

## Post office renamed for Army veteran

■ Whittier's Michigan Avenue post office was renamed Wednesday in honor of Vietnam War veteran Jose Ramos.

By City News Service

**WHITTIER** - The Whittier Post Office was officially renamed the Jose Ramos Post Office during a ceremony Wednesday to honor the late, decorated Army combat medic who worked to establish a day honoring veterans of the Vietnam War in which he served.

Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-Norwalk -- who introduced the bill to rename the building at 8520 Michigan Ave., following Ramos' death in 2017 from pancreatic cancer -- presided over the ceremony, unveiling a gray-and-white plaque that will adorn the facility, along with a framed proclamation.

She was joined by members of the Ramos family and local veterans.

"Every single person who serves this country in uniform deserves a hero's welcome when they return home," Sanchez said Wednesday.

"No one believed in that more than Jose Ramos. Throughout our years of working together, Jose was a true partner and friend. Renaming the Whittier Post Office in his honor is a small token of gratitude from this community and from our entire nation.

"I am proud to formally announce and celebrate the Jose G. Ramos Post Office today."

Then-President Donald Trump signed Sanchez's bill honoring Ramos into law on Dec. 13, 2019.

Sanchez, when she announced her intent to introduce the bill in April 2019, called the former Whittier resident -- a 1968 Purple Heart recipient -- "a powerful advocate for veterans in our community, in our state and across the country."

After the war, Ramos worked at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center and Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital.

Ramos retired in 1999 and spent much of his time advocating on behalf of veterans. As a result of Ramos' efforts, many states, including California, have established March 29 or 30 as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

"Mr. Ramos bravely served our country in the Vietnam War as an Army combat medic, earning a Purple Heart," Sanchez said in 2019. "Like far too many veterans returning home, he was caught in the crossfire of public debate surrounding the Vietnam War.

"Years later, he made it his mission to advocate for his fellow servicemembers and inspired me to introduce legislation that would establish a national Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."

Ramos was born in East Los Angeles and enlisted in the Army in 1965, while a sophomore at Garfield High School.

"Upon returning home, he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, yet his passion and commitment to our country and his fellow service members did not end," Sanchez said in 2019.

"Many of our veterans at the time found themselves caught in and confused by the crossfire of the public debate over the war in Vietnam. At times, some faced sharp criticism and isolation.

"Mr. Ramos saw this and decided to do something about it. He dedicated his time delivering a message of his experience and those of his fellow veterans to those that would listen at universities, schools and prisons."

## Lawsuit seeks Archuleta records as police officer

■ State Sen. Bob Archuleta, a former police officer, is being sued by a former staffer who is accusing him of sexual harassment.

By City News Service

**NORWALK** - Lawyers for a female former employee of Sen. Bob Archuleta, D-Norwalk -- who is suing the 76-year-old state legislator for sexual harassment -- want a judge to allow them to examine any similar complaints filed against the politician when he was a Montebello police officer.

The woman is identified only as Jane Doe in the Los Angeles Superior Court lawsuit, which was filed in March 2021 and also names as defendants the state of California and the state Senate. She alleges whistleblower retaliation, intentional infliction of emotional distress and various state Labor Code violations, and is seeking unspecified damages.

In new court papers filed Monday with Judge Rupert A. Byrdson, the plaintiff's attorneys are asking the city of Montebello to release information on any complaints made against Archuleta when he was a member of the police department.

"Here, Sen. Archuleta has publicly decreed, 'I would never knowingly mistreat or disrespect a female employee,'" Doe's attorneys state in their court papers. "The information sought would test the credence of such. Certainly, the allegations in Doe's complaint do

just that.

Archuleta, who served on the Pico Rivera City Council before being elected to the state Senate in 2018, previously released a statement calling Doe's allegations "completely and categorically false."

"My entire career, I have supported the right of every Californian to feel safe, valued and protected in the workplace," the statement read. "While I would never knowingly mistreat or disrespect a female employee, I believe in their absolute right to come forward and be heard if and when they believe that standard has been violated."

Doe's lawyers are specifically seeking release from the MPD records of any sexual harassment, gender-based impropriety or physical contact complaints against Archuleta.

"The requested documents will ... reveal the number of complaints filed against Sen. Archuleta, if any, and why any such complaints were made," Doe's attorneys state in their court papers.

The documents sought can be used to substantiate claims that others have been subjected to similar treatment, Doe's lawyers argue in their court papers.

According to the lawsuit, Archuleta sought out Doe in February 2019 "under the guise of prospective employment" in the senator's office.

"With high hopes of helping the 32nd Senate District ... she jumped at the opportunity to meet with the senator," the suit states.



Bob Archuleta, Norwalk's state Senate representative, is the subject of a sexual harassment lawsuit.

During her first interactions with Archuleta, she tried to share the positive experience she enjoyed while working for another politician, but the senator replied, "I don't care about that. I am Sen. Archuleta and we're going to do it my way," the suit alleges.

Archuleta told Doe to keep their meeting confidential and asked her for her resume before subsequently hiring her, according to the plaintiff.

The lawsuit states that Doe openly complained of unwanted sexual advances and touching by Archuleta, including him grabbing her arm in public, as well as the way she was treated in the office because she was a woman.

Archuleta once described to Doe an affair he had with a married flight attendant and how on another occasion he "hit on" a local elected official who turned out to be a part of the LGBTQ community, according to Doe's new court papers.

"After Doe complained of Archuleta's mistreatment of her and rebuffed his unwanted advances, she experienced retaliation," according to the suit, which says her role in the office was vastly minimized and she was warned about "insubordination."

A hearing on the request for the MPD records is scheduled May 5.

## Norwalk, Downey drop mask mandates on buses

■ Face coverings are now only strongly encouraged (but not required) after a federal judge's ruling.

By Eric Pierce Editor

**NORWALK** - Mask-wearing mandates on Southland rail and bus lines -- including in Norwalk -- were slowly lifted Tuesday in response to a federal judge's ruling, with face coverings now being deemed a strong recommendation rather than a requirement.

After continuing to enforce the mask requirement on its buses and trains for much of the day, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced late Tuesday afternoon it was scrapping the mandate for passengers and drivers.

"However, it is important to recognize that we still live in a pandemic, thus face masks will continue to be strongly recommended on public transit to keep ourselves and those around us safe," County Supervisor Hilda Solis, who chairs the Metro Board of Directors, said in a statement. "I urge our residents to continue to remain vigilant and look out for one another as we move forward."

Mask-wearing requirements on transit operations were thrown into doubt Monday when U.S. District Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle in Florida issued a ruling saying the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had exceeded its authority by mandating face coverings on mass transportation.

Downey responded by lifting its mask mandate on local transit, including Downey Link and Downey Dial-a-Ride.

Norwalk dropped its mask requirements as well.

"Norwalk Transit will no longer require face masks to be worn on NTS buses," Norwalk's Executive Director of Regional Transportation James C. Parker said in a statement. "However, based on guidance from



Passengers are no longer required to wear face coverings on city-operated buses in Downey and Norwalk. (Photo by Eric Pierce)

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we are still recommending masks to be worn while riding public transit to help slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19)."

