

College forgives \$1.2M in fees

Family of man shot 33 times protests outside sheriff's station

■ The college is using federal relief funds to wipe out the debt, giving students a fresh start.

NORWALK – Cerritos College announced it has distributed \$1.3 million from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to forgive 2,400 unpaid student accounts from summer 2020 through fall 2021.

The college forgave past-due delinquencies to allow students to enroll in classes without penalty, giving them a chance to stay in school.

The campus dismissed unpaid fees related to enrollment, class materials, student representation, and health services for resident, non-resident, and international students.

“We understand the negative impacts the pandemic has had on our students. Over the last two years, students had to abruptly transition from taking classes in person to going online,” said Yvette Tafoya, dean of enrollment services at Cerritos College.

“At the same time, many students lost their jobs and were unable to pay for food, housing, health care, and college expenses. By forgiving delinquent accounts, we put the needs of our students first and eliminated a major financial barrier. We want students to complete the classes they need to graduate or transfer without delaying their progress.

“Aside from dismissing account balances, our Student Services team also implemented several programs to help students succeed, including Falcons Nest Basic Needs, which provides hygiene and food support and The Village for students facing homelessness, among others.”

The American Rescue Plan of 2021 allows institutional HEERF funds to be utilized to reengage students by discharging the complete balance of a student’s institutional debt as lost revenue and reimburse themselves through the HEERF institutional grant.

County hits grim mark

By City News Service

LOS ANGELES – On the day it lifted its outdoor mask-wearing mandate thanks to dwindling COVID-19 hospitalization numbers, Los Angeles County reported another 102 virus-related deaths in its latest data, pushing it over the grim milestone of 30,000 fatalities during the pandemic.

The sobering milestone served as a reminder that the virus was continuing to claim lives, even as restrictions begin to ease locally and statewide in response to falling transmission rates and daily case numbers that signaled an end to the winter surge of infections.

“While entering post-surge is welcoming news, we are all aware that post-surge does not mean the pandemic is over, or that transmission is low, or that there will not be additional unpredictable waves of surges in the future that will require integrated public health measures,” county Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said in a statement.

The 102 deaths reported Wednesday gave the county a pandemic death toll of 30,081.

■ Sheriff’s deputies shot Fredrick Holder 33 times at the conclusion of a pursuit.

By Vincent Medina
Contributor

NORWALK – Friends and family of Fredrick Holder continued their 33-day protest Tuesday in front of the LA County Norwalk Sheriff Station to raise awareness for Holder’s case.

The 28-year-old unarmed Black man was shot by LA County Sheriff deputies Jackie Rojas, Javier Fierros and Christopher Conger on June 23, 2021.

According to the police report, Holder was driving a stolen white utility box truck and was originally noticed for driving recklessly with the tailgate open. After yielding to police, he tried to evade law enforcement and sped away to merge with the Alondra Boulevard intersection of the southbound 605 freeway, but was stopped by traffic.

As officers tried to approach him, Holder allegedly waved a lighter resembling a handgun at the police. The three deputies fired 33 bullets at Holder, with 17 hitting his body.

Holder’s family was angered that law enforcement used that level of firepower, believing there was a safer way to stop him.

“I don’t know why they would use such excessive force,” said Naketia Phillips, Holder’s step-sister. “They said he was a hazard because his hatchback was open, but they fired 33 rounds in the middle of an intersection. They didn’t think that would be hazardous?”

April Holder, Fredrick



Family and friends protest the death of Fredrick Holder outside the Norwalk Sheriff station on Tuesday. Officers shot Holder 17 times in June last year. (Photo by Vincent Medina)

Holder’s mother, also waved signs protesting the death of her son and acknowledging that he was driving a vehicle that did not belong to him.

“Regardless of what my son did, he did not deserve to be shot at 33 times. He did not deserve to be shot 17 times,” said April Holder.

The protesters organized the protest to be 33 days long, one day for each bullet the police fired at the young man.

Holder’s family is also calling for the three deputies to be held accountable for their actions and for law enforcement to use better methods of keeping people safe.

LA County Sheriff Alex Villanueva addressed the family’s concerns at a recent Norwalk city hall meeting, saying that the investigation into the incident is still ongoing.

“There’s a process to do everything, alright? We don’t skip a process to satisfy someone’s demand,” said Villanueva. “We do not skip a process. Understand this, everyone is entitled to due process.”

“The case has been in effect for nine months and nothing has happened,” said Phillips. “It still hasn’t reached the DA’s desk.”

Holder left behind his 17-month-old son, Raymire

Holder, and girlfriend Raylene Johnson

“I’m going to miss seeing his face,” said April Holder, holding back tears. “I’m going to miss his phone calls and when he used to pop by my house.”

This Friday, the Holder family plans to invite local high schools to the protest to voice their concerns with local law enforcement.

They also plan to continue demonstrating every day until March 8, when they will protest at the Alondra Boulevard intersection to the 605 Freeway.

