated to L.A. County. The county’s allocation for this week is higher than the 279,000 doses received last week, only 6,000 of which were the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

This week, the county received 54,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Covid-19 is responsible for the deaths of 343 Norwalk residents.

A total of 15,879 Norwalk residents have been infected with the virus, according to county statistics.

Norwalk deacon tours FEMA vaccination site

■ The vaccination center at Cal State L.A. may close next month, causing concern.

NORWALK – Norwalk deacon and current Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Mario A. Guerra toured FEMA’s mass vaccination center at Cal State L.A. on Tuesday as federal officials urged the vaccine site to stay open amid the rising threat of a fourth wave of Covid-19.

Unlike other local vaccination sites in L.A. County, the center at Cal State L.A. is operated by the state and federal governments. It operates seven days a week and is capable of administering up to 6,000 vaccines daily, although on some days it has administered up to 7,500 inoculations.

The site is slated to close next month.

“Despite the swift pace with which the Biden administration has vaccinated 100 million Americans, our nation is still at grave risk of another wave of this deadly virus,” Congressman Jimmy Gomez said in a statement. “The vaccination center at Cal State L.A. is nothing short of essential in maintaining an equitable vaccine distribution for underserved Angelenos.”

FEMA has indicated it will continue to provide support in the form of funding and personnel to the Cal State L.A. site. However, the direct federal supply of vaccines to the facility will cease on April 11.

On March 25, Gomez sent a letter to acting FEMA administrator Robert Fenton, urging the agency to either extend its mission at Cal State L.A. or support the local operation by maintaining the site’s federal allotment of COVID-19 vaccines along with infrastructure and personnel.

On Tuesday, Guerra, a deacon at St. Linus Catholic Church in Norwalk, toured the vaccination center, where soldiers from the California National Guard and



Mario A. Guerra presents commemorative coins to soldiers at the mass vaccination site at Cal State L.A.

from Fort Carson are operating the vaccine distribution together with FEMA and the California Office of Emergency Services.

“It was inspiring to see the work of so many, working together, to help in the effort to vaccinate as many Californians as possible. As quickly as possible,” Guerra said. “I was proud to see what they have been able to do with the efficiency, passion, and commitment to fulfill their mission. Seeing our soldiers in uniform vaccinating our seniors and special communities, representing our Army in various capacities, made me proud of how they represent our country.”

While at the site, Guerra presented coins to 10 exceptional soldiers — five from the National Guard and five from Fort Carson. He also met with leadership from FEMA and the California Office of Emergency Services.

Approximately 1,500 soldiers and personnel are operating the site on an eight-week mission. The vaccination site costs \$10 million per week to operate.

“As a CASA it is one of my great joys to be able to say thank

you to our soldiers and commend them for a job well done,” Guerra said. “We are grateful as a nation every time we call upon them and they always come through.”

The site will begin

administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine on April 1. The one-does regimen will ensure that every patient who has visited the site is fully inoculated by the time they leave.

Mayor delivers positive message at State of the City

■ Norwalk officials tout their accomplishments at the virtual event.

NORWALK – The city of Norwalk held its Virtual State of the City Address on Friday, March 19th. The annual event is conducted to provide key updates on city matters to Norwalk residents.

This year, the city of Norwalk worked in collaboration with the Norwalk Community Coordinating Council to host this event.

Discussed during the presentation were some of the past year’s accomplishments and updates on upcoming projects that will move Norwalk forward. Some of the topics highlighted this year included community programming, infrastructure improvements, and economic development. A COVID-19 update was also given that assured the residents that the city remains steadfast in its commitment to both its employees and its community.

Mayor Jennifer Perez set the tone for the event by stating, “The State of the City Address is an annual way for the council and city to celebrate the past year’s successes, all while looking forward to the future with new and exciting approved projects and developments.”

There were several different presenters outlining a variety of matters in Norwalk. Caren Spilsbury, Executive Director of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, provided an outlook on the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce’s efforts last year to advocate for and keep the Norwalk business community supported, while trying to provide them with opportunities to succeed.

Caren thanked residents “... for continuing to support local Norwalk businesses.” She also stated that “These businesses are the backbone of the community. They provide employment for thousands of residents, services needed for thousands of families, and support through tax dollars to the city of Norwalk so they can continue to be a support structure to both our businesses and residents.”

Captain James Tatreau of the Norwalk Sheriff’s Station provided insight into public safety issues in Norwalk. He highlighted a summary of last year’s services provided by the Norwalk Sheriff’s Station, the city’s crime statistics, as well as the station’s charitable giving, and goals for 2021.

He emphasized that “It was a very difficult year, but... Norwalk station men and women stepped up to the challenge and made many arrests.” Statistics were provided showing the station continued above average in this

Mayor Jennifer Perez speaks at Norwalk’s virtual State of the City address on March 19.

(Photo courtesy City of Norwalk)



regard. The sheriff’s station provided 74,203 hours of policing services last year and Captain Tatreau reiterated that the Sheriffs “...put a lot of hours in patrolling the streets of Norwalk and trying to keep everyone safe and increase quality of life.”

Statistics also showed that Norwalk is “by far among the safest cities in the region, when comparing the Part-1 crime (violent and property crimes) stats to neighboring cities.”

Details regarding infrastructure improvements showed that there were 3,800 LED fixtures installed in street lights throughout the community to provide more illumination and promote safer streets.

Also of note was the fact that an auxiliary parking lot was added to the Norwalk Metrolink Station, which prior to COVID-19 had been at maximum capacity. The new lot includes an additional 122 parking spots.

