

The Norwalk Patriot

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14783 Carmenita Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

Hospitalizations climb as Covid spreads

Health officials say mask mandates could return as an increasing number of people are becoming sick with the coronavirus.

By City News Service

DOWNEY - The growing local spread of COVID-19 was evidenced Wednesday when Los Angeles County reported 4,384 new infections, and perhaps more troubling, the number of people hospitalized surged upward.

According to county and state figures, there were 363 COVID-positive patients in county hospitals as of Wednesday, up from 327 a day earlier. The number of those patients being treated in intensive care was 55, up from 44 on Tuesday.

COVID hospital numbers had been steadily dropping in recent months, falling to as far as 219 on April 20, but the number has been inching upward ever since.



Barbara Ferrer

Health officials are keeping a close watch on the hospitalization figures, because a sharp rise on top of widespread community transmission of the virus could lead to a renewal of mandatory indoor mask-wearing rules.

The 4,384 new cases reported Wednesday lifted the county's overall total from throughout the pandemic to 2,922,210. The average daily rate of people testing positive for the virus, while still relatively low, rose to 3.2% Wednesday, up from 2.6% on Tuesday.

Another 10 COVID deaths were also reported, raising the cumulative virus-related death toll in the county to 32,055. Health officials have noted that most people who die from COVID suffer from various underlying health conditions.

Similarly, most hospital patients who are infected with COVID were hospitalized for reasons other than the virus, health officials said. Many only learned they were infected when they were tested upon hospital admission.

Based on rising COVID case numbers, Los Angeles County on Thursday could be downgraded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from the current "low" community risk category to "medium."

Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer told the county Board of Supervisors on Tuesday that the cumulative seven-day average rate of new cases in the county is about 185 per 100,000 residents -- above the rate of 176 from last Thursday. If that rate reaches 200 per 100,000 residents, the U.S.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will shift the county from the "low" community COVID level to "medium."

The CDC updates its classifications every Thursday.

For residents, the shift would not have any immediate impact, since the county has already implemented the CDC's recommendations for areas in the "medium" category -- such as mask-wearing on public transit, wide availability of vaccinations and guidance for improving ventilation in indoor settings.

But if the county experiences a spike in COVID-related hospitalizations, it could push the area into the "high" risk category, meaning a return of indoor mask-wearing mandates.

Under CDC guidelines, counties in the "medium" category will move to "high" if the rate of new virus-related hospital admissions reaches 10 per 100,000 residents, or if 10% of the county's staffed hospital beds are occupied by COVID-positive patients.

Ferrer said the county's current rate of new admissions is 3.1 per 100,000 residents, and the rate of hospital beds occupied by COVID-positive patients is just under 2%.

She told the board the county is likely to move into the CDC's "medium" COVID risk category this week, but she remains confident the county will avoid sliding into the "high" category.

"While we are disheartened that the pandemic hasn't ended, I am reassured that with the tools at hand, we can continue to enjoy our time with each other and our participation in those activities that we love," she said.

On Wednesday, the county Department of Public Health noted continued increases in cases among school staff and students, with the number quadrupling in the past month. Health officials urged schools and students to take precautions, strongly recommending indoor mask-wearing, although it remains optional.

Meanwhile, the world was "woefully" unprepared for the COVID-19 pandemic, and remains vulnerable to the next major "catastrophic" health crisis, a panel created by the World Health Organization concluded.

"COVID-19 is the 21st century's Chernobyl moment -- not because a disease outbreak is like a nuclear accident, but because it has shown so clearly the gravity of the threat to our health and well-being," experts from the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response wrote in a report, entitled "COVID-19: Make it the Last Pandemic," released on Wednesday.

Middle school teacher arrested for sexually abusing student

Scott Waln, a teacher at Los Alisos Middle School in Norwalk, was arrested for sexually abusing two girls on campus, police said.

By City News Service

NORWALK - Authorities Wednesday sought additional potential victims of a 60-year-old school teacher who allegedly sexually abused two girls at a Norwalk middle school.

Scott Waln was arrested Thursday on two felony counts stemming from incidents that allegedly occurred during school hours while Waln was teaching at Los Alisos Middle School, located at 14800 Jersey Ave., according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Authorities noted one of the victims was 12 years old at the time of the alleged abuse, and one of the incidents allegedly occurred in

2017.

Further details on the crimes were not immediately available.

Waln was charged with one felony count of lewd act upon a child under age 14, and one felony count of forcible lewd act upon a child under age 14.

He is being held on \$1.2 million bail and is due to appear at the Bellflower Courthouse on Friday.

In a statement, the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District said Waln is currently on administrative leave.

"In order to protect the integrity of the investigation, the District is limited in providing specific information on the case," the statement read. "However, the District has a zero-tolerance policy and committed to the safety of our students and staff. The District will work closely with law enforcement during their investigation.

"The District has no further comment at this time but will



Scott Waln

provide further statements if and when appropriate."

Anyone who may have been a victim of Waln's was asked to contact the LASD Special Victims Bureau at 877-710-5273, or by email at specialvictimsbureau@lasd.org.

LASD deputy wins \$850,000 in sexual harassment suit

A jury ruled in favor of the female deputy, who alleged she was groped on duty by her training officer.

By City News Service

LOS ANGELES - A female Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy who alleged her training deputy sexually harassed her on the job has been awarded \$850,000.

