

County advances gun control measures

■ The legislation would ban .50-caliber handguns and outlaw firearms on all county property.

By City News Service

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Tuesday directed its attorneys to draft a series of ordinances aimed at regulating gun sales and possession in the county, including a ban on the sale of .50-caliber handguns and ammunition in unincorporated areas.

Another proposed ordinance would require "buffer zones" between gun/ammunition dealers and "sensitive areas" such as schools, day care centers and parks in unincorporated areas. Another would ban the possession of firearms on all county property.

The board also directed county staff to draft within 90 days a series of other regulations, including requiring ammunition dealers to obtain a county business license; restricting minors' access to gun and ammunition stores; requiring such stores to submit annual sales reports to the county licensing agency and to submit weekly reports on inventory. The rules would also require weapons and ammunition stores to maintain a fingerprint log, install security cameras and notify all of its customers about "gun owner responsibilities and gun laws along with options for nearby gun safety classes," according to the motion.

The proposals were the result of a confidential report that was presented to the board last month on possible gun regulations that could be imposed locally. The board voted unanimously in June to request the report, with Supervisor Janice Hahn saying there is "a gun violence epidemic in our nation."

The board asked its attorneys to explore an array of possible regulations, and the proposals approved by the board Tuesday are a result of that report, according to the motion introduced by Hahn and Supervisor Hilda Solis.

"We need to do whatever we can in our own jurisdictions to keep our own communities safe," Hahn said Tuesday.

She called the proposed ordinances -- which will be drafted over the next three months and return to the board for another vote -- "common sense gun regulations" that are part of an attempt "to reduce gun violence in our communities." But she called the measures "just one piece of the puzzle."

"If we move forward with implementing these four common-sense gun regulations, I hope others in our county will follow suit," Hahn said.

Norwalk buys battery-powered buses

NORWALK — The Norwalk City Council on Sept. 6 authorized the purchase of three new battery-powered buses and two bus chargers.

The buses and chargers are expected to be delivered in 2024. The buses can be fully charged in under four hours and have a travel range of up to 150 miles per charge.

"These [buses] will help decrease the carbon footprint in the City of Norwalk and surrounding communities," said Mayor Rick Ramirez.

Project Roomkey blamed for spike in Norwalk's homeless population

■ Project Roomkey, a county-operated initiative that placed hundreds of homeless people in Norwalk, opened in 2020.

NORWALK — The number of unhoused people living in Norwalk nearly doubled in the last two years, according to the results of a homeless count released this month.

In 2020, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority counted 168 people living on the streets of Norwalk. There was no count in 2021 due to the pandemic.

This year, the number of homeless people in Norwalk reached 311.

Norwalk officials attributed the spike to Project Roomkey and Project Homekey, county programs that placed homeless individuals in local motels.

In 2018, in an effort to combat homelessness, the Norwalk city council adopted a homeless task force and the Homeless Operation Prevention and Engagement (H.O.P.E.) team. Operating as part of the Norwalk Public Safety Department, the H.O.P.E. team increased engagement with homeless people and directed them to resources provided by other agencies.

"The city noticed a marked improvement on how it dealt with the homeless population. Our numbers of those on the street began to drop almost immediately," said Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez. "However, that all changed during the pandemic when our city was

forced to deal with the consequences of having Project Roomkey and Project Homekey site placed here by the County of Los Angeles.

"In fact, we had the largest [Project Roomkey] site in the Gateway Cities region."

Norwalk had a Project Roomkey site at the 210-room Saddleback Hotel, located at 12500 Firestone Blvd., that operated from May 7, 2020 through Aug. 4, 2021.

When initially forced on the city, the city council voted in April 2020 to impose a temporary ban to prevent motel conversions for Project Roomkey without prior city approval. L.A. County then sued Norwalk and in April 2020 a judge issued a temporary restraining order directing the city to comply with the state and county.

"What ensued was an influx of homeless population from outside the city," Ramirez said. "As a result, the council had to approve additional funding for both the Public Safety Department and Social Services Department to strengthen supportive services.

"It was unfortunate that this program had a high abandonment rate that resulted in over 300 former participants being unaccounted for and left to roam on the streets. This was consistent with other areas in the region that also had a county run program within their city limits.

The City Council made efforts to combat this problem in the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 General Fund, as operating expenditures were increased to further enhance services, primarily under the Public Safety's H.O.P.E. team and Social



The Saddleback Hotel in Norwalk was chosen by L.A. County as a Project Roomkey site in 2020. Norwalk's homeless population nearly doubled over the next two years.

Services Department. This resulted in an overall operating budget increase of \$7.6 million, or 15%.

The budget also increased the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department contract 5%.

In June 2021, the City Council recognized the importance and successes of the H.O.P.E. team and approved the addition of a second full-time H.O.P.E. team that worked into the evenings to provide dedicated homeless engagement seven days a week.

Additionally, in June 2022, the City Council voted to enhance city services under the Social Services Department by adding evening/weekend coverage to work

concurrently with the H.O.P.E. team. This allowed the city to have ample homeless support services seven days a week.

"Despite the hurdles thrown upon us, these efforts show that the City of Norwalk is doing its part in combatting homelessness in the region," Ramirez said. "Our residents want to see these numbers decrease, and the council has aggressively sought efforts to that end. We are confident these efforts of providing resources to tackle this issue will succeed."

