

Developers answer questions as Norwalk considers redevelopment

■ Norwalk is conducting public outreach as it considers a plan to redevelop its Civic Center to include shops, homes and restaurants.

By Vincent Medina
Contributor

NORWALK - Primester representatives answered Norwalk community members' questions on the possible ways the entertainment district can be enhanced during an Aug. 10 informational meeting.

Director of Community Outreach, Claudia Cardenas, and Development Manager, Ryan Aubry, shared what the construction company would like to add to the entertainment district. Based on previous community outreach they conducted earlier this year, they were able to predict what would help the community.

The representative emphasized that no ideas were final, and they are still taking suggestions from the community.

Aubry suggested that large city events, such as the Fourth of July fireworks show, have outgrown the 4.5 acres of city hall lawn.

"The city is focused on ultimately being able to hold those events at a larger site, like the 15 acres adjacent to Holifield park," Aubry said. "So that site would exist simultaneously to introduce additional uses at the

civic center."

Holifield Park is next to Dolland Elementary School, and is surrounded by residential housing.

At the city hall lawn, Primester found that there is a need for businesses and restaurants. They are considering the addition of business, office spaces, housing and open areas for mixed use at the city hall lawn.

"The goal is to create a core for the community to come together," said Aubry.

After presenting their ideas, the representatives answered questions from the virtual audience.

Michael Rosoff asked how Primester will make Norwalk stand-out from cities such as Long Beach and Downey.

"We want to facilitate families," said Aubry. "That's something we talked to the city about, facilitating restaurants that open onto open spaces where families are eating and the kids are running around and playing."

Aubry also addressed the issue of homelessness in the area, and said liaisons would be used to keep families and children safe.

Terri Ledesma expressed that Holifield Park was meant to have sports facilities and a community garden.

"The city wants to make that area as inclusive as possible," said Aubry. "So there can be space for events and sports. There is



Residents dance during a concert on the Norwalk Civic Center lawn on Aug. 4. The city is considering redeveloping the land to include shops, restaurants and homes. (City of Norwalk photo)

no intent to build commercial businesses or housing."

The Norwalk Brew House expressed interest in renting a space in the enhanced entertainment district.

Cardenas said Primester is looking for small and local business to include in the project.

Ken White asked why the company was not looking toward

empty spaces such as the empty Walmart or former swap meet to develop businesses.

"This is the opportunity to activate the open space," said the development manager. "There is the idea that you are building out this larger district that is facilitating more business on a regular basis."

While the representatives

said they reached out to the community for ideas on the project, some audience members said they were not contacted by Primester.

Cardenas emphasized that community outreach is ongoing, and Primester is still asking for community input for the entertainment district enhancement.

Norwalk finalizes plan for \$28 million stimulus

■ Norwalk is conducting public outreach as it considers a plan to redevelop its Civic Center to include shops, homes and restaurants.

NORWALK - The Norwalk City Council on Tuesday approved a \$28 million American Rescue Plan Act allocation plan with the city's goal of "providing high quality customer service to the community as a priority."

On March 10, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The Act will provide a \$1.9 trillion stimulus to the United States economy, with Norwalk receiving \$28 million in two equal installments of \$14 million.

The first allocation was already received this year and the second will be received in May 2022.

On July 26, Norwalk officials presented preliminary recommendations to the City Council's fiscal ad-hoc committee. The committee adjusted the list of recommendations for funding allocation to prioritize infrastructure and other capital investments that would maximize long-term benefits to the community.

Then on Aug. 3, city staff presented the amended draft recommendations to the City Council for feedback. The City Council recommended the removal of any potential redundancies with other programs already available to the community.

The U.S. Department of Treasury broke funding

requirements into seven categories. Given these constraints, city staff evaluated all viable options for funding with input from professional associations including the United States Conference of Mayors, International City Management Association, and League of California Cities.

The city's allocation plan aims to ensure that businesses thrive, everyone has access to basic needs, that the recovery lifts everyone and that the city makes long-term investments for its future.

Some of the funding recommendations include community health and crime reduction programs, small business and nonprofit assistance, promotion of healthier living environments, affordable housing funding, and funding for stormwater infrastructure, among other things.

"The ARPA funds will not only help us enhance our economic recovery and economic revitalization efforts, they will enable us to deliver enhanced services to improve public safety, infrastructure, technology and recreational programs," said Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez. "We look forward to making these improvements a reality and building the foundation for a thriving, healthy community."

Funds must be obligated by Dec. 31, 2024 and expended by Dec. 31, 2026.

Residents interested in obtaining more information about the allocation plan can email publicaffairs@norwalkca.gov or call (562) 929-5319.



A rendering of the affordable housing complex to be built at San Antonio Drive and Foster Road.

Norwalk secures \$3 million for affordable housing project

■ The 60-unit complex will be constructed at San Antonio Drive and Foster Road using state funds.

NORWALK - The Norwalk City Council on Tuesday authorized an amendment to its 2021-22 fiscal budget to receive state funds, in the amount of \$3 million, to support homelessness and affordable housing in the City of Norwalk.

The money will be utilized for the Mercy Housing Veteran's Affordable Housing Project No. 7847. The project consists of constructing a 60-unit affordable residential apartment development that will provide affordable housing for veterans and their families.

On Feb. 4, 2020, the City Council approved a development agreement with Mercy Housing, a non-profit housing corporation that develops and operates

affordable housing units.

The development agreement is in conjunction with an entitlement project that includes the construction of a four-story, 60-unit residential apartment development with supportive services at 13629-13705 San Antonio Drive and 11950 Foster Road.

The residential units will serve extremely low, very low, and low-income households and provide them with an affordable, quality residential development, which may not otherwise be available to such households.

Mercy Housing will provide long-term supportive services to veterans and their families who live in the development. The entire development will be affordable housing to help meet much needed housing unit goals that have been set by the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) number assigned to the City in the last Housing Element cycle.

"The city has made strategic investments in our efforts to resolve homelessness in our city," said Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez. "The Veteran Housing Project now has the funding necessary to move the project along. We look forward to the city's partnership with Mercy Housing to serve veterans and their families."

The Mercy Housing Veteran's Affordable Housing Project also satisfies the city's Strategic Plan Goal 2, which is to improve living conditions for residents in greatest need.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the California State budget on July 12, 2021, which included a \$3 million earmark for homelessness and affordable housing for the City of Norwalk.