A Los Angeles Superior Court jury deliberated for about a day before finding in favor of Deputy Concepcion Hernandez Garcia on Wednesday in her sexual harassment suit against the county.

"Plaintiff's conspicuous transfer in the middle of training left a black mark against her that will have significant and long-lasting effects on (her) reputation and career," the suit filed in June 2019 stated.

However, in their court papers, attorneys for Los Angeles County argued that Garcia's version of the alleged harassment "has changed multiple times during this litigation and was repeatedly contradicted by her own testimony."

Garcia's training performance "was somewhat questionable, to say the least," as she was "called out on the continuous failures

to meet the elementary training requirements, endangering officer safety, being literally unable to use the basic patrol equipment and otherwise being unfamiliar with the rudiments of her own profession," the defense attorneys further stated in their court papers.

Garcia started her training as a deputy in March 2018 at the East Los Angeles station, the suit stated. A deputy who is not a defendant in the case was assigned to train her, according to the complaint.

In July 2018, Garcia entered a home with her gun drawn looking for a suspect, the suit stated. The training deputy walked up behind her and put one hand on her buttocks, the suit alleged.

"Not only did (the trainer) grope plaintiff's buttock, he thrust her forward at the very same time into an unsafe situation, effectively placing her life in danger," the suit states.

The trainer's action made Garcia more vulnerable in an already hazardous situation, causing plaintiff to further experience fear and confusion, the suit states.

During subsequent interactions, the trainer went out of his way to brush against Garcia without justification, sometimes making

insulting remarks when he realized she was offended, the suit stated.

The trainer embarrassed Garcia with remarks in front of four people arrested during a traffic stop, prompting the arrestees to laugh at her, the suit stated.

"In some instances, (the trainer) was joined by other deputies closely associated with him in these actions," according to the suit.

Garcia filed an internal complaint against the trainer in mid-July 2018 and was immediately put on administrative leave, making it appear she did something wrong, the suit states. The trainer and the other deputies were not put on leave, the suit stated.

The LASD did not investigate Garcia's complaints or interview her, the suit alleged.

Garcia, not wanting to continue being allegedly victimized by the trainer, was forced to seek a transfer to another station even though she would have preferred to remain in East Los Angeles because she grew up in the area and still lived nearby, the suit stated. She was reassigned to the Century Station, the suit stated.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday	67°	
Saturday	72°	
Sunday	74°	

THINGS TO DO



La Mirada Symphony Concert
Sunday, 2 pm
La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts

The La Mirada Symphony will fill the venue with the powerful music of Leonard Bernstein and Dmitri Shostakovich. Plus student soloists perform the first movements of both the Bach Concerto and Grieg Piano Concerto.

ON THIS DAY

1861: The capital of the Confederacy was moved from Montgomery, Ala., to Richmond, Va.

1902: The United States ended a three-year military presence in Cuba as the Republic of Cuba was established.

1927: Charles Lindbergh took off for Paris from Roosevelt Field in Long Island, N.Y., aboard the Spirit of St. Louis on the first nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

1932: Amelia Earhart took off from Newfoundland for Ireland to become the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.



1939: Regular trans-Atlantic air service began as a Pan American Airways plane took off from Port Washington, N.Y., bound for Europe.

1971: The album "What's Going On" by Marvin Gaye was released.

1989: Comedian Gilda Radner died of cancer at age 42.

1993: The final first-run episode of "Cheers" aired on NBC.



1996: The Supreme Court struck down a Colorado measure banning laws that protect homosexuals from discrimination.

2006: San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds tied Babe Ruth for second place on the career list with his 714th home run.

2012: Singer Robin Gibb of the Bee Gees died at age 62.

Birthdays

Pop singer **Cher** (76), rapper **Busta Rhymes** (50), former Dodgers outfielder **Jayson Werth** (43), and pop singer **Rachel Platten** (41).

Is it Covid or allergies?

SYMPTOM	COVID-19	ALLERGIES
Cough	Usually (dry)	Sometimes
Fever	Usually	Never
Muscle aches	Usually	Never
Tiredness	Usually	Sometimes
Itchy nose, eyes	Never	Usually
Sneezing	Rarely	Usually
Sore throat	Usually	Rarely
Runny nose	Usually	Usually
Pink eye	Sometimes	Sometimes
Nausea	Sometimes	Never
Diarrhea	Sometimes	Never
Loss of taste/smell	Usually	Sometimes

Source: Mayo Clinic

ARBOR DAY IN NORWALK



Pop singer **Cher** (76), rapper **Busta Rhymes** (50), former Dodgers outfielder **Jayson Werth** (43), and pop singer **Rachel Platten** (41).

Softball season ends in Super Regionals for No. 2 seed Cerritos College

■ The Falcons finish with a 32-12 record

By John M. Sherrard
Contributor

NORWALK — After winning 32 games and reaching the California Community College Athletic Association Super Regionals, the 2022 season came to an abrupt ending for the Cerritos College Softball team.

In addition to falling 8-0 (6 Inn.) in the opening game of a three-game series to Santiago Canyon, the Falcons lost the second game on a controversial call to end the game and season Saturday (May 14) in extra innings.

Needing a win to remain alive, the Falcons were trailing the Hawks, 4-3 in the bottom of the eighth with two outs after a bunt single by Alyssa Capps.

The freshman collided with the Santiago Canyon first baseman and before she could get to second base with the possible tying run, the umpire called interference.

