

## Norwalk man admits abusing dog

■ Efrain Rodriguez pleaded guilty to animal cruelty charges after witnesses saw him abusing a pit bull.

**NORWALK** – A Norwalk man pleaded guilty to animal cruelty charges after he severely beat a pit bull that had urinated and defecated in his car, authorities announced.

The attack occurred on the 13000 block of Kalnor Avenue in Norwalk. It's not clear when the incident took place but prosecutors said Efrain Rodriguez lifted the 7-month-old dog and twice threw him to the ground.

A Good Samaritan who witnessed the abuse called police.

The dog, named Bubba, suffered injuries to his hind legs. X-rays taken at SEAACA showed prior and recent evidence of abuse, including broken ribs and other fractures.

Rodriguez was taken into custody for animal cruelty. An arrest warrant was issued after he failed to appear in court for his arraignment.

Rodriguez eventually pleaded guilty to animal cruelty charges and was sentenced to probation with time served and 160 hours of community service. He also cannot own or care for any animals for 10 years.

Bubba was treated at SEAACA and was adopted by a rescue group.

"In this scenario, because of the Good Samaritans who took action and notified law enforcement, Bubba has been able to get a fresh start," said SEAACA executive director Denise Woodside. "If it wasn't for the call, Bubba may still be in the same abusive situation."

## Scholarship awarded to Norwalk native

**NORWALK** – Dean Batres, a Norwalk native and recent graduate of Ernest McBride High School, has been awarded the James E. Casey scholarship.

Batres will receive \$2,500 per year for four years while attending the University of California, Irvine.

Majoring in electrical engineering, Batres knows his field of study can help create a better way to power the world.

"The world today faces numerous environmental crises," Batres said. "Alternative energy is something I've looked into and want to be a part of."

His interest in the field stems from being a member of his school's Solar Cup team where they built a solar-powered boat.

"Being a member of the electrical team introduced me to a new fascination for electronics," Batres said. "It was really enjoyable going through the process of creating circuits."

Batres said he's excited to make meaningful connections with students and faculty, and plans to use what he learns to help improve the quality of life for others. He said he believes education is important because it helps people determine what they want to do with their lives.

He added that the scholarship relieved some financial pressure, especially for his parents who are helping him pay for college.

Batres was also awarded the UCI Regents' Scholarship, which will provide additional help with his tuition.

## Norwalk approves entertainment district specific plan

■ Norwalk residents expressed support for the entertainment district, known as The Walk, which will transform the Norwalk Civic Center.

By Vincent Medina  
Contributor

**NORWALK** – The Norwalk entertainment district, The Walk, specific plan was unanimously approved by the city council during their Tuesday meeting.

John Ramirez, the director of community development, said Primetor's The Walk will consist of 410,000 square feet of commercial space that will open towards 2.3 acres of open space.

Businesses in the entertainment district will include food and beverage kiosks, grocery market, a health and wellness center, and 350 residential units.

Community members expressed their support for The Walk during the public comments portion of the council meeting. Residents who were opposed to the project used the opportunity to express what they would enjoy in the entertainment district.

Mariela Lemo, a Norwalk resident, cited mayor Rick Ramirez's earlier statement that more business in Norwalk would benefit the city.

"My friends and I don't really come to Norwalk to have fun. I do find myself traveling out of town to Downey for their new entertainment district," Lemo said. "The mayor has said, 'If you spend money in Norwalk, you'll see the money being brought to the city,' and I strongly believe that this project will put Norwalk on the map."

Shawn Silva, a Norwalk resident representing the Coalition for Responsible Equitable Economic Development LA said the



Primetor CEO Arturo Sneider explains The Walk specific plan at Tuesday's City Council meeting. (Photo by Vincent Medina)

organization supports the project since it "responds to the needs of the community."

"A project of this size has the ability to change a city like Norwalk forever and make this place better," Silva said. "This developer has taken its responsibility for the wellbeing of the people of Norwalk to heart and really addressed the questions and concerns of the community."

Marcus Gomez was one of the few Norwalk residents opposed to the project, expressing that the developer's plan did not provide sufficient entertainment.

"Fast food, that's your entertainment? You're not building a local community playhouse like

they have in Downey or Cerritos," Gomez said. "The developers are coming over here and saying, 'Hey, there's another stupid City Council. Let's take over, and let's tell them what we're gonna do.'"

Gomez clarified that he was not calling the council stupid.

Council member Margarita Rios addressed Gomez's concern, asking Primetor CEO Arturo Sneider if a theater is intended in the specific plan.

Snyder explained they are working to add an outdoor amphitheater to the multi-use open space, and are working to accommodate environmental regulations.

Council member Jennifer Perez echoed the community members desire for more business in Norwalk.

"I remember that very first conversation with our city manager, asking what we thought our residents wanted. We heard over and over and over again, 'I want shopping, I want entertainment, I want options here in our own city,' and that's something that I shared with Primetor," Perez said.

After every city council member expressed support for The Walk, the unanimously passed the specific plan.

## Gov. Newsom signs 8 bills from Archuleta

■ The governor agreed to sign eight pieces of legislation authored by Norwalk's state senator, Bob Archuleta.

**NORWALK** – Eight bills authored by State Sen. Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera) and passed by the California Legislature to address issues ranging from veterans affairs to public safety have been signed into law by Governor Newsom.

Archuleta represents Norwalk in the state senate.

"I applaud the Newsom administration for signing eight of my bills into law that will improve public and professional safety, increase the number of zero emission sites available to hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, and help support the households of active duty military service members," said Archuleta. "From best practices when handling lead paint during renovation work, to my ongoing efforts as chair of the Hydrogen Energy Committee making transportation healthier, safer and better for all Californians, I am proud to have delivered a diverse range of legislative wins."

The eight bills are summarized below:

**SB 277 – Fireworks: dangerous fireworks:** seizure management; provides the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE's) Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) the authority to manage – instead of only dispose of – illegal fireworks.

**SB 950 – Vet Cal Fresh:** requires the State Department of Social Services to submit a request to the United States Department of Agriculture to exclude the basic allowance for housing for members of a uniformed service from countable income in the calculation of CalFresh eligibility.

**SB 954 – Operating Engineers Database:** requires the Department of Industrial Relations to establish a database of electronic-Certified Payroll Records that will lead to increased labor compliance and save taxpayer dollars.

**SB 984 – CALANGU – Military Leave:** allows state employees who are members of the National Guard to use military leave if called to active military duty and active emergency military duty for the first thirty calendar days of such active service.

**SB 1076 – Lead Paint Conformity:** requires, among other things, the State Department of Public Health, to conform California's program regulating lead-related construction work to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule.