Recall effort against Downey councilwoman fails

■ Organizers were 35 signatures short in their efforts to recall Councilwoman Catherine Alvarez.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – The campaign to recall Downey Councilwoman Catherine Alvarez failed to collect the number of verified signatures needed to bring it to ballot, though organizers said they intend to appeal the count.

To have been successful, 3,454 signatures – or 20% of registered voters in District 3 – would have been needed to be collected and verified by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder’s Office.

Recall volunteers submitted 4,016 signatures on Jan. 4, believing they had enough of a buffer for success. However, the

final tally came up 35 shy, with only 3,419 approved signatures.

Alvarez was elected in November 2020 and was later criticized for not disclosing her criminal record before the election.

Despite its failure, representatives of the recall have made it clear that they intend to continue to pursue the councilwoman’s removal.

“While disappointing, the fact that only an additional 35 signatures were needed is huge. People in her district want Catherine Alvarez out of office! Over 4,000 signatures were collected. It speaks volumes and encourages our team of volunteers to keep on going and never give up,” recall proponents said in a statement to the Downey Patriot.

“This only confirmed what we thought, that Downey residents are not happy having somebody

with a criminal record like Catherine Alvarez representing them at City Hall. With her welfare fraud conviction, ban from Michael’s in Downey Landing for shoplifting and troubled history of harassment and intimidation at people’s homes late at night, we are determined to maintain the momentum.

“Since we were only 35 votes short (from over 4,000) we will appeal the verification of signatures and move forward. Our grassroots effort was slow in late 2021 due to the holidays, weather, COVID and will now be able to dedicate our efforts to regroup and proceed to gather the additional signatures needed. Downey residents in her district are frustrated. They now know the facts about who she is and her criminal record. It will be easier and faster now to build support from the community and to collect more signatures.

“Our commitment to Downey



residents is to let them decide after knowing about her criminal past. We deserve an honest and ethical council person and we know our residents want the same. We won’t stop.”

Man faces charges for Whittier hills fire

WHITTIER – Arraignment was postponed Tuesday until next week for a man charged with arson counts stemming from a fire in the Whittier area that destroyed two homes and severely damaged four others amid Santa Ana winds.

Kevin Whitlock, 55, is due to appear at Downey Superior Court on Feb. 22 on six counts of arson of an inhabited structure or property and one count each of arson of property of another and arson of a structure or forest, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office.

The fire was reported at about 2:30 p.m. Thursday near Cinco View Drive and East Banyon Rim Drive, according to the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Whitlock allegedly started the blaze above a small trail in a brush area below the rim of several houses on two streets, according to the District Attorney’s Office. The fire quickly spread up the hill aided by windy conditions, destroying two homes, damaging four others and causing fire damage to the back yard of another home, according to

prosecutors.

Fixed-wing aircraft and more than 200 firefighters were sent to battle the flames, which had quickly engulfed one home and then spread to several others.

The suspect was found on a hiking trail with a “non-lethal” burn injury and was taken to a hospital, authorities said.

Whitlock was subsequently arrested and remains jailed in lieu of \$500,000 bail, according to jail records.

The fire was 100% contained by Thursday night, the fire department reported.

“This fire could have had fatal consequences and even though it didn’t, there was tremendous loss for several families due to the unnecessary actions of one individual,” District Attorney George Gascón said in a statement Monday shortly after the charges were filed.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday	76°	
Saturday	73°	
Sunday	67°	

THINGS TO DO



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ON THIS DAY FEBRUARY 18

1564

The artist Michelangelo died in Rome.

1885

“The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” by Mark Twain was published.

1930

Photographic evidence of Pluto was discovered by Clyde W. Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Ariz.

1953

“Bwana Devil,” the movie that heralded the 3-D fad of the 1950s, opened in New York City.

1957

Walter James Bolton became the last person legally executed in New Zealand.

1960

The eighth Winter Olympic Games opened in Squaw Valley, Calif.

1972

The California Supreme Court struck down the state’s death penalty.

2001

Auto racing star Dale Earnhardt Sr., 49, died from injuries suffered in a crash at the Daytona 500.

2001

Veteran FBI agent Robert Hanssen was arrested, accused of spying for Russia for more than 15 years. (Hanssen pleaded guilty and is serving life in prison without parole.)

2006

American Shani Davis won the men’s 1,000-meter speedskating in Turin, becoming the first black athlete to win an individual gold medal in Winter Olympic history.



2010

WikiLeaks published the first of hundreds of thousands of classified documents disclosed by the soldier now known as Chelsea Manning.

2013

Armed robbers stole a haul of diamonds worth \$50 million during a raid at Brussels Airport in Belgium.

Birthdays

Activist **Yoko Ono** (89), actor **John Travolta** (68), “Price is Right” letter-turner **Vanna White** (65), actor **Matt Dillon** (58), rapper and producer **Dr. Dre** (57), actress **Molly Ringwald** (54), fitness trainer **Jillian Michaels** (48), folk singer **Regina Spektor** (42), and BTS boy band member **JHope** (28).

After hiatus, Easter Caravan returns this spring

Thousands of Downey middle school students have gone through the camp, experiencing outdoor adventures where cell phone signals can't reach.