Game and season over.

"(The ump) said that she was inside the baseline and she wasn't," longtime Cerritos College Softball coach Kodee Murray said. "She went right down the line and she was at the bag when the ball hit the glove. It was a bad call.

"I'm not saying that because that was the end of the game, I'm saying that because he took a years' worth of work away from the girls because he's making a call, not to end the game, but to end a complete season on a questionable call. You don't do that as an umpire."

With the win, South No. 4 Seed Santiago Canyon moves on to the CCCAA State Championships and they will play North No. 1 seed San Mateo in their first game.

San Mateo defeated Sacramento in two games to advance to state.

The just completed season by the Falcons was the most wins since the 2014 season when they amassed 33 wins.

Cerritos has won two state titles, which includes the first one in the history of the state in community college competition in 1978.

Murray, who has led the Falcon program as coach for the past 20 years, reflected on the past season.

"The team dynamic with this group was unbelievable," Murray said. "They fought for each other from day one all the way through. They went through Covid together. We've got Covid kids, so some of them have their AA Degrees and will be transferring on.

Most of them are great



Cerritos College teammates console each other after their game against Santiago Canyon in the second game of the Women's Softball Southern California Regional Playoffs at Cerritos College in Norwalk on Saturday. Santiago Canyon defeated Cerritos 4-3 in eight innings.

Right: Cerritos College catcher Vicky Najera (23) receives the ball late as Santiago Canyon's runner scores to tie the game in the second game of the Women's Softball Southern California Regional Playoffs at Cerritos College in Norwalk on Saturday. Santiago Canyon defeated Cerritos 4-3 in eight innings. (Photos by Keith Durlinger)

students and great people and they've worked their tail off to do what they've done."



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Are YOU interested in effecting meaningful change to the Norwalk- La Mirada School Board?

The Teachers Association of the Norwalk- La Mirada Area is looking for interested residents to attend an informational meeting for potential School Board candidates. The meeting will be held **Tuesday evening, May 24th at the TANLA Office from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** (A light dinner will be served)

If you are interested in attending, please call TANLA at (562) 868-6251 to RSVP by May 23, 2022

The Falcons finished second to No. 1 Mt. SAC in the South Coast Conference by two games and featured a pitcher that pitched in all but four of the 44 games and finished with the fifth-most wins in the state.

Samantha Islas, with a 23-8 overall record, pitched 13 complete games, had 12 shutouts and 186 strikeouts.

"It was her game to win or lose," said Murray, of Islas in game two. "She didn't want to come out. At this point I wasn't going to take her out of the game. She pushed herself as hard as she could."

Leading the way offensively was freshman third baseman Brooklyn Bedolla with a team-high 53 hits that included a .390 average with 53 hits, 16 doubles, five home runs and 31 RBIs.

Two other top hitters for Cerritos were: freshman first baseman Richere Leduc (49 hits, .353 Avg., 42 RBIs and eight doubles) and freshman second baseman Alyssa Sotelo (.316 Avg., 49 Hits, 32 RBIs and 13 doubles).

Six players played all 44 games for the falcons.

Miranda Diaz, shortstop: "To be honest, we're all

freshmen on this team and didn't know what the college experience was like and we came on strong and just made a statement because no one believed in us.

"Probably our toughest games were against Mt. SAC. They were all close games."

Richere Leduc, first baseman: "We started off the season rough and we fought really hard because we were kind of the underdog team. I'm just really proud of what we did and how unexpected we were.

We were the No. 2 Seed. I'm really proud of us. I poured everything I had out on the field (Saturday)."

**Game 1
Santiago Canyon 8,
Cerritos 0**

The game-one defeat by Santiago Canyon broke the Falcons' eight-game winning streak.

This game was all about the Hawks sophomore pitcher Stella Turner (26-9), as she scattered just three Cerritos hits.

Turner retired the first six Cerritos batters, before freshman right fielder Angelica Gonzalez reached on a bunt single in the third inning.

Gonzalez was sacrificed to second by Capps, but was left stranded. The Hawks led 3-0 after three innings.

Bedolla and designated player Maddy Guillen, each singled to open up the fourth and fifth innings, respectively for the Falcons.

That was it for Cerritos, as the Hawks blew open the game in the top of the sixth with five runs on two hits and two errors to lead, 8-0.

**Game 2
Santiago Canyon 4,
Cerritos 3 (8 innings)**

The Falcons, with a must-win game took a 3-0 lead scoring single runs in the second, third and fifth innings before the Hawks could get on the board.

Guillen singled in the second and eventually gave the Falcons a 1-0 lead as she came home on an infield error by the hawks.

In the third, freshman catcher Vicky Najera gave the Falcons a 2-0 lead with a solo home run to left center to lead, 2-0.

Sotelo gave the Falcons a 3-0 lead in the fifth with a run-scoring double to center, scoring Bedolla.

Meanwhile, Islas was sailing along with a no-hitter through four innings, allowing only three base runners. Two runners were hit by a pitch and the other runner walked.

The next three innings were a different story, as Santiago Canyon tied the game with a run in the sixth, two in the seventh to tie the game, 3-3, and a run in the eighth for the 4-3 lead.

The bottom of the eighth ended with the interference call and the season was over after a successful regular season and opening-round, two-game sweep of L.A. Mission.