In addition, the city planted 985 trees in public right-of-ways. As a reflection of the success of the city’s forestry efforts, the city was designated a Tree City USA for the sixth year by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Continued on page 2

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 76°

Saturday 76°

Sunday 78°

ON THIS DAY APRIL 2

1513:

Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon landed in Florida.

1805:

Fairytale author Hans Christian Andersen was born in Odense, Denmark.

1865:

Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet fled the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va.

1900:

Congress passed the Foraker Act, establishing a civilian government on the island of Puerto Rico.

The new government had a governor and an 11-member executive council appointed by the President of the United States, a House of Representatives with 35 elected members, a judicial system with a Supreme Court and a United States District Court, and a non-voting Resident Commissioner in Congress.

1912:

The ill-fated RMS Titanic began sea trials.

1917:

President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, saying, “The world must be made safe for democracy.”

1956:

“As the World Turns” and “The Edge of Night” premiered on CBS. The two soaps become the first daytime dramas to debut in the 30-minute format.

1972:

Actor Charlie Chaplin returned to the United States for the first time since being labeled a communist during the Red Scare in the early 1950s.

2007:

The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.

Birthdays

Radio broadcaster **Dr. Demento** (80), Dodgers hall of fame pitcher **Don Sutton** (76), Marvel film actor **Clark Gregg** (59), retired NFL linebacker **Bill Romanowski** (55), and rapper **Quavo** (30).

Deaths

Pope John Paul II, leader of the Catholic Church since 1978, died at the Vatican. He was 84.

Buddy Rich, considered one of the most influential drummers of all time, died of cardiac failure after treatment for a brain tumor. He was 69.

Samuel Morse, inventor of the Morse Code, died in 1872 at age 80.

Book Recommendation

“*The Hemingway Stories: As featured in the film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick on PBS*” by Ernest Hemingway

The Hemingway Stories features Hemingway’s most significant short stories in chronological order, so viewers of the film as well as fans old and new can follow the trajectory of his impressive life and career.

Hemingway’s beloved classics, such as “The Short and Happy Life of Francis Macomber,” “Up in Michigan,” “Indian Camp,” and “The Snows of Kilimanjaro,” are accompanied by fresh insights from renowned writers around the world—Mario Vargas Llosa, Edna O’Brien, Abraham Verghese, Tim O’Brien, and Mary Karr.

Tobias Wolff’s introduction adds a new perspective to Hemingway’s work, and Wolff has selected additional stories that demonstrate Hemingway’s talent and range.

Whittier high schools partner with Cal Cares Wellness Program

■ Students received personalized gift bags as part of a new partnership in Whittier.

DOWNEY - As part of California High School's "Cal Cares" Wellness Program, personalized gift bags reached the homes of 55 students during a distribution event that took place March 17-19, aimed at connecting Cal High administrators and counselors with students who have experienced social-emotional distress due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The personalized gift bags - which contain snacks, stress balls, school supplies, resource guides and positive messaging - have been distributed throughout the year to 175 Cal High students, providing comfort to students who have lost loved ones, are experiencing anxiety or just to need to hear a kind word.

California High School Assistant Principal Shana Jones and Counselor Rosanne Atilano began the program to amplify the school's mental-wellness efforts and continue building strong connections with students despite remote learning.

"This year has posed numerous challenges for students and educators alike," Jones said. "As educators we are so used to being able to check in on our kids and see if they are struggling emotionally or need someone to talk to. The Cal Cares bags are a reminder to students that we are thinking of them and are invested in their social-emotional well-being."

Cal Cares is the result of a brainstorming session, where Cal High administrators discussed enhancing their outreach efforts so that students could reach them easily if they needed assistance. Counselors consulted with teachers on what

supplies should go in the bags and a list of student recipients was created. The Whittier Union transportation department was enlisted to help distribute the bags.

"The Cal Cares bags have been very well received by the students," Atilano said. "During our first distribution the kids were thrilled, excitedly holding their bags. It was just that little something that they needed. Our second distribution was around Christmas, and it was a huge help for many of our struggling families."

With extra Cal Cares bags available around the holidays, one counselor made a special delivery to one Whittier Union family, giving one bag to each child in the home. Later, the family's mother contacted Atilano to express her deep appreciation for the gift bags. During a difficult holiday season with nothing under the tree,

the Cal Cares bags provided the children of the family their only Christmas presents.

"The mother was very grateful. I'm so happy that we could support the family in this way," Atilano said. "When you begin an outreach program like this, you don't realize how much it means to those who receive it."

The Cal Cares program is just one way the school has reached out to students during distance learning. The Cal High art department created kits with art supplies for students to be able to work on assignments at home, and a wood shop teacher who received a donation of 20,000 popsicle sticks from a Midwest company distributed them among his students so they could work at home.

Cal High's Interact Club has created their own gift bags and arranged for a campus drive-through so students can pick them up. Interact members have

also volunteered to be afterschool tutors. Cal Cares has been so successful that other Whittier Union schools have started their own outreach programs, with counselors sharing ideas and tips on what would best serve their students.

"Cal Cares has brought the school together during tough times, providing struggling students with a lifeline of support," Cal High Principal Bill Schloss said. "We have such an amazing team at Cal. Shana Jones and Rosanne Atilano have led the effort, and their compassion and dedication has been an inspiration to faculty, staff and students alike. Thank you to all who have contributed to Cal Cares."



A California High School family is surprised with personalized gift bags during a Cal Cares distribution event that took place March 17-19.

Kobe Bryant, Nipsey Hussle mural can stay

DOWNEY - A mural depicting late basketball player Kobe Bryant and rapper Nipsey Hussle will be allowed to stay, Downey officials said this week, after initial accusations that the city would force the art's removal.