Most major airlines -- including Southwest, Delta Air Lines, American and United -- quickly made mask-wearing optional in response to the ruling. The Transportation Security Administration also announced that it would no longer enforce the mask rule at airports -- hence face coverings are now optional at Los Angeles International Airport, Hollywood Burbank Airport and John Wayne Airport in Orange County.

The Orange County Transportation Authority also announced Tuesday it will no longer require passengers to wear masks on its buses, although face coverings are still recommended.

Metrolink officials also opted to drop the mandate on its commuter rail lines and stations, making it only a recommendation.

The ride-hailing services Uber and Lyft also dropped its mask mandates for drivers and passengers, saying face coverings are still recommended.

As of late Tuesday afternoon, the Los Angeles city Department of Transportation was still asking passengers to wear masks on its DASH and Commuter Express buses. Some other city transit agencies were also still maintaining the requirements, including Torrance Transit, Culver City Bus and Santa Monica Big Blue Bus.

The CDC first issued an order mandating masks on public conveyances in January 2021, saying "traveling on public transportation increases a person's risk of getting and spreading COVID-19."

"Air travel often requires spending time in security lines and busy airport terminals," the agency stated. "Travel by bus, train and other conveyances used for international, interstate or intrastate transportation poses similar challenges."

Mask mandates have slowly been lifted in many settings in recent weeks. Los Angeles County and the state have scrapped requirements for masks at outdoor and indoor mega-events, and face coverings are no longer mandatory in most indoor environments.

Mask requirements inside school classrooms have also been lifted, and face coverings are now only strongly recommended at L.A. County campuses. Masks are also "strongly recommended," but not required, on school buses.

The county still requires masks at health-care facilities.

### Weekend at a Glance

Friday	68°	
Saturday	77°	
Sunday	88°	

### THINGS TO DO



**Author Talk**  
**Saturday, 1 pm**  
**Downey City Library**

Poet, author, Navy veteran and OB/GYN Dr. Tiffanie Tate Moore will discuss her latest book of poetry, "FloweTry."

### ON THIS DAY

**1519:** Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés established a settlement at Veracruz, Mexico.

**1864:** Congress authorized the use of the phrase "In God We Trust" on U.S. coins.

**1876:** The first National League baseball game was played at the Jefferson Street Grounds in Philadelphia.

**1889:** The Oklahoma Land Rush began at noon as thousands of homesteaders staked claims.

**1969:** British yachtsman Sir Robin Knox-Johnston completed the first solo non-stop circumnavigation of the world.

**1970:** Earth Day was observed for the first time.

**1993:** The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum was dedicated in Washington, D.C.

**1992:** A series of natural gas explosions ripped through the streets in Guadalajara, Mexico, killing 206 and leaving 15,000 people homeless.

**1994:** Richard M. Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, died at age 81 in New York City, four days after suffering a stroke.

**2000:** Armed immigration agents seized Elian Gonzalez from his relatives' home in Miami; the 6-year-old boy was reunited with his father.



**2004:** Pro football player Pat Tillman, who'd traded in a multimillion-dollar contract to serve as an Army Ranger in Afghanistan, was killed by friendly fire.

**2016:** The Paris Agreement, an international treaty on climate change that aims to reduce global warming, was signed.

### Birthdays

Iconic actor **Jack Nicholson** (85), mystery author **Janet Evanovich** (79), TV personality **Sherri Shepherd** (55), actress **Amber Heard** (36), and rapper **Machine Gun Kelly** (32).



## Easter egg hunt returns

**NORWALK** - Norwalk resumed its annual Easter egg hunt at the city hall lawn Saturday afternoon for children and families in the community.

The traditional event was canceled for two years due to the coronavirus pandemic. While the virus continues to spread in Southern California, COVID-19 hospitalizations have decreased and led to reduced restrictions on large gatherings.

Families praise the reduced restrictions and welcomed the return of the celebration.

Brittany Eseanilla was eager to get her kids to participate in the Easter egg hunt.

"I'm glad that they're able to finally do more activities now, we've been trying hard to get them outside," Eseanilla said. "I was a little bit nervous but it's been two years so I think almost everyone is vaccinated."

Ana Leon moved to Norwalk this year and was impressed by the event.

"I definitely look at more events coming up because we're new here. So we're really getting to be part of the city," Leon said.

**Vincent Medina, contributor**

# County proposes \$38.5 billion spending plan

■ The budget assumes a 6% increase in property tax revenues and includes \$493 million to address homelessness.

**By City News Service**

**LOS ANGELES** - Los Angeles County's CEO Monday unveiled a \$38.5 billion recommended budget for fiscal year 2022-23.

The recommendation is \$807 million less than the current fiscal year's adopted budget, but \$2.3 billion more than last year's recommended budget. Officials said the draft budget, which is scheduled to be adopted by October, is expected to increase as the county receives additional federal and state funding.

"This budget brings to life the policy vision established by the Board of Supervisors and sets a course for the county to strengthen the programs and services we provide to millions of residents each and every day," County CEO Fesia Davenport said in a statement. "That means continuing to respond vigilantly to an evolving pandemic, while also ramping up to launch new departments focused on key populations and driving major changes in how we deliver services. It's a dynamic time for Los Angeles County, and this recommended spending plan is intended to reflect that."

The proposal foresees a positive economic outlook for the county, with property tax revenues expected to grow by 6% and sales tax revenues estimated to increase by nearly 8%. However, Davenport, who said the county is "cautiously optimistic," warned of challenges and uncertainties, including inflation, labor negotiations, continuing

impacts from COVID-19, litigation and an unstable geopolitical climate affecting gas prices and global markets.

Generally, the budget recommendation is divided into \$12.985 billion for health-related services, \$9.597 billion for public assistance, \$9.461 billion for public protection, \$5.737 for general services and other costs, \$737 million for recreation and culture.

The Sheriff's Department is recommended to receive approximately \$3.6 billion, roughly the same as the current fiscal year.

The recommended budget also includes \$493.3 million in Measure H funding to help with mental health resources and housing for people experiencing homelessness.

The budget recommendation includes funding for a total of 513 new positions, bringing the total number of county jobs to 111,551. Most of the new positions are focused on public health, health and safety net services, including 116 new public health positions, 196 new critical care unit nurses and 41 new "street medicine" clinic positions.

The recommended budget would also allocate \$15.3 million for continued compliance with a federal consent decree governing conditions in the Men's Central Jail, which the Board of Supervisors has committed to closing. The proposal also includes \$12.3 million to expand sheriff's academy classes and train a "new generation of deputies," while continuing moves to rely more on mental-health professionals to respond to some incidents rather than law enforcement.

Also proposed is \$100 million through Measure J for "community investments" and incarceration

alternatives, and support for the county's "Care First, Jails Last" program. In line with Measure J, the county aims to set aside the full 10% of its locally generated unrestricted revenue to support Care First and Community Investment programs by 2024.