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Public trust in the Supreme Court plummets

By Jim Hightower

When Supreme Court member Justice Samuel Alito's secret plan for canceling the constitutional right of women to end their pregnancies leaked out to the public, Republican politicians went ballistic! Over the leak, that is.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, the perpetually sour old goose who heads the Senate Republican caucus, had a hissy fit when the news leaked out that American women are about to have their most fundamental constitutional right taken from them by a right-wing cabal of Supreme Court judges.

What made Mitch twitch, of course, was not the bad news for women... but the leak itself. He huffed that revealing the court's scheme to the public was a "stunning breach," spewing that it's "an attack on the independence of the Supreme Court." Uh, Mitch... the so-called Supremes have been meeting behind closed doors specifically to plot an all-out attack on the independence of some 170 million women to control their own bodies. Why aren't you opposing that autocratic governmental secrecy, rather than supporting the court's subversion of women's liberty?

Perversely, the entire Republican leadership is outraged by the leak, rather than the attack on women's rights. Right-wing blowhard Sen. Ted Cruz, for example, yapped that informing the public "will do lasting damage to the integrity of the court." Uh, Ted... you and your ideological ilk

annihilated the court's integrity — and its legitimacy — when you stacked it with a covey of corporate-coddling partisan hacks like Alito and justices Amy Coney Barrett, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Clarence Thomas.

Then came Sen. Mike Lee of Utah, a Trump acolyte, ludicrously blathering that the leak of the judicial plan is "despicable." Why? Well, he explained to us commoners, the court "is not a political body." If ignorance is bliss, Mike must be ecstatic! The GOP majority on this court is so immersed in its own partisan biases that it is routinely ruling against workers, the environment, women, voting rights, local communities... and democracy itself.

No surprise then that public trust in the integrity of these "arbiters of justice" is crashing. If the court won't respect the people's democratic ideals, then the people won't respect the court.

The court's Republican chief justice, John Roberts, called the unauthorized disclosure an "affront" to the majesty of the Supremes. Likewise, Republican congressional leaders have furiously demanded to know whodunit and why! Way beyond their political screeching and posturing, however, a Pennsylvania woman quietly wrote a letter to The New York Times that calmly posed a couple of honest, more fundamental questions: "Why are Supreme Court votes and processes so hidden in the first place?" and "How did this grip on secrecy become so sacrosanct?"

After all, as important and enormously powerful as this tiny body is, it's still a governmental agency doing public business that affects every American. So, the legal work that the nine members of this ultimate judicial authority do — including their internal machinations to reach such awesome decisions as nullifying fundamental human rights — ought to be transparent to all who will be affected.

The ugly truth is that today's third branch of government has needlessly, dangerously and rather ludicrously become a black-robed autocracy. Bear in mind that these nine individuals are enrobed for life, choose the cases they consider, make up their own rules of ethical conduct, operate almost entirely behind closed doors, can conspire to issue decrees — and the bare majority of only five of them can arbitrarily overrule presidents, congresses, states, other courts, voters... and your own personal life decisions.

And now comes a six-person GOP majority of supreme justices determined to entrench corporate plutocracy, right-wing theocracy and Republican sovereignty over all of us. That's why we must finally lift the medieval veil of secrecy the partisan judges are using to shroud their actions.

Jim Hightower is a radio host and syndicated columnist.

When politicians use tragedy to justify censorship

By Jacob Sullum

When politicians echo Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes' famous observation about "shouting 'fire' in a crowded theater," it typically means they are trying to justify unconstitutional speech restrictions. So it was with New York Gov. Kathy Hochul's comments after the racist mass shooting that killed 10 people at a Buffalo grocery store on Saturday.

Hochul was responding to questions from "Meet the Press" host Chuck Todd, who during Sunday's show condemned "a permissive culture on the internet" that allows "right-wing extremism" and "white supremacy" to run rampant. Given the role that such views played in Saturday's horrifying attack, Todd asked Hochul, shouldn't "internet companies" be "held responsible for the easy spread of this propaganda"?

Todd noted with dismay that critics of that proposition tend to cite "freedom of speech or things like this." Hochul shared his impatience with such objections.

"I'll protect the First Amendment any day of the week," the governor said. "But you don't protect hate speech. You don't protect incendiary speech. You're not allowed to scream 'fire' in a crowded theater. There are limitations on speech."

Hochul is right that the Supreme Court has recognized exceptions to the freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment. She is wrong in thinking that "hate speech" is one of them.

As First Amendment scholar David Hudson notes, that provision "makes no general exception for offensive, repugnant, or hateful expression." To the contrary, the Supreme Court repeatedly has held that bigoted and outrageously inflammatory speech, including the sort that influenced the Buffalo shooter, is constitutionally protected.

Hochul, who has a law degree, should know that. But her allusion to the analogy that Holmes drew in the 1919 case *Schenck v. United States* tells you how little regard she actually has for the freedoms she claims she is prepared to defend "any day of the week."

In that decision, the Court unanimously upheld the Espionage Act convictions of two Socialist Party leaders, Charles Schenck and Elizabeth Baer, who had sent recently drafted soldiers "printed circulars" arguing that conscription violated the 13th Amendment's ban on involuntary servitude. While that argument might be tolerable in ordinary times, the Court said, it posed "a clear and present danger" during World War I and therefore was properly treated as a crime.

"The character of every act depends upon the circumstances in which it is done," Holmes wrote. "The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theatre and causing a panic."