The mural is located on the exterior wall of Dirt Dog, a new restaurant at Firestone Boulevard and Woodruff Avenue.

One side of the mural depicts Kobe Bryant wearing a blue Lakers jersey. The LA County seal is to his back.

The other side of the mural features Nipsey Hussle, a hip-hop artist who was shot and killed in Los Angeles two years ago.

According to @kobemurals, a Twitter account that tracks Kobe Bryant murals around the world, mural artist Louie Palsino was told by the city to remove the artwork after it was completed a few weeks ago.

City officials denied that, however, and said they only reached out to the restaurant after receiving complaints from other businesses.

"While Downey embraces art in public places, the City asks businesses to partner and communicate with the City on any mural plans," Mayor Claudia M. Frometa said. "Historically, Downey has partnered with the business community in the creation of artistic expression through murals. It is important for businesses to notify



the City of their plans for public art displays."

"There are no plans to have the mural removed," the mayor added.

Norwalk spends \$2.8M on street repairs

Continued from page 1

Also noteworthy was the city's investment in an aggressive street rehabilitation program. Using Measure R and M funds, the city invested over \$2.8 million for the first phase of the Local Streets Rehabilitation Program. This included repairing damaged sidewalks and adding ADA ramps or upgrading any existing ADA ramps to meet current standards.

Other portions of the event highlighted the city's efforts to provide local businesses with resources through the CARES Act to help mitigate the effects of the pandemic and ensure businesses were current on health department guidelines. The city has also launched an ongoing vaccine clinic in collaboration with Coast Plaza Hospital. The city made concerted efforts to ensure that state and county agencies provided reservations for the city's most vulnerable residents.

Norwalk continues to bring in continued business investment as it was noted that, despite the pandemic, the city processed 513 business licenses. Mayor Perez expressed her optimism in the city continuing to see economic prosperity this year.

Residents can re-watch the event on the city's YouTube page or on Norwalk TV (Charter Channel 3 and Frontier FiOS Channel 32).

Residents interested in obtaining more information about the event can call 562-929-5735 or email publicaffairs@norwalkca.gov

RECYCLE!

It's Your Future.

For general information about recycling, call the California Recycling Hotline at (800) RECYCLE (800) 732-9253.



Betsabe Gochez
DD Johnston Elementary School
Mrs. Perez' class



Alma Lopez
New River Elementary School
Mrs. Acosta's class



Aaron Santillan
New River Elementary School
Mrs. Acosta's class

For information on recycling beverage containers, please contact the City of Norwalk at (562) 929-5964 or Recycling@norwalkca.gov.



Norwalk Recycling Center
(at Food 4 Less)
10901 Imperial Hwy
Norwalk
(562) 262-9602

Ponce Recycling
(at Northgate Market)
11660 Firestone Blvd.
Norwalk
(323) 533-4862

Green Bull Recycling
13003 La Dana Court
Santa Fe Springs
(323) 895-3481

Ecology Recycling
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(562) 921-9975

Bellflower Recycling Center
17326 S. Woodruff Ave.
Bellflower
(562) 804-7270

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- Lubricated Chassis
- Inspected & Top off Fluids
- Multi-Point Inspection

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- Engine Fuel Filter \$199.00
- Battery Service \$32.99x2
- Def Fluid \$50.00

• Engine Air Filter \$32.95 • Cabin Air Filter \$69.95

Battery service Inspection

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19B37 recalls performed on all applicable vehicle

Note: Tire Rotation not performed on dually, after market tires & wheels, and oversized tires & wheels

Streaming did the job. Now we need live theater.

By Froma Harrop

When will we be able to attend a live performance? That question is being asked angrily in France, where theater is more central to the national culture. (America has no national theater.) But we should ask that here as well. Broadway remains shuttered, as are indoor theaters and concert halls across the country. Can't they at least start their engines, if in a limited fashion?

In France, protesters are occupying at least seven theaters, including the landmark Odeon in Paris. The occupiers — largely actors, workers and students — are demanding that France's theaters be at least partly reopened. They've been shut since October following a spike in coronavirus cases.

Australia halted the spread of the virus through disciplined mask-wearing and social distancing. Thus, if you want to see a stage production of Disney's "Frozen," you have to go to Sydney. You're now able to see a live performance of "Hamilton" there, too. Audience members, needless to say, must wear masks.

Some sponsors of live theater fear that their former audiences, glued to streaming services during the pandemic, won't want to detach themselves. They also worry that once their patrons have seen "Hamilton" on Disney+, they won't want to spring for a \$100-plus theater ticket.

As it happened, many American playhouses bowed to reality and necessity and streamed their productions. Are they planting the seeds of live theater's destruction? Perhaps not. A 2016 study in Britain found that theatergoers who watched streamed performances patronized live theater more than those who didn't.

The National Theater in London has been broadcasting plays for free on YouTube. It's also started its own paid streaming service that anyone in the world can watch, which is providing a tidy source of income.

Meanwhile, fabulous TV from the streaming services got us through COVID-19. "The Crown" or "The Mandalorian" — there was something for everybody.

So, why crowd into a playhouse?

There are reasons. The players in a theater interact with the audience, which makes every performance unique. And the audience is part of the show, its members responding to one another. A good example is the group laugh. As they say in the business, the experience belongs to the collective.

In a videoed production, you see what the camera shows you. Often, that's a close-up of a single character. In a theater, you can also follow the reactions of other characters on the stage. As Alex Webb wrote for Bloomberg News, "The show was developed with a theatrical

audience in mind, so watching it on a 32-inch screen compromises the experience."