By Carol Kearns Contributor

DOWNEY - The renowned Easter Caravan outdoor adventure for boys is returning this year, April 9-16, and organizers are keen to alert Downey families.

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, Easter Caravan is once again taking applications from Downey boys in middle school and ninth grade. Space is limited to 60 campers with slots allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis. The fee is \$100 and scholarships are available.

The campsite is part of a federal recreation area along Lake Mojave near the Colorado River, just north of Davis Dam. The boys sleep in individual tents, the federal government maintains three outhouses, and supplies are available in Bullhead City—15 miles away.

While there may not be cellphone service, activities include 21st-century fun. In addition to the traditional camping, hiking, and fishing, the young campers can enjoy water skiing, wake boarding, boating, inner tubing, kayaking, and mountain biking.

"It's a very beautiful area," says Tod Corrin, former board member of the Downey Unified School District and Caravan organizer since its inception in 1973. "There's canyons and hills, large bushes, a few cottonwood trees on the edge of the lake. We're exposing kids to a wonderful area of nature."

This year is Corrin's 50th anniversary as organizer. He was a young man in his early twenties when the first Caravan set out. For six years he led the group as a paid staff member of the Downey Family YMCA. Seeing the impact on the lives of young boys was such a moving experience for Corrin that he has continued leading the annual excursion as a volunteer for over forty years.

"I get more out of it than the kids every single year," Corrin affirms. "Kids have experiences they've never had before, and they come back telling their families how wonderful it was." He describes seeing someone at a store or business who would ask if he "was the guy who does Easter Caravan?"

"It was so enjoyable," Corrin continues, "to see these kids who were older, in their teens, their twenties, their thirties, and they would say, 'That was the best experience of my life. I had a great time at Easter Caravan.' And that's exactly why I still do it."

Corrin's all-volunteer leadership team shares his feelings and many return annually to assist with the event even if they have moved out of state.

The camp's focus is on middle school students, Corrin explains, because "the kids are very impressionable. They're looking for what their direction in life is going to be." He believes that offering new experiences and the opportunity to interact with adult staff who are successful will help the boys make good decisions in life.

Camp supervision, with eight directors and 34 counselors, approaches a 1:1 ratio of supervisors to campers. In addition, there are 15 junior counselors, high school students from tenth through twelfth grade.

"They go as a training

experience," says Corrin, "so hopefully they will be a counselor someday."

Doty Middle School teacher Gordon Sodetani first attended as a sixth-grader in 2008. When his father died unexpectedly, his mother grew concerned about having male role models in his life.

"I instantly fell in love with it," says Sodetani, referring to the camp. "I went all four years, I got all my friends to go, and it had a profound impact on my life."

Sodetani continued on as a junior counselor in high school, and then as a counselor when he started college. Since first participating as a sixth-grader, Sodetani has missed only one year of Easter Caravan.

"The takeaway for me," explains Sodetani, "is that it fills a void of not having a male role model. Many kids have similar stories like me. They come from single-parent households, maybe for a variety of reasons. It gives them an opportunity to interact with people who will take the time to listen to them and hear their story. At the end of the day, most of those kids just want to be heard and know that someone cares."

A Family Tradition

The Easter Caravan has become a tradition for Corrin's entire family. Corrin's two sons, Philip and Benjamin, use vacation time from their jobs to serve as staff even though they live in Texas.

"Both my sons attended as tagalongs when they were little," says Corrin. "They also attended all four years when they were eligible as campers, then as junior counselors, and then counselors." This year Corrin says his grandson will also be attending as a tagalong.



Easter Caravan campers in 2019. The Downey Foundation for Educational Opportunities is bringing back Easter Caravan this April. (Courtesy photo)

The annual funding for Easter Caravan reflects the broad support among current and past residents of Downey. Corrin estimates the yearly budget for items like food and transportation (labor is volunteered) at \$25,000. Only \$6,000 is collected from camperships. Corrin says the balance of the money raised each year comes largely from individuals connected with Downey.

Up until two years ago, the Easter Caravan operated with the Downey Family YMCA as the organizing sponsor. When the YMCA could no longer continue in this role, Caravan organizers approached the Downey Foundation for Educational Opportunity (DFEO), which has an office at the school district headquarters.

Sheila Tetangco-Bartolone, DFEO's executive director, says the foundation quickly agreed to be the organizing sponsor.

"We said absolutely," she reports. "We'll help you and advertise for you and get the word out because we believe clearly that this is such an important thing for young boys. Our mission is to do everything we can to prepare our DUSD students to be successful individuals and this just fell right in."

Downey school board member Martha Sodetani encourages parents and teachers to refer young boys to the program who might benefit, even if the family does not have the funds. Gangs Out of Downey



Tod Corrin, left, and Gordon Sodetani.

(GOOD) and RMI International (a local company) together sponsor 13 camperships.

"I can be contacted at msodetani@gmail.com," offers Sodetani.