Villanueva, Luna spar in L.A. County sheriff debate

■ Luna accused the sheriff of employing deputy gang members; Villanueva called Luna a puppet for the Board of Supervisors.

By City News Service

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva and challenger Robert Luna traded barbs Wednesday during their heated televised debate for sheriff at the Skirball Cultural Center.

Villanueva called Luna a puppet candidate for the Board of Supervisors. Luna said Villanueva was wrong to investigate his enemies, and criticized the sheriff for not doing enough to address alleged deputy gangs in his department and defying subpoenas from the civilian oversight commission.

Villanueva defended his record from criticism by Luna, the former Long Beach Police Department chief. The election for Los Angeles County Sheriff is less than two months away in November.

Since taking office in 2018, Villanueva has drawn criticism for ignoring and dismissing alleged deputy gangs in the sheriff's department, defying subpoenas from the civilian oversight commission and most recently signing off on a search by deputies at the home of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl last week.

Luna painted himself as a sheriff who would collaborate with other elected officials. He began criticizing Villanueva from the start of the debate for having what he described as an "us vs. them" mentality. Villanueva has repeatedly clashed with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, all five of whom have endorsed Luna.

"Part of governing is not agreeing with people," Luna said.



"It's the way you handle it. I work with people. I don't work for people. That's the contrast between myself and my opponent."

Villanueva accused Luna of being a "puppet" for the Board of Supervisors, which is in charge of the sheriff's budget.

"When you're working with people, that doesn't mean you're a puppet," Luna said. "When you are consistently putting down the people who manage your budget, you're not serving our residents to the best of your ability."

Villanueva defended the search of Kuehl's home in connection with a corruption investigation by claiming his office alerted the FBI and state Attorney General's office and that "the authority of the sheriff is to investigate crime, period."

But Luna said Villanueva was wrong to "investigate your political opponents or enemies," claiming that it has led to the erosion of public trust in the sheriff.

"You can't do this," Luna said.

Villanueva responded by claiming Luna wouldn't touch

oversight commission regarding deputy gangs.

"We have got to show the public that they can trust us and right now, they do not," Luna said.

The most recent poll conducted in August by the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies had Luna slightly ahead of Villanueva.

Luna served as chief of the Long Beach Police Department from 2014-2021, capping off a 36-year career at the department.

Villanueva, who promised to reform the department in his first campaign, has seen his political base shift during his tenure. He has complained about efforts to "defund" law enforcement, claiming he lacks resources as sheriff.

The two differed over whether they would work with Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascón. Villanueva has been critical of Gascón's progressive policies, calling him a "second public defender."

"And that is jeopardizing the safety of every man and woman here in Los Angeles County," Villanueva said.

Villanueva claimed that Gascón wasn't filing cases and that he wasn't going to "play pretend that we're going to work together and have this wonderful relationship."

Luna used the rift as another example of what he described as the sheriff's failures to be collaborative. He said that the sheriff had a responsibility to work with those that he didn't get along with.

"This nonsense has got to stop," Luna said. "We've got to start acting like adults and work with people for the benefit of the residents of this county."

Luna said deputy gangs have been one of the top issues he's heard about on the campaign trail. He believed there needed to be federal and state intervention to address the problem. He criticized Villanueva for defying a subpoena to testify in front of a civilian

Weekend at a Glance

Friday	92°	
Saturday	93°	
Sunday	93°	

THINGS TO DO



The Local Group Show IV
Friday, 7-9 pm
Stay Gallery

Join Stay Gallery for the closing reception of its fourth annual installation of The Local Group Show, a group exhibition featuring 52 artists from Los Angeles County. Refreshments, fine art prints, tees, and locally made goods will be available for purchase.

ON THIS DAY

1779: During the American Revolution, American commander John Paul Jones answered a call to surrender from his English counterpart with the famous quotation, "I have not yet begun to fight!"

1806: Lewis and Clark arrived in St. Louis, Missouri, at the end of their daring expedition to the Pacific Northwest.

1846: Astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle became the first person ever to observe the planet Neptune, the existence of which had been mathematically predicted by Urbain-Jean-Joseph Le Verrier and John Couch Adams.

1868: A small group of Puerto Rican radicals committed to independence attempted an uprising, El Grito de Lares; the revolt was crushed by the Spanish.

1949: American singer, songwriter, and bandleader Bruce Springsteen, who became the archetypal rock performer of the 1970s and '80s, was born.

1969: The American film "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" had its world premiere, and it became a western classic, especially noted for the pairing of Paul Newman and Robert Redford as the titular outlaws.

1980: Jamaican musician Bob Marley, who was especially known for popularizing reggae, performed his last concert, a sold-out show in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; he died of cancer the following year.

2002: The first public version of the web browser Mozilla Firefox was released. It was downloaded more than 60 million times within nine months of its release.

2019: The British travel company Thomas Cook Group declared bankruptcy, leaving employees without jobs and 600,000 customers stranded abroad.

Birthdays

Spanish singer **Julio Iglesias** (79), rock singer **Bruce Springsteen** (73), "Seinfeld" star **Jason Alexander** (63), wrestler **Matt Hardy** (48), actor **Anthony Mackie** (44), bestselling author **Liz Murray** (42), former Dodgers outfielder **Matt Kemp** (38), comedian **Hasan Minhaj** (37), "Pitch Perfect" actor **Skylar Astin** (35), and dancer **Kalani Hilliker** (22).