A theater feeds local businesses. People go out to eat or drink before or after. An actual theater district provides customers for hotels and other travel-related activities.

Performing arts companies across the country are starting their revival with outdoor productions. Austen Opera will soon stage the opera "Tosca" at a Formula 1 racetrack. The Fountain Theatre in Los Angeles is about to present the play "An Octoroon" in its East Hollywood parking lot.

The Broadway theaters aren't expected to open until autumn. New York is trying to keep the heart beating through pop-up events, where artists perform on subway platforms and at similar public areas.

An advantage of outdoor performances is that social distancing is easier in these bigger spaces. But soon, we pray, we won't have to do social distancing.

None of this can replace the electric moment when the theater lights start to dim and a stage comes alive with real people. The pandemic showed us the fierce human need for communal life. Live theater should again be part of it.

Froma Harrop is a syndicated columnist who writes about politics, economics and culture.

Banning assault weapons won't stop mass shootings

By Steve Chapman

Many national problems have simple, effective solutions. To curb global warming, reduce fossil fuel use. To combat child poverty, give money to families with kids. To end a pandemic, get people vaccinated. But some problems are impervious to any plausible remedy. Mass shootings are one of those.

In the days after the bloody carnage in Georgia and Boulder, Colorado, politicians and activists offered familiar proposals: Ban assault weapons. Outlaw high-capacity magazines. Expand federal background checks. Close the "Charleston loophole" that allows gun sales to go through if the FBI can't complete the background check within three days.

Not all of these ideas are without value. But none holds any serious prospect of averting future horrors. The proposals stem from the idea that the perpetrators of this kind of slaughter are weakly motivated and easily foiled. They rest on mistaken beliefs about the guns that are often used.

The term "assault weapon" is a triumph of marketing over function. These guns have no capabilities that ordinary ones lack. They are no more lethal than any number of semiautomatic firearms, and they don't fire more rapidly. They can accommodate magazines holding 30 or more cartridges, but so can traditional rifles.

Banning them would be a fool's errand. First, because some 16 million have already been sold, and no one is going to confiscate those. Second, because any attempt to define them allows manufacturers to produce modified versions that are no less deadly. The shooter who

murdered 26 people at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012 had an AR-15-style rifle designed to comply with Connecticut's ban on assault weapons.

Third, because anyone bent on taking many lives can find innumerable alternatives. The shooter who killed eight people at spas in Georgia used a 9 mm pistol. The statistics portal Statista notes that "handguns are involved in about 78 percent of mass shootings." Most mass shooters don't use assault weapons.

Advocates who want to prohibit them make much of the supposed success of the 1994 federal ban, citing data that mass shooting deaths declined while it was in effect and rose when it expired. But a good deal of scholarly research found no overall benefit. A 2017 analysis in JAMA Internal Medicine, for example, found that laws forbidding these guns "were not associated with changes in firearm homicide rates."

If the number of mass shooting deaths rose after 2004, the expiration of the ban is not necessarily to blame: Correlation is not causation. Often, it's coincidence.

The advocacy group Everytown for Gun Safety says mass shootings are "far deadlier when they involve assault weapons and high-capacity magazines." But that doesn't mean guns and magazines are the reason.

Florida State University criminologist Gary Kleck told me by email, "The strength of motivation of shooters (how badly they want to hurt a lot of people) affects both 1) how many people they shoot, and 2) their choices of weapons and magazines to use in their attacks."

Take away assault weapons and these criminals would use other, equally deadly firearms. Take away 30-round magazines and they

would use several 10-round magazines or multiple guns. Most mass shooters bring more than one gun.

There is a common belief that forcing a shooter to stop to switch out magazines would save lives by allowing someone to subdue him. But in a real-life situation, he would not be surrounded by potential victims who would leap to grab his gun during the few precious seconds they would have. It's a scenario more likely in movies.

Expanding background checks to private sales and eliminating the Charleston loophole would be justifiable measures to make it harder for people who are not allowed to own guns, such as felons and fugitives, to get guns. There is no good reason to maintain holes in a dike.

But it's not likely that tighter rules would avert mass shootings anytime soon, if ever. Most of the mass shooters, including the most recent ones, were not barred from buying firearms.

The conservative notion that more armed citizens are the answer is equally flawed. Colorado allows adults to openly carry rifles and pistols without a permit. Only three states have more people with concealed-carry permits than Georgia. Neither fact was any help to those who were attacked.

It's painful to consider that even in America, mass shootings are such freakish, random events that they are impossible to prevent. But the writer Flannery O'Connor once noted, "The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it."

Steve Chapman blogs for the Chicago Tribune.

Biden's ill-fated plan for students

By Terence P. Jeffrey

Is it better for a 3-year-old child to spend more time with a government employee or a mother?

President Joe Biden is pushing for a federal program to put preschool children in the hands of the former — theoretically, as a benefit to the latter.

What about summer vacations? Should children have them? Or is it better to keep them in school 12 months a year?

Cynthia Marten, superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District, took the latter position at a Senate confirmation hearing last week.

She is Biden's nominee to be deputy secretary of Education.

Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia — seeing the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to permanently expand government control over the lives of American children — asked Marten about the prospect of keeping them in school for the summer.

"I would hope that both summer of 2021 and summer of 2022 might be powerful opportunities for us to A. help kids catch up, but we might also learn some things about what the optimal length of the school year should be," said Kaine.

"I mean, we could use it as an experiment, and we might come

out of the experiment and decide that, you know, the September-to-May (school year), there's nothing magic about it," Kaine said, "and possibly the best way to help our kids is to have a longer school year, or to readjust the school calendar to minimize learning loss."

Marten agreed with Kaine.