COVID virus vaccinations are not required for students to participate, and masks are not required at the outdoor camp. But as a precaution, Corrin says campers and staff will be asked

to wear masks while traveling on buses.

Interested families can see pictures of the Easter Caravan experience and learn more details on the website EasterCaravan.com. Information and application forms are also available at DFEO.org/ecaravan.

Boyle Heights street to be renamed after Vicente Fernández

A stretch of roadway near Mariachi Plaza will be renamed in honor of the Mexican singing legend.

By City News Service

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles City Council voted Tuesday to rename a Boyle Heights street, east of Mariachi Plaza, after Mexican singer Vicente "Chente" Fernández, who died at the age of 81 on Dec. 12.

Councilman Kevin de León introduced the motion on Jan. 12 to begin the process of having Bailey Street, from First Street to Pennsylvania Avenue, changed to "Vicente Fernández Street."

The councilman called Fernández a "cultural icon," adding that his "music and talent impacted generations of Latinos, not only in his native homeland of Mexico, but across the globe."

David Silvas, the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council's

vice president and chair of its Planning and Land Use Committee, submitted a letter to the City Council's Public Works Committee on Feb. 7 to oppose the motion to name the street for Fernández, citing a comment Fernández made during an interview in which he said he refused a liver transplant because he didn't know if the donor was homosexual or addicted to drugs. Silvas also noted reports of Fernández being accused of inappropriately touching women.

In his letter, Silvas said naming the street for Fernández would be "insulting and denigrating to the LGBTQ+ community and anyone facing the struggles of addiction" as well as "victims of sexual abuse."

De León's communications director Pete Brown told City News Service after Tuesday's vote that the councilman has received "an outpouring of support" from the Boyle Heights community for renaming the street.

The motion also received support from the Mariachi Plaza Festival Foundation, the nonprofit that supports Mariachi Plaza.

During his more than six decades playing music, Fernández was recognized with three Grammy Awards, nine Latin Grammy Awards and 14 Lo Nuestro Awards. He also received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and sold more than 50 million albums worldwide.

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Banning 'no-knock' search warrants

By Jacob Sullum

The Minneapolis police officers who killed Amir Locke stormed into the apartment where he was sleeping before dawn on Feb. 2, shouting orders. They said they took that approach to "decrease the risk for injuries."

That strategy is dubious even when cops are confident that the home they are invading is occupied only by criminal suspects. It is beyond reckless when they have no idea who might be there, especially in a country where citizens have a constitutional right to armed self-defense.

Locke, a 22-year-old aspiring hip-hop artist who was planning a move to Dallas, was staying with his cousin in the meantime. The Minneapolis SWAT officers who woke him up that morning as he slept on his cousin's couch were assisting the St. Paul Police Department by serving a "no-knock" search warrant seeking evidence for a homicide investigation in which Locke was not a suspect.

Body camera video shows the officers quietly unlocking the door to the apartment at 6:48 a.m. before charging in while shouting, "Police — search warrant!" and, "Get on the ground!" An officer kicks the sofa where Locke is sleeping under a blanket, which seems to rouse him.

Seeing a gun in Locke's hand, Officer Mark Hanneman immediately fires three shots. Nine seconds have elapsed since the cops entered the apartment.

The Minneapolis Police Department claimed Locke pointed his gun

"in the direction of officers." But the video shows the gun pointed toward the floor with Locke's index finger on the barrel rather than the trigger.

Here is how Benjamin Crump, a lawyer representing Locke's family, summed up the situation: "Strange people bust in his house, awaken him from his sleep, and he reached for his weapon, which he had a Second Amendment right to, to defend himself." Locke's father said, "Amir did what ... any reasonable, law-abiding citizen would do to protect himself."

Rob Doar, a senior vice president at the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, agreed. "Mr. Locke did what many of us might do in the same confusing circumstances," Doar said. "He reached for a legal means of self-defense while he sought to understand what was happening."

Interim Minneapolis Police Chief Amelia Huffman suggested that Hanneman's decision to shoot Locke was likewise reasonable in the circumstances. "The officer had to make a split-second decision," she said, based on his assessment of whether "he needed to take action right then to protect himself and his partners."

If this situation sounds familiar, that's because the same basic scenario has been playing out in cities across the country for years. Cops who burst into a home, hoping a sudden, overwhelming and discomfobulating show of force will "decrease the risk for injuries," can easily be mistaken for violent criminals.

That's what happened during the 2020 Louisville, Kentucky, drug raid that killed Breonna Taylor, an unarmed 26-year-old EMT who, like Locke,

had no criminal record. Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, responded to the middle-of-the-night home invasion by grabbing a gun and firing a shot at the intruders, which provoked the hail of bullets that killed Taylor.

Local prosecutors initially charged Walker with attempted murder of a police officer but dropped that charge a couple of months later, implicitly recognizing that Walker had a strong self-defense claim. At the same time, prosecutors concluded that charges against the officers who killed Taylor were not justified, and Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron concurred that they too had acted in self-defense.

To avoid lethal confrontations like these, reformers frequently propose banning or restricting no-knock warrants. But the Taylor case shows that solution is inadequate.