Relay for Life

Norwalk, Downey, Bellflower and Paramount hosted a Relay for Life fundraising event last Saturday at Paramount Park. The event included a celebration of cancer survivors, a candlelight vigil for those lost to cancer, and live entertainment.



Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

In my job, I interact with a LOT of people, and I am confident that my patients would not want to be examined by someone with dirty hair, a body odor, or bad breath. Perhaps I am overly diligent about maintaining my personal hygiene - what does science have to say about it?



Hygiene is a range of practices that keep us and those around us clean, in order to prevent and reduce the risk of infection and illness. The fact that one germ can multiply into more than eight million in a single day can be a great motivation, and when we throw a pandemic into the mix, that motivation grows.

80% of contagious diseases are transmitted by touch; just think about how many things we touch every day. We then touch our faces an average of 16 times per hour, and certain viruses can survive for up to 24 hours. Here are some examples: surveys tell us that one in ten employees never clean their keyboards, and the keyboard I am using as I write this may have some 7,500 bacteria living on it. A University of Arizona study concluded that more than 90,000 deaths per year were due to infections acquired in the hospital. Staph infections from the remote-control devices in patients' rooms are among the biggest culprits.

So, what can we do to ensure our own good hygiene?

- Wash our hands: Only 20% of people do so before preparing food, and only 39% before eating. Just half of adults in the U.S. say they always wash their hands with soap and water after going to the bathroom. Another 25% say they wash most of the time. In general, women do so more than men. These numbers fall even further when younger people are surveyed. Good hygiene begins with hand washing. It takes 40-60 seconds to do an adequate job using soap and water, and of course, this needs to happen multiple times every day. Did you know that we are far more likely to spread bacteria with wet or damp hands? Don't rush out of the bathroom before thoroughly drying them.

- Germs and other particles are ejected by sneezing at speeds of up to 80 miles per hour. This means a sneeze can spread germs up to ten feet, and move them faster than most cars. We may not be able to prevent a sneeze or a cough, but we certainly can turn away, sneeze into an armpit, and wash afterwards.

- Body odors are caused by a number of factors, including the chemicals or waste excreted in our sweat

(like metabolites of alcohol), the bacteria that live on our skin, and of course by any unwashed clothing like underwear, socks, and shirts.

- In addition to inadequate brushing and flossing, bad breath can be caused by oral infections, diseases of the teeth or gums, or eating certain foods (like garlic and onions). Although it is possible to mask some odors with gum, mouthwash, and even parsley, it is critical to address any underlying cause.

- You may choose to shower or bathe daily, although note that too much water can dry out the skin, which serves as our natural defensive barrier, and wash off protective bacteria and oils. Two-three times per week may be enough for many people, although personally, I don't like going to bed feeling hot, sticky or dirty. Too little bathing can lead to body odor, skin infections or rashes, or acne.

- My daughters have long nagged me to always flush the toilet with the lid down. I found it disturbing to discover that they are absolutely right: Germs dislodged from the agitation of a toilet flush can travel up to six feet.

- Staph bacteria were found on 60% of desks in offices. Worse yet, some 90% of office mugs may harbor germs and bacteria in quantities that could cause illness. In one study, some 20% of those mugs had traces of fecal matter. You may wish to avoid sharing office supplies, including mugs. During these pandemic times in particular, I urge you to stay home if you feel ill.

- Some cell phones carry ten times more bacteria than toilet seats. Think about it. Where do you set yours down? Do you pick it up after using the toilet, but before washing your hands? Clean your cell phone often.

So, given what I just wrote, why don't we get sick all of the time? Fortunately, even though our immune system is being constantly challenged, we are able to fight off most attacks. Let's keep our resistance strong by eating well, exercising, getting proper sleep, avoiding unhealthy habits, and controlling stress. Those measures, along with practicing good hygiene, will significantly reduce our risk of illness.

Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff and former chief of medicine at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240.

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Why are prisoners paid a pittance to make glasses I prescribe for poor kids?

By Julius Oatts

Near the beginning of the pandemic, I performed eye surgery for an infant born with cataracts. To prevent irreversible blindness, it is necessary for children to start wearing eyeglasses immediately after surgery. For this child, I was told that the glasses would take at least six weeks to arrive — a serious and vision-threatening delay.

The reason for the delay? Coronavirus-related shutdowns of an optical shop in a nearby prison, staffed by incarcerated people, who in California are generally paid between 8 cents and 37 cents per hour. I grappled with conflicted feelings: Alarm over the delay in obtaining eyeglasses for my patient and concern about the welfare of the people making them — because of substandard prison health care and the scandalously low wages.

This child, like many of my patients, was insured by Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid health insurance program serving low-income children, families and seniors, typically those making below 138 percent of the federal poverty level (currently \$38,295 annual income for a family of four). In the current fiscal year, the California Department of Health Care Services, which oversees Medi-Cal, agreed to pay up to \$37.9 million for optical services for adults and children run by the California Prison Industry Authority, a semiautonomous prison labor agency under the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The arrangement dates to the 1980s.

