

## Norwalk wrestling teams look to build off last year's success

■ Talented and experienced, Norwalk's boys and girls wrestlers are poised for a competitive season.

By John M. Sherrard  
Contributor

**NORWALK** – After a successful 2021-22 season, the Norwalk High School Wrestling program is looking to repeat that success this year.

“Our wrestling programs are looking to build off of the success from the 2021-22 school year,” Norwalk Girls Wrestling coach Bryan DeVries said. “The boys team placed 10th in CIF out of 100 teams and the girls placed 6th in CIF out of 61 teams.”

In addition, the Norwalk boys advanced to the second round of the CIF-SS Division 5 Dual Meet Championships last year.

The Lancers opened the team duals with a narrow 42-39 first-round win over Canyon of Anaheim, but fell to Chino, 64-12 in the second round.

The Norwalk girls also qualified for the team duals last year and advanced to the second round. They opened with a convincing, 59-18 over Carter, but lost in the second round to Marina.

“The boys team is off to a good start,” Norwalk Boys Wrestling coach Frank Soto said. “We have seen some individual success with Mikey Padilla winning the Downey Invitational at 138 pounds and Sean Otero winning the Don of Dons Invitational at 145 pounds. As a team we finished fifth at the Don of Dons Invitational and we are looking to build on that and have more success.”

The Lancers are starting in the newly formed Suburban Valley Conference, Gateway League Division, with some new competition.

Receiving a state ranking of No. 37 is junior 145 Lb. wrestler Sean Otero and senior Mikey Padilla (138 Lbs.) has received an honorable mention in state rankings.

The girls were led by a program first CIF-SS No. 8 ranking by senior Zitlali Sarmiento (131 Lbs.). She has since won matches against two other higher ranked wrestlers in the Southern Section. Sarmiento looks to improve her standing.

The girls will be hosting their very first tournament this Saturday (December 17).

“We are beyond excited to have the opportunity to host a first-ever Girls Individual Wrestling Tournament at Norwalk HS this weekend (Saturday December 17),” DeVries said. “This is a clear sign of the constant progression of our program and the sport as a whole.”

“We will be hosting teams from three different CIF sections – Southern Section, Central Section and L.A. Section. We are hoping for this to become a tradition for years to come. It's our first time hosting a girls individual tournament and we are excited.”

The tournament gets underway at 9:30 am.

In addition to the boys successful start, the girls varsity has had an equally good start to the season.

The girls have placed second in the Arroyo Team Duals Tournament, while medaling eight individuals, first in the Norwalk Team Duals Tournament and while medaling eight individual girls.

They also placed third as a team at the Mater Dei Lady Monarch invitational, while medaling six individual girls including Sarmiento, (126 Lbs.), junior Casey Otero (twin sister of Sean Otero) in the 143 Lb. weight class and a second-place finish in the heavyweight class by junior Mia Farr.

“This is a sign that Norwalk is a school focused on Girls Wrestling as a team and not just ‘we have girls on the team’, as other schools sometimes look at things,” added DeVries. “As a program, we look forward to growing the sport and continue to create a solid program that produces solid individuals ready for whatever comes their way on the wrestling mat or in life.”



Norwalk High School's boys and girls wrestling teams hope last year's success carries over into the new season. (Photo by Keith Durlinger)

Below are the results of the Cerritos and Mater Dei tournaments. The boys finished fifth in the Cerritos Tournament.

### Cerritos Tournament - Boys

Sean Otero, 1st - 145 Lbs. (4-0); Padilla, 2nd - 138 Lbs. (3-1); senior Angel Alcantar, 3rd - 152 Lbs. (4-1) and junior Ian Wine-Borrego, 3rd - 132 Lbs.

The girls placed third (129 points) in the Mater Dei Tournament, just one point from second place El Toro. Corona Centennial finished first. Norwalk had beaten Corona earlier this past season in a dual match.

### Mater Dei Tournament - Girls

Sarmiento, 1st - 126 Lbs. (5-0); Casey Otero, 2nd - 143 Lbs. (4-1); Mia Farr, 2nd - HWY (4-1); junior Ruby Hubbard, 7th 101 Lbs. (4-1); junior Alana Taylor, 9th - 116 Lbs. (4-1) and junior Amber Farr, 9th - 137 Lbs. (4-1).

In a dual Wednesday (Dec. 14), the Lady Lancers defeated John Glenn, 51-30, while the boys also won, 48-27.

In the girls win over Glenn, the Lancers had six pins, one decision and two forfeit wins. Glenn had two pins and won two matches by forfeit.

The Lancers started the match with four consecutive pins by Hubbard (106 Lbs.), sophomore Tatum Mora (108), freshman Carolina Moreno (113) and Taylor (118) for the 24-0 lead.

After a forfeit loss, the match of the evening took place between rivals Mia Ramirez of Glenn and Sarmiento in the 128 Lb. weight class. Sarmiento took a 1-0 lead in the second period with an escape and added four more points in the third with a reversal and a near fall for the 5-0 decision.

“It was a good match,” said DeVries of Sarmiento, who will become the first-ever four-year varsity wrestler for Norwalk this year. “I’m very proud of the way the girls wrestled.”

This team (Norwalk) there was no question about the result after the first four events by pins.

“I’m happy to get a win over our cross-town rivals.”

The Lancers lost in a tie-breaker last year to the Eagles.

Norwalk won two more matches by pins by Amber Farr and Casey Otero for the 45-12 lead.

After three consecutive wins by the Eagles, two of which were by pins, the match ended on a forfeit win for Mia Farr in the heavyweight class.

In the boys win over JG, it was back and forth for the first four matches.

Shaun Bryant (106 Lbs.) started



off with a pin and Glenn came right back to tie it at 6-6 with a pin.

After a forfeit by each team, the Eagles took their last lead, 15-12, on a decision over Ian Wine-Borrego.

It was all Norwalk after that as the Lancers gained 18 points on three of the next four matches by forfeits. In between, Angel Alcantar (152) won a 7-2 decision and at 170, Jimmy Buentello pinned his opponent for the 39-15 lead.

The two teams split the final four matches, with Manny Salas winning on a 2-0 decision in the 160 Lb. weight class to win the match by 21 points, 48-27.

“We have a good healthy core of wrestlers,” Soto said. “We were able to pull out a win.”

### What they said:

Mia Farr, heavyweight, Norwalk: “As a team we are bringing a lot more competition this season. Going from my freshman year to my junior year, the talent level has really matured and we’re working well against the higher schools.”

We’re kind of like the underdogs this year. I’m looking forward to league in the new league with Downey and Warren with some harder competition and going up to CIF and Masters this year.”

Zitlali Sarmiento, 126 Lbs., Norwalk: “My team is pretty solid compared to last year. This year we almost have a full lineup, which I’m very proud of and even our boys are doing very well, compared to a couple of years ago.”

I think us girls can take league this year, even though we have Downey, Warren and all of these other new teams. I’m pretty



confident this year and I think we can win CIF.”

Michael Padilla, 138 Lbs., Norwalk: “I think my team is solid this year on the mat and in the room. If we work as a team, we can dominate any team. Hopefully we can win our first CIF Dual Championship.”

My coaches put me through a hard work and last week I got second place.”

Sean Otero, 145 Lbs., Norwalk: “Our program is going up. We’re filling out and we get more girls every year and almost have a full lineup this year and we have JV wrestlers for the first time ever. This year we are anticipating our girls to go as far as possible. Last year we had wrestlers go to Masters for the first year ever and we expect to have wrestlers going to state soon.”

We expect full teams and we expect girls to want to join wrestling and the negative stigmatism of this is a guys sport to go away. It’s something to help us grow as individuals.”

going to be a very tough league with a lot of solid teams.

We got put into that upper division because they (CIF and league) felt like that’s where we belong. It’s going to be a battle.”

