

College gives felons second chance

■ A \$225,000 county grant will expand the Court to College program that gives non-violent felons a chance at higher education.

NORWALK – Cerritos College received a \$225,000 grant from the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services to enhance its Court to College (C2C) program. C2C is a one-of-a-kind college and career bridge program for first-time nonviolent felony offenders aimed to reduce recidivism, substance abuse, and to increase educational attainment and employability.

Cerritos College partners with the L.A. County Department of Health Services Office of Diversion and Reentry, Norwalk Superior Courthouse and the L.A. County Department of Probation for this joint effort.

The program has served nearly 90 students since its inception in 2015, and boasts an 81% success rate in reducing recidivism.

Cerritos College has a strong history of supporting educational opportunity for formerly incarcerated individuals. The College's first program of this kind, called ACCESS First, was founded by retired Judge Peter Espinoza and former Cerritos College counselor Marcelino Saucedo in 2000.

C2C has assisted students on adult felony probation by providing wraparound academic support services, including individualized educational planning, dedicated faculty and staff to assist students, book and supply vouchers, early enrollment for classes, tuition, financial aid and scholarship assistance for those that qualify, and tutoring.

With the new grant, the college will serve approximately 20 students each semester. The College will also offer leadership skills workshops, monthly counseling sessions, transfer assistance including campus visits, and employment support services.

A research study shows that education is the most cost efficient and effective means of reducing recidivism. It costs an average of about \$81,000 per year to incarcerate an inmate in prison in California (Legislative Analyst's Office data), while an average cost of community college is less than \$5,000 per participant, according to the C2C program.

The program saves California's taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars, proponents say.

"The program is transformational in so many ways," said Mark Gambala, counselor at Cerritos College that oversees C2C. "Some participants continue to pursue academic degrees and vocational certificates after they complete their conditions of probation, and some have even gone on to transfer to four-year universities, gotten jobs on campus, expunged their records, and even had family members attend classes at Cerritos College."

"We are proud of our C2C program that provides a second chance to qualified offenders so they can turn their lives around and become successful," said Dr. Jose Fierro, president and superintendent at Cerritos College.



Jose Fierro

"Our C2C will serve as a model for other California community colleges who are attempting to replicate this successful program."

Sanchez reintroduces bill aimed at nursing homes

■ If passed, the federal legislation would prohibit arbitration agreements at long-term nursing homes.

NORWALK – Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA) last week reintroduced the Fairness in Nursing Home Arbitration Act to protect elderly Americans in nursing homes.

This legislation would prohibit long-term care facilities from requiring or soliciting residents to enter into pre-dispute, mandatory, binding arbitration agreements.



Linda Sanchez

"Families deserve peace of mind when making the difficult decision to move a loved one into a long-term care facility," said Sanchez. "I'll never forget the days when we moved my father and, recently my mother, into nursing homes. My family and I weren't thinking about the language or the fine print in the agreement – we were focused on my dad and my mom. We were focused on making

sure they had the best care, their room was ready, and that they were going to be ok.

"This bill ensures families aren't forced into contracts and agreements that could hurt them down the line, especially at a time when their focus is on the wellbeing of their loved one. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and join me in protecting our elderly parents, their family members, and loved ones from harm."

Sanchez first introduced the Fairness in Nursing Home Arbitration Act in 2007 after hearing numerous testimonies during her time as Chairwoman of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law.

This time, Sanchez introduced the legislation in partnership with Rep. Jan Schakowsky, a Democratic congresswoman from Illinois.

"Every day, families make the lifechanging decision to bring their loved ones to nursing homes all around the country, with the expectation that they will receive the high-quality care and comfort



they need," said Schakowsky. "Unfortunately, many of them unknowingly sign away their right to seek justice when something goes wrong and are forced into an often unfair arbitration process should a nursing home resident be harmed. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, this had detrimental effects on families and nursing

home residents. We must say no to mandatory arbitration.

"Whether it's willful neglect or a simple accident, residents and their families should have the right to seek justice in front of a judge and jury, not in a conference room."

Rio Hondo pledges support to undocumented students

■ The Whittier college says it supports undocumented residents seeking a college education.

WHITTIER – Rio Hondo College will welcome undocumented students, Dream Act advocates and civil rights activists, championing its support for a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients, during its 2021 Virtual UndocuScholar Conference on Friday, April 30.

With a theme of "Together We Dream," the UndocuScholar Conference will provide students with resources, advice and encouragement from Rio Hondo College administrators, civic leaders and Rio Hondo College alumni, focusing on the undocumented experience, the restitution of the Dream Act and the multitude of services for UndocuScholars at Rio Hondo College.

The conference will feature two keynote speakers, California 40th District Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard and California Dream Network youth organizer

Melody Klingenfuss Arteaga, and remarks from Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss, Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees President Rosaelva Lomeli, Trustee and former Dreamer Oscar Valladares, an UndocuPanel, an immigration attorney, and a mental health expert.

"One of the Board's legislative priorities this year is to support our undocumented students at Rio Hondo College," Lomeli said. "Earlier this year, I attended virtual meetings with federal representatives, advocating for a clean Dream Act. Our Board of Trustees has unanimously passed board resolutions affirming our institutional commitment to our undocumented student community."