"I think that you've cast a vision not just for this summer but the following summer, and that's the kind of forward thinking that I think would be important if I should be confirmed, that we're able to not just have an immediate reaction to what needs to be addressed, but long-term planning," she said.

"So, what we build this summer, I can say from very real experience as a principal of an inner-city school, we were a year-round school, and we had summer programs as well, and I always saw the difference that it made when students had uninterrupted learning," she said.

"And what you can do when you create these kinds of robust summer experiences makes a huge difference," she said.

The post-COVID-19 vision of this Biden administration bureaucrat: Children will go to school this summer, this fall, next winter, next spring and next summer — and that will set the model for the future of America's government schools.

They will be a cage from which no child may escape.

Then there is the question of the age at which a child should be put in this cage.

In his campaign pronouncements, Biden repeatedly vowed to take 3-year-old children out of their homes and put them in school.

One Biden manifesto — "The Biden Plan for Educators, Students, and Our Future" — declared: "President Biden will start investing in our children at birth." (Prior to birth, his administration will invest in what Biden calls "a woman's constitutional right under Roe v. Wade.")

This "investing" in born children will include providing "high-quality, universal pre-kindergarten for all three- and four-year-olds." It will also "expand home visiting."

Home visiting? That is a program, Biden's campaign explained, in "which health and child development specialists make consistent, scheduled visits to help parents through the critical early stage of parenting."

"President Biden will double funding for home visiting so more families benefit from this program every year," says his plan.

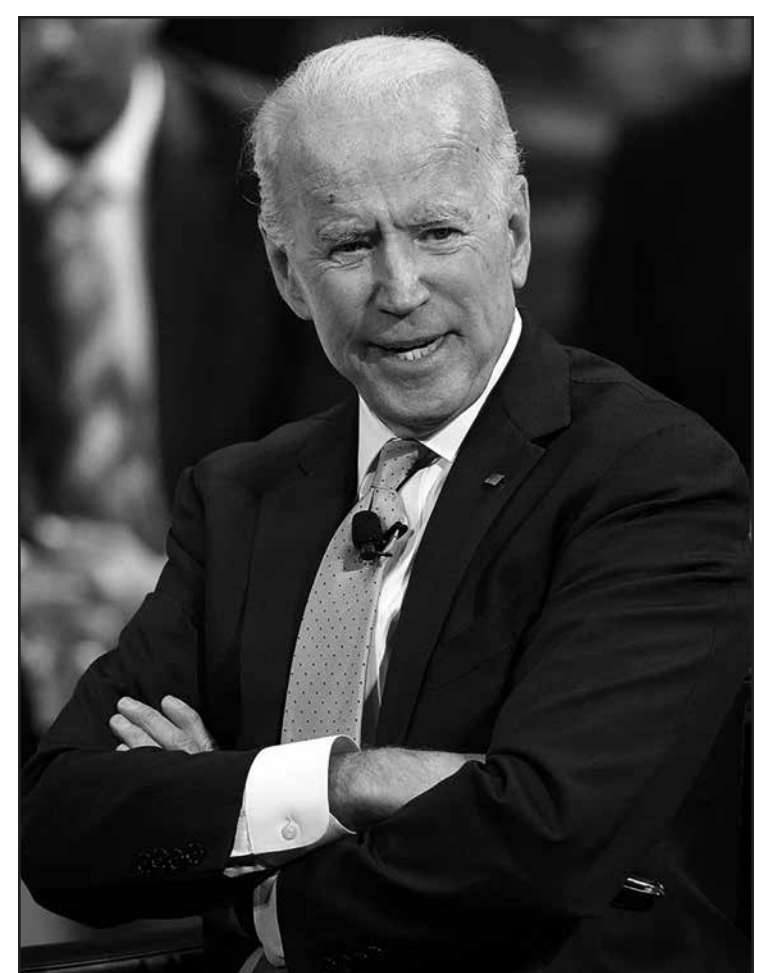
Biden also promised to hire more teachers — and pay them more money — to deal with these very young children.

He "will maintain and grow a diverse, talented care and education workforce by providing increased pay and benefits, and access to collective bargaining, training and education, and career ladders," it said.

Would it be good for children to increase government control of their lives?

According to the government itself, children do better academically in Catholic schools than they do in government schools.

In 2019, eighth grade students in Catholic schools had an average score of 278 in the National Assessment of Educational Progress reading test. Eighth grade students in public schools had an average



score of only 262. That same year, eighth grade students in Catholic schools had an average score of 293 in math, while eighth grade students in public schools had an average score of only 281.

Did the Catholic-school students do better because their mothers were more likely to put them in a government pre-K when they were 3? Did they do better because they were denied summer vacations?

Or did they do better because Catholic schools do a better job than government schools at teaching children?

Perhaps the problem is not that students spend too little time in government schools but that they spend any time in them at all.

If the Biden administration truly wanted to give children a better chance to learn, it would encourage school districts to give all parents a voucher equal to the cost of educating a child in the local public schools and let them redeem that voucher at any school they want.