Youth investments outlined in the recommended budget include \$22.8 million for full-time childcare for CalWORKS families, \$15.7 million for Youth@Work jobs program and \$14.1 million for Department of Children and Family Services medical hub services.

The county is also expected to introduce four new departments in the next fiscal year, which Davenport said "must be some kind of record, at least in modern county times."

The new departments are the Justice Care and Opportunities Department, the Youth Development Department, the Aging and Disabilities Department and the Department of Economic Opportunity.

The recommendation also includes \$188 million for water conservation projects, \$1.6 billion for capital projects and \$85.3 million to enhance and expand parks.

The \$38 billion is funded by several sources, including 22%, or \$8.5 billion, from the state and 15%, or \$5.8 billion, from federal government. However, both state and federal revenues are tied to specific programs. The county also has \$8.124 billion from charges for services, \$8.3 billion from property taxes and \$7 billion other revenues.

The budget will undergo public hearings beginning on May 11 and deliberations will begin on June 27. The final budget will be adopted in October.

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# Democrats must deliver on promises to avoid disaster in November

By Elizabeth Warren

Democrats are the party of working people. Ahead of the 2020 election, we advanced ideas and plans that we believed would, in ways big and small, make our democracy and our economy work better for all Americans. Across this country, voters agreed with us — and gave us a majority in Washington so that we could deliver on those promises.

Republican senators and broken institutions have blocked much of that promised progress. Now Republicans are betting that a stalled Biden agenda won't give Democrats enough to run on in the midterm elections — and they might be right. Despite pandemic relief, infrastructure investments and the historic Supreme Court confirmation of Ketanji Brown Jackson, we promised more — and voters remember those promises.

Republicans want to frame the upcoming elections to be about “wokeness,” cancel culture and the “militant left wing.” Standing up for the inherent dignity of everyone is a core American value, and Democrats are proud to do that every day. While Republican politicians peddle lies, fear and division, we should use every single one of the next 200 days or so before the election to deliver meaningful improvements for working people.

Democrats win elections when we show we understand the painful economic realities facing American families and convince voters we will deliver meaningful change. To put it bluntly: if we fail to use the months remaining before the elections to deliver on more of our agenda, Democrats are headed toward big losses in the midterms.

Time is running short. We need to finalize a budget reconciliation deal, making giant corporations pay their share to fund vital investments in combating climate change and lowering costs for families, which can advance with only 50 Senate votes. Other priorities can be done with the president's executive authority. It's no secret that I believe we should abolish the filibuster. But if Republicans want to use it to block policies that Americans broadly support, we should also force them to take those votes in plain view.

Let's begin with corruption. For years, Americans have identified

corrupt government officials as a top concern. And they're right: to tackle the urgent challenges we face — climate change, income inequality, systemic injustice — we must root out corruption. To start cleaning up government, members of Congress and their spouses shouldn't be allowed to own or trade individual stocks, which the vast majority of voters support banning, according to multiple polls. Whether you're a Republican senator or the Democratic speaker of the House, it is obvious to the American people that they should not be allowed to trade individual stocks and then vote on laws that affect those companies. I have the strongest plan and the only bipartisan bill in the Senate to get it done.

We can also act quickly to rein in costs for middle-class families. In the very short term, that means stopping companies from jacking up prices to boost their profits. Price increases are driven by many factors, including pandemic disruptions to global supply chains and Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine. But when the Kroger chief executive, Rodney McMullen, said “a little bit of inflation is always good in our business,” it's no surprise that, by a margin of two-to-one, American voters don't buy the explanation that companies are just passing along costs. Instead, they blame corporations for raising prices to boost their own profits. Even Fed Chair Jerome Powell, a conservative Republican, acknowledged that giant corporations raise prices simply “because they can.”

The president deserves enormous credit for advancing an ambitious agenda to promote competition and appointing effective regulators to enforce our antitrust laws, and it's time for congressional Democrats to have his back. According to Data for Progress surveys, eight in 10 Americans believe Congress should pass laws to reinvigorate competition and three-quarters strongly believe that oil and gas companies should not make gobs of money off this energy crisis. Beefing up regulators' authority to end price-gouging, breaking up monopolies, and passing a windfall profits tax is a good start. Only in Washington, where America's biggest companies spend billions to drown out reality, are these controversial ideas. Across America, these are popular plans.

We can stand up to the armies of lobbyists and P.R. flacks and tackle tax loopholes for the rich and powerful. About two-thirds of likely American voters — including a majority of Republicans — say it's time

for billionaires to pay more in taxes. Nearly three-quarters of Americans want to put an end to wildly profitable corporations paying nothing or little in federal income taxes (yes, Amazon, I'm looking at you) and put into place a global minimum corporate tax. And a majority of Americans would like to use some of those tax revenues to invest in clean energy, affordable child care, and universal pre-K.

That's a big legislative agenda, but it isn't big enough. We also need to use every tool of the presidency to deliver for working people.

For example, by a margin of more than two-to-one, Americans support providing some student loan debt cancellation — an action the president could take entirely on his own. Doing so would lift the economic outlook for too many borrowers who weren't able to get a college diploma, for the millions of women borrowers who shoulder about two-thirds of all student loan debt, and for Black and Hispanic borrowers, a higher percentage of whom take on debt to attend college compared to white students, and have a harder time paying it off after school. With the stroke of a pen, the president could make massive strides to close gender and racial wealth gaps.

And he can do more. Decisive action on everything from lowering prescription drug prices to ensuring that more workers are eligible for overtime pay can be executed by the president alone, using the authority already given to him by existing laws, without rounding up 50 Senate votes.

Like many Americans, I'm frustrated by our failure to get big things done — things that are both badly needed and very popular with all Americans. While Republican politicians obstruct many efforts to improve people's lives and many swear loyalty to the Big Lie, the urgency of the next election bears down on us.

Democrats cannot bow to the wisdom of out-of-touch consultants who recommend we simply tout our accomplishments. Instead, Democrats need to deliver more of the president's agenda — or else we will not be in the majority much longer.

**Elizabeth Warren is a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts. She is a Democrat.**

# The feds versus state election officials

By Josh Blackman & S.B. Tillman

The events of Jan. 6, 2021, are casting a long shadow over the midterm elections. Voters in North Carolina are seeking to bar Representative Madison Cawthorn from running for re-election to his House seat, and those in Georgia are trying to do the same to Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene.

These voters have filed complaints with state elections officials arguing that Section 3 of the 14th Amendment disqualifies members of Congress who engage in insurrection from appearing on the congressional ballot. (Challenges to other elected officials have also begun involving other candidates.)

But these challenges face an intractable problem: Only the federal government — not the states — can disqualify insurrectionists from congressional ballots. States cannot unilaterally create procedures, unless authorized by federal statute, to keep accused insurrectionists off the congressional ballot.

If these members of Congress engaged in insurrection, then the U.S. House of Representatives may exclude them, or federal prosecutors may charge them with the federal crime of insurrection. But in light of an important 1869 judicial decision, the cases against Mr. Cawthorn and Ms. Greene — which are currently mired in both state and federal proceedings — cannot remove the candidates from the congressional ballot.