The California penal code requires that the state purchase products, such as eyeglasses, made by imprisoned people overseen by the prison industry authority. Colleagues and I recently published an article in the American Journal of Public Health examining the relationship between taxpayer-funded health care and prison labor in California. We found, through a public-records request and confirmed with the California Prison Industry

Authority, that the state's Medicaid contracts account for up to 74 percent of the authority's approximately \$13 million annual revenue from optical services.

Thus do taxpayers and a state health-care program for poor children help subsidize an agency overseeing prison labor. The practice is not unique to California; other states using it include New York and Pennsylvania.

Prison labor is often uncompensated or minimally compensated. The 13th Amendment allows the government to compel incarcerated people to work without compensation — which many critics today view as a modern-day extension of slavery. I'm among them.

I recognize that prison labor, in particular the manufacturing of eyeglasses, teaches job skills that can theoretically help with reintegration after leaving prison. What I object to is the minuscule compensation paid to the imprisoned workers — typically a political sop to companies and labor unions worried about competition.

In recent years, Colorado, Nebraska and Utah have banned "involuntary servitude," opening the way to improving prison pay and working conditions. Paying prison workers the minimum wage seems like it would be the minimally acceptable policy, but an effort in June by California legislators on that front failed amid concerns about the estimated \$1.6 billion cost. That is not a small sum, but it represents less than 1 percent of California's \$110.4 billion budget for 2022-2023.

The state Senate attempted last spring to target the prison-made eyewear arrangement, unhappy over reports of long waits by Medi-Cal recipients for eyeglasses. (The state attributed the delays, like the one I experienced, to pandemic-related illness and lockdowns, but an industry association says the delays persist.) A bill proposed to allow Medi-Cal to pay for eyeglasses

obtained from private optical labs, but the legislation was derailed in committee. In any case, some legislators were prepared to bless paying what a state analysis found would be a 141 percent premium to private-sector sources above the rate for prison-made eyewear.

Earlier this year, California "employed" 295 incarcerated people in optical programs at three prisons, with that number set to rise to 420 over the summer as another operation fully opened. Fairly compensating them — and even expanding their number to meet demand or speed delivery times, if needed — seems eminently preferable to paying a bonus to private labs.

If incarcerated people were being paid the minimum wage for producing eyeglasses, I'd still feel conflicted, but would be relieved of the sense that simply through prescribing sight-preserving glasses to my state-insured patients, I am an involuntary participant in an exploitive system.

As for that infant who had cataract surgery and whose urgently needed eyeglasses were delayed, I ultimately was able to obtain them in a more timely way through a philanthropic organization that allows families to bypass the prison-based optical labs contracted by Medi-Cal. Such workarounds can help children avoid preventable vision loss, thankfully, but they're not a long-term solution. Eventually, the current arrangement's fundamental inequities will need to be addressed.

In medical school, I took an oath to "do no harm." Since then, I've had the chance to reflect on the meaning of harm and when it can occur far from the doctor's office doors.

Julius Oatts is a pediatric ophthalmologist and assistant professor at the University of California at San Francisco.

Gavin Newsom is working hard to be presidential material

By Dan Schnur

Gavin Newsom says that he is not running for president. But you may want to judge for yourself.

The California governor has purchased ads for his reelection campaign in the Republican strongholds of Florida and Texas. Newsom rented billboards in seven pro-life states to advertise California's abortion services. He even signed up for an account on Truth Social, Donald Trump's social media platform, where he has promised to be active "calling out Republican lies." Last week, Newsom challenged Ron DeSantis, the Republican governor of Florida, to a debate with a taunt that was guaranteed to draw outside media coverage: "I'll bring my hair gel. You bring your hairspray."

These steps can mean only two things, either that he is preparing a run for 2024 Democratic nomination or that he simply enjoys trolling out-of-state GOP targets in his free time. California has the fifth biggest economy in the world and faces epic housing shortages, wildfires, and daunting energy, education and homelessness challenges. It's not as if his day job doesn't keep him busy.

No, what is going on is that Newsom is working hard to get lucky. If health or some other factor leads Joe Biden to call a stop after one term, Newsom might as well get in line. If Biden does run, Newsom simply puts his nascent campaign on hold for another day. Either way, at least in theory, a heightened national profile rarely hurts an ambitious politician.

Newsom got busy earlier this summer, when Biden's poll numbers seemed stuck at historic lows and his legislative agenda was going nowhere. At a time when many Democrats were frustrated by Biden's refusal to take on his Republican detractors, Newsom's combative behavior toward conservatives was precisely what the blue base craved. Soon, Newsom was

cracking double digits in early primary state presidential polling.

Biden has since managed to put together a string of legislative successes and his poll numbers have edged upward. But Newsom is still spoiling for a fight: Last month, he donated \$100,000 to Democratic candidate Charlie Crist's campaign against DeSantis and has been trading barbs with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who drives liberals to distraction with his performative confrontations on issues such as immigration, abortion and guns.

On one level, Newsom is not that special: The Democratic Party has no shortage of fighters in its ranks. But most of its loudest combatants — Sen. Bernie Sanders, Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez — launch their attacks from the progressive wing of the party. What sets Newsom apart is that he is comfortable working from the center-left. His distance from Biden is less ideological than attitudinal — he can launch a strike against Republicans without alienating swing voters in the process.