Residents interested in obtaining more information can email publicaffairs@norwalkca.gov or call (562) 929-5319.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 80°

Saturday 78°

Sunday 79°

THINGS TO DO



BBQ & Music Festival
All Weekend
Fountain Valley Sports Park

Live bands, food courts, cantinas, arts and crafts for kids, petting zoo, karaoke, barbecue competitions and more. \$10 admission (children 12 and under free)

Body Art Expo
All Weekend
Los Angeles Convention Center

The world's largest tattoo festival, featuring more than 250 artists. Featuring live music, tattoo competitions, and freak shows. \$20 admission (must buy online)

ON THIS DAY AUGUST 20

1866: President Andrew Johnson formally declared the American Civil War over.

1940: British Prime Minister Winston Churchill paid tribute to the Royal Air Force, saying, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

1953: The Soviet Union publicly acknowledged it had tested a hydrogen bomb.

1964: President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a nearly \$1 billion anti-poverty measure.

1977: The United States launched Voyager 2, an unmanned spacecraft carrying a 12-inch copper phonograph record containing greetings in dozens of languages, samples of music and sounds of nature.

1992: The Republican National Convention in Houston nominated President George H.W. Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle for a second term.

2006: Former Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal, who took the iconic Iwo Jima flag-raising picture during World War II, died at age 94.



2009: Voting in Afghanistan's presidential election was marred by rampant ballot-box stuffing. (Hamid Karzai was declared the winner in November.)

2020: Joe Biden gave his acceptance speech virtually for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Birthdays

Journalist **Connie Chung** (75), Led Zeppelin vocalist **Robert Plant** (73), "Today Show" weatherman **Al Roker** (67), Limp Bizkit lead singer **Fred Durst** (51), actress **Amy Adams** (47), and pop singer **Demi Lovato** (29).

Whittier opens 138-bed homeless navigation center

■ Opened last week, the shelter will connect unhoused people with wraparound service providers.

WHITTIER - A 138-bed comprehensive service center opened last week to serve Whittier residents experiencing homelessness.

Wrap-around services provided by The Salvation Army will be offered in a modern residential setting and aims to set residents on a path to self-sufficiency.

Unlike traditional homeless shelters that provide only meals and sleeping accommodations, Whittier's Navigation Center will provide clients with case management services that include health and wellness resources, employment assistance, substance abuse services, and counseling, with the goal of connecting clients to stable income and permanent housing.

"This innovative approach to addressing the needs of unhoused Whittier residents is the culmination of many years' worth of planning and thoughtful decision making by our City Council, The Salvation Army, and cooperating agencies," said Whittier City Manager Brian Saeki.

The center is just one part of the city's 2018 plan to address homelessness in Whittier, but the COVID-19 crisis prompted the Whittier City Council to vote in April 2020 to speed up the development timeline. While the Uptown Whittier Senior Center served as an immediate answer to the public health crisis, an all-hands-on deck approach led to the complete renovation of The Salvation Army's existing building in Whittier which now offers clients a therapy room, patio, and cubicle-style sleeping quarters.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony preceded tours of the center,



which will be operated by The Salvation Army, an experienced non-profit service provider with significant experience serving homeless clients in the Whittier area and across Southern California. In addition to receiving three meals a day and semi-private sleeping quarters equipped with personal hygiene amenities, residents will also have access to transportation, onsite pet care, health services, and free phone service.

The opening of the Navigation Center also allows the City of Whittier to continue enforcement of its no camping, curfew, and other quality of life city ordinances prohibited under the Ninth Circuit's *Martin v. City of Boise* 2018 ruling. The addition of the Center's 139 new beds is part of the Homeless Action Plan approved by the City Council in 2018, which set a goal of increasing shelter and housing capacity in the City. Criteria for capacity and residency was set forth in a settlement agreement between the City of Whittier and the Orange County Catholic Charities Workers.

"Providing a path to self-sufficiency for our most



The shelter is operated by the Salvation Army and provides semi-private sleeping quarters, along with three meals a day. (City of Whittier photo)

vulnerable citizens while ensuring the safety of our community and improving the quality of life for Whittier residents is a win-win opportunity," said Whittier

Mayor Joe Vinatieri.

Individuals referred to the Navigation Center began receiving housing and services on Aug. 17, when they transferred from the city's temporary shelter. The center has 78 beds for men, 39 beds for women and can also accommodate up to 10 couples.



Students leave Norwalk High School after their first day back to in-person learning on Thursday, Aug. 12. (Photo by Vincent Medina)

Norwalk students return to campus

■ After a year of remote learning, Norwalk students returned to campus last week with health measures in place.

By Vincent Medina Contributor

NORWALK - Students in Norwalk La-Mirada Unified School District returned to in-person classes on Aug. 12, after a year of remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each school required students to wear masks indoors and measures were taken to encourage physical distancing.

Norwalk High School students reported that their classmates obeyed the mask mandate indoors and many continued to wear their masks outdoors, despite face coverings becoming optional outside.

The high school also took steps to encourage physical distancing. While physical distancing is no longer required by the district, it is encouraged by the CDC and the district.

Despite the majority of students following safety protocols, students reported rare

instances of their classmates refusing to wear masks indoors.

Iris Rosales, sophomore at Norwalk High School, says there was some mask resistance during a morning class.

"There was one kid in my class who had his mask completely off," Rosales said. "He had to be told twice to put it back on."

Even if they are vaccinated, people who do not wear masks inside become vulnerable to COVID-19, as the virus can spread quickly indoors. Unmasked individuals can also spread the virus to others in their vicinity.

For students who are unvaccinated against COVID-19, masks are the only defense they have against the virus. If students are vaccinated they are less likely to contract the virus, but they can still spread COVID to their peers.

The COVID-19 Delta variant is estimated to be 50% more contagious than the original virus. People who are unvaccinated are more likely to be hospitalized and show severe symptoms.

Children under 12-years-old are ineligible to receive the vaccine.

At Morrison Elementary School, most students obeyed the mask mandate as well. Teachers and staff ensured that every student wore a face covering as they walked into school.

At Morrison, each grade exited through separate gates in order to keep students physically distanced.

While most students were obedient, there were some instances of mask resistance.

Alyssa Gonzales, a third-grade student at Morrison, shared what she saw during class as her mother, Virginia Gonzales, picked her up from school.

"This boy was not wearing a mask in class," Gonzales said. "Our teacher had to tell him to put it on and he was almost sent to the office."

Rosales and Gonzales agreed that students should return to online learning if COVID-19 cases rise in their school, or in the district.

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What to do in Afghanistan

By Oliver North and David Goetsch

Tragedy is an inadequate word to describe what's happening in Afghanistan. President Joe Biden's administration's feckless, vacillating incompetence is a catastrophe. Wrought by more than mere misfeasance; it's criminal negligence. Biden and his advisers have blood on their hands. Worse, Biden's complicity will be much more sanguinary in days ahead.