The 14th Amendment was ratified in 1868 in the wake of the Civil War. Section 3 disqualified many former Confederates from holding certain public offices if they had taken an oath to support the U.S. Constitution but subsequently, as Section 3 declares, “engaged in insurrection or rebellion.” Since 1868, the federal judiciary has had few occasions to interpret Section 3. As a result, the courts are largely in uncharted territory. Nevertheless, there is some important on-point precedent.

An 1869 case concerning Hugh W. Sheffey is instructive for the Jan. 6 litigation and how courts might see things today. Mr. Sheffey took an oath to support the Constitution but later served as a member of the Confederate Virginia legislature, thereby actively supporting the Confederacy.

After the war, he served as a state court judge. As Judge Sheffey, he presided over the trial and conviction of Caesar Griffin for shooting with an intent to kill. Later, Mr. Griffin challenged his conviction in federal court. He argued that Section 3 should have disqualified Mr. Sheffey from

serving as judge. Griffin's case, as it is known, was heard on appeal by the federal circuit court in Virginia. Salmon P. Chase, the chief justice of the United States and an appointee of President Abraham Lincoln, presided over the appeal. Chief Justice Chase ruled against Mr. Griffin, finding that Section 3 did not disqualify Judge Sheffey, despite the fact that he had taken an oath to support the U.S. Constitution and that it was “admitted,” as the case stated, that he later committed a Section 3 disqualifying offense.

Chief Justice Chase reasoned “that legislation by Congress is necessary to give effect to” Section 3 of the 14th Amendment — and that “only” Congress can enact that legislation. Chief Justice Chase added that the exclusion of disqualified office holders “can only be provided for by Congress.” Congress must create the procedure that would determine if a defendant violated Section 3. Section 5 of the 14th Amendment emphasizes this principle: Congress, it states, “shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.”

In short, Griffin's case teaches that in legal terms, Section 3 is not self-executing — that is, Congress must establish, or at least authorize, the process that affords accused insurrectionists an opportunity to contest the allegations brought against them.

Mr. Cawthorn and Ms. Greene deny that they engaged in insurrection and oppose any assertion that they violated the law, which would include Section 3 disqualifying offenses. Moreover, in the Cawthorn and Greene cases, the plaintiffs have not pointed to any federal legislation authorizing the states to police Section 3 by disqualifying accused insurrectionists from the congressional ballot. Without federal authorization, state elections boards and even state courts could very well be powerless to make determinations about congressional candidates and Section 3.

There may be another way, based on an existing statute, to disqualify a candidate from congressional ballots: the Insurrection Act of 1862. This legislation, which predated the 14th Amendment, mirrors one of the disqualifying offenses established in Section 3.

The modern Insurrection Act is virtually unchanged from the statute Lincoln signed in 1862. If the Justice Department indicts and succeeds in convicting Mr. Cawthorn, Ms. Greene or others of insurrection under that act, then on that basis, state elections boards and state courts may remove these candidates from the congressional ballot.

But so far, the Justice Department has not charged any congressional

candidates with inciting or engaging in an insurrection or with any other disqualifying offenses. Most of the Jan. 6 federal charges have been based on things like property crimes or for obstructing official proceedings or assaulting officers rather than insurrection.

If the Justice Department does not secure a conviction of a Section 3 disqualifying offense before the state ballot is printed (the primary in North Carolina is scheduled for May 17 and the one in Georgia for May 24), then, generally, state boards of election and even state courts will be powerless to remove otherwise eligible congressional candidates from the ballot.

Recently, some scholars and advocates have contested Chief Justice Chase's opinion in Griffin's case as precluding the state challenges against Mr. Cawthorn and Ms. Greene. In their view, even in the absence of a federal statute, state election officials who conclude that a person engaged in insurrection may proceed to remove that candidate from the congressional ballot. There is no Supreme Court precedent that squarely forecloses that position. Moreover, Chief Justice Chase's decision was not rendered by the United States Supreme Court, and so it is not controlling precedent. On Monday, a federal court in Georgia allowed the state court disqualification proceeding to go forward against Representative Greene. The federal judge did so without citing or distinguishing Griffin's case.

Still, we think the chief justice's opinion is persuasive; we expect state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, will likely follow this historically entrenched position. Chief Justice Chase's approach is the simplest path. If the courts find that Section 3 is not self-executing, there is no need for state election officials to decide far more politically charged questions about whether Mr. Cawthorn and Ms. Greene — and potentially, looking ahead to 2024, Donald Trump — engaged in insurrection.

Congress has not authorized the states to enforce Section 3 by striking congressional candidates from the ballot. Thus, state courts and elections boards lack jurisdiction to exclude alleged insurrectionists from the congressional ballot. In such circumstances, state governments must let the people decide who will represent them in Congress.

**Josh Blackman is a law professor at South Texas College of Law Houston. S.B. Tillman is an associate professor at the Maynooth University School of Law and Criminology.**

# Reducing traffic stops in the name of public safety

By Steve Chapman

When I head out of my driveway, I sometimes worry about one thing or another: Did I bring my shopping list? Do I know how to get where I'm going? Did I forget to close the garage door? What I don't worry about is getting pulled over for a broken taillight, having my car searched and getting shot by a cop.

One reason for my customary nonchalance is that I drive carefully, with a decent regard for the law and traffic etiquette. Another is that in half a century of driving, I've been stopped by police exactly six times — resulting in three citations, no searches and zero bullet holes.

One of the times I got a ticket, the highway patrol officer expressed regret for having to write it. I haven't been stopped since 2004, and I wouldn't be surprised if it never happens again.

Statistics are on my side. Numerous studies attest that being of pale complexion, I'm far less likely to provoke the unwanted attention of law enforcement. So I can go about my business feeling secure in the cocoon of my vehicle.

Not everyone feels that way. One middle-aged African American South Carolinian recalled being stopped by police seven times — in the previous year. Sen. Tim Scott, a Republican, said that in each instance, “I was doing nothing more than driving a new car, in the wrong neighborhood, or some other reason just as trivial.”

It's not an unusual story. Philando Castile, a 32-year-old Black man who was fatally shot by a police officer who pulled him over, had been

stopped at least 46 times — or about three times a year since he was old enough to drive. An NPR investigation found that “of all of the stops, only six of them were things a police officer would notice from outside a car — things like speeding or having a broken muffler.”

Some cities have decided this is a bad way to operate. Last month, Los Angeles police were directed to make traffic stops only for any violation that “significantly interferes with public safety.” A handful of other cities, from Fayetteville, North Carolina, to Lansing, Michigan, have already adopted a similar approach.

Police unions and conservatives insist it will protect criminals and harm public safety. The Los Angeles Police Protective League said that these stops have “prevented our residents from being shot, shot at, intimidated, victimized and murdered.”

But the city's own data reveals that only 2% of “pretextual” stops result in an arrest of any kind — and that only 1.3% of searches produced a gun. A study of the experience in Fayetteville found that the new approach had no effect on crime rates — but reduced traffic accidents and fatalities by focusing police on dangerous driving instead of administrative transgressions.