Which is what makes Newsom's recent decision to veto legislation that would have allowed government-supervised injection sites for drug users so interesting. Advocates for such an approach have long called for providing safer and more hygienic places for addicts to get clean, but opponents shudder at the idea of government-facilitated drug use.

Four years ago, during his first campaign for governor, Newsom said that he was "very, very open" to a safe injection pilot program. But that door appears to have closed.

Newsom has been known throughout his career for pushing ahead of public opinion on social issues such as same-sex marriage, cannabis legislation and curtailment of the death penalty. But the governor's well-calibrated political antenna may have told him that 2024 might be a little soon for swing-state voters to get on board with government-sanctioned drug

use.

Newsom did leave himself an escape hatch. In his veto message, he cited his concern about an "unlimited number" of injection sites the bill would authorize and directed his appointees to undertake a study to examine a more limited program.

In the past few weeks, he has hopped between measures designed to please progressives and then win the attention of centrists. Just days after Newsom vetoed the injection-site bill, his administration began to move forward on a plan to ban the sale of gasoline-powered vehicles in the state by 2035. That met with widespread applause from his California audience; it was quickly labeled as absurd by politicians in swing states that Democrats need to win presidential elections.

Newsom sent another strong message to progressives by signing legislation to raise the minimum wage for fast food workers, a move that has been harshly criticized by California's business community but praised by labor leaders across the country. As organized labor enjoys a political renaissance inside the Democratic Party, that's a trade that Newsom is happy to make.

From this point forward, every decision he makes will be judged by two different audiences — the mostly progressive voters of his own state and a more centrist electorate that picks presidents. It's a balancing act worthy of Simone Biles, especially if Newsom opts to keep it up for two — or six — more years.

Dan Schnur teaches political communications at the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Southern California.

U.S. poised to lead in emission reductions

By Gina McCarthy

This week, as the world's leaders gather in New York for the U.N. General Assembly, the United States will deliver a message many thought was not possible: We are going to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030, and zero them out by 2050.

Over the past 20 months as America's first-ever national climate adviser, I have witnessed a paradigm shift: The private sector no longer sees climate action as a source of job losses, but rather as an opportunity for job creation and economic revitalization.

It's a striking shift after four years of the Trump administration, which threw science out the window and backed out of the Paris climate agreement. In 2020 the future seemed grim. But today, states and companies are running toward a clean energy future. How did what was once considered impossible become not just feasible, but at the core of America's manufacturing and economic resurgence?

In my early days as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under President Barack Obama, auto dealers were predicting that shifting to cleaner cars meant vehicle costs would skyrocket and sales would drop, while the autoworkers and steelworkers talked about plant closings and layoffs. Even very early on in the Biden administration, when labor was fully engaged and squarely at the table, the old paradigm that cleaner standards meant job loss was hard to break. And unions worried that a big shift to electric vehicles could pose a fundamental threat to their workers.

But quickly the conversation shifted to one of long-term capital investments in E.V. technologies, expanding domestic manufacturing, adding more union jobs and building an E.V. market that would reach 50 percent of new U.S. car sales by 2030. Just a short time ago this shift would have been dismissed as a fairy tale. Not anymore.

What helped change the conversation were the voices of young leaders as the effects of climate change worsened. Severe wildfires are burning down homes, floods are sweeping through wide areas and extreme heat is

threatening lives and livelihoods, especially for low-income communities.

Public and private investments in research and development have also fueled the growth of clean technologies, driving down the costs and attracting industry. Since 2010, the cost of solar energy has decreased by 85 percent, wind energy by 59 percent onshore and 71 percent offshore, and lithium-ion batteries by 89 percent. It's projected that by 2030, over 120,000 wind turbines will provide clean energy to America's homes, businesses and communities, and nearly a billion solar panels will be operating here.

As technologies advanced and companies saw the potential to profit, the private sector looked to the government for clear signals and sound policies. In time, governors of blue and red states, and mayors of cities across the country, started running toward clean energy goals with benchmarks for clean power.

When President Biden came into office, he signed executive orders that created timetables and milestones for every sector of the economy and mobilized his entire administration toward this goal. The president sent clear signals to the private sector that clean energy was the future, and they needed to be all in. Autoworkers, steelworkers and the automakers were now ready to come to the table, alongside climate advocates, farmers, workers, environmental justice activists, and more.

Then, we secured the historic Inflation Reduction Act — the most aggressive action on climate in U.S. history. When Mr. Obama took office, there were 500 charging stations nationwide. Now, thanks to President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we plan to install 500,000 chargers across the country. Every major automaker signed on to the president's goal of achieving 50 percent E.V. sales nationwide by 2030, a goal considered laughable just two years ago.

The United States is now becoming a magnet for clean energy innovation and investment. Since President Biden took office, companies have invested nearly \$85 billion in manufacturing of electric vehicles, batteries and E.V. chargers in the United States. The United States is now on track to triple domestic solar manufacturing capacity by 2024, and in 2021 alone, investors

announced \$2.2 billion in new funding for offshore wind supply chains.

But make no mistake: We have a long way to go. The task of completely reshaping our economy is daunting, especially in a country as vast and complex as ours.

Take the U.S. manufacturing sector, which produces materials like steel and cement, which are critical to rebuilding our nation's infrastructure. It has relied on a fossil-fuel based system for nearly 200 years, so reshaping the system means ensuring that these industrial workers get the training and resources to build the clean energy economy.