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, the first Mexican American woman to be elected to Congress and the co-author of the original Dream Act in 2001 (previously introduced as the Student Adjustment Act), will deliver a keynote speech that touches upon the continuing struggle to bring equity to



thousands of immigrant children who came to the United States without documentation.

"In March, the House passed the American Dream and Promise Act with the goal of establishing a pathway to permanent resident status for all Dreamers. This pathway will open doors for academic and career opportunities for Rio Hondo students," said Rep. Roybal-Allard. "My message to you is to continue your education, fight

for your rights, and stand proud as Americans."

Dreyfuss will emphasize the College's commitment to providing high-quality education and services to UndocuScholars, her experiences as an immigrant who worked her way up from professor and business manager to becoming Rio Hondo's top administrator, and the fear she feels as an Asian-American woman.

Norwalk Soroptimists award 'Live Your Dream' prizes

■ Five local women in pursuit of higher education receive financial awards courtesy of Soroptimist.

NORWALK – Soroptimist International of Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs recently honored five women with Live Your Dream financial awards.

The Live Your Dream Award provides women who serve as the primary wage earners for their families with the financial resources to offset costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education or additional skills and training. The award can be used for tuition, books, childcare, carfare or any other education-related expense.

Dena Peterson-Wiggins received a Live Your Dream award of \$1,500. Ms. Peterson-Wiggins is a Physical Therapy major at Santiago Community College. Ms. Peterson-Wiggins has one son, and plans a future career in Gerokinesiology with the goal of working with senior patients to "educate and empower them during the aging process."



Dena Peterson-Wiggins



Tammy Davenport



Courtney Gray



April Lopez



Adena Trujillo

Tammy Davenport, a Nursing student at American Career College, received \$1000 Live Your Dream award. Her goal is to use her LVN certification in a psychiatric facility working with children. In her application, she said, "Mental health has come so far, and I'd love to make it even better." Ms. Davenport has 3 daughters.

Courtney Gray received a \$1000 Live Your Dream award which she will use towards her degree in Criminal Justice at Mount San Antonio College. Her goal is to transfer to UC Irvine to pursue a Law Degree so she can practice family law. Ms. Gray has one child. Her academic advisor shared that Ms. Gray "is a go-getter, one that sets her mind on achieving her

goals and does the work to get it done."

April Lopez, a \$1000 Live Your Dream honoree, attends American Career College's Nursing program. Her goal is to become a Registered Nurse. She has two children. Ms. Lopez stated in her application, "While working as a part-time caregiver, I knew nursing was my calling. There's no greater feeling than knowing you've helped someone overcome a difficult time in their life."

Adena Trujillo, a Human Services Psychology major at Santiago Canyon College, received a \$1000 Live Your Dream award. Ms. Trujillo plans to go into social work in a low-income area to help

troubled youth. She stated in her application, "I am showing my daughter how to be a champion who never gives up."

The Soroptimist members met virtually with these dynamic award winners in February 2020 via Zoom but had to forego the traditional awards luncheon due to Covid-19 restrictions. Club members maintain contact to provide moral support during the academic year.

Founded in 1951, Soroptimist International of Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs club is part of Soroptimist International of the Americas, a global organization that improves the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 90°

Saturday 73°

Sunday 71°

ON THIS DAY APRIL 30

1789: George Washington took office in New York as the first president of the United States.

1803: The United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France, paying \$15 million for 828,000 square miles of land.

1859: "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens was first published in serial form in a literary magazine.

1900: Hawaii was organized as a U.S. territory.

1927: Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford became the first celebrities to leave their footprints in concrete at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.

1938: The animated cartoon short "Porky's Hare Hunt" debuted in movie theaters, introducing Happy Rabbit, an early version of Bugs Bunny.

1958: The American Association of Retired Persons was founded in Washington, D.C.

1970: President Richard Nixon announced the United States was sending troops into Cambodia.

1993: Top-ranked women's tennis player Monica Seles was stabbed in the back by a man who ran onto the court during a match in Hamburg, Germany.



1997: ABC aired the "coming out" episode of the sitcom "Ellen," in which the title character, played by Ellen DeGeneres, admitted she is a lesbian.

2001: Chandra Levy, a federal government intern, went missing in Washington, D.C. (Her remains were found more than a year later in a city park.)

2009: Chrysler filed for bankruptcy protection.

2009: British forces exited Iraq.

2015: Soul singer Ben E. King, known for his solo hit "Stand By Me" and his work with The Drifters, died after battling heart issues. He was 76.

Birthdays
NBA great **Isiah Thomas** (60), "The Big Bang Theory" actor **Johnny Galecki** (46), "The Big Bang Theory" actor **Kunal Nayyar** (40), "Bring It On" actress **Kirsten Dunst** (39), rapper **Lloyd Banks** (39), "Wonder Woman" star **Gal Gadot** (36), and rapper **Travis Scott** (29).