The Louisville cops banged on the door of Taylor's apartment for about 30 seconds before breaking in and claimed they also announced themselves. She and Walker still did not realize the intruders were police officers.

What's needed is a fundamental reevaluation of "dynamic entry" tactics, which should be reserved for life-or-death emergencies. Routinely deploying them when police execute search warrants is an invitation to tragedies like Locke's senseless death.

Jacob Sullum is a senior editor at Reason magazine.

Democrats' hypocrisy is showing

By Larry Elder

When President Donald Trump, in October 2019, ordered a successful takedown of top Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, Democrats and even the anti-Trump media celebrated the death of the terror leader. But top leaders of the Democratic party still chastised Trump for failing to notify top congressional Democrats of the impending strike.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi issued the following statement: "The House must be briefed on this raid, which the Russians but not top congressional leadership were notified of in advance, and on the administration's overall strategy in the region. Our military and allies deserve strong, smart and strategic leadership from Washington."

Trump did inform two Republican leaders of the strike, but admitted he completely excluded Democrats, including Pelosi. As to informing Pelosi, Trump said: "No, I didn't. I didn't do that. I wanted to make sure this kept secret. I don't want to have men lost, and women. I don't want to have people lost."

He also said: "(I was) going to notify (congressional leaders) last night, but we decided not to do that, because Washington leaks like I've never seen before. Washington is a leaking machine. And I told my people, we will not notify them until our great people are out — not just in, but out. I don't want to have them greeted with firepower like you

wouldn't believe."

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam B. Schiff, D-Calif., called Trump's lack of notice "a mistake." Schiff said, "In terms of notifying the Gang of Eight, that wasn't done," referring to the leaders of both parties in the House, the Senate and their Intelligence Committees.

And according to former National Security Adviser Susan Rice, Trump also broke protocol by not informing his predecessor of the elimination of this ISIS leader. Rice said: "There is a tradition of common courtesy of presidents informing their predecessors of things of significance like this. Since the White House seemingly didn't feel it necessary to inform the leadership of the intelligence committees on a bipartisan basis, I'm quite confident that they didn't do the normal protocol with respect to predecessors either."

That was then.

Last week President Joe Biden ordered a strike that killed al-Baghdadi's successor, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi.

Did Biden, pre-strike, notify top congressional leaders or give former President Donald Trump an advance warning? The same Democrats who criticized Trump said nothing about whether they received notice of the strike. But it appears that Biden, like Trump, kept House intelligence leaders in the dark.

The Washington Post wrote: "A House Intelligence committee official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, said Thursday that the committee was not notified before the Syria mission 'and will ask for additional information from the administration on that decision.'"

What about Pelosi? The Post said: "Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., on Thursday morning to inform her about the Syria mission, according to Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill. It is unclear whether Milley's call to Pelosi came before or after the strike."

Whether Pelosi received notification before or after the strike, given her criticism of Trump, seems awfully relevant. But Dems and the media appear blase about the difference.

Did Biden, like Trump, worry about leaks from congressional intel leaders, including Democrats like Pelosi and Schiff? Did Biden, like Trump, fail to follow what Rice called "the tradition of common courtesy" by notifying his predecessor, the man the Biden administration calls "the former president," of the impending strike against the IS leader?

Who knows? And it appears that neither Democratic intel leaders nor the pro-Biden media care to find out or even to ask. Oh, what a difference a Democratic administration makes.

Larry Elder is a bestselling author and talk radio host.

Shredder-in-Chief

By Jeff Robbins

Until last week the most uproarious explanation ever offered for the disappearance of evidence in the possession of an American president involved the erasure of 18 1/2 minutes of Richard Nixon's tape recording of a key White House meeting he had about the Watergate break-in just after it took place. The tape of Nixon's meeting about the break-in was subpoenaed, which led to the darndest discovery: a large portion of the tape was missing, and Nixon had no explanation for what in the heck had happened to it.

His longtime secretary, Rose Mary Woods, loyally volunteered to offer reporters a theory of how she might have accidentally destroyed a portion of the tape. While reviewing the tape at Nixon's request, she speculated, she might have inadvertently placed her foot on a pedal that erased the tape while keeping her foot there for an extended period of time, stretching the rest of her body several feet in the opposite direction to answer the phone. While attempting to demonstrate this, however, what she demonstrated was that no circus performer on earth could have kept foot and torso virtually in separate rooms for 10 seconds, let alone the length of time she professed. Woods' claim of truly superhuman elasticity led the late Rep. Al Lowenstein to dub her "Miss Glue-Shoes The Contortionist" and, indeed, her valiant attempt to take the fall for Somebody Else was later found by forensic testing to be impossible.