We, along with Rep. Mike Waltz of Florida's 6th congressional district, have been making recommendations about how to avert an absolute disaster in the shadows of the Hindu Kush. Yet, in recent days, Biden and his "doublespeak spokespersons" have been lying to "We the People" about what's happening in Afghanistan.

Biden and his mouthpieces claimed the Afghan Army outnumbered the Taliban 300,000 to 75,000. They don't.

Biden and company said the Afghan government, unlike the Taliban, has an air force. They don't. He and his toadies at the Pentagon assured us the Afghan government could survive without U.S. troops, air support, intelligence or contracted maintenance workers. They cannot.

The president asked, "What difference a 'few' American troops deployed there" could possibly make. While Biden spent a leisurely weekend at Camp David imitating Nero, fiddling while Rome burned, the Taliban answered his question.

Biden's blunders in Afghanistan now overshadow the catastrophe of April 30, 1975, in Vietnam, or even the invasion now across our southern border. Biden's Kabul blunder is fast becoming America's humiliation. Biden's "Afghanistan bug-out" makes the horrific end of the Vietnam War look like an act of strategic genius. So quickly did the Taliban take advantage of Biden's blunder. The Pentagon has been forced to redeploy 6,000 military personnel to Afghanistan in hopes of preventing another Jimmy Carter moment in which American hostages are paraded through the streets of an enemy capital.

Meanwhile, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani skipped town to Uzbekistan. The Taliban flag flies over the Afghan presidential palace. The U.S. Air Force now runs the Kabul airport. The American embassy is abandoned beneath a Taliban flag. U.S. troops and a tiny remnant of

Afghan Special Forces soldiers guard the airport perimeter but are surrounded by the Taliban terrorists Biden claimed could not defeat the Afghan Army. We can only pray our 6,000 U.S. Marine and Army "rescuers" won't become hostages — or worse.

The most important questions for the Biden brain trust: How do we avoid the humiliation of having to beg the Taliban for the safe return of American troops, now surrounded at the Kabul airport? How to ensure tens of thousands of Afghans aren't slaughtered in revenge killings? How can we prevent Afghanistan from becoming, once again, an international exporter of radical Islamist terror; women and girls don't become sexual slaves to Taliban troops; and China and Iran don't become the ultimate winners of the Afghanistan war?

Here is what we recommend:

No. 1: Develop a plan for preventing Islamic terrorist groups from using Afghanistan as a safe haven for launching attacks against the U.S.

No. 2: Recognize the Iranian theocracy as America's No. 1 adversary in the region.

No. 3: Ensure access and connectivity for employing U.S. airpower in the region.

No. 4: Reinforce the "Abraham Accords" as essential for both Israeli and U.S. national security.

No. 5: Understand the communist People's Republic of China has already promised to recognize the Taliban as Afghanistan's legitimate government and intends to be the ultimate victor as Kabul 2021 becomes another Saigon 1975.

No. 6: Pull out as many of the loyal Afghan interpreters, or "Terps," as possible.



No. 7: Make it clear to the Taliban they will face a massive, lethal response if Americans are harmed, and develop plans for fulfilling that promise now.

No. 8: Make sure all remaining Americans at the Kabul airport can be brought home safely without the "help" offered by the Chinese, Iranians or Russians. Otherwise, you should be impeached.

Oliver North is a combat-decorated U.S. Marine, No.1 bestselling author, and founder and CEO of Fidelis Publishing LLC and Fidelis Media LLC. David Goetsch is a Marine Corps veteran, member of the Florida Veteran's Hall of Fame, and author of 77 books.

Freedom of speech under fire

By Jeff Robbins

"When I was a kid, I was shy," Ira Glasser, the longtime head of the American Civil Liberties Union, told a Canton, Massachusetts, audience last week. It seemed hard to believe. A nonlawyer and proud of it, Glasser led the ACLU from 1978 until 2001 and is credited by the organization for having transformed it "from a mom-and-pop style operation concentrated mainly in a few large cities to a nationwide civil liberties powerhouse."

"The first time I had to speak in public," Glasser said, "was teaching kids calculus. It taught me how to explain complicated subjects to people who were really not interested. All of that ended up being good training for talking to people about the Bill of Rights."

The right to free speech is perhaps the best known of the First Amendment rights; it is also perhaps the most controversial. Disrespected in some quarters, distorted in others, the right to speak freely occupied much of Glasser's career as he fought contentious battles to ensure that it is both preserved and protected from hijacking by those wishing to undermine democracy.

On university campuses, where once administrators wielded their power to block speech about civil rights or ending the war in Vietnam, now self-styled "progressive" students wield theirs to attempt to block speech that they believe deviates from what they have decreed is politically acceptable. First Amendment legend Floyd Abrams has

said that the greatest threat to American free speech comes presently not from government but from within academia, principally from "a minority of students who strenuously and, I think it is fair to say, contemptuously disapprove of the views of speakers whose view of the world is different from theirs, and who seek to prevent those views from being heard."

Glasser, as indefatigable a fighter for social justice as any other American over the last half-century, is similarly concerned. "I was surprised," he wrote last year about a law school appearance, "to learn that many in the audience self-identified as 'progressives' and believed that it was both desirable and constitutional to ban what they called 'hate speech'."

Over in Trumpland, the former president has invoked the First Amendment as a defense against lawsuits seeking to hold him liable for his role in the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol that left 140 Capitol Police injured and resulted in several deaths. One of the pending claims is that he conspired with others to use force, intimidation and/or threats to prevent federal officials — Congress — from carrying out their duties: certifying the 2020 presidential election. This claim would appear to be not only straightforward, but obvious: The express, and expressed, point of the defendants' fiery exhortations was to drive the mob down to the Capitol for that very purpose.

Trump and his defense team argue, however, that holding them

liable would penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights. This concern for the right of free speech is very rich indeed coming from a former president who fired every federal official he could for speaking out about misconduct in his administration, but hypocrisy ranks so low on the list of Trump's affronts that it hardly seems worthy of mention.

Those who directed the mob to attack Congress have a problem much bigger than hypocrisy. The Supreme Court ruled decades ago that there is no First Amendment protection for speech that is "directed to inciting or promoting lawless action and is highly likely to incite or produce such action." Not for the first time, the shy math student who wasn't a born public speaker puts it best. "Just because you use words when you're doing something violent doesn't give you the protection of the First Amendment," says Glasser.

The First Amendment may be caught in a crossfire, but if we have more than a fighting chance of keeping it robust, it is in no small part thanks to American heroes like Ira Glasser, who pushed and prodded and pressed so that it would neither be eroded nor taken for granted.