John Glenn's Aileen Lopez (14) gets a hit against Whitney in their 605-League varsity softball game at Don Knabe Community Regional Park in Cerritos on Tuesday. John Glenn defeated Whitney, 27-1. (Photo by Keith Durlflinger)



John Glenn's Gabby Ortega (5) is congratulated after hitting a home run against Whitney in their 605-League varsity softball game at Don Knabe Community Regional Park in Cerritos on Tuesday. (Photo by Keith Durlflinger)



John Glenn's Julia Cole (23) slides in safely at third base as they play Whitney in their 605-League varsity softball game at Don Knabe Community Regional Park in Cerritos on Tuesday. (Photo by Keith Durlflinger)

Future looks bright for JG softball

Young team is off to 5-0 start.

By John M. Sherrard Contributor

NORWALK – The present and future looks bright for the John Glenn High School softball team.

With a mostly freshman team and more to come next year, the team is in good hands for the next few years under the guidance of third-year coach Larry Leal.

"I am looking forward to a great season and watching these players develop into great student athletes," Leal said. "This season we are a very young team with 11 freshman, two sophomores and one junior.

"All of the players are focused and determined to make this season one of the best that John Glenn Softball has had in a long time."

That includes a winless team in league (0-12), just three years ago.

JG has never fielded a team that has qualified for the CIF-Southern Section playoffs.

That is one goal that Leal is trying to accomplish, along with a league title some day

"We want to get softball as a recognizable sport on campus," added Leal. "There aren't any softball banners hanging in the gym."

One way is winning and that is exactly what these young girls are doing since the season started.

The Eagles are not only winning, but winning by a big margin.

Their other two big wins are 19-9 and 11-0 over Western of Anaheim and a 7-2 win over Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary (Montebello).

Most recently was a 27-1 win over Whitney in the opening game of the 605 League last Tuesday (April 27) at Cerritos Regional Park.

Leading the way for the Eagles in the game was freshman third baseman Julia Cole (5 for 6, 2 Sgl., 2 Tpl., HR) with five hits and junior pitcher Gabby Ortega (4 for 6, Dbl.) with four hits, which included three home runs. Ortega pitched the first three innings for the win, while striking out four with one hit.

With three hits each were freshman centerfielder Diana Bravo (3 for 4, 5 R, 2 Dbl., Sgl.) and freshman first baseman Anais Perez (3 for 4, 2 R, 2 Dbl., Sgl.).

Sophomore shortstop Beatriz Galvez (1 for 3, 3 BB, Sgl.) also scored five runs.

Freshman second baseman Janessa Leal (2 R, Dbl.) and junior left fielder Daniela Barron (2 R) each had a single for Glenn.

Freshman right fielder Aileen Lopez scored three runs, walked

three times and was hit by a pitch.

The Eagles, as a team, banged out 18 hits, which six doubles, two triples and four round trippers.

They opened up with four runs in the first inning, followed by two more big innings of six in the second inning and 13 in the fifth.

Whitney managed only three hits in the game, which included a pair of singles in the fourth inning for its only run.

Coach Leal, who also coaches and helps run a travel ball club (Vendetta), is assisted by Javier Galvez.

"Coach Galvez is pushing and working these players very hard at every practice," Leal said. "He makes sure they are focused and prepared for the next game."

JG Athletic Director Linda Parra is excited about the future of the softball program.

"Our softball program is off to a great start this season," Parra said. "We have a young team who is excited and determined to win. Coach Leal is in his third season at John Glenn. He is excited to have a team of young players who have

grown up playing softball. The girls have a terrific attitude and are very coachable.

"We look forward to what the future holds for this young team. JGHS is already so proud of them."

Leal talked about a couple of his players: "Julia Cole came to the team strictly as an outfielder," Leal said. "We couldn't see her in the outfield and eventually put her at third base. She is outstanding there. Coach Galvez put her at catcher and she was also outstanding. She would play anywhere.

Galvez also has his daughter, Beatriz, on the team.

"As for Diana Bravo (CF), if the ball is hit in her general area, she'll flag it down. Anais Perez hasn't been playing as long as the others, but does a very good job.

"Gabby (Ortega), our number one pitcher and second baseman, can play anywhere. She can do anything and she is one of the quiet ones on the team and always brings everyone up."

Also on the team are: freshman Alexus Hernandez (C, LF, SS), freshman Paloma Ortega (OF), freshman Veronica Flores (OF) and Marilyn Avalos (OF).

In addition to his high school team, Leal is very busy with two recreation teams and three travel ball teams with Team Vendetta of California, out of Artesia.

In fact, his 10 U team, which is one of three other teams (12 U, 14U and 16U), won the state championship in 2018 and 2019.

Eight percent of his players have played together on travel ball teams. Of the eight or nine current freshmen, seven have played for Leal on his travel ball teams. They even have been playing for Leal since they were eight or nine years old.

It's a family thing with Leal, with his wife Carmen always supporting his team. He is busy almost every day of the week with

his teams' practices and games.

His younger daughter Desiree (13) plays on his 12U travel ball team and his older daughter, Arica, played at Buena Park High

His freshman daughter, Janessa, who is also a pitcher at JG, has received additional coaching from fellow Vendetta coach Gilbert Burguena and has been a big part of her progress.

What they said:

Larry Leal, John Glenn coach: "We're hoping to do real good in the 605 League. The past few years John Glenn is not known for softball, but we're hoping to make a name for John Glenn and build a better program there.