**SB 1111 – Best Safety Act:** requires a person or entity who sells or provides a trash receptacle or storage container that meets certain size criteria to mark the receptacle or container with a reflective marking on each side.

**SB 1291 – Hydrogen Permitting:** requires local



governments to expand their existing administrative approval process for the permitting of zero emission vehicle infrastructure to include hydrogen-fueling infrastructure and allows for denials of those permits based only on health or safety impacts.

**SB 1428 – Board of Psychology Tech:** creates a new category of registered mental health professional, psychological testing technicians, to meet the

growing need for psychological and neuropsychological services while protecting consumers and payers.

"In addition to these bills and legislation I will be working on in the future, I remain committed to ensuring that the state's budget delivers meaningful fiscal relief to working families, continued funding to address veteran mental health and suicide prevention, while also ensuring our children's schools receive sufficient funding."

### Weekend at a Glance

Friday	84°	
Saturday	84°	
Sunday	84°	

### THINGS TO DO



**Elvis Festival**  
Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm  
Garden Grove's Historic Main Street

An all-day tribute to the King of Rock n' Roll, the Elvis Festival will feature a classic car show, Elvis tribute artists, fan clubs, vendors, and more. Event parking and admission are free.

### ON THIS DAY

**1765:** The Stamp Act Congress convened in New York City to frame resolutions of "rights and grievances" of the American colonies.

**1826:** The Granite Railway, the first chartered railroad in the United States, began service.

**1849:** American short-story writer, poet, and critic Edgar Allan Poe died in Baltimore.

**1949:** A constitution went into effect in the Soviet occupation zone of Germany that formed the country of East Germany, which existed alongside West Germany until 1990, when the two Germanys reunited.

**1952:** Russian politician Vladimir Putin, who serves as president and prime minister of Russia, was born.

**1959:** The romantic comedy Pillow Talk was released nationwide in the United States; it was the first of several on-screen pairings of actors Rock Hudson and Doris Day.

**1971:** The crime thriller The French Connection, directed by William Friedkin and starring Gene Hackman, had its world premieres in New York City and Los Angeles; the movie, which won the Oscar for best picture, is especially known for featuring one of the most exciting and iconic car chases in cinematic history.

**1985:** Members of the Palestine Liberation Front, a small faction headed by Abu Abbas within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), hijacked an Italian cruise ship, the Achille Lauro.

**1996:** Fox News Channel, a satellite and cable news network created by Roger Ailes for Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, was launched in the United States.

**1998:** Matthew Shepard, a gay student at the University of Wyoming, was found tied to a fence after being savagely beaten by two young adults in Laramie, Wyoming. He died five days later.

### Birthdays

"The View" host **Joy Behar** (80), rock singer **John Mellencamp** (71), talent manager **Simon Cowell** (63), R&B singer **Toni Braxton** (55), football hall of famer **Charles Woodson** (46), third baseman **Evan Longoria** (37), and Dodgers outfielder **Mookie Betts** (30).

# Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

Some of my patients, in addition to seeing me regularly, seek out acupuncture treatments. What is this ancient practice, and what does Western medicine have to say about its effectiveness?



An acupuncturist penetrates the skin with thin, solid, metallic needles. Traditional Chinese medicine identifies more than 2,000 acupuncture points, connected by pathways (meridians). These pathways channel an energy known as Qi. It is believed that disruption of this energy flow is responsible for disease, and that the application of the needles improves the energy flow.

Since acupuncture uses extremely thin needles, the discomfort is minimal. Some find that the treatments make them feel energized; others, relaxed. The needles might be heated, or a mild electrical current may be applied to them. The FDA regulates acupuncture needles, just as it does other medical devices.

What has Western medicine found? Many Western practitioners believe that acupuncture stimulates the central nervous system, which in turn releases chemicals into the muscles, spinal cord, and brain. These biochemical changes may stimulate the body's natural healing abilities and promote physical and emotional well-being. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has performed solid scientific studies demonstrating that acupuncture is effective, alone or in combination with conventional therapies, for conditions which include:

- nausea from surgical anesthesia and cancer chemotherapy
- dental pain following surgery
- addiction
- menstrual cramps
- tennis elbow
- fibromyalgia
- myofascial pain
- osteoarthritis
- low back pain
- headaches, including tension and migraine

- carpal tunnel syndrome
- asthma, allergies and other respiratory conditions
- labor pain

Increasingly, acupuncture is also being used for overall wellness, including stress management, although its effectiveness in those areas is more difficult to quantify through scientific studies.

The risks from receiving acupuncture are minimal, assuming that the practitioner is competent and certified. Common side effects include soreness and minor bleeding or bruising where the needles were inserted. Single-use, disposable needles are now the practice standard, which nearly eliminates the risk of infection. People who should avoid acupuncture include those with a bleeding disorder, a pacemaker (due to the electrical pulses sometimes used), and pregnant women (as some acupuncture points might actually stimulate labor).

An acupuncture session may last up to 60 minutes, although some may be shorter, depending on the problem being treated. The number of sessions also depends on the condition, although six to eight treatments are common. Note that acupuncture points are located all over the body, and that the appropriate points may be far removed from the actual area of the discomfort. A treatment may use 5 to 20 needles, which may be moved, twirled, conduct heat, or receive a mild electrical pulse.

My bottom line? Acupuncture is a very safe treatment when used by a qualified practitioner. Complications are exceedingly rare. Extensive studies show real efficacy for a variety of conditions. Note that researchers are only beginning to understand whether acupuncture can be helpful for other conditions as well. As always, discuss any treatment method with your physician, and I urge you to not use acupuncture in lieu of seeing your regular health care provider.

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.

# LA's eviction moratorium has expiration date

■ The Los Angeles City Council agreed to allow its ban on renter evictions to expire at the end of January.

By City News Service

**LOS ANGELES** — Los Angeles' long-standing renter eviction protections due to COVID-19 hardship will be lifted at the end of January, the City Council decided unanimously Tuesday.

The council voted 12-0 to approve a package of recommendations from a council committee, following a spirited public comment session that featured both tenants advocating for continued protections and mom-and-pop landlords pleading for the restrictions to end.

Under the council action, landlords will be able to resume increasing rent on rent-controlled apartments, which account for three-quarters of the units in Los Angeles, beginning in February 2024.

Council President Nury Martinez called the vote a compromise that "preserves the livelihood of our renters while still transitioning from COVID-era protections to permanent tenant protections."