Now, we have a "Buy Clean" initiative, which includes the support of the steelworkers union, to leverage the federal government's procurement power for low-carbon steel, concrete, asphalt and glass. The challenge before us is aligning these huge supply chains, from the buyers to the sellers, in a way that allows us to run faster.

While America has made tremendous progress, we need a harmonized global effort to confront climate change. When I see one-third of Pakistan submerged by extreme flooding, or over 700 million people globally without access to power, I am alarmed by how these basic challenges to human health and wellness will make the transition away from fossil fuels hard. The shift in America is not easily replicated in many parts of the world. And to get where we need to go, we need the entire world to run together.

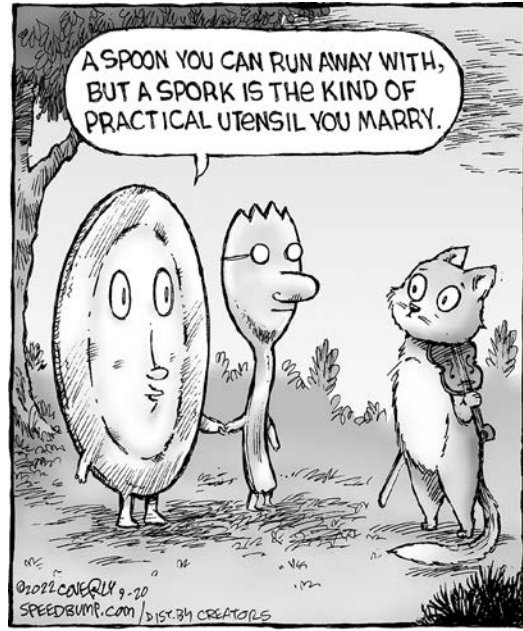
The road is still long, and progress will be uneven. But as I leave my post in the White House, I am optimistic that America is now poised to lead this decisive decade.

Gina McCarthy is the departing national climate adviser and a former administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

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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

SUNDAYS

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Food Pantry - 12201 Firestone Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650

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The Norwalk Patriot is published weekly by The Downey Patriot, Inc. Controlled Distribution, 22,000 copies are printed. Distributed by CIPS Marketing Group, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.

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PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

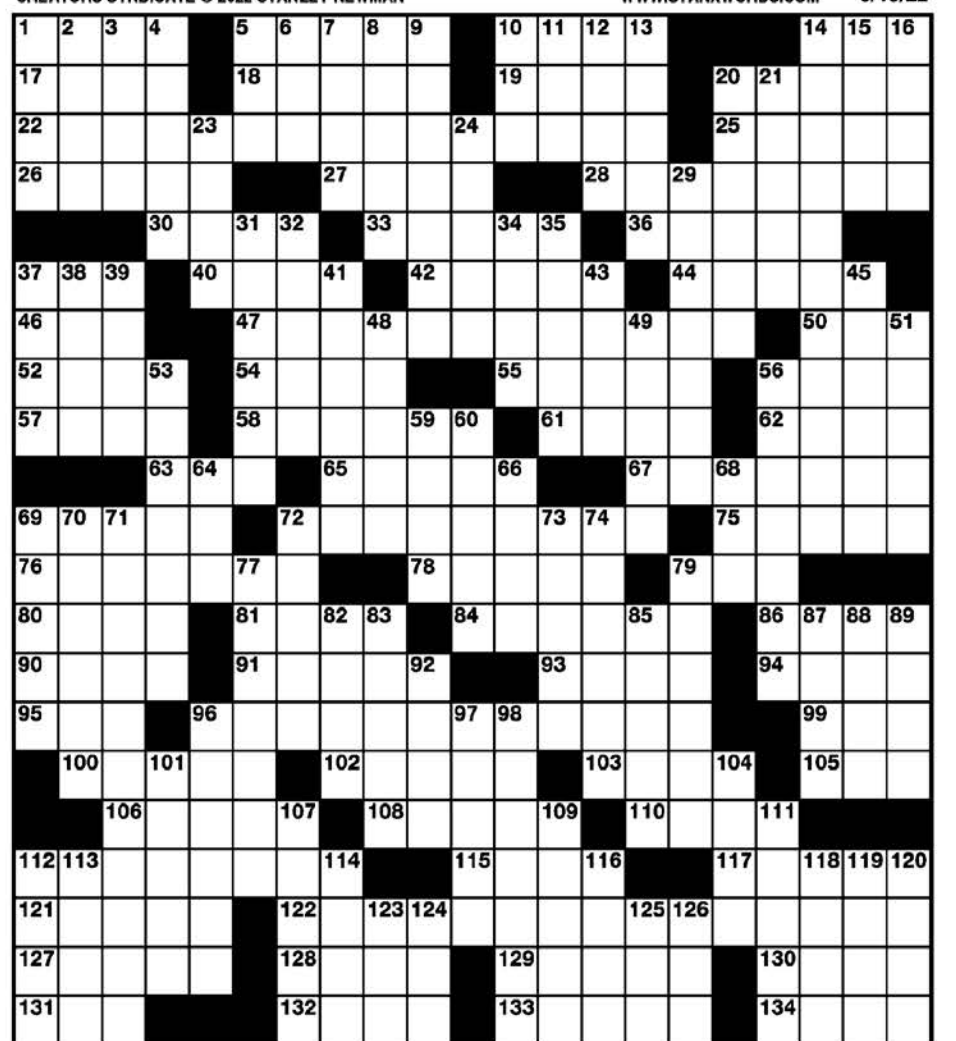
Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
BY THE DOZEN: A very varied group
by Fred Piscop

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

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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

St. Paul can't stop Downey's offensive onslaught in 44-23 loss

■ Aidan Bravo led St. Paul with three receptions totaling 105 yards.