A lot of (our) girls play summer ball on their own. They play travel ball and come to us. They all know how to play and it looks like they're doing ok right now.

We also have some outstanding kids coming in next year. We want to be where everybody else is at."

Janessa Leal, JG freshman second baseman: "I'm real excited that I get to play second base on a high school team. I feel like our team works together because we're good friends and we know how to communicate on the field.

The reason we are undefeated is because we learn how to talk on the field and know how to work with each other."

Beatriz Galvez, JG sophomore shortstop: "We work really well together and our hitting has been really good so far. I really like our team. We work really well together on hitting and we get three home runs from Gabby (Ortega).

My favorite players on the team have to be Diana (Bravo) or Julia (Cole), because they are my favorite people to talk to and hang out with outside of the softball field."

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Borrow now, pay later

By Judge Andrew Napolitano

Earlier this week, President Joseph R. Biden Jr. asked Congress to raise taxes and increase borrowing so his administration can spend \$2.3 trillion — on top of the \$1.9 trillion Congress authorized two months ago for so-called COVID relief — for thousands of projects he calls “infrastructure.” All this is in addition to the \$2 trillion that the government borrows annually these days just to make ends meet.

These are serious numbers of dollars, the repayment of which will have seriously unpleasant consequences for future generations of Americans. Indeed, under Biden’s administration, the feds will borrow three times what they collect in taxes. This is not a new phenomenon, but it exacerbates the modern trend of spend now and pay later.

Under the Constitution, can the feds borrow as much as they want and can they spend it on anything they want? Here is the backstory.

When James Madison and his colleagues wrote the Constitution, they addressed the problem of debt. They knew governments borrow vast amounts of money to address emergencies, usually wars — as the 13 colonies had just done. When Madison and his colleagues were deciding upon the powers of the new federal government, they included the power to borrow money but excluded the power to create and operate a bank.

Madison understood that the Constitution limited the power of Congress to spend monies — whether obtained by taxes or debt — to the 17 discrete areas of governance delegated to the federal government in the Constitution.

Thus, when Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton proposed a national bank, Madison, then a congressman, argued fiercely against it. He offered that the Constitution intentionally omitted the power to create and operate a bank because a federal bank would tempt Congress to spend money it didn’t have on pet projects not authorized to the feds by the Constitution.

Madison lost the argument. The First National Bank of the United States was formed but went out of existence 20 years later. In 1816, at the end of his second presidential term, Madison had a change of heart and reluctantly signed legislation forming the Second National Bank of the United States. Yet, he never renounced his often-articulated fears of Congress exceeding its constitutional bounds by spending money nowhere authorized in the Constitution.

The Supreme Court on four occasions declined to rule if Madison was correct. Then, in 1936, the court — terrified of FDR’s court-packing threats — ruled that Congress’ taxing and spending powers are essentially unlimited so long as the funds are spent for the common good. If this ruling is correct, then Congress can buy any thing and bribe any person, and the restraints in the Constitution are meaningless.

This misguided ruling unleashed a torrent of federal government spending which has led us to the present tsunami of debt — \$28.1 trillion. This is not an issue of Democrats wanting to spend and Republicans wanting the Madisonian approach. To Biden’s proposal of \$2.3 trillion, Republicans have countered with offers ranging from half a trillion to \$1 trillion.

Recent history shows the bipartisan addiction to debt. George W. Bush borrowed \$2 trillion in eight years for the useless war in Afghanistan that Biden just ended. Donald Trump borrowed \$2 trillion in four years to pay for tax cuts and to soothe the pain caused by unconstitutional state lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, what Biden wants is the most massive peacetime transfer of wealth in the history of the world, and none of it is authorized by the Constitution.

That wealth will be received by poor and middle-class folks and wealthy bankers and industrialists, all of whom will be grateful to the Democrats for the short-term cash.

Who will pay for all this?

If Biden’s proposed corporate and capital gains tax increases pass,

fewer Americans will be employed as corporations will have less money for new hiring, and investments will suffer as the cost of their fruits will increase. And the post-pandemic economic recovery, once anticipated at the end of the government’s unlawful lockdowns, will not materialize.

Add to this the near-certainty of inflation, and you will have Biden misery visited upon all. Inflation will also raise the cost of government borrowing. That means Biden’s not yet born great-grandchildren, and their unhappy generation, will be paying for Old Joe’s profligate and unconstitutional spending.

That members of both major political parties favor this unbridled borrowing and spending approach to government is unconstitutional and destructive but not surprising. Giving away cash and pushing the cost onto nonvoters — generations as yet unborn — can make members of Congress popular. It can also turn the public treasury into a public trough. Thomas Jefferson warned of the dangers of this as it would become habit-forming for politicians, and voters would grow to expect it.

President Woodrow Wilson borrowed \$30 billion to pay for American military involvement in the useless and unjust World War I. American taxpayers are still paying the interest on the \$30 billion. It now exceeds \$15 billion. Only a government — heedless of basic economics and unfaithful to the plain meaning of the Constitution — would pay a 50% interest rate.

But here we are paying debts that are more than 100 years old and borrowing money as if there were no consequences. How much longer can a society last with a central government that does not pay its bills? Why have a Constitution that limits the government if no person or entity enforces the limitations? Why have taxes in the first place if borrowing and deferring debt will do?