Bryan DeVries, girls coach, Norwalk: “Our program is going up. We’re filling out and we get more girls every year and almost have a full lineup this year and we have JV wrestlers for the first time ever. This year we are anticipating our girls to go as far as possible. Last year we had wrestlers go to Masters for the first year ever and we expect to have wrestlers going to state soon.”

We expect full teams and we expect girls to want to join wrestling and the negative stigmatism of this is a guys sport to go away. It’s something to help us grow as individuals.”

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### ON THIS DAY

**1773:** In what is known as the Boston Tea Party, American colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians threw 342 chests of tea belonging to the British East India Company into Boston Harbor to protest a tax on tea.

**1826:** American colonist Benjamin W. Edwards rode into Mexican-controlled Nacogdoches, Texas, and declared himself ruler.

**1944:** In World War II, German forces attempted to push through Allied lines in the Ardennes, beginning the Battle of the Bulge.

**1985:** American organized crime figure Paul Castellano, who was reportedly the “boss of bosses” of the Five Families of the Mafia, was fatally shot; John Gotti was later convicted of arranging the murder.

**1997:** An episode of the Japanese television series “Pokémon” induced epileptic seizures in 685 children.



**2009:** “Avatar,” a science-fiction thriller directed by James Cameron, was released internationally; it went on to make more than \$2.7 billion worldwide.

**2014:** Members of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, the Pakistani branch of the Taliban, attacked a school in Peshawar, killing 150 people, at least 134 of whom were children.

### Top Movies on this Date

**1992:** “A Few Good Men”

**2002:** “The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers”

**2012:** “The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey”

### Birthdays

“60 Minutes” TV journalist **Lesley Stahl** (81), “Law & Order” actor **Benjamin Bratt** (59), music producer **Scott Storch** (49) and “Breaking Bad” actress **Krysten Ritter** (41).





## Ana Valencia elected Norwalk mayor

**NORWALK** – Ana Valencia is Norwalk's new mayor.

The City Council on Tuesday unanimously chose Valencia to be Norwalk mayor for 2023. Councilwoman Margarita Rios was selected as vice mayor.

Both will serve one-year terms.

Valencia was elected to the City Council in 2020 and became vice mayor last year. She previously served on the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District board of education.

Rios joined the city council in 2017 and previously served as mayor in 2019.

Like Valencia, Rios also previously served on the Norwalk-La Mirada board of education.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Downey woman with special needs goes missing

**DOWNEY** – Family and friends of a special needs woman who went missing last week are asking for help finding her, offering a \$1,000 reward for her safe return.

Regan "Reina" Koepp, 25, was discovered missing from her Brock Avenue home on the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 6. Family says she was last seen at 11:30 pm the night before.

She is described as Hispanic, 5 foot tall, and around 132 pounds, and may be wearing a blue jogging suit, beanie, and / or brown hoodie, carrying a black backpack, basketball, and iPod.

She is known to frequent Furman Park.

Koepp's adopted mother, Richelle Koepp, says that her daughter is extremely vulnerable due to the number of disabilities she has, including Fetal Alcohol Disorder, PTSD, bipolar disorder, and intellectual disabilities. She adds that her daughter is 8-11 years-old mentally, and requires constant supervision.

"She is very vulnerable, she is very naive," she said. "She will go with anybody who tells her she's pretty or offers her food."

Koepp also requires medication, without which her mother says puts her at risk for self-harm and seizure.

Richelle says that she wants her daughter to know that she is not in trouble.

"I'd say to her that we love her, and not to be scared that we're going to be angry; that she's not in trouble, we just want her to come home safely," said Richelle.

Those with information or who may happen to see Koepp are encouraged to call 911 or contact Downey police department at (562) 904-2363



last seen driving northbound on Paramount Boulevard, Quinones said. The woman was not hurt.

Long Beach police were contacted by their Downey counterparts at 1:22 a.m. Monday to inform them the carjacked vehicle crashed into a pole in their jurisdiction and the driver was taken to a hospital with unknown injuries, she said. A firearm was recovered from the vehicle.

"The suspect(s) in each incident share similar descriptions," Quinones said. "At this time, detectives believe the same suspect may be responsible for each incident and they are currently working to gather additional evidence and information connecting the suspect to both incidents."

### College radio station wins national award

**NORWALK** – Cerritos College's WPMD radio station added another top honor to its portfolio this week, earning the title of the Best Two-Year College Radio Station from the College Media Association (CMA).

This is the second time WPMD has received this award since winning it for the first time in 2019.

WPMD is a student-operated radio station that provides content and programming worldwide on streaming sites including TuneIn, Streema, and Radio Shaker.

In addition, student Carlos Madrigal's show *Norwalk Rock Hour* placed second and Theatre/Acting Associate Professor Brandt Reiter's radio drama *Tucumcari* placed third in the Best Talk/Entertainment Program category.

"This is our third best station award in six years," said WPMD Advisor and Theatre Arts Instructor Casey Piotrowski. "I'm proud of our students for their excellent work."

WPMD was also named America's Best Community College Radio Station by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System in 2018.

### Voters approve \$425M college bond

**NORWALK** – Voters in the Nov. 8 election approved Cerritos College's \$425 million General Obligation Bond measure, providing funding for the continuing renovation of the 67-year-old campus.

Measure CC received a total of 51,606 "yes" votes or 57.60 percent of the total votes. Passage of the measure required at least a 55 percent vote of confidence.

L.A. County certified the election results last week.

All of the district's projects that were funded by Measure G (2012) and Measure CC (2004) are nearing completion, including the most recent state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center, which opened in July 2022.

In 2019, the college's board of trustees approved a new facilities master plan which provides a framework for future development including the placement of new facilities, renovation of existing aging facilities, and overall improvement of the campus to support a student-centered educational environment.

Additional funding beyond those provided by the two previous bond measures was needed to implement the plan and to meet the community's evolving needs.

"We are thankful that voters have supported our plan to update our facilities, which will allow us to continue to serve as an essential educational resource for our community," said Cerritos College president and superintendent Dr. Jose Fierro.

Visit [www.cerritos.edu/bond](http://www.cerritos.edu/bond) for more information on Measure CC.

### Police canine may have bitten wrong man

**DOWNEY** – A lengthy chase ended in a chaotic search for suspects at a Downey strip mall on Tuesday, but one moment is raising questions.

The chase ended near Imperial

Highway and Paramount Boulevard at a liquor store.

Around that time, AIR7 HD captured a man with a baseball cap walking away from the liquor store when he was bitten by a K-9.

Witnesses, however, told ABC7 on Wednesday that man had nothing to do with the chase. They said the man's name is Angel and is a frequent customer of the liquor store.

"They said he'd just stopped in to get a drink Tuesday night moments before police swarmed the area."

"My customer took the beer and the police dog bit him," said store owner Suran Jikh.

New video obtained by ABC7 shows the man handcuffed and on the ground. He's seen trying to talk to an officer at one point. The video shows him lifting his head and appears to tell officers, "It's not me. I didn't do it."

Experts said for Angel, this could mean possible legal action.

"K-9 bite is considered a high-level use of force incident, so they'll roll out a special team," said Bruce Thomas, an ABC7 law enforcement expert. "They will actually go to the hospital and try to mitigate the damages, meaning, 'We have a blank check, is this a good number for you?' and if not, then they may seek attorneys down the road and ultimately sue the county or city, depending on who owns that canine."

The man was ultimately treated for his wounds.

"They obviously will take the suspect to the hospital and get him treated, that's just part of the requirement when the use of force is conducted by an officer," said Thomas.

California Highway Patrol said officers later found the driver and said a total of three people were taken into custody. They did not issue an update on the incident involving Angel and the K-9.

The agency said they were all inside the suspect vehicle during the chase.