Jeff Robbins, a former assistant United States attorney and United States delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, was chief counsel for the minority of the United States Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

Cuomo and the limits of party loyalty

By Steve Chapman

It's tempting to invoke Shakespeare in contemplating the surprising decision of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to resign. "Nothing in his life became him like the leaving of it," says one character in "Macbeth" about a traitor who repented before being executed. Cuomo admitted that he "truly offended" 11 women, apologized to his victims and relinquished the office he has held for the past decade.

For those choices, we can be grateful. But the real credit here doesn't go to the governor for accepting reality or his political foes who finally prevailed over him. It goes to members of his own party who declined to excuse or minimize his transgressions. They were a vivid contrast to the Republicans who stuck with former President Donald Trump despite credible accusations of worse offenses — including rape — by some two dozen women.

For Democrats, political allegiance sometimes asks too much. For Republicans in the era of Trump, fidelity to the leader — even when they know he is guilty of horrendous actions — is the only inviolate principle.

Most everyone assumed that Cuomo would take the well-tested option of digging in and hanging tough. It worked for President Bill Clinton after he lied about his affair with a White House intern. It worked for Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam after he was accused of being one of two people in a 1984 photo featuring a person in blackface and another in Ku Klux Klan garb. The notoriously combative Cuomo seemed an unlikely candidate to surrender.

But let's have no illusions that he did so for the reason he gave — that he loves New York too much to put the state through the ordeal of

impeachment. This ruse allowed Cuomo to pretend that his offenses were the product of "generational and cultural shifts that I just didn't fully appreciate" instead of his predatory proclivities.

The more plausible explanation for his decision is the simpler one: He knew he would be removed from office and saw no point in prolonging his own torment. His logic paralleled that of "Star Wars" bounty hunter Boba Fett, who said, "You can run, but you'll only die tired."

His fate was sealed by people in his own party, who enjoy a lopsided dominance in both houses of the state legislature. Had Democratic members chosen to unite behind Cuomo, they could have saved him easily. Instead, they joined together in chucking him overboard.

Democratic Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins had called on the governor to quit in March. After Democratic Attorney General Letitia James released the damning results of her investigation of Cuomo last week, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie announced, "He can no longer remain in office."

The state's U.S. senators pronounced the same verdict. So did House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and President Joe Biden. In the face of such demands, Cuomo had to know he was politically doomed.

He couldn't use Trump's playbook because he didn't have Trump's team or Trump's fans. The sole reason the 45th president survived two impeachment trials and multiple scandals is that Republicans refused to hold him accountable.

They still do. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy embodies the

party's capitulation. In 2016, he was recorded in a private conversation with GOP House leaders saying he thought Trump was on the payroll of Russian President Vladimir Putin. After the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, he said, "The president bears responsibility for Wednesday's attack on Congress by mob rioters."

But he voted against the subsequent impeachment, as did all but 10 of his members. And McCarthy supported the purge of one of the 10, Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, from the GOP leadership team. Since Trump departed in disgrace and defeat, however, Republican politicians have engaged in a furious competition to pander to his every whim — and appease his many followers.

The contrast between the two parties is even more striking when you consider that Cuomo approached his job with energy, knowledge, resolve and shrewdness, while Trump was lazy, uninformed and politically inept. For all his multifaceted villainy, Cuomo got things done. Trump rarely did.

Whether the issue was rebuilding infrastructure, repealing "Obamacare" or building the border wall, he was a failure. He was also the first president since Herbert Hoover to lose control of the House, the Senate and the presidency. But he retains his cultlike following.

Democrats have demonstrated the limits of their loyalty. Maybe someday Republicans will find theirs.

Steve Chapman blogs for the Chicago Tribune.



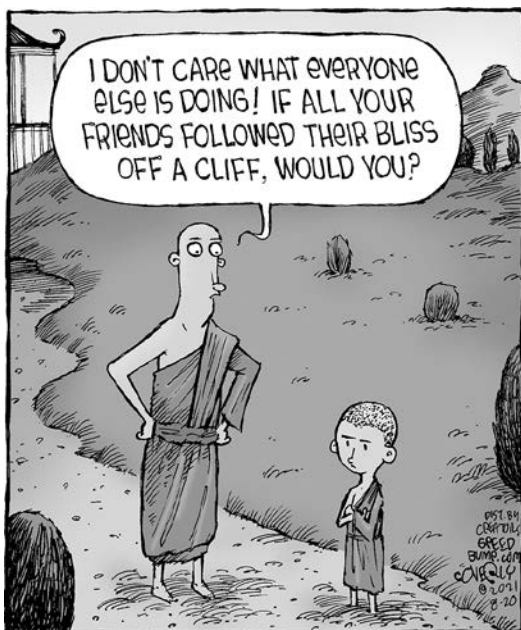
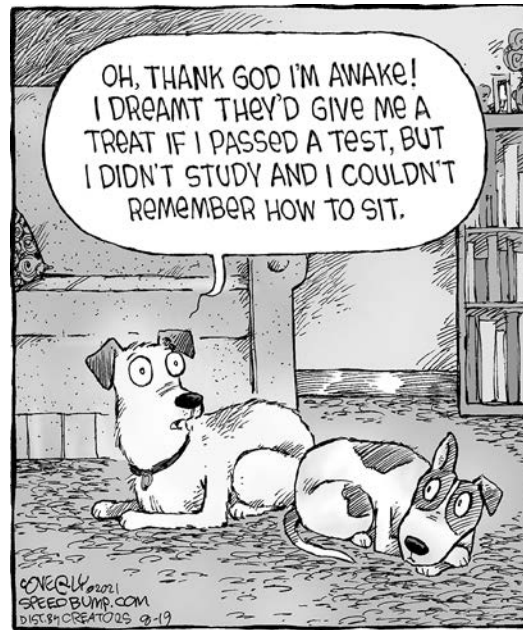
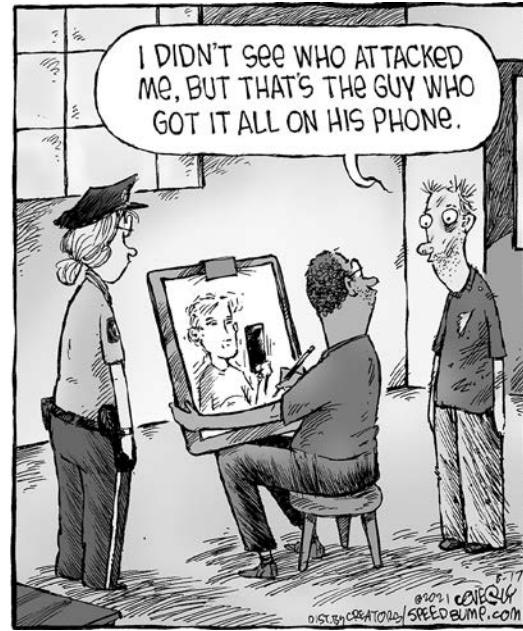
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SPEED BUMP DAVE COVERLY