Judge Andrew Napolitano is the senior legal analyst for Fox News.

How the census shifts the political landscape

By Froma Harrop

Growing populations are giving two additional seats in Congress to Texas and one to Florida. New York and California are each losing a seat, not because their head counts are falling but because they’re not rising as fast.

Do these population changes also alter the states’ politics? In many cases, yes, and that generally does not bode well for Republicans. Texas, for example, voted for Donald Trump in 2020, but many of its urban areas did not — and those are the parts of Texas booming with transplants from outside the state.

The capital, Austin, one of America’s hottest cities attracting newcomers, is a liberal supernova in what was a securely red Texas. Austin is the No. 1 destination for tech workers leaving San Francisco. Another is Georgia, a former Republican stronghold that just shocked the world by favoring Joe Biden for president and sending two Democrats to the U.S. Senate.

Austin and the surrounding Travis County gave President Joe Biden 72 percent of its votes. Nearly every officeholder in Travis County is now a Democrat.

Apple will soon open a \$1 billion Austin campus with 5,000 workers. Alphabet (Google’s parent), Amazon and Facebook, meanwhile, are expanding their footprints in the city. Suffice it to say, Austin is unlikely

to become less liberal — or less important in Texas politics.

But what made politicians truly take notice was Williamson County. Home to Austin’s fast-growing and historically Republican northern suburbs, Williamson also went for Biden.

Biden took other booming states that have been destinations for blue-state Americans — Colorado, Nevada and Washington. Another, Arizona, just flipped its presidential preference from Republican to Democrat.

And so, while Republicans in the rapidly growing states tout the magnetic pull of their lower taxes and laxer regulations, they can’t help but notice that the newcomers are not entirely with their program. Some recent arrivals may even consider themselves conservative but regard the Trump takeover of the Republican Party with distaste.

Mark Pulliam fancies himself a Paul Revere of the right, warning conservative regions against these “colonizing” leftists. Writing in the conservative City Journal, Pulliam casts scorn on Austin’s “fashionable but impractical urbanist transportation initiatives” — he has a problem with bike lanes — and “business-unfriendly ordinances.” (Right. Austin’s “business-unfriendly ordinances” must be why half the businesses in America, it seems, want to move there.)

On The Federalist website, Pulliam warns that “wokeness is everywhere, even in the brightest-red areas of Republican-majority states.” One would be his small town in east Tennessee, which he doesn’t

name but I will. It’s Maryville. Apparently, Maryville College, a 200-year-old Presbyterian-affiliated liberal arts college, exposed the community to a visiting religious studies professor who praised Karl Marx and said nothing about Jesus. Pulliam also went apoplectic over some choices on the local library’s “antiracism” reading list. And a “leftist activist,” he rails on, was elected to the city council.

I happen to share some of Pulliam’s skepticism toward the nether regions of wokeness, but you know, the liberal had a right to run for council, and the voters had a right to elect her. Labeling everyone you disagree with as “activist” or “leftist” or both — as Pulliam does — is not a great way to engage.

As a reality check, Maryville’s county, Blount County, did give Trump 71 percent of its votes. Eastern Tennessee seems a long way off from becoming the Brooklyn of the South.

In 2020, Biden won 85 percent of the counties with a Whole Foods store. Austin has six Whole Foods stores. There’s no Whole Foods in Maryville — yet. There are two Starbucks, though. How about that?

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

Reaction to President’s address

Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard: “Tonight, President Biden showed our nation and the world what true leadership looks like. His joint address to Congress laid out the progress his administration has made and his broader agenda to make America healthier, safer, more prosperous, and more competitive.

“In contrast to the previous administration’s denial of and haphazard response to the COVID-19 pandemic, President Biden has directed the administration of over 200 million vaccine shots in fewer than 100 days. More than half of American adults have received at least one shot, and two-thirds of all seniors are fully vaccinated. This has contributed to a drastic decrease in daily deaths from the pandemic nationwide.

“Without help from Congressional Republicans, Democrats took an important step toward recovery when we passed President Biden’s comprehensive American Rescue Plan. From providing \$1,400 relief checks and assistance for small businesses to funding tax credits and much more, the American Rescue Plan has proven itself to be an essential initiative as we rebuild our economy.

“President Biden’s American Jobs Plan promises to improve our nation’s infrastructure and revitalize our workplaces by providing millions of jobs, all while making America more competitive on the world stage. His commitment to racial equity has shown us that he believes in the strength of the diversity that makes America strong and competitive. I was very pleased that President Biden also discussed his plans to reduce gun violence and his commitment to addressing climate change to make sure America maintains a leadership role in safeguarding the future of our planet for generations to come.

“While our nation continues to face many challenges, tonight’s address showed us that President Biden is a forward-thinking leader who cares deeply about all American families. His policies continue to invest directly in our communities so we can recover from the pandemic and thrive. On behalf of my constituents, I look forward to continuing to work with President Biden and members of his administration to improve

Americans’ health, bolster our economic recovery, promote equity, and ensure prosperity in California’s 40th District and nationwide.”