The L.A. County Sheriff's Department says the driver was wanted for reckless driving, and deputies later discovered the car was linked to an armed robbery in El Monte.

### Tickets on sale to see Ruben Studdard

**CERRITOS** – Grammy Award-nominated singer Ruben Studdard will pay tribute to the legendary Luther Vandross at a concert Sunday, Jan. 15, at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts.

Studdard will perform the late Vandross' hits, including "Always and Forever" and "Here and Now."

Nicknamed the "Velvet Teddy Bear," Studdard rose to prominence after winning "American Idol" in 2003. His first album, "Soulful," was nominated for a Grammy Award for "Best Male R&B Vocal Performance."

His 2004 album "I Need an Angel" was named Album of the Year by Billboard. Studdard also starred in the Broadway production "Ain't Misbehavin'," which spawned a Grammy-nominated soundtrack.

Tickets to see Studdard in Cerritos start at \$50.

### Authorities searching for Compton teen

**COMPTON** – Authorities Thursday sought the public's help to find a 16-year-old girl who went missing in Compton.

Samiyra Laytice White was last seen on Tuesday about 11 p.m. in the 800 block of North Grandee Avenue, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department reported.

She is Black, 5 feet, 1 inch tall, weighs 140 pounds, and has black braided hair and brown eyes. She wears glasses, has a scar above left eye on her forehead, and possibly has a nose piercing.

Anyone with information on the case was urged to call the sheriff's Compton Station at 310-605-6500, or Crime Stoppers at 800-222-TIPS.

### Public warned about counterfeit drugs

**LOS ANGELES** – Authorities unveiled a multi-agency campaign Wednesday to warn people about the dangers of counterfeit pharmaceuticals, many of which contain the deadly drug fentanyl.

"The manufacturers of these counterfeit medicines only care about making money at the expense of our most vulnerable communities and community members," Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said at a Wednesday news conference at the Hall of Justice in downtown Los Angeles. "These medicines contain no active pharmaceutical ingredients."

The campaign's slogan is "bad meds kill real people," Luna said, adding that it comprised three pillars: "education, awareness, and enforcement."

Luna also unveiled a public safety video featuring actor Danny Trejo.

"We're in a crisis," Trejo said at the news conference. "There's a surprise in every pill -- and the surprise might be death. You no longer know what you're taking."

Also at the news conference was Matt Capelouto, whose 20-year-old daughter died in December 2019 after taking one-half of a counterfeit pill that she thought was oxycodone, but contained a lethal dose of fentanyl.

"Alex was a sophomore in college, attending a major university on a full academic scholarship," Capelouto said. "She was a very smart, deeply empathetic young lady who wanted nothing more than to go into a profession where she could help others."

Capelouto said his daughter had suffered from depression since she was a teenager.

"With her depression came severe anxiety and insomnia ...," Capelouto said. "As with physical pain, people suffering from depression will seek relief. This relief is often sought under duress, and those suffering don't always make cognitive, rational decisions."

"And so, on Dec. 22, 2019, Alex purchased what she believed to be the prescription painkiller oxycodone," Capelouto said. "She took half the pill before going to bed, and was killed within minutes."

Capelouto said he was working with Democratic and Republican senators introducing state Senate Bill 44, also known as Alexandra's Law, which would target drug dealers, who could be prosecuted for murder under certain circumstances.

The multi-agency campaign included the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, the Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies and the Crime Stoppers organization.

### Kaiser hospital named best for maternity care

**DOWNEY** – Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a high performing "Best Hospital" in maternity care for 2022-23.

Downey Medical Center joined 10 other Kaiser Permanente hospitals in Southern California in being listed on U.S. News' national list of Best Hospitals for Maternity Care.

To be considered for its list, U.S. News rated participating hospitals across the country in the following categories:

- Cesarean births
- Exclusive breast milk feeding
- Unexpected complications in term newborns
- Vaginal births after C-section

U.S. News evaluated 649 hospitals nationwide, including 67 medical centers in California, for its list and only U.S. hospitals that provided maternity services were considered for this study.

"Our care teams work tirelessly to provide the highest quality maternal health care to our members and their families at each stage of pregnancy and delivery," said Dr. J.T. Lee, area medical director, Downey Medical Center. "This award speaks to the success of our integrated care model and the dedication of our care teams."

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### Shooting suspect crashes car in Downey

**DOWNEY** – Police believe a man suspected of shooting a man in Long Beach also carjacked a woman nearby and was injured Monday morning when he crashed the stolen vehicle in Downey.

The shooting occurred just after 11 p.m. Sunday in the 2000 block of Artesia Boulevard, according to Long Beach police Lt. Danielle Quinones.

A man on a bicycle approached a man on the street, shot him in the lower body and left the scene, Quinones said.

"At 11:22 p.m., officers were flagged down at the 6700 block of Paramount Boulevard by female adult victim who stated she was carjacked," the lieutenant said. "The victim further stated she was near her vehicle when she was approached by a male adult suspect who asked for a ride then produced a gun and threatened to shoot her."

The woman ran away. The man took the vehicle and he was

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# Arizona’s immigration publicity stunt

By Raul A. Reyes

With his term almost over, outgoing Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey is leaving a monument, of sorts, behind. Ducey’s administration has been placing enormous empty shipping containers along an eastern stretch of the Grand Canyon State’s border with Mexico. Topped with razor wire, this makeshift barrier is supposed to help stop illegal immigration.

“Arizona is going to do the job that Joe Biden refuses to do – secure the border in any way we can,” Ducey said in October. “We’re not backing down.”

Ducey began erecting his border wall in the summer, near Yuma, in the southwest corner of Arizona. Another section is now going up in Cochise County.

But not only is Ducey’s project likely illegal, it is also expensive, ineffective and dangerous. Instead of cooperating with the federal government or Arizona’s Gov.-elect Katie Hobbs, Ducey is staging a massive border stunt which will not address any of our immigration issues.

Legally, Ducey’s “wall” is problematic. The Supreme Court has been clear, most recently in 2012 with *Arizona v. US*, that immigration policy is the jurisdiction of the federal government. In other words, states and governors cannot take such matters into their own hands, no matter how frustrated they may be with federal immigration policy. Some of the borderlands where Ducey has placed empty containers actually belong to the federal government and native American tribes.

Ducey brushes aside these facts in a lawsuit that he filed against the government. He feels that his actions are justified because of what he terms an “unprecedented crisis” at the border with “floods

of illegal border crossings.” Nice try.

Just because the governor asserts his right to build a border wall does not mean he has legal authority to do so. Plus, Ducey will only be in office until January 5, and Hobbs hasn’t decided how she will get rid of the multi-ton containers. So he’s saddling her with the task of cleaning up his mess.

The Associated Press estimates that Ducey’s current efforts will cost about \$95 million. That’s a lot of money to spend on a structure that is really no barrier to potential border-crossers. Photos of protesters atop the wall show that it is easily scaled, and there are gaps between the containers in multiple places.

Ducey’s wall is also potentially dangerous. In August, Univision reported on two of the containers near Yuma tipping over, probably from strong winds. This represents a danger to migrants, border patrol agents and firefighters in the area. Would Ducey take responsibility if another container tipped and injured or killed someone?

Then there is the environmental impact of Ducey’s wall. Conservation groups say that it imperils wildlife, endangered species and public lands. As a co-founder of the Center for Biological Diversity pointed out in a statement, “There are 3,700 [border] agents covering the Tucson Sector alone, not to mention helicopters, drones and hundreds of cameras. We’re in an extinction crisis, and it’s reckless to sacrifice a critical wildlife corridor and harm endangered animals so Ducey can score political points.”

There is no question that the southern border has lately seen record numbers of unauthorized border crossers. Border agents encountered more than 2 million migrants during fiscal year 2022, up from 1.7 million in 2021, according to US Customs and Border

Protection statistics. These numbers are likely to rise in December, once the Biden administration lifts Title 42, a Trump-era policy that expelled migrants on public health grounds.