Last week's revelations about plumbing problems at 1600

Pennsylvania Ave. trumped the Rose Mary Woods Stretch in more ways than one. So very much about former President Donald Trump was so very clearly amiss that his fixation on problematic toilet-flushing was far down a long list of concerns about him. "People are flushing toilets 10 times, 15 times, as opposed to one," the leader of the free world proclaimed from the Roosevelt Room. "Ten times, right, 10 times," he told a rally. "Not me, of course, not me. But you," he said, no doubt mystifying a crowd of Make America Greaters. "I won't talk about the fact that people have to flush their toilets 15 times," Trump assured another crowd, thereby talking about it.

It seemed fair even at the time to wonder what in God's name would lead the president of the United States to publicly mention even once his concerns about having to flush a toilet multiple times before dispatching whatever was in the bowl, let alone to return to the subject repeatedly. The explanation for why flushing troubles were so often top of Trump's mind may have arrived with news that journalist Maggie Haberman's forthcoming book reports that White House staff would find wads of printed paper clogging a toilet used by Trump and concluded that he flushed government documents therein. Trump denies this, trotting out the usual "fake news" line, but he does not enjoy a great deal of credibility on any subject, much less on subjects involving himself.

Trump's credibility was not helped by a Washington Post report that he regularly tore up briefing materials, letters and memos, or by a former

White House staffer's on-the-record disclosure that Trump "loved to tear up those documents" and that she observed him eat the pieces of documents he had just ripped up.

And Trump's attempts to destroy or otherwise make unavailable government documents appear to have been wholesale rather than merely retail. Late last week the National Archives and Records Administration said that it had retrieved 15 boxes of White House records that were supposed to have been transferred to the National Archives when Trump left office, but that instead were taken to Mar-a-Lago. Like the flushing, the ripping and the eating of documents, this is more than a fetish or a penchant for hiding information that the former guy doesn't want anyone to see. It's an apparent violation of federal law.

"Lock her up," Donald Trump would cry about Hillary Clinton's improper handling of government emails.

Just sayin'.

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.

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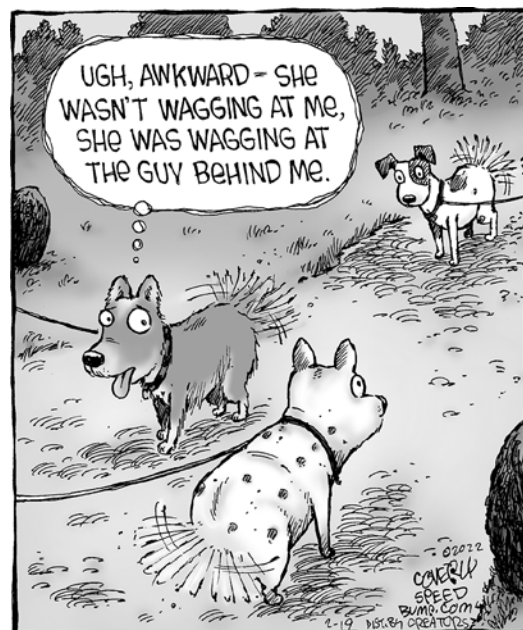
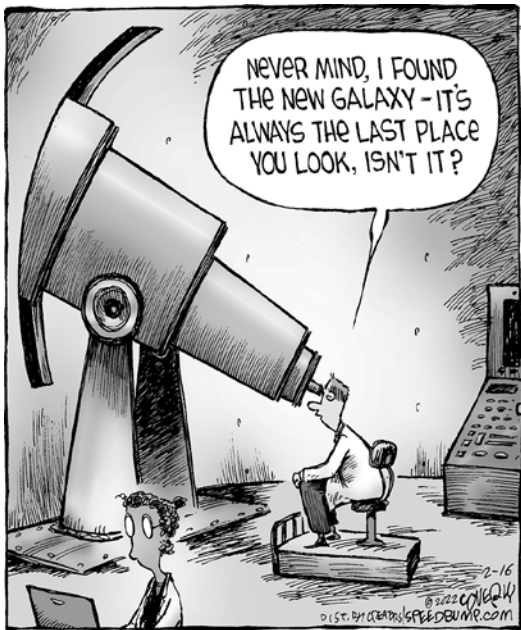
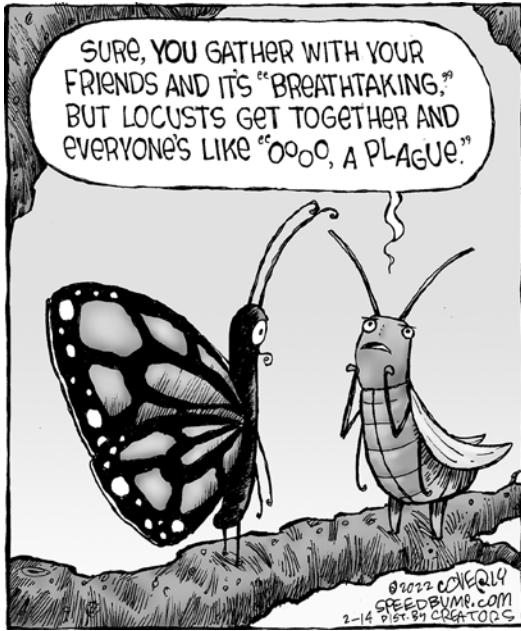
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Norwalk Community Calendar