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell: “He talks like a moderate but is governing to satisfy the far left. I think the storyline on the Biden administration, underscored by the president’s speech tonight, could best be described as bait and switch. The bait was that he was going to be a moderate, a unifying force, and bring us all together. The switch is that Bernie Sanders, for all practical purposes, won the debate in the Democratic Party over what it ought to look like.”

Sen. Tim Scott (R-South Carolina): “Just before Covid, we had the most inclusive economy in my lifetime. The lowest unemployment rate ever recorded for African-Americans, Hispanics and Asians and a 70-year low — nearly — for women. Hear me — wages were growing faster for the bottom than at the top. The bottom 25 percent saw their wages rise faster than the top 25 percent.

“That happened because Republicans focused on expanding opportunity for all Americans. In addition to that, we passed Opportunity Zones, criminal justice reform, and permanent funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities for the first time ever. We fought the drug epidemic, rebuilt our military and cut taxes for working families and single moms like the one that raised me.

“Our best future won’t come from Washington schemes or socialist dreams. It will come from you, the American people. Black, Hispanic, white and Asian. Republican and Democrat. Brave police officers and Black neighborhoods. We are not adversaries. We are family. We are all in this together.

And we get to live in the greatest country on Earth. The country where my grandfather, in his 94 years, saw his family go from cotton to Congress in one lifetime. So I am more than hopeful — I am confident — that our finest hour has yet to come. Original sin is never the end of the story. Not in our souls, and not for our nation. The real story is always redemption.

I am standing here because my mom has prayed me through some really tough times. I believe our nation has succeeded the same way. Because generations of Americans, in their own ways, have asked for grace and God has supplied it.”

Napolitano got it wrong

Dear Editor:

Andrew Napolitano (former judge of the New Jersey Superior Court) is still trying to mislead and obfuscate on important issues. In his April 22 opinion piece, he claims that President Biden is acting contrary to the U. S.

Supreme Court’s ruling on gun ownership.

Here are the facts. In 2008, and again in 2010, the Supreme Court affirmed that the right to own “hand guns” belongs to individuals, for self-defense in the home, while also including the statement that the right is not unlimited and does not preclude the existence of certain long-standing prohibitions, such as those forbidding “the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill” or restrictions on “the carrying of dangerous and unusual weapons”.

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia even wrote in the majority opinion, “I think you’d agree, that a handgun is so ideally suited for self-defense, because you can hold it in one hand and dial the cops with the other.”

Richard Daggett Downey

The Norwalk Patriot STAFF

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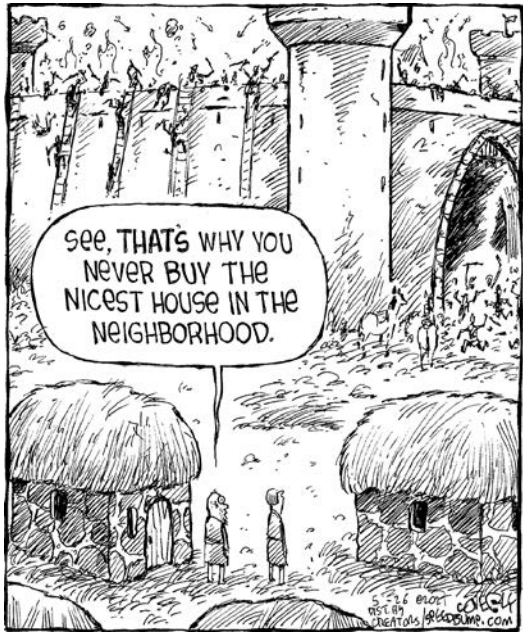
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

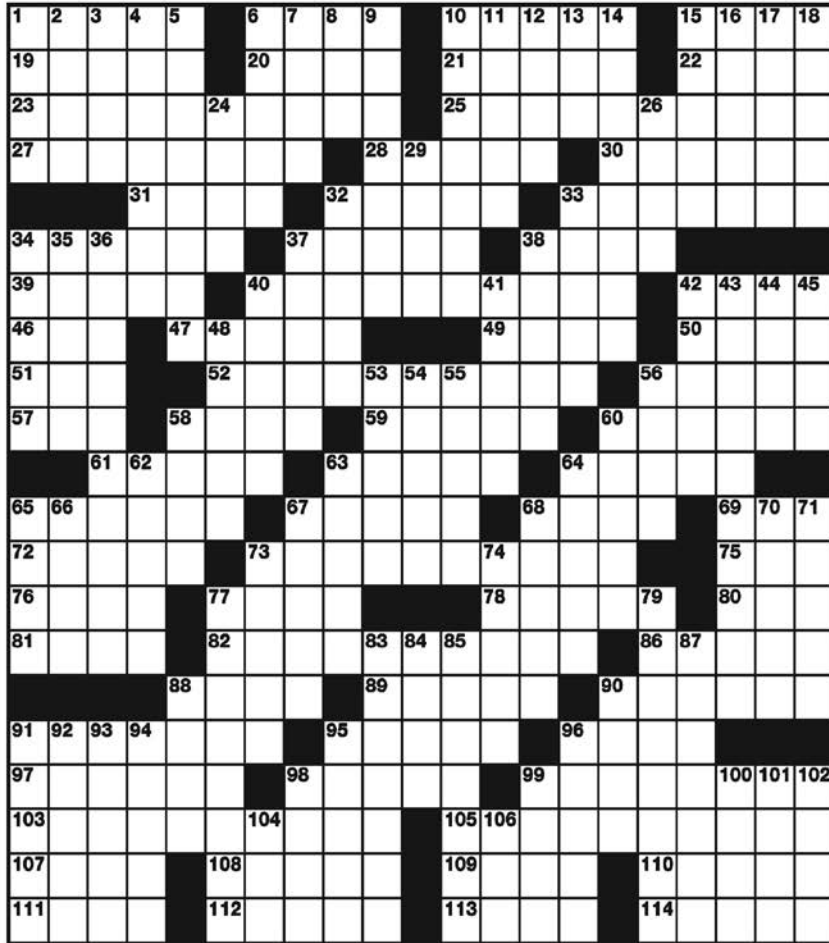
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Farmers Market - Norwalk City Hall
2nd, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast - First Christian Church of Norwalk
Have an event you want listed? E-mail news@thedowneypatriot.com