Traffic stops are the most common type of interaction between citizens and law enforcement. Nationally, there are 20 million stops each year. Many of them are “pretextual” — where police use some minor violation (an air freshener hanging from the rearview mirror, say, or failing to wear a seatbelt) so they can check for some more serious offense.

These confrontations create aggravation and fear for motorists, but the effects are not evenly distributed. Political scientists Frank Baumgartner, Derek Epp and Kelsey Shoub, authors of a book on the subject, told The Washington Post that “compared to their share in the population, Blacks are almost twice as likely to be pulled over as whites — even though whites drive more on average, by the way.”

They added, “We also discovered that Blacks are more likely to be searched following a stop. Just by getting in a car, a Black driver has about twice the odds of being pulled over, and about four times the odds of being searched.”

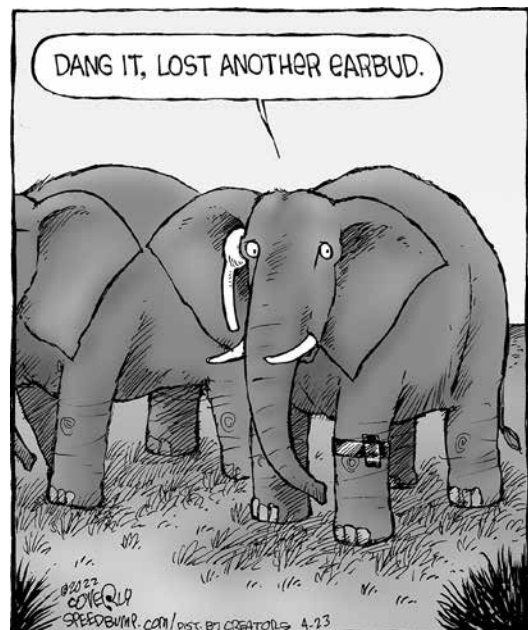
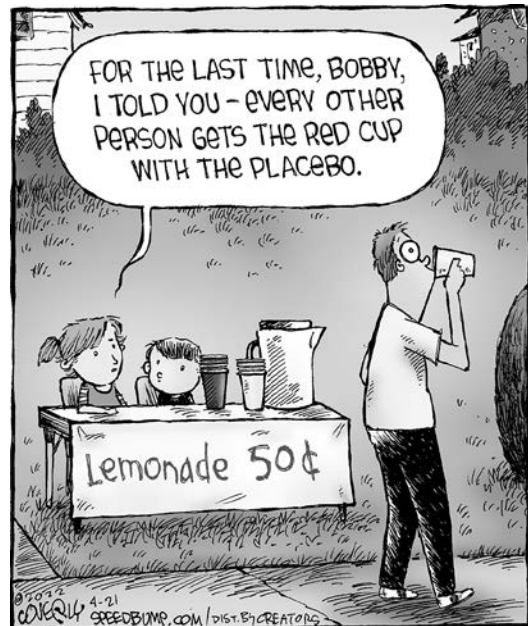
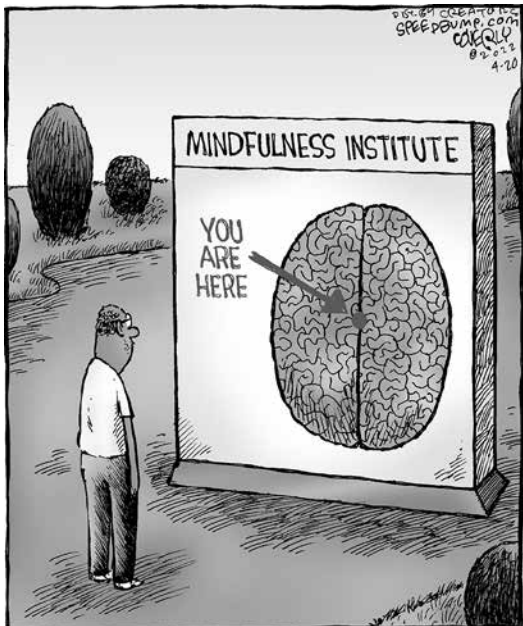
Skeptics may surmise that all this is because Blacks are more likely to break the law. In fact, searches of African Americans are less likely to turn up contraband, compared with searches of whites.

If you need more evidence of systemic unfairness, another study found that the racial gap shrinks with stops that occur at night. How come? Darkness makes it harder to discern skin tone. So cops end up pulling over white drivers who would have been spared in the clear light of day.

There seems to be no obvious way to eliminate the inequities and dangers created when cops conduct traffic stops. But we can at least make them less numerous.

**Steve Chapman is a former columnist for the Chicago Tribune.**

# SPEED BUMP DAVE COVERLY



## 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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# PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

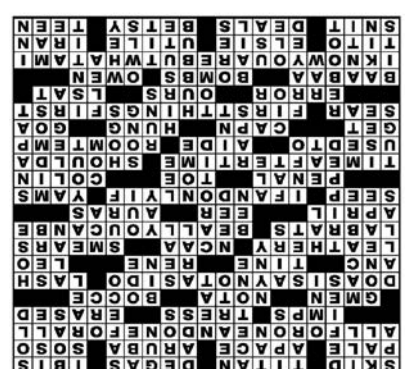
## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
BACK TO THE BEGINNING: Ending as they start  
by Gary M. Larson

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.

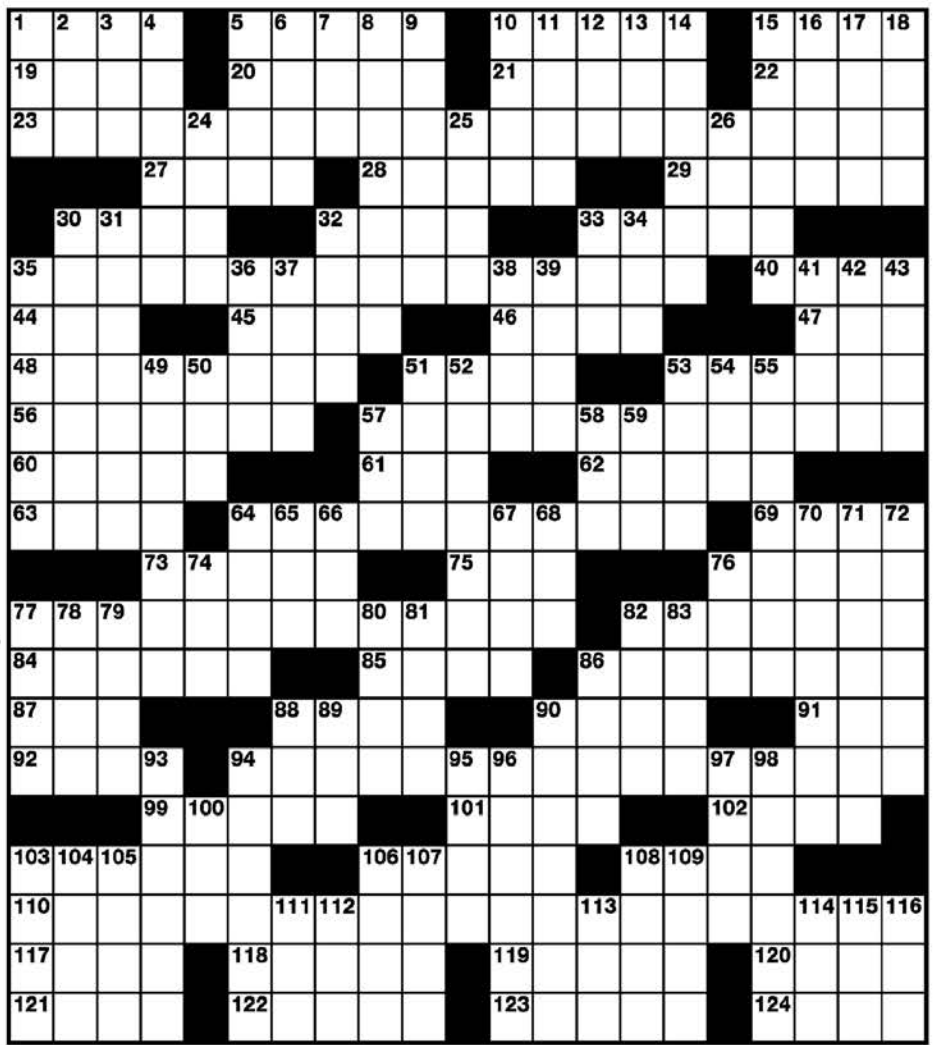
You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at www.StanXwords.com