Norwalk Community Calendar

MONDAYS

1st Mon., 6 pm - Public Safety meetings - Council Chambers

TUESDAYS

9:00 a.m. - 1 pm - Farmers Market - Norwalk City Hall
 1st & 3rd Tues., 6 pm - Toastmasters Meetings - Registrar Recorder/County Clerks Office
 1st & 3rd Tues., 6 pm - City Council - Council Chambers
 3rd Tues., 5:45 pm - Housing Authority - Council Chambers
 3rd Tues., 7 pm - Soroptimist International - Via Zoom

WEDNESDAYS

1st & 3rd Wed., 7 pm - Lions Club - Bruce's Restaurant
 2nd Wed., 10:30 am - Norwalk Woman's Club - Masonic Lodge
 2nd & 4th Wed., 1:30 pm - Alondra Senior Citizens - Social Services Center
 2nd & 4th Wed., 7:30 pm - Planning Commission - Council Chambers
 4th Wed., 11:30 am - Coordinating Council - Arts & Sports Complex

THURSDAYS

7 pm - Boy Scouts Troop 924 - Norwalk United Methodist Church
 2nd Thurs., 7 pm - American Legion Post No. 359 - 11986 Front St.
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm - Golden Trowel - Norwalk Masonic Lodge

SATURDAYS

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Farmers Market - Norwalk City Hall
 2nd Sat., 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast - 1st Christian Church of Norwalk

Would you like an event listed in the community calendar?
 E-mail news@thedowneypatriot.com

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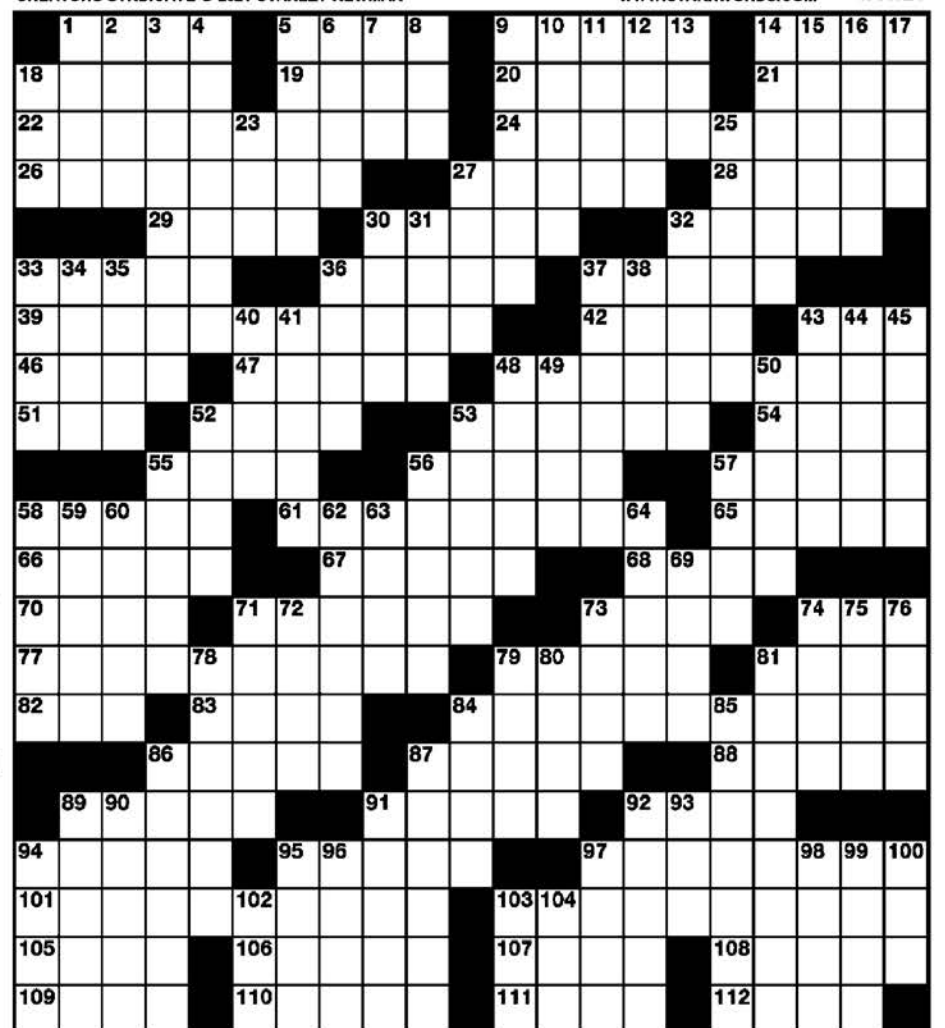
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OH, YOU AGAIN: Featuring pairs of pairs
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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send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