Still, Ducey does not have the right to commandeer border policy, let alone interfere with migrants’ lawful right to claim asylum. In fact, the Biden administration has its own plans to close some of the gaps along the border near Yuma, and Ducey’s structures there are in the way.

The only person to benefit from Ducey’s wall is the governor himself. It has thrust him into the national spotlight, and perhaps given him more name recognition with conservative voters. Sadly, that’s what his version of a border wall is all about: himself.

This is reminiscent of the actions taken by Republican governors this summer who transported migrants from red states to blue states. We are looking at political theater, not legitimate immigration proposals.

Our country’s dysfunctional immigration system is sorely in need of an overhaul, and possible solutions exist. Consider the bipartisan proposal from Democrat-turned-independent Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona and Republican Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina. It would offer a pathway to citizenship for undocumented people brought to the US as children, while extending Title 42 and increasing border security. Though it may be imperfect, it is a serious proposal and worthy of consideration.

In contrast, Ducey’s wall amounts to a large-scale publicity stunt. It causes problems, instead of solving them – and represents a monument to misguided thinking.

*Raul A. Reyes is an attorney and a member of the USA Today board of contributors.*

# Bad decisions from a floundering president

By Oliver North

At a time when it’s hard to imagine how things in America can get worse, it seems President Joe Biden is on a crusade to drive our nation into the abyss.

We learned Thursday Women’s National Basketball Association player Brittney Griner was released from a Russian prison after being arrested 10 months ago on drug charges. It’s become almost irrelevant the “reasons” totalitarian regimes use to lock up Americans. What is relevant here is the “negotiated exchange” resulting in her release and return.

A black, LGBTQ+ celebrity was exchanged for Russian arms dealer Viktor “The Merchant of Death” Bout. It’s interesting to note, Griner first made news by kneeling through the playing of our national anthem during WNBA games to show solidarity with Black Lives Matter — a self-professed Marxist organization. Meanwhile, Bout was in a U.S. federal prison for selling arms to groups wanting the weapons to kill Americans. Now, Griner and Bout can return, respectively, to hating America and killing Americans.

A recent Defense News article by Stephen Losey titled “Russia burning through ammunition in Ukraine at ‘extraordinary’ rate” may explain Putin’s urgency to bring Bout home.

The Griner-Bout “exchange” is akin to Biden’s disastrous decision to abandon Americans and our allies in Afghanistan in 2021. It also reminds us how, in 2014, Biden’s mentor and boss, Barack Obama, exchanged American deserter U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe

Bergdahl for five Taliban terror leaders. Four of those five are now prominent in Afghanistan’s brutal government. Their role in the deaths of 13 U.S. military personnel and 200 civilians on Aug. 29, 2021, is still unknown.

What we do know is Griner was released while other Americans, Paul Whelan and Marc Fogel among them, remain imprisoned in Russia.

In 2018, Paul Whelan, a U.S. Marine veteran of two tours of duty in Iraq, was detained in Russia on specious charges of espionage. Russia offered to trade Whelan for Bout. President Donald Trump rejected the offer to avoid allowing “The Merchant of Death” to resume his murderous pursuits.

Marc Fogel, an Anglo-American school teacher in Moscow, was arrested in August 2021 when entering Russia with 17 grams (about a half-ounce) of cannabis, prescribed in Pennsylvania for chronic pain. Fogel was sentenced to 14 years in a penal colony after conviction for “large-scale drug smuggling.”

The Griner-Fogel cases seem to be similar. Yet, Griner was released after being arrested this Feb. 17. Why?

I know well how very difficult it is to gain the release of Americans held hostage by our nation’s state and non-state adversaries. During the 1980s, that was part of my job on the National Security Council Staff. Because of President Ronald Reagan’s decisive resolve, we often prevailed. But not always. My futile efforts to save CIA officer Bill Buckley from being tortured to

death in Beirut will haunt me for the rest of my life.

Some of what I did in those days was certainly controversial. Yet, starting with liberating U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James Dozier from Red Brigade terrorists, we succeeded in reuniting numerous American citizens with their loved ones. We developed in our armed forces and intelligence services the means of bringing to justice perpetrators of horrific acts against our countrymen — some of which are still in use today as evidenced by last Sunday’s action in Syria against ISIS.

Unfortunately, “Bad Decisions” are Biden’s strong suit. His open-border policy has enabled millions to invade our nation across our southern frontier. God only knows how many now here intend to do us harm.

Revelations about Biden’s “Bad Decisions” persist. Elon Musk’s Twitter “document dumps” show collusion among government officials, the Biden campaign and “tech sector” officials to suppress conservatives’ free speech.

The most immediate mission for the 118th Congress must be legislative action to protect our homeland and countrymen from adversaries, “foreign and domestic.”

*Oliver North is a retired U.S. Marines lieutenant colonel. His latest book, “The Giant Awakes,” is available at book retailers.*

# Brick-and-mortar is still the future of retail

By Brian W. Nagel

With the holiday shopping season now upon us, it’s once again evident that no broader shift within the consumer landscape has been more significant than the transition in spending to online.

Indeed, one of the most salient components of the overall e-commerce discussion has been the future of retail stores, with many arguing that online commerce will ultimately render physical retail locations largely obsolete. Some even refer to such a dynamic as a retail apocalypse.

I disagree.

For the past couple of decades, I’ve worked on Wall Street as a stock analyst covering consumer and retail, and an expansive collection of the most recognized and powerful companies within the sectors. I have long believed that calls for the demise of retail stores are very premature, if not misplaced, and have argued that online commerce should ultimately serve to enhance legacy, consumer business models — retailers that use or are based on brick-and-mortar stores.

To be clear, online-only commerce models do and will continue to exist. But, increasingly, such enterprises are likely to remain relatively rare and/or narrow in scope, focusing on specific products and smaller, more dispersed bases of target consumers. They will effectively fill voids left under-addressed by larger, physical stores hampered by needs for expansive, repetitive stocks of inventory.

In my view, the omni-channel retail business model — where a business uses both brick-and-mortar stores and e-commerce to sell merchandise — is proving most capable of serving larger consumer audiences and achieving significant operational and financial scale over time.

Across the consumer landscape, successful omni-channel models are taking shape differently.

In many cases, over the past several years, legacy retailers and brands — like Home Depot and Nike — have enhanced physical infrastructures with the addition of online sales capabilities. Other generally newer operators — like Wayfair and Amazon — started their operations online and subsequently opened retail stores — typically to continue to drive sales.

No matter the starting point, some of the most consumer friendly and powerful retail and consumer business models offer core consumers the flexibility of shopping both online and in-store.

For consumers, there are a number of benefits to omni-channel retail: the opportunity to shop both online and in stores; the ease

in returning merchandise given the ability to do so in the store; and wider product selections, as retailers and brands broaden their merchandise offerings online. Consumers will likely continue to embrace optimal shopping experiences, which is what the omni-channel model brings.

The proliferation and success of buy online, pick up in store (BOPUS) serves as a key testament of consumers’ desire to continue to shop in stores, even while also embracing online commerce.

Just look at home improvement stores. At leading chains like Home Depot and Lowe’s, BOPUS accounts for about half and more than half, respectively, of online sales. Consumer shopping patterns suggest that an increasing number of shoppers embrace the benefits of researching products and home-related project knowhow online, but often still prefer the convenience and timeliness of retrieving items from stores.

Home Depot and Lowe’s, among others, facilitate outsized growth of BOPUS-related sales with well-designed, content-heavy websites and in-store capabilities, such as product lockers, which make it easier for consumers to pick their items up in the store.

What’s more, physical retail stores serve as well-located billboards for retailers, helping to bolster awareness among shoppers and mitigate marketing expenses. And in many cases, retail stores have — or are in the process of — morphing into showrooms, designed more to display products and offer potential consumers physical touch points than to actually sell items outright.