The IBIS (15 Across) was venerated in ancient Egypt, associated with the ibis-headed god Thoth. The ANC (44 Across), or African National Congress, was founded in 1912, though not governmentally sanctioned until 1990, a few days before the release of Nelson Mandela. COLIN FIRTH (76 Across) has prominent roles in three Best Picture Oscar films, namely The English Patient, Shakespeare in Love and The King's Speech.



- ACROSS
- 1 Lose traction
- 5 Captain of industry
- 10 Cézanne contemporary
- 15 Bird venerated by ancient Egyptians
- 19 Blanched
- 20 Very quickly
- 21 Dutch-speaking Caribbean island
- 22 "Meh"
- 23 Three Musketeers motto
- 27 Little devils
- 28 Long lock of hair
- 29 Cleared away
- 30 FBI guys
- 32 \_\_\_ creature was stirring . . .
- 33 Italian ball game
- 35 Parental rejoinder
- 40 Place for mascara
- 44 Mandela org.
- 45 Pitchfork prong
- 46 Glassmaker Lalique
- 47 Summer zodiac sign
- 48 Tough in texture
- 51 Bowl game org.
- 53 Sullies
- 56 Mammals running in mazes
- 57 Reach one's full potential
- 60 What 4 may be short for
- 61 Always, in verse
- 62 Paranormal atmospheres
- 63 Flow through cracks
- 64 Biconditional statement, in math
- 69 Thanksgiving serving
- 73 Of punishment
- 75 Pivot point in ballet
- 76 George in The King's Speech
- 77 Repeatedly
- 82 Ought to have, informally
- 84 Comfortable with
- 85 Office intern
- 86 About 70, in your home
- 87 Catch on to
- 88 Nautical nickname
- 90 Delayed, with "up"
- 91 \_\_\_ long way (last)
- 92 Char
- 94 Organizational adage
- 99 Inaccuracy
- 101 Communally owned
- 102 Wannabe atty.'s exam
- 103 Sounds at a shearing
- 106 Lead balloons
- 108 Comic actor Wilson
- 110 Childish comeback
- 117 Salsa bandleader
- 118 Name once short for Elizabeth
- 119 Advantageous
- 120 #2 Mideast nation in area
- 121 Agitated state
- 122 Controls the deck
- 123 Legendary seamstress
- 124 Common driving school client
- DOWN
- 1 Cruise ship facility
- 2 Actor Penn
- 3 Under the weather
- 4 Resists boldly
- 5 Infield covering
- 6 NASDAQ debuts
- 7 The Joy Luck Club author
- 8 Manicurist's solvent
- 9 Approaching
- 10 Many T-ball coaches
- 11 Cupid alias
- 12 Handheld radar device
- 13 Prez on a five
- 14 Rival of Progressive
- 15 Land on the Red Sea
- 16 Tropical snakes
- 17 Land offshore
- 18 Auction-ending cry
- 24 "All" prefix
- 25 Clutter-free
- 26 Tolkien brute
- 30 Come undone
- 31 Ghastly
- 32 Manhattan, on envelopes
- 33 Recycling container
- 34 Lofty verse
- 35 Texas State Fair city
- 36 Editor's direction
- 37 Broadcasts
- 38 Mostly gone Asian sea
- 39 Notary's mark
- 41 Disney film composer
- 42 Balkans resident
- 43 Sprinkler attachment
- 49 Stumbled while walking
- 50 2001 . . . computer
- 51 Can't do without
- 52 Neck artery
- 53 Ride a wave
- 54 Universal Studios' former owner
- 55 Hardly a dangerous batter
- 57 Actor Affleck
- 58 "Woo-hoo!"
- 59 André's assent
- 64 Data, for short
- 65 About 4% of whole milk
- 66 Brewery product
- 67 Alaskan city
- 68 Writer Edgar \_\_\_
- 70 Hay fever drug brand
- 71 Closest to the center
- 72 Speak sharply to
- 74 Grab a bite
- 76 Frequent URL ender
- 77 Harbor fleet
- 78 "Aha!"
- 79 "Simple Simon \_\_\_ pieman . . ."
- 80 Door knocks
- 81 Windshield coating
- 82 Chorale carol, e.g.
- 83 Doesn't share
- 86 Baseball score enhancers
- 88 AFL-\_\_\_
- 89 O'Hare abbr.
- 90 What you could call Bigfoot
- 93 Start up a computer again
- 94 Started to unravel
- 95 Weighty reading
- 96 Commotion
- 97 Pest on a poodle
- 98 "Don't you agree?"
- 100 Unrefined
- 103 Small portions
- 104 Closely related
- 105 Prefix for septic
- 106 Pretrial payment
- 107 Mine yields
- 108 Night fliers
- 109 Part of Muffet's meal
- 111 Spanish cheer
- 112 Letters on Forever stamps
- 113 \_\_\_ for tat
- 114 Exists
- 115 Fannie \_\_\_ (home loan agency)
- 116 B&B, e.g.

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- 79 "Simple Simon \_\_\_ pieman . . ."
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Reach Stan Newman at www.StanXwords.com



















# History educator named Whittier's 2022 Teacher of the Year

**WHITTIER** - The Whittier Union High School District has named Frontier High School social studies teacher Mary Ann Fajardo as its 2022-23 teacher of the year, honoring the instructor who is beloved and respected by students and peers for her humility, love of learning and willingness to share her knowledge and research.