A week later, in two more unanimous opinions by Holmes, the Court applied the same logic to uphold the Espionage Act convictions of Socialist presidential candidate Eugene Debs and newspaper publisher Jacob Frohwerk. As the Court saw it, the First Amendment did not protect a speech

urging resistance to the draft or articles criticizing U.S. involvement in World War I.

Within six years, however, the Court began to retreat from the "clear and present danger" test. The current standard for punishing allegedly crime-promoting speech, laid out in the 1969 case *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, asks whether it is both intended to incite "imminent lawless action" and "likely" to do so.

Under that test, it is clear that promoting racist and antisemitic ideas such as "replacement theory," which posits that Jews are conspiring to make whites a minority in the United States, is constitutionally protected. Yet Hochul seems to prefer the repudiated jurisprudence that allowed the government to imprison Schenk, Baer, Debs and Frohwerk.

Hochul's invocation of Holmes' analogy makes it clear that she is not just talking about voluntary moderation by social media companies. "I want to silence those voices now," she said at a Buffalo church on Sunday.

If "the social media platforms that allow this hatred to ferment" fail to suppress it, Hochul said, "I will use every bit of the power I have as your governor to protect you." Fortunately, Hochul does not have as much power as she thinks.

Jacob Sullum is a senior editor at Reason magazine.

Dress codes are about respect, not money

By Froma Harrop

There was a time when spending big at a swank restaurant would be regarded as an occasion requiring dress-up. Then the slob culture took over so that even when an establishment made great effort to arrange flowers, iron tablecloths and provide formal service, customers would turn up in sweatshirts and ratty sneakers.

Dress standards for deluxe dining started collapsing decades ago, but the pandemic pounded them further. With the health crisis receding, high-end restaurants are looking for a reset by establishing (or restoring) rules for dress. Olivetta in Los Angeles texts a warning: "Upscale fashionable dress code strongly enforced." The management at Houston's Thirteen — noting that "our wallpaper is Gucci" — also announced that customers in T-shirts and sweatpants would no longer be welcome.

Good for these defenders of decorum, and too bad for those who resent them.

The objections are flimsy, if not phony. But let's address them anyway.

First off, dress codes are not about money. J. Crew sells navy blazers for only \$199, while ripped-up jeans at Nordstrom go for an astounding \$258. And not all classy dressers rely on expensive tailoring. Some people just have style, the ability to put together chic outfits with moderately priced parts.

Proper attire can be found at Target, as well as Neiman Marcus.

Dress codes are not about race. Saying that they are is itself racist. It's no secret that many of the most elegantly dressed men and women in any downtown are Black. And who could match the Black church ladies in their suits and fabulous hats for splendor?

There have been unfortunate reports, such as a restaurant turning away a Black customer in a track outfit while admitting a similarly dressed white one. The remedy is better-trained staff.

Dress codes are not about class. On the contrary, dressing down at upscale restaurants can take on the air of reverse slumming. Call it "slobbism." You see people who look like they just cleaned the garage snapping fingers at waiters in pressed uniforms providing professional service.

Given the demographics of the kitchen staff that's often preparing the truffled turbot — and many of the crisply attired workers in the front of the house — not giving a damn how one presents oneself to them can take on an air of class superiority, sometimes with racial undertones.

Dress codes are also about showing respect for the diners at the next table. When did we make the humans around us invisible?

We can partly blame an online culture where we watch what's on the

screen knowing that, in most cases, no one is looking back. Thus, we forget that at live performances — be they at a restaurant or theater — the audience is part of the show.

With the decline of communal dining at home, many have lost the sense of occasion outside of big deals, like Thanksgiving or a wedding party. The days and weeks melt into one long blah that can get extended to an expensive dinner at a finer restaurant.

As for the legalities of dress codes, yes, they are legal. Those enforcing them are private businesses. They have a right to set their own standards for conduct, which would include dress.

Of course, there is no fashion police to arrest rich peasants in T-shirts bearing vulgar words or wearing baseball caps on backward. Such diners still have a multitude of options, many of which serve pretty good food. These restaurants may welcome anyone who can pay, and that's fine.

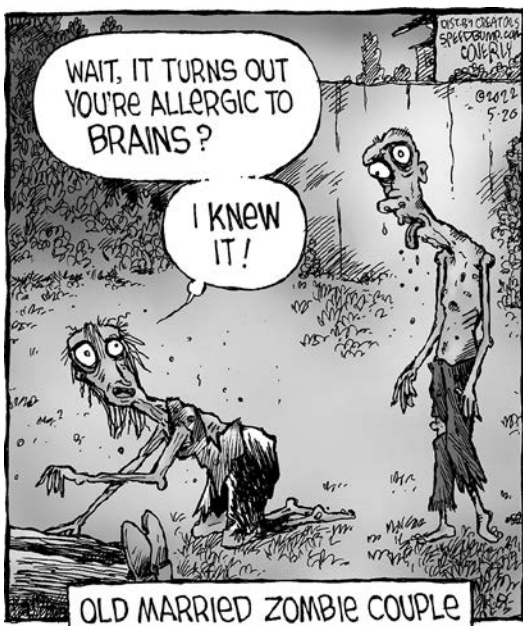
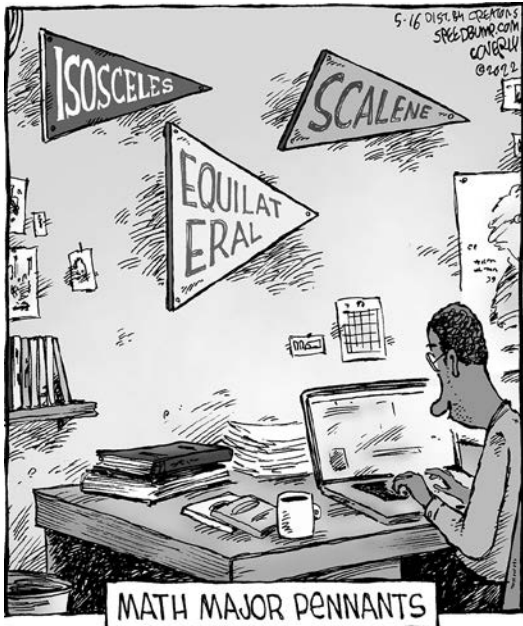
Just remember that dress codes are about fostering respect, not exclusion. And even the most casual places may post signs saying, "No shoes, no shirt, no service."