Terence P. Jeffrey is a political commentator and former editorial writer

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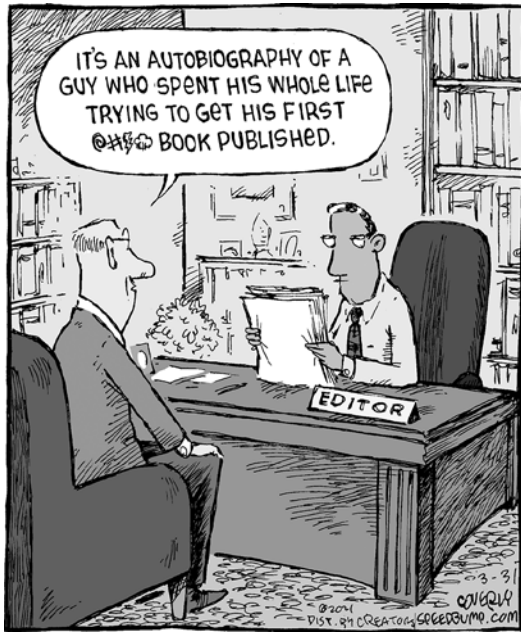
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Farmers Market - Norwalk City Hall
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
3rd, 7:00 p.m. - Soroptimist International - Via Zoom

WEDNESDAYS

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

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Farmers Market - Norwalk City Hall
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 Norwalk Patriot

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
MAGIC ACT: Some prestidigitatory patter
by Greg Johnson

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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.

GREIGE (50 Across), from the Italian *greggio* (gray), is often considered to be a blend of gray and beige, though the word is unrelated to "beige." The NYATA (93 Across) is native to southeastern Africa; males have spiral horns, females have white vertical stripes.

Obituaries

G. Gordon Liddy

G. Gordon Liddy, a former FBI agent best known for his pivotal role in the Watergate scandal that led to the end of Richard Nixon's presidency, died March 30 at age 90.

Liddy joined Nixon's 1972 reelection campaign as part of the "Plumbers" unit, tasked to contain leaks of potentially damaging information to the press.

It was in that capacity that he was told to break into the Democratic National Committee's office in the Watergate complex, where he led the team and supervised from a nearby room. Caught and convicted of conspiracy, burglary, and illegal wiretapping, Liddy was sentenced to 20 years in prison, a sentence that was commuted to eight years by President Jimmy Carter.

After serving seven years in prison, Liddy rebounded from the scandal that once looked like it would break him. He published his autobiography and began traveling on the lecture circuit, including a series of debates in tandem with psychologist and writer Timothy Leary.

Liddy took guest spots on TV shows including "Miami Vice," "MacGyver," and "Airwolf," and he hosted a radio talk show on Radio America and Sirius and XM satellite radio from 1992 to 2012.

Sarah Obama

Sarah Obama, an educator and philanthropist who was President Barack Obama's step-grandmother and the matriarch of his African family, died March 29 at a hospital in Kisumu, Kenya after a short illness at the age of roughly 99.

Born around 1920 or 1921 - records were not kept at the time and she was unsure of the date - Obama lived her whole life in Kenya. She was the third wife of President Obama's grandfather, and though they weren't blood relations, she and the former president formed a bond after they met in the 1980s.

He came to call her "Granny Sarah," and when he became

president, she attended his first inauguration and received widespread attention. She spoke out in defense of her step-grandson in the face of accusations from his detractors about his place of birth and religion.

Later, she formed the Mama Sarah Education Foundation to support a school in her village and the education of local girls.

Beverly Cleary

Beverly Cleary, the author who penned award-winning books for children and young adults including the popular "Ramona" series, died March 25 in Carmel, California at the age of 104.

Born Beverly Atlee Bunn April 12, 1916, in McMinnville, Oregon, in the heart of the Willamette Valley, Cleary initially didn't seem destined for a career of writing beloved classics for young readers. Indeed, she was a reluctant reader herself, one who was in the bottom reading group in her first-grade class and didn't find reading at all interesting.

Eventually she found inspiration in the 1911 children's book "The Dutch Twins" by Lucy Fitch Perkins - delighted to find a book that told a story with a plot she wanted to follow - and a life of reading and writing began.

Cleary earned a degree in library science at the University of Washington in Seattle, later taking a job as a librarian. It was at the library that the seed of a writing career was planted in Cleary's mind, as she talked to young readers who were disappointed that there weren't many books about children like them.

It wasn't long before she wrote her first book, "Henry Huggins," about a boy who makes fast friends with a stray dog. Henry's adventures with Ribs served as the jumping-off point for a series of books, which introduced more of Cleary's enduring characters: Beezus Quimby and her little sister, Ramona.

As Cleary's books struck

chords with young readers, she began receiving recognition for her work. In 1975, the American Library Association presented her with the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, an honor for lifetime achievement.

Her 1983 book "Dear Mr. Henshaw" received the Newbery Medal the following year, and Newbery Honors were conferred on "Ramona and Her Father" and "Ramona Quimby, Age 8." She won a National Book Award for "Ramona and Her Mother," and she received the National Medal of Arts in 2003. The city of Portland, Oregon, has commemorated Cleary's contributions with a grade school named after her as well as statues of Henry Huggins, Ribs, and Ramona Quimby displayed in the city's Grant Park.

Other popular children's books by Cleary include "The Mouse and the Motorcycle," "Socks" and "Ralph S. Mouse." Cleary also wrote two memoirs, "A Girl From Yamhill" and "My Own Two Feet."

Jessica Walter

Jessica Walter, an Emmy-winning actress who was best known for playing Lucille Bluth in "Arrested Development" and voicing Malory Archer in "Archer," died March 24 at her home in New York City at the age of 80.

Among Walter's most memorable early roles was Evelyn Draper in the 1971 Clint Eastwood film "Play Misty for Me." Her performance as an obsessed fan of a disc jockey earned her a Golden Globe nomination.

On TV, Walter had a memorable recurring role on "Trapper John, M.D.," and she won a Primetime Emmy Award for her performance in the limited series "Amy Prentiss."

She took one of her most recognizable roles in 2003, playing the acidic matriarch Lucille Bluth on Fox's "Arrested Development," and she continued with the show when it was picked up by Netflix in later years. Her voice role on "Archer" offered a similar character in the form of the leader of an intelligence agency.