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Meat in gyros
 - 5 Lost traction
 - 9 Lei Day greeting
 - 14 Piano student's first scale: Abbr.
 - 18 ___ Haute, IN
 - 19 Aesopian racer
 - 20 Job particulars, idiomatically
 - 21 Latter-day prefix for call
 - 22 Town square building
 - 24 Lion-hearted
 - 26 Not appropriate
 - 27 Operatic voice
 - 28 You are here
 - 29 Bit of heredity
 - 30 Origami bird
 - 32 Low-cal brews
 - 33 Match up
 - 36 How some like their omelets
 - 37 This and this
 - 39 Resort town on the English Channel
 - 42 Solemn promise
 - 43 Ocelot, for instance
 - 46 Pulls back
 - 47 Threshold
 - 48 Wandering minstrel
 - 51 Carol contraction
 - 52 Squealer
 - 53 Not out of the question
 - 54 Errand runner
 - 55 Origami move
 - 56 Welsh pooch
 - 57 What pals called Hemingway
 - 58 "What a shame!"
 - 61 Bread for 49ers
 - 65 Police protection
 - 66 Mona Lisa's home
 - 67 Pond hoppers
 - 68 Looks over
 - 70 Awestruck
 - 71 Ice cream/whipped cream dessert
 - 73 Southwestern art center
 - 74 '70s den innovation
 - 77 Circuitous
 - 79 Corporate shakeup, for short
 - 81 Peace Prize city
 - 82 Explosive initials
 - 83 Without ___ (riskily)
 - 84 What Colorado and Utah are
 - 86 Capture suddenly
 - 87 Compote candidates
 - 88 Backs of necks
 - 89 Brown photo tone
 - 91 Sonata movement
 - 92 Fly-by-nighters
 - 94 Mythical sky holder
 - 95 Mass confusion
 - 97 Samoan city
 - 101 Headed toward San Diego on I-5
 - 103 Obtained from a consultant, say
 - 105 Cause of 5 Down erosion
 - 106 Occult astrological symbol
 - 107 "Damn it!"
 - 108 Formally relinquished
 - 109 Soothes with cubes
 - 110 Unhelped
 - 111 "So what ___ is new?"
 - 112 "Damn it!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Juan Ponce de ___
 - 2 With "in," stagnating
 - 3 TV host role for Tom Hanks
 - 4 Connecting
 - 5 Lakeside land
 - 6 Pay tribute to
 - 7 E-file org.
 - 8 Key to the right of ess
 - 9 Unfamiliar to most
 - 10 Unrestrained
 - 11 Numbered musical work
 - 12 Protagonist
 - 13 Quick-wink link
 - 14 Make from scratch
 - 15 '70s 007
 - 16 Touches on
 - 17 Joke around
 - 18 Ft. Worth campus
 - 23 Solo of sci-fi
 - 25 Japanese entertainer
 - 27 Spot for soaking
 - 30 Choo-choo sound
 - 31 Confirmation, e.g.
 - 32 Do not disturb
 - 33 Assist feloniously
 - 34 Mongolian wasteland
 - 35 Barbecue coatings
 - 36 Operate properly
 - 37 Oversized
 - 38 Carry by truck
 - 40 Villain's doings
 - 41 Patches up
 - 43 Change in a pocket
 - 44 Financial review
 - 45 Grove, essentially
 - 48 Annual Pamplona runners
 - 49 Classico competitor
 - 50 Has the nerve
 - 52 Opposing sides
 - 53 Avoid skillfully
 - 55 Pretend to have
 - 56 One from Zagreb
 - 57 Prior nights
 - 58 Disconnected
 - 59 Oregon Trail transport
 - 60 Tiler's mortar
 - 62 Significant
 - 63 Language of Pakistan
 - 64 Central element
 - 69 Meditative discipline
 - 71 Yemen's capital
 - 72 Taxi alternative
 - 73 Quite a lot
 - 74 Letters on Cognac labels
 - 75 Whodunit assistance
 - 76 Whodunit author
 - 78 Bagel's sweeter alternative
 - 79 Concrete construction
 - 80 D-Mark successor
 - 81 Running wild
 - 84 Part of YMCA
 - 85 Communicating
 - 86 Sudden rushes
 - 87 Canine named Claude, perhaps
 - 89 Unemotional one
 - 90 Avoid skillfully
 - 91 Entered quickly
 - 92 Moisten while roasting
 - 93 In the past
 - 94 Spumante city
 - 95 Spring shape
 - 96 Source of Les Miz
 - 97 School support grps.
 - 98 Dual-power
 - 99 Techno-nerd
 - 100 Unconventional
 - 102 Org. with Bobcats and Eagles
 - 103 Tribute from Tennyson
 - 104 Web addr.

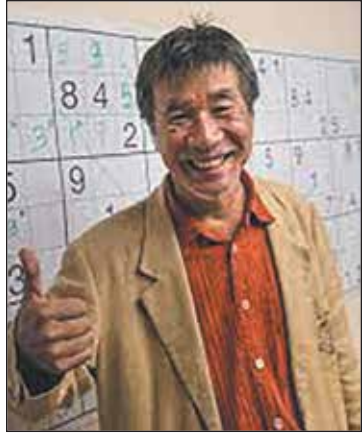
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- 64 Central element
- 69 Meditative discipline
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Reach Stan Newman at www.StanXwords.com

Obituaries



Maki Kaji

Maki Kaji, popularized sudoku puzzles

Maki Kaji, known as the "Father of Sudoku" for bringing the number puzzle to a worldwide audience through his magazine, Nikoli, died Aug. 10 at his home in Tokyo of bile duct cancer at the age of 69.

The number puzzle now known as Sudoku existed before Kaji published it in Nikoli, Japan's first puzzle magazine, which he founded in 1980. But the puzzle wasn't widely known, and it didn't have its now-ubiquitous name.

Kaji found the game and fell in love with it, and he decided to perfect it and include it in Nikoli.

He gave it the name Sudoku - roughly translating from Japanese to "every number must be single" - and began publishing it in Nikoli. Kaji later copyrighted the game.

It became a worldwide phenomenon, and Nikoli estimates that 200 million people have solved a Sudoku.

James Hormel, first openly gay ambassador

James Hormel, a philanthropist and the heir to the Hormel Food fortune who became the first openly gay ambassador representing the U.S., died Aug. 13 at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco at the age of 88.

Hormel served as dean of students and director of admissions at the University of Chicago Law School in the 1960s. Later, he became one of the founders of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest LGBTQ

advocacy group in the U.S.

He was named to the United Nations delegation to the Human Rights Commission in 1996, and in 1997, President Bill Clinton first nominated Hormel ambassador to Luxembourg. But his confirmation was blocked by Republican senators who were concerned about his LGBTQ advocacy and about the possibility of a poor reception of a gay ambassador overseas.

Luxembourg, which has laws offering protections for the LGBTQ community, welcomed Hormel as ambassador. As the confirmation process continued to stall, Clinton employed a recess nomination while Congress wasn't in session, and Hormel became ambassador in 1999, serving until December 2000.

Sean Lock, English comedian and actor

Sean Lock, an English comedian and actor known for the British TV show "8 Out of 10 Cats," died at his home of cancer at the age of 58.

Lock's early work included a supporting role in 1993's "Newman and Baddiel in Pieces" and his own radio show, "15 Minutes of Misery." The latter evolved into "15 Storeys High," first for radio and then transitioning to TV in 2002.

In 2005, Lock began appearing as a team captain in "8 Out of 10 Cats," which ran on Comedy Central in the U.S. He began appearing in "8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown" in 2012 as a team captain, continuing until his death.

Lock was also known for his stand-up comedy, releasing several comedy specials, as well as for appearances on shows including "QI," "The Last Leg," and "Have I Got News For You."

Pat Hitchcock, actor and daughter of famed director

Pat Hitchcock, the daughter of the legendary film director Alfred Hitchcock and an actor who appeared in several of her father's films, died Aug. 9 at her home in Thousand Oaks at the age of 93.

Hitchcock was the only child of Alfred Hitchcock and his wife, screenwriter Alma Reville. She was an actor who starred in two Broadway shows as a teenager, including the title role in "Violet."

After studying at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, she would appear in several of her famous father's movies. Hitchcock played a classmate of Jane Wyman's character in "Stage Fright" and an office worker in "Psycho."