For instance, home furnishing brand and retailer Lovesac operates a chain of showrooms and kiosks located throughout the US. The showrooms carry virtually no “take with” product, and sales that occur within the locations are transacted via e-commerce, just as they would be if a consumer is purchasing a product online at home. They serve as a way to help showcase the company’s seating options, with the goal to generate more profitable sales online.

Lululemon is expanding the reach of its product offering, in the US and in markets across the globe, by strategically opening new company-operated stores that can leverage e-commerce infrastructure. The company’s stores and online capabilities work in concert to showcase and sell an expanding product offering. This strategy contrasts with more established brands (like Nike, for instance) that have to dismantle wholesale partnerships in order to focus more on e-commerce.

Five Below operates stores merchandised to serve primarily kids and teens and the adults who purchase products for them.

Amid an ongoing e-commerce revolution across retail, Five Below continues to represent one of the most store-focused models I know, capitalizing well upon a shift in the balance of power between landlords and retailers and now finding better rent deals and overall more advantageous locations.

Online-only home furnishings retailer Wayfair continues to invest aggressively to develop a proprietary distribution infrastructure, intending to solve overall logistics and delivery challenges, but is also experimenting with company-operated showrooms and strategic partnership with existing physical retailers.

Even Amazon, which largely introduced the world to the power of e-commerce and continues to expand and define itself as a significant disruptive force, has augmented its still primarily online model to include retail stores. It added physical locations through its acquisition of Whole Foods, of course, but is also opening new locations from scratch.

To be clear, stores are shuttering, particularly as a larger portion of overall retail sales shift online. Adobe reported that, on Black Friday this year, online sales rose year-on-year 2.3% to \$9.12 billion, achieving a new record for the day. Per data compiled by the United States Census Bureau and reported monthly, online sales now account for about 18% of overall retail spending in the US, up from just 10% 10 years ago.

But I believe that accelerating store closures is a healthy rationalization, making way for stores that are better operators, and in no way suggestive of looming, total demise of physical retail. Physical stores have and will continue to play an integral role in driving near and longer-term growth in retail spending, including online.

Interestingly, following a spike in online shopping early in the pandemic, e-commerce sales growth has normalized, and is now tracking largely consistent with pre-pandemic levels, suggesting that as stores re-opened, consumers again embraced physical shopping.

So, if you are one of the many millions of consumers who still enjoys shopping in retail stores, even during the holidays, worry not, as physical stores are very unlikely to go away, and could even get a lot better.

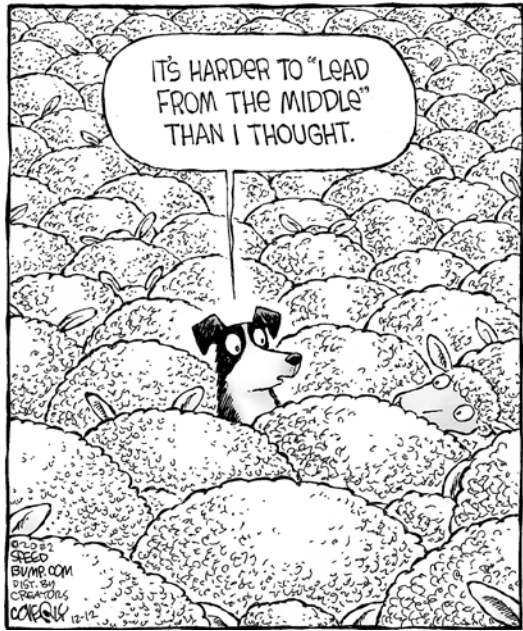
*Brian W. Nagel is managing director and senior analyst at Oppenheimer, covering the consumer growth and e-commerce sectors.*

## Visit us at:

# www.TheNorwalkPatriot.com



# SPEED BUMP DAVE COVERLY



## Norwalk Community Calendar

### MONDAYS

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

### TUESDAYS

9:00 a.m. - 1 pm - Farmers Market - Norwalk City Hall  
1st & 3rd Tues., 6 pm - Toastmasters Meetings - Registrar Recorder/County Clerks Office  
1st & 3rd Tues., 6 pm - City Council - Council Chambers  
3rd Tues., 5:45 pm - Housing Authority - Council Chambers

### WEDNESDAYS

1st & 3rd Wed., 7 pm - Lions Club - Bruce's Restaurant  
2nd Wed., 10:30 am - Norwalk Woman's Club - Faith Church  
2nd & 4th Wed., 1:30 pm - Alondra Senior Citizens - Social Services Center  
2nd & 4th Wed., 6 pm - Soroptimist International - Via Zoom  
2nd & 4th Wed., 7:30 pm - Planning Commission - Council Chambers  
4th Wed., 11:30 am - Coordinating Council - Arts & Sports Complex

### THURSDAYS

7 pm - Boy Scouts Troop 924 - Norwalk United Methodist Church  
2nd Thurs., 6 pm - 605 Kiwanis Club - Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant  
2nd Thurs., 7 pm - American Legion Post No. 359 - 11986 Front St.  
2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm - Golden Trowel - Norwalk Masonic Lodge

### SATURDAYS

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Farmers Market - Norwalk City Hall  
2nd Sat., 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast - 1st Christian Church of Norwalk

### 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](mailto:news@thedowneypatriot.com)

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## PUZZLE OF THE WEEK

### THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

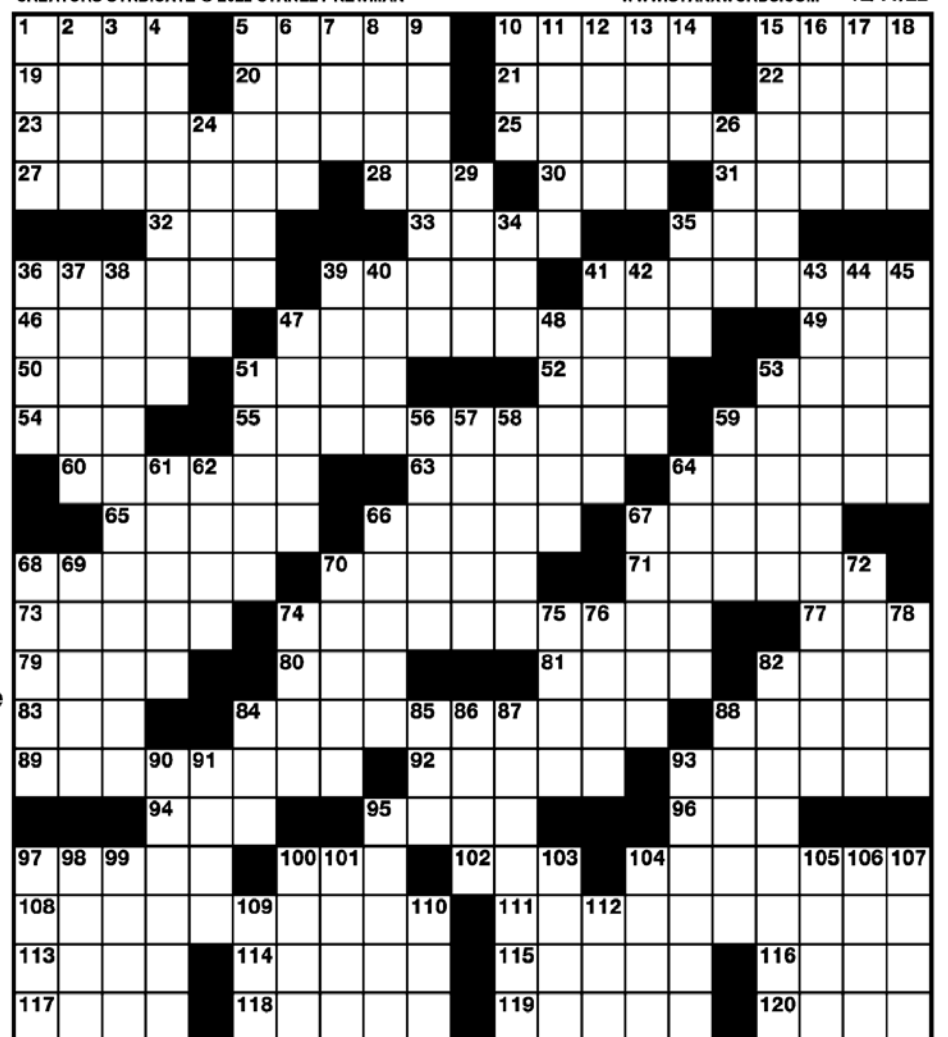
Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)  
**LET'S PLAY: And make some noise**  
by Fred Piscop