"We cannot let this burden fall on either side, whether it's the tenants or the mom-and-pop

landlords," Martinez said. "This policy that was put into place two years ago was intended solely to keep people housed and keep them off the streets. Now it is time that we not only keep people off the streets, but we also protect people's housing and preserve their financial well-being."

For the past few months, council members have grappled to balance the needs of renters and landlords. Housing groups believe ending the moratorium will place thousands of families impacted by the pandemic into limbo, while landlords claim current conditions are different from those at the onset of the pandemic and renters should no longer be able to use COVID-19 hardship as a reason to eschew paying rent.

Tenants who have missed payments since March 2020 will have to meet two re-payment deadlines. Under state law, they have until Aug. 1, 2023, to pay back missed rent between March 1, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2021. Under the city's moratorium, tenants will have until Feb. 1, 2024, to re-pay rent accumulated from Oct. 1, 2021 to Feb. 1, 2023.

The council voted to explore initiating universal just-cause rules, which would require specific reasons for landlords to evict tenants in all units, not just those under rent control. It also supported providing relocation assistance for all evictions deemed



no-fault evictions.

Tenants also cannot be subjected to a no-fault eviction for unauthorized pets until Jan. 31, 2024. Other renter protection plans were noted as "report backs," with several council members urging the city to enact those protections before the moratorium expires next year. Those included creating a Tenants' Bill of Rights and data collection and tracking of all evictions, amendments offered by Council members Kevin de León and Nithya Raman.

"As a society, we recognized the devastation that evictions can cause for people, and that the city should be there to support tenants through temporary periods of hardship," Raman said. "The new protections that are being implemented in the coming months will help us to build a better LA for all residents."

Councilman Mike Bonin was absent from the meeting, while council members Curren Price and Paul Krekorian recused themselves from the item because they own properties. Amendments by Councilwoman Nithya Raman that would have extended the moratorium until Feb. 28 and Councilman John Lee to allow rent increases on rent-controlled units immediately failed to pass.

Advocates of renter protections, including the Keep LA Housed Coalition, held a rally outside City Hall ahead of the meeting Tuesday. Its members argued that the moratorium has kept tens of thousands of residents in their homes and prevented mass displacement during a public health crisis.

Carla De Paz, senior organizer with the Community Power Collective, said low-income workers and people of color have faced the brunt of the pandemic.

"We're still recovering," De Paz said. "We are still in an emergency. We know this. We live this every day. Our city, our government wants to ignore the fact that people are still struggling. But we know we're still struggling."

Maria Briones, a street vendor who lives in District 8, said she was sick with COVID-19 for six months last year and fell behind on rent. Her landlord tried to evict her, taking her to court three times and cutting off her power during the recent heat wave, according to Briones.

"I could not sleep because the

power was off," Briones said. "I could not have my fan on. This is not right, and this is not human. We have been treated like animals."

To end the moratorium without first enacting permanent protections would be "reckless and inhumane," according to Faizah Malik, a senior staff attorney at Public Counsel.

"There should be no gaps in protections for tenants," Malik said. "We cannot go back to a pre-pandemic world of tens of thousands of evictions, increasing rent burden, rising homelessness and a worsening housing crisis."

Fred Sutton, senior vice president of local public affairs for the California Apartment Association, told the council landlords should "not be forced to provide the service of housing without compensation," noting that "the conditions of 2020 are completely different than today."

Sutton was hissed and booed by the crowd, eliciting a warning by Martinez.

"Rental housing providers are not in the eviction business," Sutton said. "But eviction is unfortunately necessary and often a singular tool for resolving the most disruptive situations or when someone is not being compensated."

A property owner who identified himself as Wayne Harris told the council that landlords should not be blamed for the pandemic. Harris said if the council wanted to continue the moratorium, it should also find a way to compensate landlords, noting that landlords can also get COVID-19 and become at risk of homelessness.

"What makes you think we're different than the tenants?" Harris said. "You guys keep extending this thing. How do you sleep at night?"

Agouram Abdelmajid, who has been a property manager in Los Angeles in 15 years, said he supported extending the eviction protections. Abdelmajid said he's been forced by landlords to conduct evictions "just because the landlord did not like the tenant." The harm to the tenants without permanent protections outweighed the potential harm to the landlords, according to Abdelmajid.

"For landlords, it is strictly business," Abdelmajid said. "But for tenants and the homeless, it is a life at stake."

## POET'S CORNER

### Problems with Hurricanes

**A campesino looked at the air  
And told me:  
With hurricanes it's not the wind  
or the noise or the water.  
I'll tell you he said:  
it's the mangoes, avocados  
Green plantains and bananas  
flying into town like projectiles.  
How would your family  
feel if they had to tell  
The generations that you  
got killed by a flying  
Banana.  
Death by drowning has honor  
If the wind picked you up  
and slammed you  
Against a mountain boulder  
This would not carry shame  
But  
to suffer a mango smashing  
Your skull  
or a plantain hitting your  
Temple at 70 miles per hour  
is the ultimate disgrace.  
The campesino takes off his hat—  
As a sign of respect  
toward the fury of the wind  
And says:  
Don't worry about the noise  
Don't worry about the water  
Don't worry about the wind—  
If you are going out  
beware of mangoes  
And all such beautiful  
sweet things.**

Victor Hernández Cruz, *Maraca: New and Selected Poems 1965-2000*, Coffee House Press, 2001

Poetry is an entry point into a culture. Victor Hernández Cruz, born in Puerto Rico, engages the social, political, and personal. It's not till the last lines that we see this poem is not about mangoes. It's a warning about something more dangerous than hurricanes. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks

**In Memory of**  
**Margaret Mendez**  
**December 5, 1934 - September 19, 2022**  
Margaret Mendez died peacefully at home surrounded by her husband Marcos and daughter Jeanine. She was a quiet person with many talents. Cooking, gardening, sewing, reading her Bible and helping the community by witnessing about the beautiful future paradise to come. She knew the true God Jehovah and she dedicated her life to him August 1, 1950. She will be resurrected. She will be missed, until then.

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# Blanca Pacheco for state Assembly

By Eric Pierce

As someone who has known Downey Mayor Blanca Pacheco for more than a decade, since before she was elected to public office, there are things I can say about her with absolute certainty:

She is honest.

She enjoys helping others.

She never intended to be a politician.

Pacheco, a Democrat, is one of two candidates for the 64th state Assembly district. Her opponent is Republican Raul Ortiz Jr. If elected, Pacheco would be the first Downey resident to serve in the state Assembly.

But Pacheco making history for the City of Downey is a convenient bonus, not a selling point. The truth is that Pacheco is the more qualified candidate, the more experienced candidate, and the candidate best equipped to advocate for her constituents in Sacramento.