Her most prominent role was in the 1951 classic thriller "Strangers on a Train," playing Barbara Morton, the sister of Ruth Roman's character.

She appeared on many episodes of the TV series "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" and also appeared on "My Little Margie" and "The Life of Riley."

Nanci Griffith, folk singer and hit songwriter

Nanci Griffith, a folk and country music singer and songwriter known for songs including "Love at the Five and Dime" and "From a Distance," died Aug. 13 at age 68.

Griffith grew up surrounded by the Austin, Texas music scene and began performing before her teens. She began recording music in the 1970s and moved to Nashville in the 1980s, signing with MCA Records and forming the Blue Moon Orchestra.

Her tenth album, "Other Voices, Other Rooms," won a Grammy Award in 1994 for Best Contemporary Folk Album. Among Griffith's best-known songs was "From a Distance," written by Julie Gold and later made famous by Bette Midler.

Griffith composed and recorded "Love at the Five and Dime," which became a hit for Kathy Mattea, and "Outbound Plane," made famous by Suzy Bogguss.

In 2008, Griffith was honored with the Americana Music Association's Americana Trailblazer Award.

Fez Whatley, radio personality

Fez Whatley, a radio personality who co-hosted "The Ron and Fez Show" on Sirius XM along with Ron Bennington, died Aug. 14 of heart failure at the age of 57.

Whatley was initially the producer of "The Ron and Ron Show," starring Bennington and Ron Diaz.

When that show came to an end, Whatley and Bennington teamed up and began their show in 1998 on WKRO in Daytona Beach, Florida. They moved to New York City's WNEW in 2000 and to XM Satellite Radio in 2005.

Born Todd Hillier, Whatley became known for the flamboyantly gay character he portrayed on the air before coming out as gay himself in 2012. He retired from the radio in 2015.

Joe Walton, New York Jets head coach

Joe Walton, the head coach of the New York Jets in the 1980s and went on to build a football program at Robert Morris College, died Aug. 15 in Englewood, Florida at the age of 85.

Morris played college football at the University of Pittsburgh, making appearances with the Panthers in the 1956 Sugar Bowl and Gator Bowl. He was named an All-American in 1955 and '56.

Walton went on to play for the Washington Redskins and New York Giants in the 1950s and '60s. After his 1964 retirement from his playing career, Walton coached the Giants and Redskins before joining the Jets coaching staff in 1981 as offensive coordinator.

He was named head coach in 1983 and led the Jets for seven seasons, taking them to the postseason twice.

After being fired from the Jets in 1989, Walton was offensive coordinator for the Pittsburgh Steelers briefly before being hired by Robert Morris University in 1993 as head coach to their brand-new football team.

There, he built a successful team, and in 2005, the school's football stadium was named for him.

Chucky Thompson, music producer for Notorious B.I.G.

Chucky Thompson, a hip-hop and R&B producer who worked with artists including the Notorious B.I.G. and Mary J. Blige, died Aug. 9 at a hospital near Los Angeles of complications of COVID-19 at the age of 53.

Thompson was a musician before he became a producer, playing keyboards and touring with Chuck Brown and his go-go band in the 1980s.

He went on to produce and co-produce some of the great hip hop and R&B classics of the 1990s and beyond. His early projects for Bay Boy Records included "Big Poppa" from the Notorious B.I.G.'s 1994 debut "Ready to Die," Mary J. Blige's Grammy-nominated album "My Life," and Faith Evans' 1995 debut album, "Faith."

Thompson also worked with other artists including Ice Cube, Mariah Carey, Nas, Busta Rhymes, and TLC, sometimes co-producing with Sean Combs.

In later years, Thompson composed the music for a History Channel documentary on the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II, and he was working on a documentary about go-go music.

Eloise Greenfield, children's author who depicted Black lives

Eloise Greenfield, a children's author whose picture books told stories of Black lives and history, died Aug. 5 at a hospital in Washington, DC of a stroke at the age of 92.

Greenfield published her first children's book, "Bubbles," in 1972, after years of rejections at a time when Black voices weren't common in children's literature.

She went on to publish almost 50 children's books, including prose, poetry, and biographies.

Greenfield focused on positive and realistic stories of Black life, with her books including "Africa Dream" (1976), "Honey, I Love and Other Poems" (1978), "Grandmama's Joy" (1980), and "Alaina and the Great Play" (2021).

She was widely honored, and several of her books won Coretta Scott King Honors, including "Childtimes: A Three-Generation Memoir," written with her mother.

John Meadows, bodybuilding champion

Professional bodybuilder John Meadows died "unexpectedly" and "peacefully" at home on Aug. 8 at 49 years old, according to a Facebook post by his wife.

"Dear Friends & Family," said the post signed by Brooke Nappo, who issued the statement for Meadows' wife. "This morning John passed away unexpectedly and peacefully in their home. As you can imagine this is a complete shock to her and the boys."

"She will update as soon as she can. Please know she is very thankful for all the prayers and support she knows her and the boys will receive from you."

Known as the "Mountain Dog," Meadows competed in bodybuilding competitions for over 30 years. He entered his first competition at the age of 13 in 1985 while also pursuing his passion for powerlifting.

In 2005, Meadows was diagnosed with a rare colon disease called idiopathic myointimal hyperplasia of the mesenteric veins. He returned in 2007 to come in 16th place in the IFBB North American Championships. In 2015, he earned a pro card by coming in first place in the NPC Universe, Bodybuilding Over 40 Overall.

In 2020, Meadows was hospitalized with a blood clot that was thought to stem from the disease. He is survived by his wife and twin sons, Jonathan and Alexander.

Gina Krasley, appeared on 'My 600-lb Life'

Gina Krasley, known to reality TV viewers as the new star of TLC's "My 600-lb Life," has died. She was 30 years old.

She passed away Aug. 1 at her home in Tuckerton, N.J., according to her obituary.

Krasley joined the TLC series - which chronicles the lives of obese people undergoing gastric bypass surgeries - in 2020 and was featured in an episode titled "Time Is Running Out For Gina."

She had recently posted social media videos about health struggles that had rendered her immobile with severe pain in her extremities.

"I remember what made me forget the pain of being abandoned was eating - and by the time I was 10, I was already over 150 pounds," Krasley said on the show.

By 14, she weighed more than 300 pounds.

"Her greatest passion was dancing, and she would make up dances with her sister and kids in the neighborhood growing up," according to her family's statement. She started the "dancing has no size limit" TikTok trend and "dreamed of one day opening up a dance studio for special needs children."

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Norwalk High debuts new stadium, new football coach

■ Ruben Guerrero will make his coaching debut tonight when the Lancers host San Marino in their new stadium.