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

You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at [www.StanXwords.com](http://www.StanXwords.com)

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sales agents, for short
  - 5 "Gotta do it"
  - 10 Vital sign
  - 15 Pull up stakes
  - 19 Remove typos from
  - 20 Extreme enthusiasm
  - 21 How some popcorn is popped
  - 22 Some primates
  - 23 Whom a state was named for
  - 25 Much-honored choreographer
  - 27 Polynesia's region
  - 28 Harden over time
  - 30 Superlative suffix
  - 31 Ease, as fears
  - 32 Family room
  - 33 "I'm convinced!"
  - 35 \_\_\_ Jeanne d'Arc
  - 36 Weasel family member
  - 39 Place for a cookout
  - 41 Cartography showing sunlight received
  - 46 Complained, as cattle
  - 47 With determination
  - 49 Bard's "before"
  - 50 Be bothered by
  - 51 Unsurpassable
  - 52 Free (of)
  - 53 Yoga accessories
  - 54 "Offshoot" music prefix
  - 55 Overhaul
  - 59 Cloth-dyeing craft
  - 60 Veil in mystery
  - 63 Act too broadly
  - 64 Old-style two-seater
  - 65 Denim designation
  - 66 Amalgamate
  - 67 Sunny lobbies
  - 68 Caribbean's Grand \_\_\_ island
  - 70 Cropped up
  - 71 Fix, as potholes
  - 73 Rustic
  - 74 Embassy boss
  - 77 They: Fr.
  - 79 Port of Yemen
  - 80 E-file expert
  - 81 Reddish brown horse
  - 82 Root beer alternative
  - 83 Bad deed
  - 84 University official
  - 88 Frasier's sitcom brother
  - 89 Starts a car without a key
  - 92 Self-evident truth
  - 93 Fox or wolf
  - 94 Toward the 64 Down
  - 95 Neighbor of Turkey
  - 96 Follower of Attila
  - 97 Starts a hand
  - 100 Driveway sealer
  - 102 Coffee holder
  - 104 Big name in frozen desserts
  - 108 Old English
  - 111 What nine long answers contain
  - 113 Diner loaves
  - 114 Pro wrestling venue
  - 115 Blot with a tissue
  - 116 Not snowed by
  - 117 Toward sunrise
  - 118 Overgrown, as tree trunks
  - 119 Sharp blows
  - 120 When a.m. ends
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Second attempt
  - 2 Schooling, for short
  - 3 Toll road
  - 4 Made stable
  - 5 "Nothing's wrong"
  - 6 Author Angelou
  - 7 One, in Sicily or Spain
  - 8 Knighted ones
  - 9 Develops a liking for
  - 10 Peach discard
  - 11 Single
  - 12 Sets, as a trap
  - 13 Delta deposit
  - 14 Named time period
  - 15 Austrian symphonic composer
  - 16 Gem from Australia
  - 17 Fashion designer Wang
  - 18 Catch a glimpse of
  - 24 Without a break
  - 26 Parting word
  - 29 Arduous labor
  - 34 The \_\_\_ (arch city nickname)
  - 35 Guileful
  - 36 #2 baby girl name for 2021
  - 37 Muddies up
  - 38 Mall tenant's expense
  - 39 Mexican money
  - 40 Celestial prefix
  - 41 Take forcibly
  - 42 Venerable, quaintly
  - 43 Filled pasta
  - 44 Nickname that sounds like two letters
  - 45 Bothersome
  - 47 Swamp grasses
  - 48 Humdrum
  - 51 UCLA athlete
  - 53 "Ave. "
  - 56 Port northeast of Nice
  - 57 Out of whack
  - 58 Memory joggers, perhaps
  - 59 Upperware sound
  - 61 Supply with a new crew
  - 62 Brooch shape
  - 64 Back of a boat
  - 66 Opposite of 73 Across
  - 67 Loud, as a crowd
  - 68 Computer mishap
  - 69 Sound from a speaker
  - 70 Oscars org.
  - 72 Pompeo of
  - 75 Strong yearning
  - 75 Singer Guthrie
  - 76 Adverse fate
  - 78 What's often sent with an RSVP
  - 82 Topping for French toast
  - 84 Early PC screen
  - 85 One's wheels
  - 86 End-of-term hurdle
  - 87 They may be potable
  - 88 South Pacific microstate
  - 90 NYSE address
  - 91 "In that case . . ."
  - 93 Presentation graphics
  - 95 Fairway clubs
  - 97 Take a big chance
  - 98 Celtic music superstar
  - 99 Refines, as wine
  - 100 Source for leaves in a luau stew
  - 101 Firefighters' implements
  - 103 Chew (on)
  - 104 TDs or HRs
  - 105 Fallon's *Tonight* predecessor
  - 106 It means "within"
  - 107 Prince William alma mater
  - 109 Recruiting poster guy
  - 110 No vote
  - 112 Startup-loan agcy.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
2022256765

The following person(s) is/are doing business as: AVCO & ASSOCIATES LIMITED LITIGATION COMPANY, 3538 W BEVERLY BLVD SUITE B, MONTEBELLO, CA 90640 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: MIRIAM ESCOBAR AVILA, 3538 W BEVERLY BLVD SUITE B, MONTEBELLO, CA 90640. This business is conducted by: INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: MIRIAM ESCOBAR AVILA, OWNER. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): 11/20/2022. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date): 11/28/2022. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 12/02/2022, 12/09/2022, 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA10755874.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
2022256836

The following person(s) is/are doing business as: OMG NAIL LOUNGE, 1878 S PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90277 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number: 5259791. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: NAL NAIL LOUNGE INC, 1878 S PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90277 (State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA). This business is conducted by: CORPORATION. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: ANNIE PHO, CEO. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): 11/20/2022. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date): 11/28/2022. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 12/02/2022, 12/09/2022, 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1075530.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
2022256956

The following person(s) is/are doing business as: DIAMOND TREE HOME REMODELING, 122 SHIRE CT, SAN DIMAS, CA 91773 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: CLAYMIND LLC, 122 SHIRE CT, SAN DIMAS, CA 91773. This business is conducted by: LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: GUILLERMO MISA III, MANAGING MEMBER. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County (Date): 11/29/2022. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 12/02/2022, 12/09/2022, 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1075533.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
2022257065

The following person(s) is/are doing business as: MICAGE ENTERPRISES, 62 SILVER SADDLE LN, ROLLING HILLS EST, CA 90274 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: ERIK MUENCHOW, 62 SILVER SADDLE LN, ROLLING HILLS EST, CA 90274. This business is conducted by: INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: ERIK MUENCHOW, OWNER. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): 06/2022. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date): 11/29/2022. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 12/02/2022, 12/09/2022, 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1075583.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
2022257239