By John M. Sherrard
Contributor

SANTA FE SPRINGS – In the last preseason game of 2022, the Downey Vikings defeated host St. Paul, 44-23, last Friday night (September 16), as senior running back Keion Andrew of Downey scored four touchdowns to lead the Vikings.

With the win, Downey improves to 4-1 overall, while St. Paul slips to 2-3.

Leading the way for the Vikings was Andrew with 96 yards on eight carries and three scores. The touchdown runs were for 3, 4 and 55 yards.

Andrew also scored on an 87-yard punt return and had 231 all-purpose yards.

Downey senior quarterback Aidan Chiles was 22 for 29 for 290 yards, one interception and a touchdown, while senior wide receiver Bryant Carey caught nine passes for 128 yards and a TD. Chiles also carried the ball three times for 26 yards.

"We started off slow (Friday) and it could have been way better," said Chiles, who missed multiple games last year with an injury. "We went back into halftime and game-

planned and came back out strong and put up what we needed to put up. It was a hard-fought win.

"The defense balled out (Friday) and saved us a lot and had our back the whole game."

Chiles, who has committed to Oregon State, was asked what he had to look forward to for the rest of the season.

He simply answered – "Week eight, week eight, that's it. That's the rivalry game against Warren."

One of the biggest cross-town rivalry games in all of Southern California will take place Friday, October 14 at Warren.

Vikings sophomore Caleb Jauregui also carried the ball six times for 21 yards and caught two passes for 22 yards.

The leading receiver for Downey was senior Bryant Carey with nine catches for 128 yards and a touchdown. Junior Manuel Albidrez (5 catches for 61 yards) and junior Ian Hernandez (3 catches, 54 yards) were also among six receivers for Chiles.

As a defense, the Vikings sacked St. Paul quarterback Andrew Maushardt four times for 10 yards.

Senior defensive lineman Anthony Irons led the way for the Vikings with two sacks, while freshman defensive lineman Oscar Aguilar and senior linebacker Pedro Debra had seven and five tackles, respectively.



St. Paul quarterback Andrew Maushardt (15) throws a pass as they play Downey in their non-league game at St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs on Friday.

Downey defeated St. Paul 44-23. (Photo by Keith Durfinger)

Downey freshman free safety Xavier Rivas also had a 25-yard interception.

Maushardt led the way at quarterback for the Swordsmen, passing for 214 yards (15 for 33, 1 Int.) and carried the ball seven times for 24 yards.

Junior running back Christian Melendez rushed for 105 yards on 16 carries and a touchdown, his second of the season.

Senior wide receiver Aidan Bravo led St. Paul with three catches for 101 yards and junior Orlando Zepeda (150 all-purpose yards) had four catches for 63 yards.

Downey, which starts its first season in the newly revised Suburban Valley Conference, Gateway League, will host Paramount Friday (September 30) after a bye this week.

At that Paramount game, the 10-year anniversary of the 2012 CIF Championship team will be honored. Downey defeated La Serna that year, 33-25.

"I thought we started off slow," said Downey Football coach Jack Williams, who was losing his voice. "I thought our kids fought back. It's something good to lead into during league. Being able to be down and come back in the second half and

do a good job.

"We came out kind of overlooking St. Paul. In the first half St. Paul did a good job. They did a really good job smacking us in the mouth."

The Vikings opened the scoring in the first quarter with a 27-yard field goal by senior kicker Isaac Madrid to lead 3-0.

The Vikings extended their lead to 10-0 with two minutes left in the quarter with a 3-yard touchdown run by senior Jaylen Crutchfield and Madrid added the extra point.

On the ensuing kickoff, St. Paul junior wide receiver Orlando Zepeda ran back the return 90 yards, dodging tacklers and outran the defense down the sidelines for the score.

The Swordsmen trailed Downey, 10-7.

St. Paul took its only lead of the game midway through the second quarter on a 19-yard run by junior running back Christian Melendez, giving the Swordsmen a 14-10 lead.

"The game started out good and we came out with enthusiasm in the first half and played well and the second half we just came out flat," Melendez said. "It was just downhill from there.

"I felt like, personally, the line

was doing well actually and the holes were there and I was hitting them and I felt like we had a pretty good rushing game. We have weapons everywhere and we just have to utilize them."

Downey answered with a 15-yard touchdown pass to Carey from Chiles to re-take the lead, 17-14, with less than a minute in the half. The TD reception by Carey was his seventh of the season and 10th for Chiles, who has thrown for 1,120 total yards passing with only 2 interceptions.

"It was a great first half, competitive attack and both teams getting after each other and then we imploded," St. Paul Football coach Rick Zepeda said. "We've done it almost for three weeks now. We're learning, we're young, but we got to keep going, that's all there is to it.

"When I think back to the first half, we did a lot of great things. We've got a young squad and I naturally felt like we were going to learn this year. But I didn't think we were going to make as many mistakes that we have.