MONDAYS

1st Mon., 6 pm - Public Safety meetings - Council Chambers
 2nd Mon., 7 pm - Relay for Life meetings - Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant

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

WEDNESDAYS

1st & 3rd Wed., 7 pm - Lions Club - Bruce's Restaurant
 2nd Wed., 10:30 am - Norwalk Woman's Club - Faith Church
 2nd & 4th Wed., 1:30 pm - Alondra Senior Citizens - Social Services Center
 2nd & 4th Wed., 6 pm - Soroptimist International - Via Zoom
 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., 6 pm - 605 Kiwanis Club - Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant
 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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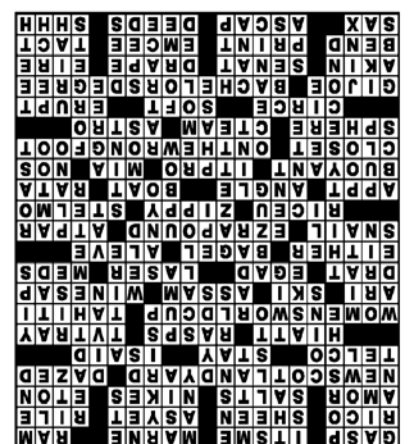
THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
 ULTIMATE MEASURES: Time, weight, etc.
 by Billie Truitt

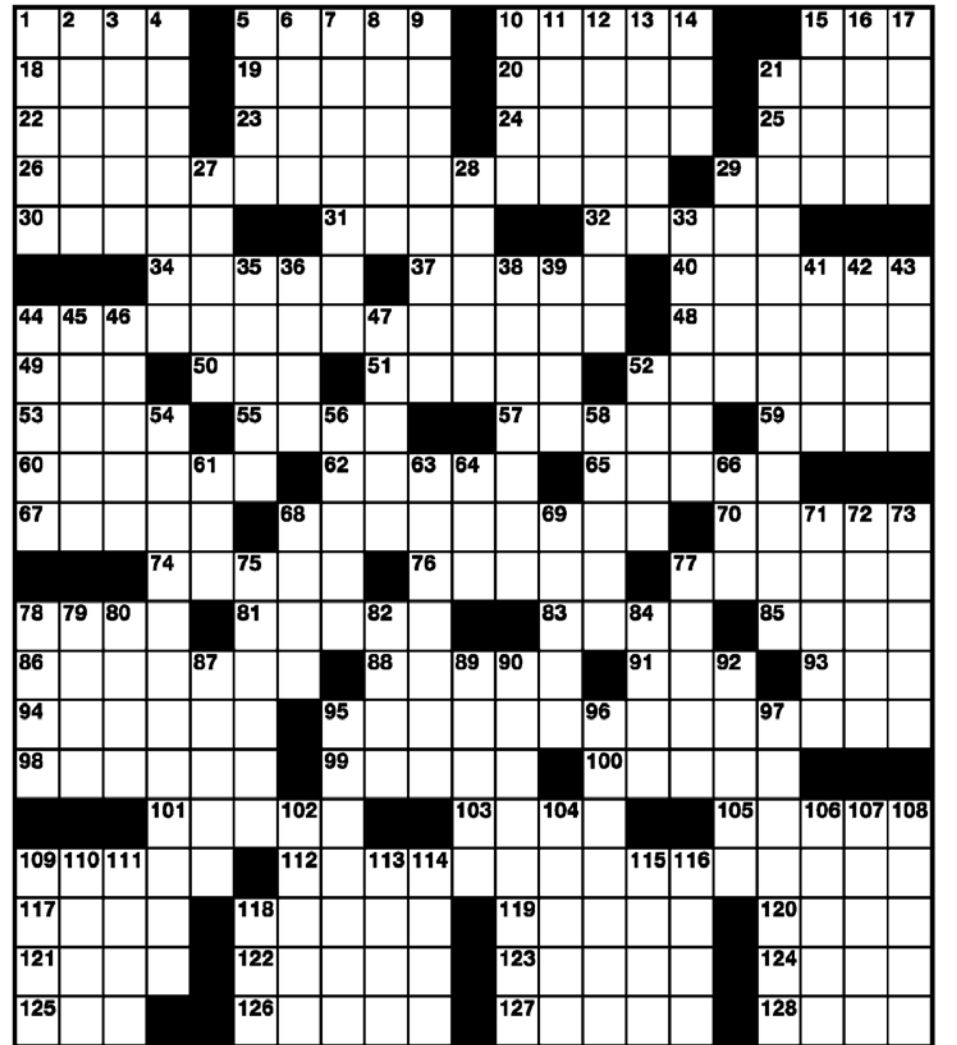
You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at www.StanXwords.com

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Reach Stan Newman at www.StanXwords.com

LEGALS

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St. Paul boys basketball advances to CIF quarterfinals

■ John Glenn, La Mirada boys also advance to the quarterfinals.