Pacheco is a practicing attorney and real estate broker. She was elected to the Downey City Council in 2016 and was elected mayor in 2020, helping lead Downey's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. As mayor, she spearheaded a rent moratorium for both commercial and residential tenants, helping families stay in their homes and small businesses stay open.

Pacheco's upbringing is a story of perseverance, not privilege. The daughter of a nurse and school bus driver, she attended elementary school in Cudahy and then middle school and high school in Downey. As a teenager, Pacheco spent weekends with her dad mowing lawns to make extra money. She and her dad, Gonzalo, also taught karate.

Pacheco went on to earn her bachelor's degree in political science from

UCLA, with a specialization in chicano/a studies. Then came Loyola Law School; she passed the California State Bar exam in 2003.

After law school, Pacheco worked as a substitute teacher in the Downey Unified School District. She also worked as a part-time paralegal instructor at Downey Adult School.

As an attorney, Pacheco has worked in municipal law and estate planning. She donates her time and services, often helping low-income, mostly Spanish speaking families.

But more important than Pacheco's biography are her plans for the state of California. One of her priorities is reducing homelessness and she plans to do this through policy that supports the construction of affordable housing.

"I'll also work to reduce homelessness by advancing compassionate policies like investing in supportive and permanent housing, mental health services, job-training, and more, to provide resources to those in need while helping to get people off the streets and into housing," Pacheco said.

Other priorities include:

**Creation of middle class jobs** -- "Nobody in California should work a full 40 hour work-week and still live in poverty," she said. "That's why in the State Assembly, I'll work to ensure livable wages for California's working people, protect workers' rights and their ability to form or join a union..."

**Funding public education** -- "I strongly support ensuring high-quality early education and universal pre-K for all children," she said. Pacheco also supports free community college for California residents.

**Combating climate change** -- "In the State Assembly, I'll work to protect our environment and address climate change, while safeguarding clean air and clean water for our communities," Pacheco said. "I believe we

can protect and create good jobs, and simultaneously ensure a cleaner, safer environment for all Californians if we work together."

**Affordable healthcare** -- Pacheco supports expanding access to healthcare and protecting women's reproductive rights. "I also believe we must lower the cost of prescription drugs as nobody in our community should be forced to choose between paying for healthcare or medicine and putting food on the table for their family," she said.

**Enhancing infrastructure** -- "I will work to invest more in infrastructure, from upgrading and expanding mass transit to universal broadband to clean energy technologies, modernizing our transportation hubs, roads and bridges and more," she said. "These investments will not only help ensure the long-term competitiveness of our economy and level the playing field for so many disadvantaged communities, but it will also create countless good paying, middle class jobs."

It's clear that Pacheco's political ideologies swing left, which will satisfy the majority of residents living in the newly-drawn 64th assembly district encompassing Norwalk, Downey, Bell, Bell Gardens, Cudahy, La Habra, La Mirada, Los Nietos, Santa Fe Springs and South Whittier.

But on the City Council, Pacheco has proven herself a moderate willing to work with people of all political parties. She supports law enforcement and has been endorsed by Republicans, Democrats and independents.

Blanca Pacheco has dedicated her adult life to helping her neighbors and community. She will be missed on the Downey city council but the time is right for a promotion to the state legislature.

She will make Norwalk proud.

*Eric Pierce is editor of the Norwalk Patriot.*

# How I'm voting on CA propositions and the upcoming election

By Mario A. Guerra

California voters will be asked to weigh in on seven statewide ballot measures in the upcoming election, the fewest measures in an election year since 1916. (In November 2020, for example, voters determined the fate of 12 statewide ballot measures.)

Two of the seven deal with gambling (26 and 27), one is a rehash of kidney dialysis centers (Prop 29), one deals with abortions (Prop 1), one deals with flavored tobacco products (Prop 31), one is about money designated for music and arts in school (Prop 28) and one is about charging higher taxes from the wealthy to pay for electric cars charging stations (Prop 30).

In Norwalk we will also be voting whether to tax ourselves an additional \$450,000,000 for a different bond for Cerritos College buildings. Yes, you read it right, \$450 million. Norwalk residents will vote to tax themselves (or not) an additional \$450 million onto our property tax bills.

Since we are still paying for a previous bond from Cerritos College, I will be voting no.

I have been asked to write a brief description of each proposition. I usually do this every election. I do not ask anyone to vote any particular way, but I will let you know how I'm voting. I am not involved, nor do I work with anyone involved in any of the propositions, on either side. My vote is based on my personal beliefs, knowledge, and experience.

I do ask everyone to do their own research and vote after making a review of each proposition. It is also interesting to think about the influence the ballot designation has and what the proposition actually is doing. Knowing who supports and opposes each proposition is also fascinating and, in some cases, mildly funny. But rest assured, there is a lot of money spent on each proposition, both ways, and we should be informed of this.

Some propositions of the past are very telling. Do we remember in our last election the proposition that was put on the ballot by the realtor's association. The one that basically took away the right to leave your house to your children without a new tax assessment unless they moved into the house? It was also promoted as money going to our firemen and to fight fires and wildfires. There were lots of commercials with fake firemen stating how good these new funds would be used to save property and our planet. So now we ask, how much money has been raised or spent on these activities? Nothing. Not one cent. Firefighters are now weighing in again on one of this year's propositions.

We need to read the fine print sometimes and look beyond the phony or misleading advertising we see during election season.

Hence my point, we have a responsibility to inform ourselves or we get what is let down by fancy TV commercials and special interest groups. This is my reason for writing this every election season, just trying to bring up the facts and information. You, the informed voter, should decide.

And to put my views and voting record into perspective I do think my background is important to know too because it does influence how I personally vote.

Some facts about me...I am an immigrant refugee who came to this country at an early age. I consider myself a moderate in most of my political views. I served on the Downey City Council for eight years and as mayor twice. I am a Catholic Clergy and until recently served at St. Linus Catholic Church. I'm what you call a high propensity voter, or likely to vote. I hope this helps you.

It happens every election cycle in California. We voters open our ballots to find a long list of ballot measures with confusing ballot titles. The process leaves most voters frustrated, if not angry.

It shouldn't be this way. The non-partisan National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) recommends that initiative titles and summaries should be "concise, accurate, and impartial." Sadly, in California the politicians try to manipulate the vote by giving favorable titles and summaries to ballot measures they like and unfavorable titles and summaries to ballot measures they don't like.

You must be careful and know what you're voting for - especially because this year there are hidden tax increases on the ballot and competing gambling initiatives as well.