Zepeda praised his team about the job they did in the opening half.

"The quarterback had a great first half and some great things from our receivers, special teams have been consistent and the

defense played well," he said. "We have things to grow on and we just got to get over the whole ego thing and our pride was hurt and we got to be ready for Loyola in two weeks (Friday September 30)."

The second half was nearly all Downey, as they outscored the Swordsmen, 27-9.

The Vikings scored two more touchdowns for the 30-14 lead, both by Andrew, who has five TDs on the season. The first was a 3-yard score, followed by an 87-yard punt return.

St. Paul opened the fourth quarter with a 31-yard field goal from freshman kicker Jesse Riperto, with nine minutes left in the game to trail, 30-17.

On the next drive, Andrew scored his second touchdown of the game with a 55-yard burst up the middle.

Andrew finished off his big night with his third score, a 4-yard TD run for the 44-17 advantage with three minutes left.

Junior running back Anthony Osorio finished the scoring for St. Paul with a short run with seconds left in the game.



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Jagged Little Pill an entertaining, thought-provoking musical

■ "Jagged Little Pill: The Musical" addresses serious issues head-on.

By Bianca Martinez
Contributor

HOLLYWOOD – You oughta know that Alanis Morissette's "Jagged Little Pill: The Musical" is a visual powerhouse of choreography and visual effects, all while discussing stigmatized social elements.

So tug on those Doc Martens, tie that flannel around your waist and don't forget to bring your poetic-grade angst with you to the Hollywood Pantages Theatre, where Jagged Little Pill will be showcased through Oct. 2.

"Jagged Little Pill: The Musical" centers around Mary Jane Healy, a financially comfortable and privileged suburban mother of two with a recently acquired opioid addiction and a struggling marriage.

Heidi Blickenstaff, who performed the role of Mary Jane, gives a commanding performance as the sarcastic lead who spent most of her adulthood trying to repress the memory of her sexual assault.

There are heavy thematic elements discussed in Jagged Little Pill, such as sexual assault and drug addiction, however all these subjects were brought forth to the

audience in a very artistic, mindful and visually engaging way.

Lauren Chanel, who played Frankie Healy, delivers a spectacular debut performance as the teen daughter of an emotionally unavailable Mary Jane.

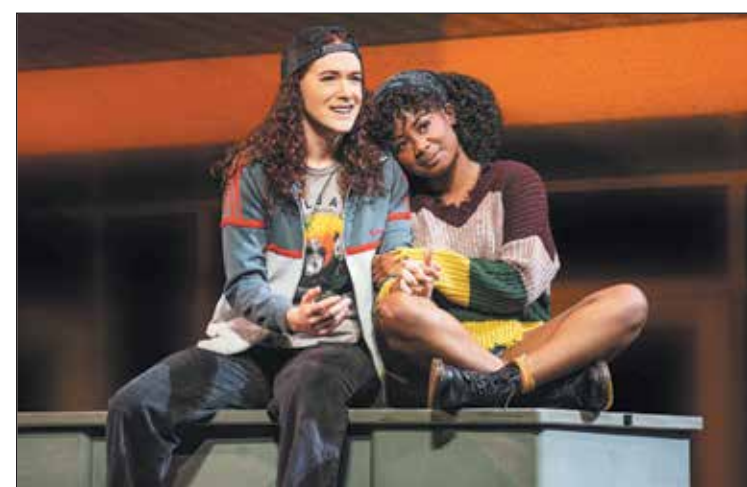
The music of Alanis Morissette's 1995 album of the same name is incorporated fantastically throughout Jagged Little Pill. Songs such as "Predator" and "Forgiven" carry character conflicts and present them in a visually stunning and emotion-evoking way.

Set design for the musical incorporated visual effects, such as color lighting, imagery, and constantly moving set pieces which transports the audience into another scene in such a seamless and cinematically aesthetic way.

Choreography was intricate and exceptional and made the musical the visually stunning masterpiece that it is.

The storyline, although it is an important one, may not be relatable to some audience members, as characters such as Nick Healy, played by Dillon Klena, have to deal with choices regarding morality and ethics that could impact their social standing and assault.

Alanis Morissette's ode to emotionally devastating break-ups, 'You Oughta Know,' was performed captivantly by Jade McLeod, who played Jo, Frankie's girlfriend.



Jade McLeod and Lauren Chanel in the North American Tour of "Jagged Little Pill." Photo by Matthew Murphy, Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade, 2022

McLeod received a standing ovation for their performance, which brought a sense of reliability and satisfaction to any audience member that has ever been cheated on.

Lighting was used expertly to evoke and amplify emotion, however a proper strobe warning should have been given to the audience as the lighting could be a bit overwhelming for the viewer.

Alongside opioid drug addiction and potential overdose, another stigmatized element incorporated throughout Jagged Little Pill, was the subject of sexual assault.

Sexual assault is a heavy

and sensitive subject to deliver, especially in a musical format, however, themes such as victim blaming, no severe repercussions for perpetrators of assault, silent observation of assault and repression of trauma were presented in an eloquent manner that even persuaded the audience to take action in such situations if they are to occur in their life.

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill The Musical is a wonderfully visually engaging and thought invoking performance that will captivate audiences through the use of Morissette's music and lyrics.