Walter's other movies include "Grand Prix" (1966), "The Flamingo Kid" (1984),

"PCU" (1994), and her final film, "The Mimic" (2020). She had a starring voice role on TV's "Dinosaurs" (1991) as well as recurring roles on "Saving Grace" (2007) and "90210" (2008). In 2011, she starred with George Segal in the short-lived sitcom "Retired at 35."

Walter made dozens of TV guest appearances over six decades, on shows including "Flipper," "Mission: Impossible," "Knots Landing," "Murder, She Wrote," "Law & Order," "The Big Bang Theory," and "Good Girls."

Jose Baselga

José Baselga, a Spanish oncologist who developed highly effective new drugs for treating breast cancer, died March 21 at his home in Spain of sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease at the age of 61.

Working as both an oncologist and a researcher, Baselga was involved in the development of cancer drugs including Herceptin and Perjeta. Both drugs effectively target an aggressive form of breast cancer and have been credited with extending and saving lives.

They have also been useful in targeting other cancers, including stomach and kidney cancers.

Baselga was chief medical officer and physician in chief at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York before resigning in 2018 amid controversy over his lack of disclosure of his connections to drug and health care companies. He was later hired by AstraZeneca as chief of research and development in oncology.

Craig Grant

Craig Grant, better known as "muMs da Schemer" or simply "muMs," a poet and actor who starred as Arnold "Poet" Jackson on the HBO series "Oz," died March 24 of natural causes at age 52.

Grant was performing slam poetry in New York when he was featured in the 1998 documentary "SlamNation." Around the same time, he was cast as Poet in "Oz," where he was also able to perform his poetry over the course of the

show's six seasons.

Grant later had recurring roles on the TV adaptation of "She's Gotta Have It" as well as "Boston Legal" and "Hightown." He was featured in several episodes of "Def Poetry Jam."

His movie credits include "Birdman," "Side Effects," and "Good Time."

Grant was also a member of the Off-Broadway troupe the LAByrnth Theater Company.

Robina Asti

Robina Asti, a World War II veteran who later became an inspiration to the transgender community as she fought for her husband's Social Security benefits, died March 12 in San Diego at age 99.

Asti served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, installing radios in aircraft in the Pacific Theater. After the war, she operated a supper club with friends and later worked for mutual fund company E.W. Axe.

It was in the 1970s that Asti began her transition, and she later married Norwood Patton. After his death in 2012, she filed to receive his Social Security benefits. She was denied her claim because, according to her birth certificate, she was legally a man at the time of her marriage.

Asti enlisted the help of Lambda Legal and fought to receive the benefits. She not only won, receiving two years of back checks, the Social Security Administration and IRS changed their guidelines so the situation can't happen again.

A lifelong pilot, Asti continued to fly and work as a flight instructor into 2020, and she was in the process of being certified by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest flight instructor.

Asti founded the Cloud Dancers Foundation, which "focuses on granting wishes to people, particularly seniors, who experience discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity."

George Segal

George Segal, an actor known for his long career in movies

as well as for starring in the TV shows "The Goldbergs" and "Just Shoot Me," died March 23 of complications of bypass surgery at the age of 87.

Segal first came to prominence in the early 1960s, working in movies, TV, and on Broadway. His film debut was a small role in 1961's "The Young Doctors."

By the mid-'60s, Segal was attracting notice with roles in films including "King Rat" (1965), "Ship of Fools" (1965), and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" (1966), for which he was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor.

In the 1970s, Segal starred in films such as "The Owl and the Pussycat" (1970), "A Touch of Class" (1973), and "Fun With Dick and Jane" (1977). Segal's later films include "Look Who's Talking" (1989) and its sequel "Look Who's Talking Now" (1993) as well as "The Cable Guy" (1996), "2012" (2009), and his final film role, "Elsa & Fred" (2014).

Segal starred in two short-lived series in the 1980s: 1987's "Take Five" and "Murphy's Law," which aired for a single season in 1988 and 1989. In 1997, he took a starring role on "Just Shoot Me," playing Jack Gallo, owner and publisher of Blush magazine.

Another leading role came in 2013 in "The Goldbergs." Segal played Albert "Pops" Solomon, grandfather of the show's 1980s family. He remained with the show until his death.

"I don't ever know how it happens," Segal said of landing a great role. "Sometimes it's being in the right place at the right time, sometimes you're just the guy they want. It's impossible to explain. This is a real gambler's business, acting. It's a crapshoot, and you keep stepping up to the table and hope that your number comes up. Or it's like being a used car in a used car lot. You're just waiting for somebody to come over and kick your tires. You've got to be crazy to do this."

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St. Paul debuts new softball field

■ St. Paul defeats Norwalk, 10-0, in the first home game on campus in school history.

By John M. Sherrard
Contributor

SANTA FE SPRINGS - In the first home game in girls' softball program history of St. Paul High School, the Swordsmen defeated Norwalk, 10-0, in six innings Thursday, March 25 in a non-league game.

In addition, to add to the celebration, senior Kat Serna pitched a one-hitter, retired 18 of 19 batters, struck out 11 and was backed up by seven hits and two big run-scoring innings.

Five runs in the first and four in the sixth led St. Paul (4-0) to its first win on campus after a five-year path to that joyous afternoon.

"The team has been looking forward to this game for the past month," St. Paul Softball coach Charles Gandara said. "And, to be honest, this whole thing still feels so surreal."

In 2016, parent volunteers helped develop a practice field and three years later Gandara began raising money with several

donors to get the field ready for the 2021 season.