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
IT CAN BE ARRANGED: As we've assembled for you
by S.N.

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Obituaries

Michael Collins, astronaut on Apollo 11 mission

Michael Collins, an astronaut whose most prominent journey was flying the Apollo 11 command module, the same mission that brought Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin to the moon, died April 28 at the age of 90 from cancer, according to his family.

Collins was part of the three member astronaut team on Apollo 11, the space flight in 1969 that first put a human on the moon.

Neil Armstrong was the first to walk on the moon and astronaut Buzz Aldrin soon joined him. While they made history, Collins was orbiting the moon on Apollo 11. When Collins was flying on the back side of the moon, he was completely cut off from communications with NASA.

He was chosen to become an astronaut in 1963 and he was the fourth human to space walk as part of Gemini 10. He left NASA shortly after Apollo 11 and joined the State Department.

"The thing I remember most is the view of planet Earth from a great distance," he told NPR of the view from space. "Tiny. Very shiny. Blue and white. Bright. Beautiful. Serene and fragile."

Charlie Glotzbach, record-breaking NASCAR driver

Charlie Glotzbach, a NASCAR driver known as Chargin' Charlie, who was active in the 1960s and '70s, died April 23 at his home in Jefferson, Indiana at the age of 82.

Glotzbach began racing with NASCAR in 1960, though he left NASCAR after his debut year to race with ARCA and USAC. In 1964, he was named ARCA's Rookie of the Year.

Glotzbach returned to NASCAR in 1967, and his speed at major races earned him his nickname. In 1969, he was the runner-up at the

Daytona 500, repeating the feat in 1972.

Later in 1969, he set a world qualifying record at the Talladega Superspeedway, at 199.466 miles per hour.

But it was Glotzbach's 1971 record that was truly notable. That year, he won the Volunteer 500 at Bristol Motor Speedway, setting an average speed record of 101.074 miles per hour. The record still stands today, 50 years later.

Arlene Stine, first woman to finish a marathon

Arlene Pieper Stine, the first woman to officially finish a sanctioned marathon in 1959 when she ran the Pikes Peak Marathon, died Feb. 11 in Capitola, Calif., at the age of 90.

When Stine made history, she was running Arlene's Health Studio, a women's fitness center in Colorado Springs along with her husband. She decided to run the grueling Pikes Peak Marathon to promote the studio.

Running in dime-store tennis shoes, Stine first attempted the marathon in 1958, stopping before she finished. When she tried again in 1959, she completed the marathon with an official time of 9:50.20.

Stine never ran another marathon, and her achievement was almost lost to history as other women made notable achievements in other marathons. It wasn't until the 2000s that a Pikes Peak Marathon historian made the connection that Stine had been the first, and it took him years to track her down.

When he was finally able to locate her, Stine was shocked to learn that she had been the first woman to complete a marathon. She later served as the official starter at several Pikes Peak Marathons.

Joe Long, bassist for the Four Seasons

Joe Long, a bassist for the Four Seasons who played on their later hits including "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You," died April 21 of complications of COVID-19 at the age of 88.

A New Jersey native like the rest of the Four Seasons, Long was classically trained and learned to play on a double bass. He later switched to electric bass, and he played with other local bands before the Four Seasons called.

It was 1965 when the Four Seasons needed a new bass player after original member Nick Massi left the band. Long joined the band after the era of their first mega-hits, but he was there for popular songs including "Opus 17 (Don't You Worry 'Bout Me)," "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You," "C'mon Marianne" and "Who Loves You."

Long left the Four Seasons in 1975. He later formed the bands LaBracio and Jersey Bounce.

Long is a member of the New Jersey Hall of Fame.

Shock G, frontman for Digital Underground

Shock G, the frontman for the hip-hop group Digital Underground, whose hits included "The Humpty Dance," died April 22 at a hotel in Tampa, Florida at the age of 57.

Born Gregory Jacobs, Shock G became well known under a different alter ego in 1990, when "The Humpty Dance" shot up the charts. Rapping as Humpty Hump and wearing a large fake nose, Shock G taught the world the dance named after his alter ego: "You got it down when you appear to be in pain."