Fajardo has proven to be an indispensable member of the Frontier High faculty, promoting diversity and inclusion in her curriculum and engaging her students with rich experiences. Fajardo's Orientation class serves as an inspirational springboard for new students, while her Guided Studies class in the school year's final quarter encourages seniors to keep pushing ahead to reach their goal of graduation.

"I am overwhelmed by the honor," Fajardo said. "I am thankful for the support of my Frontier High administrators, especially Margie Moriarty and Richard Rodriguez. They trust you and give you everything you need to make your lesson plan successful. Also, our counselors Roberto Tamayo and Roxanna Kharaud, the social studies department and the entire Frontier High staff, whose collaboration, guidance and support means the world to me. I would also like to thank my students for their compassion and love for learning."

Fajardo is in her ninth year of teaching at Frontier High, which along with Sierra Vista High School and Whittier Union Adult School forms the United Sierra Education Center (USEC). Fajardo teaches U.S. and World History, Career Studies, Chicano Studies and is part of the Whittier Union team that developed the District's Ethnic Studies curriculum.

Fajardo serves as a leader for the California Continuation Education Association (CCEA) Model Continuation School certification process,

reviewing and managing applications and leading school site visits; she is also a CCEA 2022 Teacher of the Year candidate.

Fajardo traveled to Germany in 2019 as part of the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation/Museum of Tolerance program, "Diversity and Tolerance in Berlin - The Past, the Present and the Future." There, she joined five other Los Angeles-based educators to receive first-hand accounts of the Holocaust by survivors, eyewitnesses and scholars.

Fajardo's Holocaust research led her to a little-known, man-made famine, known as the Holodomor, which killed millions of Ukrainians in the 1930s. Looking into the stories of Holodomor survivors, Fajardo compiled a list of eyewitness accounts that became the basis of a lesson plan, "The Holodomor and Its Children," that she teaches in the third quarter of the school year.

Teaching the Holodomor allows Fajardo's students to develop empathy for the victims and inspires them to speak out about human rights abuses. Fajardo was recognized with a Holodomor Research and Education Consortium Educator Award in 2021 for her lesson plan. Fajardo's dedication to research and academics also earned her a Michael LaPrade Holocaust Education Institute fellowship.

"We are thrilled to see Mary Ann receive this honor, which recognizes the tremendous work that she does on behalf of our students, as well as shining a light on her passionate work as a humanitarian," USEC Principal Margie Moriarty said. "The work Mary Ann does to ensure that survivors' voices continue to be heard, as well as her dedication to helping students realize they can achieve at the highest levels, inspires us all. Congratulations to Mary Ann from the entire staff of the United Sierra Education Center."



# Cerritos College offers discounted transit passes to students

**NORWALK** - Cerritos College launched its new Metro GoPass program for students this month, providing students with transit passes at a steep discount of more than 90%.

The GoPass program is offered through the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Fareless System Initiative Community College pilot program.

Cerritos College student leaders got on board with the Metro GoPass program to help their fellow students ease the burden of finding reliable, affordable transportation to access campus and work.

The student government unanimously approved a resolution to increase the Student Activities Fee from \$10 to \$19 to cover the cost to make the transit program available to all students. The student fee had not been changed in more than three decades.

"When this student transit program was introduced to us, we were super excited," said the Associated Students of Cerritos College President Sandra Abundio. "Being able to ensure access to reliable transportation for students is crucial in their educational journeys. We are extremely grateful to attend a college that truly aims to prioritize the basic needs of students and we are proud to be a part of these efforts."

"It is exciting to finally see this student transit program on campus," said Cerritos College Board President James Cody Birkey. "It's important

for our students to be able to access campus with a safe and reliable source of transportation to achieve their educational goals and become self-reliant and successful in their lives. Better access to education will remain a top priority for the Board."

"Student access to campus through safe, affordable transportation has been a major point of interest for the Board," said Cerritos College Trustee Marisa Perez, who was an early champion on the Board for student transit passes. "Our main goal is to help increase student completion and graduation rates, so by ensuring our students can travel to campus and their jobs without the burden of paying for transportation, we believe these transit passes will make a big difference."

The new transportation support will ensure that students have affordable and reliable means of transportation to access the college. At Cerritos College, 70 percent of students qualify for the California College Promise Grant, which waives enrollment fees to attend school. Fifty percent of students receive a federal Pell grant that is awarded to students with exceptional financial need - indicating they are low income and in dire financial straits.

"We are excited that Cerritos College is part of the GoPass program and has taken a critical step toward eliminating cost barriers for its students. Together, we will help students access education, internships, and jobs without having to worry about how to get to their destination or how to

pay for it," said Metro Board Member and Whittier City Council Member Fernando Dutra.

"We are delighted to welcome Cerritos College to the growing list of regional community colleges joining our popular GoPass Program," said Metro Chief Executive Officer Stephanie N. Wiggins. "Studies show that having a transit pass increases student success significantly. Students with access to discounted or free transit performed better in student retention, credits earned, and completion than those without a transit card. What this means is that we are not only providing Cerritos College students with access to transportation, we are also helping change their life trajectories."

"We are removing obstacles that our students are facing one by one, including food, housing, and now transportation," said Cerritos College President/Superintendent Dr. Jose Fierro. "Our objective is to provide every student on campus with the basic resources they need to live a full life and ultimately complete their educational goals."

Meeting students' basic needs remains a top priority at Cerritos College. The campus recently opened its Falcon's Nest, a centralized network of resources that support meeting students' basic needs, including food, clothing, hygiene, and housing, among others.

# The Norwalk Patriot



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# Norwalk's Ginger Larsin has softball field named in her honor

La Serna High School names its new softball field after 60-year Norwalk resident Ginger Larsin.

By John Sherrard  
Contributor

**WHITTIER** - Longtime Norwalk resident and former La Serna High School softball coach, Ginger Larsin, has finally come full circle on a high school softball field.

After starting to play softball at the age of eight, coaching and teaching for years and now retired, Larsin received the greatest honor of all – having the softball field on campus named after her.

A big reason why her name will adorn the field is current Instructional Aide and former player ('88), Janet Mosikian, who brought Larsin's name up to the Whittier Union High School District Board, along with the support from current and former La Serna faculty, staff and players. They all urged the Board to name the field in her honor.

In ceremonies held Wednesday (April 20), the beautiful new field will now and forever be known as, "Ginger Larsin Field."

"This was amazing," said Larsin, of the new sign. "The sign was awesome. I didn't expect all of that. It's wonderful. I'm so honored."

Emotions ran high that afternoon, with many former players and coaches in attendance.

Larsin is a 60-year resident of Norwalk.

La Serna Assistant Principal Randy Castillo opened the ceremonies with remarks, followed by Principal Griselda Castro reading the accomplishments of Larsin through the years.

Former Principal and current Assistant Superintendent of the District, Ann Fitzgerald, spoke next talking of the early years with Larsin as teachers.

Later, she said of Larsin, "She is just high integrity, great energy and love of the game and love of the kids," Fitzgerald said. "I was thinking back and it's the 50th anniversary of Title IX. I can't think of anybody who was a better trailblazer than Ginger. She came up right as it was happening. What a wonderful example she was for athletes. She set a great example."