"We appreciate everything that Gandara has done for us and our program," senior shortstop Jayne Sepulveda said. "He truly loves us and our program and we are grateful for what he has provided us."

For all 44 years of program existence, the team even had to practice off site.

"It's pretty much always been the norm for the softball teams of the past to load up the coach's truck after school with all of the practice gear and drive to a nearby city park for daily practice," Gandara added.

Serna, who is in her last year at St. Paul, was beyond excited for the first home game.

"I feel good," Serna said. "We're all about the hype and energy. We're all proud to play our first game here at St. Paul ever. We're so hyped."

Serna also remembered the early days. "We used the field for practice and we would stick an L-screen behind home plate to be used as our backstop," recalls Serna. "It really didn't do much to stop the balls from flying all over the place."

St. Paul opens game with five runs

Serna started strong as she struck out the first three Norwalk batters to start the game.

The offense took over from there in the bottom half of the inning with five runs, which was highlighted by a two-run home run by freshman right fielder Hannah Moreno (1 for 2, 2 R, 3 RBIs, HR), scoring senior first baseman Nadine Marquez (1 for 3, 2 R, 2 RBIs).

Following the home run, sophomore center fielder Tiffany Cuevas (1 for 1, R, 2 RBIs) singled in Sepulveda (1 for 3, R) and designated hitter Jordin King for the 4-0 lead.

Sophomore outfielder Gaby Gandara (1 for 2, R, RBI) singled in senior third baseman Destiny Salamanca for the fifth run.

After a leadoff single in the second inning by Norwalk third baseman Cerise Cervantes, Serna retired the final 15 Lancers batters.

St. Paul added a solo run in the third on a single to right field by sophomore catcher Julissa Detrinidad (1 for 3, RBI), scoring Moreno for the 6-0 lead.

The Lady Swordsmen ended the game with the 10-run rule, scoring four runs in the bottom of the sixth, on a two-run single by Marquez, run-scoring single by sophomore second baseman Madison Gasca-Reyes (1 for 1, R, RBI) and a game-ending, run-scoring ground out by Moreno for her third RBI of the game.

Norwalk coach, David Gonzalez, who will also see his team debut a new field next season, said of his team. "I think we allowed early strikes to go past too often," he said. "I would like to see us much more aggressive early in counts."

"With this group of girls, I can't wait, how talented they are, they are only going to get better. They are so young now and eight months from now, we're going to have a new field and with this group a little bit older, I cannot wait."

St. Paul will play a game in the Savana Showcase at home today (April 2) against Hillcrest (3-1).

What they said

Kat Serna, St. Paul senior pitcher: "It's special, because it's my last, first game here at St. Paul. I was ready. I was definitely ready and ready to pitch out for



St. Paul pitcher Kat Serna (99) makes a pitch in their non-league softball game against Norwalk at St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs. (Photo by Keith Durlinger)

my team today, and just ball out."

Jayne Sepulveda, St. Paul senior shortstop: "I think today was very special and I'm glad I got to share it with the girls on the field. It was our first game at home at St. Paul. It was super important and special and I'm so happy that everyone came out."

We never really had a place to call home before, so having this clubhouse means a lot and I feel so appreciated here.

We're off to a great start to the season."

David Gonzalez, Norwalk coach: "I'm super excited of what I've seen out there. We have a very young team. About seven of our starters are freshmen or sophomores. So, I see a lot of promise. The girls didn't show fear with a team like that with all of those athletes across the field. That can be intimidating. The girls came out here and played."

Brianna Perez, Norwalk first baseman: "Our game was pretty good. We kind of started competing and they are much higher (than us). I think we did pretty good and stayed in the

game as much as we could. We never gave up, even though we weren't that good with our sticks, we all tried."

Jailynn Banda, Norwalk pitcher, centerfielder: "I think we did pretty good, since they are rated higher than us. I think we fought through all of it."

At first I was a little nervous, because I'm a freshman and they are all seniors and juniors. But, after I got in I felt confident. For my second game, I felt that I did pretty good."

John Glenn shutout by Cerritos, 56-0



John Glenn quarterback Matthew Huxtable (12) throws a pass as they play Cerritos High School. (Photo by Keith Durlinger)

By John M. Sherrard
Contributor

NORWALK -In 605 League action, John Glenn High School (0-2) was shutout by Cerritos (2-0), 56-0, as the Dons amassed 281 total yards and scored eight TD's. Glenn is at Pioneer tonight (Friday, April 2).

La Mirada (0-2) lost a non-conference game to host El Toro, 28-15, Thursday March 25. The Matadores hosted Mayfair at Excelsior High last night, April 1. (Results were not available at press time.)

La Mirada will play Norwalk next Friday, April 9 in an afternoon game (3:00 pm).

St. Paul (0-1), in its abbreviated four-game season, was shutout by host Diamond Ranch, 16-0, last week in non-league action. The Swordsmen will travel to Crespi (2-0) for a 5:00 pm game on Saturday, April 3 for an Angelus League contest.

Santa Fe (0-1), which finally got its season under way after a game-one cancellation due to Covid protocols, lost to Cal High, 23-16.

The Chiefs were led by senior quarterback Thomas Reyes (9 for 19) with 78 yards and he rushed for 27 yards and a touchdown for 105 total offense.

Senior Jesse Garcia caught one pass for 29 yards and Jeremiah Solares had two receptions for 25 yards and a touchdown. Junior running back Matthew Lizarraga added 16 yards on three carries.

Senior kicker Caleb Campero connected for a 27-yard field goal.

The Chiefs will host Chino Hills (0-2) in a non-league game Saturday, April 3.

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