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

Visit us at:

www.TheNorwalkPatriot.com

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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Contributor

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PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
UNDEMONSTRATIVE: Explained at 135 Across
 by Billie Truitt

- ACROSS**
- 1 Incline
 - 5 "Good gracious!"
 - 9 Milky gems
 - 14 Evaluated
 - 19 Texter's "Then again..."
 - 20 Insect in a cocoon
 - 21 Chinese gambling mecca
 - 22 Make reparations
 - 23 Enthusiasm to spare
 - 25 "I Got Rhythm" lyricist
 - 27 Fair, as weather
 - 28 What boys will be
 - 30 Scholarship allowances
 - 31 Book after Daniel
 - 32 Flinch
 - 35 Louvre Pyramid designer
 - 36 Arrange, as a shawl
 - 39 Too far away to hear
 - 45 Sound of distaste
 - 48 Limerick or sonnet
 - 50 Four-door car
 - 51 Pebble or boulder
 - 52 British SUV
 - 56 Blends together
 - 58 Enjoy the pool
 - 59 Email folder
 - 60 New Testament king
 - 62 Urban renewal candidates
 - 64 Cap or lid
 - 65 Put off sleeping
 - 67 Greek earth goddess
 - 69 Formal speeches
 - 71 Everywhere
 - 75 When "it'll be different"
 - 78 Appear to be
 - 79 Short on top/long in back hair
 - 83 Omelet option
 - 84 Fortune-tellers
 - 86 Torah teacher
 - 89 Nancy Drew novel byline
 - 90 Old-fashioned oath
 - 92 Levels of authority
 - 94 Measures of heating or cooling
 - 96 Propelled a dinghy
 - 98 Indian yogurt dip
 - 100 Meander
 - 101 The 1% in 1% milk
 - 102 What a chain reaction requires
 - 105 Crouch down
 - 108 Former B'nai B'rith org.
 - 109 Deliver a sermon, say
 - 111 The "Divine" Bette
 - 115 Reveal
 - 120 Poker prize
 - 121 Barrette alternative
 - 123 "If so..."
 - 126 Highly observant
 - 128 Hard to climb
 - 129 The king, in Cannes
 - 130 Starting stake
 - 131 Gymnast Korbut
 - 132 Firewood measures
 - 133 Swiss money
 - 134 Dallas hoopsters
 - 135 Hiding what you (what the nine longest answers are doing)
- DOWN**
- 1 Highest part of Lady Liberty
 - 2 Author Calvino
 - 3 Home Depot rival
 - 4 Focused on a subject
 - 5 Receptive
 - 6 Feeling offended
 - 7 Car sticker stat.
 - 8 "I rule!"
 - 9 Foreboding harm
 - 10 Course standard
 - 11 Fed. health law
 - 12 Trails behind
 - 13 Bird food ingredient
 - 14 Ones with gravelly voices
 - 15 Nonbelievers
 - 16 Dot on a map
 - 17 Oklahoma city
 - 18 Cozy rooms
 - 24 Within reach
 - 26 Kelly of morning TV
 - 29 Environmental prefix
 - 32 Superman in four films
 - 33 Romantic couple
 - 34 Rich mine deposits
 - 37 Busy month for CPAs
 - 38 Piglet's pal
 - 40 Left uncultivated
 - 41 Multi-day motorcycle race
 - 42 Practical book genre
 - 43 Edible bulb
 - 44 Subs at the office
 - 45 Dwarf planet beyond Neptune
 - 46 Are after
 - 47 Hoop group
 - 49 Come together
 - 53 Some Prado paintings
 - 54 Jumps for joy
 - 55 Loud laughs
 - 57 Excessive flattery
 - 61 Inhibit
 - 63 Physician's patron
 - 66 One working hard
 - 68 Yet to come
 - 70 Sat at a light
 - 72 Pro golfer Mark
 - 73 Springlike
 - 74 Glowing coal
 - 75 2000s teen drama series
 - 76 Comic strip Viking
 - 77 Japanese porcelain
 - 80 Dining table expander
 - 81 "Queen of New Age"
 - 82 Trial balloon
 - 85 Economize to a fault
 - 87 OshKosh (kids' clothing label)
 - 88 Arab League member
 - 91 Separated
 - 93 Be a troupe leader
 - 95 Outback bird
 - 97 Exercised in a pool
 - 99 Germ-free
 - 103 Thicken, as cream
 - 104 __ Paulo, Brazil
 - 106 Gallic girlfriend
 - 107 Get bored with
 - 110 Third-stringers
 - 112 Fashion sense
 - 113 Prolonged attack
 - 114 Olympian's prize
 - 115 Puck or checker
 - 116 Enthusiastic about
 - 117 Ending like -arian
 - 118 Personal nature
 - 119 Perpetually
 - 121 House Hunters cable channel
 - 122 Brewery products
 - 124 Time period with a name
 - 125 Starter for sense
 - 127 Santa __, CA