By John M. Sherrard Contributor

SANTA FE SPRINGS - For the second year in a row, the St. Paul Boys Basketball team has advanced to the CIF-Southern Section quarterfinals with a 66-60 win over the visiting Hillcrest Trojans Tuesday (Feb. 15).

With their 11th consecutive win, the Swordsmen upped their record to 21-9, while Hillcrest ends its season at 16-14.

St. Paul will travel to El Dorado (21-9), a 49-44 winner over Crescenta Valley, Friday (Feb. 18) for the chance to advance to the semifinals.

Leading the way for the Swordsmen was senior forward Danny Patton with 18 points, while senior forward Dorian Tate had 15.

Allen Moser scored 13 and Jordan Williams had nine points for St. Paul.

After a close first half, with the Swordsmen leading, 34-21, Hillcrest outscored St. Paul, 20-16, to lead by nine after three, 50-41.

The Trojans continued the pressure in the fourth quarter as they again outscored St. Paul, 19-16, but fell short in the game by six points.

Hillcrest was led by 6-6 forward Deshawn Gory with 18 points.

Swordsmen defeat Cathedral

After a perfect 8-0 record in the Camino Real League, the Swordsmen opened the playoffs with a convincing, 67-49, victory over the Cathedral Phantoms in the first round.

"We struggled at the beginning of the season and had a bumpy season so far," St. Paul Boys Basketball coach Patrick Roy said. "We've won our last nine or 10 (10) basketball games and I'm pleased with the way the players are playing right now. All we can do is get better."

After a close first half, with the Swordsmen holding a three-point halftime lead, 24-21, the third quarter was a different story.

The Swordsmen nearly doubled the output of the Phantoms, 24-13, to take a 48-34 lead heading into the final quarter.

"We were just able to hit some shots and had better ball movement in the quarter," said Roy, of the big third quarter. "We were able to hit a couple of layups and I thought that's what really got us going first."

The Cathedral players made a couple of long-range shots in the game, but Roy explained to the team they couldn't keep up that pace.

"They hit us for a couple of 20-25 footers and made some baskets and I just told the kids

to just lock down and they're not going to continue to make 35-footers all night, so I said, 'just make sure we can be stronger on the defensive glass and go down and score'."

St. Paul's 7-2 center Sidy Diallo explained how the team came out motivated after Cathedral had hung around in the first half scoring.

"We got in during halftime and the coach was motivating us," Diallo said. "The game was close and this was a team we could beat, because we have more talent and we have a way better team. That's why we had a strong third quarter."

"I always have good defense. I don't score a lot, but on defense I'm always active."

Cathedral was led by 6-8 center Damarion Pouncil with a game-high 21 points.

What they said:

Allen Moser, St. Paul 6-2 senior guard: "We made an adjustment at halftime and picked it up on the defensive end. We wanted to focus on defense and focus on their best player."

"The coaching did great in this game."

St. Paul girls end playoff run

The Lady Swordsmen opened the D1 playoffs with a 58-43 win over San Clemente, with freshman forward Gloria Barrera scoring a game-high 25 points, while sophomore guard Loretta Aguirre-Colmenero had 10 points. Included in her scoring were two 3-pointers.

Junior forward Danielle Alvarez added eight points, which also included two 3-pointers.

In the second-round game at North Torrance, St Paul fell by just five points, 58-53.

With the loss, the Swordsmen finish up with a 20-6 record.

"I am so proud of this team," St. Paul Girls coach Rich Avina said. "They always played through adversity, always played hard and always played fearless. Although it is tough to end with a loss, I can't help but to think about how bright this teams' future is."

Leading the way again was Barrera with a game-high 26 points, followed by sophomore guard Syri Prevo with 10 points.

Aguirre-Colmenero added eight points (two 3-pointers).

Throughout the four quarters, the game was never separated by much. North had a two-point, 16-14, lead after one and St. Paul outscored North, 14-11 in the second quarter and took a 28-27 lead into the locker room.

The second half was more of the same with North retaking the lead in the third quarter, 41-39.

La Mirada boys to the quarters

The Matadores (16-13), who are on a nine-game winning streak, easily defeated Beckman,



St. Paul's Allen Moser (24) goes up for a shot as they play Cathedral in their first round CIF boys basketball playoff game at St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs on Friday. (Photo by Keith Durflinger)



St. Paul's Jordan Williams (1) battles with a Cathedral player in their first round CIF boys basketball playoff game at St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs on Friday. (Photo by Keith Durflinger)

95-64 in the opening round and followed that with a two-point, 52-50 win over Tesoro.

La Mirada will host Calabasas (21-5) Friday (Feb. 18) night.

Santa Fe boys bow out in second round

The Chiefs (12-14), who won

their opening-round game, 60-45, over Costa Mesa, fell in the second round, 64-55, to University High.

Glenn boys to the quarters

With two wins in the playoffs in D5A for the team with a short bench, school history is being

made for the Eagles.

The Eagles (15-12) defeated River Springs, 55-24 in the first round and Hawthorne MSA, 61-58, in the second round to advance to Friday's quarterfinals against top-seeded Fontana (22-5).

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