Here is a "plain English" rundown of the seven statewide ballot measures on California's 2022 ballot:

## Proposition 1

**Official Title:** Constitutional Right to Reproductive Freedom. Legislative Constitutional Amendment.

**Plain English Translation:** Eliminates Any Restrictions on When Abortions Can Be Performed

Prop 1 is being sold publicly as merely a codification of a pro-choice position in the California state constitution, but it actually goes far further than that. The actual text of this ballot measure would repeal the current ban on abortions after 23 weeks of a pregnancy and allow the right to a late-term abortion up to the moment of birth. Proposition 1 would give California one of the most extreme abortion laws in the country. This measure may also interfere with existing state laws that allow for Sexually Violent Predators to be placed under mandatory treatment to limit their sex drive. Abortions will continue to be legal in California whether this passes or not. But it is too extreme, even for our state. I will be voting NO.

## Proposition 26

**Official Title:** Allows In-Person Roulette, Dice Games, Sports Wagering on Tribal Lands. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

**Plain English Translation:** Protects and expands non-competition on Tribal Gaming Rights, and allows Trial Lawyers to file more lawsuits through expansion of the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA)

Prop 26 affirms the current practice of allowing only federally recognized Native American tribes to operate roulette, dice games, and sports wagering on tribal lands, subject to compacts negotiated by the Governor and ratified by the Legislature. It would also allow on-site sports wagering at privately operated horse-racing tracks in specified counties for ages 21 and up. Unfortunately, the measure contains a "poison pill" to expand the use of the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) to allow trial attorneys to file frivolous lawsuits that harm small businesses. I will be voting NO on 26.

## Proposition 27

**Official Title:** Allows Online and Mobile Sports Wagering Outside Tribal Lands. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

**Plain English Translation:** Allows Private Businesses to Engage in Online Gambling to Compete with Native American Tribes

Proposition 27 would expand gambling in California beyond casinos currently operated by Native American tribes by allowing private businesses to operate online and mobile sports wagering for persons 21 and up. Native American tribes say this competition from private businesses will undermine their ability to fund programs for their tribes. Backers of the measure say they would impose a special tax on these new forms of gambling with revenue allegedly going toward homeless aid programs.

Who is behind Prop 27? Private gaming giants are behind this proposition of course. But online gambling is legal in many states, and it is fairly simple to do so from California now. So, it really comes down to your personal preference and whether you think regulating online gambling and taxing it for California intentions is worth it. While I don't gamble personally, I do not have a problem with us taxing gambling and having some new funds for our state projects. I am voting YES on 27.

## Proposition 28

**Official Title:** Provides Additional Funding For Arts And Music Education In Public Schools. Initiative Statute.

**Plain English Translation:** Earmarks Mandatory Funding from the Existing State Education Budget for Arts and Music Programs which could take away from the Basics Core Curriculums of Math and Reading.

Prop 28 is an earmark - or a requirement that the state spend at least a certain amount of funds from the state budget for the exclusive benefit of art and music programs. The earmark mandates that 1% of required state and local funding for public schools be set aside for arts and music programs and then allocates a greater proportion of the funds to schools serving more

economically disadvantaged students. Earmarks are not free money - so any earmark will have to come at the expense of other educational programs for fundamental academic areas like reading, writing and math. 1% doesn't sound like a lot but it really is. While arts and music programs are important and worthy of funding, Prop 28 is flawed as currently written and could lead to budget cuts in core education programs. I will be voting NO on 28.

## Proposition 29

**Official Title:** Requires On-Site Licensed Medical Professional At Kidney Dialysis Clinics And Establishes Other State Requirements. Initiative Statute

**Plain English Translation:** Imposes Costly Regulations on Kidney Dialysis Clinics to Benefit Organized Labor Unions Who Have Asked Voters Before

Prop 29 may be familiar to voters since it has been rejected twice before in 2018 and 2020. Why does it keep appearing on the ballot? Wealthy labor unions force the measure on the ballot in an attempt to impose new costly regulations on kidney dialysis clinics that would benefit the interests of the unions. Prop 29 requires specific medical personnel on site during treatment at outpatient kidney dialysis clinics - whether or not the personnel are even needed. The measure also increases mandatory state reporting and prohibits clinics from closing or reducing services without state approval. A "no" vote keeps doctors and clinics more independent from state control. Since I have a Type 1 diabetic son I know how important it is to keep medical treatment stable that is working. I will be voting NO on 29, again.

## Proposition 30

**Official Title:** Provides Funding for Programs to Reduce Air Pollution And Prevent Wildfires by Increasing Tax on Personal Income Over \$2 Million.

**Plain English Translation:** Tax Increase Funded and Proposed BY Lyft to Help Themselves- Increases Income Taxes to Fund a Variety of New Government Programs That Even Governor Newsom Opposes

Prop 30 is a massive income tax increase - even though California already has the highest income taxes in the country of any state. Prop 30 imposes a 1.75% tax increase for personal incomes over \$2 million. Revenue for the proposition aims to go toward climate change measures, but the definition of programs eligible for these new funds is quite broad as to allow the funds to be used in a wide-range of ways. This initiative was put on the ballot by Lyft to be self-serving.

The list of those who support and those who oppose make for some interesting conversation too. Supported by Lyft, several trade unions, and the California Democratic party. Opposed by Governor Newsom (he called it a Trojan horse and terrible law), the California Teachers Association, the California Republican Party and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association. You may never see these groups against the same cause together again. Yes, politics can make you laugh out loud at times. I will be voting NO on 30.