The softball field, along with the baseball complex, tennis courts and track and football fields in the upper area were completed in 2018.

Larsin, 65, retired from coaching in 2013 and from teaching in 2019.

Larsin's dad, Chester, actually had a big influence on her starting the game of softball, no doubt.

He helped start "Little Miss Softball", which later became Norwalk Girls Softball

She spent twenty seven years as a varsity coach and 36 years

teaching at La Serna.

Along the way, Larsin's teams won the Del Rio League 14 times, qualified for CIF-Southern Section playoffs 26 of her 27 years, 503 wins and played in four CIF title games, winning three in 1996, 2001 and 2008.

"The program that coach Larsin built over nearly three decades, is one of consistency, quality, and effectiveness," La Serna Athletic Director Steve Hemenway said. "Year after year, under her leadership, La Serna graduated numerous college-level athletes that were helped along by her knowledge and ability to pass on both the physical and mental aspects of the game of softball."

Hemenway has known Larsin for 50 years and Larsin actually had something to do with him coming to La Serna. Larsin told Hemenway about a coaching vacancy with boys basketball. He eventually took the girls position. Overall, he has been at La Serna for 32 years.

"She is, to this day, the best female athlete I have ever seen in our area," added Hemenway, of Larsin. "Her legacy is rolling on and we have a program because of her. She rose to that level and the kids are able to keep that quality there."

Larsin was more than just a softball player (pitcher, shortstop, outfielder) as she excelled in multiple sports when she got to high school. She attended Santa Fe from 1972-'75 and earned 14 varsity letters in softball, basketball, tennis and track and field.

After high school, she went on to college at Long Beach State and played club softball since they didn't have a sanctioned team yet. That came a few years after she graduated in 1979, but was a part of the foundation to get it started.

Larsin started coaching around 1980 at Santa Fe with Mike Mendez, who is a former Mayor of Norwalk.

In 1983 Larsin was teaching as a substitute and was coaching volleyball at Bell Gardens.

Her first fulltime teaching job came that year also.

"I got a call (while at volleyball practice) from my mom and she said La Serna wanted to interview me for a job," Larsin said. "I went right to La Serna and they hired me right then and there."

Various positions were held by Larsin for three years as she was coaching JV Softball coach, Varsity Basketball coach, assistant athletic director and even the head cheerleading advisor.

"In 1987 I became the varsity softball coach at La Serna," said Larsin, with a smile. "I had a lot of great talented players that went to DI.

"I was very blessed as a coach because I got a lot of talented athletes. Whittier Girls Softball had a lot of athletes that fed into La Serna. I pretty much just got them all to play together. They performed great."



La Serna High School names their softball field after long-time head softball coach, Ginger Larsin, on Wednesday. (Photo by Keith Durlflinger)

Larsin was thinking back of her fondest memories at La Serna in softball.

"One of my fondest memories at La Serna is when you go to your first CIF Championship," she remembers. "We went in 1995 and lost and I was devastated.

"But, we returned in 1996 and played exactly the same team we played in 1995 and this time we ended up winning.

"That memory there was we went in extra innings and we finally won in the 12th inning, 1-0. That was a big memory for me winning our first CIF Championship (against Upland) for the school."

Larsin would go on to win two more titles, of course, in 2001 and 2008.

The top pitchers for those teams were – Jackie DeBoard, '96 (CIF Player of the Year, Denise Linke, '01 (POY) and Holly Constidine, '08, along with Ashley Holmes.

Another memory was Larsin seeing five former players on two fields at the same time at La Serna – AJ Carrasco (LS Asst. Varsity coach), Amanda Perez and Katrina Castaneda (LS JV coaches), Nikki Gandara (Cal High JV coach) and the umpire.

In attendance was one of La Serna's most recent coaches, who took over after Ginger retired and was on her staff for quite a few years, Mike Reed.

"It's unbelievable. To see this field dedicated to her and all the work she put in is just unbelievable," said Reed, who won a CIF title in 2015, along with Mike Arona. "When we first got this field done at my first game (2018) here, I tried to get (the District) to dedicate the field for that opening day. With everything you have to go through, they postponed it until now."

Another coach that was a big part of her program was Bill Smith, who has since passed on.

Larsin was also so happy to have worked alongside her daughter, Kelley Strong, during her last five years



before retirement. Strong is a counselor.

"I was so blessed that Kelley got to teach my last five years here at the school," Larsin said. "It means so much to me."

Larsin is still very active playing pickleball, basketball, golf, bowling, softball and traveling.

Larsin, by the way, is headed to Fort Lauderdale this summer to play in the Senior Nationals for softball.

#### What they said:

Jason Clay, La Serna Girls Softball coach: "I never got to work side-by-side with her. She came over to help out two years ago and these girls loved it. I'm actually getting chills just talking about it.

I'm glad she got to coach here on the new field to help finish the season. The

atmosphere she brought and watching the girls in the dugout was seeing them excited."

April Zamorano, La Serna Softball Asst. coach: "Ginger was a legend here. She was just an amazing person, an amazing coach. Just to have a female coach for female athletes is very minimal these days. It's very special to have her here."

Randy Castillo, La Serna Assistant Principal: "(Ginger) is just non-stop, giving energy all the time. For her, it was always about the kids. When she announced her retirement, we still thought she'd work another 10 years.

More impressive was her 27 years of coaching softball and her league titles, CIF Championships and all of those wins was definitely something she established here and built the program."

Cindy LeBlanc (Castillo), former player, 1991-'92: "His run of 26 CIF playoffs is an amazing feat and I don't think any other coach in this district has the longevity and stamina to make this team what it is."

Michell Soaper (Wallis), former player, 1991-'93: "This is why I'm here (Wednesday), because Ginger made such a lasting impression on my life as a coach. I always looked up to her. We had fun and she was a great mentor. Thirty years later and she deserves all of this."

Trisha Wallis, former player, 1991-'92: "Me and sis (Michell Soaper) played for "Ginj" at the same time. There are so many memories. We still talk about her. It was always a great time

and we always loved to come to softball. She was so competitive and was so fun too.

All of her assistants were great people. We're just very honored that we got to play with her early on. I'm so happy for her. She deserves every bit of it."

Michelle Ortiz, La Serna Counselor: "I played freshman softball and was in her program and then I just focused on Basketball. In 1999 I started here as coach for basketball and got to know her then.

She has always been positive with lots of energy and so influential as a woman. She was only one of the women coaches for the school for a long, long time. She still inspires me."

Kelley Strong, Ginger Larsin's daughter, La Serna counselor: "I'm so proud of her. I think it's so well deserved. Just growing up and watching her coach as she just put her whole heart into the program. To see her honored is very exciting.

She always maintained her cool and I think the girls just responded to that and saw the leadership.

I remember being on the field for her first championship. I was the bat girl."

Sarah Perez, current La Serna softball player, SS: "Having the field named after her shows how important she was and I'm proud that I'll be playing with her name on the field.

Having her around the field makes us feel important."

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