The following person(s) is/are doing business as: H&R INDEPENDENT BMW, 12036 CENTRALIA ROAD, HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: HAYRAPET BAGHRAMIAN, 12036 CENTRALIA ROAD, HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716. This business is conducted by: INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: HAYRAPET BAGHRAMIAN, OWNER. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): 12/19/2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date): 11/29/2022. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 12/02/2022, 12/09/2022, 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1075630.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
2022257610

The following person(s) is/are doing business as: D S MOBILE TRAILER REPAIR, 670 ERIE ST APT 19, POMONA, CA 91768 LOS ANGELES. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: LEONEL DONIZ JUAREZ, 670 ERIE ST APT 19, POMONA, CA 91768. This business is conducted by: INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: LEONEL DONIZ JUAREZ, OWNER. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): 11/20/2022. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date): 11/29/2022. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 12/02/2022, 12/09/2022, 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1075632.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
2022258576

The following person(s) is/are doing business as: FDS, 24325 CRENSHAW BLVD # 103, TORRANCE, CA 90505 LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Mailing address if different: N/A. The full name(s) of registrant(s) is/are: GLOBAL LOW VOLTAGE SOLUTIONS INC., 24325 CRENSHAW BLVD # 103, TORRANCE, CA 90505. This business is conducted by: CORPORATION. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Signed: ABDUL KHAN, CEO. The registrant

commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on (date): N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on (Date): 11/30/2022. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code). Publish: 12/02/2022, 12/09/2022, 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022. THE NORWALK PATRIOT. AAA1075874.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File Number 2022253850

THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: (1) ACES HIGH, 11605 FIRESTONE BLVD 109, NORWALK CA 90650, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): AI #ON: N/A. REGISTERED OWNERS(S): (1) CHRIS A RICARDO, 11605 FIRESTONE BLVD 109, NORWALK CA 90650 State of Incorporation: N/A THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED BY: an Individual The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name is names listed above: N/A I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). S/CHRIS A RICARDO, OWNER This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on NOVEMBER 22, 2022

Notice - In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the affidavit of identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State and Common Law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

**The Norwalk Patriot**  
12/16/22, 12/23/22, 12/30/22, 1/6/23

**LIEN SALES**

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:

10950 Firestone Blvd  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
  
12/28/2022 11:00am

Yvette Orozpe  
Household items

Enrique Mondragon  
Household items

Natalia Vargas Jimenez  
Household items

Jorge Barrera  
Household items

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

**The Norwalk Patriot**  
12/9/22, 12/16/22

**NOTICES**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
CASE NUMBER: 22NWCP00485  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner JULIO GUIHAMA BABASA IV filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
Present name (1) JULIO GUIHAMA BABASA IV to Proposed name (1) REN MIZUHARA  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Date: FEBRUARY 8, 2023, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312  
The address of the court is 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650  
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, **THE NORWALK PATRIOT** DECEMBER 7, 2022  
Judge Margaret M. Bernal  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**JULIO GUIHAMA BABASA IV**  
13025 BLUFIELD AVE  
LA MIRADA, CA, 90638  
(562) 349-4735  
JBABASA@CSU.FULLERTON.EDU

**The Norwalk Patriot**  
12/16/22, 12/23/22, 12/30/22, 1/6/23

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
CASE NUMBER: 22NWCP00470  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner JOHNNY DIAZ DE LEON filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
Present name (1) JOHNNY DIAZ DE LEON to Proposed name (1) JOHN MICHAEL CASTRO  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Date: JANUARY 30, 2023, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312  
The address of the court is Norwalk Courthouse, 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650  
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, **Norwalk Patriot** DECEMBER 1, 2022  
Judge Margaret M. Bernal  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**JOHNNY DIAZ DE LEON**

**The Norwalk Patriot**  
12/16/22, 12/23/22, 12/30/22, 1/6/23

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
CASE NUMBER: 22NWCP00470  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner JOHNNY DIAZ DE LEON filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
Present name (1) JOHNNY DIAZ DE LEON to Proposed name (1) JOHN MICHAEL CASTRO  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Date: JANUARY 30, 2023, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312  
The address of the court is Norwalk Courthouse, 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650  
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, **Norwalk Patriot** DECEMBER 1, 2022  
Judge Margaret M. Bernal  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**JOHNNY DIAZ DE LEON**

**The Norwalk Patriot**  
12/16/22, 12/23/22, 12/30/22, 1/6/23

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
CASE NUMBER: 22NWCP11206  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner CHARLES FREDRICK RHODES filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
Present name (1) CHARLES FREDRICK RHODES to Proposed name (1) CHARLES FREDRICK RHODES  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Date: JANUARY 30, 2023, Time: 10:30 a.m., Department: C, Room: 312  
The address of the court is Norwalk Courthouse, 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650  
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, **Norwalk Patriot** DECEMBER 1, 2022  
Judge Margaret M. Bernal  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**CHARLES FREDRICK RHODES**

13528 SUNSHINE AVE.  
WHITTIER, CA 90605  
(562) 458-4525  
Jomic77@yahoo.com

**The Norwalk Patriot**  
12/9/22, 12/16/22, 12/23/22, 12/30/22

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
CASE NUMBER: 22NWCP04174  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner ETHAN SANDLER AND KATHRYN HAHN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
Present name (1) MAE MARIE SANDLER (2) LEONARD HENRY SANDLER to Proposed name (1) MAE MARIE HAHN SANDLER (2) LEONARD HENRY HAHN SANDLER  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Date: JANUARY 23, 2023, Time: 10:00 a.m., Department: 74, Room: 735  
The address of the court is 111 N. HILL STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, **THE NORWALK PATRIOT** NOVEMBER 21, 2022  
Michelle Williams Court Judge of the Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner  
**DANIEL C. LORENZEN, ESQ. (SBN : 227957)**  
VENABLE LLP – 2049 CENTURY PARK EAST, STE. 2300  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90067  
(310) 229-9900  
(310) 229-9901  
dclorenzen@venable.com

**The Norwalk Patriot**  
12/9/22, 12/16/22, 12/23/22, 12/30/22

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: LUZ CAMACHO aka LUZ MARIA CAMACHO Case No. 22STPB11868**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of LUZ CAMACHO aka LUZ MARIA CAMACHO  
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Norma Luz Salls in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Norma Luz Salls be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 26, 2023 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 5 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.  
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner:  
**JOHN A. BUJETT, ESQ.**  
SBN 107690  
LAW OFFICE OF JOHN A. BUNNETT  
8136 2ND ST  
DOWNEY CA 90241  
CN992257 CAMACHO  
Dec 16, 23, 30, 2022

**THE NORWALK PATRIOT**  
12/9/22, 12/16/22, 12/23/22, 12/30/22

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JUAN GRANADOS AKA JUAN G. GRANADOS AKA JUAN GONZALO GRANADOS AKA JACK GRANADOS CASE NO. 22STPB12249**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both, of JUAN GRANADOS AKA JUAN G. GRANADOS AKA JUAN GONZALO GRANADOS AKA JACK GRANADOS.  
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by INES GRANADOS AKA INEY GRANADOS, INEY R. GRANADOS in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that INES GRANADOS AKA INEY GRANADOS, INEY R. GRANADOS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/19/23 at 8:30AM in Dept. 44 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner:  
**THOMAS LM MCKENZIE, JD, RFC 169103**  
2631 COPA DE ORO DRIVE  
LOS ALAMITOS CA 90720  
12/16, 12/23, 12/30/22  
CNS-3652354#  
**THE NORWALK PATRIOT**  
CNS 3652354  
**The Norwalk Patriot**  
12/16/22, 12/23/22, 12/30/22