## Proposition 31

**Official Title:** Referendum on 2020 Law that Would Prohibit the Retail Sale of Certain Flavored Tobacco Products.

**Plain English Translation:** Should California Ban the Sale of Flavored Tobacco?

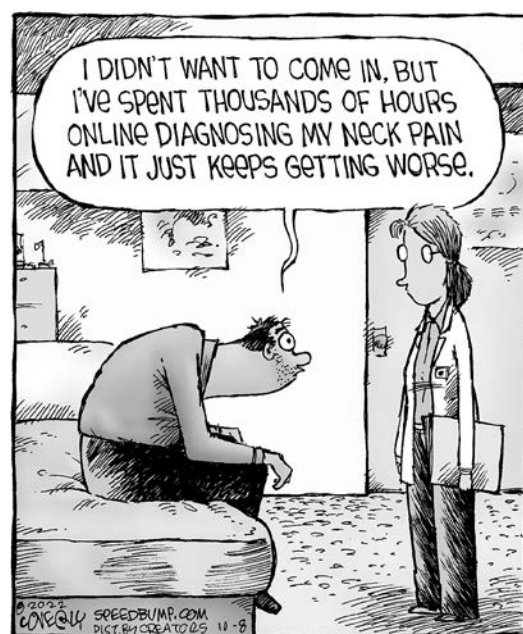
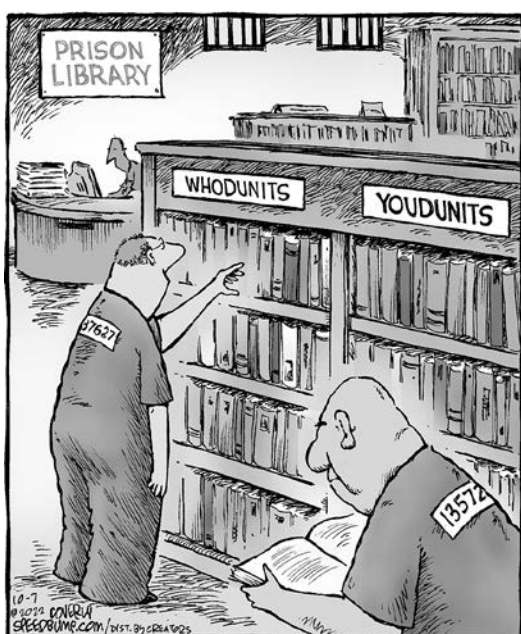
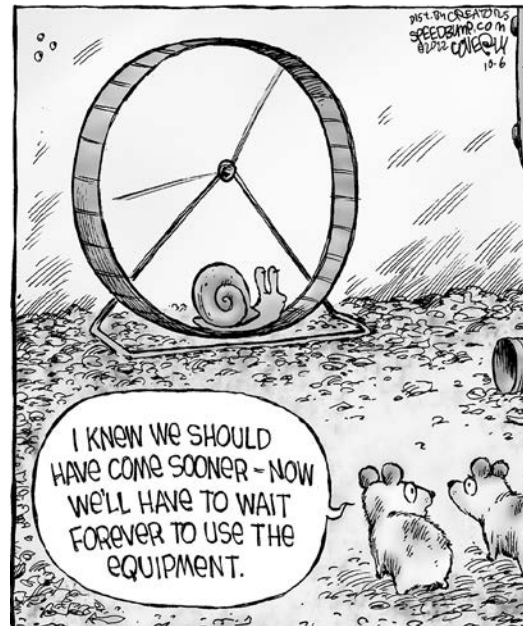
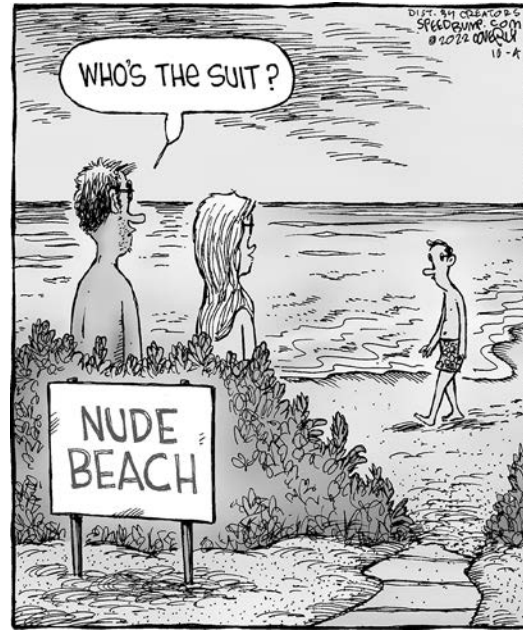
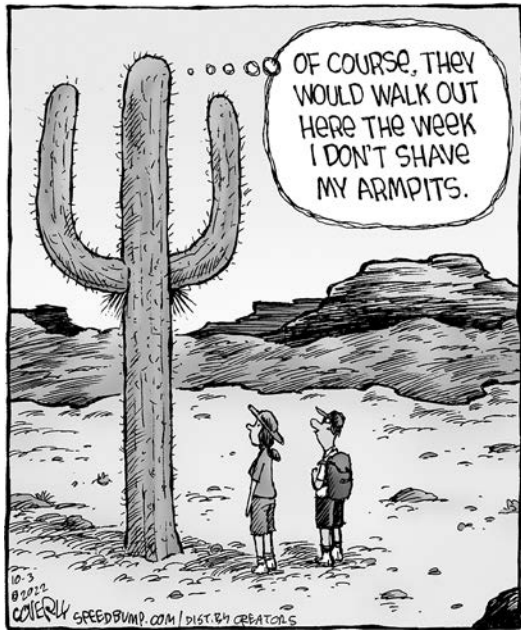
Prop 31 is a "referendum" or question on whether a proposed state law should be implemented or rejected. State Senate Bill, SB 793, which prohibits the retail sale of certain flavored tobacco products and tobacco flavor enhancers. A "yes" vote would uphold and pass the law into effect, banning the retail sale of these flavored tobacco products. A "no" vote would overturn the law and tobacco companies would be allowed to sell flavored tobacco products in the state. We already have strict tobacco laws, including age restrictions -- which should take care of several gateway drug concerns. I generally do not like government taking away choices or preferences on already heavily regulated items. For those reasons I will be voting NO on 31.

*Mario A. Guerra is a two time former mayor of Downey and co-host of the podcast Talking Downey. He can be reached at [www.marioaguerra.com](http://www.marioaguerra.com)*

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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

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

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# PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
GOING LONG: With 121 Across answers  
by Mark McClain