By John M. Sherrard
Contributor

NORWALK – Ruben Guerrero has come full circle for the Norwalk High School football program – from student-athlete, to assistant coach, to its new head coach.

And speaking of new, Norwalk will debut its new stadium and sports complex for tonight’s season-opening game against San Marino – an actual “home” game.

“We don’t have to travel for our ‘home’ game anymore,” Guerrero said. “It’s an actual home game.”

Perhaps Guerrero was dreaming of this night a long time ago when he was first playing on the field as a young player for the Lancers.

Guerrero, who stands 5-8, attended and played at Norwalk from 1989 through graduation in 1993. As a Lancer, he played football and baseball. His specialty was right guard on the offensive line and nose tackle.

Upon graduation, he went through the summer football program at Cerritos College.

“I actually had a good time playing in high school,” Guerrero said. “I was one of those little scrappers. It was my coaches (at Norwalk) that made me play bigger than I was.

“When I was in the Cerritos program, there were some big athletes.”

Norwalk Athletic Director David Snyder said of Guerrero: “It is nice to have an alumnus coaching the very program he played in before our stadium was built. Now he gets to be the first coach in the new stadium.”

Guerrero coaching since 1994

Guerrero has been coaching high school football since 1994. It has been on and off since then.

However, since 2005 he has been consistently coaching, with a three-year break.

“I had coaching stints at John Glenn, St John Bosco and Norwalk High,” Guerrero. “I was fortunate to assist the last three head coaches at NHS.

“I was able to work with Jesse Cenicerros, Otis Harrison and Dean Gray. I’ve taken a little bit of each one of them and tried to instill that here, of all of the values that they have tried to teach the kids, all of the football that they tried to teach the kids, their leadership skills and the way that they’ve conducted themselves as men in a position of this. I’ve taken notes from all three of them and I’m trying to do justice through those three gentlemen as well.”

Guerrero has been teaching in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District for the last 18 years.

He subbed for the first two years, and then spent the next six years at John Glenn teaching Special Education and also coaching baseball.

For the last 10 years he has also been teaching Special Ed at Norwalk High.

“The changes over the years have been quite a sight to see,” Guerrero added. “I was witness to the grassroots movement that began the new facilities renovations.

“I want to first express gratitude for those that



Ruben Guerrero steps in for his his first year as head coach of the Norwalk High School varsity football team as they practice at their new stadium. (Photo by Keith Durlfingler)



Quarterback Caden Barnhill throws a pass during practice as they practice at their new stadium at Norwalk High School. (Photo by Keith Durlfingler)

supported Norwalk’s attainment of facilities renovations. I am very excited for the opportunity to lead the program in the era of the school’s first stadium in its history. It’s surreal and amazing.”

Guerrero succeeds coach Gray

Guerrero succeeds Gray, who retired from coaching after the last season in the spring.

“Coach Guerrero is an incredible teacher and coach,” said Gray, who was in his second stint as coach at Norwalk. “He will do a great job leading our players on the field and in the classroom.”

Guerrero was an assistant for Gray for the last two years and has helped every head coach at Norwalk since he has been there.

“Coach Gray made some recommendations and I applied for the job (head coach) and got it,” said Guerrero, of his hiring in July.

Guerrero, whose son Gabriel, a junior, is on the team as a linebacker, becomes a second generation player for the family.

Guerrero remembers the player’s reaction when they first practiced on the new field recently. “They were grinning ear-to-ear,” he said. “It was a moment of elation. The kids of Norwalk were proud and happy.”

The team had been

practicing down the street this summer at Corvallis Middle School.

“It’s great to see that Norwalk has finally achieved something like this,” he added.

Asked what he was looking forward to seeing for the first game, Guerrero said, “I’m looking forward to the crowd, the alumni, the student body coming out and a wide range of spectators in the stands. There’s been a big buzz around campus.

“It’s been a long journey and nothing happens in an instant. Friday Night Lights at Norwalk, It’ll be awesome.”

Norwalk High, which was founded in 1956, began the sports complex project in 2019 and was funded by a \$375 million Education Bond G Measure passed by Norwalk residents in a 2014 vote.

The stadium was actually used for the first function for the 2021 graduation. “I was there for the graduation and to see the enormity of it was awesome,” Guerrero said.

Norwalk High principal Dr. David Olea said of Guerrero and his new position: “To see Ruben, as an alumni and become our coach, is great. It’s huge and he has come full circle.

“As for the stadium, our community has been waiting for this. It’s time for Norwalk to take a seat at the table. It’s exciting and the one thing that separates Norwalk is the love that our city has. We

have alumni come back to the school. This is a special night and his son (Gabriel Guerrero) is on the team.”

Players to watch

Players to keep an eye out on are: Caden Barnhill, Jr. QB/DB; David Herrera, Jr. RB/DB; Jonathan Goodloe, Sr. RB/DB; Damon Ramirez, Sr. OL/DL; Diego Hernandez, Sr. OL; Christian Lopez, Jr. TE/DE and Daniel Castillo, Jr. FB/LB.

“These are all returning players from last spring,” said Guerrero, of the players to watch for this season. “We’ll look to them for their leadership and they will play huge roles for us this season.”

Damon (Ramirez) will anchor the “O” Line. “He is a real tough kid,” Guerrero said. “When he does well, the kids will feed off of him. Diego (Hernandez) will be the starting center and Christian (Lopez) started as a sophomore.”

The team actually played a scrimmage game on the new field. “We moved the ball well and scored a couple of times,” Guerrero added. “The defense held their ground as well and we feel good about where we’re at so far.”

What they said:

Caden Barnhill, Junior, Quarterback/Free Safety: “It feels amazing and feels great to play for this community and show what we can do this season. It felt great to be on turf again and it’s our field.

“(Ruben) is a great coach and I’m looking forward to throwing the ball and he said he’s going to open it up this year.”

Jonathan Goodloe, Senior, Running back/Strong Safety: “I feel really good this year and it’s my last time on the field and I’m trying to make an impact as a senior on the field. As a senior I want to leave a mark for the juniors. I’m looking forward to come out with a ‘W’.”

David Herrera, Junior, Running Back/Cornerback: “It’s super important to be on this new field. It’s about time that we got our ‘home’, we can say. Since forever, we’ve been playing at Excelsior. My family that used to be on this team played at Excelsior. Now I can say I’m a Lancer and we have our own home stadium. It’s a pretty amazing feeling.

“I had a lot of family that used to play on this team and now it’s my turn. I feel like I have the city on my back.

“It feels great with coach Guerrero and he really pushes us hard and you can tell he really cares about us. It feels like he is a part of this school, since he played here. He’s also a Lancer.”

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