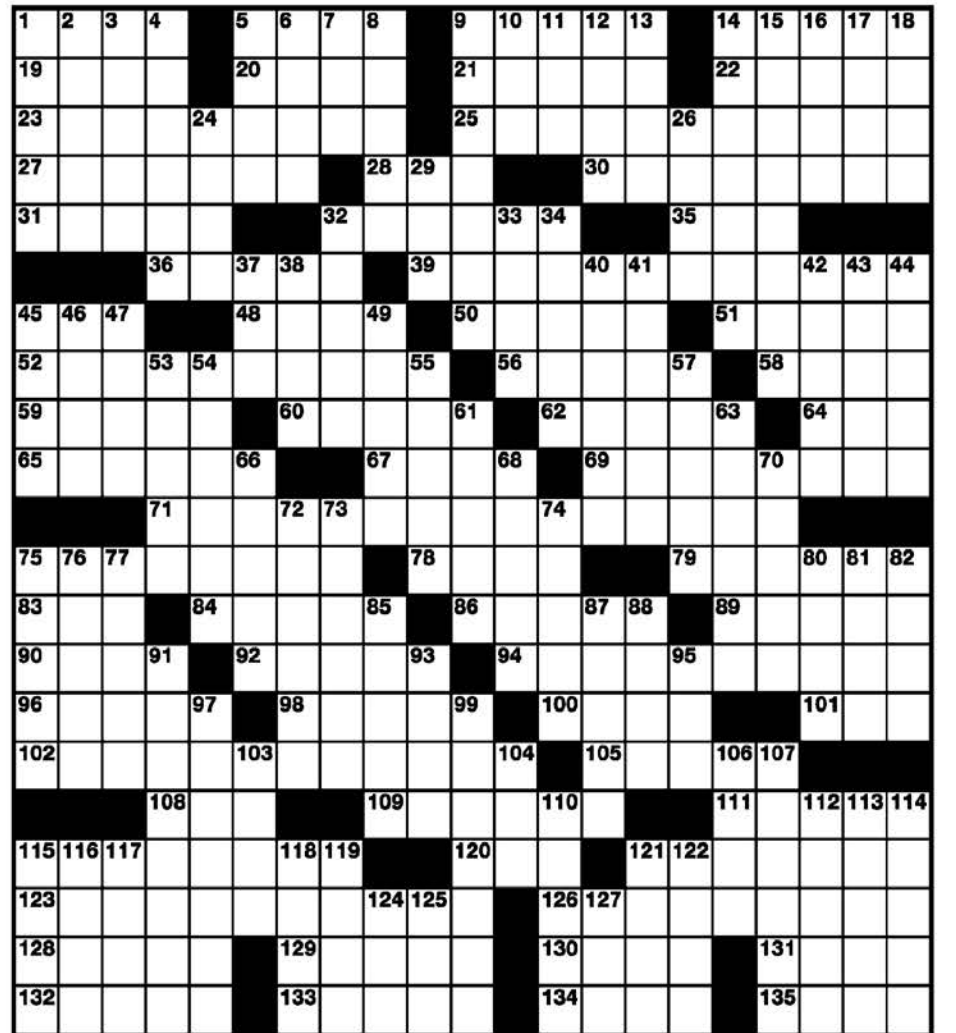
You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

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

With a population of about 700,000 in an area of about 13 square miles, MACAU (21 Across) is the world's most densely populated region. In Greek mythology, GAIA (67 Across) is the ancestral mother of all life; her Roman equivalent is Terra. Specifically, the difference between a particular day's average temperature and a base temperature of 69 degrees Fahrenheit; a positive number being a cooling degree day, and a negative number being a heating degree day.



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Reach Stan Newman at www.StanXwords.com

Man convicted in pursuit that ended in deadly crash

By City News Service

WHITTIER - A Santa Fe Springs man was convicted Monday of murder and other charges for leading police on a pursuit that ended with a fiery crash in Whittier just over three years ago.

Kevin Vargas fled from an officer who tried to stop him for a traffic violation Feb. 18, 2019, and a brief pursuit ensued in which he drove onto a dead-end street, made a U-turn and drove toward police vehicles chasing him, authorities said.

Vargas' car collided with the victim's Ford Explorer near the corner of Wardman Street and Pickering Avenue. The driver of the Ford Explorer, Isaías Rodriguez Cruz, 61, died from blunt force trauma that day at a hospital.

Vargas was arrested after escaping from his car -- which burst into flames -- and fleeing from the scene of the crash.

Jurors found Vargas, now 27, guilty of one count each of second-degree murder, evading a peace officer causing death and hit-and-run driving resulting in death, along with four counts of assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer and two misdemeanor counts of hit-and-run with property damage.

Vargas is facing a potential life prison term, with sentencing set July 7 in a Norwalk courtroom.