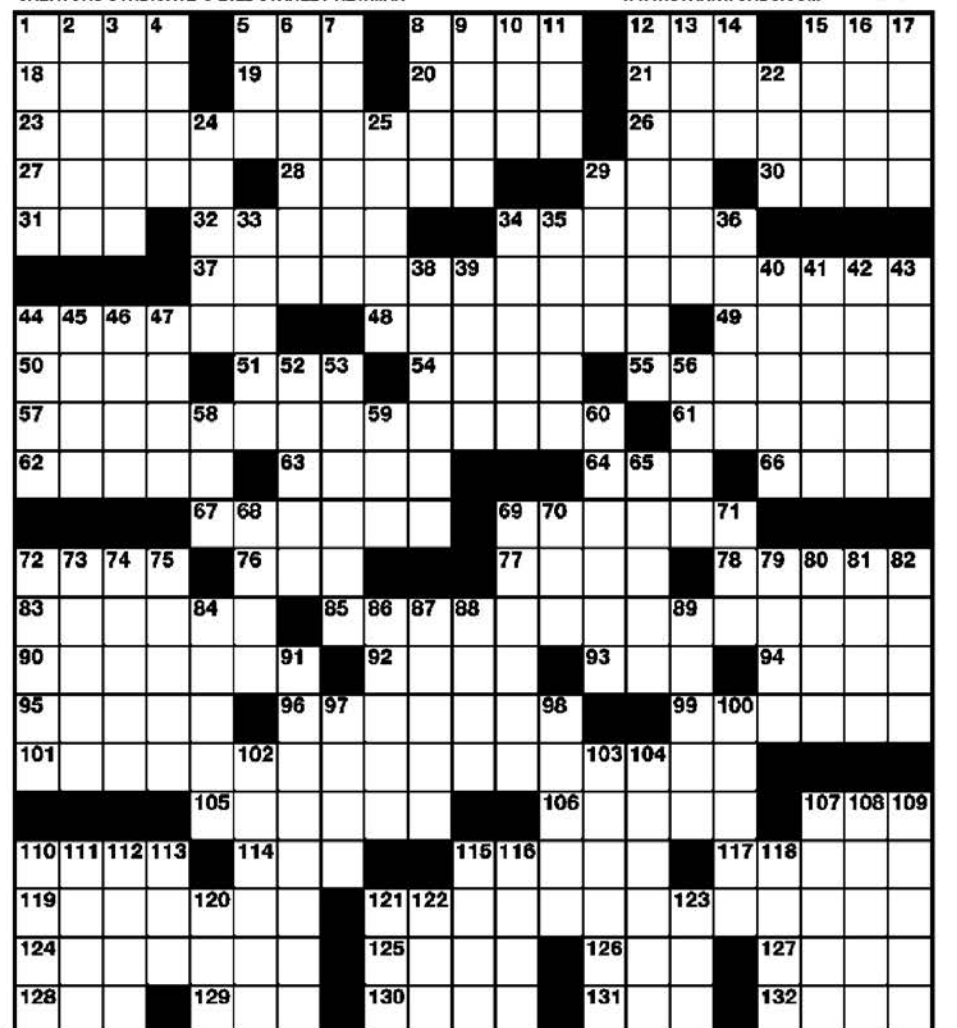
- ACROSS**
- 1 Repeated sound
  - 5 Austrian peak
  - 8 Ostentatious display
  - 12 Broadband oversight org.
  - 15 "Regular" fuel
  - 18 Vacation excursion
  - 19 Hair gel, for instance
  - 20 Global furniture retailer
  - 21 Rascally
  - 23 Diverse nature
  - 26 Nation on the Red Sea
  - 27 Chopin specialty
  - 28 Put away for later
  - 29 Touch gently
  - 30 Dutch cheese
  - 31 Public image, for short
  - 32 Keep away from
  - 34 Made like bike wheels
  - 37 Initial form of an idea
  - 44 American elk
  - 48 Piece of roofing
  - 49 Explosive liquid
  - 50 Clickable image
  - 51 Once around a track
  - 54 Actress Russo
  - 55 Take back
  - 57 Ben Franklin, in 1776
  - 61 String sextet pair
  - 62 Hospital prep area
  - 63 Without a warranty
  - 64 Significant time
  - 66 Album cut
  - 67 City near Tampa
  - 69 Fundamental quality
  - 72 Young deer
  - 76 Moisten
  - 77 Meal for a mare
  - 78 Decoration for a uniform
  - 83 Southwestern gully
  - 85 Medical specialty
  - 90 To no avail
  - 92 Utah ski center
  - 93 What Bugs calls Elmer
  - 94 Picasso's passion
  - 95 \_ Mesa, CA
  - 96 Sneaky ones
  - 99 Declare in court
  - 101 Involving multiple sciences, say
  - 105 Mexican shawl
  - 106 Traditional customs
  - 107 Spanish article
  - 110 Needing cheering
  - 114 Winter bug
  - 115 Comparable in size
  - 117 Sheeplike
  - 119 Island southeast of Oahu
  - 121 Like the longest answers in this puzzle (except for this one)
  - 124 Denounce
  - 125 Geographic stat
  - 126 Inventor Whitney
  - 127 Easy running gait
  - 128 Whirlpool tub
  - 129 Blood bank abbr.
  - 130 Alluring
  - 131 "What did I tell you?"
  - 132 \_ serif typeface
- DOWN**
- 1 Compound in
  - 85 Across history
  - 2 Largest Greek isle
  - 3 Ask for a loan
  - 4 Pundit piece
  - 5 See 84 Down
  - 6 Enters ID and password
  - 7 Lyrical
  - 8 Fishing village structure
  - 9 Sooner State native
  - 10 Was introduced to
  - 11 Pony up
  - 12 More unusual
  - 13 Spanish conquistador
  - 14 Cinematic FX
  - 15 Encircle
  - 16 "... against \_ of troubles": Hamlet
  - 17 False front
  - 22 Salt Lake City collegian
  - 24 Give feedback
  - 25 Connecting points
  - 29 Sample public opinion
  - 33 Cry of success
  - 34 Branch of Islam
  - 35 \_-day calendar
  - 36 Social event
  - 38 Sentence excerpt
  - 39 Stadium level
  - 40 Cash drawers
  - 41 Prefix like Franco-
  - 42 Heavenly hunter
  - 43 Request for one's stir-fry
  - 44 Bit of hair
  - 45 PC from Taiwan
  - 46 Vatican leader
  - 47 Fascinated by
  - 52 With jaw dropped
  - 53 Former Spanish coin
  - 56 Plug-in vehicle
  - 58 Increases
  - 59 Petty complaint
  - 60 Made after expenses
  - 65 Prefix like Franco-
  - 68 Ark groupings
  - 69 Less than 100%
  - 70 Sound of contentment
  - 71 Moody music genre
  - 72 Immunologist in 2020s news
  - 73 Incendiary offense
  - 74 Take forcibly
  - 75 Actor Nick
  - 79 Mideast airline
  - 80 Stadium
  - 81 waterproofing
  - 81 Extremely eager
  - 82 Harp ancestor
  - 84 Way back, with 5 Down
  - 86 Civil rights org.
  - 87 Nickname akin to Liz
  - 88 Project phase
  - 89 Statement of concern
  - 91 Moving like an eddy
  - 97 Brother of Isaac
  - 98 Lion King cub
  - 100 Mr. Clean alternative
  - 102 Slander or libel
  - 103 Aural disturbances
  - 104 Knitted diamond pattern
  - 107 Heavenly scales
  - 108 Stuffing ingredient
  - 109 Religious offshoots
  - 110 Some SUVs
  - 111 Air show maneuver
  - 112 Longest armbone
  - 113 Software revision, for short
  - 115 High point
  - 116 Stick around
  - 118 Industrial tubs
  - 120 Documentarian
  - 121 Retains
  - 122 Before, in verses
  - 123 False tale

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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# St. Paul volleyball players are winners despite match results

■ Swordsmen girls raised over \$1,000 for breast cancer research in their match against Bishop Amat.