**THE NORWALK PATRIOT**  
12/9/22, 12/16/22, 12/23/22, 12/30/22

**PROBATE**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JUAN GRANADOS AKA JUAN G. GRANADOS AKA JUAN GONZALO GRANADOS AKA JACK GRANADOS CASE NO. 22STPB12249**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both, of JUAN GRANADOS AKA JUAN G. GRANADOS AKA JUAN GONZALO GRANADOS AKA JACK GRANADOS.  
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by INES GRANADOS AKA INEY GRANADOS, INEY R. GRANADOS in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that INES GRANADOS AKA INEY GRANADOS, INEY R. GRANADOS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/19/23 at 8:30AM in Dept. 44 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for petitioner:  
**JOHN A. BUJETT, ESQ.**  
SBN 107690  
LAW OFFICE OF JOHN A. BUNNETT  
8136 2ND ST  
DOWNEY CA 90241  
CN992257 CAMACHO  
Dec 16, 23, 30, 2022

**THE NORWALK PATRIOT**  
12/16/22, 12/23/22, 12/30/22

**AMENDED NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DALE ARTHUR VERMILLION Case No. 22STPB07410**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DALE ARTHUR VERMILLION  
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by: JOSHUA DENNIS VERMILLION in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Joshua Dennis Vermillion be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 10, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in Dept. 5 Room N/A located at SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 111 NORTH HILL STREET, ROOM 429, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012, STANLEY MOSK COURTHOUSE  
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner:  
**Patricia A. Boyes, 244335 | Anthony L. Perez 303045**  
**BOYESLEGAL, APC**  
84 W Santa Clara Ste 490  
San Jose, CA 95113-1812  
(408) 516-9752  
anthony@boyeslegal.com  
Petitioner Joshua Dennis Vermillion

**The Norwalk Patriot**  
12/16/22, 12/23/22, 12/30/22

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: CHARLES FREDRICK RHODES CASE NO. 22STPB11206**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both, of CHARLES FREDRICK RHODES.  
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by DARLENE P. RHODES in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that DARLENE P. RHODES be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/26/23 at 8:30AM in Dept. 44 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner:  
**Patricia A. Boyes, 244335 | Anthony L. Perez 303045**  
**BOYESLEGAL, APC**  
84 W Santa Clara Ste 490  
San Jose, CA 95113-1812  
(408) 516-9752  
anthony@boyeslegal.com  
Petitioner Joshua Dennis Vermillion

**The Norwalk Patriot**  
12/16/22, 12/23/22, 12/30/22

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DALE ARTHUR VERMILLION Case No. 22STPB07410**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DALE ARTHUR VERMILLION  
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by: JOSHUA DENNIS VERMILLION in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Joshua Dennis Vermillion be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court



# Senate passes legislation to ban TikTok from U.S. government devices

U.S. officials fear that data shared on TikTok could be accessed by the Chinese government.

The Senate passed legislation Wednesday evening to ban TikTok from US government devices, in a move designed to limit perceived information-security risks stemming from the social media app.

The vote by unanimous consent approved the No TikTok on Government Devices Act, a bill authored by Missouri Republican Sen. Josh Hawley.

The move marks lawmakers' latest step against the short-form video app that has become popular with over a billion users worldwide. US officials fear that TikTok's user data could end up in the hands of the Chinese government due to that country's influence over TikTok's parent, ByteDance.

A companion bill was introduced in the House last year by Colorado Republican Rep. Ken Buck. It has yet to be approved by members of the House Oversight Committee.

"Once again, Sen. Hawley has moved forward with legislation to ban TikTok on government devices, a proposal which does nothing to advance U.S. national security interests," a spokesperson for TikTok said in a statement. "We hope that rather than continuing down that road, he will urge the Administration to move forward on

an agreement that would actually address his concerns."

The latest legislative action comes as TikTok and the US government have been negotiating a deal that may allow the app to keep serving US users. There have been years of closed-door talks between TikTok and the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, as well as recent reports of delays in the negotiations.

On Tuesday, US lawmakers led by Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio introduced a bill to ban TikTok in the United States more generally, along with other apps based in, or under the "substantial influence" of, countries that are considered foreign adversaries, including China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba and Venezuela.

In the past two weeks, at least seven states have said they will bar public employees from using the app on government devices, including Alabama, Maryland, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah and Texas. (Another state, Nebraska, banned TikTok from state devices in 2020.)

Some US government agencies have independently taken steps to limit TikTok usage among their employees.

Already, the US military, the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security have restricted the app from government-owned devices. But Wednesday's bill would apply to the entire federal workforce.

# Norwalk votes against declaring homeless emergency

**NORWALK** – The Norwalk city council declined to declare a state of emergency over the homelessness crisis in Norwalk during their meeting at city hall on Dec. 6.

A majority of public testimony from the Norwalk Unides social justice group and community members expressed their disapproval for the declaration.

In a letter to the council, they accused them of using "rhetoric surrounding unhoused individuals inaccurately characterized them as broadly dangerous to the public."

Declaring a crisis would enable the suspension of homeless shelter regulations to create more housing, according to city manager Jesus Gomez.

Sylvester Ani, a community activist, said housing is only part of the solution and the city should do more to help the unhoused.

"If sweeps worked, we wouldn't be having this conversation," Ani said. "That supportive housing needs the type of environment where people can lift themselves up instead of being dehumanized."

Homelessness increased in Norwalk during the COVID-19 pandemic. The homeless population increased from 168 in 2020, to 311 in 2022, according to the homeless count.

Then-mayor Rick Ramirez said the local activist group were misrepresenting the facts and clarified he is not dehumanizing the unhoused.

"I have met with Norwalk Unides. You guys interviewed me and we spoke, but you're twisting the truth," Ramirez said. "Those that want to help people get the help. There are success stories of those who were taken off the streets and are productive members of our society."

Ramirez acknowledged the solution to helping the unhoused is more than providing shelter and said the city has a goal to provide more services.

The council determined the best course of action was to conduct more outreach and community consensus before moving forward.

**Vincent Medina, contributor**

# Uber launches self-driving cars in Las Vegas



mid-sized hatchback, modified by Motional, will be sent to pick them up.

Motional has been offering robotaxi services in Las Vegas since 2018 through Uber rival Lyft, though rides before 2020 were offered under parent-company Aptiv.

Uber and Motional first announced their non-exclusive 10-year agreement in October, two years after the ride-hailing company sold off its own self-driving unit, Advanced Technologies Group, to San Francisco-based startup Aurora.

The sale came after a five-year run of developing self-driving vehicles that was marred by litigation and a fatal crash.

Waymo, Google's self-driving company, sued Uber in February 2017 alleging trade secret and intellectual property theft, with Waymo eventually receiving about \$245 million in Uber stock as part of settlement and Uber agreeing not to use proprietary information from

Ridehailing giant Uber is now offering Las Vegas riders the option on its app to hail a self-driving taxi developed by another company, according to a press release Wednesday.

While the autonomous vehicles are currently only available for ride hailing in Las Vegas, there are plans to expand to Los Angeles "at a later date," according to the release.

The robocars, made by

driverless technology company Motional, are sent with two "vehicle operators" behind the wheel to monitor the technology and provide added support to riders. Uber said it plans on launching a fully driverless service with Motional in 2023.

Users requesting a ride will be offered an autonomous vehicle if one is available before the trip date is confirmed. If a customer opts in, a self-driving Hyundai Ioniq 5

Waymo. The ridehailing company suffered another blow to its self-driving program a month later when one of its test vehicles in Tempe, Arizona, struck and killed a pedestrian.

An Uber test driver behind the wheel, who was supposed to monitor the vehicle and intervene if needed, was watching a television show on her phone.

Through its partnership with Motional, Uber is attempting to shift its business model away from being solely reliant on its vast fleet of independently contracted drivers, a business model that has posed legal issues for the company in recent years.

The Biden administration is currently proposing a new labor rule that could classify millions of these gig workers as employees — a move that would challenge the low-cost labor models behind Silicon Valley heavyweights like Uber.

# Norwalk Angel Tree 2022

Photos courtesy City of Norwalk