Vargas has remained behind bars since his arrest, according to jail records.

Sanchez presents \$1.72M check to Norwalk

NORWALK - On Tuesday, May 3, Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez presented the City of Norwalk with a check for \$1.72 million for its Smart Cities Digital Divide project.

The Smart Cities Digital Divide project will help ensure that Norwalk students and residents have equitable access to necessary digital infrastructure. The project will establish "Smart & Safe" Wi-Fi zones within public parks and facilities near these locations.

Mayor Rick Ramirez thanked Sanchez stating, "Thank you, Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez, for working with us to obtain this necessary funding that will assist in the digital divide that exists within the city." He continued, "This funding will help some of the City's neighborhood students, as well as the rest of the community to have equitable access to the internet, which is a key factor in today's technologically driven society."

The Wi-Fi project is designed and developed for the City of Norwalk's neighborhood students, employees, workers, and small businesses.

At the City Council meeting, Sánchez stated, "Internet access is needed for almost everything today, from connecting with family to e-learning and applying for jobs. It needs to be accessible for everyone." Congresswoman Sánchez continued, "I'm delighted to be here in Norwalk today to highlight how this funding will make the internet more accessible for our students and residents."

The funding for this project, which is coming from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, was part of the historic bipartisan omnibus appropriations agreement for fiscal year 2022 that was signed by President Biden on March 11. This omnibus appropriations package included earmarked, Member-specific, community projects, which has not happened in over a decade.



From left: Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, Norwalk vice mayor Ana Valencia and Councilwoman Margarita Rios.

Puente Hills Park secures \$28.25M in funding

PUENTE HILLS - Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis Wednesday celebrated a \$28.25 million allocation of funds for a regional park in Puente Hills, the first new recreational space of its kind in the county in more than 35 years.

The Puente Hills County Regional Park will take shape on the former site of the Puente Hills Landfill, which at its peak was the largest dump in the nation but closed in 2013.

"The Puente Hills Landfill was once the largest operating landfill in the United States, and in the 1990s, there was a push to expand the landfill's operations -- and that is when I began my fight," Solis said. "I grew up in La Puente, not too far from the landfill, and I still remember the unpleasant odor and truck traffic the site had throughout my neighborhood."

"So, in 1994, as a member of the California state Assembly, I authored a bill that required the landfill to be converted into a park after its closure. With the approval of my motion yesterday (Tuesday), we are on our way to help make this a reality. The new regional park will benefit generations to come in the East San Gabriel Valley."

The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday voted to allocate \$28.25 million the county received from a sale of about nine acres of land at the Diamond Bar Golf Course to accommodate a freeway interchange.

With the allocation, nearly \$110 million has been dedicated toward the design and initial construction of the regional park project. The county received roughly \$80 million toward the project through the settlement of a lawsuit against the county Sanitation Districts over the future of the former landfill site.

The regional park is envisioned as a 142-acre space with a mix of amenities, but primarily open space and hiking trails.

Chuong Vo selected to be new Cerritos mayor

CERRITOS - Chuong Vo was selected as mayor of the City of Cerritos by his City Council colleagues during the mayoral transition held on April 27.

"I am greatly honored to serve as mayor of Cerritos," remarked Vo. "I am especially proud to be the first Vietnamese-American to be elected to the Cerritos City Council and chosen as mayor. My parents immigrated to this country to give our family a better life and this incredible opportunity helps me fulfill their dream."

"I am dedicated to working hard on behalf of all Cerritos residents to provide the excellent services they expect and deserve."

Vo was elected to the Cerritos City Council in 2020. He was named mayor pro tem in 2020 and 2021. A Cerritos resident since 2000, Vo served on the Cerritos Community Safety Committee from 2009 to 2011 and as a Cerritos Planning Commissioner from 2011 to 2017.

"My goal is to have an open, transparent administration," Vo stated. "I welcome everyone in the community to contact me regarding their suggestions and concerns regarding the City. I believe the City Council, staff and community can work together to ensure Cerritos continues to thrive and is one of the best places to live and work in Southern California."

Cerritos College offering free Chinese language classes

NORWALK - A free Chinese language and culture course is coming to Cerritos College this summer.

Taught by professors from the University of Taipei, the online course is open to all at no cost. Participants can virtually attend the University of Taipei, learn the traditional Chinese language, and explore Taiwanese culture through 10 free sessions every Tuesday from June 7 to August 9.

No experience or level of Chinese language fluency is needed to take the classes. In-class translation will be provided.

The free online course was made possible through a partnership with the Cerritos College Trustee Dr. Shin Liu, the Taipei City Government, the University of Taipei, and the Cerritos College Adult Education and Community Education departments.

"I'm excited to bring this cultural program to our students and the community," said Dr. Liu, who has championed global education on the board for years. "This program will help add a global perspective to participants' lives and educational journeys."

Cerritos College also offered the Taiwan Experience Education Program, a study abroad and teaching internship program, in 2018-19.

Visit www.cerritos.edu/taipei to register for classes and more information.

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The collage features several pages from 'The Norwalk Patriot' newspaper, dated Friday, July 20, 2018. The main headline on the top page is 'Norwalk man charged with murder'. Other visible headlines include 'SUMMER CONCERTS ON THE LAWN', 'Freeway off-ramp closed for 3 months', and 'Norwalk restaurant grades'. There are also photos of a man playing a trumpet and a group of people at a concert.