By John M. Sherrard  
Contributor

**SANTA FE SPRINGS** – The St. Paul High School girls volleyball team hosted Bishop Amat last Friday (September 30) in a Camino Real League match.

The Swordsmen may have lost the match, but that is not the story, as they were playing the match for a much more important reason – to bring more awareness to breast cancer.

Many high school teams around the country are bringing attention and raising funds for local foundations in October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Swordsmen girls volleyball coach Emiliano Mendoza, who is in his fourth year at the school, has had a vision of bringing attention to this dreaded disease to the volleyball court at St. Paul.

“The event is something that I’ve wanted to do since I took over the program four years ago,” Mendoza said. “For obvious reasons (pandemic), it had to be postponed.”

“I was part of a few ‘Dig Pink’ matches while I was coaching at Los Altos, around 10 years ago, and I loved the atmosphere surrounding the game and the intensity that those games had.”

Mendoza had help from parents to make it happen.

“It was very high on my priority list to start the season,” he said. “It’s a joint effort with the team this year. I had tons of help from the parents. I couldn’t have done it without their help.”

“Thankfully, through parent support, we were able to have a

successful night. Once I introduced (the idea) at the parent meeting, they all joined in.”

They were very successful, as over \$1000 was raised and \$200 will be donated to a local foundation.

The program is hoping to double what they raised this year in the 2023 season.

“Unfortunately, the game didn’t go as well for us as we lost in three sets, 20-25, 11-25, 18-25,” he added. “They put up a good fight and we played well, but not enough to win.”

“Two of those sets were close and we had leads, but our biggest issue was closing out the games with leads.”

On the roster of 14 players, the Swordsmen have 11 seniors and only one junior in the program.

Senior middle, Alaina Martinez, explained that with the game against Amat, it proved that they could play better with these teams.

“I think it showed that we’re capable of playing better than how we’ve been playing all season. I think this is the motivator that we need to prove that we can do more than we’ve been doing,” she said.

“In two years, our younger players will shine,” added Mendoza. “I have a team of a bunch of really great kids that go out and play their hearts out.”

“You have to be able to accept the good with the bad. It’s a team effort to win or a team effort to lose.”

Mendoza, who is in his fifth year overall at St. Paul, took over for former coach John Van Deventer. Mendoza also has been with the Amat Boys Volleyball team for several years as an assistant.

Mendoza has seen Lancers Girls Volleyball coach Naomi Murillo put on a successful Breast



St. Paul High School volleyball players wear pink as they play for Breast Cancer Awareness and a local fundraiser as they play Bishop Amat on Thursday. (Photo by Keith Durlfingler)

Cancer Awareness game before a packed gym.

St Paul Athletic Director Rich Avina, who did the announcing during the match, said: “September 30th, St. Paul High School Girls Volleyball re-established our annual Breast Cancer Awareness game,” he said. “This is the first time we have been able to host this game since the Covid stoppage.”

“St. Paul played host to Bishop Amat, which partook in the festivities.”

The evening began with the introduction of Emmy nominated TV & Radio personality and St. Paul Alumnus, Alysha Del Valle. Del Valle was a cheerleader while at St. Paul.

Del Valle, who has worked at Fox11, ABC and KNBC over her career, was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening, announcing winners which included raffle items and gift baskets. DJ Gabe Real provided the music during the intermissions, which created an exciting and fun environment.

“I’m a proud graduate of St. Paul High School and I’m here to support the Inaugural Breast

Cancer Awareness game,” Del Valle said. “This is the first year that they are promoting the game, raising funds to battle Breast Cancer. I know it won’t be the last.”

“Across the nation, high schools have had the volleyball teams do this every year. It’s all about hope, it’s all about awareness and generosity and we thank the parents and the crowd for celebrating this event.”

An auction was held with different gift baskets and raffle tickets were sold to help raise funds.

**2022 St. Paul Roster**

Carmen Balderrama, Sr. OH; Natalie Bravo, Sr. MH; Julia Flores, Sr. OPP; Natalia Gutierrez, Sr. OPP; Selina Haile, Sophomore MH; Kaylee Leonard, Sr. OH; Alaina Martinez, Sr. MH; Marissa Martinez, Sr. OPP; Kailee Mejia, Sophomore S; Evie Ortega, Sr. DS; Mia Rodriguez, Sr. Libero; Aniston Sarabia, Sr. S; Rubi Tostado-Lucero, Sr. S; Ashley Victorian, Sophomore DS.

**What they said:**

**Emiliano Mendoza, St. Paul girls volleyball coach:** “Every year I want people to get on board with this and look forward to this game as well.”

“I feel that anytime we can get any alum like Alysha to help out and participate, it’s a win-win for everybody.”

Catalina Martinez, St. Paul Volleyball parent: “We organized and solicited a lot of the prizes and getting the word out as much as possible.”

“Once people started donating, the word got around and a lot of people joined the cause.”

“The girls were excited because it (Bishop Amat) was their rival in a big game and for a good cause.”

**Genevieve Bravo, St. Paul volleyball parent:** “It’s important to us, because it’s been going on nationwide since 2004. It’s a new tradition for St. Paul and something we wanted to get started and hopefully it will carry on once our girls graduate. We wanted to set the bar for what should be done.”

“If anything, it was a challenge

since it was the first time we’ve done it. It just all came together as a community.”

“The players were excited and they owned it.”

**Aniston Sarabia, St. Paul volleyball player:** “To me this game was really important because I’ve actually had a few people in my family pass away from breast cancer and some people have overcome it. I think it is really important to spread awareness to it and try any way possible to find a cure.”

“I was very excited to wear pink (Friday). We were all really excited for it. It held a special place in all of our hearts to be able to work it.”

**Alaina Martinez, St. Paul volleyball player:** “I really love it and it’s very fulfilling to do what I love for a greater cause. Honestly, it was just fun to go out there and play with my teammates and friends.”

“It was really cool to see everyone unified for a greater cause. It showed that we’re all here for a greater purpose and not to just play volleyball. There’s a deeper meaning behind everything we do.”



St. Paul High School volleyball players wear pink as Ashley Victorian runs through as they play for Breast Cancer Awareness and a local fundraiser as they play Bishop Amat on Thursday. (Photo by Keith Durlfingler)

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