Digital Underground followed "The Humpty Dance" with "Doowutchalike," which they had previously released independently but rerecorded for their debut album, "Sex Packets." Later singles included "Same Song," "Kiss You Back," and "No Nose Job."

Shock G led Digital Underground until the band's

breakup in 2008.

Tupac Shakur got his start as a guest rapper on Digital Underground's "Same Song," and Shock G, also a producer, went on to co-produce his debut album, "2Pacalypse Now." He also produced Tupac Shakur's 1993 breakthrough single, "I Get Around," introducing the legendary rapper to a wide audience.

Shock G also produced music for artists including Monie Love, KRS-One, and Bobby Brown. He released the 2004 solo album "Fear of a Mixed Planet."

"Most people have a checklist of what makes a good pop song: it has to be three minutes long, it must have a repeatable chorus and it must have a catchy hook," he told the New York Times. "That's what makes music stale. We say 'Do what feels good.' If you like it for three minutes, then you'll love it for 30."

Les McKeown, lead singer for Bay City Rollers

Les McKeown, the lead singer for the Scottish band the Bay City Rollers, who had hits in the 1970s including "Saturday Night" and "Money Honey," died April 20 at his home at the age of 65.

McKeown joined the Bay City Rollers in 1973 when he was still a teenager, several years after the pop rock band was formed and just as they were beginning to break through to chart success in the U.K.

They rerecorded several of their early singles with McKeown on lead, released their debut album "Rollin'," and began having hits. Playing up their Scottishness by wearing tartan-trimmed outfits, the Rollers began crossing over to U.S. Success with "Saturday Night," which hit No. 1 in 1975.

They followed it with hits including "Money Honey" and "I Only Want to Be With You" in 1976 and "You Made Me Believe in Magic" in 1977.

McKeown left the band in 1978 as their success was waning, but he came back to play with the Bay City Rollers for several reunion shows beginning in 2015. In the meantime, he formed the band Egotrip, and he released nine solo

albums between 1979 and 2016.

Bill Wynne, WWII veteran and dog trainer

Bill Wynne, a photojournalist and U.S. Army Air Forces veteran of World War II, who trained the war hero dog Smoky, died April 19 at the age of 99.

Wynne was serving as an aerial photographer in the Pacific Theater, searching for planes that had gone down and taking photos to help determine if rescue was feasible.

It was while he was serving in New Guinea that he met a fellow soldier who had found a Yorkshire terrier abandoned in the jungle. Wynne bought the dog, named her Smoky, and began taking her everywhere he went, including on combat missions. He trained her to sing along when he played harmonica.

Smoky became a war hero when Wynne was serving in Luzon and U.S. troops needed to dig a trench to lay communications wire. They found a covered culvert that could serve as the trench, but it was narrow and buried, and a human couldn't get through it.

They attached the wire to Smoky's collar and sent her into the 70-foot culvert, with Wynne calling her from the other side. Even though she couldn't see him at first, she successfully brought the wire through, eliminating the need for a three-day job with dozens of soldiers exposed to enemy fire and bombs.

Smoky was named Champion Mascot in the Southwest Pacific Area by Yank Down Under magazine.

Smoky also became a therapy dog when Wynne was hospitalized during the war with Dengue fever. He let a nurse bring Smoky to visit the other patients, and the dog lifted their spirits as they recovered. She's considered to be the first known therapy dog, and Wynne continued to bring her to hospitals to visit patients after they returned home from the war.

Wynne and Smoky were stars when they came home, and they were featured on local TV programs in Cleveland as well as touring widely to demonstrate the many tricks he had taught her. Smoky died in 1957 and is honored

with 11 memorials on three continents.

Wynne later worked as a photographer for NASA before becoming a longtime photojournalist for the Cleveland Plain Dealer. He wrote the 1996 memoir, "Yorkie Doodle Dandy," about his time with Smoky.

Wynne was inducted into the Ohio Press and Journalism Hall of Fame in 2009.

Monte Hellman, horror and cult film director

Monte Hellman, a director whose cult classic films include "Two-Lane Blacktop," died April 20 after a fall at his home at the age of 91.

Hellman's directorial career began with the 1959 horror movie "Beast from Haunted Cave." It was produced by Roger Corman and his brother, and the cult film legend helped launch Hellman's career.

Hellman went on to direct several films starring the up-and-coming Jack Nicholson, including "Flight to Fury" (1964) and "Ride in the Whirlwind" (1966), before creating the 1971 road movie "Two-Lane Blacktop."

Starring musicians James Taylor and Dennis Wilson, the movie followed young street racers across the U.S. and inspired the legendary cross-country race the Cannonball Run. Though critics liked "Two-Lane Blacktop," it didn't do well in theaters, and it wasn't until years later that it would reach cult film status.

Hellman went on to direct other films including "Cockfighter" (1974), "Iguana" (1988), and "Road to Nowhere" (2010). He also directed several action scenes in "RoboCop" (1987) and was an executive producer of "Reservoir Dogs" (1992).

"I have a reputation for 'fighting the system,' 'not selling out,' 'doing my own thing,' etc.," Hellman said in 1987. "In reality, I have always been a hired gun. I have usually taken whatever job came my way."

The Norwalk Patriot



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